

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

First Lady of Virginia Maureen McDonnell stands with Danielle Biggins, Kim Holland, BOSS President U.S. Army Sgt. Stephen Kirrene, Monica Boone, Angelica Botkin and Kris Needham.

Virginia's First Lady Supports Gift Drive

The Belvoir Officers' Spouses' Club once again sponsored a cookie drive for the 966 single soldiers at the Post. A military mom herself, Virginia's First Lady Maureen McDonnell was flown to the base by helicopter with cookies at her side. McDonnell's oldest daughter Jeanine is just back in the states after completing a tour of duty in Iraq with the Army. BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program) President U.S. Army Sgt. Stephen Kirrene was on hand to greet the first lady and thank her for her support. The cookie drive coincided with the annual Fort Belvoir Tour of Homes. Eight homes were on this year's tour at the fort.



First Lady of Virginia Maureen McDonnell wishes Samantha Kuetemeyer a happy birthday. Samantha and her mother baked nearly a half dozen plates of cookies for the cookie drive. And Samantha turned 4 on Tuesday. With Samantha is one of her presents, Whiskers, the little white dog.

Far East on Route 1?

Garden center proposes relocation to North Hill, potentially adding Japanese flair.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

The long-delayed North Hill development may have taken a dramatic new turn in recent weeks, with garden retailer Holly Woods and Vines potentially entering the fray offering a plan that would create a new park at no cost to the county. Last month, owner John Johnston presented a plan to a committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations that would move his plant nursery to the site and create a new

Japanese-style visitor garden. "This could become a major attraction," said Johnston. "Many of the tour buses going to Mount Vernon might want to make a stop here too." Johnston envisions the idea as a win-win scenario for everyone. His business would get a new location, and the county would get a new public park without having to pay for it. One of the sticking points for the North Hill development, which includes 12 acres of affordable housing and a 21-acre

SEE FAR EAST, PAGE 19

Speaking Up for Those a World Away

Amir Borjkhani, surviving imprisonment in Iran, settles here to start a new life.

BY MAYA HOROWITZ
THE GAZETTE

Describing almost nine years of torture and imprisonment, and a lifetime of memories of "suppression, aggression, anger and dictatorship," Amir Borjkhani shares his story of emigrating from Iran to America — where he moved to the Alexandria part of Fairfax County with his wife, Samira Aramesh. "When [people here] come across each other, they smile and they're not aggressive towards each other. They can freely speak



SEE SPEAKING UP, PAGE 6 **Amir Borjkhani**

Rising Hope Pastor Appeals for Help

Turkeys are needed for Christmas baskets.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

Rising Hope Mission Church is in distress. The church is struggling to fill Christmas baskets for 325 families in need along the Route 1 corridor and Pastor Kerry Kincannon is appealing to members of the community and local churches for donations of frozen turkeys and roasting chickens.

"We have 325 families currently signed up but so far we only have 70 turkeys," he said. That's about 1,400 people depending on Rising Hope for Christmas dinner.

"We're going to be giving the turkeys out on the 21st and 22nd so we really need help to get these in."

Turkeys and roasting chickens can be dropped off at the church located just off Route 1 at 8220 Russell Road. The administrative office is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or donors can make an appointment by calling 703-360-1976.



PHOTO BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE

The Rev. Keary Kincannon is working to provide 325 needy families with Christmas dinner. In the Rising Hope food pantry, shelves are bare.

"We have a lot of the trimmings. The problem is not filling the baskets with all the trimmings and the extras. The problem is finding the turkeys and the chickens," Rev. Kincannon said.

"We really hope that the community will rally around us," the pastor said. "We need this help this year."

12/16/11
REQUESTED IN HOME
MATERIAL
TIME-SENSITIVE
POSTMASTER:
ATTENTION
PERMIT #482
ALEXANDRIA, VA
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
CIRCULATION
VERIFICATION
COUNCIL



MCENEARNEY

ASSOCIATES, INC. REALTORS®



NEW ALEXANDRIA \$789,000



River Views!

This spacious, four-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bath home offers an au pair suite/office with separate entrance. Charming fireplaces in the living room and den add style. The large master suite features multiple closets, updated bath with separate tub, shower and double vanity. A fenced yard and bright sunny deck are perfect for warm weather entertaining.

Sue Goodhart
703.362.3221
www.suegoodhart.com
MLS ID# FX7739239



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$1,150,000



Elements of Preservation Blended with Sophisticated Improvements

Double parlors, inviting dining room, gourmet kitchen, five fireplaces, all-brick home, two blocks from river. Three bedrooms, two and a half baths. Built-in units throughout, walk in closet, expanded kitchen and master bedroom suite. Lower level complete with workshop and extensive storage systems. Private slate and brick patio with built-in grill and brick shed. Copper roof!

Catherine Davidson
703.201.1998
www.cmdrealty.net
MLS ID# AX7736017



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$949,900



Queens Row Beauty

This fine home located a half block to the river offers three bedrooms and three and a half baths. Sparkles like new! Entire house has been freshly painted inside and out. Stay cozy with two fireplaces while enjoying the river view from library bay window. Numerous updates make this home move-in condition. Two off-street parking spaces. This one is a 10 plus! Call Pat Smith for a private showing.

Pat Smith
703.728.4728
www.pat4pat.com
MLS ID# AX7740230



ALEXANDRIA \$859,000



Brick Colonial on Quiet Cul-de-Sac

Fresh, updated and ready to move in! Dramatic two-story foyer and more than 4,000 square feet with details to include moldings, wainscoting, built-in bookcases with storage. Kitchen has TWO islands and is open to family room with cathedral ceiling, gas fireplace, and French doors to outside brick patio and gardens. Finished lower level.

Susan Craft
703.216.4501
www.susancraft.com
MLS ID# FX7713916



PHASE 3 NOW OPEN!

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA ENERGY TAX CREDIT

Luxurious Amenities. Luxurious Savings.

1BR from \$379,900 - Tax Credit \$7200*
2BR from \$499,900 - Tax Credit \$9600*

Model Now Open Sat/Sun 1-5 pm

900 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET
built by Lawrence N. Brandt, Inc.

*consult tax advisor

900NW.com Jennifer Halm 703.851.2255

ALEXANDRIA/BELLE HAVEN \$1,445,000



Top of the Hill Charm

The utmost in charming 1940s home - great example of Belle Haven appeal! Flat perfect lot with putting green, four bedrooms, three full baths, gracious formal rooms, garage, four finished levels. Lovely large home!

Janet Price
703.960.5858
www.janetpricehomes.com
MLS ID# FX7718929



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$659,999



Commuter's Dream in Old Town!!!

Charming, three-bedroom, two-full and two-half-bath, three-level, move-in ready townhome! Boasting open layout, character and upgrades galore-hardwoods throughout, 9+ foot ceilings, granite, stainless steel, two fireplaces, recessed lighting, updated baths, plenty of storage. Newer windows and roof. Deck and private, enclosed brick paver patio. Off-street assigned parking space and zoned street parking. Fabulous location, just seconds to I295/495/Rt 1, walk to shops, restaurants, and more!

Kristie Zimmerman
703.786.6155
www.kristieismyagent.com
MLS ID# AX7711827



ALEXANDRIA RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

Hunting Creek Club	1 BR/1 BA	\$1,200-\$1,300 (3 units avail)
Montebello	1 BR/1 BA	\$1,575 MLS# FX7714698
Rose Hill Farm	4 BR/2.5 BA	\$2,250 MLS# FX7717901
Seminary Valley	3 BR/2 BA	\$2,395 MLS# AX7735861
Saint Asaph Square	2 BR/2 BA	\$2,400 MLS# AX7737653
The Royalton	2 BR/2 BA	\$2,425 MLS# AX7730862
Olde Belhaven Towne	4 BR/2.55 BA	\$2,600 MLS# FX7735885
Hayfield Farm	3 BR/2 BA	\$2,600 MLS# FX7721462
Alexandria House	2 BR/2 BA	\$2,600 MLS# AX7719244
Seminary Valley	3 BR/3 BA	\$2,650 MLS# AX7728702
Old Town	2 BR/1.5 BA	\$2,750 MLS# AX7713520
Beverly Hills	3 BR/2 BA	\$2,800 MLS# AX7733996
Landmark Mews	3 BR/3.55 BA	\$2,995 MLS# FX7727141
Rosemont Park	4 BR/2 BA	\$3,500 MLS# AX7724157
Yates Gardens	3 BR/2.5 BA	\$3,500 MLS# AX7735681
Swann Daingerfield	2 BR/2 BA	\$4,000 MLS# AX7734403

View photos and more information at www.McEneaney.com or call 703.549.9292 for an appointment.

N. ARLINGTON \$759,000



Wrapped in a Big Red Bow...

Here is your gift hidden amongst the pine trees of Glebe House Mews - an enclave of ten unique homes - this welcoming end, three-level, all-brick townhome offers striking design, recent refinements, four bedrooms, new top-of-the-line kitchen, vaulted ceilings, large patio, garage plus off-street parking space - all in a treasured, convenient and surprising N. Arlington location!

Ann Duff
703.965.8700
www.annduff.com
MLS ID# AR7699951



703.549.9292
109 South Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
www.McEneaney.com

LEADING REAL ESTATE COMPANIES® of THE WORLD

LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL™



GEORGE MASON MORTGAGE, LLC®
A Subsidiary of Cardinal Bank



New Business of the Year Jason Muselah and Sam Mislef of Walker's Grille with Chamber executive director Holly Dougherty.



Mid-sized Business of the Year was awarded to the Mount Vernon Athletic Club.

Mount Vernon – Lee Chamber Presents Business Awards

The Best Business Awards of 2011 were awarded on Thursday, Dec. 8, at Belle Haven Country Club to: Cox Communications, Large Business of the Year; Mount Vernon Athletic Club, Mid-sized Business of the Year; Commercial Lynks Inc., Small Business of the Year; Walker's Grille, New Business of the Year, and Tom Harvey of Hollin Hall Automotive, Chamber Citizen of the Year.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
THE GAZETTE



Chamber Citizen of the Year Tom Harvey of Hollin Hall Automotive.



Commercial Lynks Inc., was awarded as the Small Business of the Year.



The Rev. Grant McIntosh delivers the invocation before dinner. With McIntosh is Chamber Vice-President Barbara Doyle.



Gavin and Rachel Carter



Chamber executive director Holly Dougherty and Mike Leone of Cox Communications, the Large Business of the Year.



In attendance were Jo and D.R. Butler who are celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary.

THE GIFT IS BEING HERE

ENJOY HOLIDAY SHOPPING THIS SEASON WITH ALEXANDRIA'S UNIQUE SHOPS AND BOUTIQUES

GOLD WORKS INC. where the designs are



10% OFF
Through 1/15/12
When you mention
THE GIFT

your imagination is my horizon



www.goldworksusa.com
1400 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 683 - 0333



Imagine ARTWEAR

SNUGGLE UP COUPON

15% off any one purchase
In-store items only, excludes sale merchandise.
Expires January 31, 2012

The best in contemporary clothing, jewelry and crafts by American artists

Holiday Hours begin December 1st
Mon - Sat 10 am - 9 pm • Sunday 11 am - 6 pm

1124 King Street | Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 548-1461 | www.imagineartwear.com

Gift cards may be purchased by e-mail, phone, or at Imagine Artwear.



Rick's Wine & Gourmet

THE BEST BEER STORE IN TOWN!

WINNER!

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
2009 Retail Business of the Year

MORE THAN 1000 WINES
65 Wines Under \$10 • 150 Wines Under \$15
Free Daily Wine Tastings

MORE THAN 300 BEERS
Free Beer Tastings Every Saturday

HAND CUT CHEESES, PATÉS, FRESH BREADS
AND MADE-TO-ORDER SANDWICHES!

3117 DUKE STREET • ALEXANDRIA VA • 22314
703-823-4600 • www.rickswine.com

POTOMAC RIVERBOAT COMPANY

BOAT TOUR GIFT CERTIFICATES

WASHINGTON MONUMENTS
CRUISE

ALEXANDRIA SEAPORT CRUISE

MOUNT VERNON CRUISE
(Includes Admission to The Estate)

NATIONAL HARBOR WATER TAXI

CANINE CRUISE

PIRATE CRUISE

703.684.0580
WWW.POTOMACRIVERBOATCO.COM

OLD TOWN HARDWARE

\$5 OFF
a \$20 or more purchase
of Ace brand products when you
present this coupon and sign up
for the Ace Rewards program

Exclusive consumer benefits of the program include:

- 1,000 free bonus points on your first purchase
- Every 2,500 points = \$5 Reward
- Advance notice on events
- 10 points for every \$1 you spend
- Special members-only offers

Hurry in, offer ends
December 31, 2011.



809 S. Washington St | Alexandria, VA 22314
703.879.0475

Alexandria PICTURE FRAMING COMPANY

110 S. Fayette St • Old Town Alexandria, Va
(703) 684-1262 • Fax: (703) 684-7478

Framing your favorite art or photo makes the best gift for the Holidays!



Morning on the Potomac
by John Barber | Signed Serigraph
17.5" x 24" | \$125 | S/N

20% OFF
ALL CUSTOM
FRAMING &
POSTERS

With This Coupon Only.
Excludes Box Framing Offer.
Expires March 31, 2012.

27 YEARS QUALITY FRAMING

ARTIST OWNED & MANAGED

COMPETITIVE PRICES & FREE ESTIMATES

CONSERVATION MUSEUM CUSTOM FRAMING

MIRRORS • SHADOW BOXES • NEEDLE POINTS & MORE

A+ RATED IN Angie's list

www.alexandriapictureframing.com

THE GIFT IS BEING HERE

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

Mount Vernon Gazette

AAD American Advertising Distributors of Northern Virginia



HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Don't Forget the Best Friend

Pet gifts for pet people.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
THE GAZETTE

Consider picking up a gift this season that delights both animals and their people.

From winter apparel and chew toys to catnip filled bananas, there is a wide range of goodies and services that fit every budget.

This year's trending dog toys include venison and elk antlers, an all-natural product that lasts longer than conventional bones. Unlike bones or rawhide that splinter and are not wholly digestible, antlers stay fresh and are reasonably priced at most pet stores.

Kong brand chew toys are also popular, as they are noted for their resistance to even the fiercest player.

"Kong toys are pretty indestructible, if a dog tears apart a softer toy that squeaks it could be swallowed," said John Loomis, a sales associate with Petco Supplies off Richmond Highway.

Gordon Raley, a government relations specialist in international development, knows his Australian Shepherd would much prefer a traditional toy. "Penney would love anything furry with a squeaker,"

"Penney would love anything furry with a squeaker, anything she can tear up that would get fuzz all over the floor, and will hopefully squeak the entire time."

— Gordon Raley, a government relations specialist in international development



Penny, a 2-year old Australian Shepherd, would prefer a chew toy she can destroy during the holidays.

Animal Sitters for Carefree Evenings

Professional animal sitters are available over the holidays and make for a perfect gift for someone who can enjoy an evening out without worrying about furry loved one. Sitters service Alexandria, Mount Vernon, Arlington and parts of Fairfax. For more information, visit doggywalker.com

said Raley. "Anything she can tear up that would get fuzz all over the floor, and will hopefully squeak the entire time."

Gifts for people include breed specific magnets that show off animal pride, and can be professionally wrapped at most pet stores which makes life a little easier for the holidays.

Friends and family with animals might also enjoy a professional dog walk or home visit. The gift of a home sitter offers an opportunity to go out late without concern for furry loved ones.

"Home sitters are very popular around the holidays," said Sue Lambert, operations manager with doggywalker.com. "Between late night shopping and parties it's good to know someone is there to take care your animal so you can have fun."

Books about pets are another great idea. Allie Phillips, an animal rights lawyer who tackles the legality of classifying pets as property, will be promoting her new book "Defending the Defenseless" on Saturday, Dec. 18 at the new Pro Feed Pet Nutrition Center at the Belle View Shopping Center.

Donating to a shelter in the name of an animal-conscious friend or family member would make for a different kind of present, and engender a memorable feeling of kindness to the holiday season.

Local BUSINESSES Support the COMMUNITY

- \$60,000 donated for local high school scholarships
- Thousands of dollars given to local charities
- Commercial taxes support schools and public services

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES!
Money spent at local businesses stays in the community.
Your Bucks Shop Here!

For special local business discounts please visit
www.BuyMountVernon-Lee.com

Mount Vernon-Lee
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Roy Rogers

USHU

HILLTOP GOLF CLUB

INOVA MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL

Inkwell Duck, Inc.

BRIDEN HALL AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE STATION



Rex Reiley
RE/MAX Allegiance
703-768-7730
rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com



Alex./Westgate \$594,900
9010 Volunteer Drive
A fresh look for this beautiful traditional colonial w/2 car side garage. Freshly painted exterior & interior w/extensive new landscaping on a .5 acre lot. Stunning sun room addition. Hardwood floors on main & upper levels. Gas FPL in family room, wood FPLs in living room & basement. Lovely kitchen w/corrian counters, large unfinished basement w/rear entrance. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir.



Alex./Riverside Estates \$409,900
8507 Wagon Wheel Road
Lovely, updated, 5 BR/3 BA Split -walking distance to elementary & high schools. Double pane windows, freshly painted interior, & beautifully refinished hdwd floors on main level. Lower lvl offers 2 spacious bedrooms, full bath, family rm w/fpl, large utility/workshop & walkout to a lovely screened porch. Great location. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 25 to National Airport.



Alex./Berkshire East \$374,900
5845 Berkshire Court
Lovely 3 BR/2.5 BA Town House - Replacement DBL pane windows, neutral beige wall-to-wall carpet on main & upper levels plus a huge family rm on lower level w/walkout to a beautiful patio & landscaped, fenced backyard. Walk to Huntington Metro, minutes to I-495, 5 minutes to Old Town, 15 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & National Airport (N).



Alex./Sulgrave Manor \$369,900
4213 Adrienne Drive
Lovely 3BR + Den, 2.5BA Split level on a huge beautiful .71 acre lot in popular Mt. Vernon community of Sulgrave. Vaulted ceilings on main lvl, hdwd floors on main & upper lvls. Potential for a short sale & 3rd party approval. Only one trust. Selling As Is but house is in good shape. Purchasers welcome to do a home inspection. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Ntl Airport, 25/30 to Pentagon/D.C. Great Opportunity!! U/C, taking backups!!



Alex./River Towers \$1,350
6641 Wakefield Dr., #405
Beautifully updated and immaculate 1BR in popular River Towers in a fabulous location right off of the GW Parkway and Potomac River. Remodeled bath, and remodeled kitchen with granite and SS, freshly painted. Lovely wood floors, 2 walk-in closets. Bus stop out front, shopping across the street, 5 mins to Old Town. A great Deal!



Alex./Mt. Vernon \$574,950
3703 Maryland Street
Spectacular, updated 4 BR/2.5 + .5 BA Colonial w/circular driveway + dbl carport. Huge 25x13 remodeled kit: granite, maple, SS, center isle & gas fpl. Family room off kit also w/gas fpl, views & access to 2-tiered deck w/gazebo & hot tub w/fenced, private backyard. Updated baths & windows. LL w/rec rm, half bath & huge utility/storage rm. Over 130K in upgrades & renovations. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir.



Springfield/Bethelen Woods \$350,000
7410 Erska Woods Ct.
Beautiful Townhouse - 4BRs/2.55BAs - Updated top to bottom: kitchen, baths, hardwood floors on main level and up and down staircases, HVAC, windows, siding, exterior doors, deck and fencing. Beautiful lower level with great bar including refrigerator and kegorator. Quick access to shopping, metro and I-95. 10/15 minutes to Ft. Belvoir.

For more information:
www.RexReiley.com

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



Speaking Up for Those Left Behind

FROM PAGE 1

their thoughts. I've seen the same attitude in nine different states," said Borjkhani through a translator, Ali Zia, whose father knew Borjkhani in prison.

He said he enjoys the diversity of Fairfax County and the fact that the area has so much history.

"I'm happy that I'm here because the people are good people," said Borjkhani. "They are very good human beings. They are nice people. I love everyone. The only people I have a problem with is the Iranian government."

Borjkhani was born on Feb. 26, 1957 in Tehran. He had an older sister and four younger siblings. He said his father was very open-minded and democratic and his mother was very socially active. As a child, he enjoyed playing sports and reading.

"There has always been a dictatorship in my country," said Borjkhani. "Ever since I was little I had always been bothered by it."

He attended university in Tehran and studied computer science. He never finished that degree, due to his political activism, but later went back to school in economics.

Around 1978, Borjkhani became politically active because "there was a lot of class difference. There was a dictatorship. There was a lot of poverty."

During this time, Borjkhani said he was often arrested by the Savak, the intelligence service, but never thrown into jail.

One great positive that came out of this period was that Borjkhani met his wife, Samira Aramesh.

"Since I was an activist, I met her in one of the rallies," said Borjkhani. "She would go to different cities and make schools. It was out of love for the people that we met. She expressed it in her way and I expressed it in my own."

The couple was married in 1980.

AT THIS TIME, Iran was undergoing a cultural revolution. Borjkhani was active against the government, supporting Mojahedin e Khalgh (MEK or PMOI). He felt he had a target on his back.

"Khomeini issued a fatwa that said you're subject to death if you support the MEK," said Borjkhani. "He said these people are enemies of God. He considered himself to be a representative of God."

In 1983, when he was 25 years old, Borjkhani found out that the government was looking for him and he attempted to hide.

"It was impossible for me to study when I saw all these people being tortured and executed and women being raped," said Borjkhani. "I had to put 100 percent into my cause. My wife was 100 percent supportive of this and she always has been."

But someone who had been hiding with Borjkhani was found and arrested.

"One of the people who was arrested told them where I was," said Borjkhani. "Even if they had given my name away, I wouldn't



Samira Aramesh

be upset with them. There were such brutal tortures going on that it's understandable that you would give information away. But of course, there were a lot of people who would not give away information no matter what, especially women."

The courts sentenced Borjkhani to serve nine years, to be spent in the Evin, Ghezelhesar and Gohardasht prisons.

He said the conditions were terrible with extremely cramped living spaces and only three chances to use the bathroom per day.

Borjkhani said he was tortured. Both of his shoulders were dislocated and a number of his teeth had to be pulled out without anesthesia. He said there was a thick layer of blood on the ground in the interrogation rooms and that even prisoners on death row were subject to torture.

"It wasn't necessarily information that they were seeking," said Borjkhani. "It was your way of thinking that they were trying to beat out of you."

Despite all the hardship, there were glimmers of hope. Prisoners were split up into political and criminal sections. So Borjkhani's cellmates were all fellow political prisoners. He made friends during the nine years he was imprisoned, many of whom he keeps in contact with to this day.

"People stay connected. It's how they were able to survive after all these years," said Hajar Mojtahedzadeh, whose father knew Borjkhani in prison. Both of Mojtahedzadeh's parents were executed for being members of the MEK, he said.

"It's a very close community between families and political prisoners," said Shirin Mariman, a friend of Borjkhani who said he spent two and a half years in prison.

IN 1988, there were mass executions of political prisoners in Iran, according to Borjkhani. Each prisoner would get a 10-minute court date in front of a few clerics. They would be asked: "Do you support Khomeini?" and given their response, they would be put in a line to the left or the right, Borjkhani said.

At Borjkhani's court date, he remained defiant. He was put in the line to be executed. While he was there, a guard went to his cell to find him for execution. The guard was told he was already in line. But Borjkhani escaped being executed because



Amir Borjkhani and his parents in Santa Monica, California

the line was too long. At 11 p.m., they stopped executing prisoners for the day and sent them back to their cells.

Because of the miscommunication with the guard who had visited his cell, Borjkhani narrowly avoided death. By the time his next court date came up, the massacre had ended.

In 1991, when Borjkhani's nine years were up, he had to leverage a friend's home to be allowed out of prison. He had no money of his own because the government had seized all of his assets.

When he was released, he said he was told, "Don't think you are free now. We can kill you whenever we want to."

Borjkhani was glad to be reunited with his wife, Samira. Seven months after Borjkhani had been imprisoned, Samira had given birth to their first son, Pooya, a son who had never known his father.

"It was a new start for me because we loved each other so much," said Borjkhani. "But it was very difficult for my son, Pooya."

Borjkhani stayed in Iran for the next 19 years and had another son, Amir Basha. He said he was harassed routinely.

"For more than three years, I had to report to the government of my whereabouts once a month," said Borjkhani. "My activism was limited to looking after the families of friends in prison who had been executed — their children who wanted to get married and find jobs. When I got out of prison I felt obligated to look after them, to be their parent because I lived with their parents in prison."

He privately taught students in math, physics and Arabic, worked in a computer programming company and then finally started his own business.

At the end of 2008, he succeeded in getting his passport and took his family to Turkey. Pooya, his eldest son, had to stay in Iran because he had a wife and family. Borjkhani, Samira and Amir Basha got their green cards in Turkey and joined Borjkhani's parents and siblings in America.

Borjkhani and his wife and son initially stayed with his family in Los Angeles. Amir Basha, Borjkhani's son, stayed there to study while his parents moved to Alexandria.

"I live here because we have sit-ins in front of the State Department to get pro-

tection for the people in Camp Ashraf," said Borjkhani. "My family insists on me coming and living with them in California but I can't because I have to continue my work with the State Department and President Obama. I don't spend a lot of time in my neighborhood because I go to D.C. every day."

Neither Borjkhani nor his wife, Samira, hold jobs.

"We don't spend a lot of money," said Borjkhani. "We've minimized our spending. I get support from my family. I've tried to adapt to living the way I do because the people of Iran live under a lot harsher situations."

The couple spends the majority of their time protesting outside of the State Department in the hopes of protecting the people of Camp Ashraf.

"Every morning I go in front of the State Department and I stay there until the evening," said Borjkhani. "Some days I go to the Congress and try to raise awareness of the issue. I go to different churches to get support to prevent massacres. Everything I do is for this camp because I want them to be safe. I chant, I hold signs, we walk, we rally, we talk to people who pass by. I do whatever I can do."

CAMP ASHRAF, in place since 1986, is home to 3,400 members of the MEK, the main opposition group to the Iranian government. It is located in Iraq, 44 miles from Iran's western border. The residents have voluntarily given up their arms and have been granted "protected persons" status under the Fourth Geneva Convention, he said.

However, there is a growing fear that when U.S. troops withdraw from Iraq, the inhabitants of Camp Ashraf will be subject to brutal treatment. There have already been several violent incidents involving Iraqi security forces entering the camp, as recently as April 2011. One of the ways the Iraqi government justifies these incursions is by citing the fact that the MEK is on the United States' terrorism watch list.

At the "Lives in Peril, Honor on the Line: America's Promise to Protect Camp Ashraf"

SEE SPEAKING UP, PAGE 19

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mother Condemns Death Penalty

Organization aims for repeal of capital punishment.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

The death penalty just doesn't make any sense," said the mother who has endured for 10 years while her 30-year-old son has been incarcerated on Death Row awaiting execution.

Terri Steinberg, of Fairfax, spoke to about 20 people at Sherwood Library on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at a gathering held by Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. The group pickets prisons on the nights of executions with candles, prayers and placards bearing slogans like "I Oppose the Death Penalty. Don't Kill for Me." Now holding meetings across Virginia, Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty is working to sway the public and legislators away from support for the Death Penalty.

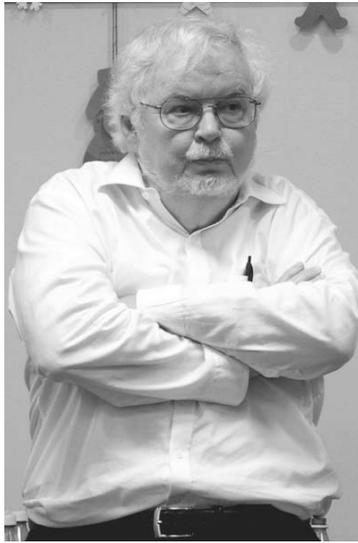
Steinberg, the keynote speaker, described her son Justin Wolfe as helpful at home and a good



"We are Catholic. We believe that 'Thou shalt not kill,'" said Terri Steinberg.

brother to her three younger children. He has been imprisoned, subject to execution, since 2001.

"Why would you take somebody," she asked, "who is helpless, locked in a box and walk them down the hall, strap them to a



PHOTOS BY ED SIMMONS, JR./THE GAZETTE

John McDiarmid is working to revive the Northern Virginia chapter of the Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

gurney and pump them full of poison? How do you explain that to your children?"

SEE ORGANIZATION, PAGE 19

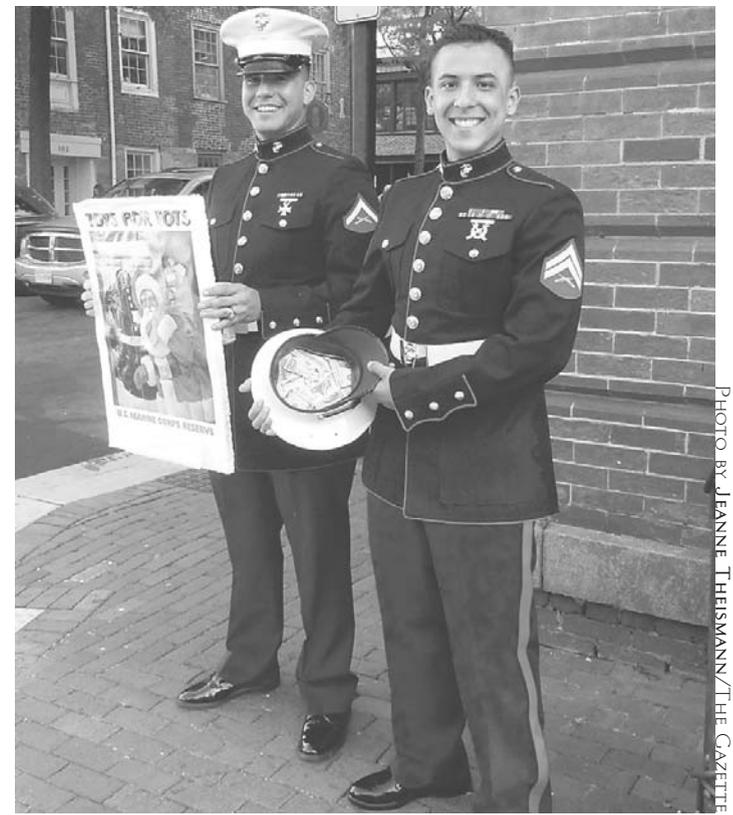


PHOTO BY JIANNIE THEISSMAN/THE GAZETTE

Toys for Tots Fire stations in Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria are accepting new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages for the annual Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign. "All 37 stations in Fairfax County and eight in Alexandria will serve as drop off points through Dec. 19," said Capt. Willie Bailey, coordinator of the firefighters' toy drive efforts. For more information, contact Capt. Bailey at 571-641-0036 or willie.bailey@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Best in Family Dining



Food fit for a king on a family budget

An Alexandria community fixture for more than 100 years, the Royal Restaurant offers the best in Greek, Italian and American cuisine. Enjoy burgers, steaks, prime rib, chicken, seafood, pasta and full salad bar complete with special children's menu items.



734 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314
703-548-1616 • www.theroyalrestaurant.com
Award-winning wine menu • Major credit cards accepted



The Royal Restaurant offers the best of the best in catering & event locations in Old Town Alexandria & surrounding communities.

Choose from a large array of delicious foods for all occasions - birthdays, weddings, business meetings & other gatherings. The Royal has something delicious for every event.

Beautiful banquet rooms in Old Town & other locations include adjacent parking.

Reserve Now for This Year's Holiday Parties

West Potomac High School Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale

Carl Sandburg Middle School
8428 Fort Hunt Rd
(Follow signs to back of school while supplies last)

Weekdays, 5-9PM
Saturdays, 9AM-5PM
Sundays, Noon-5PM

Why Buy Here?

- Ask about **FREE HOME DELIVERY**
- Stable prices for seven consecutive years
- Proceeds benefit West Potomac athletes
- Credit card payment for all trees and wreaths
- Decorated or undecorated wreaths
- 3 types of garlands, "Kissing Balls"

Special thanks to
Mount Vernon Gazette

Five Suggestions for the New School Board

Half of the School Board members are new.

On Monday, Dec. 19, the newly elected members of the Fairfax County School Board will be sworn in, marking the largest number of new members at one time in memory.

The change on the board comes from open seats with previous members deciding not to run. Fully half of the board will be new members, although most are also familiar faces.

But it was apparent from the election that voters were motivated by the school board races, turning out to have their say. It's a mistake to view the election as a vote of approval for all current policies or as a repudiation of particular policies. The level of interest and controversy indicates that it's a great moment for the new board to engage the public.

The fact that 70 percent of voters supported the school bond for county schools shows that county residents understand the importance of quality schools.

The school board consists of three at large

members who represent the entire county, plus nine district members. Each voter had the opportunity to vote for four, three at large and one for their district.

Iryong Moon is the one incumbent remaining at large; Ryan McElveen and Ted Velkoff will join the board at large. District members are: Megan McLaughlin, Braddock; Janie Strauss, Dranesville; Pat Hynes, Hunter Mill; Tammy Kaufax, Lee; Sandy Evans, Mason; Dan Storck, Mount Vernon; Patty Reed, Providence; Elizabeth Schultz, Springfield, and Kathy Smith, Sully. Moon, Strauss, Evans, Storck, Reed and Smith are returning members.

It's important to respect the dedication and motivation of school board members. It's hard to understand why anyone would want these jobs. The hours are never ending. The pay is symbolic. Few decisions will come without acrimony from some quarters. These are people who really are dedicated to service.

That said, we offer a few suggestions, some very general, some very specific, for the new board as it steps up to serve.

1) On with the campaign. Begin with a listening tour. Hold some full-board listening sessions around the county. Hold some regional listening sessions in schools and parents' liv-

ing rooms. Listen in small groups and individually. Invite teachers and administrators to come out on tour with you. Don't forget to listen to teachers as well as students, parents, administrators and more.

2) Fix large classes. You don't have to reduce the "average" class size. But do something about every class of 30 students or more. It's the exceptionally large classes where students don't even fit in the room that drive parents wild. It doesn't matter if it's a classroom of poor students or wealthy students or something in between, really large classes are not appropriate.

3) Are surveillance cameras really the best use of scarce dollars? No matter what the current board decides to do later this week (likely vote on Dec. 15 after Connection deadline), set the decision aside until after the listening tour.

4) Don't wait for a state law. Instruct administrators to call parents to be present if they plan to question a student about behavior that could result in serious disciplinary measures or legal action.

5) Celebrate the specific and varied successes in Fairfax County Public Schools.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

So Much To Comment On

To the Editor:

What a week in the Mount Vernon District. Here we go!

This time of year, responsible, optimistic citizens look to the MVCCA co-chair elections to

see if the new leadership of the MVCCA will be closer to the community mainstream than it has been in recent years. Sadly, the election on Nov. 30 of James R. Davis as a co-chair signals that the MVCCA will continue to be out of step with respect to mainstream community thought for another year. After lengthy service as the MVCCA's Environment & Recreation chairman, Mr. Davis was asked to resign in

2007. Why? He was found to have misrepresented the position of the MVCCA at a hearing before the Planning Commission and was using his chairmanship to negotiate proffers with developers who had cases before his committee. There is only one person in the Mount Vernon District empowered to negotiate proffers: Supervisor Hyland. It isn't as if the MVCCA is unaware of these issues (and others); at least half of its Board is the same as it was in 2007. While Davis has served on the MVCCA Board in minor roles recently, the co-chair positions are a different story altogether — the co-chairs set the tone for the MVCCA and decide its direction. This won't matter so long as Supervisor Hyland refrains from abiding by MVCCA resolutions. A word to the wise for Supervisor Hyland: The MVCCA does not represent the Mount Vernon community — the election of James R. Davis proves it. Rather, it solely represents the extreme views of its leaders. Period.

Then there was last week's letter in the Gazette from Phil Boughton concerning the hit and run attempted murder of a bicyclist on the George Washington Parkway. Mr. Boughton opined that he is "not going to feel too bad" if people walking in the street are struck by cars because "there is a perfectly good sidewalk 5 feet away." To those who are now wondering which neighborhood to avoid in the interest of preserving life and limb, from the phone book it appears Mr. Boughton lives in the Mason Hill area.

Community activist Glenda Booth was offended by a River Towers condo ad touting the "River Towers wetlands" visible "from your top floor condo!" Ms. Booth complained in her Gazette letter that those wetlands are not the "River Towers wetlands." Instead, they are "the

www.MountVernonGazette.com

Newspaper of Mount Vernon
@MtVernonGazette

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.
1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box
Email name, mailing & email address to goinggreen@connectionnewspapers.com.

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter, 703-615-0960
mpope@connectionnewspapers.com
@MichaelLeePope

Steve Hibbard
Associate Editor, 703-778-9412
shibbard@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-224-3015
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

ADVERTISING:
To place an advertisement, call the ad department between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Display ads 703-778-9410
Classified ads 703-778-9411
Employment ads 703-778-9413
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Julie Ferrill
Display Advertising, 703-778-9446
jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com

Helen Walutes
Display Advertising, 703-224-3028
hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

Barbara Parkinson
Employment Advertising
703-778-9413
bparkinson@connectionnewspapers.com

Publisher
Jerry Vernon

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Photography:
Louise Krafft
Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong, John Heinly, John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Publisher/Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales, 703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
Special Assistant to the Publisher
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

A Connection Newspaper



Helping Out On Nov. 8, Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club member Bob Valone delivered checks to New Hope Housing, \$500 for its participation in the Walk-A-Thon for the Homeless and \$600 for its Teen Program. Later that day, he delivered another \$500 check from the club to Good Shepherd Housing for its Walk-A-Thon for the Homeless. Above left, Valone presents checks to New Hope Housing's Volunteer Coordinator Chris Bramante and, at right, Good Shepherd Housing's Executive Director Shannon Steen. See www.mtvernonvakiwanis.org.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

western segment of the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve ...” A note to Ms. Booth: the entirety of the River Towers property, all 26 acres, is in a Resource Protection Area as shown on the County Chesapeake Bay map for zoning area 93-2. This is because it is extremely low-lying (it was underwater during Hurricane Isabel). A perennial stream runs through the property, receiving run-off from Westgrove Park and flowing through Dyke Marsh to the Potomac River. There are plenty of wetlands on the River Towers property including on both banks of the stream and elsewhere. Those wetlands are visible from River Towers condos. As such, the River Towers ad is accurate.

The lead article in last week’s Gazette concerned the federal appropriation of \$180 million to widen a portion of Richmond Highway near Fort Belvoir. The article pointed out that a 3 mile stretch of Richmond Highway North of the to-be-widened section will remain at four lanes for the next six years. Kahan Dhillon who chairs an MVCCA committee that has held only two public meetings all year (according to the MVCCA Record) weighed in, complaining that “We are taking a patchwork approach to Richmond Highway.” Presumably, Mr.

Dhillon realizes how difficult it was to obtain those funds. Does he want us to give the money back because it doesn’t widen the entirety of Richmond Highway? I hope not.

Frankly, we shouldn’t have to wait for a federal handout to address our transportation concerns. The money is there — we send it to Richmond every day. The problem is that Richmond only sends us a small fraction back. In the same article, Del. Scott Surovell blamed Grover Norquist for the lack of transportation funding and implied that if he had his way, our gasoline tax would be increased. The truth may hurt, but our community decided to elect a Democrat (Surovell) to a 100-member House of Delegates populated by 67 Republicans. Our problem isn’t Grover Norquist, nor do we need to raise the gas tax to address our transportation needs. What we need is a delegate who can convince the legislature in Richmond to make the transportation formula more equitable to the economic engine of Northern Virginia. More than any other issue, that is the most important one for Delegate Surovell to address. He is very persuasive and I know he will try his best. His success or failure will determine my vote in 2013.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Mt. Vernon police department through Dec. 9.

UPDATE: FATAL CRASH

Police are again asking for the public’s assistance in identifying and locating the driver involved in a fatal hit and run crash that occurred on Friday, Nov. 25 shortly after 2 a.m. Officers responded to the area of Richmond Highway and Lockheed Boulevard and found a 45-year-old Alexandria man lying on the pavement. It appears that the victim was attempting to cross Richmond Highway from east to west. A vehicle, believed to be a newer SUV, traveling north on Richmond Highway, struck the victim. The SUV stopped momentarily and then sped off, still traveling north on Richmond Highway. The striking vehicle was further described as a red Jeep Grand Cherokee or something similar. The vehicle should have damage to the right front. The victim, of the 6300 block of Gentele Court in Alexandria, was transported to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries and pronounced dead on Thursday, Dec. 1. It is not yet known if alcohol and or speed were factors in this crash. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text “TIP187” plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

ROBBERY

Three men robbed two men, ages 19 and 25, at knifepoint in the 7200 block of Fordson Road around 6:25

p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1. Then around 7 p.m., three men robbed a 28-year-old man in the 3300 block of Lockheed Blvd.; no weapon was reported in this incident. In both cases, the suspects were described as black, between 20 and 25 years old, about 6 feet tall and 180 pounds, wearing dark-colored clothing. One suspect had on a mask and another suspect had a goatee. None of the victims were injured.

BURGLARY WITH INTENT TO COMMIT ASSAULT/ ABDUCTION/ ASSAULT/ ARREST

Police arrested a man for burglarizing a home in the 3900 block of El Camino Place, grabbing and assaulting an acquaintance, a 40-year-old woman, around 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5. A 28-year-old male of Woodbridge was charged with burglary with the intent to commit assault, assault and abduction. The victim did not require medical attention.

LARCENIES

1600 block of Belle View Blvd.
Glasses stolen from business.
5900 block of Mount Eagle Drive.
Chair stolen from residence.
7300 block of Range Road. Wallet stolen from business.
6700 block of Richmond Highway. Purse stolen from business.
6700 block of Richmond Highway. Cash stolen from business.
7100 block of Richmond Highway. Tools stolen from vehicle.
7300 block of Richmond Highway. Beer stolen from business.
8000 block of Richmond Highway. Cigarettes stolen from business.



On his 3rd tour in Iraq in 2008, Spc. Josh Schictl was driving a Humvee which was hit by two IED’s. He suffered life-threatening injuries to his face and head. Despite the quick work of medics, Spc. Schictl lost his right eye and nine teeth. Nearly all of the bones in his face were broken but were stabilized before transport to Walter Reed Medical Center. He also suffered a TBI.

Wounded warriors and their families struggle for years to recover physically, emotionally and financially from the sacrifices they make in wartime. Operation Homefront seeks to walk with them on their journey and ease the hardships they face. The DC Metro Chapter assisted Josh and Emily with transitional housing, household furnishings, holiday gifts and grocery gift cards during these difficult times.

There are many ways you can work with the DC Metro Chapter to assist local military families like Josh and Emily.

People ask us everyday how they can show their appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices made by military families. One way you can do this is to let the DC Metro Chapter fill the gap for military families as they adjust to the ‘new normal’ after being deployed or wounded in combat. Send your tax deductible donation before Dec. 31st to help us meet next year’s needs.

Send your donations to:
Operation Homefront DC Metro
PO Box 650220
Sterling, VA 20165
703-421-9033
301-722-2440

or visit us online to donate at
www.operationhomefront.net/dcmetro
or tag your donations with the catchphrase “support our troops”

SAVE the DATE

OUTER BANKS WEDDING EXPO 2012 • JAN 6-8

FEATURING DAVID TUTERA - HOST OF WE-TV'S MY FAIR WEDDING WITH DAVID TUTERA



Outer Banks WEDDING ASSOCIATION

The Outer Banks continues to grow as one of America's top wedding destinations! There is a setting here for every bride that decides she wants something a little untraditional and yet as personal, quaint and charming as the Outer Banks itself. North Carolina offers one of the most beautiful places to plan a perfect beach wedding.

www.obxwa.com
email@outerbanksweddingassoc.org • PO Box 1067 • Kill Devil Hills, NC • 27948

Shuman's
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
BAKERY
EST. 1876

Exclusive provider of the Shuman's Jelly Cake
An Alexandria tradition since 1876
Order online or by phone:
www.ShumansBakery.com
(703) 683-1876
Free delivery to zip codes 22301-22315

SCHOOLS

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

THROUGH DEC. 17

"School House Rock - Live!"

Presented by Mount Vernon High School: 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 Mount Vernon High School Madrigals were invited by the Fine Arts Office of Fairfax County to sing for the Capitol One Bank Volunteer Awards Ceremony on Nov. 9. This event is the Bank's yearly ceremony to honor their top six volunteers from all over the United States. Ultimately, the volunteer of the year is selected and announced at this event.

The performance space was small and no accompaniment was available. Yet, the Madrigals stepped up with their usual "unique and classy style" and provided music and entertainment for the honored guests to enter down the central runway.

As a result of the volunteer performance provided by the Madrigals of Mount Vernon High School, Capitol One



PHOTO BY MARY HOOD

Marching Majors Are Superior

The Mount Vernon Marching Majors received all Superior ratings in their VBODA State Marching Band Assessment on Oct. 29. Led by drum major, Kalea Hardison, the Major's "Macabre" show dazzled the audience with its haunted forest, echoing flutes, and commanding brass and percussion sections. Above, percussionists James Bouchard, Jeffrey Davis and Sedrick Osei-Tutu.

Bank awarded them a \$250 award to be used to advance the choral department.

The MVHS Athletic Boosters Club is selling Christmas Trees. Trees will be sold Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m.

The MVHS Girls' Track and Field is selling Papa John's Pizza Cards. For \$15, use the coupon card for a buy one-get one free scenario for the upcoming year (equal or lesser

value). Contact Coach Melissa Ferry to purchase one: McFerry@fcps.edu or 703-619-3314.

Local residents have been named to the Dean's List at the Savannah College of Art and Design for fall quarter 2011. Local residents include:

* Tayler Aitken of Alexandria;
* Rachel Blier of Alexandria;
* Dean Julien of Alexandria;
* Philip Caridi of Alexandria;
* Brenna Powers of Alexandria.

United Community Ministries
Fighting poverty, hunger and homelessness since 1969

UCM provides food to more than 100 hungry families every day—and we need your help to do it. Our food pantry always needs:

- Canned meat and tuna fish
- Canned soups
- Canned fruits
- Canned vegetables
- Pasta
- Rice
- Tomato sauce
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Macaroni and cheese
- Peanut butter
- Jelly

UCM's food pantry is located at **7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA, 22306**, and accepts food donations Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm and the first Sunday of every month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

UCM is thankful for the generous support of the Mount Vernon Gazette. *Mount Vernon Gazette*

eternal
med spa of lorton

The Holidays are Here Again!
Eternal's Gift Guide

HOLIDAY GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY: Buy a \$100 Gift Card & get a \$25 Gift Card FREE that can be added to the gift or put on a separate gift card to be used as you like!

FOR THE LOVEBIRDS: Treat your loved one to a Massage & Dinner. Enjoy **TWO 50 min Massages** & a \$50 Gift Card to Pane e Vino for **Only \$200!** (Retail for \$240)

RELAX & RENEW: Enjoy a 50 min Massage & a Customized Facial for **Only \$150.** (Retail for \$190) *Add a Spray Tan Session for just \$25!

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING: Take care of yourself with a Membership & visit us at least 1x per month for a Facial or Massage, take advantage of Member Only Specials, Events, Upgrades & more!

- \$400 – Gift a 6 Month VIP Spa Membership
- \$700 – Gift a Full Year of our VIP Spa Membership

For more gift ideas visit us at www.LortonMedSpa.com!

8988 Lorton Stn Blvd #103, Lorton VA • www.LortonMedSpa.com • 703.339.1214
*Restrictions may apply. Offers expire Dec 31, 2011

POMPAOOSUC MILLS

GRAND OPENING!

solid hardwood furniture
for home and office
handcrafted in vermont

MODERN STORAGE SOLUTIONS
THE BURLINGTON DRESSER

alexandria@pompy.com | M-W, F&S 10-6, Th 10-7, Sun 11-5
277 s washington st | alexandria | 888.534.6136
complimentary design services | we do custom | www.pompy.com

HOLIDAY GUIDE

The Art of Appreciation

Teaching children to have an attitude of gratitude during the holidays.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

From Christmas lists to piles of presents under the tree, the last thing on a child's mind during the holiday season might be expressing appreciation. In fact, mental health experts say, it is one of the hardest concepts to teach children.

Dr. Todd Kashdan, Ph.D., professor of psychology at George Mason University, has studied the link between gratitude and happiness and says that people who are grateful tend to be less depressed and anxious.

"When people are mindfully recognizing and appreciating the benefits they receive from other people, positive events linger longer, [and] it is enhancing and strengthening those relationships. There is a strong link between being a grateful person and having the experience of gratitude and having more happiness in your life," said Kashdan, who is also the author of "Designing Positive Psychology" (Oxford University Press) and "Curious? Discover the Missing Ingredient to a Fulfilling Life."

During the season of giving, Kashdan and other mental health professionals offer tips for parents for teaching gratitude to children.

Children often hand their parents lengthy Christmas lists. Experts say it is difficult for children to feel grateful when their every wish is granted.

"Allow them to [identify] certain things on the list that might be most important to them," said Annette Kielkopf, a marriage and family therapist based in McLean. "[Say to them] 'If Santa isn't able to bring you everything on the list, what would that be like for you?' And talk with them about how to cope and allow them to appreciate the smaller things. What you're trying to do is teach coping skills. You're teaching them how to accept a disappointment and find a diamond in the rough."

RAISING GRATEFUL CHILDREN requires that parents model the behavior. "As parents, talk about things that you're grateful for and not strictly material things. That sets a good example so children don't only hear you complaining or nagging them. Kids really do notice what their parents and the significant people in their lives talk about," said Karen



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Todd Kashdan, Ph.D. professor of psychology at George Mason University, has studied the link between gratitude and happiness and says that people who are grateful tend to be less depressed and anxious.

Prince, MSW, LCSW-C, a Kensington-based clinical social worker who specializes in treating children with anxiety and depression.

Kashdan says parents should encourage children to elaborate on why they like a particular gift.

"Spelling out what makes [a gift] a good thing for them gets them to bookmark and underline it in their brain," he said. "You want them to elaborate on it and what they are going to do with it. Having them say thank you without an elaboration is just one more thing that [their] parents are telling them to do."

This strategy works even when children receive gifts that they don't like.

"Sometimes it is difficult [for children] to receive a present that they don't like," said Kielkopf. "Take the gift and notice and recognize the good things about it. Maybe it is your child's favorite color. It is good to have discussions about gift-giving so that it doesn't become about the gift; it becomes about the gesture."

"I'm forever hearing kids in my office saying to their parents, 'But everybody in my class has an iPad.' And these are kids who are like 8, 9 and 10. The grass always looks greener on the other side. So the idea is to focus on what you have and what you need. It is a good lesson for kids to learn early on," said Prince.

KASHDAN BELIEVES that one of the things that makes children grateful is taking inventory of their day. "One of the things that we do at my house is, at the end of the day, we ask our 4-year-old twins, 'What was the high point of your day? What was the best thing that happened to you today?' You can make sure that the positive things that happened to them as a result of other people stick out more," said Kashdan.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

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. 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 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. 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.

ROLEX

King's Jewelry

609 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-549-0011

OFFICIAL ROLEX JEWELER
ROLEX OYSTER PERPETUAL AND DATEJUST ARE TRADEMARKS.

Montebello
The Best Kept Secret in Alexandria and Fairfax County!

- Minutes to public, private and military golf courses
- Gated Community
- 30+ Wooded Acres
- Near Metro
- Pet Friendly
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Restaurant
- Convenience Store
- Dry Cleaners
- One, Two and Three Bedroom Floor Plans

For information on this magnificent complex, call:

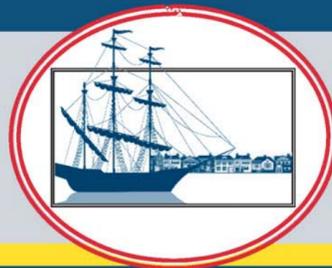
Lois M. Delaney, CRB, CRS
Real Estate Broker
Licensed in Virginia, Maryland and District of Columbia
Serving the Washington Metropolitan Area since 1978

Montebello Marketing, Incorporated
703-548-5958 800-446-4187
LoisCRBCRS@aol.com
www.MontebelloMarketing.com



LONG & FOSTER

OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT OFFICE



ALEXANDRIA

#1 LONG & FOSTER OFFICE IN VIRGINIA



9115 Volunteer Dr
\$598,500
Large Home-Gorgeous 3/4 Acre Grounds!
Rare find in the heart of Mt. Vernon provides the ultimate private back yard. Spacious home with an open floor plan. Other features include: expanded master suite, updated kit with gas cooktop. Expansive multi-tiered deck overlooks custom in-ground pool and gorgeous wooded grounds. Rare opportunity to find a home and lot of this size. **OPEN SUN 12/18, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, L-Old Mount Vernon; R-Westgate; L-Volunteer.**



3805 Riverwood Rd
\$629,000
Check this Price!
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! **OPEN SUN 12/18, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past estate; L-Old Mount Vernon Rd; L-Riverside.**



8890 McNair Dr
\$699,000
Pristine Custom Colonial!
Custom colonial in enclave of 17 homes on quiet cul-de-sac surrounded by grounds of Mt. Vernon Country Club. Many fabulous features include: large room sizes, stained hardwood floors, updated kit & baths, open kitchen-family room, upgraded trim detail & custom built-ins. Spacious master suite and 2 car gar. Pristine condition!



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4!
\$159,000
River Towers
6621 WAKEFIELD DR # 420
Spacious 1BR w/all utilities included in fee + pool & tennis. Rooftop deck offers views of the Masonic Temple, National Harbor & the Fireworks! EZ access to the Potomac, marina & bike/hiking path, shopping plus Old Town, DC & Metro.



\$999,000
Alexandria
"VALUE IS IN THE LAND"
1.13 acres just 1/2 block from the Potomac River in a charming, hidden-away eclectic community—perfect for building your dream home! Seasonal river views. House sold strictly "As Is."



NEW LISTING!
\$464,900
Marlan Forest
"AMAZING VALUE!"
Estate Sale - Super spacious 2,700 sq ft, 3BR/3BA brick home. Great opportunity to own in an established neighborhood! Features finished hardwoods, fresh paint, custom built-ins, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, expanded kit w/breakfast rm. Built-ins. Just steps to bus & neighborhood pool!



2300 Candlewood
\$569,000
Expanded Tri-Level! Builder's own!
Exceptionally large well maintained home for the money! Fabulous property in prime location featuring 4 bedrooms, bright open floor plan, finished lower level and large breakfast kitchen area. Most major rooms have been substantially expanded. Private backyard features large pool and deck. Unique opportunity!



9387 Mount Vernon Cir
\$950,000
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.



4002 Belle River Terr
\$849,000
Classic Colonial/River View!
HUGE PRICE DROP! Classic brick colonial, custom built in prestigious Belle River. A neighborhood of many \$1 million properties. Truly special home with many features including large room sizes, elegant trim detail, updated 'state of the art' kitchen, 5BR & finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on half acre grounds with view of river. Uniquely attractive home in premier location.



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$699,900
Waynewood
1208 CROTON DR
5 lvs, 1-of-a-kind totally renovated home. Brand New appls, systems, roof, windows, & siding! 2 lvl Mstr suite w/FBA, walk-in closet on 4th/5th lvs. Lg bsmt w/rec/mud/storage rms, FBA, open kit/DR w/brkfst bar, granite & SS.



JUST REDUCED!
\$879,900
Yacht Haven Estates
"STONE HOME"
A stunning craftsman style home has a screened porch that opens onto a flat .5 acre private lot w/access to boat ramp & more. Dramatic foyer, gourmet kit adjoins DR w/lp & great room w/lp. Mstr suite w/spa bath, multiple jet shower, 2 walk-ins, laundry hook-up & private deck. 2 car gar. 5BR/3.5BA.



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$699,900
Waynewood
1012 CROTON DR
• 5 Fin. lvs / 2,700 SF
• New Baths, New Windows
• 5 New Skylights, New Roof
• Dual Zone
• New open Kit w/SS appls
• Granite counters
• Fr door's open to Florida rm off DR
• 200 Amps. Electrical upgrade & So MUCH MORE!



1098 Sea View Ave
\$898,900
Price Slashed! Stunning
CONTRACT!
Potomac riverfront home just 8 miles from Ft. Belvoir. 7,000 sq ft luxury home on gorgeous lot with sandy



8826 Cooper Rd
\$395,000
Country Club Views!
You won't believe this large updated rambler is available for under \$400K! Numerous features include: large 1/2 A+ lot, updated kitchen w/granite countertops & SS appli, fully updated baths, thermal windows, large family room w/high ceilings, spacious living and dining rooms, garage & oversize deck. Prime location minutes from Ft. Belvoir.



8612 Fort Hunt Rd
\$699,000
Total Renovation - Fort Hunt Area!
Classic brick colonial just totally renovated from top to bottom by one of area's leading builders. Special features include: three luxuriously finished levels, large room sizes, gourmet kitchen, four BRs, including stunning master suite, updated baths, gorgeous hardwood floors, garage parking and fabulous private backyard. Sought after Fort Hunt area!



NEW LISTING!
\$189,000
Alexandria
"BEST VALUE"
New renovation of lg 1BR home w/fantastic views across Alexandria & DC monuments. Top quality cabinets, appliances & flooring. Top floor privacy. Walk to shops & restaurants. 2 blocks to the Potomac & bike path. Direct bus to Metro. Best value under \$200,000!



NEW PRICE!
\$889,990 / \$4,400
Alexandria
"SALE / LEASE"
3 blks from King St & Potomac - designed w/all the charm & historical architectural detail of Old Town. Hdwd on main level. Well-designed blend of cabinetry, granite & appls fit this Chef's kit. 2BR/2BA on owner's level. Loft/guest area.



\$525,000
Alex / Montebello
"ENTERTAIN!"
All the elements are in place - spacious space w/excellent flow, large kitchen, butler's pantry, living & dining rooms PLUS family rm & den PLUS sunroom & enclosed balcony. Complete w/2 garage spaces & 2 storage units. Topped off w/Montebello's resort amenities & Metro shuttle - it's all here!
www.susanmovesyou.com
Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913



7929 Bayberry Dr
\$549,000
Spacious Home-
SOLD!
Two Car Garage! A large home in prime location with an oversize 2 car garage for under



8723 Badger Dr
\$439,000
Stunning
SOLD!
Renovation! Completely renovated-model shows like new! Prime location on huge lot



1916 Shiver Rd
\$549,000
Close In Location!
SOLD!
Minutes to Old Town! NEW Better to PRICED! than new! Top bottom renovation of this fabulous 5BR, 3BA



\$1,850,000 - \$2,800,000
Mason Neck
"NEW HOMES"
Five+ acre lot in the gated waterfront community of "Stone Manor" includes security plus wildlife refuge, Mason Neck State Park, Pohick Regional Park & public golf course. You can pick from 3 models by Keswick Homes.



\$700,000
Stratford Landing
"LOT ON THE WATERFRONT!"
Last great opportunity to buy affordable, buildable lot in Mt. Vernon area. *1/3 acre; *99 foot water frontage on Little Hunting Creek; *soil study complete; *engineering study underway.



\$2,208,000 - \$2,638,000
Gunston
"NEW HOMES"
Two five acre lots, one waterfront and one interior, in the gated community of "The Reserve", offers security, private deep water marina & wonderful views of the Potomac River. You can pick from 3 models by Keswick Homes.



#1 Long and Foster Agent in Virginia - 2009 & 2010!
CHRIS WHITE - 703.283.9028
www.chrisandpeggywhite.com - chris.white@longandfoster.com

400 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA 22314
703.683.0400 ~ FAX 703.683.1303
www.OldTownAlexandria.com



Getting into the 'Right Fit' Private School

Experts explain how to navigate admissions process for area's most elite schools.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Christina Tait, director of admission and financial aid at The Langley School in McLean.

Each year, parents who opt out of their neighborhood public school in favor of an independent school must sift through the long list of the Washington area's independent schools to find one that meets the needs of their child.

They must then navigate the lengthy application required by most schools, and hope that their efforts are deft enough to gain acceptance in a competitive environment. Some schools report receiving as many as nine applications for each available slot.

Even for prospective pre-kindergarten students, the independent school admissions process often includes a written application, admissions tests, parent statements, student interviews, parent interviews, playdates, school visits, transcripts and teacher recommendations.

"What we're trying to do is get a whole picture of a child and look at information from a variety of different sources," said

THE APPLICATION PACKETS provide insight for both the school and the applicants. "We have a fairly detailed process so that we get to know the girls and they get to know us," said Pilar Cabeza de Vaca, head of the Madeira School in McLean. "Our goal is to find girls who are the right fit for our school and for whom our school is the right fit."

The role of each component of the application varies depending on the age of the applicant. "The admission [process] for young children is especially complex and difficult because we have to use both explicit and intuitive measures because we have less data," said Diane Dunning, director of admission and financial aid at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "If you were looking at a ninth grade [admissions] folder, you would have eight years of report cards and maybe four years of standardized testing. You are also able to interview [older applicants] in a different



Admissions officials at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria say independent school admissions is a thoughtful process. Above are St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School fifth grade students Sebastian Omechevarria, Kennon Moon, Geordie Hendricks, and Trinity Gourdin.

way than when you are interacting with the young children."

Why is so much probing necessary?

"Schools are looking for consistency in grades, attitude, testing and recommenda-

tions," said Lindsay White, educational consultant with the School Counseling Group in Washington, D.C. "[For example] If there

SEE PRIVATE SCHOOL, PAGE 18

What makes ACDS special?

Come find out! OPEN HOUSE
Jan. 12

ALEXANDRIA

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

info at acdsnet.org

Come see why...

The October issue of *Washingtonian* Magazine's article "Finding the Right School" features The Howard Gardner School as a top five school for "Nurturing Community."



hands on learning through environmental science and the arts

The Howard Gardner School

helping bright, creative non-traditional learners use their unique strengths to thrive academically, intellectually and emotionally.

www.thehowardgardnerschool.org

Grades 6-12

Open House

Thursday, Jan. 5
7 - 8:30 p.m.

4913 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA

703.822.9300



The Howard Gardner School

Santa Claus is coming to OLD TOWN

Presented by OLD TOWN BOUTIQUE DISTRICT
In partnership with MEALS ON WHEELS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Breakfast with Santa
Tickets available at www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com
Dec. 23rd, 8:30-10:30am
Union St. Public House
121 South Union St.
\$10 children, \$20 adults

Come meet Santa every Saturday & Sunday until Christmas Eve
at 210 S. Union St. in Old Town, Alexandria
Dec. 10th-11th and 17th-18th. Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 12 noon-5pm.
\$15 — includes photo with Santa
www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com

THIS PROGRAM WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE ALEXANDRIA MARKETING FUND.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE GAZETTE

Marcus Fisk, who plays Scrooge, is congratulated by his wife Pam after the opening night performance of 'A Christmas Carol' at The Little Theatre of Alexandria Dec. 8.

'Tis the Season

Greed, ghosts and redemption in LTA's "A Christmas Carol."

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

It's a tale nearly as old as time: The miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is ethically and emotionally transformed after being haunted by visits from the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come in the Charles Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol," now playing at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

First published in December of 1843, Dickens never intended his novel to become a play, yet it was so popular that within a year there were eight theatrical versions playing in London and America. LTA has chosen the Donna Ferragut traditional adaptation of the Victorian play for this holiday season.

"This is a dream cast," said Robin Parker, who directs the cast of 32 that includes 11 children. "They have been phenomenal from the very beginning."

Taking on the central role of Scrooge is longtime Alexandria resident and retired Navy Captain Marcus Fisk. Fisk gives a passionate performance, holding the audience spellbound as he deftly brings a tenderness to the transformation of the despised businessman.

"Marcus wouldn't believe what the rest of us say behind his back," laughed Janette Moman, who plays Mrs. Fezziwig. "We are all in awe of him — he is that good."

Rachel Rose Gray is the Ghost of Christmas Past, Brandon DeGroat the Ghost of Christmas Present and Ben Cherington as the silent Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

Jerry Casagrande is Scrooge's terminally cheerful nephew Fred with Aaron Lewis as Bob Cratchit and Larry Grey as Mr. Fezziwig.

After making his theatrical debut in LTA's "Oliver!" earlier this year, 8-year-old Joseph Machosky is endearing as the innocent Tiny Tim.

The entire cast is remarkably talented and costumes by Annie Vroom bring the Victorian streets of London to life.

"I can't imagine anything more fun than Christmas in Alexandria," said Moman, a fifth-grade teacher at Springfield Estates Elementary School. "This is a show I can invite all my students to see."

The power of the story still strikes a chord with audiences around the world and remains undimmed by time. While there may be bigger and flashier shows this holiday season, none will warm the heart more than The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol."

NOTE: Due to overwhelming turnout, an additional show has been added Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. for 'A Christmas Carol,' playing now through Dec. 18 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.



Tracy Turnblad (Carolyn Cole, center) and the cast of "Hairspray."

Welcome to the '60s!

Signature's "Hairspray" pumps up the volume.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

With big dreams and even bigger hair, plump and plucky Baltimore teen Tracy Turnblad longs to dance on the local American Bandstand-style show in the energetic, toe-tapping musical "Hairspray," now playing at Signature Theatre.

Based on the 2002 Tony Award-winning musical, itself based on the original 1988 John Waters film, "Hairspray" follows plussed protagonist Tracy Turnblad in her 1962 crusade to integrate the Corny Collins show. Allies in her fight against both racism and girls of girth grow to include Tracy's best friend Penny Pingleton, teen heartthrob Link Larkin and Motormouth Maybelle, hostess of the once-a-month "Negro Day" on Corny's show.

Playing the unlikely heroine Tracy, Carolyn Cole opens the show in overdrive belting out one of the show's signature songs, "Good Morning, Baltimore." In the role that made film stars of Ricki Lake and Nikki Blonsky, Cole is a diminutive dynamo with a siren-like voice that carries a charging score of 20 infectious melodies by Academy-Award nominee Marc Shaiman and Scott Whittman.

Directed by Signature's Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer, the show marks the musical theater stage debut of WETA and Sirius/XM radio host Robert Aubry Davis as Edna Turnblad. The deftly hilarious Davis adds a tenderness and

vulnerability to the role originated by Harvey Fierstein on Broadway and John Travolta in the subsequent movie.

Davis' duet, "Timeless to Me," with Harry A. Winter as Tracy's father Wilbur, is an unqualified show stopper and one of the highlights of the production.

Patrick Thomas Cragin plays the dreamy Elvis-inspired Link Larkin while Stephen Gregory Smith nails the role of the suave Corny Collins, a savvy TV host who is decidedly Team Tracy.

As Tracy's duck-to-swan best friend Penny, Lauren Williams channels her inner Mary J. Blige with mega talented James Hayden Rodriguez as her forbidden crush Seaweed.

Determined in their opposition to all this rhythmic righteousness are the bratty Amber Von Tussle and her maniacal mama Velma. Bringing mega-star wattage to the roles are Helen Hayes award winners Erin Driscoll as Amber and the always dazzling Sherri L. Edelen as Velma. Both are hilarious in their over-the-top wickedness with Edelen especially entertaining in "Miss Baltimore Crabs" and "Velma's Revenge."

In a company of standouts, Nova Y. Payton's Motormouth Maybelle brings the audience to its feet with vocals that soar to stratospheric heights in the gospel-infused "I Know Where I've Been."

The versatile Lynn Audrey Neal



Tracy Turnblad (Carolyn Cole) stops to "hear the bells."

tackles the roles of Prudy Pingleton, Gym Teacher and Matron with aplomb as does Signature favorite Matt Conner in the dual roles of Mr. Pinky and Harriman F. Spritzer.

Behind Schaeffer's creative direction, Karma Camp and Brienne Camp provide non-stop energetic choreography. With colorful and inventive sets by Daniel Conway, vivid costumes by Kathleen Geldard and an eight-piece orchestra conducted by Jon Kalbfleisch, the exuberant Signature production brings the audience to its feet as it closes the show with the driving rhythm of "You Can't Stop the Beat."

With a flawless 26-member cast, dazzling performances and a contagious score that is as impossible to shake off as Tracy's lacquered beehive, Signature Theatre's "Hairspray" is a blockbuster musical with staying power.

'Hairspray' runs through Jan. 29 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. For tickets, call 703-820-9771 or visit www.signature-theatre.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Tis the Season!
Expecting company for the Holidays?

Convenience. Comfort.

Visit your relatives and stay with us. Invite the family for the holidays dinner, and we will do the washing up.

Park & Play – enjoy the sights and sounds of Washington, D.C.
 Shop in Old Town Alexandria, and we will do the parking.

To book, please call the hotel at 703-740-4215

Alexandria SW at Hoffman Town Center
 2460 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22314



Not valid online or through general reservations • Not valid for groups of 10 or more rooms.

TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER
 ON THE WATERFRONT IN OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA



SHOP 3 FLOORS OF
ORIGINAL ART

MEET ARTISTS IN THEIR
OPEN STUDIOS

82 ARTIST STUDIOS • 6 GALLERIES • THE ART LEAGUE SCHOOL



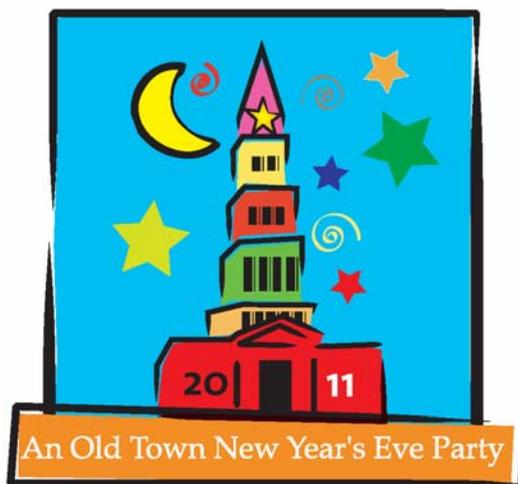
OPEN DAILY 10AM-6PM • THURSDAYS UNTIL 9PM
 ARTISTS' HOURS VARY • 703-838-4565
 105 N. UNION STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
www.torpedofactory.org



Walker Home Wins Window Wonderland Contest

The Old Town Boutique District (OTBD) held an Old Town Window Wonderland contest for Old Town retailers, restaurants, offices and commercial buildings to identify the best holiday window décor. After receiving 2,500 votes on Facebook from Nov. 24 to Dec. 5, the winner was announced as Walker Home at 1125 King Street, Alexandria. The second runnerup was fiberspace. Pictured are Mayor Euille, Rose Woodford (Walker Home), and the co-founders of the Old Town Boutique District, Elizabeth Todd (owner of The Shoe Hive) and Kim Putens (owner of Bloomers).

First Night ALEXANDRIA



12•31•11

Four Spotlight Areas of Entertainment between the Masonic Memorial and the Waterfront featuring 107 performances beginning at 7:00 pm

Admission badges are available online now through December 18 for just \$15. Children 12 and under, and active military are FREE, sponsored by Spectre Group International (Dec. 31 pick-up only)

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

More information and retail badge sites at FirstNightAlexandria.org



Third Annual
Fun Hunt
 starts at 1:00 pm

'Tis the Season

Little Theatre of Alexandria producer Mary Beth Smith-Toomey sits on Santa's lap Dec. 3 as part of LTA's free pictures with Santa open house during the Scottish Walk Parade. Behind the beard is Smith-Toomey's husband Michael Toomey. The Charles Dickens classic tale "A Christmas Carol" is playing now through Dec. 18.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN
 GAZETTE PACKET

ENTERTAINMENT

DECEMBER

Trees, wreaths at Sandburg Middle School.

Buy your holiday greens and trees while supplies last. Choose from a great selection of fresh Fraser Firs and Scotch Pines, decorated or undecorated wreaths, three types of garland and "Kissing Balls". Your purchase will help fund West Potomac High School athletes. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Rd., until sold out — weekdays, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

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 or call 703-780-2000.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 19

Tavern Toddlers. Mondays between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Cost is \$7/group of three. A five-visit pass is \$30. A weekly open playtime and a new craft activity each week. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

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



FIRST NIGHT - Tickets are now on sale for First Night Alexandria, the largest, safest way to spend New Year's Eve in the region! More than 100 performances at 18 indoor venues with entertainment for all ages. Purchase your ticket by Dec. 18 for only \$15 at www.FirstNightAlexandria.org or at retail sites throughout Alexandria (all are listed on the web site). On Dec. 19 through Dec. 31, the price increases to \$20. Children 12 and under are free; active military can get one free ticket on Dec. 31 by showing their active ID, sponsored by Spectre Group.

in general admission: \$15/adults; \$7/youth. Call 703-780-2000.

THROUGH DEC. 17

"School House Rock - Live!" Presented by Mount Vernon High School. 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.

THROUGH DEC. 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 Merve, 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 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 or 703-222-5511.

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

Fitness Together Holiday Open House. Featuring goodies and great deals on Personal Training, PACK and Gift Cards. At 300 North Washington Street, Alexandria; Call 703-683-0777.

Holiday Spectacular. 7:30 p.m. West Potomac high school choirs along with guests from Carl Sandburg Middle School and Hybla Valley Elementary School, are singing and dancing during their "Holiday Spectacular!" Directed by Ernest Johnson and choreographed by Gennifer Lisenby, this evening of music has something for all ages, including a visit from Santa Claus! At West Potomac High School, Springbank Auditorium. Tickets, \$6, may be purchased at the door.

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Explore the exciting world with some of favorite stories and songs. Ages 2 and under. At Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Pajama Storytime. 7 to 8 p.m. Climb into your jammies and join in a warm storytime. We'll have quiet and loud stories for all ages. RSVP requested by email at info@hooray4books.com, or call us at 703-548-4092. At Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Library Open House. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy music and other activities. At the Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-768-6700.

"Nutcracker in a Nutshell." 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Campus, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Presented by the Center for Ballet Arts. 703-273-5344 or www.thecenterforballetarts.com.

Canoeing With Santa. 10 a.m. to noon. Canoeing with Santa at YMCA Alexandria, 420 East Monroe Ave., Alexandria. Cost of \$5 supports fundraising campaign for local disadvantaged families. Call YMCA Alexandria at 703-838-8085.

Book Talk. 2 to 4 p.m. Alexandria author Brooke C. Stoddard will discuss and sign copies of his new book *World in the Balance: The Perilous Months of June-October 1940* at The Hangar: Aviation Specialties, 1325 King Street, Alexandria.

Oldies But Goodies. Cocker Spaniel Dog Adoption Show and Pictures with Santa. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Hybla Valley Petsmart, 7690 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

Holiday Bike Ride. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Meet at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. (gather outside). Bike 4 or 5 miles to admire the light displays on the houses of friends and neighbors. Part of the Alexandria BPAC ride. RSVP to: jonathan@jonathankrall.net.

A Victorian Christmas. 4 p.m. A dramatic one-man recitation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Special Performance by Stephen Mead. Tickets are \$10 and available at www.nvfaa.org. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035.

Christmas Carol Sing-Along and Brunch.



Cast and crew: (from left) Walid Chaya (Artistic Director & Founder), Morghan Gray, Kathryn Baker, Emiley Trowbridge, Emily Hidle, Mary Harrell, Katie Lincoln (Tour Manager), Micaela Erin McMahon and Alysa Wolf.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Snowy Day Cabaret. 1 p.m. Snowy Day Cabaret is a review of holiday hits and musical theater classics with a cast of children ages 7-14. At Wright to Read at Capital Farms, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

10:30 a.m. St. Andrew and St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Catholic Church on Monroe Avenue in Alexandria will be holding a free Christmas carol sing-along and brunch. Visitors are welcome to join members in singing traditional Christmas carols, along with musical accompaniment. Lyrics will be provided. A fellowship brunch will follow the carol singing. At 402 E. Monroe Avenue in the Del Ray area of Alexandria. Visit www.standrewandstmargaret.org, or call 703-683-3343.

DEC. 17 AND 18

Auditions for "Romeo & Juliet." 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17; and 7 to 10 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18. A number of roles for adults and youth (ages 13-18) are available. Rehearsals start Jan. 6. Performance dates March 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 at 8 p.m., and March 4, 11, 18 at 2 p.m. At Aldersgate Church Community Theatre, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Visit www.acctonline.org or email bardsplay@gmail.com.

Candlelight Tours. Join "Mrs. Washington" as she hosts an evening of candlelight tours, fireside caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. Tours include merry music, and characters from Washingtons' world guiding visitors through the first and second floors of Mount Vernon, adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening. The event takes place Dec. 17 and 18 (Saturday - Sunday only) from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Starting Nov. 1, tickets may be purchased in advance at the Ford Orientation Center (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily), or through www.MountVernon.org. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$14 for children under 12.

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Alexandria Children's Christmas Celebration. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Black Fire Service Professionals of Alexandria light up the holiday for children. At the Alexandria Hilton at Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

Christmas Tea. Noon to 3 p.m. Mrs. B (of Tea with Mrs. B) will guide families and children through a winter wonderland of tea, goodies and holiday arts and crafts. Cost is \$50/children; \$150/adults. At the Morrison House Hotel and the Grille at Morrison House Restaurant. Contact Anna Berke, 703-836-0214 or aberke@cfnc-online.org.

"Nutcracker in a Nutshell." 3 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Campus, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Presented by the Center for Ballet Arts. 703-273-5344 or www.thecenterforballetarts.com.

Lessons and Carols. 10 a.m. Afterwards, the Pohick Church Docent Guild will give special guided tours of the historic church. At Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway in Lorton. Call 703-339-6572 or visit <http://www.pohick.org>.

Christmas Candlelight Service. 6 p.m. Entitled "Light and Life to All He Brings," this Lessons and Carols service will feature the APC Adult and Youth choirs, brass quintet and congregational carol singing by candlelight. The doors will open at 5:40 p.m. with a brass quintet prelude at 5:45 p.m. At Alexandria Presbyterian

Church, 2405 Russell Road in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. Call 703-683-3348, www.alexandriapres.org.

Colonial English Handbell Ringers. 2 and 4 p.m. Free. Get into the holiday spirit as you listen - and sing along - with their performance of holiday classics using Whitechapel bells. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-4994.

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. 3 p.m. Presents Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake Suite, Wagner's Siegfried Idyll, Zwillich's Bassoon Concerto with bassoonist Arnold Irchai, Christopher Weiss' Voice of the Unknown Soldier, and a Christmas carol sing-along. At Bishop Ireton H.S., 201 Cambridge Rd., Alexandria. Call 703-799-8229 www.wmpmusic.org. \$20 18 and under free. 2:15 PM pre-concert lecture at both concerts

MONDAY/DEC. 19

Free Water Testing. 7:30 p.m. Your water will be tested for levels of Chlorine, pH value & ORP. Bring your water of choice, whether it is bottled water or filtered water. Free to the public. At Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Sponsored by Natures Nibbles & Educate Del Ray.

Tavern Toddlers. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, or \$30 for a purchase of a five-week pass. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4242.

BPAC Monthly Meeting. 7 p.m. The Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee promotes bicycling and walking in Alexandria. Agenda includes: A visit with City Council Candidate Scott Gordon, Bicycle and Pedestrian Demonstration project, Community bicycle rides, Bicycle-Friendly Community project, Capital Bikeshare, Recruiting new members for BPAC, and more. At Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria.

Holiday Recital. 11 a.m. Free. Sponsored by the Thomas A. Edison High School Tri-M Music Honor Society. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Musician Chris Isaak. 7:30 p.m. Beyond the Sun Tour. At The Birchmere in Alexandria. Call 800-745-3000.

TUESDAY/DEC. 20

Living Nativity Show. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Outside the front law of the Hermitage of Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-797-3815.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 21

Swing Dancing. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With Scott Ramminger and the Crawstickers. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

Noonday Noels. 12:05 p.m. Eya, Women's Trio. A 30-minute musical service. At the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria.

Jewmangous. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Getting into the 'Right Fit' Private School

FROM PAGE 14

is a huge difference between a [teacher] recommendation and what they are seeing on the grades, that is going to be a red flag."

Most schools want prospective applicants to spend time on campus. "The [school] visit is important to us. It gives the boy and his family a chance to experience the Heights first hand," said Richard Moss, director of admission at the Heights School in Potomac, Md. "On the flip side, it gives us a chance to really get to know the boy. How is he interacting with his peers? Is he friendly? Is he courteous? Does he have a good, firm handshake? Does he look the teachers in the eye when he greets them in the morning?"

Most applications ask parents to answer questions describing their children. Here are two questions from the Langley School's application: What do you believe is your role as a parent in your child's education? What qualities do you consider to be most important for your child's education?

Consultants say schools look at

the way parents answer questions. "There are a lot of parents who regurgitate the school's mission statement and all the language that is used on the school's website. Schools can see right through that," said educational consultant Clare Anderson, of Chevy Chase, Md. "They want to know that the family is in line with how [the school] works with students and [their] approach to education."

Schools also pay attention to a parent's evaluation of their child. "Red flags go up when everything is just perfect and they've never encountered a setback or difficulty," said Anderson. "[Schools] are looking for honest, candid responses. Obviously parents are going to frame it in a positive light, as they should."

Most schools require admissions tests. Depending on the age and grade of the child, these tests include the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI-III), Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) and the Secondary School Admission Test for (SSAT).

"Testing often creates the most anxiety," said Dunning, of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

THE TESTS are used differently depending on the age of the applicant. "Tests for [young children] are used as standardized tools to give an overall picture of a child's learning profile. These are not predictors for academic success. They give broad overviews of how a child learns," said Anderson. Tests given to middle and high school applicants are more meaningful. "Those tests measure how well your child has done with the information he or she has learned in school. If they see an eighth grader who has only average grades, but remarkable SSATs, they are going to ask, 'Is this an underachiever? Why is this child not excelling in the classroom?'"

Should children prepare for tests? When it comes to young children, most consultants say no. "It is unethical and makes your test scores invalid," said Anderson. "You are going to shoot yourself in the foot [if you prep your young child]. Your child will be the first



St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School students Isabella Norton, Leah Joseph, and Ulises Giacoman with Upper School Science Teacher Julie Krane.

to announce it either in the tester's office or at the school on the playdate. Then the scores are invalid."

The scenario is different for those applying for slots in middle and upper school. "I've had students who've taken [admissions tests] without prep, and then I worked with them and their scores [went] up considerably," said Christa Abbott, an Arlington-based independent test prep tutor.

Anderson agrees. "Just like you

preheat your oven, you've got to get your child ready for the test. Just knowing the format of the test can really help," said Anderson. "But I caution parents about [taking expensive test prep classes]. There has to be a primary concern that something is going to get in the way of your child being able to show what he or she knows."

Some parents hire educational consultants like White or Anderson, hoping to get a competitive advantage. Consultants say their role is to guide families through the process. "The number one mistake that I think parents make is thinking that hiring an educational consultant is going to give them an advantage at a very competitive school," said Mark Sklarow, executive director of the Independent Educational Consultants Association in Fairfax. "That is just not the way the system works. Consultants don't have a secret handshake that they can use with an admissions director to help get a student in. The reason you hire an educational consultant is to find a good fit between a student's needs and a school's strengths. A consultant's role is to [identify] a school where a child is going to thrive."

So what can parents do to make sure their child's application shines in a pool overflowing with many attractive applicants?

"It is always nice to think about what is special about your child," said White. "What is the one special strength or talent your child might have, whether it be academics or an extracurricular interest? What is the potential for your child to contribute to the school?"

Anderson says she encourages parents to view admissions procedures as multi-pronged. "My hope is to help parents understand the process and see that there really is a method and [schools] are looking to get the best from your child."

Visit These Houses of Worship Join A Club, Make New Friends, or Expand Your Horizons...

Christ the Saviour Anglican Church

"To Love & Serve the Lord with Gladness & Singleness of Heart"

Location - Washington Mill E.S.
9100 Cherrytree Drive

Worship Service - 10 a.m.
Inter-generational Sunday School - after service

www.christthesaviouranglican.org
703-953-2854

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 or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

Children's Liturgy of the Word
Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English)

Sign Language Interpreter
Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309
Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 www.gs-cc.org

Loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST...703-960-8772

CHURCHES—AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION
ALLEYNE AME ZION CHURCH...703-548-3888

CHURCHES—ANGLICAN
CHRIST THE SAVIOUR...703-953-2854
ST. ANDREW & ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND...703-683-3343
CHRIST THE KING ANGLICAN CHURCH...703-535-6815

CHURCHES—APOSTOLIC
LOVE OF CHRIST CHURCH...703-518-4404

CHURCHES—BAPTIST
ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH...703-683-2222
COMMONWEALTH BAPTIST CHURCH...703-548-8000
CONVERGENCE CREATIVE

COMMUNITY OF FAITH...703-998-6260
DEL RAY BAPTIST CHURCH...703-549-8116
DOWNTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH...703-549-5544
FIRST AGAPE BAPTIST
COMMUNITY OF FAITH...703-519-9100
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA...703-684-3720
PROVIDENCE-ST JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH...703-683-2565
SHILOH BAPTIST...703-683-4573

St. James' Episcopal Church



8 AM - Holy Eucharist - no music
All Education programs - 9:00 AM
10:15 AM - Holy Eucharist - music
Christmas Day Service: 8:00 AM
New Year's Day Service: 8:00 AM

5614 Old Mill Road, Mt. Vernon, Virginia
Just outside Ft. Belvoir's Walker Gate
Bearing true faith and allegiance - Blessings to all who serve
Office: 703-780-3081 • www.StJamesMV.org

Worship At Bethany Lutheran Church this Christmas Season

2501 Beacon Hill Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22306

Wednesdays during Advent
7:30pm

Christmas Eve Family Worship 5:30pm
Special Music 7:00pm
Candlelight Worship 7:30pm

Christmas Day
Special Music 9:35am
Worship 10:00am

New Year's Eve Watch Night Service
9:00pm - 1:00am Please join us

More info (703) 765-8255 or www.bethany-lcms.org

To Advertise Your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-917-6468

Far East on Richmond Highway?

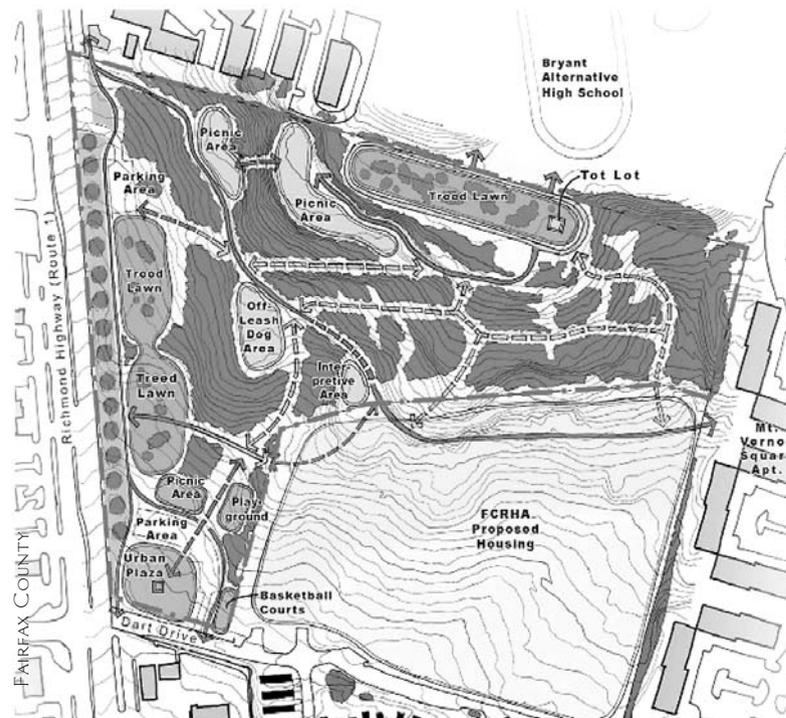
FROM PAGE 1

park, is that the county has never identified any source of funding for the park. Even today, as the county is in the process of obtaining permits, no funding has been identified to create the park. Many neighborhood residents fear that the county will break ground on the trailer park and never get around to funding the park. Through a spokeswoman, the Fairfax County government declined to make public officials available for an interview about North Hill.

"Staff responded to an informal question on the concept," said Merni Fitzgerald, director of public affairs for the county in a written statement, "noting that since federal funds were used to purchase the site and since such a concept would not likely meet the federal benefit test, the business would be required to pay full-market value for the land."

THE NORTH HILL project dates back to the early 1980s. A series of events conspired to delay the project, including a heated debate between environmentalists and affordable-housing advocates about the value of preserving trees. Back in 2007, opponents struck a compromise that would preserve 21 acres for a new park while setting aside 12 acres for a mobile-home park for affordable housing. Now the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development is in the process of obtaining building and site permits to construct 67 units of manufactured housing.

"There has never been any other subject



The master plan for North Hill sets aside 12 acres for affordable housing and 21 acres for a park, although no funding has been identified for creating the park.

that has divided people more than North Hill," said Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland earlier this year. "I feel like we've split the baby down the middle, and of course that doesn't make anybody happy."

Johnston's proposal would create a Japanese garden at his expense on land leased from the county. Five acres of the site would be open to the public and include a rose garden. About 10 acres would be Japanese gardens that visitors would pay a fee for entrance, a self-supporting visitor center and tourist attraction similar to the Portland Japanese Garden in Oregon. The garden center retail operation would be located on six to seven acres along Route 1.

"I've been to the one in Portland, and I thought it was beautiful," said Betsy Martin, chairwoman of the Environment and Recreation Committee. "This idea could prove to be a great partnership."

DURING A NOVEMBER meeting of the Planning and Zoning Committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associa-

tions, members of the panel decided that the plan was too preliminary to support. But the committee also suggested that Johnston create a map showing the size and location of the garden center, the oriental gardens, the mobile-home park and any undeveloped land. Panel members also suggested he present the plan to the council's Environment and Recreation Committee.

"It would be great for the Holly, Woods and Vines," said Al Bommann, co-chairman of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations. "But I can't really see this contributing to revitalization of Route 1. Maybe it's just not my thing."

It may not be the county's thing either. Johnston originally presented the plan to county officials years ago, although nothing came of the proposal. Now he's hoping members of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations might see merit in the idea, especially the part about identifying a source of funding for the park that currently is nonexistent.

"Government moves very slowly," said Johnston. "I need to move much faster."

Organization Aims for Repeal of Capital Punishment

FROM PAGE 7

Wolfe, who was selling marijuana, was convicted of murder-for-hire in 2001 of his marijuana supplier, but the shooter who testified against him in exchange for a plea bargain recanted in 2005. It took six more years for Wolfe to be granted an appeal. He is still housed on Death Row at Sussex State Prison. He could still, pending a new trial, be executed.

"The death penalty is a broken system," Steinberg said, describing the prolonged emotional torture of all involved, including the victim's mother. "And as long as it remains run by humans, it is going to remain broken. People make mistakes. The death penalty is a mistake that cannot be undone. You can't bring a man back from the grave."

"In Virginia you're usually dead within 10 years. The average is seven. If that was the case for my son, he would have been dead before he could prove his innocence."

Steve Northup, VADP's executive director, told the gathering, "The pendulum is

swinging against the death penalty right now. Four states have recently abolished it in the last four years, including Montana, Colorado and Kansas. These are not bastions of liberalism.

"These are generally conservative states whose legislatures are looking around and realizing they're dealing with the risk of executing innocent people and dealing with the fact that it's a lot more expensive to maintain a system where the maximum punishment is death versus life in prison, so they're looking for better ways to spend their money."

Obstacles to abolition in Virginia are Republicans in the General Assembly, he said, adding that "Governor McDonnell said he would sign any death penalty expansion bill that reached his desk." The Republicans are seeking legislation that will expand the Death Penalty to accessories to murder.

"If that bill gets passed, on one level you may say that Virginia's headed in the wrong direction," said Northup, but added there are other indications that Virginia's moving

away from executions.

"The number of capital prosecutions in Virginia is down significantly," he said, citing that Virginia has now instituted the Capital Defender who brings in skilled attorneys to defend those accused of capital murderer. "So it's not going to be as easy as it's been in the past for prosecutors to get the death penalty. I think that the number of prosecutors who seek the death penalty is dwindling."

Locally, John McDiarmid, who attended last week's meeting, is seeking to revive the Northern Virginia chapter of the VADP. He invites those interested to contact him at 703-405-6999 or diarmid@starpower.net.

"There is a better way," said Steinberg. "We can better spend the money that was spent trying to kill my son keeping programs in our schools that keep kids out of trouble. We could better spend that money helping victims of violent crime."

Citing religious reasons for abolition, she added, "We are Catholic. We believe that 'Thou shalt not kill.'"

Speaking Up

FROM PAGE 6

symposium on Nov. 19 at the Capitol Hilton Ballroom, Tom Ridge, former Homeland Security Secretary, said this designation was a mistake. He explained that in his time as secretary, everyday he would receive a threat matrix. "Not once did I see a threat from any resident or supporter of the MEK."

"It's defamation to call innocent people who have been disarmed in a camp terrorists," said Patrick Kennedy, former member of the House of Representatives from Rhode Island, who also participated in the symposium. "They are our friends. They are the friends of the world."

Many former political prisoners from Iran have fled to Ashraf. Borjkhani has a personal connection to numerous residents there.

"We are basically here [in D.C.] for a regime change in Iran, a democratic Iran, a liberated, free Iran," said Zia. "It's the cause that brings us together."

"This is the subject that brings all of us together," said Parvin Bassiri, a close friend of Borjkhani. "It's a big issue for all of us that's related to freedom in Iran."

"Right now I only have one issue, one pain and that's to protect my friends," said Borjkhani. "They are very good people."

In what little spare time he has, Borjkhani reads, listens to music and learns English. He said he enjoys reading about history and economics because he wants to learn about different belief systems.

"I don't discriminate against other religions," said Borjkhani. "I was born in a Muslim family. I do pray myself as well. But I believe that praying is just another way to express your love towards the people through God."

He said he can't live without music and he enjoys classical such as Bach and Mozart, and traditional Persian music.

"He always has a smile on, so does my father and everyone else," said Zia. "They do this out of love. At the end of the day, in their heart, they feel that comfort that they're doing something for humanity. That's what motivates me, to see the smiles on their faces."

"The one thing that keeps us sturdy is love," said Borjkhani. "If what you're doing is out of love and the fact that I love to see freedom in my country. I just want to see the young people in my country all jolly and happy and to see the younger women don't get lashes because of showing some hair. I want to see everybody happy. I want everybody to be able to express their thoughts and feelings and for everybody to believe in what they want to believe in terms of religion. I want people to wear what they want to wear. And I really do believe that our people are going to be victorious."

EMPLOYMENT

ZONE 3: • ALEXANDRIA
• MOUNT VERNON

HOME & GARDEN

CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM CONTRACTORS.COM

703-917-6400

ZONE 3 Ad DEADLINE:
TUESDAY NOON

CLASSIFIED

Full Time
CAFE SUPERVISOR
Annandale NOVA Bookstore
Starbucks experience preferred.
Barista experience a must. \$10/hr.
email resume to sm651@bncollege.com

OFFICE POSITION
We are looking for a bright, organized and detail oriented individual for our fast paced, demanding environment. This applicant must be a self-starter, able to multi-task and has the ability to take initiative and problem solve. He / She must also have computer skills, experience in a team environment, and ability to prioritize and take direction from several people. Dependability is a must for this position. Email resume to: lperkins@cnccompleteservices.com or fax to 301-877-6805 Attn: Lisa Perkins No Phone calls will be accepted.

Virginia Indigent Defense Commission
Alexandria Public Defender Office
Secretary I
Starting Salary: \$30,555
Public Defender office is looking for a punctual, positive, flexible, and motivated full-time entry-level secretary/receptionist. Knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures, computers and relevant software applications required. Must be accurate, detail oriented, and able to manage time productively. Fluent Spanish is highly valued. Salary of \$30,555 plus full state benefits. The successful candidate will be subject to fingerprint based criminal background checks. Applicants should submit a state application online via the following link: jobs.agencies.virginia.gov/applicants/Central?quickFind=141610

EDUCATION TRAINING
Pharmacy Technician Trainees Needed Now!
Pharmacies now hiring. No experience? Job Training & Placement Assistance Avail.
1-877-240-4524
CTO SCHEV

DENTAL ASSISTANT TRAINEES NEEDED NOW!
Dental Offices now hiring. No experience? Job Training & Placement Assistance Avail.
1-800-381-1734
CTO SCHEV

MED BILL & CODING Trainees NEEDED NOW
Medical Offices now hiring. No experience? Job Training & Placement Assistance Avail.
1-800-385-2615
CTO SCHEV

Educational Internships
Unusual opportunity to learn many aspects of the newspaper business. Internships available in reporting, photography, research, graphics. Opportunities for students, and for adults considering change of career. Unpaid. E-mail internship@connectionnewspapers.com
CONNECTION NEWS PAPERS

CLEANING CLEANING
CARE MORE CLEANING SOLUTIONS
Residential & Commercial
10% Senior Citizen Discount
703-862-5904
OR
703-780-6749
caremorecleaning.com

ELECTRICAL ELECTRICAL
K & D ELECTRIC
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
Family Owned & Operated
Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabeling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...
Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Office 703-335-0654
Mobile 703-499-0522

GUTTER GUTTER
GUTTER CLEANING LEAF REMOVAL
Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned • Small Repairs • Gutter Guards
Pinnacle Services, Inc.
"Friendly services for a friendly price"
703-802-0483 • Free Estimates
Email: jamie@lawnsandgutters.com
Web: lawnsandgutters.com
Lic - LAWN MOWING, SODDING, MULCHING, Yardclean-up • Ins.

IMPROVEMENTS IMPROVEMENTS
R&N Carpentry
♦BASEMENTS ♦BATHS ♦KITCHENS
Foreclosure specialist/Power washing
♦Exterior Wood Rot More!
Deck & Fence repair, Screen Porches
No jobs too large or small
Free est. 37 yrs exp. Licensed, Insured
703-987-5096

M. C. Lynch Home Improvement
Family Owned & Operated
Rotten Wood, Wind Damage, Trims, Windows, Doors, Deck, Stairs, Vanity, Basement Framing, Garbage Disposal, Painting, Power Wash, Siding Repairs.
Licensed, Bonded, Insured
703-266-1233

The HANDYMAN
A DIVISION OF NURSE CONSTRUCTION
BATHROOM REMODELING, DRYWALL, PAINTING, CERAMIC TILE, CARPENTRY, POWER WASHING & MUCH MORE
You have tried the rest - NOW CALL THE BEST!!
Proudly serving Northern VA - 46 yrs. exp.
Licensed Insured We Accept VISA/MC
703-441-8811

ALEXANDRIA
Gazette Packet CLASSIFIED
Classified or Home • Lawn • Garden:
703-917-6400
Employment: 703-917-6464
E-mail: classified@connectionnewspapers.com
CONNECTION NEWS PAPERS

FIREWOOD
Mixed Seasoned Hardwood
\$130 half cord
\$220 full cord
Call Joe at
301-856-4436
301-602-9528 Cell

GUTTER
AFFORDABLE QUALITY GUTTERS
Repair, Replace, Clean & Screen.
1000s of local Refs.
703-794-8513

LAWN MOWING
LAWN MOWING, TRIMMING, EDGING, SODDING, MULCHING, LEAVES, GUTTER CLEANING, YARD CLEANUP
Pinnacle Services
"Friendly services for a friendly price"
703-802-0483
Lic. Ins. email: jamie@lawnsandgutters.com
web: lawnsandgutters.com

HAULING
ANGEL'S TRASH REMOVAL
Junk & Rubbish •Furn., Yard, Construction Debris • Mulch & Spring Clean Up
703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

AL'S HAULING
Junk & Rubbish
Concrete, furn., office, yard, construction debris
Low Rates NOVA
703-360-4364
703-304-4798 cell
7 DAYS A WEEK

I'am a slow walker, but I never walk back.
-Abraham Lincoln

LAWN SERVICE LAWN SERVICE
J.E.S Services
LANDSCAPE & CONSTRUCTION
• Patios • Walkways
• Retaining Walls
• Drainage Problems
• Landscape Makeovers
Call: 703-912-6886
Free Estimates

SNOW REMOVAL SNOW REMOVAL
COMMERCIAL SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES
GUTTER Landscapes Inc.
703-823-5156

LANDSCAPING
ANGEL'S LAWN MOWING
•Trimming •Leaf & Snow
•Removal •Yard Clearing
•Hauling •Tree Work
703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

PAINTING
PATRIOT PAINTING
www.PatriotPainting.net
Wallpaper Removal, Carpentry, Power Washing, Int/Ext Painting
Free Est. • Satisfaction Guar. Lic./Ins. Int./Ext.
703-502-7840
Cell 571-283-4883

ROOFING
Falcon Roofing
Roofing & Siding (All Types)
Soffit & Fascia Wrapping New Gutters Chimney Crowns Leaks Repaired
No job too small
703-975-2375
falconroofinginc.com

TREE SERVICE
ANGEL'S TREE REMOVAL
Brush & Yard Debris
Trimming & Topping
Gutters & Hauling
Angeltreeslandscaping-hauling.com
703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

12 Commercial Lease
Office Space for Lease in Oakton. Approx. 800sf Avail Immediately. 703-820-2500

Legal Notices
LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 2003 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Unit at (703) 838-4709.

When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.
-Ethiopian Proverb

21 Announcements

Art & Framing by Valentino
Custom Framing & Fine Art
Rose Valentino, Owner
roseval@gmail.com
Mount Vernon Antique Center
www.mtvantiques.com
8101 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309
(703-505-9334)
(By appointment)
www.art-and-framing.com

110 Elderly Care

WHY MOVE?
Get assisted living in your own home. Employees Drug Screened, Background checked and RN Supervised. American owned & operated since 2001. Free in-home assessment
call 703-591-7117.

21 Announcements

Donate A Boat or Car Today!
Boat Angel
"2-Night Free Vacation!"
1-800-CAR-ANGEL
www.boatangel.com
SPONSORED BY BOAT ANGEL OUTRACK CENTER STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

21 Announcements

Add a touch of green to a white Christmas!
Advertise through Virginia Press Services' Statewide Display Ad Network. Place your business card-size ad in more than 65 newspapers and your message will reach more than 800,000 Virginians!
CONTACT THIS NEWSPAPER
or Adriane Long, Virginia Press Services, 804-521-7585 or adrianel@vpa.net

Fultz's Tip-In Lifts Wolverines Over Titans

West Potomac second Northern Region team to win at T.C. Williams since 2005.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Members of the West Potomac boys basketball team rushed to the offensive glass in a frantic effort to avoid defeat. After Bryant Fultz tipped the ball in the bucket and the final buzzer sounded, the Wolverines rushed to the opposite end of the floor in jubilation.

Fultz's tip-in during the closing seconds of the fourth quarter gave West Potomac a 51-50 victory against T.C. Williams on Tuesday, Dec. 13. Trailing by one with eight seconds remaining on the Titans' home floor, West Potomac missed the front end of a one-and-one but kept hope alive with a determined offensive-rebounding effort. After coming up empty on multiple shots near the rim, Fultz, a 6-foot-5 forward, tipped in the game-winner, making West Potomac only the second Northern Region team to win at T.C. Williams since 2005.

"I just had one common goal and that was to put the ball in the hoop," Fultz said. "It was a regular day. We practice things like that at practice, so it was like a normal shot. It was just go get it and put it in."

West Potomac head coach David Houston III said the Wolverines ran a rebounding play in case there was a missed free throw.

"Because we had so many guys in [the paint, the Titans] couldn't just try to check out one and it made it difficult for them," Houston said. "That thing seemed like it hung up on the rim for like 20 seconds."

Fultz, a senior, finished with 24 points and 12 rebounds. In the second quarter, Fultz energized the Wolverines with a one-handed dunk in transition. In the fourth quarter, he scored eight of the West Potomac's 15 points.

"We gave him some rest and we got him

in and out as opposed to just playing straight throughout. We had a little different approach of how we wanted to use him minutes-wise," Houston said. "He played long; that dunk he got in the first half really got us going. He's an emerging good player and he plays well when other guys around him are playing well."

Lake Braddock was the first Northern Region team since 2005 to beat TC on its home floor, knocking off the Titans, 56-52, last season. TC went on to win the Patriot District and Northern Region titles before losing in overtime of the state semifinals. This season, TC edged Edison at home, 55-53, on Dec. 9 and was off to a 3-0 start before losing to West Potomac.

TC head coach Julian King said his post-game talk with the Titans "wasn't pleasant."

"I basically told the truth and the truth is we got our butts kicked tonight," King said. "Offensively, defensively, we got completely outplayed. Take nothing away from West Potomac, they clearly came in and were the better team tonight. No question about it. They killed us on the boards, got any shot they wanted, got any second shot — as you can see, they ended the game with second- and third-chance shots."

Brandon Pressley scored nine points for West Potomac and Don Smith added six.

Landon Moss led TC with 17 points. TJ Huggins scored 14 points for the Titans and Jordan Byrd added 10. After wins against Mount Vernon (65-62) and Herndon (67-49), West Potomac lost to Chantilly, 60-58, on Dec. 9. The Wolverines responded by winning their Patriot District opener against the Titans to improve to 3-1. West Potomac won the district championship in 2010.

"It means a lot to our confidence," Houston said. "We know that we can play with anybody, but we also know that if we don't show up we can lose. This is going to help us big time."



West Potomac senior Bryant Fultz throws down a one-handed dunk during the Wolverines' 51-50 victory against T.C. Williams on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Letters of Intent

West Potomac senior lacrosse players Livvy Mickevicius and Emily Hauptle, both four-year members of the Wolverines, signed letters of intent to play in college. Mickevicius will play at Grand Valley State while Hauptle will play at Marquette University.

MVHS Wrestling Undefeated

The Mount Vernon wrestling team won the Lancer Duals on Dec. 10 at Manchester High School in Midlothian, improving its record to 10-0. The Majors de-
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

feated James River (67-9), Lee Davis (46-18), Amelia County (84-0), Freeman (61-13) and Landstown (49-24).

Junior Eriq Dahlum returned to the lineup and went 5-0 in the 113-pound division. Senior 170-pounder Dusty Floyd improved to 10-0 on the season and needs 35 more wins to become Mount Vernon's all-time leader. Heavyweight Vika Mathias also remained undefeated.

Senior 126-pounder Cody Marino used a lateral throw to pin Lee Davis' Van Allen, ranked No. 6 in the state, in the second period.



West Potomac senior Livvy Mickevicius signed a letter of intent to play lacrosse at Grand Valley State University.



West Potomac senior Emily Hauptle signed a letter of intent to play lacrosse at Marquette University.

PEOPLE



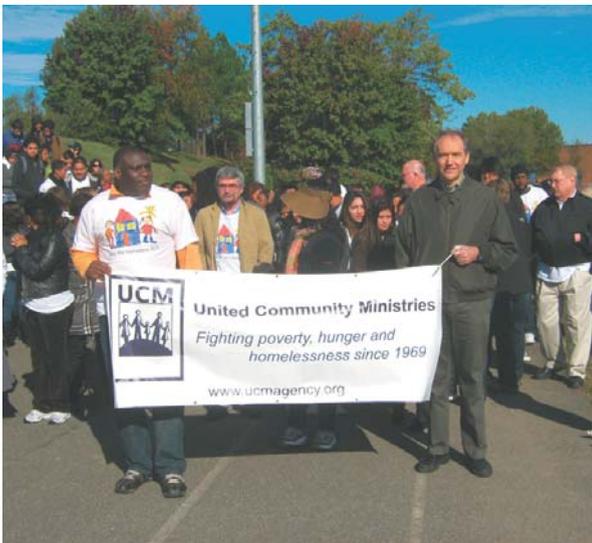
St. Aidan's Day School held its first Help the Homeless Mini-Walk to benefit UCM this year on Nov. 2. Nearly all of the students registered to participate.



Hollin Hall Senior Center and Breathe LLC held a drum circle to Help the Homeless on Nov. 4.



Students at Waynewood Elementary School filled in the bricks of a house as part of their Help the Homeless Mini-Walk to benefit UCM on Oct. 20.



United Community Ministries staff members walked with Bryant High School students in a Help the Homeless Mini-Walk on Oct. 28.



WhollyFit held a fitness-filled Help the Homeless Mini-Walk at Fort Hunt Park on Oct. 15 that included squats, lunges and pushups.



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

UCM Reaches Help the Homeless Walkathon Goal

United Community exceeded its goal of 3,000 walker registrations for the 2011 Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon program. From July 1 through Nov. 4, 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.

Give the Gift of Fitness

60 DAYS FOR ONLY \$60!

No Initiation Fee!

MOUNT VERNON ATHLETIC CLUB

New Members Only.

7950 Audubon Ave. Alexandria, VA 22306 | www.MTVAC.net | 703-360-7300

Kingdom Warriors

TAEKWONDO

Call Today! (703) 672-1428

- Self Defense
- Physical Fitness
- Coordination
- Self Discipline
- After-School Program

FREE Uniform when you enroll

Call now! Expires January 31, 2012

FREE One Week Trial Lesson

Expires January 31, 2012

Nobody can beat our prices!

www.kwarriorstkd.com 8800-A Pear Tree Village Court, Alexandria



TOYOTA TOYOTATHON

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RED TAG SAVINGS DURING OUR YEAR END EVENT.

For a limited time, **0% APR** financing for 60 months.

0% APR FOR A LIMITED TIME ON SELECT NEW TOYOTAS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. NOT IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER OFFERS. EXCLUDES \$379 DEALER DOC FEE. EXPIRES 12/31/2011.

0% APR FINANCING ON SELECT NEW MODELS⁴

UP TO **\$1500 OVER** BLACK BOOK FAIR VALUE FOR YOUR TRADE-IN!¹



ToyotaCare
2 YEAR COMPLIMENTARY MAINTENANCE PLAN WITH ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE² ON EVERY NEW VEHICLE

COVERS 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, OIL & FILTER, TIRE ROTATION, MULTIPOINT INSPECTION

BRAND NEW 2011 TOYOTA

PRIUS

0% APR FINANCING FOR 60MO. OR \$1,000 CUSTOMER CASH



0% APR FOR A 60 MONTH TERM ON SELECT NEW TOYOTA PRIUS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. \$1,000 CUSTOMER CASH AVAILABLE WHEN FINANCED THROUGH TFS. NO IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER ADVERTISED OFFERS. EXCLUDES \$379 DEALER DOC FEE.

BRAND NEW 2011 TOYOTA

COROLLA

SIGN & DRIVE
\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$249 PER MO.



INCLUDES TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT, \$379 PROCESSING FEE, ACQUISITION FEE AND \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. 36 MO. LEASE W/12K MILES PER YEAR.

ALL NEW 2012 TOYOTA

CAMRY L

SIGN & DRIVE
\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$299 PER MO.



INCLUDES TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT, \$379 PROCESSING FEE, ACQUISITION FEE AND \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. 36 MO. LEASE W/12K MILES PER YEAR.

BRAND NEW 2011 TOYOTA

RAV4

SIGN & DRIVE
\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$299 PER MO.



INCLUDES TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT, \$379 PROCESSING FEE, ACQUISITION FEE AND \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. 36 MO. LEASE W/12K MILES PER YEAR.



- 7 Yr. / 100K Mi Roadside Assistance Plan
- 160 Point Quality Assurance Inspection
- CARFAX Vehicle History Report

- 2.9% APR Financing Available (3).
- 3 mo. / 3K mi Comprehensive Warranty
- 7 Yr. / 100K Mi Limited Powertrain Warranty

(1)BASED ON BLACK BOOK FAIR TRADE VALUE MINUS CONDITION, MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A NEW TOYOTA VEHICLE. (2)WITH PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE. COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE. PLAN IS FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW TOYOTA VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET, OR A DELIVERY OR TAXI VEHICLE. SEE PARTICIPATING TOYOTA DEALER FOR DETAILS. (3)WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THRU TFS. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE FINANCING DETAILS. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER ADVERTISED OFFER. OFFERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION DUE TO MANUFACTURER CHANGE IN INCENTIVES. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE CAMPAIGN DETAILS. 0% APR FOR A LIMITED TERM ON APPROVED TIER1 + CREDIT THRU TFS. DEALER RETAINS ALL FACTORY REBATES AND INCENTIVES. (4)PRICE EXCLUDES \$379 DEALER DOC FEES. EXPIRES 12/31/11.

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA / SCION
3750 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22305

"QUOTE"
See what people are saying about Alexandria Toyota!

"I gave this dealership a great rating because it was the greatest experience I have ever had at a dealership. John McMillan was exceptional as a salesman. He was able to answer every question and he made me feel like I was special as a buyer. It was truly a great experience and again I cannot say enough about John McMillan, he is truly an asset to Alexandria Toyota."

- Dealerrater Quote



4.9 / 5 RATING

ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM TOLL-FREE: 1 866-616-8420

**Weichert,
Realtors®**

- ◆ Real Estate
- ◆ Mortgage
- ◆ Closing Services
- ◆ Insurance

703-360-7400

www.weichert.com

8301 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309



SPRINGFIELD \$450,000

FRANCONIA FOREST COLONIAL

Center hall colonial featuring large rooms, main-level family room with fireplace off eat-in kitchen, separate dining room, 1st floor laundry - 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2-car garage all on cul-de-sac lot ideally located with easy access to Metro. *Dirs.: Franconia Rd to north on Fleet, immediate right to Franconia Station Ct, Left Franconia Station Ln, Right Marcy Ct to 6254.*

CALL PAUL KAEPPPEL 703-924-7115



HAYFIELD AREA \$439,000

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

Very attractive brick home; full master suite with walk-in closet & master bath. Family room fireplace. Nice deck for outdoor fun. 4 BR - 2 Baths. *Dirs.: Telegraph Rd South, left Hayfield, left Broadmoor, Right Marble Arch.*

CALL DAPHNE MELILLO 703-975-6670



FAIRFAX \$500,000

3-LEVEL BUMP-OUT

Stunning three level home loaded with extras. Open floor plan. 9-foot plus ceilings, streaming natural light from tall windows & master bath skylights. Corean counters, plus kitchen island with breakfast bar. *Near Rts 50 & 7100.*

CALL MARSHA BELVIS 703-283-0765



MT VERNON \$350,000

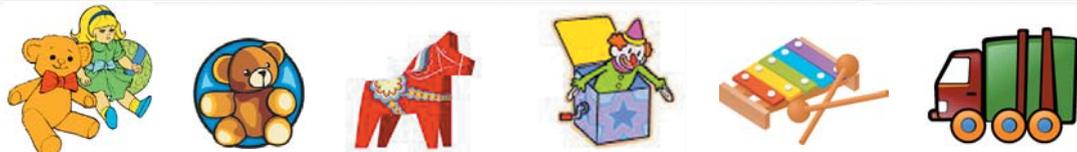
ONE LEVEL LIVING

Nicely maintained 4 bedroom rambler on over 1/3 acre tucked away off the beaten path. Brick exterior on all four sides. Ceramic floor in living room & kitchen; hardwood floors through remainder of home. Fireplace. Nicely landscaped lot.

CALL MICHELE WILSON 571-224-4592



Weichert's 33rd Annual Toy Drive



We appreciate the support that we have received each year from our Mt Vernon neighbors to make this annual effort a success. Let's do it again. Bring your unwrapped toy contributions to your local Weichert office at 8301 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309

Licensing Classes

Enroll NOW while \$99 special promotion is still offered.

Call Heidi Kabler
Managing Broker
703-360-7400



Licensing Course Series -2012
Jan 4-Feb 29 M & W 6PM-10:00PM
Mar 3-Mar 19 M-F 9AM-3:30PM
Apr 30-Jun 20 M & W 6PM-10:00PM

Invest in yourself. Taking this 60 hour Principles & Practices of Real Estate course can be the kick-off to your new business, an added insight to building your investment portfolio or a new dimension for your continued self-improvement. Course content is valuable information for all.



**Eyeglass
Special**

**\$75 off 1st pair
of complete eyeglasses,
\$150 off 2nd pair.**

**see associate for details*

Use your Flex Spending dollars before they expire.

Eye exams available
Most insurances accepted

eye2eye optometry corner

Dr. Dora Adamopoulos
www.mye2eye.com
1502 Mt. Vernon Ave
703-548-0122

We have Santa. If you want to see him again, leave cold beer & wine THE NIGHT BEFORE christmas. NO CARROTS! go to unwined gourmet wine - cigars, or else! From The Reindeer.

HOLIDAY HOURS
9am -8pm: Mon. 12/19 -Fri. 12/23
9am-6pm: Christmas Eve
Closed Christmas Day

Belle View Shopping Center
1600 A Belle View Blvd.
Alexandria, VA 22307
571.384.6880

Bradlee Shopping Center
3690 J King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
703.820.8600