

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 26, 2012

## WINTER FUN



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

**Lucia-Belen Duffy has her picture taken as General George Washington in the Hands on History Room at Mount Vernon Estate. For winter entertainment activities, see pages 14-17.**

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 6.

## Scandal Highlights Child Sex Abuse

Fairfax County police say reports, concerns rose in wake of scandal.

By VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

The fallout from the Penn State child sex abuse scandal — arrests, firings and the disgrace of a sports icon — has also promoted a heightened awareness of child sexual abuse.

Since the scandal broke in November, national child abuse and neglect hotlines have reported steep spikes in calls from parents, educators and victims asking questions and seeking help.

Fairfax County has also felt the impact.

According to statistics kept by Fairfax County Police Department's (FCPD) Child Abuse Unit, reports to the department's

seven-member Child Abuse Squad have doubled since December 2010 — from 19 to 39 reported cases.

During 2011, officers investigated 329 cases covering child rape, sodomy, aggravated sexual battery and indecent liberties with a juvenile.

Fairfax County's Office for Women's Domestic and Sexual Violence also reports an increased number of calls asking for advice and counsel since the scandal broke.

"Child sexual abuse is more common than many people think, but there is also a lot of shame and a hesitancy to come forward and talk about it," said Lucy Caldwell,

SEE ABUSE, PAGE 7

## Politics of Notification

Father takes his fight for increased parental notification to Richmond.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

Steve Stuban can't help but wonder if things could have turned out differently. Back in 2010, his son Nick was considered a model student at Woodson High School in Fairfax County. That is, until school officials caught the teenager with synthetic marijuana. Administrators didn't contact the parents until a decision had already been made to suspend the boy with a recommendation for expulsion.

"Nick had been questioned mul-



**Steve Stuban    Nick Stuban**

iple times over multiple days and had been asked to execute multiple written statements," said Stuban. "They had already de

SEE NOTIFICATION, PAGE 6





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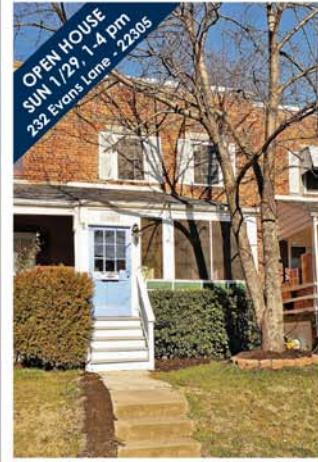


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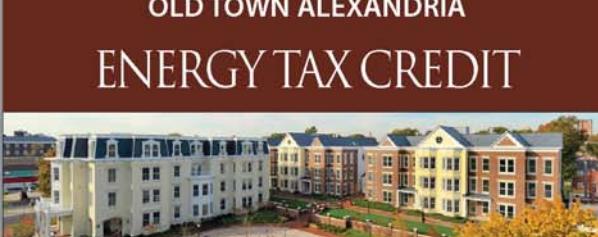


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# NEWS



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

## New Chamber Board Members

**Elections were held at the Mount Vernon - Lee Chamber of Commerce annual dinner meeting for five new board members to serve three-year terms. Newly elected board members are: Tony Riolo, Burke & Herbert Bank; Mike Leone, Cox Communications; Diane Moery, Hollin Meadows Partnership for Science & Math Education; John Barsa and Kevin Lewis of LMK Partners LLC. (Mike Leone was not present for the photo.)**



**Executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and author of "Lead Like a General" Paul Gilbert is greeted by chamber chair Tim Sargeant, chamber president Michael Gailliot and chamber executive director Holly Dougherty. Gilbert agreed to fill in as guest speaker for the 58th annual dinner after chair of the Fairfax County Planning Commission Pat Murphy came down with the flu.**



**Damara Gailliot talks with fellow chamber members Jim and Leslie Lindsay before dinner on Tuesday evening, Jan. 24 at the Mount Vernon Inn.**



**Chamber members Brent Clarke and James Migliaccio.**

# Moderate Mutiny

**Former governor wants to impose Virginia "talent economy" on Washington; increase bipartisanship.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

**W**ith the sluggish economy at the forefront of voters' minds this year, former Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine hopes to put fiscal issues at the top of his campaign to fill the seat vacated by Democratic U.S. Sen. Jim Webb. In an interview on Thursday, Jan. 19, Kaine said he hopes to promote a "talent economy" in Washington. It's a reality the former governor says has become evident in the last few decades, when Virginia moved from being one of the lowest median income states to being one of the wealthiest.

"How did Virginia move from sluggish economy to strong economy?" asked Kaine. "I would argue that the main thing that moved it for us was that we decided to become a talent economy."

For Kaine, the key to pursuing the talent economy and fixing the broken economy is education reform. One example would be creating accountability reports for every state's public education system, an effort he said would create a sense of competition between the states that would improve education nationwide. He would also invest more money in career and technical education, and he's critical of the Obama administration for failing to take action in this area. Kaine's vision of the talent economy also expands beyond education reform, encompassing a broad range of economic policy including everything from workforce development to comprehensive immigration reform. And he hopes to land a spot on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to push his talent agenda.

"Kaine's agenda sounds like a very classic Democratic argument," said Kyle Kondik, political analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "It's aimed at improving people's prospects without endorsing socialism."

**KAINES CAMPAIGN** is aimed solidly at budget issues and the economy, hoping to capitalize on lingering uncertainty from the global economic crisis and persistently high unemployment figures.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

**Former Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine discusses his goals if elected to U.S. Senate.**

Kaine says balancing the budget will involve tax increases and budget cuts. Kaine said he would let the massive tax cuts created by former President George W. Bush expire at the top end. Specifically, Kaine said, he would propose eliminating the Bush tax cuts for those who make more than \$500,000.

"Higher income earners are job creators," said David Logan, economist with the conservative Tax Foundation. "So Kaine is talking about taking money from people who are most likely to invest in the economy."

On the issue of cutting the budget, Kaine, trumpeting his time as governor, said he had a better record than Allen. When asked what kinds of cuts he would make in Washington, Kaine said he wants to allow the federal government to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to reduce the price of drugs covered by Medicare. And he anticipates cost savings associated with a smaller military as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan draw down. He would also like to close some overseas bases, although he couldn't say which ones or how much money would be saved. Critics say it's a flawed agenda.

"With unemployment stuck above 8 percent for months on end and high fuel prices continuing to hurt Virginia families and businesses, we need a voice in Washington that will represent Virginia values," said Del. Ron Villanueva (R-21). "George Allen will fight every day to unleash our energy

**SEE KAINES PAGE 5**



## Fairfax County Public Schools FY 2013 Proposed Budget News

Coming in February: School Nutrition News

January marks the beginning of the budget process for the Fairfax County School Board. Superintendent Jack Dale released the FY 2013 Proposed Budget based on priorities set by the School Board. The \$2.4 billion proposed budget is a 9 percent increase (\$202.3 million) over the FY 2012 budget.

### This Just In:

The total number of FCPS students taking AP and IB exams continues to rise. More than 16,100 students (5.4 percent increase) took AP exams and more than 2,600 students (2.1 percent increase) took IB exams in 2011.

enrollment, the proposed budget also takes into consideration changes in student demographics, including an increase in the number of students receiving English for

Speakers of Other Languages services and the number of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Extended learning time for students and extended time for teachers are also included in the budget.

"We continue to dedicate the majority of our budget, 85.9 percent, and the majority of our positions, 94.6 percent, directly to instructional programs," said Dale. The proposed budget includes a 2 percent market scale adjustment and a step increase for eligible employees as well as a salary adjustment for custodial positions. "It is imperative FCPS stay competitive in the marketplace in order to attract the best employees to support student success," said Dale.

FCPS receives the majority of its funding from Fairfax County and this year will request an increase of 8.4 percent over FY 2012. The FY 2013 Proposed Budget includes an increase in state funding due to increasing enrollment and the state's update to the Local Composite Index. However, federal revenue is decreasing due to the loss of

one-time Federal Education Jobs funding.

The projected cost per pupil for FY 2013 will be \$13,654, an increase of 6.5 percent over FY 2012. FCPS ranks fifth among 10 area school systems in cost per pupil and has the lowest percentage of leadership team and management positions in relation to total positions of all Washington area school systems for FY 2012, according to the Washington Area Boards of Education.

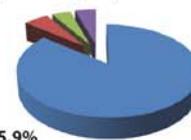
FCPS operates 196 schools and centers including 139 elementary schools, 23 middle schools, 3 secondary schools, 24 high schools, and 7 special education centers. Two new schools will open in FY 2013, an elementary school at the Lacey site in Annandale and a middle school at the South County site in Lorton.

**FY 2013  
Proposed Per Pupil Cost  
(\$ in millions)\***



\*Does not add due to rounding.

**FY 2013  
Proposed Operating Expenditures  
(\$ in millions)\***



\*Does not add due to rounding.

### Upcoming Important Dates

January 30, 31	School Board Budget Public Hearings (Jackson Middle School)
February 2	School Board Budget Work Session (Jackson Middle School)
February 9	School Board Adopts FY 2013 Advertised Budget
February 21	County Executive Releases FY 2013 Advertised County Budget
February 21	County Board of Supervisors Advertises Tax Rate
April 10-12	County Board of Supervisors Budget Public Hearings
April 10	School Board Presents Budget to County Board of Supervisors
May 1	County Board of Supervisors Approves the FY 2013 Adopted County Budget, Transfer Amount to Schools
May 10	School Board FY 2013 Approved Budget Presented for New Business
May 15, 16	School Board Public Hearings (Jackson Middle School)
May 17	School Board Budget Work Session (Jackson Middle School)
May 24	School Board Adopts FY 2013 Approved Budget
July 1	FY 2013 Begins



### Fairfax County School Board 2012-2016

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### Want to Get Involved?

- Learn more at the FCPS budget website at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2013.shtml>
- Attend School Board meetings or watch live on Red Apple 21.
- Speak at a School Board public hearing ([http://www.fcps.edu/schld/meetings/request\\_speak.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/schld/meetings/request_speak.shtml)).
- Speak at a Board of Supervisors public hearing ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker\\_bos.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm)).



### Getting To Know Us

**FCPS Budget Coordinator  
Matthew Norton**

Determining an operating budget for a school system the size of Fairfax County is a lengthy and detailed process. A critical component of the budget is calculating the number of staff needed at each school based on student enrollment and the services provided.

Matthew Norton, a coordinator for budget services, works closely with the schools to determine appropriate staffing levels for each school and its programs.

"My job involves collecting large amounts

#### Did You Know?

**FCPS student enrollment  
has grown by more  
than 15,000 students  
since FY 2008.**

of data from various sources including enrollment, free and reduced-price meals eligibility, special education services and enrollment, square footage of buildings, and other information and assimilating it so we can determine the number of teachers, instructional assistants, special education assistants, assistant principals, administrative, custodial, and other positions that will be budgeted for each school building," said Norton.

He also works with the Department of Special Services to calculate how many students will need special services and what will be the cost of providing those services.

Norton has worked for FCPS for more than 12 years. He says his greatest challenge is working with the large volume of data and helping schools understand the process and the calculations used to determine staffing.

"One of the challenges is that the budget process is very fluid from the time Dr. Dale proposes the budget, through finding out how much the county government will transfer to the school system, to the time the budget is actually approved by the School Board," said Norton. "But it's a detailed process I enjoy being a part of."

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



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## UCM Needs Food Donations

UCM's food pantry depends on community donations and after the holidays, people often forget to give. The food pantry shelves are becoming increasingly bare and residents' help is needed to help fill them. Canned meat and fish are needed, as well as canned soups, fruits and vegetables. Drop off food donations at UCM's main office, located at 7511 Fordson Road. UCM's food pantry accepts food donations Monday - Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the first Sunday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Kaine Urges Bipartisanship

FROM PAGE 3

resources for jobs and security and that's why we need him in the U.S. Senate."

**KAINES OPPONENTS** are also focused on the economy, although they're attacking the former governor from the right. Last week, Kaine's decision to back President Barack Obama's decision to reject an application to build the Keystone XL oil pipeline brought criticism from former Republican Gov. George Allen and Del. Bob Marshall (R-13). Both campaigns hoped to use the issue to tie Kaine to Obama and portray the Democratic Party as irresponsible.

"The Keystone pipeline could produce thousands of American jobs, reduce American dollars going to regimes with little sympathy for western democratic governments and increase America's energy security," said Marshall. "What is the real reason Tim Kaine and Barack Obama are in a rush to avoid constructing this pipeline?"

Kaine rejected criticism from Allen supporter Del. Terry Kilgore (R-1) that his support of the Obama's decision on the pipeline shows that he is a "reflex liberal," citing his elimination of the estate tax and Forbes Magazine description of Virginia as the most business friendly state all four years he was governor. Kaine also said that the Keystone decision needed to be thoroughly analyzed, and he criticized Congress for trying to force a decision in a short period of time and tying it to the payroll tax extension. He was also critical of Kilgore and Allen for pushing the pipeline when Nebraska was opposed to it.

"I'm not going to be a senator telling Nebraska, 'You've got to have this whether you like it or not,'" said Kaine. "I frankly think in terms of energy policy

**How did Virginia move from sluggish economy to strong economy? I would argue that the main thing that moved it for us was that we decided to become a talent economy."**

— Former Democratic Gov.  
Tim Kaine

that there are a lot more immediate and likely successful strategies."

**ASIDE FROM TRYING** to help the sluggish economy by pushing a talent economy, Kaine hopes to find common ground in the Senate, which he calls a "broken institution." If elected, Kaine said he wants to find a Republican senator elected at the same time and join the bipartisan and moderate Gang of Six, potentially making it a Gang of Eight. By casting himself in this role, Kaine hopes to find what he calls "common ground" with Republicans rather than holding up nominations such as the administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, which has been vacant since 2006.

"Under both presidents under both parties, the advice and consent process in the Senate has fallen apart because they utilize secret holds and cloture," he said. "But more than that, they just don't work together."

He acknowledged that a freshman senator wouldn't be able to do much about secret holds and cloture, although he said something had to be done about excessive partisanship and an unwillingness to work together. Because of the dynamics of the House of Representatives, he said, that would not be the place where the culture of Washington begins to change. The Senate, on the other hand, operates more on personal relationships, and so it would be a more logical place to begin increasing bipartisanship in Washington.

"More senators want to work together, but their chafing under each of their respective sets of leadership," he said. "The president says this, that we're four or five votes away from a mutiny in the Senate, and that would be a good thing."



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Alex./Wilton Woods \$635,000  
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Alex./Berkshire East \$362,900  
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# Notification Fight in Richmond

FROM PAGE 1

cided what they punishment was going to be. It was only then that they thought to perhaps contact my wife and I."

Nick Stuban committed suicide in January 2011. And ever since that day Steve Stuban has been fighting to increase parental notification. Last year, he waged on unsuccessful campaign for the Fairfax County School Board. Now, he's taking the fight to Richmond, working with a handful of legislators to create a legal requirement for school administrators to notify parents before they start questioning students in serious cases that might lead to suspension or notification of law enforcement.

"I find it troubling that school administrators have questioned students for hours at a time without parental knowledge regarding issues that could lead to the student's expulsion or incarceration," said Del. Tim Hugo (R-40).

**WORKING WITH STUBAN** and newly elected Fairfax County School Board member Elizabeth Schultz, Hugo has introduced House Bill 1080. The bill requires school principals to notify parents before questioning students in the case of a "serious violation." The bill defines a serious violation as a violation of School Board policy or a violation that could lead to a student's suspension. The legislation would also force parental notification before school administrators file a court petition.

"I would be concerned that schools might not have the flexibility they need to take swift action in a way that would preserve the security of a school," said Arlington School Board member Libby Garvey. "Sometimes bad cases make bad law."

Last year, a similar effort introduced by Del. Kaye Kory (R-38) passed the House of Delegates but didn't make it out of committee in the state Senate. An array of groups lined up against the proposal, including the Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia Education Association and the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals. Supporters say things have changed over the course of the last year, as more and more parents have come to realize that parental notification is not required under the law.

"Once you finally get through to parents about how the law works, they are incredulous about this," said Schultz, who testified in Richmond as a parent last year and is now advocating for the bill as a School Board member. "We're having to compel people to do what they should already be doing anyway."

**STUBAN SAYS** he's fully aware that school administrators may try to push back on the legislation as they did last year. But he also pointed out that the bill has a great deal of support, including teachers unions and members of the Fairfax County School Board. And because the issue has received so much attention over the course of the last year, he feels momentum is on the side of the bill. More importantly, he said, the

case for the bill is strong.

"You want schools and parents and students to work together as a team," he said. "But right now the process is adversarial in nature."

This week, Stuban appeared with Schultz in Richmond along with several Northern Virginia legislators to begin a public-relations campaign on the issue. Members included Hugo and Kory along with state Sen. David Marsden (D-37) and state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34). The coalition is hoping that Stuban's personal story and the growing chorus of support for the legislation will be enough to overcome opposition by school administrators. Opponents say the effort may cause more harm than good.

"This legislation sounds overly prescriptive to me," said Garvey. "You never want to impose something on school divisions that restricts how they can respond to situations involving safety."

## BULLETIN BOARD

### SATURDAY/JAN. 28

**CASA Information Session.** 11 a.m. to noon. A new case of child abuse or neglect enters the Fairfax County Domestic & Juvenile Relations Court system once every 38 hours. These children need caring advocates to help ensure that they grow up in safe and permanent homes. Fairfax CASA trains volunteers to advocate for a child's best interests in Court. Meets at the John Marshall Library in Rose Hill in Alexandria. Contact Elisa Kosarin, Associate Director – Recruitment and Training, at 703-273-3526, ext. 22, ekosarin@casafairfax.org, or visit www.casafairfax.org.

### FEB. 1

**Parkinson's Disease Support Group.** 2 p.m. Meets at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Room 109, Alexandria. All Parkinson's patients and caregivers are welcome.

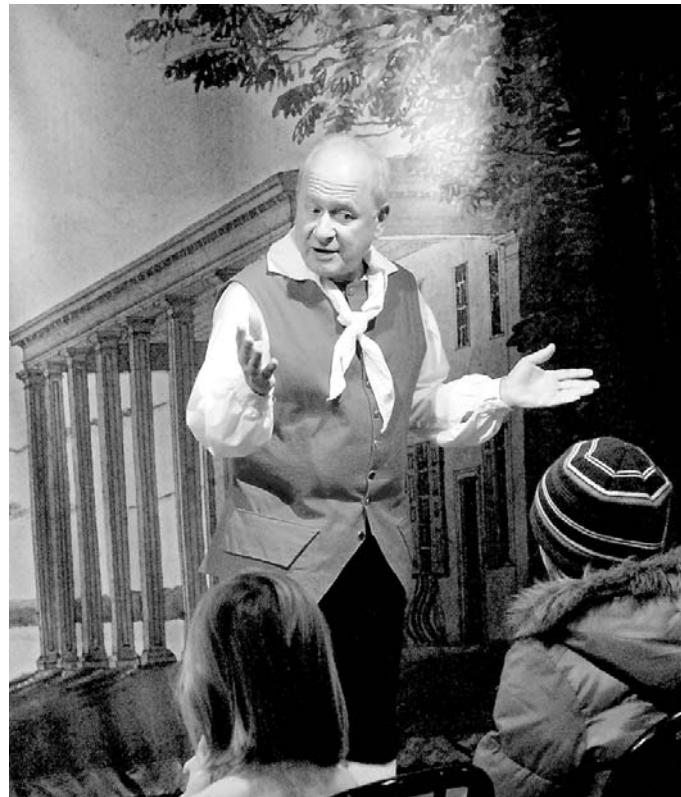
### FEB. 1, 6, 8, 13, & 15

**Hospice Volunteer Training.** 6 to 9 p.m. Improve the quality of life of hospice patients and their families. Provide companionship for the patients and respite for their caregivers. Help people at the end of their lives. Contact Martha Huffman at 703-333-6962 or mhuffman@capitalcaring.org.



## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Marvin and Charlotte Waldman were married Jan. 13, 1952, in Yonkers, N.Y. Marvin was a store manager for the McCrory company, which led them to live in several cities before settling in McLean in 1962. Here in Washington, D.C., he began his career in the Beauty Supply Business. They lived in the Northern Virginia area while raising their four children and working together for many years. They have enjoyed traveling the world and settled in the West Palm Beach, Fla., area until July when they re-located to Alexandria. Along with their four children and their spouses, they have 12 grandchildren and a great-grandson. Their 60th wedding anniversary was celebrated with 19 family members at Cedar Knoll restaurant.**



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

## Storytelling at Mount Vernon Estate

**Children are invited to attend and participate in the Saturday and Sunday storytelling sessions this month at Mount Vernon Estate. The sessions start at 2 and 3 p.m. on both days in the Hands on History room located in the Education Center. The theme for January is "Working Together." Last Sunday, Jan. 22, Artemus Tucker (actor Ron Field) retold one of General Washington's favorite fables, "The Oxen and the Lion."**



**Mount Vernon docent Allie Hewlett and Lucia-Belen Duffy work on a puzzle of young George Washington as a surveyor.**

# NEWS

## Online Forum Focuses on Child Sex Abuse

FROM PAGE 1

an FCPD officer who spearheaded an online forum to the topic on Wednesday, Jan. 18. She said national attention surrounding the Penn State allegations coupled with the rise in local reports and concerns provided the impetus for the online discussion.

"We felt it was important to reach out to tell people that they are not alone. There are resources available," Caldwell said. "In some cases, victims can take police action against their offenders ... We do suspect, however, that many cases go unreported for many, many reasons."

According to the National Children's Advocacy Center, sexual abuse is the nation's most under-reported crime. Various studies show 40 to 60 million Americans have been sexually abused, and national experts estimate that nearly one out of every three girls and one out of every six boys will be sexually assaulted by age 18.

The online discussion was originally scheduled for one hour, but there were so many questions from posters — all of whom chose to remain anonymous — that the discussion continued for more than 90 minutes.

Kathleen Kelmelis, program manager for the county's Office for Women's Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, and 2nd Lt. Josh Laitinen, supervisor of the FCPD child abuse squad, answered a range of questions from those who identified themselves as victims, as well as parents and educators seeking information about how to help children and when to report suspected cases of child sexual abuse.

One poster asked: "Why do you think children don't tell their par-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**On Wednesday, Jan. 18, Fairfax County held an online forum to address the topic of child sexual abuse. For 90 minutes, 2nd Lt. Josh Laitinen, supervisor of the FCPD child abuse squad and Kathleen Kelmelis, program manager for the Office for Women's Domestic and Sexual Violence Services answered a wide range of questions from about 20 posters.**

ents or the police when bad things happen to them? How should they handle these situations? What should we be doing as parents to ensure their safety?"

"In 93 percent of cases of child sex abuse, the abuser is someone the child knows. Nearly half the time these abusers are family members," Kelmelis responded, adding that abusers are masters of manipulation.

"They manipulate in many ways, through threats such as, 'If you tell, I will kill your family or your pet.' Or through promises — 'If you do this for me, I will take you out to the arcade,'" Kelmelis said. She also gave tips on guiding a child through the conversation.

"Give the child a safe environment in which to talk to someone with whom trust has been estab-

lished. When talking with a child, try to guard against displaying emotions that would influence a child. Reassure the child that they have not done anything wrong and they are not to blame for what happened to them," she said.

Another poster wanted to know who, in addition to doctors and teachers were "mandated reporters."

Laitinen responded that anyone employed in a public or private school, child care employees, mental health professionals, law enforcement officers, hospital professionals, emergency medical personnel are required to report suspected cases of abuse or neglect to child protective services.

He noted that there are several pieces of legislation before the Virginia General Assembly that would

### OBITUARY Linda Graninger Davis

Linda Graninger Davis of Belle Haven died on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012 at Mount Vernon Hospital of an aneurism. She was 93 years old.

Born in Falmouth, Va., she graduated from Falmouth High School in 1935 and received her nursing degree from the University of Virginia in 1944 where she was a member of the Jefferson Society.

She achieved the rank of Captain in the Army Nurse Corps and served on the Frances Y. Slanger Hospital Ship, the largest of its kind in the world, making five trips to the European Theatre of Operations during World War II. After her discharge, she served as a registered nurse at Alexandria General Hospital where her nursing skills and instincts were highly respected. A doctor once commented that when Linda was on duty, the patients were in the best of hands. Subsequent to her position at the hospital, she became a private duty nurse.

Up to the end of her life, Mrs. Davis' mind was

extremely sharp. She loved to read until macular degeneration set in, however the Talking Books Program served her well with interesting books. She also kept current on world affairs. Earlier in her life she was an antique and stamp collector and all of her life she was an expert gardener. She knew the Latin as well as the English names for many plants and flowers. She spent many hours working in her yard propagating lovely plants and was always very proud of her flowers. She was happiest talking about her flowers and willingly offered bouquets to her friends and visitors even up to the day she was hospitalized. Her beautiful camellias, which always brought her much joy, were heavily in bloom on the day of her passing.

She is survived by nieces and nephews and many devoted friends.

Memorial donations may be made in her name to Meals on Wheels, 12011 Government Center Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22035-1102.

### Where to Get Help: Fairfax County Resources

- ❖ For information on counseling and mental health services, call Fairfax County's Victim's Assistance Network at 703-360-7273.
- ❖ For information about a wide range of counseling services, call the Office for Women's Domestic and Sexual Violence Services at 703-324-5730. The office recently started a support group for men who were sexually assaulted as children. For more information, call Chris Davies at 703-704-6727.
- ❖ For more information, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/sexualbehaviorchildren.htm#final](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/sexualbehaviorchildren.htm#final)

require coaches and others involved in youth organizations to be added to the list. He also advised parents not to rely solely on organizations to prevent child sexual abuse.

"Parents need to be involved, know what adults their children are with. For example, consider becoming a leader or volunteer; take the time to stay at the music lesson or sporting event/practices. No amount of concern is too great for the welfare of your child," he said.

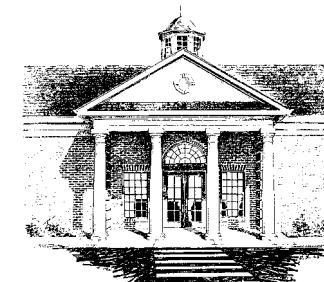
Another person asked what efforts are currently underway between Fairfax County police and other agencies to address the recent rise in cases?

Laitinen said the police department and Fairfax County's Department of Family Services are working together to address this increase.

The level of shame, discomfort and fear surrounding the issue was apparent in many of the questions. Several questions were from

SEE ONLINE, PAGE 19

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# OPINION

# School Board Needs Your Input

BY JANIE STRAUSS  
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY  
SCHOOL BOARD



Recently, Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale presented the School Board with his proposal for next year's budget. The proposed \$2.4 billion budget outlines programs and services for our growing student population, which is projected to be 181,608 students for the school year 2012-13. It also includes funds to give eligible employees a step increase and a 2 percent market scale adjustment.

Our population is projected to grow by more than 3,900 students, and many of these students face great challenges. In addition, we are opening two new schools: a middle school

## COMMENTARY

at the South County site in Lorton and an elementary school at the Lacey site in Annandale. To meet our enrollment growth and other critical needs, the budget proposes to add 721.3 positions, the overwhelming majority of which are school-based positions.

Superintendent Dale has included in his proposal a request to the Board of Supervisors for an increase of 8.4 percent, or \$135.8 million, in the transfer of funds over the FY 2012 level. This reflects costs associated with student growth and state requirements, and a compensation increase for staff, and small increases in some programs that we cut during the recession.

The Fairfax County School Board has shown

great fiscal responsibility during these tough economic times. During the past four years (FY 2009-FY2012), we took reductions and cost avoidances totaling more than \$475 million and eliminated more than 1,400 positions.

Now the School Board needs to hear from you as we consider the Superintendent's proposal over the next few weeks, then move to adopt the advertised budget on Feb. 9. Here's what you can do to get involved. First, learn more about the budget by visiting [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) where you'll find details on all aspects of the budget and the process. Second, sign up to speak at the board's public hearing on Jan. 30-31. Or third, send your school board member an email with your comments.

The quality of our public schools is important to our children's well-being and the economic strength of our county. We look forward to hearing from our citizens.

# Legislation Starts To Move Forward

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL  
DELEGATE (D-44)



The General Assembly completed its first full week of work this week. First, two of my bills have been passed by the House Courts of Justice Committee and are heading to the floor of the House of Delegates. One clarifies when an appellate court must calculate interest on remand of an appeal. A second bill makes it clear that a Power of Attorney automatically terminates when unmarried parents file for child custody or visitation or separated spouses file for support.

This week, I also presented a bill to adjust Virginia's threshold between misdemeanor and felony offenses from \$200 to \$500. Virginia's limit is the lowest in the United States and has not been adjusted since 1981. The value of \$200 from 1981 is \$549 today according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Governor McDonnell carried the bill when he was a delegate. Attorney General Cuccinelli and the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys supported my bill

for a number of reasons. The only opponents were Virginia retailers like Target and Walmart. The bill received one vote on committee. Richmond may be the only place where a Republican Governor, Republican Attorney General, the state prosecutors' association, and a Democratic state delegate can stand before a committee on a criminal justice bill and only get one vote. I will be filing it again

next year.

I also presented legislation to block Governor McDonnell's proposal to limit childcare subsidies in Fairfax County. Studies have shown that the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area has the highest childcare expenses in the United States — \$18,000 per year for an infant. Fairfax County does not limit the length of time a parent can receive subsidies because our costs are so much higher than the rest of the state. We also provide local funds on top of state subsidies unlike any other locality in Virginia. My legislation was tabled on a party-line vote.

Childcare subsidies were created as part of 1990's welfare reforms to encourage parents

to work. I met parents while knocking doors who told me that they were barely able to make ends meet with the subsidies. The state's action will push many parents in my district back onto welfare because they cannot both work and afford childcare. I am trying to revive the bill.

In the last budget cycle, Virginia cut its payments in half to house state prisoners in Fairfax County jails. Those cuts are being made up with local property tax revenue. I introduced legislation at the request of Fairfax County Sheriff Stan Barry to give Fairfax County the option of increasing the assessment on criminal convictions for courthouse security from \$10 to \$15 to replace the lost revenues. My legislation was also supported by the Virginia Association of Sheriffs. In some localities without police departments, they were forced to divert law enforcement resources to provide courthouse security. My legislation was killed on a party-line vote.

Finally, I spoke out about Route 1 this week. The Department of Motor Vehicles gave me statistics showing that since January 1, 2009, seven people have been killed and 55 people

SEE SPEAKING OUT, PAGE 10

# A New Session for New State Senator

BY ADAM EBBIN  
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



With the 2012 General Assembly underway, this is my first report from Richmond as your new senator for the 30th Senate District. As you may know, there have been serious conflicts in the organization of the Senate. With the make up of the Senate split 20 - 20 between Republicans and Democrats, a major dispute arose concerning committee assignments and the ability of the lieutenant governor to break ties. Previously when a tie in

the Senate occurred, committee assignments were evenly divided. Unfortunately the Republicans made a power grab as if they had majority party status with full control over committee assignments.

Despite the unfortunate loss of several qualified and veteran Democratic legislators on important committees, Democratic senators intend to keep standing for the families of Virginia.

In spite of the committee structure issue, I was appointed to three committees, Agriculture, Conservation and National Resources,

Local Government and Laws and Technology.

Among the 16 pieces of legislation I have introduced with local and statewide significance:

♦ SB 257 School Calender - Would allow local school boards full authority to set the school calendar and determining the opening of the school year, eliminating the post-Labor Day opening requirement. Already more than half of localities have waivers for this, and it will allow for equal preparation for standardized tests, including the important AP exams.

♦ SB 259 Human Trafficking - Would require the Board of Education to provide awareness

SEE NEW SESSION, PAGE 10

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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## LETTERS

### Insufficient Evidence

To the Editor:

H. Jay Spiegel and Martin Tillett wrote complementary letters on voter photo IDs and voter fraud, published in your Jan. 19 edition. Mr. Spiegel's citations were nearly perfect examples of the slippery definitions of 'voter fraud' cited by Mr. Tillett.

In the 2007 case in Appalachia, Va., voter ID at the polls wasn't an issue; it would seem that everybody who sold their vote used their true ID to vote. Absentee ballots stolen from the mails, marked up and mailed in, would not be prevented by requiring ID at the polls.

In the 2004 case of Mr. Williams, he used his true ID, merely swearing that he had no felony conviction when he had such a conviction. This would not be prevented by requiring ID at the polls.

In the 2000 case of Ms. Wilson, she gave an incorrect address, possibly for the purpose of voting in a jurisdiction where she didn't live, although Mr. Spiegel didn't specify. This might be prevented by requiring ID at the polls, assuming that the ID has residence address and that the voter doesn't successfully claim to have moved recently. (Note that requiring a residence address disenfranchises all homeless people, ipso facto.)

In the 1996 case of Mr. Waldrop, he was convicted of incorrect statements in cam-

paign finance reports. This didn't even involve voting and so would not be prevented by requiring ID at the polls.

And finally Mr. Spiegel cites those who state their ID at the polls without showing an ID card of any kind and asks "Who knows if these claims are true?"

So, from 11 years of data, Mr. Spiegel cites four instances, three of which would absolutely not be affected by an ID requirement, and one which was not a case of impersonation, and then cites the great unknown to solidify his case. I'm sorry, but I'm just not going to be convinced by such "evidence" of the need to disenfranchise everyone who has no government-issued ID and doesn't have the time, resources, and motivation to go through the rigmarole of getting one.

Larry D. Huffman  
Mount Vernon

### Help Make A Difference

To the Editor:

Thank you so much for your recent call to volunteerism in your editorial on Jan. 5. As the new volunteer & community relations coordinator at United Community Ministries (UCM) in Alexandria, your powerful message of volunteerism's impact rings particularly true for me and my agency. UCM has been fighting poverty, hunger and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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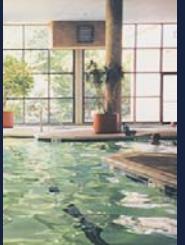
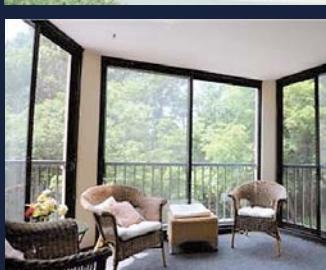
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## OPINION

# Speaking Out About Route 1

FROM PAGE 8

injured on the seven mile stretch of Route 1 in my district — that's one death and eight injuries per mile. I think that's outrageous. Route 1 in Fairfax County is probably the most dangerous stretch of road for pedestrians in Virginia.

On the floor, I spoke about how our lack of transportation funding has prevented any real action on Route 1. The condition of Route 1 affects our commutes, families, traffic, economic development, and jobs. People should be able to walk to the grocery

store without having to worry about being injured or killed. You can watch my speech on my blog, The Dixie Pig, at [scottsurowell.blogspot.com](http://scottsurowell.blogspot.com).

Please go to my website and respond to my survey. Over 200 households have responded so far. You can also comment on legislation, set up a meeting or request a Capitol tour at [www.scottsurowell.org](http://www.scottsurowell.org).

Good government requires your involvement so please be in touch or come visit in Richmond so I can best represent you in the General Assembly. It is an honor to serve as your state delegate.

## New Session for New State Senator

FROM PAGE 8

and training materials for local school divisions on human trafficking, including strategies for the prevention of trafficking children.

❖ SB 260 VA Public Procurement Act - Authorizes localities to procure construction on a best value procurement basis, factoring in safety and quality as part of their bids.

❖ SB 265 Child Abuse Prevention - Adds athletic coaches and directors to the list of persons required to report child abuse.

I've also introduced two resolutions of note: SJ 52, which would direct the Commonwealth Transportation board to make high capacity transit a funding priority, and SJ 93, to direct the study of the use of solitary confinement by the Department of Corrections. I am concerned about inmates spending

years in solitary confinement and then in some cases being released directly into the community.

I was pleased that Governor McDonnell endorsed the authority of local school boards to set their own calendars (as does my bill, SB 257) during his State of the Commonwealth Address. However, I stand with my fellow Democrats insisting that increases in funding for higher education and transportation not be at the expense of public schools, public safety, and other major services that create jobs and opportunity for Virginia families.

This session will present challenges, and I am excited and honored to work to meet them on your behalf. I will keep you informed as the legislative process unfolds and encourage you to subscribe to updates at [www.adamebbin.com](http://www.adamebbin.com) and contact me at [district30@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district30@senate.virginia.gov) or 804-698-7530

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 9

homelessness for 43 years — and it is our volunteers that are at the heart of our work. Volunteers work side by side with our staff members in UCM's many programs. They distribute food from our food pantry, tutor students in UCM's community centers, teach classes in our Workforce Development Center and much, much more. Last year, 1,839 people generously donated nearly 22,000 hours of their time to support UCM's mission and work — and for that, I am truly thankful.

We are always looking for good people who want to help make a difference — if you would like more information about volunteering with us, please contact me at [marcos.castillo@ucmagency.org](mailto:marcos.castillo@ucmagency.org) or visit our website [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org).

**Marcos Castillo**

UCM Volunteer & Community  
Relations Coordinator

## Inappropriate Recommendation

To the Editor:

There they go again. At their December 2011 Council meeting, the MVCCA passed a resolution (by a vote of 14-0, barely 1/4 of

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

## Snapshot

3:20 p.m., Jan. 22: Mount Vernon Estate

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## Open Sunday in Belle Haven!



Elegant Brick colonial sited on a lot overlooking wooded park land. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, on 4 fully finished levels. Gracious formal living room, inviting family room, private screened-in porch and desk, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen with adjacent breakfast room, and 1 car garage.  
~\$1,195,000

6102 Edgewood Terrace Alexandria, VA 22307

## Just Listed in Fort Hunt



8413 Alyce Place Alexandria, VA 22308

Pristine and bright colonial in cul-de-sac just off GW Parkway. Waynewood Elem! Great yard and family living areas. 4 bedrooms up, 2.5 renovated baths, 2800 finished square feet on 3 fully finished levels, hardwood floors on 2 levels, huge family room with fireplace opens to large deck. Lower level with large rec room, gas fireplace, and laundry room. ~ \$689,000

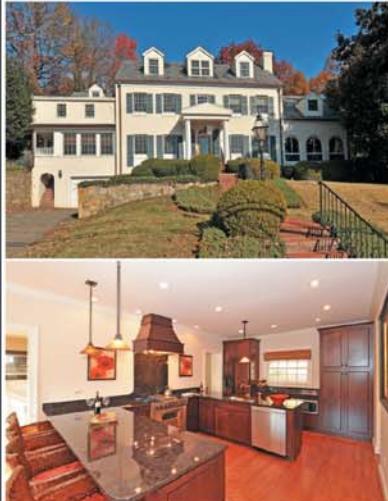
## For Sale or Rent in Fort Hunt



Stunning Colonial on Culdesac. Stratford Elem. 4000 fin sq ft, Steps to Library & Mt Vernon Hospital. 3 finished levels in pristine condition. 2 story foyer. Large kitchen with breakfast area open to family room w/ Vaulted ceilings & fireplace. Beautiful back yard with large deck, quite yard and play set. 4 Bed-rooms up and finished lower level with luxury full bath and wet bar. Sprinkler system ~\$719,000 or \$3900/month

2802 Holland Court Alexandria, VA 22306

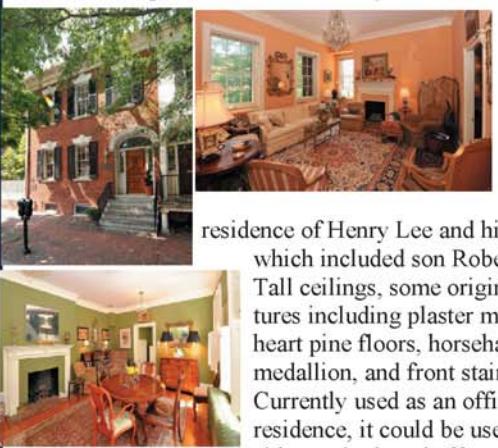
## For Sale or Rent in Belle Haven!



1906 Belle Haven Road Alexandria, VA 22307

5400+ of luxurious living space in this totally renovated 7BR, 5.5BA brick colonial. Elegant formal rooms, gourmet chef's kitchen, fabulous master suite, Nanny suite w/ kitchen and separate entrance spacious rec room w/ wet bar and fireplace, wine cellar, garage. Private patio overlooking a secluded wooded vista!  
~ \$1,670,000 or \$6000/month

## The "Light Horse Harry" Lee House



Stately brick townhouse built in 1780 was once the residence of Henry Lee and his family which included son Robert E Lee. Tall ceilings, some original features including plaster moldings, heart pine floors, horsehair ceiling medallion, and front staircase. Currently used as an office and residence, it could be used for either or both and offers seven off street parking spaces! ~ \$1,750,000

611 Cameron St Alexandria, VA 22314

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## New Price in Mt. Vernon



4309 Sheridans Point Ct Alexandria, VA 22309

Pristine colonial in culdesac with his and her master baths. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Hardwood floors on main level. Updated kitchen and baths throughout. Attached 2 car garage. Open floor plan and spacious kitchen opens to family room. Large recreation room, deck and screened-in porch. Fully finished lower level. Custom moldings throughout. ~ \$675,000

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Your Dreams are Waiting! Build your dream home on one of the largest lots in the City of Alexandria! Located on the corner of Braddock Road and Oakland Terrace. 3/4 acre level lot. Several home plans to choose from. Email Phyllis at [ppatterson@cbmove.com](mailto:ppatterson@cbmove.com) for more information! Lot Price ~ \$1,195,000

Corner of Oakland Terrace and Braddock Road



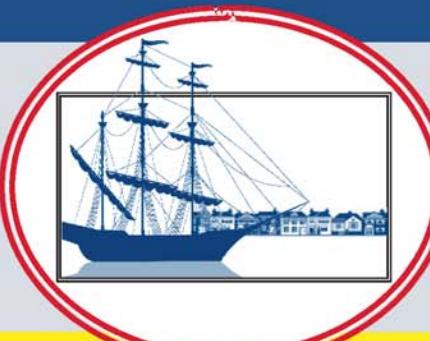
**With a combined volume of \$47 Million in 2011, why turn anywhere else? We are your Alexandria Real Estate Experts.**

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



# LONG & FOSTER

OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT OFFICE



# ALEXANDRIA

#1 LONG & FOSTER OFFICE IN VIRGINIA



Managing Broker  
Bill Jourdan

2011 Results Are In - CHRIS WHITE  
**#1 Agent in Mt. Vernon - Fort Hunt Area!**  
 With A Remarkable  
**71\* Area Homes SOLD in 2011**

Planning to sell in 2012? Always call CHRIS WHITE, the agent your neighbors choose by overwhelming numbers!



8528 Monticello Ave  
\$559,000

*Updated Colonial*

Classic Colonial in pristine cond. & updated throughout. Features inc: 4 large BRs, gourmet kit with custom cabs, granite countertops and SS appliances. First floor family room w/FP. Updated baths and master suite with private bath. Garage parking, prime location on fenced level lot. Walk to nearby park and Stratford Landing School. OPEN SUN, 1/29, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Riverwood; L-Carriage House Ct.



3703 Carriage House Ct  
\$610,000

*Tremendous Value!*

MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION! Owner wants immediate sale and has priced accordingly! Classic Riverwood Colonial, three finished levels including nicely finished basement. Prime location on cul-de-sac backing to parkland. Many features! Could use a little TLC but at this price-value can't be duplicated! OPEN SUN 1/29, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Riverwood; L-Carriage House Ct.



4200 Kimblee Ct  
\$949,000

*Updated Custom Home Near River!*

Majestic brick colonial on quiet cul-de-sac in prestigious Oxford on the Potomac. Fabulous features include all brick exterior, 3 finished levels, elegant trim detail, luxurious updated kitchen and baths, multi-tiered exterior deck, oversize 2 car garage and private level backyard. Custom home in premier setting is priced to make it a truly astounding value.



4009 Colonial Ave  
\$749,500

*New Home-Gorgeous Site!*

Pre-construction opportunity-fabulous home by Wakefield Homes on gorgeous half acre level lot on quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Popular Belle View model with open floor plan, fabulous amenities and quality construction that have made Wakefield Mt. Vernon's leading builder for generations. Exceptional value-priced significantly lower than other new home on street. (Pre-construction picture is of similar house)



8890 McNair Dr  
\$685,900

*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!



4002 Belle Rive Terr  
\$839,900

*Classic Colonial River View!*

HUGE PRICE DROP! Classic brick colonial, custom built in prestigious Belle Rive. A neighborhood of many \$1 million properties. Truly special home with many features including: elegant trim detail, updated state-of-the-art kitchen, 5 bedrooms & finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on half acre grounds with view of river. Uniquely attractive home in premier location.



\$ 529,000  
Alex. House #1207  
"NEW LISTING"

Bright & spacious describes this 2BR/2BA condo. Great views of the Capitol, the Potomac River & the DC skyline. Stunning renovation of this beautiful home. Gourmet kit w/top of the line cabs, appls, granite countertops & cherry wood flrs thru-out plus marble entrance foyer. A must see! Open February 5th, 1-4pm. Call for more details.

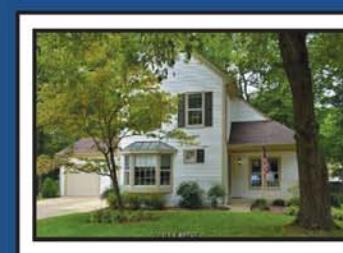
Ann Kavaljian 703.626.9171



\$ 405,000  
Mt Vernon  
"SPECTACULAR"

Beautifully updated brick TH w/SS appls, sparkling wood flrs, new carpet & fresh paint. 4BR/3.5BA, eat-in kit, glass doors to charming back deck, sep. dining room, rec room w/wood-burning FP & wet bar complete the tour. Two assigned parking spaces. Close to Ft Belvoir, easy commute to Pentagon & DC.

Mary Siverson 703.209.6918



\$ 498,000  
Springfield  
"WONDERFUL"

- Main floor BR & BA
- Shows like a Model
- Petite Colonial w/2-car Garage
- 3 levels / 2 are finished
- Located in area off Huntsman & FFX County Parkway
- Gas heat
- Pretty Setting / Private

Paula Powers 703.850.1661  
Sheryl Vermont 703.472.6925



\$ 649,900  
Waynewood  
"FANTASTIC SUNROOM"

Spacious 2 level living across from the Potomac! 5/6BR: 3 on main lv w/no stairs! Bsmt: Family rm w/kit & 3 more BR - perfect for large families or for in-law suite/home office. Private fenced backyard, garage & carport.

www.WaynewoodRealtors.com  
Anita D'Antonio 202.460.1809  
Elke Kohler 703.967.7633



\$ 215,000  
Manassas  
"NEW LISTING"

Beautiful buildable waterfront lot (Occoquan Creek). Southern exposure, easy access to Prince William County Parkway. Manassas City & Clifton. Bring your architect!

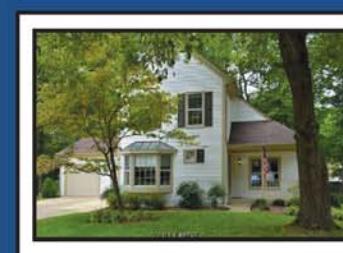
Daniel Lusk 202.412.8885



\$ 342,500  
Alex. House #1005  
"PIED-A-TERRE"

Great opportunity for a pied-a-terre in a wonderful high-rise building w/great views. Featuring a 1BR/1BA w/ built-in bookcases, floor to ceiling window/doors leading to expansive balcony. 1 garage space conveys. Incl: is a roof-top pool, sundeck & party room. Easy access to Metro & Reagan Airport. Call for more details.

Ann Kavaljian 703.626.9171



\$ 749,000  
ALEXANDRIA  
"ALMOST FINISHED"

Fantastic home just south of Old Town is just about ready for new owners. Home features 4BR/2.5BA, open kitchen & family room, hardwoods, formal dining room, 2 car gar, LL finished w/rec rm & walkout. Great price for a NEW HOME!

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams  
703.597.2252



**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR LEASE OR SALE!**  
Heart of Old Town BUSINESS DISTRICT

Great for retail, salon or offices in the heart of Old Town steps to King Street. 2 levels w/basement. Small outdoor space in rear. High ceilings. Buy it all or lease an individual floor. \*\*\*Owner financing for a sale. AX7706259

Katherine Ward 703.627.8782



\$ 475,000  
Annandale  
"A BLANK SLATE"

Located in one of Fairfax County's top school tiers, don't pass up an opportunity to live in established Canterbury Woods. Large, level bkyd w/towering oaks, mature plantings, screened porch & carport. Easy connect to 495/ Braddock Rd/Rte 236, & major Northern VA employment areas. 5BR/3FBA. Make this home your own!

Dianna Campagna 703.447.0849



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!**  
\$ 1,200,000  
McLean  
6011 CLAIRBORNE DR

All-brick 6BR/4.5BA Colonial in a cul-de-sac of stately homes features a neutral palette & gleaming hwd flrs. It is renewed, refinished & revitalized inside & out, with 2 family rms, 3 wood-burning FP, oversized side-load 2 car garage, gorgeous screened sun porch, & professional landscaping. One light to DC.

Wendy Shelley 703.919.6045



\$ 699,900  
Waynewood  
1208 CROTON DR

5 lvs, 1-of-a-kind totally renovated home. Brand New appls, systems, roof, windows, & siding! 2 lv 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.

www.WaynewoodRealtors.com  
Anita D'Antonio 202.460.1809  
Elke Kohler 703.967.7633



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!**  
\$ 629,900  
Collingwood  
8413 RIVERSIDE RD

Large Colonial w/ detached garage. 4BR, large country kitchen, formal LR/DR, huge basement w/rec room, bonus room for office or guest room. Great outdoor entertaining: patio & side deck! Freshly painted, move-in condition.

George Charuhas 703.999.2109  
Anita Vida D'Antonio 202.460.1809



\*Settled and under contract in 2011



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 www.OldTownAlexandria.com



# WINTER FUN



PHOTO BY JAMESALEXANDERNY

Zurin Villanueva as Josephine Baker in "Josephine Tonight."

## Notes from the Artistic Director

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN

MetroStage is very proud of its work with musicals, especially new musicals. We have had great success with our world premieres and seen them go to New York and to other regional theatres. "ROOMS," a rock romance, has had many productions and will be produced in this area again soon. Our world premiere of "Glimpses of the Moon" has now been published by Samuel French with our theatre, cast, set, props and costumes listed. "Cool Papas Party" has continued to be workshopped in anticipation of a New York run, and "Pearl Bailey ... By Request" has had an extended run in Milwaukee and has been performed in New York as well.

Developing new work is essential. It continues the tradition of live stage productions that go beyond just reimagining the classics. MetroStage has committed to this and has become well known for our work with new material, especially musicals.

This week we open an exciting new musical, "Josephine Tonight," inspired by the early life of the iconic performer Josephine Baker, with book and lyrics by Sherman Yellen ("The Rothschilds," "Rex with Richard Rodgers," "Oh Calcutta!," in addition to "The Adams Chronicles" for television, and much more) and music by the late Wally Harper (best known as arranger and accompanist for Barbara Cook.) The amazing Maurice Hines is the director/choreographer, and the cast includes all

New York actors with many Broadway credits. This is a tremendous opportunity for MetroStage, and we have committed all of our resources to developing this work for our season and for future productions. It is a remarkable story of a young woman in the early part of the 20th century who leaves East St. Louis and lands in Paris on the stage of "La Revue Negre" and the "Follies Bergere," with a few stops on the vaudeville circuit and Harlem in between.

A new musical requires many more hours of readings, workshops, rehearsals, and previews — a tremendous commitment of both time and resources by the theatre. We believe it is worth it for our patrons now and patrons in the future as the work is produced across the country.

### "Josephine Tonight" At MetroStage

The premiere of the musical, "Josephine Tonight," book and lyrics by Sherman Yellen, music by Wally Harper, opens at MetroStage Jan. 26, 2012. Inspired by the early life of Josephine Baker, this exciting new musical follows her path from dancing in the streets of East St. Louis to the nightclub stages of Paris. Performances are Jan. 26-March 18, Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 3 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets \$45-50. TKTS 800-494-8497/www.metrostage.org, Groups/Info 703-548-9044. At 1201 North Royal St. Alexandria. Fully accessible, free parking.

## Designer Steals & Deals

### Bargains at 7th Annual Old Town Boutique District Warehouse Sale set for Feb. 4.

Style-mavens and fashion hounds are gearing up for the biggest and popular designer clearance sale of the year — the 7th Annual Old Town Boutique District Warehouse Sale. The one-day shopping extravaganza featuring high-end boutique merchandise will be held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Shoppers will find the best brands of clothing, shoes, jewelry, home furnishings and more up to 70 or 80 percent off retail prices.

Founded in 2005, the annual clearance sale has attracted a large and loyal audience of shoppers traveling to Alexandria from as far away as Richmond and Pennsylvania. The most serious fashion fans line up early in the morning hours to get the first look at the top label merchandise. The Old Town Boutique District will also give away to four lucky shoppers early entry into the Warehouse Sale (must enter on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/OldTownBoutiqueDistrict>).

#### PARTICIPATING STORES AND LOCAL DESIGNERS

Andrea D'Ambrosia  
Periwinkle  
Apple Seed  
Red Barn Mercantile  
Diva  
Stanton Gallery  
Fornash  
The Little Monogram Shop  
Gossypia  
The Shoe Hive  
Hysteria  
Top It Off  
J McLaughlin  
Treat  
La Cuisine  
Queen Bee Designs  
Lawrence Miller & Co.  
Zoe Boutique  
Mint Condition  
Mystique

A list of participating stores is located at [www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com](http://www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com).

## Alexandria Black History Museum Announces Winter Film Line-Up

The Alexandria Black History Museum is continuing its partnership with SankofaSpirit to share its "Movies with a Mission" with local audiences. This monthly series, which began in 2009, continues in 2012. The screenings are held at 4:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the museum, 902 Wythe Street.

"Movies with a Mission" are free monthly films from and about Africa and the African Diaspora that seek to inform and inspire dialogue. Screenings will be followed by a discussion and gallery walk. Reservations are requested, as seating is limited. For more information or to make a reservation, call 703-746-4356. The following films will be offered this winter:

#### MARCH 10 - "TAKING ROOT: THE VISION OF WANGARI MAATHAI"

Planting trees for fuel, shade, and food is not something that anyone would imagine as the first step toward winning the Nobel Peace Prize. Yet with that simple act, Wangari Maathai, a woman born in rural Kenya, started down the path that reclaimed her country's land from 100 years of deforestation, provided new sources of food and income to rural communities, gave previously impoverished and powerless women a vital political role in their country, and ultimately helped to bring down Kenya's 24-year dictatorship. "Taking Root" tells the dramatic story of the woman whose simple act of planting trees grew into a nationwide movement for which this charismatic woman became an iconic inspiration. (80 min.)



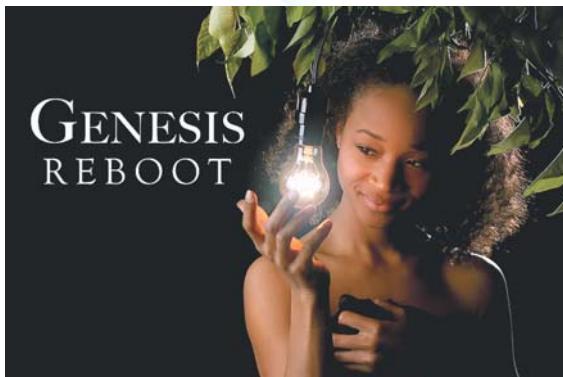
"Homecoming"

#### FEBRUARY 11 - "HOMECOMING"

The epic story of African American farming in the South, "Homecoming" chronicles land loss and black farmers from the Civil War to the present. Featuring archival footage and audio tracks including the voices of Malcolm X, Fannie Lou Hamer and Julian Bond, the film also excerpts the testimony of freed slaves, Toni Morrison's Song of Solomon and the writings of August Wilson. Producer/director Charlene Gilbert places her own family farm in Montezuma, Georgia, squarely in the historical context of the black farm movement in America. Narrated by Charles S. Dutton. (111 min.)

The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street in the heart of the Parker-Gray Historic District and is open from Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org) or call 703.746.4356.

## WINTER FUN



**FEB. 9 TO MARCH 3**

**"Genesis Reboot."** Tickets are \$30. Presented by Synetic Theater. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. At Crystal City Theater, 1800 South Bell St., Arlington.

### THEATER

**FEB. 24 TO MARCH 10**

**"The Dixie Swim Club."** Port City Playhouse presents a delightful comedy about five women who were on their college swim team and get together for a "girls only" weekend at a cottage on the Outer Banks every summer. Fri.-Sat., Feb. 24-25, March 2-3 and 9-10; Tues., March 6 at 8 p.m.; Sat. matinees March 3 and 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$16 seniors & students, \$14 groups of 10+. At The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-838-2880 or [www.portcityplayhouse.org](http://www.portcityplayhouse.org).

**FEB. 3 TO 17**

**"Laughter on the 23rd Floor."** Show times are Feb. 3, 4, 5 (m), 10, 11, 12 (m), 16, 17. Evenings at 8 p.m., Matinees (m) at 2:30 p.m. Presented by the Arlington Players. At Gunston Theatre One, 2700 South Lang St., Arlington.

**NOW THROUGH JAN. 28**

**"Dreamgirls."** Evening performances on Jan. 26, 27, 28 at 8 p.m. Performances will be held at the Gunston Arts Center - Theater One, 2700 S. Lang Street in Arlington. Seating is General Admission; Tickets are \$20 and are available online for pre-purchase at [www.DominionStage.org](http://www.DominionStage.org). Group Discounts available. Reservations can be made online or by calling 571-DS-Shows or 571-377-4637.

**NOW THROUGH FEB. 11**

**Jules Feiffer's "Little Murders."** Show times are Thursday through Saturday 8 p.m.; Saturday/Sunday matinee at 2:30 P.M. Post-show talk-back on Jan. 19. At Gunston Theatre II, 2700 South Lang St., Arlington. Order tickets online at [americancentury.org](http://americancentury.org) or 703-998-4555.

### FINE ARTS

**FEB. 3 TO MARCH 18**

**"City Limits."** Featuring acrylic paintings on canvas by Eric Garner of McLean. Opening reception is Saturday, Feb. 4 from 4 to 6 p.m. and Artist's Talk at 5 p.m. At The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College.

**NOW THROUGH FEB. 19**

**Fears and Phobias.** What does it mean to be fearful – to live and cope with a phobia? The 21 artists in the gallery's latest exhibition explore their own interpretations of various fears and phobias. At the Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. At the [www.torpedofactory.org/target](http://www.torpedofactory.org/target)

**NOW THROUGH FEB. 5**

**Connectivity: Threads of Community.** Will showcase the works of 24 artists. Connectivity explores the many facets of connectivity artists create throughout their lives, and how these relationships relate to their work. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria.

**JAN. 26 TO MARCH 11**

**GA Gardner: Interconnections.** Gardner uses the vibrant colors and energy of his native Trinidad and Tobago in his paintings and mixed media works to address our often complicated relationship with mass communication. Artist's reception is Sunday, Jan. 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria.

**FEB. 8 TO MARCH 4**

**Gallery West Presents.** The 15th Annual National Juried Fine Arts Competition for 2012. The juror is Edward J. Reed, a critically acclaimed, international-award-winning artist. Reception: Saturday, Feb. 11 from 5 – 8 p.m. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street in Old Town Alexandria. Visit [www.gallery-west.com](http://www.gallery-west.com).



**JAN. 31 TO MARCH 25**

**"Really Really."** Showtimes are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$56 - \$80 and are available by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT (7328) or visiting [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org). At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.



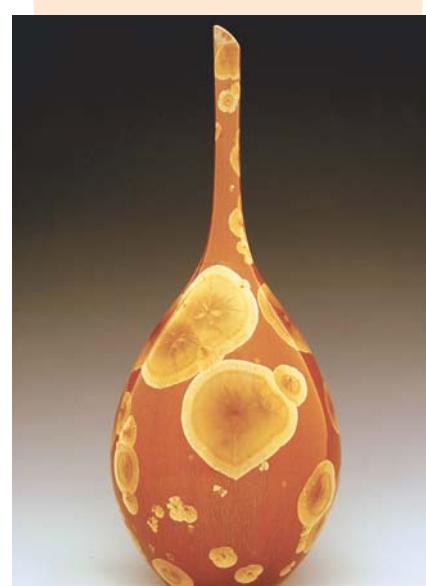
**NOW THROUGH FEB. 4**

**"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."**

Wednesday to Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. Presented by the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com) or 703-683-0496.

**EXTENDED THROUGH FEB. 5**

**"Hairspray."** Weeknights and matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Directed by Eric Schaeffer, starring national radio host Robert Aubry Davis. Tickets start at \$63. Call 703-573-SEAT or visit [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org). At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington.



**FEB. 3 TO MARCH 4**

**"An Affair to Remember."** Embrace artisan handmade creations made with a little love in February at Scope Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Kiln Club show at the Scope Gallery, 106 North Union Street, ground floor, Studio 19, Alexandria. Call the Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit [www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm](http://www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.htm)

## TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER ON THE WATERFRONT IN OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA



SHOP 3 FLOORS OF  
ORIGINAL ART  
MEET ARTISTS IN THEIR  
OPEN STUDIOS

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OPEN DAILY 10AM-6PM • THURSDAYS UNTIL 9PM  
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105 N. UNION STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314  
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### 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
- Tomato sauce
- Canned soups
- Cereal
- Canned fruits
- Oatmeal
- Canned vegetables
- Macaroni and cheese
- Pasta
- Peanut butter
- Rice
- 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**



**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
SOLUTIONS & CONSULTING, LLC**

AND FRIENDS OF UNITED COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

proudly present

## CAPITOL STEPS

MUSICAL POLITICAL SATIRE



**Sunday, January 29, 2011  
5:00 p.m.**

(Doors open at 4:00 p.m.)

Knights of Columbus Hall  
8592 Richmond Highway



**Unreserved General Seating: \$40/person  
Reserved Table Seating: \$70/person**

Raffle Tickets for fabulous Themed Baskets will be sold at the event!

Please return your reservation form by mail as soon as possible to:

**Friends of UCM c/o Nadine Wren  
2009 Windmill Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22307**

Telephone reservations by credit card only.  
Call Friends of UCM at (703) 403-4410.

To purchase tickets online, please visit  
<https://ucm.ejoinme.org/capitolsteps2012>

For more information about UCM, visit [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org).

UCM is thankful for the media sponsorship of this event by the Mount Vernon Gazette.

**Mount Vernon Gazette**

# WINTER FUN

## FRIDAY/JAN. 27

**Pieta Brown in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. With Iris Dement. Tickets are \$35. At the Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-965-3347 or visit [www.birchmere.com/calendar](http://www.birchmere.com/calendar)

**Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass.** 7:30 p.m. Concert features 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, percussion and keyboards. At Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King Street, Alexandria. Contact Louise Wilson, Director of Music at [louise@fairlintonumc.org](mailto:louise@fairlintonumc.org) or [www.fairlintonumc.org](http://www.fairlintonumc.org) or call 703-671-4057.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 28

**Suits and Boots Party.** 5 to 8 p.m. Swimsuits, summer wear and snow boots required. For each game purchased, a portion of proceeds will be donated to Dreams for Kids. At TopGolf Alexandria, 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Visit <http://www.topgolf.com/suits>

**America's Historic Kilns.** 10 a.m. Independent scholar and potter Brenda Hornsby Heindl of Liberty, N.C., will present "America's Historic Kilns: A Potter's Perspective." Hosted by Alexandria Archaeology Museum and sponsored by the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology. At The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., #327, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4399 or visit [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org).

**Archaeology Talk.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friends of Fairfax County Archaeology and Gunston Hall are co-sponsoring a symposium on Mason Neck archaeology. The program includes talks by Mike Johnson, Christopher Sperling, David Shonyo, Wendy Miervaldis, Paul Inashima, and Douglas Comer. Visit the website at <http://www.gunstonhall.org/grounds/archaeology.html>.

**Author Discussion.** 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Author and former Chief Historian for the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Robert K. Krueck, will give a free lecture on "Robert E. Lee and His Detractors in the Age of the Anti-Hero." At the Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702.

**Civil War Ball.** 8 to 11 p.m. Live music, dance instruction and period desserts. Tickets are \$45/

advance; \$50/door. Period attire, either civilian or military, is encouraged. In preparation for the ball, Civil War-era dance classes will be offered at Gadsby's Tavern Museum from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 12, 19, and 26. Dance instruction will include the waltz, polka, Virginia reel, and more! Classes are \$12 each or \$30 for the series. Advance reservations for both the Ball and dance classes are strongly recommended. Call 703-746-4242 or [www.gadsbytavern.org](http://www.gadsbytavern.org). At Gadsby's Tavern ballroom.

**Art\*iculation — Marketing Your Artwork.** 1 p.m. Free. Artists need to create marketing and promotional writing, and artist's statements, to present their work. David Hazard, a 34-year veteran of talent and product development, will help you create yours. At The Art League at Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 29

**Author Marvin Josaitis.** 9:15 to 10 a.m. Will discuss and sign copies of his autobiography, *Breaking Grand Silence: A Former Catholic Priest Speaks Out*. At Sharon Chapel, All Saints Episcopal Church, 3421 Franconia Road, Alexandria

**Civil War Sunday.** 1 to 5 p.m. Explore the Civil War in Alexandria with Civil War Sundays at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union Street, #327. Visit [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org) or call 703-746-4399.

**Zumba Explosion.** 4 to 8 p.m. Sponsored by RunningBrooke, dance off those holiday pounds and keep your New Year's resolution! Five instructors, two classes. Have fun helping at-risk kids in Alexandria. All proceeds benefit five vital Alexandria-based charities. At the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Alexandria.

**Presidential Salon.** 3 to 4:30 p.m. Join President James Madison at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, as he discusses and engages guests in political and personal issues of 1812. At 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. Visit [www.gadsbytavern.org](http://www.gadsbytavern.org) or call 703-746-4242.

## MONDAY/JAN. 30



**Black  
Moon  
Tonic**

## SATURDAY/FEB. 11

**Bishop Ireton Dance.** 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Featuring the bands, Black Moon Tonic and Big Bad JuJu. Sponsored by the BI Athletic Boosters Club. Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. At Bishop Ireton School Gym, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Tickets at door are \$25/person; \$50/couple. Online tickets at [www.liveatbishopireton.com](http://www.liveatbishopireton.com).

**Writer Thomas Kaufman.** 7:30 p.m. Will discuss "Steal the Show, the second of his mysteries featuring private eye Willis Gidney. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1705.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 31

**"Let's Talk Baseball."** 5 to 7:30 p.m. Alexandria Aces' co-founder Pat Malone to talk about the 2012 season and the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League at Al's Steak House, 1504 Mount Vernon Avenue, in Del Ray. Visit [www.alssteak.com](http://www.alssteak.com).

[www.alssteak.com](http://www.alssteak.com)

**Music for Low Strings.** 7:30 p.m. Free. Presented by the National Chamber Players. An ensemble of cellists and bassists from the NSO will perform Prelude by Shostakovich, Radu by Marc Mellits, Mariel by Osvaldo Golijov and an arrangement for six cellos and four basses of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. At Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-933-4135, [www.episcopalhighschool.org/](http://www.episcopalhighschool.org/)

SEE WINTER FUN, PAGE 17



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**Mount Vernon Gazette**

# WINTER FUN

FROM PAGE 16

arts/ncp\_ehs

**Open House.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The St. Louis School community is invited to attend an open house. Tour the school and talk with current parents and staff. All are welcome. At 2901 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-768-7732 or visit [www.stlouischool.org](http://www.stlouischool.org). Wednesday/Feb. 1

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

## FRIDAY/FEB. 3

**Fridays at Grace.** 7:30 p.m. Pops organ concert with Tim Smith's transcription of Saint-Saëns' "Carnival of the Animals," complete with Ogden Nash poems read by a celebrity guest. Also James Hewitt's "Battle of Trenton" with human "supertitles" just like at the opera. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3600 Russell Rd., Alexandria. Optional goodwill offering. Call 703-549-1980 or [www.gracealex.org](http://www.gracealex.org).

## FEB. 3 TO 26

**Love, Politics & Scrabble.** The Games People Play, juried art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, inspired by the games people play throughout life. Del Ray Artisans' opening reception is Friday, Feb. 3, 7-10 p.m. This juried show explores the numerous games people play in life, whether power, Monopoly, manipulation, poker, Angry Birds, baseball, or gossip. The community is invited to 'get their game on' at Art Games on Feb. 10 and Game Talks on Feb. 25. The exhibit and Marketplace, with artful Valentine Cards, closes Feb. 26. [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) or 703-838-4827.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 4

**Country Western Dance.** 8:30 to 11 p.m. The Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association will hold its smoke-free, alcohol-free dance at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Rd., Falls Church. BJ Brown will be the DJ. A line dance will be taught beginning at 7:30 p.m. A couples dance will be taught beginning at 8 p.m. Open dancing is from 8:30-11:00 p.m. and includes Two Step, Waltz, line, Swing, Cha Cha, and specialty dances. Couples and singles are welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5; PSDC members \$10. Snacks and drinks will be available. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org), or call the hot line 703-860-4941.

**Genealogy Lecture.** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5. Genealogist Char Bah will present, "Using Oral History, Censuses and Vital Statistics to Start Your Research," a program for beginners. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., in the Parker-Gray Historic District in Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).

**Growing Inequality in Wealth.** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Corruption of the Democratic Process and Resulting Social Injustice. Featured speakers will include Kevin Zeece of the Occupy Movement and Aquene Freechild of Public Citizen. At the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. To register, click on the "Register for Upcoming Events" banner of [www.uusj.org](http://www.uusj.org). Questions? 301-588-1951. RSVP by Monday, Jan. 30.

**Jane Franklin Dance: The Mouse of Amherst.** 3:30 p.m. A performance for children. Tickets are \$10/children; \$15/adults. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-933-1111, or visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com)

**Jane Franklin Dance: Forty + or**



## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

### Singer-songwriter Bob Franke.

7 p.m. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. The workshop (\$60 general, discounts are available) will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 19, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) or 703-501-6061.

**Minus.** 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-933-1111, or visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com).

**Wonders of Science Demo.** Visit the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary

Museum and discover curious objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood, and find out how they were used. Admission is \$6. Reservations can be made at 703-746-3852. At 105-107 South Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria. Visit [www.apothecarymuseum.org](http://www.apothecarymuseum.org) or call 703-746-3852.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 5

**Mayor Bill Euille's Super Bowl Party.** 5 p.m. Tickets are \$35/person; \$60/two; \$100/family of four; donations accepted. RSVP "Friends of Bill Euille," P.O. Box 25048, Alexandria, VA 22313. At Joe Theismann's Restaurant, 1800 Diagonal Road, Alexandria. Call 703-307-0851.

**"Voyage to Germany."** 2 p.m. Presented by the Marine Chamber Orchestra. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6156 or [www.schlesingercenter.com](http://www.schlesingercenter.com).

## TUESDAY/FEB. 7

**"Poetry and Creative Play: Writing as an Expressive Coping Strategy."** 6 to 8 p.m. Featuring Mary Azoy, Licensed Professional Counselor & Poetry Therapist. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred St., Alexandria. Visit [www.morrisonhouse.com](http://www.morrisonhouse.com) or call 703-838-8000.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 8

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

## FRIDAY/FEB. 10

**Art Games.** 'Get your game on' at Del Ray Artisans' Art Games on Friday, Feb. 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m. where Art Bingo will be played after an artful mixer game. \$7 donation; light refreshments; adults 18+. [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org)

## SATURDAY/FEB. 11

**Bishop Ireton Dance.** 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Featuring the bands, Black Moon Tonic and Big Bad JuJu. Sponsored by the BI Athletic Boosters Club. Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. At Bishop Ireton School Gym, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Tickets at door are \$25/person; \$50/couple. Online tickets at [www.liveatbishopireton.com](http://www.liveatbishopireton.com).

**Genealogy Lecture.** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5. Genealogist Char Bah will examine the family histories of four Alexandria women who were influential in the city's African American community. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., in the Parker-Gray Historic District in Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).

**Swordsmen's Rendezvous.** Every half hour between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Admission is \$6/person, ages 5 and up. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 703-746-4242. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

**Alexandria Coin Show.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be 50 tables with U.S. coins and currency, world coins, banknotes, ancient coins, hobby books, gold, silver, medals, tokens and collectibles. This is open to the public. An educational presentation is

provided. Prizes and coins are given away for attendees. At the Hampton Inn & Suites on the corner of the I-495 beltway and Route 1, Alexandria. Visit the Alexandria Coin Club website at [www.alexandriacoinsclub.com](http://www.alexandriacoinsclub.com).

**Clarinetist Richard Stoltzman.** With the ASO and Mozart's Requiem. Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$35/adults; \$30/seniors; \$10/students. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria.

## FEB. 11 AND 12

**Mattress Sale Fund-raiser.** West Potomac High School is holding a Mattress Sale Fund-raiser. Profits go to the 2012 All-Night Graduation Celebration and Dance Team. Featured are Pillow-Top, Plus Top, Orthopedic, Latex and Memory Foam Sets. Prices start: Twin \$199; Full \$289; Queen \$299; and King \$499. Email [CFSVirginia@gmail.com](mailto:CFSVirginia@gmail.com). The ANGC web site is <http://wpfhs-ang.weebly.com/index.html>

**ASO, Richard Stoltzman, and Mozart's Requiem.** Times are Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. With Kim Allen Kluge, conductor; Mozart: Clarinet Concerto; Richard Stoltzman, clarinet; Mozart: Requiem; Alexandria Choral Society; The Metropolitan Chorus; Katharine Dain, soprano; Sarah Mesko, mezzo-soprano; Daniel Molkentin, tenor; Thomas Stork, bass-baritone. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets \$5 youth, and starting at \$10 students, \$30 seniors, and \$35 adults. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

the 55 MVCCA member associations) urging the County to amend its laws to make the County, rather than the homeowner, responsible for sewer line repairs under a public street. The resolution originated from the MVCCA's Consumer Affairs Committee, chaired by MVCCA veteran Queenie Cox, in response to a homeowner's complaint concerning the amount of money they had to pay to repair their sewer line under the public street in front of their house. The operations of this committee are quite mysterious because, unlike other MVCCA committees, its minutes never reveal how many member associations "attend" the committee's "meetings." I used quotes in the last sentence because the committee's "meetings" are typically by teleconference. In 2011, the committee "met" eight times. Four of those meetings were by teleconference. There were no meetings in April, July, and October (as well as in August when no MVCCA committees meet) and only three meetings were at a physical location where members of the public can actually attend in person.

The only 2011 meeting of the committee at which attendance was taken was a joint meeting with the Environment & Recreation (E&R) committee in June 2011. According to the E&R committee minutes, Ms. Cox was the only attendee from the Consumer Affairs committee. Who knows if committee meetings even comply with the MVCCA quorum requirement (five member associations represented - Article XI, Paragraph 6)? When the meetings are by teleconference, a call in number is given in the MVCCA Record. I wonder how many members of the public know how to find the MVCCA Record on the internet? If the membership roll is taken, why doesn't Ms. Cox report it in the MVCCA Record as does every other MVCCA committee chairman?

Before the committee passed the resolution (there is no public record of who voted in committee nor how many voted), Supervisor Hyland's office informed the committee that the County Wastewater Division estimated the annual cost for this change to be \$15,500,000 to \$18,500,000, comparable to one penny of the real estate tax (\$18.7 million) for the 2011 County budget according to the County website. The committee was also informed that property owners can buy insurance from Dominion

to pay for some of the possible costs. None of this convinced this mysterious committee to refrain from urging the County to change its laws by an amount that would require addition of a budget item of at least \$15.5 million, all because one property owner wasn't prepared for one of the responsibilities of property ownership. None of this convinced the 14 member associations represented at the Council meeting to oppose this ill-advised resolution.

This is an example, and unfortunately not a rare example, of an MVCCA resolution that deserves utterly zero deference by Supervisor Hyland and the rest of the Board of Supervisors. It is also an example of the inappropriate way the MVCCA often conducts business.

H. Jay Spiegel  
Mount Vernon

## Voter Fraud and Partisan Politics

To the Editor:

With each historical effort to protect and extend the right to vote, both political parties have argued that expanding the franchise, whether through federal protections for voting rights or by reducing barriers, would lead to more voter fraud. The threat of fraud was taken up by congressional opponents of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; it was raised in the conflict over extending the Act during the first Reagan Administration; and again, in more recent debates over the National Voter Registration Act. It is the success of these reforms that explains why fraud claims have re-emerged as a form of voter intimidation. The legacy of the civil rights movement make it no longer acceptable to suppress voting through the use of violence, poll taxes or literacy tests. Today the intimidation is more subtle. Republicans in the Virginia Legislature insist that the votes of legitimate, qualified voters are threatened by the votes of ineligible voters, justifying their support for restrictive voter ID requirements.

Our history shows it is a common tactic to shape the electorate by influencing the rules for access to the vote. It is difficult to openly suppress voting in a truly democratic culture. The threat of fraud, however, if it's perceived as real, is enough to scare many



**Hearts Apart** Elizabeth Harvey receives a Christmas tree from Richard Keil, a member of the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club through its Hearts Apart Program. The Hearts Apart families are a group of wives whose husbands are serving in Afghanistan. They meet once a month at Ft. Belvoir. They have dinner donated by Ft. Belvoir, and they socialize with one another while their children are being cared for.

people into accepting rules that undermine the electoral participation of other voters — the price, we are told, we must pay to keep our elections clean. The unraveling logic of this argument is all too obvious. Reason flies out the window when we're scared.

The use of voter fraud allegations is strategic and in this sense rational, if unethical. In the late 19th century when freed slaves were swept into electoral politics and where African Americans were the majority of the electorate in many southern states, it was the Democrats who were threatened by a loss of power, and it was the Democratic party that erected new rules as being necessary to respond to the alleged fraud of former slaves.

Today, the success of voter registration drives by minorities and low income people threatens to expand the base of the Democratic party and tip the balance of power away from the Republicans. It is not difficult to understand why partisan operatives might seek to generate public support for new restrictions on the vote that will disproportionately hinder opposition voters.

Such efforts are misleadingly labeled electoral integrity because after 200 years struggling for the vote and winning it from below, minority and low income voters are not so easily discredited in the name of democracy. Therefore we see an appeal to mis-

placed moral sensibilities like the idea that integrity trumps rights. Overstated voter fraud claims are essentially political acts because the contested history of party, race and class in American politics makes them so.

The so-called culprits today are mostly found among those still struggling for full inclusion in American life. That they are more likely to identify with one party than the other makes them doubly vulnerable to fraud accusations and to the collateral damage of high stakes competitive partisan politics.

Voters, like all other actors or groups in the electoral process, can only corrupt that part to which they have access. Given their limited access, voters can only corrupt the registration and voting phases. They can't corrupt the vote tallying and counting phases where most election fraud has occurred in the past because they lack access to votes after they've cast them.

We need better data, better election administration, transparency and responsible journalism to improve public understanding of the legitimate ways in which electoral outcomes can be distorted and manipulated not legislation to limit access to the polls.

Martin Tillett  
Mount Vernon

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# NEWS

## Online Forum

FROM PAGE 7

adults who said they were abused as children, asking how they could cope as adults with the residual effects of abuse, such as depression, self-loathing, guilt and shame.

Kelmelis said the Office for Women's Domestic and Sexual Violence Services provides no-cost counseling and support for people whenever the abuse occurred.

"Often people find that the effects of the sexual abuse can impact them at different times during their life. Triggers such as reading a news report or knowing someone who has been sexually assaulted will sometimes cause feelings of anxiety and depression or will cause flashbacks to be triggered," she said.

One question was from someone who identified herself as an illegal immigrant:

"I am illegally here, but I'm being sexually abused. What will happen to me if I report it? Will me or my family be deported?"

Laitinen urged the poster to report the abuse, and said an undocumented immigrant does not lose his or her rights as a victim. "The Fairfax County Police Department does not consider immigration status when any crime is reported to us. There are laws that protect undocumented immigrants in the U.S.," he responded during the discussion.

Another question came from an elementary school counselor, who said that making a claim with CPS that is later determined to be unfounded often damages the relationship between the school and the family. "Sometimes, the child's story doesn't really make sense, or there is not a visible injury ... Any advice for handling these types of situations?"

Laitinen acknowledged the "difficult situation," but said that a "mandated reporter" could face serious consequences for failing to report suspected abuse. "The child's welfare is paramount," he responded.

Both Laitinen and Kelmelis repeatedly urged victims to call the CPS hotline or 911 when posters said they or their children were currently being sexually abused.

"We urge you to report this to police at 703-691-2131 first. (If there is an immediate matter of safety, contact 911!) The police will work hand-in-hand with Child Protective Services in conducting an investigation. If you would like to contact CPS as an anonymous caller, call their hotline at 703-324-7400 anytime day or night. Whomever you decide to call first, your situation will be addressed and you will get the help you need. Please call," Laitinen said.

Caldwell said the team was pleased with the response, and more outreach efforts are planned.

"It's a sensitive subject, but one that parents, educators and all those who come into contact with children need to know more about," Caldwell said.

To review the transcript from the online discussion, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/askfairfax/ArchiveDiscussion.aspx?roomid=28](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/askfairfax/ArchiveDiscussion.aspx?roomid=28).

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Death Notice

Nesby Mitchell, Jr. departed this life on January 18, 2012. Memorial service will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2012 at Shiloh Baptist Church, 1401 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA. Viewing at 10am and Funeral at 11am.

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# SPORTS

## Voorhees Leads West Potomac Gymnasts in Home Meet

**Seniors Bell, Tupitz, Muir compete at home for final time.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

West Potomac gymnast Marien Voorhees turned to a nearby Wolverines supporter and said "I'm scared" prior to her floor routine during the team's lone home meet of the season on Jan. 23. Nerves were getting to the junior, who would attempt her first full layout of the year.

As it turned out, Voorhees had nothing to worry about.

Voorhees posted a third-place score of 9.3, helping her earn a fifth-place finish in the all-around in West Potomac's final tune-up meet prior to the Patriot District championships. The district meet is scheduled for Feb. 2 at Lake Braddock.

Voorhees' all-around score of 35.35 was second among Patriot District gymnasts at the meet, finishing behind Lee's Leah Michetti (third, 36.65).

"I did pretty well, actually," Voorhees said. "I was really happy ... It was my first time doing my full this year. It turned out pretty good."

Voorhees finished third in the all-around at last year's district meet, earning her a regional berth. On Monday, she helped the Wolverines to a fourth-place team finish with a score of 128.8 despite the absence of fellow all-around competitor Amanda



PHOTOS BY RICHARD MAPLE

**West Potomac junior Marien Voorhees was pleased with her floor routine during the Wolverines' lone home meet of the season on Jan. 23.**

Trenchard, who did not participate due to a wrist injury. West Potomac finished behind McLean (141.8), and fellow Patriot District teams Woodson (135.95) and Lee (131.05).

"They had a very good meet," West Potomac head coach Pete Novgrod said. "[Getting to] 128 without Amanda in the meet — one of our all-arounds — that's



**West Potomac senior Monica Bell competed in her final home meet for the Wolverines on Jan. 23.**

pretty good. That might be their highest score or close to it."

Monica Thompson finished sixth (34.95) in the all-around for West Potomac, a performance that included a tuck Tsukahara vault. The sophomore said she enjoyed competing at home.

"It was one of my best meets so far this year," Thompson said. "I think I could have done better on beam, but I think for vault and floor, especially, it was one of my best meets, so I was pretty pleased. I really liked it because some of my friends came and they got to see me. Some of my family came too, so it was nice."

Monday was also senior night for West Potomac. Monica Bell and captains Jill Tupitz and Ali Muir competed in their final home meet for the Wolverines. Bell finished 13th in the all-around with a score of 31.25.

"It really sunk in once they put up the [senior night] signs and we made the shirts and everything and you come in and you see 'good luck seniors,'" Bell said. "It's finally sinking in that I'm a senior and this is my last [home] meet."

Juniors Krissy Karlsson, Brittany Angelini and Samantha Coughlan, sophomores Sofia Yaeger and Ashley Pak and freshman Annie Hunger also competed for West Potomac.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**West Potomac's Trevor Jenne competes in the 200Y IM.**

sophomore Rachel Dacey (1-meter diving) and freshman Jayne Orleans (100Y breast).

The West Potomac girls also took first in the 200Y medley relay (Maddy Bolger, Pinter, Lydia Perkins, Maxine Clifford), the 200Y freestyle relay (Clifford, Doña, Bertram, Moffitt), and the 400Y freestyle relay (Bertram, Clifford, Moffitt, Doña). Moffitt achieved a Virginia State championship qualifying time in the 100Y back (1:00.03), as did the girls 200Y free relay (1:42.28). Bertram achieved a Northern Region championship qualifying time in the 100Y fly (59.73), and Doña achieved a region qualifying time in the 100Y back (1:01.66).

Senior Patrick Murphy and freshman Michael Valceanu led the West Potomac boys, both finishing with two individual vic-

tories. Murphy finished first in the 200Y freestyle and 100Y back while Valceanu earned victories in the 200Y IM and 100Y fly. Senior Trevor Jenne placed first in the 100Y breast and second in the 200Y IM. Other Wolverine boys with individual victories were senior Jack King (100Y free) and freshman Jarod Worden (500Y free). The West Potomac boys also took first in all three relays, winning the 200Y medley relay (P. Murphy, Jenne, Valceanu, King), the 200Y freestyle relay (Luke Perez, Niko Knoblauch, Trevor Woods, Cyrus Adams-Mardi), and the 400Y freestyle relay (P. Murphy, Valceanu, King, Jenne).

Other top-three finishes for the boys included senior Evan Jenkins (second in 200Y free and third in 100Y back), senior John Jasper (third in 100Y breast), sophomore Billy Lescher (second in 100Y free and third in 200Y free), senior Niko Knoblauch (third in 50Y free), sophomore Eric Hardee (second in 1-meter dive), sophomore Brant Knoblauch (third in 1 meter dive), sophomore Adams-Mardi (second in 100Y back and third in 100Y fly), and freshman Quintin Frerichs (second in 500Y free).

Other top-three finishes for the girls were junior Leigh Orleans (third in 50Y free and 200Y free), junior Maddy Bolger (second in 50Y free and 100Y free), freshman Torie Bolger (second in 200Y IM and 500Y free),

freshman Emily Walzl (third in 200Y IM), senior Lydia Perkins (second in 100Y breast), senior Brittany Alderman (third in 100Y breast), junior Hannah Gwartney (third in 500Y free), and freshman Molly Cabral (third in 100Y back).

The Wolverines will compete Friday and Saturday, Jan. 27-28 in the Patriot District Championships at Lee District Recreation Center.

## Mount Vernon Wrestling Sweeps District Duals

The Mount Vernon wrestling team went 7-0 during the National District Duals on Jan. 20 and 23. The second day of action was scheduled for Jan. 21 but postponed due to inclement weather.

The Majors defeated Washington-Lee (62-6), Stuart (60-13) and Yorktown (51-21) on Friday and Hayfield (63-18), Wakefield (69-0), Edison (55-21) and Falls Church (67-12) on Monday.

Mount Vernon improved to 37-3 on the season. Senior Dusty Floyd improved to 35-0.

Mount Vernon will compete in the district tournament on Feb. 4 at Stuart.

# GALLERY

Artwork from Fort Hunt Elementary School students.



**William Martin, Grade 2**



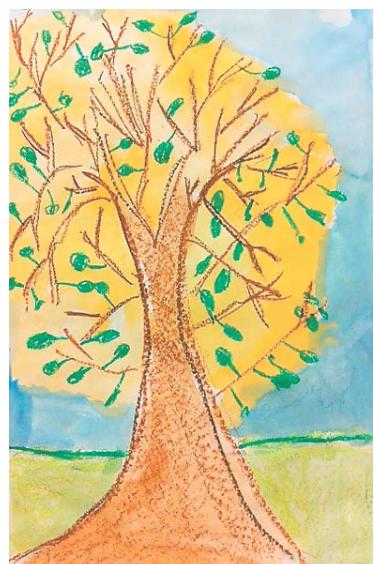
**Julian Gasparo, Grade 4**



**Mya Castellon, Grade 3**



**Calla Totaro, Grade 6**



**Galen June, Grade 1**



**Rejean Trimmer, Grade K**



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**Marit Gonzalez, Grade 5**



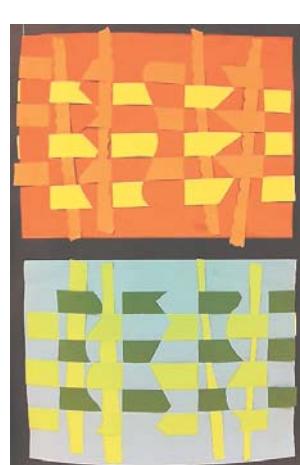
**Brooke Garvey,  
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**Xavier Miranda-  
Hernandez, Grade 4**



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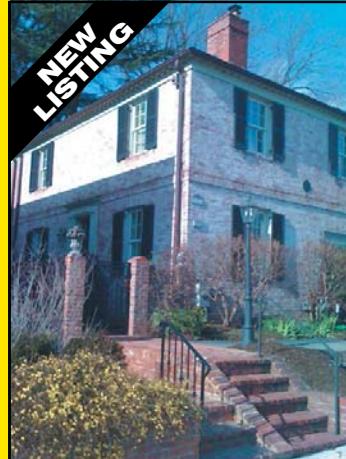
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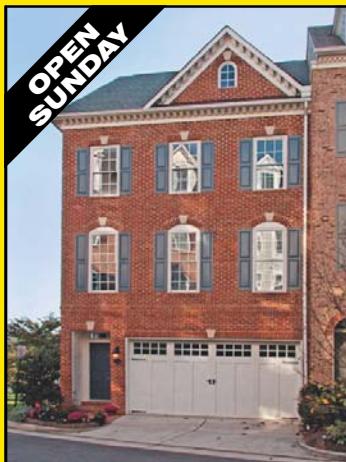
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