



Denise Gant performs to the music of "Eldorado."

Holiday Show on Ice

The Mount Vernon RECenter presented its annual holiday ice show on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 8. More than 100 students performed. The RECenter offers private and group lessons

on the ice in addition to a new summer ice skating camp, along with swimming, fitness and dance classes.

For more information visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or call 703-768-3224



Alison Rowan skates to the music of "Romantic Flight."



Five-year-old Mia Li Poe skates to "My Neighbor Totoro."



Eileen Maass performs.



Emily Baumanis, Riley Cooper, Ava Dempster, Fiona French, Alexandra Friedman, Cecilia Howden, Lauren Scott, Nahya Tanwir, Margaret Taylor, Valerie Watkins and Sophia Wypyski take to the ice in "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town."

Reckless Texting

Bill would make texting-while-driving a Class 1 misdemeanor.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Kyle Rowley was on his way home on a Sunday night in 2011 when he ran out of gas near the border between Loudoun County and Fairfax County. So the Herndon 19-year-old flipped on his flashers and began moving the car out of the road. That's when it happened. The driver of an oncoming car was texting while driving and slammed into the teenager, killing him instantly. What happened to the man who killed Kyle Rowley was a surprise to the family.

"Since he wasn't speeding and he had no alcohol, there was no basis to charge him even though it was obvious that he wasn't paying attention because it was a straight-away, it was well lit, and he never put his brakes on," Rowley says. "But the law just doesn't have the ability to do that."

At least not yet. After the criminal charge for reckless driving was dismissed, the Rowleys began working with Del. Scott Surovell (D-44), who represented the family in a wrongful death lawsuit that was settled out of court. Now, as the upcoming General Assembly session approaches, Surovell has

introduced House Bill 1360, which would classify driving while simultaneously using a handheld communications device for something other than verbal communication as reckless driving.

"Watching dozens of people texting on my way to work every day on the Beltway, and having seen what happened where Kyle Rowley was killed, and couldn't be punished, I've come to the position we need to do something," said Surovell.

"Watching dozens of people texting on my way to work every day on the Beltway, and having seen what happened where Kyle Rowley was killed, and couldn't be punished, I've come to the position we need to do something."

— Del. Scott Surovell

EARLIER THIS MONTH, Surovell and Del. Ben Cline (R-24) appeared together at a press conference in advance of a Virginia State Crime Commission meeting to announce the legislation. They were joined by members of DRIVE SMART Virginia, a coalition of groups advocating stronger legislation against texting while driving. Together, the bipartisan coalition hopes to pass legislation in

the upcoming General Assembly session.

"This bill will strengthen the law on texting while driving and send the message that this is not safe or tolerable driving behavior," said Cline. "I am pleased to have the support of DRIVE SMART Virginia, and look forward to working with Delegate Surovell to pass this im

SEE DRIVING BILL. PAGE 20

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Becky Berning 703-930-3400



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Meg Olympia 703-475-1552



Alexandria **1636 Fitzgerald Ln #915**

Rarely Available Bright And Sunny 4 Bedroom Roosevelt With 2 Full Baths. Great Location And Private Patio Backing To Trees. Freshly Painted. Replaced Windows. New Electrical Panels. Hardwood Floors. This Unit Could Be Put Back As Two 1 Bedroom Units. Great Investment Opportunity. Walk To Shirlington. Close To D.C. Open House On Sun. 12-2, 1-4.

Rita Tassa 703-629-8624



Alexandria **6805 Stoneybrooke Lane** **\$439,950**

Large center hall colonial "JAMESTOWNE MODEL" located at close-in Stoneybrooke...original hardwood floors on main and upper level (including staircase)...remodeled kitchen and baths,granite and ceramic tiles in kitchen, replacement windows, French door to deck off formal dining room...main level includes formal living room and separate dining room, family room w/frpl, also a separate office/den...

Steve Frishmuth 703-346-6854



Culpeper **111 Queen Victoria Street** **\$270,000**

This Beautiful Home Was Used As The Model. Never Been Lived In! Hardwood Floors, Huge Kitchen With Morning Room. Surround Sound Through House. Spacious Bedrooms! Master With Luxury Bath And Huge Walk-in Closet. Finished Basement, Landscaped Yard With Sprinkler System. A Must-See!

Allison Gillette 703-307-5698



Alexandria **6461 Silver Ridge Circle** **\$325,000**

Large TH located w/in walking distance to Springfield Metro! Updated kitchen with Silestone counters, updated baths, newer W/D and AC, newer windows & gutters, wood & parquet floors, walkout basement with fenced yard. Lots of visitor parking, minutes to I-95 and FFX Co Pkwy, shops, movie theater, and restaurants in Kingstowne.

Valerie Hardee 703-401-9169



Alexandria **8210 Chancery Court** **\$589,900**

*Renovated 4 levels w/walkout basement. Patio to beautiful garden backyard back to wood. Beautiful hardwood floors, Oak cabinets, new laminate floors, new wooden railing, M Bathroom eyeball sky light. Current year replaced all exterior doors and roof. Could have a relaxation on side patio.

Matthew Han 703-623-5519



8519 Highland Lane **\$329,900**

Charming patio home w/attached carport. 3 BR, 2 full BA; rm w/lower ceiling on attic lvl could be used as 4th bdrm (has door, closet & window). Large master suite on main level w/attached bath, separate laundry room, family room, wood/ceramic fl main lvl, carpet on bdrms. Newer double pane windows, cute as a button Lg storage shed, Lg yard. Convenient to Ft Belvoir, Fairfax Pkwy, I-395, I-495.

Maridol Garcia-Joy 703-655-0777



Alexandria **2500 Cavendish Drive** **\$675,000**

The One You Have Been Waiting For In Stratford Landing! Beautifully Remodeled Home With New Kitchen Addition. Main Level Master Suite With Elegant Bathroom. Another Master Suite Upstairs. Eat In Kitchen With Granite, Gorgeous Backsplash And S/S Appliances. Hardwood Floors Throughout The Main Level. Fully Finished Walk-Out Basement. Huge Yard With Storage Shed. Hurry, This One Is A Beauty!

Allison Gillette 703-307-5698



Vienna **1212 Ware Street** **\$560,000**

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Woodbridge **12743**

Stone Lined Circle

10/21 Open 1-4 Large end TH extended on 3 levels. Many side windows & Light filled. Beautiful floor plan with many options for furniture placement. You'll enjoy the Morning Room gas fireplace & French doors to the deck. LR Full Bay window, Curved staircase to BR level, crown moldings, Kitchen Island, Master Suite with Sitting Rm, vaulted ceiling, walk-in closet, Luxury Bath. Beautifully maintained.

Jeannie Hicks 703-403-5446



Annandale **3718 Merrimac Trail** **\$659,000**

Large 3-Lvl. Colonial In Lafayette Village. Brick Front, Front Porch, Lrg. Screened Porch With Spa, Beautifully Maintained And Updated By Original Owners. Large Master W/ Sitting Room, Mn. Lvl. Fr. W/ Fp., Updated Kit. W/ Granite Ctrs. Wood Flrs., Pantry W/ Pull-Out Shelves, Mn. Lvl. Library, Mn. Lvl. Laundry, Spacious Secondary Bdrs., Freshly Painted And New Carpet, Prime Lot Surrounded By Trees...

Allan Price 703-861-2424



Lorton **7617 Fallswood Way** **\$414,995**

"A well-maintained home with kitchen upgrades including granite counters and newer appliances...Three finished levels, 2 wood burning fireplaces, separate dining room, large master suite, LLI family room with walk-out and additional fireplace, walkout to fenced rear yard with shed and rear gate...Gas heat & hot water...new windows, siding, fence, driveway and landscaping...friendly old dog "snickers..."

Steve Frishmuth 703-346-6854



Fairfax Station **9764 Viewcrest Drive** **\$965,000**

Ft. Ceilings. Master Suite Features Luxury Bath W/ Two-Person Tub. Lower Level Has Au Pair/in-law Suite, As Well As Full Kitchen, Den And Second Washer/dryer. Professionally Landscaped Yard W/ Beautiful Views & Irrigation System. Moments From Ffx Co. Pkwy. And Rt. 123.

Lenny Marsh 703-282-6511



Alexandria **4114 Robertson Boulevard** **\$562,000**

Beautiful home in popular Mount Vernon neighborhood. Incredible screened porch (26 x 14) facing secluded backyard setting of trees and flowers. Extensive renovations including large in-law suite, kitchen and baths, cherry floors, crown molding, and built-in bookcases. Walking distance to swim/tennis/boat club. Priced to sell!

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Reston **11171 Lake Chapel Lane** **\$600,000**

End Unit Townhome Backing To Lake Audubon! Gourmet Kitchen W/granite, Upgraded Cabinetry* Ceramic Tile* formal Lr & Dr* 3 Gas Fp* Lrge Master Br W/dressing Area* Master Bath W/sep Soaking Tub* 2 Addl Bedrooms On U/I W/full Bath* II Rec Room Views Of The Lake* Full Bath On Ll* Lrge Deck* A Must-See!

Meg Olympia 7403-475-1552



Woodbridge **12608 Harbor Drive** **\$349,900**

Big price reduction: \$25,000. It is a regular sale. Beautiful single family home has five bedrooms, three full baths, and one half bath. There are two kitchens one in main level and one in the basement. The house has Hardwood floor and ceramic throughout with t many updates. The roof and deck are two months old, it has nice backyard. You must see it.

Fawzia Noori 571-276-1336



4067 S. Four Mile Run Dr. #203 **\$349,900**

Sunny And Bright 2 BR, 2 BA. Condo W/ Sunroom And Extra Storage. Fully Loaded Kitchen W/ Stainless Steel Appliances, Granite Countertops, 42 In Cabinets, Hardwood Floors. Community Amenities. Please Considerate Of Very Nice Tenants Who Will Be Leaving By May 15. Subject To 3rd Party Approval. Property Sold In "As-Is" Condition. Open House Sun June 24, 1-4.

Rita Tassa 703-629-8624



Falls Church **\$410,000**

2785 Sikes Court

Like New, New Roof, New Vinyl Windows, Totally New Kit. w/42" Cabinets, New Granite Ctrs., New Appliances, New Ceramic Tile Flooring, New Neutral Carpet Throughout, Crown Molding, 6-Panel Doors, New Full Spectrum Storm Door, New SGD Lower Level, Updated Baths, New HVAC. It's A Beauty And A Great Location!

Allan Price 703-861-2424



Alexandria **4862 Eisenhower Avenue #464** **\$249,900**

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Robbery in Huntley Meadows Park

Police are investigating a strong-arm robbery and assault that occurred Thursday, Dec. 6. Around 11:14 a.m. a 18-year-old woman was jogging inside Huntley Meadows Park, near the South Kings Highway/Telegraph Road entrance when she was assaulted by two women. The suspects knocked the victim to the ground, assaulted her and stole clothing and a cell phone from the victim. The victim was able to escape and flee from her attackers. The victim sustained minor injuries.

The first suspect was described as Hispanic, 15 to 25, 5 feet tall, heavy set and wearing all black. The second suspect was described as Hispanic or black, 15 to 25, 5 feet 6 inches tall, medium build and wearing all black.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

George Washington's Whiskey Available

George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, will have the limited edition George Washington Rye Whiskey, aged and un-aged, available for sale the holiday season. The whiskey was made at George Washington's reconstructed distillery — 500 bottles of each whiskey are available for sale. The un-aged George Washington Rye Whiskey, which retails for \$95, was available for sale on Nov. 28. The aged George Washington Rye Whiskey, which retails for \$185, will be available for sale on Dec. 12. The whiskeys will be available for sale in-person only at the Shops at Mount Vernon. Admission is not required to shop.

The un-aged George Washington Rye Whiskey is the most authentic version of Washington's whiskey available. Washington was a detailed record keeper — Mount Vernon's staff were able to determine from these records the recipe and process of creating whiskey during Washington's lifetime. Distillers used the same grain recipe (60 percent rye, 35 percent corn, and 5 percent malted barley), mixed and fermented in 120-gallon oak barrels, and double distilled in copper pot stills, as it was done 200 years ago.

The aged George Washington Rye Whiskey was made at the reconstructed distillery according to the original recipe. Aged on site in charred oak barrels for two years, Mount Vernon's latest batch of whiskey represents a break with tradition; George Washington never aged his own whiskey, sending it straight to market instead.

A valid id is required to purchase the George Washington Rye Whiskey.

Former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis stands with members of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber board of directors: Jay McConville, Kevin Lewis, Rachel Carter and Steve Hunt.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Chamber Hosts Newsmaker Business Lunch

Former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis was the guest speaker at the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber's Newsmaker Business lunch on Thursday, Dec. 6 at the Belle Haven Country Club. Davis spoke of the ongoing political debate on the looming fiscal cliff and repercussions it may have locally.

New members to the chamber — Sandy McMaster of Fischer McMaster Homes with McEneaney Real Estate, Tara Ghavam of Patient First, Jube Shiver of the Shiver Management Group and Tricia Mikos with the Mount Vernon Gazette — were introduced.



Former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis talks with Jay McConville, Rob Hartwell and Charles Sills before the luncheon on Thursday.



Kevin Lewis talks with Lee District Planning Commissioner James Migliaccio.



Jube Shiver talks Tricia Mikos and Sandy McMaster.



Fairfax County Fire Department Chaplain Grant McIntosh talks with Rachel Carter.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is the Thursday at noon.

SUNDAYS/DEC. 16 AND 23

Advent Celtic Evening Eucharist Services. 5:30 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church will be offering a 4-week series of Advent Celtic Evening Eucharist Services. Candlelight, silence, prayers and music from the Celtic tradition will set the tone for this Sunday evening worship and communion service. All are welcome. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church is located in the Fort Hunt neighborhood, 8531 Riverside Road. Call John Baker at 703-360-4221, Susan Hartzell at 703-309-9103 or visit www.staidansepiscopal.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 17

Sight and Hearing Screening. 6-8 p.m. The Mount Vernon Evening Lions Club will be having the Sight and Hearing Screening Van at Walt Whitman School's Family Fun Fitness night. Used eyeglasses and hearing aids will be collected at this site. Call Andrea Corsillo at 703-960-4973.

TUESDAY/JAN. 15

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society Meeting. 1 p.m. in room 112 of the Hollin Hall Senior Center. The meeting, featuring the presentation "Stump the Panel," is free and open to the public. At some point genealogists hit a "brick wall." All of a sudden an ancestor seems to disappear leaving no trace in census, death, land or church records. The panel, consisting of Chuck Mason,



PHOTO BY LAURA MARSHALL

In Rehearsal West Potomac High School choral director leads the school choirs and members of the community in a rehearsal for the upcoming performance of Handel's "Messiah Part 1." The performance will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. in West Potomac's Springbank auditorium.

Sharon Hodges, Phyllis Kelley, and Paul Phelps, will give suggestions on where else to look for information. Email questions to be presented to publicity@mvgenealogy.org. The Hollin Hall Senior Center is located at 1500 Shenandoah Road. Visit www.MVGenealogy.org. Questions about the program should be directed to Phyllis Kelley at 703-660-6969 or publicity@mvgenealogy.org.

will meet from 6:30-9 p.m. at Virginia Hills Administration Center at Old Virginia Hills School, 6520 Diana Lane. Refreshments will be served. E-mail colonialrepublicanwomen@gmail.com or call Debbie at 703-768-1934.

THURSDAY/FEB. 21

Meeting. Colonial Republican Women will meet from 6:30-9 p.m. at Virginia Hills Administration Center

THURSDAY/JAN. 24

Meeting. Colonial Republican Women

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 20



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NEWS



Jayla Muse exchanged bells for a triangle for the performance of "The Little Drummer Boy."



Choral Bell instructor Fran Vaughan leads her advanced students in a pre-concert rehearsal on Sunday afternoon.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Ring in the Holidays

Fran Vaughan directed the advanced handbell choir at Browne Academy in a holiday concert on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 9, at the Beatley Library in Alexandria. The students performed a variety of holiday classics to a standing

room only gathering. Students included Mustafa Beidas, Erika Walton, Hailey Chauncey, Kye Smith, Reese Gayle, BJ Ramkissoon, Danica King, Charles Nygeres, Isabella King, Jayla Muse, Madison Manning, Carson McKenzie and Cate and Ryan McGlynn.



Jayla Muse performs with her classmates a song of Hanukkah.



BJ Ramkissoon plays the drum in "The Little Drummer Boy."



Erika Walton



Hailey Chauncey waits for her line to ring.



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Alex./Woodley Hills \$459,900
4025 Laurel Road

Charm abounds in this lovely brick New England Cape Cod - 6BR, 2.5 BA, screened porch, fireplace w/free standing wood stove, freshly painted interior, and newly refinished hardwood floors. Large finished basement w/in-law suite, full bath, 2nd kitchen and walk-out to beautiful back yard backing to woods on a .53 acre lot. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Huntington Metro/Old Town. This is a great house!



Alex./Mt. Zephyr \$429,900
8533 Mount Zephyr Drive

Lovely 4BR, 3BA Brick Split on a large .43 acre lot backing to woods. Freshly painted interior, replacement double pane windows thru-out main level. Large comfortable family room w/wood stove insert to the fireplace. Great location - mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town and Huntington Metro - 25 mins to Ntl Airport, 30-35 mins to Pentagon/D.C.



Alex./Mt. Vernon Grove \$480,000
4112 Scotland Road

Lovely 4BR, 3BA Split in the heart of Mt. Vernon on a spacious .33 acre lot. Beautiful hwd flrs thru out the main lvl, frdshly painted interior. Bright & light filled rooms, large 2-car garage & beautifully landscaped yard w/inground sprinkler system. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 17 to Old Town, 28 mins to National Airport & 34 mins to Pentagon/D.C. Priced for a quick sale.



Alex./Hollin Hall \$489,000
7926 New Market Road

Absolutely lovely home w/over \$130k in recent improvements in great location! Stunning front porch and Family Room addition in 2009 by custom builder. Slate floor on front porch and back patio. Replacement windows. New 2012 & '09: large shed, cedar fence, driveway, roof, dishwasher, hot water, stove, humidifier. Beautiful backyard. It's a gem! Waynewood Elementary, close to GW Parkway, Potomac River and minutes to Old Town.



Alex./Belle View \$259,900
6612 Boulevard VW #A2

Newly remodeled PORCH unit, shows beautifully. Lovely kitchen: granite counters, ceramic tile floor. Gorgeous bathroom with beautiful tile, everything brand new. Replacement windows. New flooring throughout, freshly painted. New screen door for porch. Convenient & ample parking next to bldg. FANTASTIC location: Steps to G.W. Pkwy, Potomac River, Bike Trail, 5 mins to Old Town. Bus to Metro.



Alex./Wessynton \$624,900
8802 Four Seasons

Large, stunning, contemporary Colonial in popular Mount Vernon Community of Wessynton. This lovely home is highly updated: kitchen remodeled in '07, HVAC & hot water heater replaced '07, energy-efficient replacement windows, freshly painted interior - family room w/vaulted ceiling off kitchen - large beautiful picture windows throughout overlook a large, private, landscaped lot on a quiet cul-de-sac - In-law bedroom & bath on main level - 5 minutes to Fort Belvoir - This is a Keeper!



Alex./Yacht Haven \$589,900
4612 Tarpon Lane

Lovely, updated 4BR, 4BA Split in sought-after Waterfront Community of Yacht Haven. Stunning sun rm addition w/vaulted ceilings, sky lites, hwd flrs and wall of windows overlooking a manicured backyard. Newer HVAC, updated baths, and replacement windows. Just down the street from prestigious Mt. Vernon Yacht Club w/all its amenities. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 18 mins to Ntl Airport. This is prime property at a GREAT PRICE!

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Being Muslim in Fairfax County

Immigrants face the challenge of balancing Islamic faith and American culture.

BY AMNA REHMATULLA
THE GAZETTE

Over the years, Muslims from different countries migrated and settled in the Fairfax County area; however, the children of immigrant parents often struggle the most because they have to balance their Islamic faith along with the influence of American culture.

Sarah Khan has lived in the Springfield area for the past 42 years after coming to America from Pakistan at the age of 11. "In the 1970s, there was one mosque: the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C. Everybody just went to that one. So, as Muslims we were very united.

Nobody fought with one another. There was like 50 to 60 families that used to come to the mosque and everybody got along well," Khan said. Now there are many mosques in the area such as Dar Al-Hijrah in Falls Church, Darul Huda in Springfield and ADAMS in Sterling, to name a few.

Back when Khan was growing up in the area, nobody knew what Muslims were. "The hardest part was when I was fasting as a young girl and my P.E. teacher made me run. I told her I was fasting and she didn't realize what fasting was," Khan said. When Khan told her teacher she was Muslim, her teacher replied, "What is that?"

Khan admits that it is much easier being muslim in today's society. "Everybody knows your religion. People respect it. You're free to do what you want. You don't have to pretend to be somebody you're not. You can still be yourself and be accepted," Khan added.

SOME MUSLIM PARENTS turn towards putting their children in Islamic schools to help them retain their Islamic identity. Al-Qalam Academy, located in Springfield, is an all-girls Islamic school from grades fifth through 12th. Girls at the school are taught the core subjects of math, science, English and history in addition to learning Islamic studies, Arabic and the holy Quran.

"It is hard to balance my life socially and religiously," Samira Sather, a seventh-grader at Al-Qalam Academy said. "I attend lectures in mosques and pray five times a day. Sometimes when I leave the house and one of our prayers pass by, I feel shy to pray in public because I already attract too much attention," Sather said.

Maryem Ahmed, an eighth-grader at Al-Qalam Academy, is a third generation American who was born in Fairfax County. "I don't generally call much attention to myself as a Muslim, but some people view me with their perceptions of what a Muslim is because I wear hijab [religious head covering]. And those perceptions are many times misconceptions of who I am," Ahmed said.

"Sometimes when I meet people for the first time, they seem shocked to hear me speak to them without a foreign accent. It's like, they see me wearing hijab, and immediately think I come from overseas," Ahmed said. "Not that there's anything



Imam Mohamed Magid, executive director of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, speaks on the importance of faith in peace Feb. 3, 2011, during the ADAMS commemoration of World Interfaith Harmony Week.

wrong with coming from overseas, but it's just that they've already jumped to the conclusion that I'm not even from America, without even speaking to me," Ahmed said.

Sather looks up to her mother for wearing the hijab. "I think of my mother and wonder how she goes through it all. She looks different and speaks differently, in addition to being a Muslim. I admit it's hard to abide by all the rules Islam gives us. I strive to be like my mother because she doesn't care what anyone else judges her for; she is focused on what God will judge her on," Sather said.

Ahmed admires her father who works as an engineer at the Department of Defense. She said, "He served as the president of our neighborhood civic association and initiated several activities to make our neighborhood a better place to live," Ahmed said. She helped her father by handing out civic association newsletters and neighborhood watch schedules to inform her neighbors and help prevent neighborhood crime.

More than 11 years have passed since Sept. 11, 2001; however, Muslims continue to face prejudice. Ahmed experienced an act of injustice not too long ago. "My older sister and I were going to a local restaurant, and there was a man standing outside," Ahmed said. "As we passed him to go inside I saw him, out of the corner of my eye, spit in our direction, barely missing my shoes. I turned to look at him in surprise. Instead of apologizing, that person simply glared at me with a look of disgust on his face," Ahmed said.

Abdullah Malik, an African-American who grew up in the Northern Virginia area, was only 16 at the time of 9/11. His younger brother, 13 years old at the time, was framed by his peers at school, in a situation in which they illegally broke into his locker and placed a ticking device mimicking a bomb inside. "This caused the bomb squad to show up to our school, evacuate the entire building of 4,000 students, blow up his entire locker in front of his friends and then proceed to interrogate him for hours," Malik said.

Similarly, Khan's children were treated differently after 9/11 at school. People made fun of their names. People also made fun of their background

SEE REBUILDING. PAGE 8

FOCUS ON



The Durga Temple of Virginia, the largest Hindu structure in Northern Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C.

Dynamic and

New immigrants bring religious diversity to Fairfax County.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE GAZETTE

Part four of an ongoing series.

The sight is striking. At the intersection of Hooes Road and Silverbrook Drive, on the dividing line between Lorton and Fairfax Station, is the largest Hindu structure in three states. The Durga Temple of Virginia—with its multi-tiered, bronze-tipped towers—punctuates the traditional suburban vista of neo-colonial homes and new shopping centers.

On Ox Road, neatly tucked between acres of land and upscale neighborhoods, is a large golden dome mounted atop the sprawling gurdwara (place of worship) of the Sikh Foundation of Virginia.

A short distance away is the campus of the Ekoji Buddhist Temple, its clean architectural lines evocative of many Japanese structures.

Near Walney Road in Chantilly, the circular dome and stylized arabesque arches of the Chantilly Mosque is home to the Ahmadiyya Muslim community.

The East Asian architecture is a powerful visual reminder that Fairfax County has changed.

Julie Knott of Burke, a member of the Accotink Unitarian congregation, said she welcomes the county's increasingly diverse houses of worship. "Our church is just a mile away from the Sikh temple. We stand for many of the same values. We need to support one another."

"How welcoming we are to this diversity will say much about how we grow and thrive in the future,"

said the Rev. Scott Sammler-Michaels, senior minister of the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke.

Immigration Brings Religious Diversity

In 1970, religious groups in Fairfax County mirrored its highly homogenous demographic composition. More than 93 percent of the county was white and middle-class, and for the most part, adherents of mainline Protestant, Catholic or evangelical Christian churches.

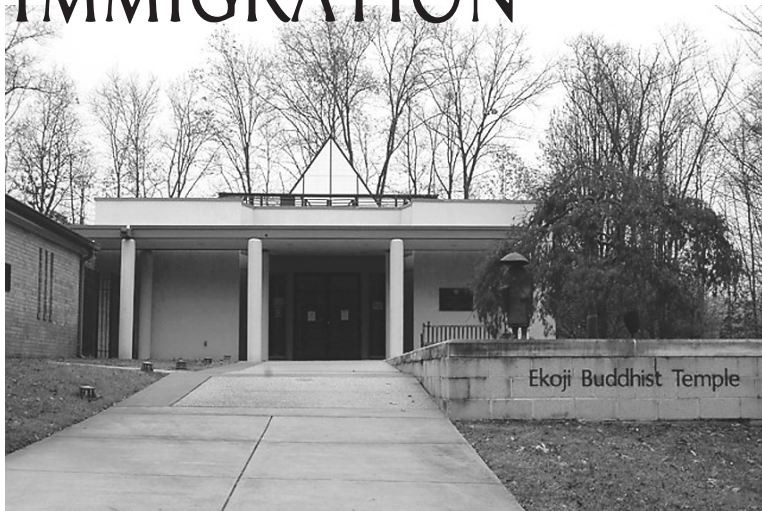
As immigrants flowed into Fairfax County from all parts of the globe in the past four decades, they brought not only cultural diversity but their diverse religious traditions.

A 2012 report on religion and international migration by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life—"Faith on the Move: The Religious Affiliation of International Migrants"—finds that the United States has been the world's number one destination for Christian immigrants. Of the 43 million foreign-born people living in the U.S. as of 2010, an estimated 32 million (74 percent) are Christian.

"Faith on the Move" draws on a new database created by the Pew Forum that combines hundreds of census, surveys and other sources to shed light on the origins, destinations and religious affiliations of international migrants, according to Jamila Woodson at the Pew Forum.

Other findings show that:

IMMIGRATION



PHOTOS BY MARGARET JOHNSTON/THE GAZETTE

The Ekoji Buddhist Temple in Fairfax Station.

Diverse

❖ Although Protestants currently outnumber Catholics in the United States, new immigrants, especially those from Central and South America, are overwhelmingly Catholic, suggesting that America is close to becoming a minority Protestant country.

❖ Fairfax County mirrors this national data. The Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA), a free source of online religious information housed at Pennsylvania State University, tracks such trends. According to the ARDA, in 2010 Fairfax County's Catholic population numbered 184,183 while mainline, evangelical and black protestant adherents numbered 205,556.

❖ Immigration is leading to an increase in the number of Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims in the United States, according to the Pew report.

❖ In Fairfax County, the ARDA reports about 11,000 adherents to Buddhism in 2010, the first decade in 30 years the ARDA captured that data. In 2010, the ARDA reports about 6,500 adherents to Hinduism in throughout the county.

❖ According to a 2001 study by the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Education Fund, surveys of numerous Fairfax County school population records indicate that about 400,000 Muslims live in the greater Washington metropolitan area, which extends from Richmond to Baltimore.

❖ About 150,000 Muslims live in Fairfax, according to the study. Roughly half are native born and half are immigrants or refugees.

❖ According to the league's report, there are several enclaves of Muslims in Fairfax, wealthy Iranians settled in Great Falls and middle-class Iranians, Pakistani, Afghani and Indians congregated in Springfield and Reston-



Statues of Radha Krishna—the supreme Hindu goddess—at the Durga Temple of Virginia in Fairfax Station.

Herndon. Recent refugees live mostly in the Baileys Crossroads area.

In addition to Muslims, Buddhists and other non-Christian religions, evangelical Christian churches are flourishing in Fairfax County's suburbs and appeal to many Korean, Chinese and Latino immigrants.

In Chantilly and Centreville, the vast majority of Korean and Chinese immigrants identify as Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Independent denominations.

Chantilly Bible Church, started in 1978 by Pastor Steve Austin, is "purposefully a diverse body of believers" that actively reaches out to immigrants in the community.

"In addition to English, the world's most spoken languages of Mandarin, Hindi and Spanish are integral parts of our ministry. The doors of Chantilly Bible Church are open to our changing society. We believe that racial and cultural harmony reveals the reality of new life and unity in Christ," Austin said.



Anna Song, a music student at George Mason University in Fairfax, plays the violin during Chantilly Bible Church's Sunday services.



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE GAZETTE

Pastor Lew Whittle and Pastor Isaac Huang of the Chantilly Bible Church, who lead Hispanic and Chinese outreach ministries.

Bienvenido! Huan yíng! Welcome!

Chantilly Bible Church thrives on diversity by providing outreach to immigrants.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE GAZETTE

Pastor Isaac Huang vividly remembers the day he landed in the United States from Taiwan. It was Jan. 7, 1982, and Huang, 25, was looking forward to studying computer science at Old Dominion University. But when he arrived at Norfolk airport, he got a shock.

"We landed during a huge snowstorm, and I had never seen snow before. Snow? What is snow?" Huang said, smiling at the memory. "Remember that Taiwan has a tropical climate, so I was not dressed at all for this cold weather."

Huang, who left his high-tech job for the seminary in 2000, is now an elder at Chantilly Bible Church, an evangelical Christian church that actively reaches out to Chinese, Latino and Indian immigrants.

BORN IN TAIWAN in the 1950s, during a time of brutal religious and political oppression, Huang said he desperately wanted to live in America. In 1949, the Nationalist government had imposed martial law. During nearly 40 years of what is known as "the White Terror," more than 140,000 Taiwanese were imprisoned and thousands executed for being perceived as anti-Kuomintang or pro-Communist.

"I wanted to live in America; everybody did. I thought it would give me a good future, which I could not have in Taiwan," Huang said. "I always admired the freedoms here and I appreciated the functioning of the American political system."

Huang said he grew up in a Christian family that took a "legalistic approach" to understanding the Bible, with many "shall nots."

"My childhood was filled with physical illnesses and emotional struggles. Even though I attended church every Sunday with my parents, I rarely pondered the meaning of salvation and I did not feel much of God's love," he said.

In his junior year of college at Old Dominion

University, that changed when he attended a campus evangelical fellowship meeting.

"During that meeting, I was deeply touched by the message and came to realize, for the first time, that I was a sinner, but Christ died for me and forgave my sin. As I put my trust in Jesus, my life was forever changed by God," Huang said.

"He and his wife Ramona demonstrate great compassion for Chinese people who need to know Christ," said Lewis Whittle, pastor to Hispanics and the church's English as a Second Language director. Whittle said that after 20 years of development, the Chantilly Bible Church's Chinese ministry now impacts every area of the church program and is the dominant minority in the 34-year-old church.

Since the 1990s, Huang said more than 150 Chinese have been baptized at Chantilly Bible Church. Some have returned to China, Taiwan or their other countries of origin, but many remain at the church.

The church leadership also wanted to have an outreach to the growing Latino community, which was finally launched in 2004 when the Whittles joined the church after serving Hispanics in Los Angeles. As a member of the pastoral staff, Whittle, along with his wife Dianne, has actively engaged the Latino community.

"Our experience in addressing immigrant needs and our progress in welcoming them at the church proves the benefit of diversity," said Whittle, who has lived in California, Central America and Spain.

In June 2007, Chantilly Bible Church began conversational English classes with volunteer teachers who speak Mandarin and Spanish. Their most recent term, Whittle said, included 128 students from 26 countries. A citizenship class is also part of the program.

Steve Austin, the senior pastor and founder of Chantilly Bible Church, said that the latest cross-cultural ministry to become part of the church fo-

SEE CHURCH, PAGE 8

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

A child and her parents during prayer services at the Sikh Foundation of Virginia in Fairfax Station on Thursday, Nov. 14. The Dias where Guru Granth Sahib (the Holy Book) is adorned is called Darbar Sahib (Holy Court).

PHOTO BY
ROBBIE HAMMER/
THE GAZETTE



Sikhs Bring Foundation of ‘Service to Others’

Fairfax Station temple active in community outreach.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE GAZETTE

On a recent Thursday evening, Ajaib Singh, 78, one of the founding members of the Sikh Foundation of Virginia, politely escorts a visitor to the area where one removes shoes and dons a headscarf.

In the background, the melodic vibrations of a harmonium blend with the sounds of men, women and children chatting as they sit together on mats on the floor. They are chopping large bowls of onions and other vegetables for a communal meal after an outreach service.

“You see, no one is more elevated than any other,” said Singh, noting that everyone sits on the floor during communal meals and during worship service.

Singh said that equality and service to others are key tenets of Sikhism, a monotheistic faith. “I like to say we’re a grassroots movement,” Singh said, smiling.

Ajaib Singh came to the United States as a graduate student to University of California, at Davis, in August of 1958. After completing his Ph.D. studies in chemistry in 1961, he came to the east coast as a research fellow at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

He and Majit Kaur consider themselves proud members of the SFV congregation and proud American citizens. Ajaib said he wants to share the SFV mission with others, to promote respect and understanding of Sikh values.

ON SATURDAY, NOV. 17, the Sikh Foundation hosted people from different faiths to share their thoughts on selfless service, what it means in their faith and how they personally pursue it in their lives. The panel included protestant missionaries and a Coptic Christian immigrant from Ethiopia. During the event, the Sikh community also collected dozens of boxes of winter clothes to send to those still suffering from the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

“This event will be marked as the beginning of a new era of interfaith efforts followed by many similar projects where the youth of different faiths will work collectively and help the needy,” said Surinder Singh, an active member of the foundation.

Although Sikhs do not have a particular day of worship, the Fairfax Station temple holds services on Thursdays and Sundays. A formal gurdwara service includes the singing of hymns and recitations from the Guru Granth Sahib, Sikhism’s Holy Scriptures.

The temple is a welcoming home to many immigrants from India as well as those born in the United States, Singh said.

The Fairfax Station gurdwara, like many around the world, includes classrooms, a Langer Hall for community meals, a sanctuary and a community center, which Singh said is a sign of the religion’s values of service and equality.

“Sikhism was founded in an area and in a time in which inequality was rampant,” said Navdeep Singh, assistant executive director at the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund and a member of the Fairfax Station Temple his entire life. “If you were a woman, you were less than a man. If you were poor you were less than a rich person. Based on what caste you were, that defined your entire life. Sikhism was a rejection of those ideas.”

SINCE THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS by Islamic extremists, Sikhs sometimes have been mistaken for Muslims, because of their beards and turbans, and have been the target of hate crimes and discrimination. Many American Sikh women dress like other Westerners or wear the salwar kameez, a colorful north Indian garment of a long shirt and loose-fitting pants.

Gurpreet Singh, a member of the Fairfax Station Temple, said most men wearing turbans are Sikhs, not Muslims.

“I remember the bumper stickers that appeared on cars after 9/11. ‘I am Sikh. I am American.’ But it shouldn’t matter whether it’s a mosque or a temple. Hate is hate, and it’s wrong.”

Navdeep Singh said the Sikh community in Fairfax Station was profoundly touched by the outpouring of support from neighboring churches in the wake of the deadly attack on the Wisconsin Sikh Temple on Aug. 5, when a gunman shot and killed six followers. During a candlelight vigil held at the temple, more than 300 people of all faiths gathered for an evening of unity, resilience and hope.

Politicians and police officers, Muslims and Jews, children and seniors stood side by side on the grounds of the temple, holding up candles, murmuring prayers of peace and listening quietly as community leaders promised solidarity with the Sikh community and reflected on the violence in Wisconsin.

“One might say our community should retreat and live in fear,” Singh said, “but Sikhs will keep the doors of the gurdwaras open.”

For more information on Sikhism, contact Dr. Ajaib Singh of the Sikh Foundation of Virginia at 540-720-5755 or visit www.sfova.org.

Church Attracts Chinese Immigrants

FROM PAGE 7

cuses on the burgeoning Asian Indian population in Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

“Since the arrival and membership of several Indian families in 2007, key leaders like Manoj Mathai and Sujay Phillips have made Chantilly Bible Church the base for a creative outreach to this community. It even touches India through frequent visits that include evangelism and Bible distribution,” Austin said.

Whittle said all three of the ministries are an integral part of Chantilly Bible Church, and none plan to become separate churches.

“Chinese, Hispanics and Indians serve alongside North Americans at every level of the church. The children and youth programs are fully integrated. There are immense benefits for these second and third generations. Bicultural couples are comfortable at Chantilly Bible Church, and, as you would expect, mixed marriages are on the rise,” Whittle said.

IN FACT, THE CHURCH ATTRACTS so many immigrants that they offer headsets during worship

services so those who speak limited English can listen to sermons interpreted in Mandarin or Spanish. And the songs are projected in English with Mandarin translations.

“Being bicultural and bilingual gives you a special joy in life,” Whittle said.

Huang said the language outreach is especially critical for older Chinese immigrants.

“As first generation immigrants, we hold on to our Chinese identity. Chinese is still the mother language,” he said.

Huang also said there’s a more profound reason for interpreting sermons into Mandarin.

“The older Chinese, like me,” he said, smiling, “they need to hear the scripture in Mandarin, so it can enter their heart.”

Huang said his greatest joy is baptizing fellow Chinese immigrants. “For Chinese immigrants, wherever they come from, church becomes an attraction. They are longing for something they can’t have in their homeland. It’s a very special moment. This is something people are afraid to do in Hong Kong or Taiwan. . . . I can’t express how happy I feel during a baptism,” he said.

Rebuilding the Trust

FROM PAGE 6

even though they had never even been to Pakistan. Some children said, “Oh, you are hiding in the mountains!”

Khan raised her children with the intent that America is their home.

“We are Americans, we are Pakistani-Americans, but that’s where the challenge came after 9/11. The kids asked, ‘Are we American or are we Pakistani? What are we?’ So that was a big thing, a big challenge that came,” Khan said.

KHAN’S NEIGHBOR, who she had been living next door to for the past 20 years, stopped speaking to her the day after 9/11. Prior to that, the two friends would exchange Christmas and Mother’s Day presents. “We basically watched each other’s kids,” Khan said. However, it took a long time before Khan’s neighbor came around and started speaking to her again.

Another thing that came out of 9/11 was that both Muslims and non-Muslims were hurt. “That trust was gone and it takes time

to rebuild that trust. But one good thing that came out of 9/11 was that the younger generation of Muslims started getting very involved politically and socially,” Khan said.

Five months after 9/11, Malik started an interfaith dialogue program with a local synagogue and church. “I worked on educating people about our religion and the peace it teaches,” Malik said.

Sather has noticed that over the years, people have treated Muslims a little better. “When I attempt to wear the head scarf, people treat me with more respect than when I don’t wear it,” she said. “Also, as I get older, I realize there is absolutely nothing to be ashamed of.”

Khan hopes that her future generations take the good from her background as well as their American background and blend the two. “Some of the good things of American culture are honesty, respect, and tolerance for others. Some of the good things of my culture are religion, family values and traditions. The biggest challenge is to make sure that the generations to come have both,” Khan said.

BUSINESS



The Mount Vernon Athletic Club wins Club of the Year 2012 during USTA/Virginia Tennis Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon.

Mount Vernon Athletic Club Awarded

The Mount Vernon Athletic Club was honored at USTA/Virginia Tennis 2012 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on Oct. 20 at The Country Club of Virginia in Richmond.

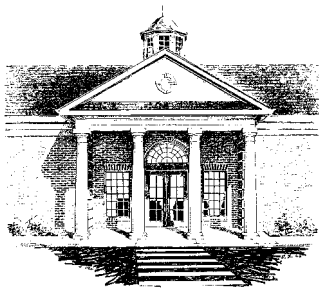
The local club took home the award for Club of the Year, 2012 while two staff members, Paul Fischer and Maggie Britvec, won individual awards for High School Coach of the Year and Community Outreach, respectively.

Members of Mount Vernon Athletic Club to win awards were Alice Hume, who won Adult League Coordinator of the Year and The Clare Family, who were awarded

Community Tennis Family of the Year.

The Annual Meeting showcased highlights from many of Virginia Tennis' 2012 events, including USTA/Adopt-a-Unit. USTA/VA has supported the Adopt-a-Unit campaign by collecting donations for the troops at events throughout the state since 2011. "Tennis for our Troops" was the main theme of the meeting, which also included a clinic for military and their families with tennis professional, Stan Smith, once the top-ranked tennis player in the world and a champion at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

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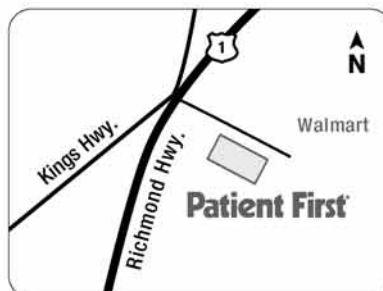
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OPINION

Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas

Many religions enrich Northern Virginia; immigration will lead to the most growth in Catholicism.

We are a nation of immigrants, to invoke the title of John F. Kennedy's posthumously published book; undeniably a nation descended from immigrants and a nation greatly augmented by immigration.

From this perspective, with the first immigrants motivated by the search for religious freedom, even Christmas is a religious holiday of immigrants.

As this week's main story on immigrants and religion in Northern Virginia explains, the largest number of current immigrants are from Latin America, and they bring with them a

powerful commitment to Christmas through their Catholic faith. In 2010, Fairfax County's Catholic population numbered 184,183, while Protestant adherents numbered 205,556.

Christmas, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ on Dec. 25, is one of the two most important Christian religious holidays, along with Easter.

Christmas is also a widely celebrated secular holiday and economic stimulus.

The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah is not one of the most important Jewish religious observances, but it is a celebration that gets added attention from timing. Hanukkah celebrates a great Jewish military victory and the miracle of a one day supply of oil for the temple lasting eight days. Happy Hanukkah to all who are enjoying this holiday, which lasts for eight days and this year began last Saturday evening.

Sikhs celebrated the birthday of their first guru at the end of November. The founder of the Sikh religion, Guru Nanak (1469-1539) preached that there is only One Universal Creator. Guru Nanak brought a message of love

and equality to his disciples, the Sikhs, (the word Sikh means a disciple or seeker of truth) and urged three things: always remember the creator God (Akaal Purkh), always live a honest life and earn a just living and always share your blessings with less fortunate ones (<http://www.sfova.org/sikhism>).

Buddhists celebrated the day of Buddha's enlightenment on Bodhi Day, Dec. 8 this year (<http://www.ekoji.org>).

Diwali, the major Hindu celebration, commemorated with lights welcoming a hero home, was in November this year. Hindu temples in Fairfax include the Durga Temple (<http://www.durgatemple.org>).

This of course is not an exhaustive list of other religions or of religious holidays in November and December. We welcome letters and comments. Share your religious and holiday traditions. You can submit a letter online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter.

You can read the stories in our immigration series at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration.

EDITORIAL

Immigrants and Today's Faith Response

BY JOHN HOREJSI, COORDINATOR
SOCIAL ACTION LINKING TOGETHER (SALT)

The presence of increasing numbers of immigrants is a challenge to the Fairfax County faith community commitments. The challenge is to be a faith community with open arms.

Historically the churches in the United States have been immigrant churches. Who among us cannot trace one's ancestors back to a country outside the U.S.? The church's care and concern for countless European immigrants is well known. Today, we the faith community are called to welcome immigrants with similar hospitality.

The situation of immigrants is often desperate. Entering a culturally strange and different land, and struggling financially is as scary today as it ever was in the past. Perhaps it is even more so because of the quickened pace of American life.

Those who are fortunate to connect with helpers are settled within a few years. Others remain in transition the rest of their lives as families struggle with complex adjustments. All face major problems in housing, employment, health care, legal assistance, and a difficult new



language.

Immigrants frequently face the additional obstacle of cruel prejudice and racism. Non-immigrants often want to exclude them from the benefits of a free country, yet are eager to use cheap and reliable labor of immigrants.

The immigrants and other refugees keep coming, not necessarily because they want to, but as one, fleeing from war and persecution, put it, because of "the persistent advantage of life over death."

Presently, many Hispanics from Central America are located in Northern Virginia. About 65 percent are Salvadoran, 15 percent Honduran, and ten percent each are Guatemalan and Nicaraguan. The faith community in Northern Virginia has not been unaware of the presence and plight of these immigrant refugees.

Nationally, for more than 65 years, Catholic Charities agencies have responded to the needs of people who come to this country in search of a better life. Thousands of refugees have been settled. Over 90 percent of Catholic resettlement services are provided through Catholic Charities, which is one of the keys to the future of migration ministry in the U.S.

In Northern Virginia, one of the responses

of the faith community has been through Hogar Immigrant Services, a program of Catholic Charities. Hogar assists immigrants in participating more fully in their everyday lives. Information referrals, legal information services, and educational opportunities are just some of the aids. The aim is to help the Northern Virginia immigrant population become knowledgeable, participating individuals in society.

Yet much remains to be done, especially in and by the faith community. What are the elements of this challenge?

- ❖ Recognizing the contributions of the immigrants to the community;

- ❖ Providing a greater voice to the immigrant community in decision-making within the community;

- ❖ Supporting programs designed to improve the quality of life for newcomers;

- ❖ Serving as advocates to create a favorable public opinion out of which good things can happen; and

- ❖ Seeking to raise consciousness for solidarity with the poor and the stranger.

Our response must be to acknowledge by word and action that the spirituality of the faith community and the spirituality of the immigrant communities are interdependent. Through love, kindness, service and advocacy for each other both stand to gain.



Snapshot More and more dog owners make use of the off-leash dog area at Westgrove Park.

PHOTO BY JAY SPIEGEL

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A Connection Newspaper

NEWS

Occasionally Cake owner Sabrina Campbell is joined by firefighters Megan Rowan, Dale Barr, Phil Perry, Willie Bailey and Tim Curley Nov. 27 to kick off the 2012 Firefighters and Friends Holiday Toy Drive. The store will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for distribution by firefighters to local nonprofits and schools serving children in need.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Sweet Charity

Occasionally Cake partners with Firefighters and Friends Toy Drive.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

When Sabrina Campbell volunteered to help put together a tribute to local police and firefighters, she had no idea the event would lead to a chance meeting with Capt. Willie Bailey, founder of the Firefighters and Friends Holiday Toy Drive.

"Capt. Bailey told me about the needs in the community so I asked how I could help," said Campbell, owner of Occasionally Cakes, a specialty bakery and cupcake shop with locations in Mount Vernon and Old Town. "As a local business, we want to make a difference and help organizations close to us so we decided to support our local firefighters and their holiday toy drive."

SEE TOY DRIVE, PAGE 12

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NEWS

Working Together On Toy Drive

FROM PAGE 11

Both Occasionally Cake locations will be collecting toys and cash donations for Firefighters and Friends through Dec. 14.

"For each toy that someone donates, we'll give them a free gingerbread man cookie," Campbell said. "We want to collect a lot of toys. We want to make sure Capt. Bailey gets to his goal."

The Firefighters and Friends toy drive was founded in 1995 by Bailey as a way to help 50 struggling families in the Gum Springs community along the Route 1 corridor. This year, the annual drive hopes to serve more than 4,000 children in need throughout Northern Virginia through schools and organizations such as Community Lodgings and Carpenter's Shelter.

"When we're not running 911 calls, we're

trying to find ways to make a difference in the community," Bailey said. "We are hoping folks will help out by donating new, unwrapped toys for elementary, middle and high school kids or cash to allow us to buy gift cards for the older students."

For Campbell, the partnership between Occasionally Cakes and Firefighters and Friends is a good fit.

"As a mother, anything to do with children is important to me," said Campbell,

who plans to take her 7-year-old daughter Jasmine to the toy distribution set for Dec. 18. "I want my daughter to see what Capt. Bailey is doing for children like her in

the community. She needs to be grateful for what she has and see that while cupcakes are fun, giving back can change lives."

Visit www.ffandfriends2therescue.org or call Bailey at 703-909-0523.

"We want to collect a lot of toys. We want to make sure Capt. Bailey gets to his goal."

— Occasionally Cake owner
Sabrina Campbell

A Huge Thank You to My Clients and Friends We Are Making a Difference!

Over ten years ago, "The Girls" and I gave a small holiday party at Pop's Ice Cream Parlor. Many of you joined us in collecting toys for children with cancer at the National Children's Medical Center. I was thrilled to fill my car with toys and bring them to the hospital. Now years later, our party fills a bus with toys to last a year for the children in the unit, as well as two of the Center's affiliated clinics. Through your generosity, we have become the largest donation of toys, each year, to the cancer unit with support from a major toy company, a jewelry manufacturer, Coldwell Banker CB CARES Foundation and many local merchants.

Our gifts really make a difference to the children! After a difficult procedure or when they are particularly sad, their world can become a fantasy. Imagine going to a huge closet filled with toys and you can have anyone one you want! Through our giving, we have brought a smile to the face of many children growing up too fast and facing far too much for their young years. For those of you who couldn't join us this year, we missed you and look forward to seeing you next year. But please remember, the bus doesn't leave until January, so there is still time to drop toys at my office.

In closing, I thank you for your sensitivity to this cause, particularly knowing it is so close to my heart. You are the reason I love my work. Your kindness, your loyalty and the confidence you show with referrals, will always mean more to me than the business.

"The Girls" and I wish you the healthiest and happiest of New Year's.



*Linda Trinkle Wolf,
Sabrina and Samantha*

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Decking the Halls Local designers share holiday decorating suggestions

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Looking for inspiration for decking the halls this season? Three local home design experts offer doable tips for capturing the magic of the holidays.

Courtney Thomas, of The Picket Fence in Burke, believes that the secret to a beautiful Christmas tree is layering: "If using a garland, put that on first," she said. "You can get creative with [garland]. Besides the traditional ribbon, we've used newspaper chains, twig garlands, felt shapes strung together and burlap. Nestle large ornaments deeper in the tree to fill in any holes.

Then use smaller decorations on the outer branches."

Consider forgoing store-bought ornaments. "Take old holiday cards and repurpose them as thoughtful ornaments," said designer Allie Mann of Arlington. "Change the tree topper this year. It doesn't have to be a traditional star or angel. Go for something different like a monogrammed letter for your family."

Incorporate tradition into holiday decorations. "Use ornaments handmade by your children through the years, the nativity set that has been in the family for generations or a new treasure that's on its way to becoming a family heirloom. [These] are just as beautiful as anything in the decor magazines and will definitely be more meaningful to your family," said Thomas. "It's always fun to unwrap those special pieces year after year."

When it comes to holiday décor, Angela Phelps, owner of Le Village Marché in Arlington says that mer-

cury glass is popular this year. "The good thing about mercury glass is that you can use it at other times of the year too, especially for New Years," she said.

Thomas adds, "Mercury glass also blends well with many decorating styles. Whether your decor is traditional or contemporary, a few mercury glass pieces will add some shine."

Greenery can be used during the holiday season and beyond. "A lot of boxwood topiaries and wreaths can be used throughout the year," said Phelps. "You can prolong the life by just changing out the ribbon and using them in the spring."

For those on a budget, Phelps suggests "going out and find[ing] greenery in your own yard or the woods. You can do a lot with red ribbon."

Combine old and new. "Place a tabletop tree in a vintage urn," said Thomas. "Fill a wooden tool caddy with some greenery and vintage ornaments to make a unique centerpiece."

Think beyond red and green.



When trimming a tree Courtney Thomas, of The Picket Fence in Burke, suggests nestling "large ornaments deeper in the tree to fill in any holes. Then use smaller decorations on the outer branches."

"There is no rule that says you can't use other colors in your holiday decorating," said Thomas. "You'll also get a richer look by adding various shades of colors. If you like red and green, mixing in

some burgundy or lime green will add another dimension to your decor. But don't mix too many different colors. It will look more cohesive if you stick to a couple dominant colors in varying tones."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE

Designers tout the versatility of mercury glass holiday decorations: "Whether your decor is traditional or contemporary, a few mercury glass pieces will add some shine," said Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke.



Designers say those on a budget can create holiday decorations with greenery.

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Contractors Call Holidays Ideal Time to Ponder Remodeling Projects

Local contractors say that the holidays offer an opportunity to consider home renovations.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

While the holidays can bring glad tidings and cheer, they can also spark an interest in remodeling, say some local contractors.

"During the holidays, people spend more time at home and notice more things like outdated bathrooms or kitchens," said Glen Miracle, president of NVS Remodeling and Design in Falls Church and Manassas.

Bob Murphy, president of Homes by Murphy in Fairfax Station, said, "I find that this time of year people think about remodeling projects and then postpone them until af-

ter the holidays."

Contractors say hosting holiday gatherings give homeowners a chance to reassess their living space. "We do have people who...realize that they will have crowds of people and family coming over and realize they need or want more space," said Murphy.

Evelyn Nicely, president of Nicely Done Kitchens in Springfield, said, "Large kitchen remodels are often inspired by small kitchen shortfalls: the turkey won't fit in your built-in oven or you have far too many leftovers for your too-small refrigerator," she said. "Or

maybe when you visited friends, you realized how outdated your space is, how much untapped potential is really in your home."

"We get more calls in January than in any other month because during the holidays people finally slow down, spend more time at home and realize all of the projects that they need to do."

— Glen Miracle,
president of NVS Remodeling and Design



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS

Local contractors say the holidays often generate ideas for home remodeling projects. "Large kitchen remodels are often inspired by small kitchen shortfalls," said Evelyn Nicely of Nicely Done Kitchens.

HOMEOWNERS OFTEN ASSESS their home improvement needs during the holidays and embark on them in the New Year. "We get more calls in January than in any other month because during the holidays people finally slow down, spend more time at home and realize all of the projects that they need to do," said Miracle. "Many of those projects will get started in the spring."

A survey by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry shows that spring

is a time of the year when homeowners embark on new projects. The association reports that last spring, seven out of 10 homeowners planned spring home improvement projects. "Right now people are interested in pursuing remodeling projects in part because the election is over," said Niki Golden, NARI spokesperson. "People do start thinking about remodeling projects, but I don't know that at a national level, it is tied to the holidays."

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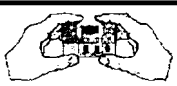
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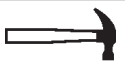
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News

Texting While Driving Bill

FROM PAGE 1

portant legislation.”

The Rowley family has mixed emotions about taking part in the legislative process. Carl Rowley, the teenager's father, says nothing is ever going to bring back his son. So he has an ambivalent attitude about seeking legislation in the upcoming session.

“He was a real good kid,” said the elder Rowley. “We really miss him, but what are you going to do? That's one of the reasons I'm not so gung-ho about this whole process because there's nothing we can really do for him anymore. But it's important that something is done.”

THE LEGISLATION, House Bill 1360, provides that driving while simultaneously using a handheld communications device for something other than verbal communications can be punishable as a reckless driving Class 1 misdemeanor. That means the penalty can be up to \$2,500 and a year in jail. For the Rowley family, the pain of their loss is still fresh. That means the upcoming session could be an emotionally difficult battle — even if it's one that might create a legacy for Kyle Rowley.

“As Carl said, we can't bring Kyle back,” said Meryl Rowley, the teenager's mother. “But we can send a harsher message that texting while driving is becoming a national problem.”

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

at Old Virginia Hills School, 6520 Diana Lane. Refreshments will be served. E-mail colonialrepublicanwomen@gmail.com or call Debbie at 703-768-1934.

ONGOING

UCM's Back Porch Thrift Store is in need of donations of furniture. UCM will pick up furniture, as well as other larger donations, or they can be dropped off at the back of the store Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. To arrange for pick-ups, call 703-768-7106, ext. 320. Located at the Mt. Vernon Crossroads Shopping Center at 7838 Richmond Hwy.

Volunteers Needed. AARP Tax-Aide, a national volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service for low to moderate income and elderly citizens, needs volunteers to electronically complete and file federal and state income tax forms for the 2013 tax season. The program offers free five-day training using IRS computers and software. Volunteers become IRS Certified Tax Counselors after completing and passing the IRS examination. Training sessions will be held in Annandale, Centerville and Alexandria in Dec. 2012 and Jan. 2013. Visit www.aarp.org/taxaide.

Training Courses. The American Red Cross in the National Capital Region will host training courses in CPR, First Aid, and AED in the Alexandria and Fort Belvoir offices. These classes offer a two-year certification. Classes range from \$70-\$110 and are available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays. Advance registration is required. To register for a class or find another class in your area, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcross.org/takeaclass.

Dance for Parkinson's Disease. Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Rd. Those with Parkinson's and caregivers are welcome. No dance experience necessary.

West Potomac Boys' Basketball Rallies to Beat TC

Wolverines overcome 10-point deficit in the fourth-quarter against the Titans.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

The West Potomac boys' basketball team was less than six minutes from dropping its Patriot District opener to the T.C. Williams Titans on Dec. 11 and falling to 1-3.

The Wolverines trailed, 45-35, and had scored just six points in nearly seven minutes. The Titans were on a 7-2 run and appeared in control.

"We knew we could win it the whole time," West Potomac sophomore Kwame Camon said after the game. "We just went hard."

Whether driven by an unwavering confidence or kept afloat by youthful naivety, the Wolverines didn't give up. The result was West Potomac overcoming a double-digit deficit to win a rivalry matchup.

The Wolverines rallied for a 54-51 victory on Tuesday night at West Potomac High School. Point guard Brandon Pressley made a pair of free throws to extend West Potomac's lead to three with 18.7 seconds remaining. At the other end, T.C. Williams missed a 3-point shot and a putback attempt in the closing seconds as the Titans fell to 1-2.

"We feel like we can beat anybody," Camon said, "or hang with anybody in the league."

After an offensive cold stretch, West Potomac caught fire in the fourth quarter, scoring 10 straight points in 74 seconds. Down by 10, Pressley drove to the basket, scored and was fouled with 5:28 remaining. The senior buried his ensuing free-throw attempt to pull the Wolverines within seven at 45-38. Moments later, Demornay Pierson-El came up with a steal and drove the rim for a layup, cutting the deficit to

five. Camon scored and was fouled with 4:20 remaining. He made the free throw to pull West Potomac within two. Seconds later, Camon came up with a steal and laid the ball in the basket to tie the score at 45-45.

Back-to-back buckets by TC gave the Titans a 49-45 advantage, but West Potomac again tied the score, thanks to a putback by senior guard Caleb Williams and a pull-up jumper by Pressley. A Pierson-El free throw gave the Wolverines a 50-49 advantage and Camon made a pair of free throws to extend the lead to three.

T.C. Williams junior Jeremiah Clarke scored and was fouled with 30.7 seconds remaining, but came up empty on his free-throw attempt, leaving the Titans trailing 52-51. TC would not score again.

"They got tougher and we didn't," TC head coach Julian King said. "They were down 10, they're at home, they have nothing to lose and they just put it all on the floor and we didn't match their toughness and their intensity."

Camon, playing in just his fourth varsity contest, scored a game-high 21 points and grabbed nine rebounds. The left-handed shooting guard scored 12 of West Potomac's 25 first-half points.

"We went to him," West Potomac head coach David Houston III said. "... I could see early on he had the hot hand."

After Camon drove the basket and tied the score at 29-29 with 4:32 remaining in the third quarter, West Potomac fans chanted "He's-a-sophomore!"

Camon said his offensive mentality is "just go as hard as I can and attack my opponent. I know if I'm coming at him full speed, I'm pretty much un-guardable."

Pierson-El scored nine points off the bench in his second game back from injury. Pressley and Javon Trice each scored eight points for the Wolverines.

Trice, a 6-foot-2 post, grabbed 11 rebounds. "That was what we asked him to



West Potomac sophomore Kwame Camon scored 21 points and grabbed nine rebounds against T.C. Williams on Dec. 11.



West Potomac senior Javon Trice (55) scored eight points and grabbed 11 rebounds.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

do: just keep hitting the boards, keep hitting the boards, run these [TC] big guys," Houston III said. "... I'm really pleased with what he did."

Williams scored four points and grabbed nine rebounds for West Potomac.

TC committed 18 turnovers. With the graduation of point guard Daquan Kerman, a three-year varsity starter, King is still searching for a primary ball-handler.

"Going into the season, we knew that we'd have to have some people handle the ball by committee," King said. "Right now, as we go through the season — unfortunately this is a district game — we're trying to figure out who is going to be our point guard."

Senior guard Javon Wilson and Clarke each scored eight points for TC. Mert Ozkaynak and Malik Carney each scored seven points and Landon Moss added six.

West Potomac improved to 2-2, including a 97-92 double-overtime victory at Herndon on Nov. 30. The Wolverines lost

to Mount Vernon, 63-59, on Nov. 27 and Chantilly, 60-41, on Dec. 7.

"We're a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde team right now," Houston III said. "We had a great win against Herndon, we lost to Mount Vernon [in a] crazy [fashion] and then we lost to Chantilly. We're just trying to find ourselves right now, trying to figure out, which [we are]: Jekyll or Hyde."

The Wolverines will host Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14.

"It brings us a lot of confidence," Trice said of the win against TC, "and it definitely shows us what level we can play at."

TC opened the season with a 92-89 triple-overtime victory at Edison on Dec. 7 and lost to Good Counsel, 66-43, the following night. The Titans will host Wakefield at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15.

"If it's a district game, this may sound a little arrogant, but we have a bull's-eye on our back," King said of his two-time defending district champion Titans. "Our guys have to understand that you have to bring it a little bit more each time."

MV Wrestling Places Sixth at Classic

The Mount Vernon wrestling team had six grapplers finish in the top eight of their respective weight classes and the Majors placed sixth out of 32 teams at the 2012 FinalAutoPrice.Com NOVA Classic Dec. 7 and 8 at Fairfax High School.

Mount Vernon totaled 135 points. Battlefield won the event with 194.5. Centreville and Fauquier tied for second with 180, followed by Paul VI (154.5) and Lake Braddock (151.5).

Mount Vernon's Bill Adusei placed second in the 126-pound bracket and Nate Haro finished runner-up in the 220-

pound division. Chris Johnson took fifth in the 126-pound bracket, beating Madison's Kolton Starr via 14-2 major decision. Eriq Dahlum placed fifth in the 132-pound division, inning Herndon's Jared Nielsen. Tyler Antal finished sixth in the 113-pound bracket. Tasi Mathias took sixth in the 195-pound division.

Mount Vernon's Bill Adusei placed second in the 126-pound division at the 2012 FinalAutoPrice.Com NOVA Classic on Dec. 8 at Fairfax High School.

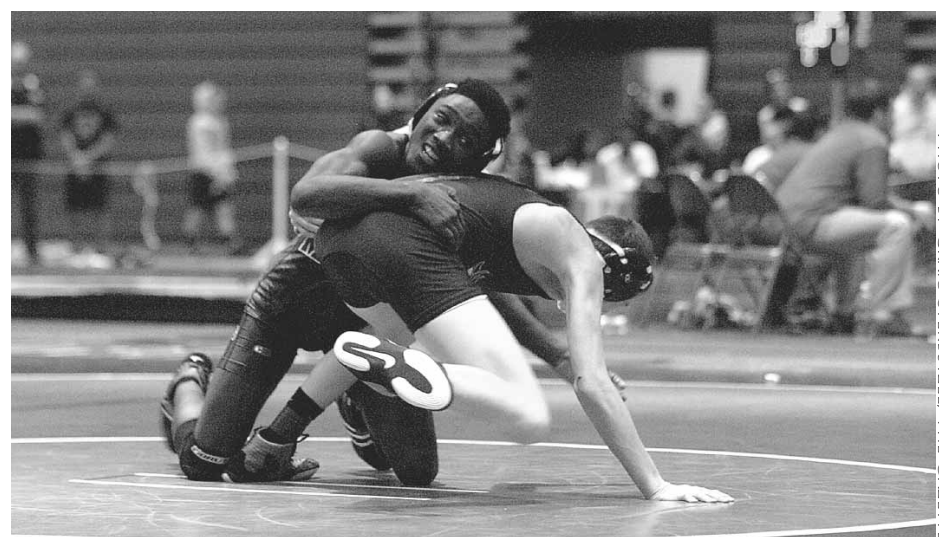


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

PEOPLE



New Officers

The Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club installed new officers for 2012-2013 on Oct. 17 at the Mt. Vernon Country Club, while celebrating its 59th in the community. From left are Greg Engelking (treasurer), John Crawford (Kiwanis Division 20 lieutenant governor, Alexandria Club, and host for the evening), Vivien Peterson (club secretary), Perry Leonard (president), and Jack Dobbyn (vice president).



John Crawford thanks Dr. David Reynolds for his service as Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club President from 2011-2012.



Vivien Peterson is inducted by John Crawford for service in her second year as Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club secretary.



PHOTO BY LAURA MANN

Roxanne King (left) and Kyra Smith, students at Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, both 15, of Alexandria, were selected to perform in "JUBA! Masters of American Tap!" at the Kennedy Center.

Students at Kennedy Center

Roxanne King and Kyra Smith, both 15, of Alexandria, were selected from more than 100 dancers to be part of the Kennedy Center's tap performance, "JUBA! Masters of American Tap!" at the Eisenhower Theater on Dec. 7. Both are students of the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center of Alexandria and Fairfax Station.

Sixteen teenagers representing six youth tap ensembles from across the United States performed in the show. King and Smith represent the Washington, D.C. metro area as

members of the Metropolitan Youth Tap Ensemble and as students of the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center. They have been dancing with MYTE for five years and King is a founding member of MYTE. They also serve as dance captains for MYTE. Metropolitan Fine Arts Center founder and executive director Melissa Dobbs was classically trained at Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C., George Mason University and the Royal Academy of Dance in London, where she became a registered teacher.



Dress Down Day

Browne Academy had a dress down day on Oct. 9 in support of the Washington Nationals being in the playoffs. Students in grades K-8 celebrate in their Nats gear.



Celebrating 30 Years

Alexandria Country Day School kicked-off a year-long celebration of its 30th year on Oct. 18. The school's mascot, the Bobcat, was on hand to blow out the candles with the help of the newest members of the Alexandria Country Day School family, the kindergarten class. Above, eighth graders at the school celebrate the school's anniversary.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Historic Interpreters Jeff Dunkelberger (left) and Mike Botts show visitors the blacksmith shop. Mike asked everyone to stand back for a good reason.

Final Weekend for Mount Vernon by Candlelight

Join “Mrs. Washington” as she hosts an evening of candlelight tours, fireside caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. Tours include merry music and characters from Washingtons’ world guiding visitors through the first and second floors of the home, adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon.

Visitors will also meet a cast of friends and family of the famous founding couple. In the kitchen, the final stop on the tour, guests will hear about 18th-century holiday cooking, see Martha Washington’s Great Cake, and be given a copy of the recipe to try at home.

Following the Mansion tour, guests are invited to stroll through the candlelit lanes, watch blacksmithing demonstrations, join in fireside caroling, and enjoy complimentary hot cider and cookies.

The Shops at Mount Vernon are open late during Mount Vernon by Candlelight. Twelve themed departments, including The

Christmas Corner, abound with a selection of gift items including holiday ornaments, estate jewelry, and a selection of gifts for children. No admission is required to shop. Mount Vernon’s Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center will be closed during this evening event.

The Food Court at Mount Vernon is open during Candlelight Tours for fresh and convenient meals and special holiday treats. The Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant, with its early-American fare and colonial servers, offers the perfect complement to the Mount Vernon by Candlelight program. Reservations are suggested for this popular dining experience.

The final weekend for Mount Vernon by Candlelight takes place Saturday, Dec. 15 and Sunday, Dec. 16 from 5-8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the Ford Orientation Center or at www.MountVernon.org. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$14 for children under 12. Call 703-780-2000 or 703-799-8697 (TDD).



Lindsay O’Connell is one of the historic interpreters at Mount Vernon. With lantern in hand, she took visitors on a tour of the mansion and much of the estate.



A volunteer at Mount Vernon Estates teaches, then leads the audience in a Christmas Carol from Washington’s time.

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE



Two Mount Vernon volunteers sing Christmas Carols for visitors walking around the estate.



The glow of lamplight adds to the ambience.



Aladdin the Camel

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

ONGOING

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 South Washington Street. Open daily, through September 2013, this exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia’s decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. See how Robert E. Lee’s hometown was transformed literally overnight from a prosperous commercial port into a supply, hospital, and transportation center for the Union Army, and find out why Alexandria became a destination for African Americans seeking freedom. Explore the experiences of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this tumultuous time, through their own words, as well as

in period photographs and collections items. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery will host the juried show “**Bedecked and Bedazzled**” through Jan. 6 at Studio 18 of Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. In this show, the artists excel in holiday spirit and sparkle with jewelry, sculpture, clothing and wall pieces. The gallery is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., except on Thursdays when it is open from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Closed Dec 25 and Jan 1. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

The Marshall House Incident Exhibition: This exhibit at Fort Ward features objects from the museum collection to tell the notable story about the event that launched the Civil War in Alexandria. Open through 2012 at Fort Ward Museum (4301 West Braddock Rd.) is open

Tuesday - Saturday, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday, from noon - 5 p.m. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Art Exhibit. Alexandria artist Francis Seeger will display “People” in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. from Jan. 10-Feb. 24. Free. Features a number of the artist’s larger figural paintings. Often appearing to be waiting for time to pass or expressing a touch of boredom, Seeger’s subjects are captured with a bold, intuitive hand and vibrant palette. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. Daily exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia’s decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. Through September 2013 at The Lyceum, Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.



A Broadway Christmas Carol

Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin announces A Broadway Christmas Carol, created by Kathy Feininger, will return to MetroStage for a third season. Performances will be Thursdays and Fridays at 8, Saturdays at 3 and 8, Sundays at 3 and 7, through Dec. 23. For ticket reservations call 800-494-8497 or visit www.metrostage.org. For information and group sales call 703-548-9044. MetroStage is located at 1201 North Royal St. in Alexandria.

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Free Musical. 7:30 p.m. The Music, Drama & Liturgical Dance Ministries of the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church will present “Great Joy, A Gospel Christmas,” at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Joseph Joubert will be the special guest artist. Free parking available. Call 703-683-2222 or visit

www.alfredstreet.org. Roaring ’20s Holiday Party.

Celebrate the holidays with Eventurous in Roaring ’20s style at Two Nineteen Restaurant in Old Town Alexandria. The lavish night includes a Roaring ’20s themed costume party in historic speakeasy setting. Gourmet buffet featuring

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 24-

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The Fireworks are Back!

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 23

popular '20s era cuisine, custom era craft cocktails, a live blues band, an "Underground" poker room, Hand-rolled and premium cigars. Every ticket comes with a complimentary premium cigar. Those who purchase a ticket and arrive in "Twenties" inspired costume, will also receive a complimentary era cocktail (\$12 - \$16 value). Tickets must be purchased online prior to the event. Two Nineteen Restaurant is located at 219 King St. Guests can arrive at 6:30 p.m. Band and poker start at 8 p.m. Visit <http://roaring20sholiday-ConnectionsNews.eventbrite.com>.

Thursday Art Night: Decadent December — Chocolate & Shopping. 6-9 p.m. Celebrate the season with chocolate and shopping. Studios and galleries will be open until 9 p.m. for holiday shopping. Attend gallery receptions for 5x5(x5) in Target Gallery from 6 to 8 p.m., and Suzanne Vigil: Up Close & Too Personal and the All-Media Membership Show in The Art League Gallery from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Enjoy live music by The WAAC Band. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565 x2.

Card Creation Extravaganza. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Come to T.C. Williams High School to participate in a free, fun family session. Whether for the holidays or just to say "we're thinking of you," cards created in this workshop will surely put a smile on the recipient's face. Through a variety of craft techniques, your family will spend quality time together making cards to share with others. T. C. Williams Main Campus, 3330 King St. Call 703-824-6865 to register.

Do-It-Yourself. 1:30-3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn how to select the best lighting for daily living and safety. Free. 703-746-1702 or 202-234-1010.

Christmas Concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Country Buffet, 7820 Richmond Highway. Hear Maureen McDonnell perform with the Bob Gibson Big Band.

FRIDAY/DEC. 14

Mr. and Mrs. Cabot Claus. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cabot Creamery Cooperative's own Mr. and Mrs. Cabot Claus will sample "The World's Best Cheddar," hand out children's presents and pose for pictures with customers at Balducci's, 600 Franklin St., Alexandria.

Concert and Instrument Demonstration. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear music by Brass of Peace. Free. Visit www.brassofpeace.org or 703-256-2956.

Volunteer Opportunities at Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Are you interested in snuggling a downy, soft kitten? Exercising an energetic hound? Or answering questions about reptiles, rabbits, or many other animals in the Fairfax County Animal Shelter? Learn about volunteer opportunities at an open house at the shelter on Saturday, Dec. 22 from noon until 5 p.m. Meet new director Tawny Hammond; tour the newly constructed spacious animal adoption wing, enjoy holiday refreshments while learning about the many options.

The shelter is located at 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax. Regular adoption hours are Tuesday-Friday, noon-6:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Contact the shelter at 703-830-1100.

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is now offering a free spay or neuter for the first 100 cats, kittens, dogs or puppies adopted from the shelter through Dec. 31. The special offer is part of the shelter's annual Home for the Holidays adoption program. The shelter has loving cats and dogs available for adoption, in addition to a host of rabbits, small mammals, reptiles and birds. To view animals available for adoption, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices/ and click on adoption.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children up to age 2 can explore the world through stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com.

THROUGH DEC. 14

Free cookie. Each person who drops off a new, unwrapped toy at Occasionally Cake of Old Town and Mount Vernon will receive a free gingerbreadman cookie. Toys support the Firefighters and Friends Holiday Toy Drive. Visit www.occasionallycake.com or 703-647-9638.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 14-15

Four Bitchin' Babes 'Jingle Babes!' featuring Sally Fingerett, Debi Smith, Deidre Flint, Marcy Marxer at the Birchmere \$35. Visit www.fourbitchinbabes.com. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 14-16

Del Ray Artisans' 17th annual Holiday Market. Handmade work from local artists plus bake sale. Reception is on Friday, from 6-9 p.m. The hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday. Visit TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Santa on the Trolley. Children and pets can take photos with Santa on the trolley. Free. Visit www.dashbus.com.

Book Signing. Former Speaker of the

House Newt Gingrich and his wife Callista Gingrich will sign their new books at Shops at Mount Vernon from 4-7 p.m. Free to shop. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children up to age 2 can explore the world through stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 15-16

Historic Candlelight Tours. 5-8 p.m. Join "Mrs. Washington" as she hosts an evening of candlelight tours, fireside caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. Tours include merry music, and characters from the Washingtons' world guiding visitors through the first and second floors of the home, adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. Tickets may be purchased at the Ford Orientation Center (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily), or through MountVernon.org. Admission is \$22 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Call 703-780-2000 or 703-799-8697 or visit www.MountVernon.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Christmas Celebration. 10:30 a.m. Plymouth Haven Baptist Church located at 8600 Plymouth Dr. presents their Adult Choir Christmas Celebration entitled, Agnus Dei, and followed by dinner in the fellowship hall. The public is invited, and RSVP is required for non-members at 703-360-4370.

Holiday Jazz Fest. 2-3 p.m. Celebrate the holiday season with the Mike Gillispie Quartet at the Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Christmas Candlelight Service. 6 p.m. Alexandria Presbyterian Church invites the public to its annual Christmas Candlelight Service, "Light in Us Your Love's Bright Flame." This lessons and carols service will feature the adult and youth choirs, brass group and congregational carol singing by candlelight. Childcare will be provided, including special activities for children ages 3-6. A reception will follow immediately after the service. The program will begin with a brass quintet prelude at 5:45 p.m. Alexandria Presbyterian Church is located at 2405 Russell Road. Free. Call 703-683-3348 or visit www.alexandriapres.org.

Tea with Santa. Noon-3 p.m. at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St. There will be crafts and activities and pictures with Santa. All proceeds

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 25

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 24

benefit the Child & Family Network Centers. \$50/child; \$150/adult. Event suited for children ages 3-10. Visit www.cfnc-online.org or e-mail Alison Doherty at adoherty@cfnc-online.org for tickets.

Breakfast with Santa. 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. at Hotel Monaco, 480 King St. Hosted by Metropolitan Fine Arts Center of Alexandria and Fairfax Station. Tickets from \$35 to \$45/person. Visit www.metrofinearts.com.

THROUGH DEC. 16

The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol." 8 p.m. Ring in the holiday season with a return of the classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Complete with special effects, Victorian carols, and Tiny Tim, "A Christmas Carol" is a must for the entire family. Little Theatre of Alexandria is located at 600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com for showtimes or to purchase tickets. \$15 (does not include service fees).

Christmas Festival. 5:30 p.m. at Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Enjoy listening to familiar carols and modern classics by all of Aldersgate's music ministries including handbells, bass, percussion and more. Free and childcare is provided. Reception follows. Visit www.aldersgate.net or 703-765-6555.

TUESDAY/DEC. 18

Christmas Concert. 7:30 p.m. The award winning Alexandria Harmonizers will present "Sleighbells Ring At The Memorial" sponsored by the Masonic Federal Lodge No 1. The concert will be at the historic George Washington National Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, for families and children. Seating begins at 6:45 p.m. This concert is free but admission is by reservation only. Parking is free; Memorial is Metro accessible (King Street stop). To make reservations call Opera NoVa at 703-536-7557 or email mcdm1@verizon.net.

All Wheel Jive. 9-11 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. \$10. Enjoy blues-flavored vocals, guitar and harmonica and Aussie Angus Mackay on standup bass. Visit www.gottaswing.com or 703-359-9882.

Winter Concert. T.C. Williams High School choir will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the high school.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 19

Chatham County Line 'Electric Holiday Tour.' 7:30 p.m. \$22.50. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Music. 10:45 a.m. - noon at Ronald

Cameron McCune and Kailey Leinz of Burke will dance together in "Nutcracker in a Nutshell."



Ballet Arts Ensemble Presents 'Nutcracker'

The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax will perform "Nutcracker in a Nutshell," a condensed version of the classic holiday ballet, on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 3 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m., at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall at the Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus, at 3001 North Beauregard St. Tickets are \$22 in advance by calling 703-273-5344; they'll also be available at the door. Choreographed by Debra Savage, the show features company dancers from the Ballet Arts Ensemble and scores of young children from the Fairfax dance school, the Center for Ballet Arts. Visit www.thecenterforballetarts.com or call 703-273-5344.

Reagan Washington National Airport, Terminal B near Cibo Bistro and Wine Bar. Free performance by Carl Sandburg Middle School Symphonic Orchestra and Choralettes.

DJ Dance Party. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Enjoy dancing with DJ Dabe Murphy. \$6. Visit www.gottaswing.com or 703-359-9882.

Music. 8 p.m. at St. Elmo's Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear modern bluegrass artist Conor Mulroy. Visit www.stelmoscoffeepub.com or www.conormulroy.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 20

Carbon Leaf. 7:30 p.m. \$27.50. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Christmas Display of Lionel Trains. 10 a.m. Bring the Kids to visit Hollin Hall Senior Center to watch the operation of both HO layouts and the Lionel train setup by Joe Pallone. At 1500 Shenandoah Road. Call 703-765-4573.

THROUGH DEC. 20

Exhibition. Night Windows, an exhibition of 3D, mixed media constructions in lighted boxes, will be on display in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, located in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard St. The gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and during concert performances.

FRIDAY/DEC. 21

Pieces Of A Dream . 7:30 p.m. \$35. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Light the Night Community Art Event. 5-7 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Free event. Donations of unwrapped toys and books for families in need in the area will be accepted. Visit www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children up to age 2 can explore the world through stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com.

THROUGH DEC. 21

Food Drive. Bring non-perishable food donations to the @home lounge, 111 S. Alfred St. Upon donation, patrons can feel free to enjoy a free cup of hot chocolate, warm up by the fire.

SATURDAY/DEC. 22

Bill Kirchen's Honky Tonk Holiday Show.. 7:30 p.m. \$29.50. Visit <http://billkirchen.com/>. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children up to age 2 can explore the world through stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 23

Christine Lavin & Uncle Bonsai 'Just One Angel' 7:30 p.m. \$25.00. Visit www.christinelavin.com or www.unclebonsai.com/. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Performance. Metropolitan Fine Arts Center Frosty Follies jazz ensemble will perform at the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C. at 1 p.m. Free. Visit www.metrofinearts.com.

THROUGH DEC. 23

"A Broadway Christmas Carol" A cross between the classic Charles Dickens tale and uproarious song parodies of favorite Broadway show tunes. From Thursday through Sunday, 8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday; 3 and 8 p.m. on Saturday; 3 and 7 p.m. on Sunday. At MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

Santa Claus is Coming to Old Town. Santa and Mrs. Claus are back in Old Town Alexandria to take pictures with children every Saturday and Sunday between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Presented by the Old Town Boutique District in partnership with the City of Alexandria and Bike and Roll Alexandria and with the support of area businesses. The cost for pictures is \$15 for a 5 x 7 print. Hours: Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except for Dec. 1 (Scottish Walk Parade day) when hours are 1-5 p.m.; Sundays, noon-5 p.m. At Bike and Roll Alexandria, One Wales Alley. Call 703-501-6289 or visit

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 25

www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

THROUGH DEC. 25

The Christmas Attic's Holiday Advent Calendar. The Christmas Attic, has partnered with area schools, churches, and community groups again to help produce its annual temporary exhibition featuring illuminated canvases of art for The Christmas Attic's Holiday Advent Calendar Event. Each day at sundown, the store will reveal "advent art" featuring a variety of local holiday creations. All art will be placed either in the windows or on the brick of the building on the front side facing Union Street. Visitors can picture the entire building being transformed into an advent calendar. At the closing of the Advent Calendar event, the canvases of advent art will be available for auction at a post-event celebration (to be scheduled). Proceeds from the auction will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic. At The Christmas Attic, 125 S. Union St. Call 703-548-2829 or visit www.christmasattic.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 26

"Downton Abbey" Marathon. 1-5 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Tea and biscuits will be served. 703-746-1702.

THURSDAY/DEC. 27

"Downton Abbey" Marathon. 12:30-5:30 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Tea and biscuits will be served. 703-746-1702.

FRIDAY/DEC. 28

"Downton Abbey" Marathon. 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Tea and biscuits will be served. 703-746-1702.

Robin and Linda Williams. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$29.50. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 30

TANK. \$55. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

MONDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. This annual New Year's Eve bash takes over Old Town Alexandria with 100 performances at 18 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, and children's face painting and games. The afternoon Fourth Annual Fun Hunt is joined by all-new activities for families and dogs. Afternoon activities are from 2-5 p.m., including Fourth Annual Fun Hunt. Performances are from 7-11:15 p.m. Venues throughout Old Town. Midnight fireworks at Potomac River at the foot of King St. Call 703-746-3301 or visit firstnightalexandria.org. Admission is \$15 before Dec. 17; \$20 after. Children 12 and under and active military are free.

New Year's Eve Benefit. 5 p.m. Join the Washington Area Parrot Head Club aboard the Cherry Blossom Riverboat to benefit the Lupus Foundation. The four-hour cruise benefits the Lupus Foundation and includes: Midnight fireworks display over the Potomac, two live bands

(Nautical Wheelers and Smalltown) playing on two enclosed levels, full open premium bar (on cruise), champagne toast, heavy hors d'oeuvres, pre-cruise party and donation. Visit <http://lovenlucknycruise.eventbee.com/>. Pre-Cruise Party 5-8 p.m.; Cruise 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Departs Alexandria City Docks at 0 Cameron Street, Alexandria; \$135.

Performance. As part of "First Night Alexandria," from 2-4 p.m. at Durant Center members of the TC Williams choir will be singing.

THURSDAY/JAN. 3

Ocean Orchestra & Washington Revels 'Singers A Celtic Solstice Celebration!' 7:30 p.m. \$25. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 4-5

Pat McGee Band Reunion. \$35. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

JAN. 4 THROUGH JAN. 27

Art Exhibit. "Shades of White" by Del Ray artisans at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. White isn't "just white." It has tones and hues ranging from blues to beiges to yellows and more. In addition, some white pigments chemically interact with others (e.g. lead-based v. sulfur-based) to create beautiful blues and grays. Curators: Betsy Mead and Hillary Mead. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.



Metropolitan Fine Arts Center's Frosty Follies jazz ensemble in a performance at Reston Town Center.

Alexandria's Frosty Follies Dancers In National Christmas Tree Program

Metropolitan Fine Arts Center's Frosty Follies jazz ensemble was selected to perform at the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C., on Sun., Dec. 23 at 1 p.m. This is their eighth year performing at the National Christmas Tree, with more than 40 dancers from MFAC showcasing their live tap dance. The center's Frosty Follies performances are designed to offer free, holiday entertainment to local communities. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metrofinearts.com.



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Alexandria/Liberty Row \$565,000



Gracious Living

There's attention to every detail in this sophisticated, "uptown" condo in sought-after Liberty Row. Elegant moldings, gleaming wood floors, cherry cabinets, granite kitchen. Luxurious bath with tub and oversized shower. Private patio with gorgeous columns. Garage parking. Close to GW Parkway and the Potomac River.

Joan Shannon
703.507.8655
www.mcenearney.com
MLS# AX7975498



Alexandria \$998,000



Delightful Home - Great Location

Welcoming in every way with its gorgeous foyer, handsome moldings, tall ceilings and wonderful spaces to dwell in and enjoy. There is room for all with five good-sized bedrooms upstairs, including an elegant master suite, a huge finished walk-out basement and a three-car garage. Owner access to private boat launch and picnic area on Little Hunting Creek!

Robin Arnold
703.966.5457
www.robinarnoldsells.com
MLS# FX7945602



Old Town Alexandria \$799,950

Circa 1870



Completely renovated with off-street parking and a short walk to Metro. Bright, open floor-plan with cherry hardwoods, two gas fireplaces, spacious brand new kitchen with granite counters and stainless appliances. Family room off kitchen with leading to the rear, fenced, paved garden. Four bedrooms up and a balcony overlooking the rear patio garden, two full baths.

Colleen Coopersmith & Margaret Benghauser
703.338.2930 & 703.989.6961
MLS# AX7936619



Alexandria \$749,000



Elegant Rambler in Marlan Forest

A premier neighborhood setting for this mid-century four-bedroom, three-bath home. Just off the GW Parkway South of Alexandria, minutes from Old Town and DC. Large level tree-scaped back yard. Eat-in kitchen with white cabinets and appliances - many under factory warranty. Two masonry fireplaces in living room and lower level family room.

Wayne Holland
703.360.7508
www.mcenearney.com
MLS# FX7972776



Alexandria South/Wilton Woods \$789,000



Stunning Home

This beautiful, Crane-built, brick Cape Cod with attached garage has been wonderfully updated. Gorgeous wood floors on all three finished levels. Fabulous sun room. Incredible attention to detail throughout with crown molding, chair rail, built-ins and recessed lighting. Convenient location close to Metro, 495, Old Town, PTO, DCA, and the Pentagon.

Chris Hayes
703.944.7737
www.homesbyhayes.com
MLS# FX7963875



Alexandria/Old Town Greens \$466,900

Commuter's Dream



Stunning, brick, townhouse-style condo in the sought-after Old Town Greens community. This two-level home offers an open floor plan, rich hardwood floors, marble surround fireplace, granite countertops, covered deck, and two master suites, each with en-suite bath. One stop light from DC and steps to National Airport and Historic Old Town.

Jill McGillivray 703.606.2094
Liz Crawford 571.438.1166
www.JillMM.com
MLS# AX7975270

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*consult tax advisor

900NW.com

Jennifer Halm 703.851.2255

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

Alexandria \$421,500

Three Level Brick Beauty



Four bedrooms, three and a half baths, big deck, patio with hot tub! Hardwoods, fireplace, updated kitchen. Near Fort Belvoir, Mount Vernon Hospital, Stratford Landing. Huge master bathroom. Bedroom/full bath on lower level plus family room with fireplace, and laundry room. Two parking spaces are included.

Amy Brodie
703.447.3965
www.AmyBrodie.com
MLS# FX7901163



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