

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 20, 2014

Inside
Holiday
Entertainment
& Gift Guide 2014



Captain II Willie Bailey (left), Erin McMullin with Operation Warm (center) and Niko Chakos with FOCUS North America (right) distributed 2,200 pair of shoes and 2,000 coats Oct. 28 at Fire Station 11 with Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLIOTT RUBINO

Proof of Purchase

County-wide nonprofits offer gift ideas and civic engagement.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

In over 20 years as manager of Burke Lake Park, Charlie Reagle has seen a lot of benches installed. So many in fact that he's running out of water view locations. And though many people choose to honor deceased family members with a bench, he's had plenty donated in tribute to the living. One pair of sisters gave a bench as a birthday gift to their mother; it had two plaques, one of which was at ground level so the mother's dog could see it.

"Each one, working with a donor, I know the story with it," said Reagle. "Going out, going around the trail, you wind up spending several hours with them over this whole time."

While water view space may be drying up at Burke Lake, there are plenty of scenic plots available throughout the 420-odd parks around Fairfax County. And there's a collaborative effort underway to help populate that with tax-deductible gifts. It's part of the county's Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3) "12 Ways of Giving" initiative.

In this instance, citizens can donate a new bench (around \$2,000 for the installation), adopt an existing bench with a plaque (\$800) or have a two-to-three-inch-calibre landscape tree planted. The donations to the parks go through the non-profit Fairfax County Park Foundation. OP3 is encouraging the public to help address civic issues by making charitable donations as gifts.

"The idea is it's to be very easy, very engaging," said Wendy Lemieux, a spokesperson with OP3. A single web page is a portal to donate to 12 different organizations that each satisfy a county goal

for the environment, education, animals or domestic violence.

"As you dive deeper, you can get involved and knock someone off your Christmas list as well," Lemieux said.

Charitable giving has become a major factor in the economy: "Donations, in the country as a whole, are now a \$335 billion enterprise," said Alan Abramson, director of the GMU Center for Nonprofit Management, Philanthropy and Policy. He cited the latest report from Giving USA, a semi-annual public service analysis.

Abramson attributes a gain in giving over the SEE CHARITABLE GIFT, PAGE 13



Kay Fowler, executive director of Fairfax ReLeaf, plants a tree at South Run Park.

'When One of Us Hurts, We All Hurt'

1,000 celebrate the life of Hannah Graham at West Potomac High.

West Potomac softball coach Craig Maniglia knew Hannah Graham starting when she was 7 years old, through being her coach on the varsity softball team. He was one of 17 speakers at a closed memorial for Graham in the West Potomac High School auditorium on Nov. 15.

"It was quite an event," Maniglia said. "It left you feeling sad, but upbeat, that this young lady had so much and did so much in her short time here." Roughly 1,000 people came to show support and reflect on Graham's life.

Ellis "Tuck" Bowerfind, Rector at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, moderated the memorial that included stories and fond memories from high school and college friends of the UVA sophomore, former teachers, members of the UVA ski team and Graham's parents John and Sue. John's par-

ents had flown over from England to attend.

"The memorial was for them," said Maniglia, "for everyone who knew Hannah to reminisce, and try to move forward." In addition to speeches, the coach said there was a slideshow of photos from when Graham was an infant and the West Potomac band played a short program.

West Potomac Director of Student Activities Aaron Helmick planned the memorial, with help from Fairfax County Police and Fire and Rescue Departments. "The whole plan was to make it a special event," Helmick said. "I've always felt West Potomac is a community school: When one of us hurts, we all hurt."

Outside the school, a police motorcycle motorcade honored Graham.

"Our agency worked closely SEE MEMORIAL, PAGE 8

A Celebration of the Life of

Hannah Elizabeth Graham

February 25, 1996 – September 13, 2014



Members of the UVA ski team came to Hannah Graham's memorial Nov. 15 to share memories of the West Potomac alumna.

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Alexandria \$999,900

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Alexandria
\$488,000

Walk to Kingstowne shops from this well-maintained townhome in the Mews. Gleaming wood floors on the main level and new carpet on the bedroom level. All 3 bedrooms have high ceilings and baths are updated with quartz counters.

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
www.LizLuke.com



Alexandria
\$625,000

Spacious 2-car garage townhouse located in a very private cul-de-sac with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and optional 3-level extension. Gorgeous owner's suite with a luxurious bathroom including an oversized jetted tub. Fully fenced rear yard with a patio. Metro just blocks away.

Bob Bazzle
703.599.8964
www.BobBazzle.com



Old Town
\$780,000

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Chamber Provides Spotlight on Area's Needy

Nonprofits discuss their services.

What would it be like to live in south Fairfax County and be out of work, lose your house, and not have hope for the future?

Three local organizations that work with the needy were the guest speakers at the November Business Breakfast of Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce and answered these questions while explaining how they help those in need.

The chamber heard from Lt. Nathan Bridges, commander of the Alexandria Citadel of The Salvation Army; Elizabeth McNally, deputy executive director of United Community Ministries; and Keary Kincannon, pastor of Rising Hope Mission Church. Chamber President Sean O'Connell, a partner with PBMares LLP a CPA firm, conducted the meeting.

Bridges spoke about the Angel Tree program which allows The Salvation Army to provide holiday gifts for needy children and the Red Kettle bell-ringers who are visible during the holiday season. He also explained the origins of The Salvation Army and how its purpose is to meet human needs wherever those needs might be found as they believe Jesus Christ



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JASMYN HICKS

Sean O'Connell, chamber president, welcomes Nathan Bridges, The Salvation Army; Elizabeth McNally, UCM; and Keary Kincannon, Rising Hope Mission Church to the Chamber Business Breakfast.



Nathan Bridges, The Salvation Army



Keary Kincannon, Rising Hope Mission Church



Elizabeth McNally, UCM

would serve.

McNally is a 16-year veteran of United Community Ministries and has served as deputy executive director since 2006. McNally put a face on the many programs UCM offers by sharing stories of individual clients served by UCM. From a five-year-old child in the early learning center to adults who better themselves through the housing assistance program, UCM serves individuals in need.

Kincannon spoke of his mission to serve the homeless at Rising Hope by describing one woman who came to the church homeless and in great need. She was given help and a job at the church and over time assumed greater and greater work responsibilities until she had developed skills to become self-sustaining. Rising Hope also helps with Fairfax County's hypothermia program in the winter.

Commander Patty Veld of the American Legion Post 162 in Lorton gave a Veterans Day greeting to the attendees and the chamber recognized all veterans present.

'Not Guilty' Pleas in Fairfax Crimes

Jesse Matthew slated for March 2015 trial.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE GAZETTE

On Oct. 20, a Fairfax County grand jury indicted Jesse L. Matthew Jr. in connection with a 2005 attack on a 26-year-old City of Fairfax woman. Last week, he officially entered his pleas in Circuit Court, and now the case against him is moving forward in the judicial system.

The crime occurred Sept. 24, 2005 around 10 p.m. The victim had just finished grocery shopping at the Jermantown Road Giant Foods store and

was on her way home on foot, carrying her groceries, when she was assaulted.

According to City of Fairfax police, the woman lived three or four blocks from the Giant, in the Oxford Row townhouses on Rock Garden Drive. She was walking down her street and had nearly reached her steps when, said police, a man grabbed her from behind and carried to the park/swimming-pool area. There, he choked and sexually assaulted her and then fled; he was last seen running south toward Fairhaven Court.

Police investigated, but years passed and – although the case remained open – nothing significant happened until summer 2010, when a positive DNA match

was made, tying the murderer of a college student to the Fairfax woman's assailant.

That student was 20-year-old Virginia Tech sophomore Morgan Harrington, who vanished outside a Metallica concert in Charlottesville in October 2009. Morgan's body was found in a pasture, three months later; and in summer 2010, authorities linked her killer's DNA to the person who abducted and sexually assaulted the Fairfax woman in September 2005.

According to court records, DNA evidence obtained from one of the Fairfax victim's fingernails after her attack reportedly matches Matthew's DNA. She's currently out of the country, but is expected to re-

turn to Virginia to testify against him at his trial.

Matthew, 32, of Charlottesville, is charged with attempted capital murder, abduction with intent to defile and object sexual penetration in connection with her case. And last Friday, he pleaded not guilty to each offense. Judge Dennis Smith then set his trial date for March 9, 2015. Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh is the prosecutor; public defender Dawn Butorac is representing Matthew.

He's also charged in Charlottesville with abduction with intent to defile UVA student Hannah Graham of Mount Vernon, whose lifeless body was found last month. Authorities say surveillance footage shows Matthew with her shortly before she disappeared on Sept. 13, 2014.



Matthew

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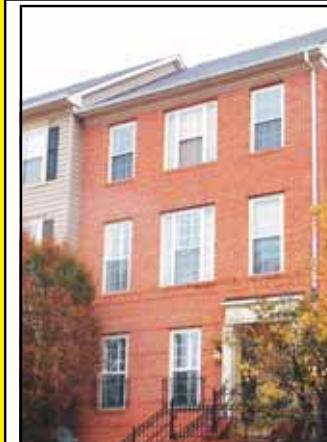
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\$1,175,000**
214 Franklin St.
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*Diann Hicks
703-628-2440*



**Del Ray
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113 West Alexandria Ave. Updated and expanded 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath brick bungalow. Loads of 1920s charm, yet updated with modern amenities. Beautifully landscaped yard with deck, patio and detached garage with studio. Blocks to METRO, shops and restaurants on "The Avenue."
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



**Old Town Greens
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1613A Potomac Greens Dr #A. 2 Lights to D.C.! Sunny 2-level TH-style CHARMING condo. OPEN kitchen design in sought-after Old Town Greens. Marble fireplace. Wood floors. Track Lighting, Granite counter tops. Beautiful Wood floors, Plantation Shutters, Deck for grilling, completely upgraded. Private Garage & Xtra pkg. Lighted tennis courts & pool. Close to restaurants, coffee, marina, airport & Metro, POOL & TENNIS COURTS.
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**Alexandria/Governors Hill
\$885,000**
5852 Governors Hill Dr. Dramatic & spacious (4,300+ SF) home close to Old Town, I-495 & Metro. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths on top level; family rm w/gas fireplace + office; finished lower level w/ 4th full bath & huge storage room. Built in 2002 & shows like new!
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**Alexandria
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1109 Dalebrook Dr. Just refinished living & dining room floors will make your holiday décor sparkle. Entertain with ease in an updated kitchen. Sip morning coffee in your new sun room. Gather friends 'round a warm fire pit. You'll have room for relatives & friends with bedrooms & baths to spare. Call for a private tour.
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8324 Cooper St. An open floor plan, sleek hardwood floors & extensive custom trim work create an inviting home. Retreat to a master suite while guests use their own private lower level in-law suite & walkout. A "man cave" with granite bar & fireplace is perfect for game days. Double car garage keeps your cars ready for winter. HVAC system 3 years young. Call for a private tour.
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**Alexandria
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200 North Pickett St, Unit 413. Inviting kitchen w/new stainless LG appliances. NEW flooring/ carpet throughout. LARGE 2 BR/2 BA, 1160 sq.ft. Warm & Cozy Home—SEE VIRTUAL TOUR at www.bxrosen.com. HUGE rooms, BIG closets incl. master walk-in. Full-size stack Washer/Dryer. Large balcony—gas grills OK! Great garage + visitor parking. Pool, tennis, exercise, party room. Across street: Park, Library, CVS, Harris Teeter. Commuter dream—bus stop in front—easy Metro! Home warranty. *Barbara Rosen 703-407-6481*



**Woodbridge
\$279,000**
13796 Meadowbrook Rd. Split foyer recently remodeled single family home in Dale City! Hardwood flooring in living and foyer, granite counters and maple cabinets in kitchen, 3 beds w/4th room, 2 full baths, large deck, fenced in on a 8,600 s.f. lot!
Maren Seubert 703-835-2580



**Alexandria
\$3,500/month**
6921 Fort Hunt Rd. Marlan Forest colonial on 1.4 acres. 3 Bedrooms & 2.5+.5 Bath brick home with large rooms & winter river views.
Karen Kearns 703-244-6101



**Old Town Greens
\$2,700/month**
700A Norfolk Ln. Light-filled 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath end unit brick town house with hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, 3 closets in Master Bedroom, attached garage, tennis court and pool. Buzz Coffee and Rustico restaurant a block away.
*Philip G. Matyas
571-332-0963*

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NEWS

Body of Missing Man Found

The body of Sean Harris, 55, of the 4400 block of Wyres Street was located in Huntley Meadows Park on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 18. The police had been searching for him after he was reported missing; he had left his home on either Nov. 10 or 11.



Harris

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause and manner of death. Detectives do not believe that the death was suspicious or poses a threat to public safety.

Kroah Serving As Interim Pastor

Don Kroah, known to radio audiences throughout the Washington, D.C. area as host of WAVA Radio's The Don Kroah Show, is serving as interim pastor at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church in the Mount Vernon area.

Kroah preaches weekly during the church's 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service and also is at the church on weekday mornings for pastoral care. Children's church, for children ages 3 through 2nd grade, is held during the worship service. Sunday Bible study begins at 9:15 a.m. at the church.

Plymouth Haven Baptist Church (www.plymouthhaven.org) is located at 8600 Plymouth Drive in the Fott Hunt area of Mount Vernon.

Kroah came to the Washington, D.C. area in October 1997 after 34 years of full-

time pastoral ministry in New England. During those years, he also worked as a radio news anchor, reporter, political commentator and talk show host in general-market radio there.

An alumnus of Valley Forge Christian College in Phoenixville, Pa., Kroah also studied philosophy and psychology at the University of Southern Maine and journalism at the College of Communications and the Arts at Regent University's Washington, D.C. campus. Last year, he received an earned Doctor of Ministry Degree from Calvary Christian College in Waldorf, Md.

He is also founder and president of Reach Africa Now, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit ministry training pastors and partnering with churches in several countries in Africa.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday.

DECEMBER

Publishing

Wellbeing.....12/3/14

HomeLifeStyle: Home for the Holidays...12/10/14

Hanukkah begins December 16.

★Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II..12/16/14

A+ Camps & Schools.....12/16/14

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Ft. Hunt/Plymouth Haven
\$839,900

8632 Plymouth Rd.

Beautiful brick front Colonial with 2-car garage in fabulous location of Plymouth Rd. in Ft. Hunt with Waynewood Elementary. Built 1989. 4 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. .56 acre. Study on main level. Beautiful back screened porch. Spacious master bedroom suite

w/sitting room. Kitchen and breakfast area open to living room with wood-burning fireplace and brick hearth. Approximately 3,000 sq ft above ground. It's lovely!



Alex./Riverside Estates
\$519,900/\$2,600

8506 Wagon Wheel Road

Totally remodeled 4 BR, 3 BA Split - Replacement windows, new kitchen w/granite, SS, ceramic tile floors, 3 brand new baths, refinished hardwood floors, freshly painted, 6-panel doors. Family room on lower level with walkout to large fenced backyard. Deck overlooks backyard. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir - Walk to Mt. Vernon Estate, elementary and high schools.



Alex./Riverwood \$798,000
3716 Carriage House Court

Spectacular 6 BR/3.5 BA Colonial in Prestigious Waterfront Community of Riverwood. 4,000+ sq ft of remodeled living space. Loaded with upgrades, must see to believe, plus a beautiful In-Law Suite on main level. Stunning hdwd floors, light and bright w/great flow - perfect for entertaining. Quiet, private w/absolutely incredible landscaping. Classy, spacious and TLC! 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town Alex, 25 mins to Ntl Airport. Mt. Vernon's Finest!



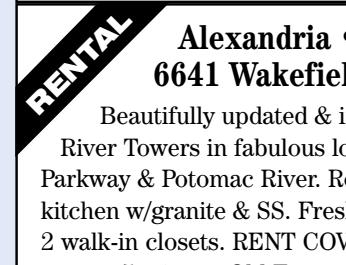
Alex./Stratford \$514,000
8437 Porter Lane

Great Bones and Price on this Lovely 4 BR, 3-Lvl Split in Popular Stratford on the Potomac. Add some TLC and Build Instant Equity. Superb Opportunity in this Estate Sale. Beautiful Lot and Centrally Located - Old Town 12 mins North and Ft. Belvoir 12 mins South - Opportunity Arrives Rarely and Disappears Quickly - Act Now!



Alex./Riverside Estates \$2,550
8318 Orange Court

Reduced. Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath Colonial with Carport in wonderful Mt. Vernon Community. 3 finished levels. Newer kitchen and baths, gleaming hardwood floors, screened porch, deck, large corner lot. Separate laundry and storage rooms. Scenic commute along G.W. Pkwy and Potomac River - 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, Alex, 35 to Pentagon/D.C. - Walk to Elementary and High Schools.



Alexandria • River Towers
6641 Wakefield #405 • \$1,350

Beautifully updated & immaculate 1 BR in popular River Towers in fabulous location right off of the G.W. Parkway & Potomac River. Remodeled bath, and remodeled kitchen w/granite & SS. Freshly painted. Lovely wood floors. 2 walk-in closets. RENT COVERS HEAT/AC. Pool and tennis courts. 5 mins to Old Town, scenic commute into D.C.: bus stop out front; shopping across the street. A Great Deal!

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PEOPLE



Fall Festival

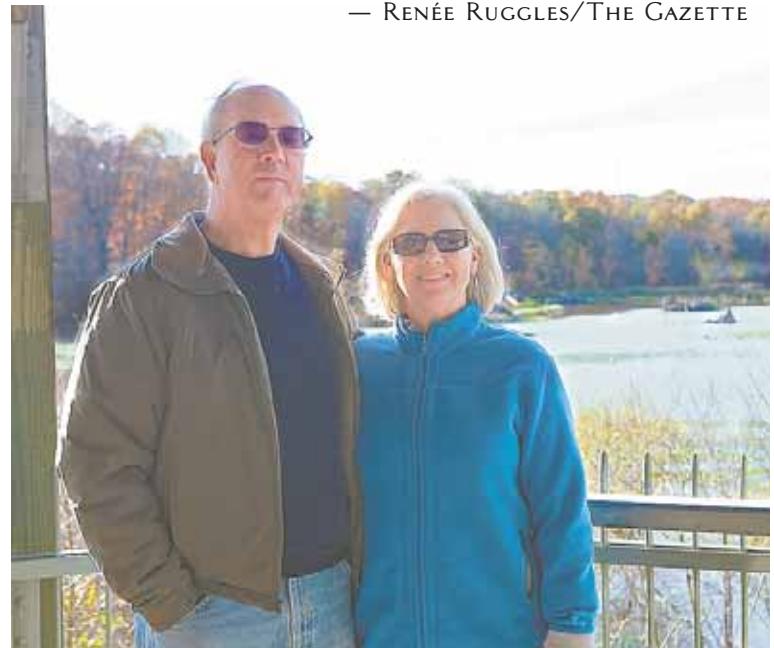
Plymouth Haven Christian Preschool recently held its 3rd annual Fall Community Festival. The event raised more than \$5,300 for its children. More than 250 guests including families from the surrounding community attended. In addition to sampling chili and mac 'n cheese cook-off entries, festival-goers enjoyed a bouncy obstacle course, carnival games, bake sale delights, face painting, hayrides, silent auction, iPad raffle and seasonal crafts. Winners of the cook-off competition were: Chili, 3rd Place - Amelia Eudy, 2nd Place - Jennifer Hartline and 1st Place - Gregg Schwieterman; and Mac-N-Cheese. 3rd Place - Shannon Eiserman, 2nd Place - Kelly Blomgren - and 1st Place - Cheryl Garner. Visit www.plymouthhaven.org.



VIEWPOINTS

What is the best gift that you received that didn't cost anything?

— RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE



Cindy Bostic: "My dog had been ill and had not been able to walk very well. Christmas morning, I took him out he was able to walk, quite a ways. That walk was a gift." Larry M.: "Found my sweetie on the River Walk." They met they years ago. Both are from the Mount Vernon Community.



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE
Tim Hickey: "The best gift was my grandparents. I was the oldest grandchild, on both sides." He had the extra time to get to really know them.



Betty Hickey: "The best gift was the love of family. My parents came from nothing and they gave us everything." She carried the love and lessons, from her parents, when she had her own family.

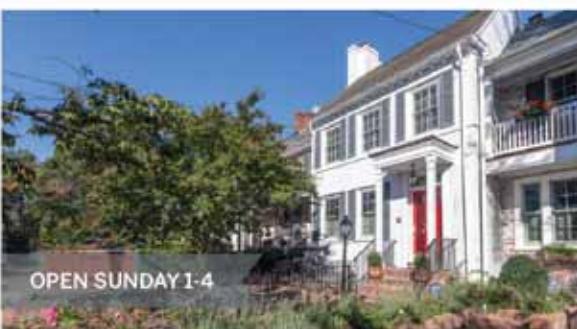


Story Time Night

Nov. 13 marked Stratford Landing Elementary School's 2nd Annual Story Time Night. At this literacy event, funded by the school's PTA, parents and children enjoyed stories told by Don Francisco a historical interpreter and fifer from Mount Vernon, the owner of Music Together Vivo Cheryl Sabo who has performed musical story telling around the county, former Ms. Senior Virginia Maureen Ribble, sugar plum fairies from Alexandria's Nutcracker and Stratford Landing's vice principal Shirley Shannon. Children rotated through six reading rooms decorated for different themes.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**OLD TOWN \$1,799,000**

724-726 South Lee Street

Rare find of two houses combined into one fabulous wide townhouse, located in the southeast quadrant of historic Old Town. Three-story rear addition features a gourmet eat-in kitchen with fireplace adjoining the family room. Lower level with Au Pair suite and rec room. Large expansive landscaped brick walled stone patios with built-in gas grill. 5 bedrooms, 5 full baths plus 1 half bath. 2-off street parking spaces.

CINDY GOLUBIN +1 202 437 3861**COURTNEY GOLUBIN +1 703 989 1873****VICTORIAN HILLS \$1,750,000**

309 West Alexandria Avenue

5BR home on a private lot with a stream and woods. Open floor plan with cathedral and vaulted ceilings. Wideplank hardwood, 2 fireplaces, built-ins and shelving, gourmet kitchen. Master suite has lofty 16' ceilings and spa-like bath. Lower level with large rec room, wet bar, guest BR, and exercise room/bedroom. Large 2-car garage.

VICTORIA KILCULLEN +1 703 915 8845**OLD TOWN \$1,075,000**

212 South Lee Street

This 3BR, 3.5BA home features level living room with wood-burning fireplace, gourmet kitchen, family room and rear deck. Master with walk-in closet, luxurious bath and river views. Walk-out lower level rec room, bedroom and bath. Expansive garden.

COURTNEY GOLUBIN +1 703 989 1873**GREG GOLUBIN +1 202 437 1274****BRADDOCK HEIGHTS \$1,595,000**

418 West Braddock Road

The Niven House, a beautifully appointed, lovingly maintained 1930's classic brick colonial with 3-4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms is situated on a fabulous 3/4 acre lot with extensive landscaping and offers limitless possibilities.

MARGARET MILLER +1 703 906 7920**ALEXANDRIA \$924,500**

3403 Old Dominion Boulevard

Located in the sought-after Beverly Hills section of Alexandria, this gorgeous brick colonial has 4BR, 4BA, with an open floor plan, hardwood floors, new carpeting, freshly painted, renovated master bath and a cook's kitchen.

JOHN ERIC +1 703 798 0097**ALEXANDRIA \$945,000**

902 North Howard Street

5BR, 3.5BA home in Seminary Hill. Renovated kitchen and baths, french doors leading to sunroom. Hardwood floors, fireplace, master suite with sitting room/den. Finished lower level, 2-car garage and private fenced yard. Minutes to DC.

THE ROB AND BRENT GROUP +1 202 263 9200**AMY SKIDMORE +1 202 494 7682****BELLE HAVEN \$899,900**

6023 Woodmont Road

Absolutely charming and updated three bedroom, three and one half bath brick center hall colonial offering a gourmet chef's kitchen, new roof, and a garage.

JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9106**BEVERLY HILLS \$787,000**

3300 Old Dominion Boulevard

Wonderful, sun-filled home with 3BR, 3.5BA, plus a den/guestroom, study, separate dining room and loft. Has garage, fireplace, hardwood floors, granite counters, freshly painted. Private patio and beautiful back yard. Close to Del Ray, Shirlington and 395.

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ NOVEMBER 20-26, 2014 ♦ 7

Johns Hopkins University Study

Type of Hearing Loss

Dementia Risk Increase

- Mild**
 • Difficulty understanding conversation in a busy restaurant
 • Complaints that you have the TV too loud

Two Times



Mark Gustina, MS CCC-A Audiologist

- Moderate**
 • Loved ones may become frustrated with you "You Listening"
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Three Times

- Severe**
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 • Possible loss of jobs or relationships

Five Times

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*Small groups (up to 15) are welcome to book the space during the week for charity nights or social gatherings.

Wine and cheese will be provided and donation will be made to designated charity.

NEWS

Memorial Service for Hannah Graham

FROM PAGE 1

with the police departments investigating her death and Fairfax County Public School personnel," said Fairfax County Police Department spokesman Lucy Caldwell, "to ensure that her memorial service would be a safe, smooth event for her all those who wished to help honor her memory and her life."

Graham had been missing from UVA's campus since Sept. 13, before her death was confirmed Oct. 24 when the Virginia Medical Examiner's Office and Albemarle County Police Department linking her to human remains found on abandoned property in southern Albemarle County.

On Nov. 18, the Albemarle Police Department released a statement that the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined Graham's death to be a homicide: "homicidal violence of undetermined etiology."

"The Albemarle County Police Department and the Albemarle County Commonwealth's Attorney remain committed to the investigation," the statement continued. "We are working hard to ensure that justice is served."

"Words can't really describe how outrageous this is that something like that would happen to somebody of this caliber," said Maniglia. "It was very emotional, but made



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police motorcycles honor Hannah Graham with a motorcade outside West Potomac High School on Nov. 15.

you feel good about Hannah, in lieu of the tragic events that are

going on."

— TIM PETERSON

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.

BURGLARY, 2600 block of East Side Drive, Nov. 14. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

BURGLARY, 8400 block of Blankenship Street, Nov. 13. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

ROBBERY, 6200 block of North Kings Highway, Nov. 7. A cab driver drove a customer to a local shopping center. The customer displayed a handgun to the driver and demanded money. The victim driver managed to exit the cab and fled on foot. The suspect fled in the cab and took cash. The victim did not require rescue.

BURGLARY, 8600 block of Sacramento Drive, Nov. 7. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

BURGLARY, 5200 block of Burke Drive, Nov. 6. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

ROBBERY, 5800 block of Village Green Drive, Nov. 1, 10 p.m. A pizza delivery driver was walking and was approached by three men. The suspects displayed a handgun and took cash and property. The suspects fled on foot.

BURGLARY, 9400 block of Old Mount Vernon Road, Oct. 30. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

BURGLARY, 2900 block of Arlington Drive, Oct. 28. An employee reported someone entered the business and took

property.

ROBBERY, Brick Hearth Court/South Kings Highway, Oct. 11, 6:37 p.m. The victim was walking when he was approached by two men. The first suspect demanded money and the second suspect displayed a screwdriver. Cash was taken and the suspects fled on foot. The victim did not require rescue.

LARCENIES

5900 block of Mount Eagle Drive, property from vehicle.

7400 block of Mount Eagle Center, beverages from business.

6800 block of Richmond Highway, property from vehicle.

7800 block of Richmond Highway, toolbox from vehicle.

1500 block of Belle View Boulevard, property and cash business.

8000 block of Capistrano Place, phone from residence.

1100 block of Collingwood Road, wallet from residence.

7900 block of Flamingo Drive, wallet from vehicle.

8400 block of Frye Road, beverage from business

2500 block of Parkers Lane, property from vehicle.

2500 block of Parkers Lane, phone and electronic equipment from vehicle

5900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business.

6300 block of Richmond Highway, property and cash from business.

8200 block of Russell Road, merchandise from business.

7100 block of Vantage Drive, cash from residence.

2300 block of Windsor Road, phone

from business.

4300 block of Gramercy Circle, license plate from vehicle.

6400 block of Kings Landing Road, phone from business.

8100 block of Oak Lake Court, license plate from vehicle.

8700 block of Richmond Highway, purse from business.

8200 block of Russell Road, merchandise from business.

7800 block of West Boulevard, wallet from business.

1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, merchandise from business.

4100 block of Galen Street, electronic equipment from vehicle.

9300 block of Mount Vernon Circle, jewelry from residence.

6700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business.

5900 block of Richmond Highway, equipment from vehicle.

6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from vehicle.

5800 block of Woodlawn Gable Drive, electronic equipment from vehicle.

8100 block of Holland Road, property from residence.

8600 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business.

6200 block of North Kings Highway, merchandise from business.

Beacon Hill Road/Richmond Highway, purse from vehicle.

7900 Richmond Highway, merchandise from business.

6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business.

NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Veterans and Family Community Meal

America's Adopt A Soldier held its second annual Veterans and Community Family Meal, Market and Fun Zone on Saturday, Nov. 15 at Mount Vernon High School. Volunteers came from OCTO Consulting, Lockheed Martin, the student body at MVHS, and throughout the county. The event provided veterans, soldiers, the community and their families with holiday environment to enjoy camaraderie, music, and an early Thanksgiving meal of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, greens, yams, stuffing, gravy, green beans, rolls, salad, apple and pumpkin pies and cookies. The public was asked to drop off donations including warm winter coats, cleaned-gently worn, hats, gloves, shoes/boots, clothes, purses, belts, travel size, personal care items, paperback books, reading glasses, back packs, schools supplies and toys. The volunteers wrote more than 1,000 care letters, packed more than 75 care packages, provided more than 100 meals to those in need, collected more than 50 winter coats and 300 clothing items and household items for local homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. These items are being stored for the upcoming Winterhaven held at DC-VA Medical Center, serving the region. See www.americasadoptasoldier.org for upcoming events.



In the Kids Fun Zone, Sharon Bulova, chairman Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and Mary Keeser, founder of America's Adopt A Soldier, take a few knitting tips from Matilda, the youngest volunteer present.

OLIVER!

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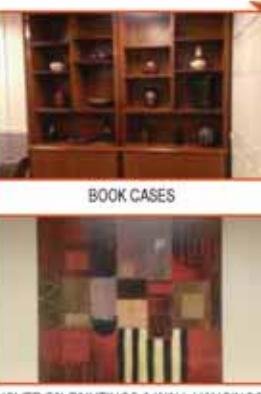
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OPINION

Why Shop Small? Shop Large Locally

Small business Saturday isn't enough; don't wait until then, and don't stop after that.

There is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to participating in community traditions and celebrations, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that is otherwise unmatched.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon. An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, also called Shop Small. This year that day is Nov. 29.

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

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, advocating for improvements, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the

holiday shopping season all the more important to locally owned retailers. But local families will literally spend millions of dollars to shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of places.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping

Celebrate Locally

Bull Run Festival of Lights & Holiday Village, Nov. 19 - Jan. 4, Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville, Monday - Thursday: 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Fridays - Sunday and holidays: 5:30 to 10 p.m. call 703-631-0550 Mondays-Thursdays, \$15 per car; Fridays-Sundays and holidays, \$20 per car. Santa's Enchanted Lights, with more than 40,000 animated lights set to music. Off Interstate 66 in Centreville, on Rt. 29 (Lee Highway).

Christmas at Mount Vernon, Daily, Nov. 28 - Jan. 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 George Washington Memorial Pkwy, Mount Vernon, Regular Estate admission. Themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees) and historical chocolate-making demonstrations will be offered. Tour the rarely-open third floor of the Mansion and learn how the Washingtons celebrated Christmas. In 1787, George Washington paid 18 shillings to bring a camel to Mount Vernon for the enjoyment of his guests. During Christmas at Mount Vernon, visitors can meet a camel on the grounds.

Black Friday Holiday Celebration at the Workhouse, Nov. 28, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., **Workhouse Arts Center**, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, 703-584-2900, free. Explore the artwork of nearly 100 artists, join in interactive demonstrations and find that perfect gift while supporting local artists. Festivities will also include Doughnuts with Santa, fine-art projects for children, and holiday music and theatrical performances throughout the day.

City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols, Saturday, Dec. 6. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Come enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, Ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols for times and locations.

Plantation Christmas, Dec. 6, 2-7 p.m., Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton, 703-550-9220,

online. Many will answer the call of the big box. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the local businesses and holiday spirit there.

The Gazette is participating in Shop Small 2014, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com to find out more.

— MARY KIMM
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Admission: \$15 adults, \$5 children (6-18). Let the Christmas Past become part of Christmas Present. Ride in a horse-drawn carriage, sip warm cider by the fire, and sample period food prepared in the hearth kitchen. Return to the 18th century as costumed characters greet visitors in the house and throughout the grounds. Visit with Santa.

"Christmas in Camp" - Civil War Living History, Dec 7, 12-4 p.m., Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, 703-591-0560. Discuss Civil War-era holiday customs, make Victorian ornaments, and participate in camp drills with Company D, 17th VA Infantry, "Fairfax Rifles" C.S.A. Guided tours of Historic Blenheim House.

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival, Dec. 12 - 14, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Dulles Expo Center, 320 Chantilly Shopping Center Drive, Chantilly, 800-210-9900. Adults: \$8 online, \$10 at the door; Children under 12: free; Parking: free. More than 250 artisans will display and sell their handcrafted work.

Holiday Horse Drawn Hayrides at Lake Accotink Park, Dec. 13, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield, 703-222-4664, \$10 per person (free for 2 and under). Enjoy holiday music and merriment on a horse drawn hayride through the park. Warm up with seasonal treats available for purchase at the snack bar, and settle in to share stories around a toasty campfire. Also visit with Santa and share a wish list. Remember to bring a camera and make it a holiday family photo.

A Christmas Carol. Saturday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m. Art Room, Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Solo performance. NYC actor / playwright, Greg Oliver Bodine performs his one-man performance of Charles Dickens. Children over 10 and adults. General admission \$15 / \$10 Seniors and Students. www.artful.ly/store/events/4306.

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Tim Peterson
Community Reporter
703-314-0789
tpterson@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
[@TheismannMedia](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-752-4013
[@jonroetman](mailto:jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com)

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
[@MaryKimm](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper



10 ♦ MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ NOVEMBER 20-26, 2014

Fairfax County website, the agenda for each meeting is typically provided the Friday prior to the next Board of Supervisors meeting. Typically, the last Board of Supervisors meeting in a month includes a portion devoted to appointments. The published agenda lists all of the prospective appointments. Sometimes as many as 100 appointments are listed.

At the Board of Supervisors meeting, when it is time to vote upon the appointments, they are not taken up individually. Rather, they are voted upon *en masse*. Usually, there are departures from the listing of prospective appointees published on the Fairfax County website. As such, when it is time to consider appointments, Chairman Bulova asks the board members if they have received the "final list" of appointments. The board members answer that they

have, and then Vice-Chairman Penny Gross makes a motion to approve all of the prospective appointees in a single vote. After the motion has been seconded, Chairman Bulova asks board members if they have any further changes to this "final list." Board members provide the changes and then the Board of Supervisors typically votes to approve all the nominations.

The problem with this procedure is that the Board of Supervisors does not give the public notice of the so-called "final list" prior to the vote. This violates Virginia law. Virginia Code Section 2.2-3707F states the following:

"At least one copy of all agenda packets and, unless exempt, all materials furnished to members of a public body for a meeting shall

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

Melvin R. Bielawski
Alexandria

The Board of Supervisors meetings are held on Tuesdays. On the

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

be made available for public inspection at the same time such documents are furnished to the members of the public body."

In my opinion, any deviations from the list of appointees published on the Fairfax County website should be deferred to the next Board of Supervisors meeting at which appointments are considered.

Additionally, Virginia Code Section 2.2-3707F does not go far enough. I believe the public should have at least 10 days notice of all prospective appointments so that members of the public will have sufficient time to express their support or opposition to a prospective appointee. Unfortunately, the Board of Supervisors values efficiency over transparency and, in some cases, seems to believe it is more important to fill an empty seat with a warm body than it is to leave that seat vacant until such time as an appropriate qualified appointee is identified. The Board of Supervisors could give greater notice without any need to amend the law. I hope they do.

The time is long overdue for the Board of Supervisors, which works for us, to be transparent with us and accountable to us.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Gazette
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call 703-917-6444 or email
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Help Disadvantaged Students

To the Editor:

I found it very interesting that the Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee (CPMSAC) ["Only Excellence Is Good Enough," www.connectionnewspapers.com] is working so closely with the public school system and the community in an effort for bettering the academic successes and potential of minority students. Minority students are typically at an educational disadvantage in this country considering that "minority students are more likely to come from economically disadvantaged or educationally disadvantaged households located in disadvantaged neighborhoods," as according to sociologist James Coleman. It is commonly well known that most students living in these disadvantaged neighborhoods must attend subpar schools which fall beneath the standards set by neighborhoods that have an economic advantage. This, in turn, creates an education deficit formed by students who are unable to receive better opportunities given their financial circumstance; especially since these communities may be lacking the financial means necessary to support the outcome of the student's education.

Geoffrey Canada, president of Harlem's Children Zone (HCZ) located in New York, has also recognized the importance of community involvement and student success as equal. The Harlem Children's Zone is dedicated to providing a better opportunity for children in poverty stricken areas of Harlem by providing them the academic means necessary for them to make it to and successfully past college. Much like CPMSAC, the HCZ has also created several fundamental programs designed to help students and the community achieve educational success. Such as the Baby College parenting workshops which has the goal of directing educational success starting at birth and going through to college.

I really think it's important that more communities follow in the steps of the CPMSAC and HCZ so minority students or students in disadvantaged areas of our nation can have access to the various opportunities they need in order to succeed.

Jayla Smith
Alexandria

The art of living lies not in eliminating but in growing with troubles.
—Bernard M. Baruch

HOLIDAY SHOP IS BACK!

Saturday Nov 22,
9:30 am – 4 pm

Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church,
1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria

A 52-year tradition returns. Homemade chutneys, jams, breads, soups, and sauces. 50 artisans, estate jewelry, boutique, quilt raffle. Bigger and better than ever!



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Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900 | CBmove.com/AK8492977



Ivy Hill | 502 Ivy Circle, Alexandria, VA
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Nancy Perkins 703-402-5599 | CBmove.com/AK8407079



Open Sun 1-4PM Old Towne | 209 Wilkes Street, Alexandria, VA
Historic circa 1810 4 Lvl Town Home w/col charm & contemporary interior. 3100 sq ft finished. Private treed brick walled garden & roof top terrace offering panorama of Alexandria. \$1,250,000
Steve Deleyiannis 703-966-6062 | CBmove.com/AK8430325



Collingwood Springs | 8212 Collingwood Court, Alexandria, VA
Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this beautiful 4BR + 3.5BA colonial offers 3,700 sq ft. of luxury living. Fabulous 1st floor FR w/fp, fully finished lower level + 2 car garage. \$895,000
Donnan C. Wintermute 703-608-6868 | CBmove.com/FX8178143



Open Sun 2-4PM Mason Hill | 1607 Mason Hill Drive, Alexandria, VA
Beautiful custom Contemporary in Mason Hill. Large light filled rooms with floor to ceiling windows and hardwood floors on 3 levels. 5 bedrooms, 3 full & 2 half bathrooms. \$878,899
Greg Doherty 703-408-5068 | CBmove.com/FX8488807



Winstead Manor | 6610 Winstead Manor Court, Lorton, VA
Grand Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac, 6000+sq.ft., 5BR, 4.5BA, generous room sizes, hdwds, chefs kitchen, fin walkout bsmt, rear deck & patio, flat yard w/privacy fence & 2 car garage. \$829,900
The York Group 703-409-3377 | CBmove.com/FX8460546



The Prescott | 1115 Cameron Street 115, Alexandria, VA
Just listed; perfect 2 master bedroom 2 bathroom luxury condo with private street level entrance, 2 garage parking spots, gourmet kitchen, gleaming hardwoods, community roof top deck! \$599,000
Lyssa Seward 703-298-0562 | CBmove.com/AK8496334



Open Sun 1-4PM Burgundy Village | 5602 Norton Road, Alexandria, VA
Beautifully maintained 3/4BR, 2BA home walking distance to Metro. Hardwoods, granite, stainless, walk-in closet, huge deck and backyard. \$399,000
Cathy D'Antuono 703-819-3077 | CBmove.com/FX8497922

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Alexandria

Friday, November 28
BlackFridayAlexandria.com

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at City Garages and Meters from 6 am



CAN'T DO IT ALL IN ONE DAY?
CHECK OUT SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, 11/29.

NEWS



Tree Planting Service Project

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



The Mount Vernon Evening Lions planted trees at Collingwood Park on Nov. 4. Fourteen Lions and friends helped plant 36 trees — oaks, dogwoods and red buds — which were given to them by Fairfax Releaf, Inc. The Lions Club worked with Fairfax County Park Authority to find the location to plant the trees.

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1910 Jamestown Road

Floor Plan

Alexandria 22308-1130 Arcturus Lane. **For Sale!** Coming Soon! **Buy Now!**
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Floor Plan

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NEWS

Charitable Gift Alternatives

FROM PAGE 1

past several years in part to the regrowth of the economy, but that it's also "a creative time for giving," he said. "With more online giving, more people are thinking about loans instead of gifts. These are new creative approaches to engage people in helping."

Which is where 12 Ways comes in. Now in its fourth year linking citizens with nonprofits and county-wide issues like disadvantaged students from minority groups underperforming in schools, the gift-giving angle is paying off. "We've seen groups have up to a 150 percent increase in giving," said Lemieux.

"We've come to realize that addressing social problems is not just going to be government's responsibility," said Abramson. "We need all sectors, individuals, families and communities coming together if we're going to get something done."

To learn more about the nearly 500 nonprofits registered in northern Virginia, visit www.connectnorthernvirginia.org.

Where To Help

Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue: works with churches, shelters and schools to provide toys, coats and shoes to children. Fifteen years ago, the organization helped 50 children; today they reach over 3,000 in a single donation event, usually held at Fire Station 11 in Alexandria.

Gift: Donations of various sizes help purchase toys, bicycles and coats for children for the holidays.

"With 180 schools in the county, 50 to 70 are coming to us," said Captain II Willie Bailey with the Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department. "And one out of four kids living below the poverty line, that's a big need. The station looks like Toys 'R' Us for a few hours."

Our Daily Bread: contracted by Fairfax County to provide holiday assistance with half of the 3,000 referrals of families in need from county social workers.

Gift: \$50 donation for gift cards for clients or adopt a family.

"It's an opportunity to connect people with people," said ODB executive director Lisa Whetzel, "neighbors to neighbors. You see there are people who live around the corner that are living without a lot of the amenities that they live with. It's eye-opening."

Reforest Fairfax and Fairfax ReLeaf: project to plant trees that maintain canopy cover around the county, help with stormwater management and soil retention. The project is responsible for many of the trees along the Fairfax County Parkway, as well as a big re-planting after construction at Bonnie Brae Elementary School.

Gift: \$35 donation for multiple native trees in a group planting



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX ANIMAL SHELTER

Annie Duer's family is currently fostering Sweet Jane through the Fairfax Animal Shelter. Sweet Jane has been waiting more than six months for a "forever home."

somewhere in the county.

"Eighty percent plantable space is on private land in Fairfax County," said Jim McGlone, urban forest conservationist of the Virginia Department of Forestry. "Trying to expand or improve the coverage, we really have to engage the public and get individuals planting trees."

Fairfax County Park Foundation

Gift: \$2,000 for a new bench or \$800 to adopt an existing bench; \$1,000 for a new tree donation or \$500 to adopt.

"It does keep on giving," said Roberta Longworth, executive director of the Park Foundation. "Our wooden benches are guaranteed for five years and steel for ten."

Friends of Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Gift: Donations of various sizes help with surgeries, medication, collars, tags and the microchip program.

"It's an open access shelter that takes in every animal that comes to the door," said Kristen Auerbach, a spokesperson for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Annually, that number is about 5,000 dogs, cats, reptiles and other furry creatures.

"It's the largest jurisdiction in the United States with a placement rate above 90 percent. We're about 95 percent this year."

Fairfax Library Foundation

Gift: Add a book to a specific library's collection, such as the Richard Boyd location, through their Amazon wish list and put the gift recipient's name first on the list to check it out.

"They're supporting the community overall, based on their interests," said Susan Harman, executive director of the Fairfax Library Foundation. "That's helpful, and they can do it from their desktop."

Collect For Kids: a consortium of nonprofits, for-profits and county agencies working to make sure all students start school with the necessary supplies. Fairfax County has about 50,000 students that qualify to receive free or reduced meals. Collect For Kids reached three-fifths of those this year.

Gift: Donations of various sizes help with the bulk purchase of backpacks, pencils, pens, scissors, etc.

"When do you start to think about back to school stuff?" said Jay Garant, Fairfax County Public Schools coordinator of business and community partnerships. "We've already bought things at that point, so moving the donation point to December would be great for us."

Domestic Violence Services: working with the nonprofit A Way Forward to provide basic house and emergency needs for people leaving shelters to start new homes. The county has offices in 11 locations, including the South County Human Services building.

Gift: Donations of various sizes help purchase goods like bed in a bag, kitchen in a bag, door locks, mattresses, as well as holiday-specific items like toys, games and books.

"We're raising funds to give families the extras they just don't have the money or resources to provide during the holiday season," said Sandy Bromley, Fairfax County-wide domestic violence coordinator, "give victims the chance to really celebrate the holidays."

For the complete 12 Ways of Giving nonprofit list and donation portal, visit http://www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org/enews/Ways_to_give_1214.html.



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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



The quilt "mountain dreams" made by the Mt. Vernon Unitarian quilters, will be raffled at the holiday shop.



Past holiday shops drew hundreds of gift seekers.

Holiday Shop Returns

The day-long Holiday Shop at Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church will be open 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the new commons annex as well as the chapel, the Hollin Hall mansion, and the grounds of Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. MVUC's Holiday Shop features 50 hand-picked artisans; Country Kitchen with homemade chutneys, cakes, pies, cookies, breads, cheese balls and jellies; Betty's Boutique with gently used decorative household items; and the Jewelry Shop with estate jewelry. A quilt made by the MVUC quilters called "mountain dreams" will be raffled off near the end of the day. Lunch can be purchased on site. Call 703-765-5950 or see www.mvuc.org.

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Thanksgiving Fox Trot. 8-10 a.m. Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. 13th annual Thanksgiving Fox Trot one-miler around the park. All participants must pre-register. Online registration closes Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. Visit forthuntpa.org for more.

Handmade Holiday Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St., Alexandria. The fifth annual handmade holiday craft fair will feature more than 40 local, handmade vendors, food and baked goods, and live music. Cost is free to the public and is a great place to get your holiday shopping started. Visit Facebook.com/TCWilliamsHandmadeHolidayCraftFair.

Annual Christmas Bazaar. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Mary's School, 400 Green St. More than 60 of the region's most popular vendors specializing in arts, jewelry, ceramics, clothing and more will be present. Visit <http://bit.ly/1zGVTw1> for more.

Family Fun Turkey Hunt. 1-2 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Create a turkey-inspired decoration for your Thanksgiving table. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

Ornament Decorating at Friendship Firehouse. 1-4 p.m. Decorate and take home dough ornaments made in shapes inspired by firefighting. One ornament per person will be included in the museum's \$2 admission, and additional ornaments will be available for \$1 each. All ages. 703-746-4994 or www.friendshipfirehouse.net

The Nutcracker. 1 and 7 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria and Lorton will present their annual Nutcracker performances. Ticket prices \$21-27 and can be purchased at www.metropolitanarts.org

prices \$21-27 and can be purchased at www.metropolitanarts.org

Thanksgiving Table Arrangement. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Break the cornucopia tradition and make a Thanksgiving centerpiece in a fresh pumpkin. Call 703-642-5173.

Ballet and Bubbly Benefit. 5 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. \$15 per ticket. A pre-performance benefit gala with all proceeds going toward Metropolitan School of the Arts' Next Stage Building Campaign to develop world-class performance and educational facilities. Includes hors d'oeuvres, beverages and live music. Cocktail attire and ages 21 and older is recommended. www.metropolitanarts.org

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

The Nutcracker. Noon and 5 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria and Lorton will present their annual Nutcracker performances. Ticket prices \$21-27 and can be purchased at www.metropolitanarts.org

Land of Sweets Tea. 2 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. A post-performance celebration with ballet dancers and Land of Sweets' fare: includes live music, photos with the characters and autographs. This is a seated event, pre-assigned according to time of reservation and party size. \$25 per ticket. www.metropolitanarts.org

WEDNESDAY/NOV 26-SUNDAY/DEC. 28

Broadway Christmas Carol. Runs

through Dec. 28 at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Enjoy the show Wednesday-Thursday, 8 p.m., Fridays, 8 p.m., Saturdays, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50. Visit www.metrostage.org for more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

Alexandria Tree Lighting. 7-9 p.m.

Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Annual event featuring lighting the City tree, performances and a visit from Santa to open the Christmas season. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Calendar.

Hangout with Santa (and Mrs.

Claus). 1-5:30 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 South Union Street, Alexandria. Storytelling will begin at 4 and 5:30 p.m. Santa will lead a sidewalk parade, playing his bagpipes, up to the Christmas tree lighting in Market Square. Cocoa, coffee and cookies will be available for purchase as well as a full menu for those wishing to dine. www.unionstreetpublichouse.com/events

FRIDAY/NOV. 28-TUESDAY/JAN. 6

Christmas in Mount Vernon. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon.

Mount Vernon decks the halls with themed Christmas trees on the estate and festive greenery in the Mansion. Visit www.mountvernon.org/christmas for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 5-6

Annual Scottish Christmas Walk

Weekend & Parade, 9 a.m. onwards at Campagna Center, 418 South Washington St., Alexandria. Tour historic Old Town homes decorated for the season, wander through a marketplace full of unique seasonal gifts, purchase greenery for

your holiday decorations, enjoy fine Scotch at the Taste of Scotland, and take in the sights and sounds of the unique Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Proceeds will benefit educational programs that provide vital pre-K education, after school programs, tutoring and mentoring, family support services and English classes, all serving 1,700

Alexandrians daily. For schedule of events and to purchase tickets visit www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Scottish Walk Parade. 11 a.m. Old

Town Alexandria, parade begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets. More than 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march through the streets of Old Town. Visit www.campagnacenter.org/events/scottish-christmas-walk-weekend or www.visitalexandriava.com/events/44th-Annual-Campagna-Center-Scottish-Walk-Parade/983

A Soldier's Christmas at Carlyle House. Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. The

Christmas event will feature re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment, as well as costumed interpreters from historic Carlyle House who will highlight colonial life in Alexandria during the holidays at the time of the American Revolution. Visit carlylehouse.org.

Holiday Open House. 4-7 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. During the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Holiday Open House, artists will keep their studios open late for visitors to find handmade gifts. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Boat Parade. 5:30 p.m. near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Enjoy the 15th Annual

Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/holidays for more.

Holiday on the Avenue. 6-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon and E. Oxford avenues. Discover the holiday spirit with a visit to Del Ray for the annual holiday tree lighting and a special appearance by Santa Claus, who will lead carols and sit for photos with children. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

Holiday Concert. 7 p.m. Convergence, 180 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Exciting holiday concert featuring the Alexandria and George Mason University Potomac Arts Academy Encore Chorales. Free. www.encorecreativity.org

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Nutcracker in a Nutshell, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites, Old Town Alexandria. Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria and Lorton will present their pint-sized, 30-minute version of the Nutcracker for younger audiences, along with a breakfast. Tickets are \$38 for children, 10 and younger, and \$48 for adults. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org for tickets.

Advent Cantata. 4 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. Presented by New Dominion Chorale, works by Benjamin Britten and Thomas Beveridge. General admission \$30; \$25 seniors; \$5 students, children; \$20 groups of 10 or more. Free parking. Call Margaret Volpe at 703-442-9404, visit www.newdominion.org or email info@westernpresbyterian.org

Music in the Gallery. 2 p.m. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. The Mount Vernon Flutes perform holiday classics. www.nvfaa.org

ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Mount Vernon Virtual Tour. Website users can now transport themselves to George Washington's Mount Vernon in a click of a mouse or touch of a screen through a new virtual tour. Featuring 29, 360-degree panoramic images, more than 200 points of interest, and dozens of in-depth videos highlighting architectural details, objects and anecdotes, the tour recreates the experience of being at the estate in an unparalleled way. www.mountvernon.org/virtualtour

Tavern Toddlers. Weekly open playtime continues every Monday throughout holiday season. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, North Royal Street, Alexandria. Caregivers, toddlers (walkers through 3 years) and visiting relatives are welcome to play, read, dance and color in the historic ballroom. No reservations required. Each week costs \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, and additional people are \$3. A three-visit pass costs \$18. On Monday, Feb. 16 Tavern Toddlers will be closed due to President's Day. www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-746-4242

Post-photography: Beyond the Print. Through Nov. 30. Public reception Thursday Nov. 13, 6-9 p.m. In a new Target Gallery exhibition, 31 artists experiment with alternative applications of traditional photographic images through a variety of work in wood, glass, fabric, and other media. torpedofactory.org/event/post-photography.

Young at Art. Through Nov. 21 at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. An exhibit for artists who are 55 or older. Free. Call 703-836-4414 or 703-824-1345 for more.

Art Exhibit. Through Jan. 2 at 1717 King St. and 300 S. Washington St. BB&T Bank hosts an exhibition of portraits of African American and

women Living Legends of Alexandria at its Old Town branches. Monday- Thursday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. Visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com. for more.

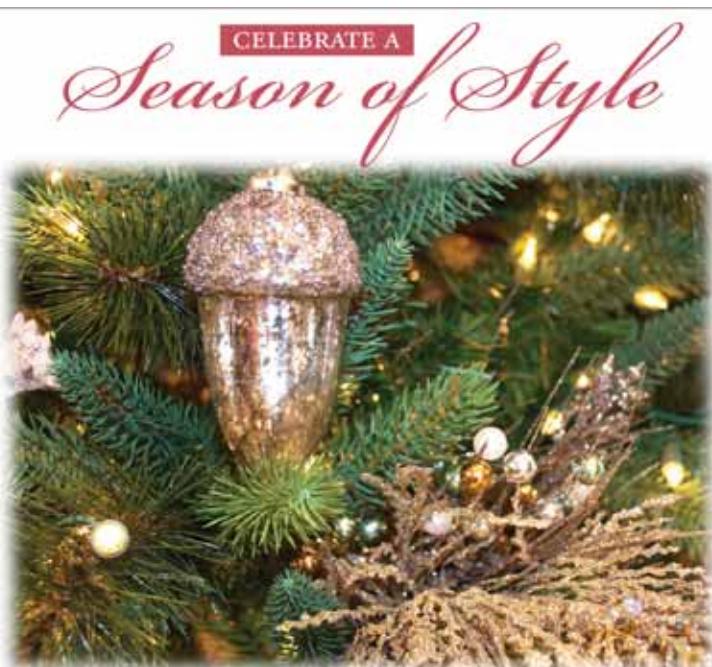
"Beyond the Board" Art Exhibit. Through Feb. 22. Prudential PenFed Realty, 4900 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans' presents "Beyond the Board." A portion of artists' sales go to the PenFed Foundation, supporting active military families, veterans and their families. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/shows/gww/ for more.

New Exhibit. Mount Vernon invites visitors to explore George Washington's design for the grounds of his estate, through a new exhibition, "Gardens & Groves: George Washington's Landscape" at Mount Vernon through Jan. 12, 2016. Gardens & Groves is the first museum exhibition to focus specifically on Washington's landmark achievements as a landscape designer combining rarely-seen original documents, artwork, and books with period garden tools, landscape photography, and a scale model of the Mount Vernon estate. Included in admission \$18/adult; \$17/senior citizen; \$9/child age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Alexandria Cars & Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month, 8:30-11 a.m.

George Washington's Mount Vernon has joined Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and James Madison's Montpelier to expand the "Presidents Passport," Virginia's premier presidential trail. As an added bonus to this year's program, visitors to the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King St. showing or purchasing a ticket to any of the three presidential estates will, upon request, receive for free Alexandria's "Key to the City" pass, which grants access into nine historic sites and museums in Alexandria-a \$26 added value. Visit www.PresPassport.org for

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20



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Friday, Dec 5 from 6:30 - 11 pm

Holiday Marketplace

Saturday, Dec 6 from 10 am - 4 pm

The Scottish Christmas Walk Parade

Saturday, Dec 6 begins at 11 am

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Saturday, Dec 6 from 11 am - 4 pm

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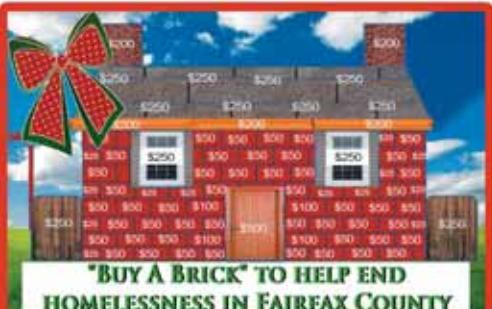
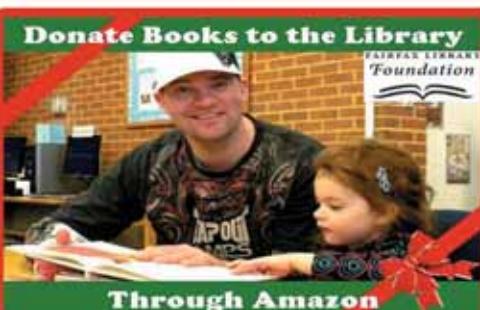


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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 17

more.
Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon to 5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum 4301 West Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Dinner for the Washingtons. Noon at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/ for more.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 pm. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

THURSDAY/NOV. 20

Retrosessionists Comedy Improv. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Enjoy an evening of improv comedy along with a cash bar. Tickets are \$10. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 21-22

Oliver! The Musical. 3 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Dickens' classic, family-favorite 19th century tale follows Oliver's adventure through London's underworld of pickpockets and ruffians, to the truth about his past. \$12. www.mvcct.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Thanksgiving Fox Trot. 8-10 a.m. Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. 13th annual Thanksgiving Fox Trot one-miler around the park. All participants must pre-register. Online registration closes Thursday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. Visit forthuntpta.org for more.

Holiday Shop Returns. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. The church will continue its 52 year tradition featuring an array of goods. Call 703-765-5950 or visit www.mvuc.org for more.

Handmade Holiday Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St., Alexandria. The fifth annual handmade holiday craft fair will feature more than 40 local, handmade vendors, food and baked goods, and live music. Cost is free to the public and is a great place to get your holiday shopping started. Visit Facebook.com/TCWilliamsHandmadeHolidayCraftFair.

Annual Christmas Bazaar. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Mary's School, 400 Green St. More than 60 of the region's most popular vendors specializing in arts, jewelry, ceramics, clothing and more will be present. Visit <http://bit.ly/1zGVTw1> for more.

Talbots Benefits Community

Lodgings 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Talbots, 601 N. Washington Street, Alexandria. Shopping with 30

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 20

percent discount and refreshments with 10 percent of the proceeds going to Community Lodgings. Email info@community-lodgings for more.

Asian Style Miniature Dish Garden.

10 a.m.-noon. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Design and create an Asian garden scene with figurines, stones and plants. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

Garden Sprouts. 11 a.m.-noon. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about wild turkeys, their families, habits and amazing ways of survival. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

Family Fun Turkey Hunt. 1-2 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Create a turkey-inspired decoration for your Thanksgiving table. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

Ornament Decorating at Friendship Firehouse.

1-4 p.m. Decorate and take home dough ornaments made in shapes inspired by firefighting. One ornament per person will be included in the museum's \$2 admission, and additional ornaments will be available for \$1 each. All ages. 703-746-4994 or www.friendshipfirehouse.net

The Nutcracker. 1 and 7 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria and Lorton will present their annual Nutcracker performances. Ticket prices \$21-27 and can be purchased at www.metropolitanarts.org

Thanksgiving Table Arrangement. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road.

Break the cornucopia tradition and make a Thanksgiving centerpiece in a fresh pumpkin. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

Plant Discussion. 3 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Eileen Malone of the Botanic Arts Society of the National Capital Region will discuss contemporary portraits of native plants, with suggestions on how these plants may be used in mid-Atlantic gardens. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Ballet and Bubbly Benefit.

5 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. \$15 per ticket. A pre-performance benefit gala with all proceeds going toward Metropolitan School of the Arts' Next Stage Building Campaign to develop world-class performance and educational facilities at their Alexandria and Lorton campuses. Includes hors d'oeuvres, beverages and live music. Cocktail attire and ages 21 and older is recommended. www.metropolitanarts.org

Localpolooza.

5 p.m. Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Alexandria's Fuse Box perform, along with other up-and-coming, local bands. All ages. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. www.empire-nova.com

Proposed Chinquapin 50-meter Pool Kick-Off Event.

6 p.m. Chinquapin Recreation Center, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Featuring USA Swimming National Team Member Andrew Seliskar who will talk to young swimmers and families about his career and the importance of supporting swimming and building 50-meter pools. Seliskar will also take questions from the audience and sign autographs. Email alexandriaaquatics@gmail.com.

Period Inspired Banquet. 8 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Celebrate an evening with retired President Jefferson, played by Colonial Williamsburg's Bill Barker. The evening will feature a period inspired banquet, English country dances, live music, dessert collation and a cash bar. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern for more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

The Nutcracker. Noon and 5 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria and Lorton will present their annual Nutcracker performances. Ticket prices \$21-27 and can be purchased at www.metropolitanarts.org

Land of Sweets Tea.

2 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. A post-performance celebration with ballet dancers and Land of Sweets' fare; includes live music, photos with the characters and autographs. This is a seated event, with eight per table, pre-assigned according to time of reservation and party size. \$25 per ticket. www.metropolitanarts.org

Music in the Gallery.

2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Navy Band Chamber Music Series will feature Stravinsky's Octet for Winds as well as other traditional and modern music for woodwinds and brass. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Live Music.

7:30 p.m. in the Music

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22



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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 221

Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Time Jumpers, featuring Vince Gill, Dawn Sears, Kenny Sears and Ranger Doug Green. \$59.50. Visit www.thetimejumpers.com or www.Birchmere.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

DJ Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett Street, Alexandria. With DJ Dave Murphy. Music of the 1930s, '40s, '50s and some contemporary surprises. \$6. 703-359-9882 or www.gottaswing.com

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26-SUNDAY/DEC. 28

Broadway Christmas Carol. Runs through Dec. 28 at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Enjoy the show Wednesday-Thursday, 8 p.m., Fridays, 8 p.m., Saturdays, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50. Visit www.metrostage.org for more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

Alexandria Tree Lighting. 7-9 p.m. Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Annual event featuring lighting the City tree, performances and a visit from Santa to open the Christmas season. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Calendar.

Hangout with Santa (and Mrs. Claus). 1-5:30 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 South Union Street, Alexandria. Storytelling will begin at 4 and 5:30 p.m. Santa will lead a sidewalk parade, playing his bagpipes, up to the Christmas tree lighting in Market Square. Cocoa,

coffee and cookies will be available for purchase as well as a full menu for those wishing to dine. www.unionstreetpublichouse.com/events.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28-TUESDAY/JAN. 6

Christmas in Mount Vernon. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon decks the halls with themed Christmas trees on the estate and festive greenery in the Mansion. Visit www.mountvernon.org/christmas for more.

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY/DEC. 1-3

Amalia's Fancy by Will Artley. 6:15, 7:00 and 7:45 p.m. Tres Hermanas, 4580 Duke Street, Alexandria. Chef Will Artley is teaming up with his friend Travis Hester to pay homage to his mom with Amilia's Fancy, a pop-up experience featuring dishes that highlight his Mexican heritage and global travels. The fixed-price menu will include 11 dishes, \$75 including tax. Beverages and gratuity are extra. Reservations are required and can be made at www.roughindustries.com/collections/amalias-fancy

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett Street, Alexandria. \$10. A night of swing dance fun with music by Hot Buttered Nuggets. www.gottaswing.com or 703-359-9882.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

Live Music. 7:30 at the Birchmere,

3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone perform. \$45.00. Visit peternoone.com or www.Birchmere.com for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 5-6

Live Music: Dar Williams. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Dar Williams, honoring the 20th Anniversary of "The Honesty Room." \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or www.darwilliams.com.

Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend & Parade. 9 a.m. onwards at Campagna Center, 418 South Washington St., Alexandria. Tour historic Old Town homes decorated for the season, wander through a marketplace full of unique seasonal gifts, purchase greenery for your holiday decorations, enjoy fine Scotch at the Taste of Scotland, and take in the sights and sounds of the unique Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Proceeds will benefit educational programs that provide vital pre-K education, after school programs, tutoring and mentoring, family support services and English classes, all serving 1,700 Alexandrians daily. For schedule of events and to purchase tickets visit www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Scottish Walk Parade. 11 a.m. Old Town Alexandria, parade begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets. More than 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march through the streets of Old Town. Visit www.campagnacenter.org/events/scottish-christmas-walk-weekend or www.visitalexandriava.com/events/44th-Annual-Campagna-Center-Scottish-Walk-Parade/983



PHOTO BY LAURA MANN

'Nutcracker' In a Nutshell

Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria and Lorton will present their 30-minute version of the "Nutcracker" for younger audiences, along with a buffet brunch on Sun., Dec. 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Embassy Suites in Old Town Alexandria. Tickets are \$38 for children, 10 and younger, and \$48 for adults. Go to www.metropolitanarts.org for tickets. Seats will be assigned for this event in tables of 10 according to reservation time and party size.

Christmas event will feature re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment, as well as costumed interpreters from historic Carlyle House who will highlight colonial life in Alexandria during the holidays at the time of the American Revolution. Visit carlylehouse.org.

Holiday Open House. 4-7 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. During the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Holiday Open House, artists will keep their studios open late for visitors to find handmade gifts. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Boat Parade. 5:30 p.m. near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Enjoy the 15th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/holidays for more.

Holiday on the Avenue. 6-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon and E. Oxford avenues. Discover the holiday spirit with a visit to Del Ray for the annual holiday tree lighting and a special appearance by Santa Claus, who will lead carols and sit for photos with children. Visit www.visitdelray.com for more.

Holiday Concert. 7 p.m. Convergence, 180 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Exciting holiday concert featuring the Alexandria and George Mason University Potomac Arts Academy Encore Chorales. Free. www.encorecreativity.org

Dance in the Gallery: A Demonstration of Scottish Country Dancing. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Northern Virginia branch, presents a demonstration of social dancing of Scotland. www.nvfaa.org

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Origin of Mount Vernon Watersheds

History through rock formations.

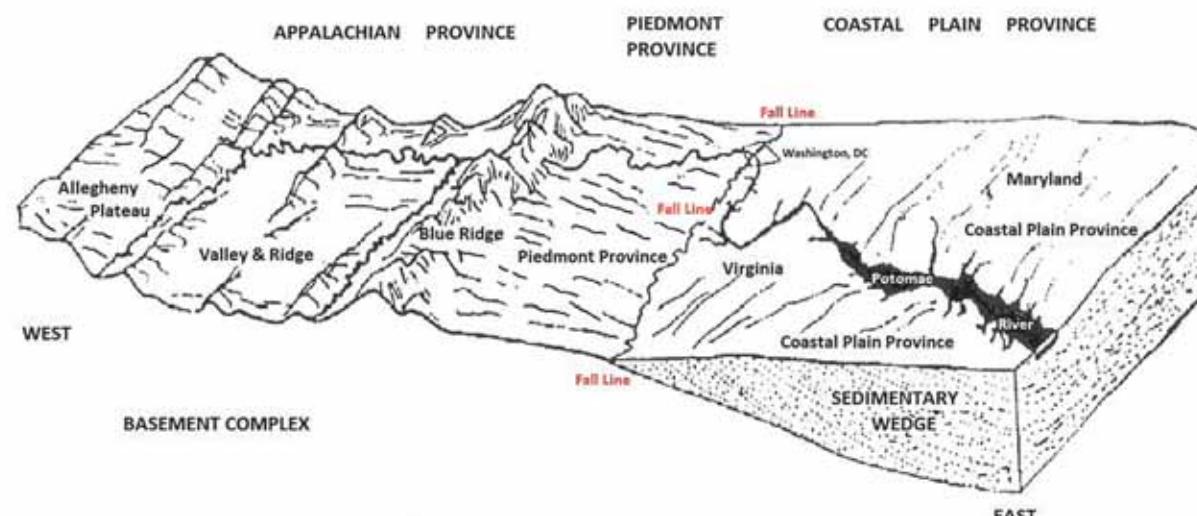
BY MARTIN TILLETT

In the weeks ahead, I will present a series of articles focusing on the rapidly diminishing natural resources in the north end of the Mount Vernon Planning District, giving attention to the Belle Haven Watershed and to the Quander Brook stream valley. This area of the district is undergoing increased

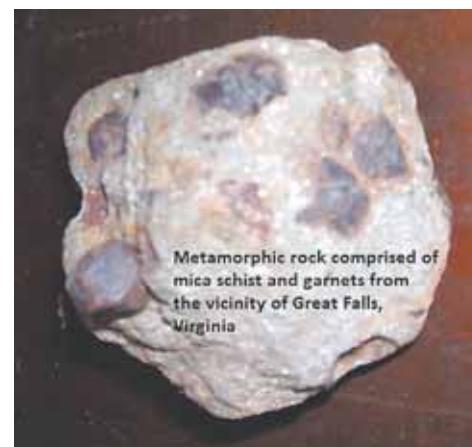
PART 1 development with more to come in the decades to follow as county planners focus on transportation-related development that increases density around existing and newly proposed Metro Rail stations.

Understanding a local watershed is to know your neighborhood in a context not typically undertaken. Having this understanding is to know the geological processes that have made the foundation to which these watersheds are assigned by nature's forces and to know the impacts of human development that have led to the degraded conditions of today. Geologically speaking, the basement rocks of Mount Vernon have origins that go back hundreds of millions of years. Mount Vernon citizens live within the geophysical boundaries of the Atlantic Coastal Plain Province. We live at the far western edge of this Province which extends all the way into the continental shelf of the Atlantic Ocean to the east. To our immediate west is the Piedmont Province (foothills) and beyond that are the Blue Ridge, Valley and Ridge and Allegheny Plateau sections of the Appalachian Province. The origin of the Coastal Plain Province has much to do with events that created and shaped the other provinces to our west.

The basement of the coastal plain here in Mount Vernon is entirely buried. It is a complex of igneous and metamorphic rocks formed by continental collision, metamorphism and volcanism. In areas of western and northern Fairfax County, these basement rocks are exposed by erosion from the Potomac River making them visible for study and interpretation. The exposed rocks in the vicinity of Great Falls National Park provide a diagnostic window for geologists to unfold the story of their origin. Many of these rocks were once the bottom sediments of an ancient ocean named Iapetus which preceded the Atlantic Ocean. Large blocks and fragments eroded from an older igneous rock were mixed with the sediments. Igneous rocks — hot, molten rocks deep below the Earth's surface — were injected up into the sedimentary rocks at various times in the geologic past as this ocean covered much of present day eastern North America. This ocean was born a little more than 540 - 600 million years ago, was bordered to the east by Baltica (present-day Europe) and to the west by Laurentia (the Canadian shield of North America). Contin-



The Coastal Plain physiographic province is the result of the erosional sediment from the Appalachians. For over 180 million years sediment has washed down rivers both ancient and modern and deposited in the ocean. These layers eventually built up a wide, gently sloping plain which extends from the "fall line" at the edge of the Piedmont province to the edge of the continental shelf. Since the Coastal Plain was formed after the plates collided and after much of the subsequent spreading of the Atlantic Ocean basin, it is considered the trailing edge of the American plate.



ental drift led to the gradual closing of the ancient Iapetus Ocean. Under the compressive forces of this closing, the ancient ocean floor of the Iapetus and its partially submerged volcanic arc were joined to the edge of Laurentia. The ocean closed completely when Baltica finally collided with Laurentia.

Many exposed rocks within Great Falls National Park and in the landscapes of many counties to the west of Fairfax County, formed approximately 500 million years ago from the metamorphosed sediments of mud, clays and sands from the ocean floor of ancient Iapetus. The sedimentary rocks were changed by heat and pressure (metamorphosed) and deformed during several collisions of the Earth's continental plates that resulted in the formation of the Appalachian Mountains. Metamorphism changed the sedimentary and igneous rocks into schist and gneiss and migmatite. Hot solutions of silica were injected as veins of white quartz into the rocks, and crystals of muscovite and biotite mica, garnet, staurolite, and kyanite grew as the rocks cooled.

The history of the Appalachian Mountains is intimately linked to the closure of the Iapetus Ocean, having resulted in a mega continent assemblage called Euramerica. Around the same time, another ocean farther south, the Rheic Ocean, was also clos-

ing as the Gondwana continental landmass, which included ancient South America and Africa, slowly merged into Euramerica to eventually form the super continent Pangea around 300 million years ago and leading to the final tectonic jolts that gave the Appalachians their last heave upwards creating a mountain range that was once as high as the modern day Rockies. Pangea itself began to break apart after about 100 million years ago.

As Pangea began to split apart, continental rifting that failed to continue to the point of breakup created great depressions or basins in areas east of the new Appalachian mountain chain. The Appalachian Mountain chain today exemplifies an old worn down mountain range that has been altered by the ravages of time, nature and now anthropogenic impacts. When these mountains were young, water from the steep sloping flanks filled the large basins created through rifting and formed inland seas. Evidence of one such sea was found a few decades ago as fossils of approximately 200 million-year-

old fish were found in a newly excavated water reservoir west of Manassas in the Culpepper basin. Farther east the newly formed Atlantic Ocean was spreading apart as the now broken masses of Pangea diverged and moved apart.

Mount Vernon and communities that follow Interstate 95 make an arc from Fredericksburg to Wilmington, Del. and are close to or at the edge of the location of

what was then the new North American plate. The early Atlantic Ocean coastline had inundations covering areas along this arc. Evidence of these oceanic incursions is in the form of marine clays found over many areas in the Mount Vernon region. Marine clay deposits are very fine grained and typically settle farther offshore from the coastline than larger, heavier sediments such as gravels and sands. Clay deposits are visible on the banks of some areas of Quander Brook suggesting that the coastline was some distance west of present day Richmond Highway. A large ancient tree that fell into a river or perhaps pulled in during a flood was transported to the area of present day Spring Bank approximately 100 million years ago where it became buried in sedimentary clays.

In the early 1990s I came across an ancient fossil log remnant of that tree eroding from the banks of Quander Brook. With assistance, the petrified relic was collected and rests on the grounds of Belle View Elementary School today.

Part 2 will continue with more geophysical events leading to the formation of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay watersheds.



PEOPLE

Mount Vernon's Zyzyk Signs with Towson Softball

Center fielder was first-team all-state in 2014.

Mount Vernon center fielder Stormy Zyzyk has an impressive list of personal accolades. She's a three-time first-team all-district/conference selection, and garnered first-team all-region honors on two occasions.

As a junior in the spring of 2014, the 5-foot-2 left-hander was named first-team all-state in 5A by the Virginia High School Coaches Association. She batted .474 with 28 RBIs and scored 37 runs in 25 games, with an on-base percentage of .610. Zyzyk's personal success led to wins for the Mount Vernon softball team as the Majors finished 20-5 and reached the Conference 13 championship game. While Zyzyk awaits the start of her senior season, she recently made official her college plans, signing a letter of intent to play softball at Towson University.

Zyzyk recently participated in a Q&A via email with The Gazette.

Q: What made Towson the right choice for you?

Zyzyk: My freshman year I stepped on to campus and fell in love with the school, not just the softball program but it as a whole. They have an excellent exercise science program that can help me reach my goal of being a physical therapist.



Mount Vernon senior Stormy Zyzyk signed a letter of intent to play softball at Towson University.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Q: What position will you play in college?

Zyzyk: I'll play outfield.

Q: At what point did you realize playing college softball was a possibility for you?

Zyzyk: I was always told there's a level of play in college for everyone, but I realized I could play at a high competitive level when I went to a camp out in Las Vegas [during my sophomore year] with girls who towered over me, and little ole' me was keeping up with them and the coaches were choosing to talk to me over them.

Q: What are you most looking

forward to about college?

Zyzyk: The challenge that it'll bring me, on the field and in the classroom.

Q: Do you have a specific pregame ritual you go through?

Zyzyk: I have to eat a PB&J before. I listen to the classical music to keep me calm and get my mind focused.

Q: What is your favorite memory of high school softball to this point?

Zyzyk: Definitely going the [conference] championship game my junior year. I never experienced a championship game during high school up until that moment.

We worked so hard and even though we came up short, it was a great experience.

Q: What are your expectations for your senior season?

Zyzyk: I'm only expecting my best and to improve my quality of play to help take my team to another championship game.

Q: Who is your favorite music artist? Why?

Zyzyk: Carrie Underwood; she's worked her way up to the top and sets a good example.

Q: What is your favorite movie? Why?

Zyzyk: "A League of Their Own;" it's a classic.

Q: What is your favorite food?

Zyzyk: I love all food. But I would have to say my mom's enchiladas.

Q: What location is the farthest you have traveled from the Washington, D.C. area?

Zyzyk: Grand Caymans.

Q: Are you a pro sports fan? If so, what is your favorite team/teams?

Zyzyk: Nationals.

Q: Do you have a favorite pro athlete?

Zyzyk: Jason Heyward. I love the way he plays the game. And Michelle Moultrie. She's loyal to the game she loves and I wish I could be as good as her.

— JON ROETMAN

Colonial Christmas Pohick Church hosts 55th Christmas Mart and luncheon.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Turkey salad, green beans, cranberry sauce, stuffed celery, pumpkin pie, coffee and tea: Anita Stribling has helped serve the same holiday meal to 300 people for 52 years.

Each year, the Lorton resident manages a team of waitresses adorned in colonial garb as they feed three sittings of guests at the Episcopal Pohick Church Christmas Mart in Lorton.

"Most of us volunteers are old," said Stribling, "but we can serve 100 people every hour: serve, set up, clean, pretty darn efficient."

The local congregation of George Washington and George Mason, the historic Pohick church buildings host a Christmas mart every year on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. What began as a spontaneous holiday tea by the women of the church has grown steadily to include crafters from around Virginia and Maryland, and a fresh homemade meal that draws military on their lunch break from Fort Belvoir, county elected officials and community members.

Sixteen different crafters this year will showcase jewelry, knit and crocheted goods, stained glass and peanut brittle, in addition



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

From left: Vicki Albert of Mount Vernon, Faith Chudzik of Mason Neck, Rita Stankwitz of Clifton and Connie Myers of Springfield decorate the Pohick Church office in preparation for the Christmas Mart.

to the church's own apple butter.

The menu stays the same, year after year. "Why reinvent the wheel? Everyone seems to like it," said Springfield resident Connie Myers. Myers grew up in the church and has coordinated the mart and captained the kitchen in particular for the last two decades.

"I love coming here," she said. "It's just been a part of my life, my daughters grew up here as well. Everyone here is just so warm and welcoming."

The lunch takes place in the basement of the church office building, though the main church sanctuary will be open during the day. For the first time, members of the do-

cent guild will be in the church, dressed in colonial clothing, interacting with visitors as "living history players."

Women groups within the church use the mart as a major fundraiser for their community work. The Martha Guild and the Ann Mason Guild support community-building projects year-round.

"Outreach is basically the reason we do this," said Myers. "We're very supportive of Lorton Community Action Center and New Hope Housing. Those are our biggies for both groups." The guilds also work with Fort Belvoir's Fisher House for wounded service members.

"George [Washington] went here, slept here too," Myers said. "We want to let people know this is an active church."

Stribling said the church members have also held a coat collection, gathered food for Thanksgiving baskets, hosted a Santa Claus breakfast and dinner for the homeless in the area. "We really have a good time," Stribling said. "That's why we keep doing it. We enjoy each other's company and the aspect of doing something good."

The Pohick Church Christmas Mart runs Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Seatings for lunch are at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets are available at the door for \$11 per person.



PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Tara Nappi and Josh Gwilliam of Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria, share information with parents at The Exceptional Schools Fair.



Muriel Jeddlicka (left), admissions director of Oakwood School in Annandale, was on hand at The Exceptional Schools Fair to share information with parents.

An Exceptional Education

Exceptional Schools Fair offers parents a chance to learn more about schools for their children with special needs.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Maureen Kleinman wandered from booth to booth, speaking with representatives from schools that cater to students who have special needs. She asked questions about each school's resources and environment.

"I have been home schooling my daughter for 5 years," said Kleinman, an Arlington mother. Her daughter is 11 years old and her son is 9. "I want to find a school where my daughter's educational needs will be met, but also where her social and emotional needs will be met."

Kleinman was one of hundreds of local parents who attended the eighth annual Exceptional Schools Fair. The event is con-

sidered a clearinghouse for the region, a place where parents of children think and learn differently (regardless of their disability) can come and find the schools that are right for their children.

More than 30 schools from the mid-Atlantic region sent representatives to show what their schools have to offer and answer questions from parents. The event was held at American University in D.C., November 16.

The fair was founded by Bekah Atkinson, director of admissions at the Sienna School, to provide a resource for parents whose lives literally changed overnight, or the moment they learned their children have a special need. The fair is a forum for parents to explore educational options for their children. Atkinson is clear, however, that it is not a forum for diagnosis or advice, but simply a helpful resource for parents who are facing

an unknown future for their children, educationally, financially and emotionally.

"We have families coming from all over," said Tara Nappi, director of teacher education and curriculum development at Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria. "They are looking for a place where their children feel safe."

EVENT ORGANIZERS described the fair as an empowering day for parents who may feel isolated by their child's diagnosis.

"The Exceptional Schools Fair is a moment for families to see and learn that they have options; that they are not, in fact, iso-

lated; that there are professional educators who are passionate about what they do in their school," said Atkinson.

"Whether [the need] is academic or social, it's so incredibly important that you work with professionals who understand your child and who are willing to collaborate with other professionals like speech therapists, occupational therapists and psychologists," said Lois McCabe, head of school for the Diener School in Potomac, Md.

For more information on schools that were part of The Exceptional Schools Fair, visit www.exceptionalschoolsfair.com.



Representatives from the Diener School in Potomac, Md., attended The Exceptional Schools Fair to answers questions from parents.

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5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)

Sunday
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Obituary

Florence Stanek

Florence Stanek, 90, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 8, 2014 at Mother Angeline McCrory Manor. She was born July 29, 1924, in LaSalle, Illinois to the late Michael and Catherine Pietrzak. She spent most of her life in Riverside, Illinois. Preceeded in death by sisters Katherine and Delores Pietrzak and brother Michael Pietrzak. She is survived by sons Greg (Suzanne), of Columbus, and Christopher (Dana) - Alexandria, VA.; grandchildren Lisa Babcanec and Carrie Fererri; great grandchildren Lillian Babcanec and Anna Fererri. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, 5199 East Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43213, where a private service for the family will be held Friday, November 21. Condolences can be left at www.HillFuneral.com

OBITUARY



Darlene Ruth Snider, 94, of Jackson Springs, NC, passed away on November 11, 2014 at Pinehurst Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center.

She was born in Heard County, GA March 14, 1920 to the late Joseph and Birdie Cook, attended Troop County High School, and completed Business School in Lagrange, GA. In 1942 she relocated to Washington, D.C. where she began working for the Federal government in support of the war effort. While in Washington she completed professional training as a runway model at the Phyllis Bell Modeling School. For many years she worked in that capacity for Woodward and Lothrop, the Hecht Company, and other major department stores in the city. In April 1944 she married M. Wayne Snider, who had moved to the area from Greencastle, Indiana to work for the Department of Defense. They relocated to Alexandria, VA, where they had their only child, June. During Mrs. Snider's 30 year career with the Federal government, she worked with distinction for the Coast Guard, Army and Internal Revenue Service. She was an avid dog lover and always had at least one dog, normally a Chihuahua, until she entered assisted living in 2007. Mrs. Snider was an active member of Trinity Methodist Church and enjoyed volunteering, gardening and spending time with her grandchildren. She was a descendant of an officer who fought in the American Revolution as well as several Civil War participants.

Mrs. Snider was predeceased by her husband, six half brothers, and one half sister. She is survived by her daughter, three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many cousins.

Funeral services will be held in Alexandria, VA with interment at Mount Comfort Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Humane Society, Best Friends, Doris Day Foundation or any other animal rescue organization. Online condolences may be made at www.bolesfuneralhome.com

Boles Funeral Home of Pinehurst is serving the family.

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A. Bruce Shauer, M.D. abshauer@aol.com

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HOLIDAY GIVING

Holiday Giving. Nov. 17-24. Churches, businesses, warehouses and homes across Alexandria are being transformed into collection spots for Operation Christmas Child. Area collection sites hope to collect thousands of gift-filled shoeboxes from individuals, families and groups for needy children during Operation Christmas Child's National Collection Week. List of locations at www.samaritanspurse.org.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19

Repairing Old Trunks. 9:30-11 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques club sponsors this free event. Linwood Smith will also relate some of his stories of "Growing up in Olde Towne Alexandria." Call Ann Connell, 703-360-4979.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

School Open House. 2-4 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit www.burgundfarm.org for more.

TUESDAY/DEC. 9

Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. For family caregivers of older adults. Discuss "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly - Caregiving with Family and Friends." Share experiences, gain support and get information without having to travel. Free. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/

SUNDAY/JAN. 11

School Open House. 2-4 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit www.burgundfarm.org for more.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

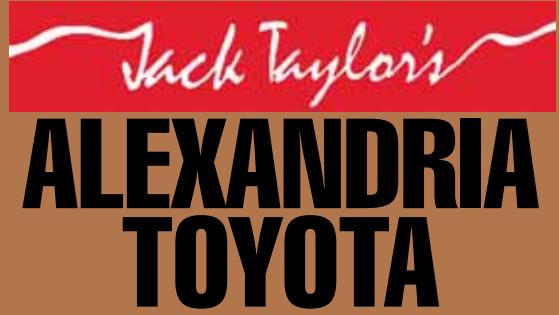
Mount Vernon At Home is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteer time to assist older adults aging in place in their homes. Volunteers are needed for local transportation to medical and personal appointments, errands, and grocery store trips; light handyman chores and home technology to name just a few. No minimum number of volunteer hours are required. Call Mount Vernon At Home 703-303-4060 or e-mail info@mountvernonathome.org to learn more. Visit www.mountvernonathome.org for more.

The Kingstowne Center needs a van driver to take participants on outings and an ESL teacher. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria, needs a DJ to provide a wide array of music from ballroom to line dancing, a Ballroom Dance Instructor and a volunteer with basic carpentry skills to build a "Little Free Library," for people to donate and borrow books from. Center will provide plans and materials. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Gum Springs Senior Center, Spanish teacher for a beginner's class needed. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents needed throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/lcombudsman/, email or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.



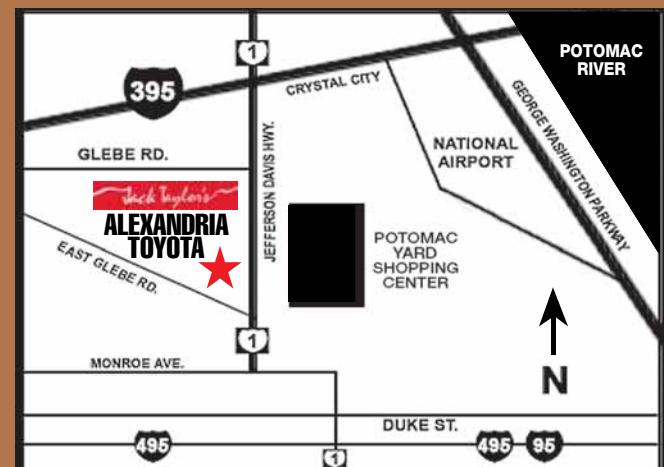
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