

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 27, 2014



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

**Sally Jones explains how she creates birch bark book-marks with pressed flowers and leaves.**

## Church Hosts Holiday and Craft Show

**A**fter a year's hiatus due to construction, the annual holiday craft show returned to the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church on Saturday, Nov. 22. Vendors filled the entryway and

church hall offering an eclectic selection of gift ideas and housewares. Lunch was served in the Hollin Hall and featured a selection of soups and sandwiches.



**Artist Cindy Williams with a selection of her up-cycled/mixed media creations.**



**Naomi Remes works on a her knitting as the craft show opens on Saturday morning.**



**MtoM Inspirations designer Rachael R. MaGann with a set of her festive hand towels.**



**Shoppers browse through the boutique outside the dining room before lunch in the Hollin Hall.**

## Hands-On Tour To Reform SOLs

**Hybla Valley Elementary and Walt Whitman Middle host Virginia Secretary of Education.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**"P**re-ci-pi-ta-tion at-mosphere, pre-ci-pi-ta-tion at-mo-sphere." Hybla Valley music teacher Carla Okouchi helped fourth grade students count out beats for a cross-discipline lesson on music and weather. The floor-seated students picked up white plastic recorders and tweeted a melody, with percussive accompaniment from maracas, wood blocks and tambourine.

The students were joined in the ensemble on Nov. 21 by Virginia Secretary of Education Anne Holton, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) School Board Chairman Tammy Derenak Kaufax and 44th District Del. Scott

Surovell. When the students sang "Canoe Song," Holton pantomimed rowing and chimed in, telling the students afterward it was a song she learned at camps in her youth.

Holton has been touring schools in Virginia, from Petersburg to Portsmouth, soliciting feedback from educators to help with reforming the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment. Surovell invited Holton to come to Mount Vernon as well.

"I wanted to make sure they received input from northern Virginia," he said. "People fall into the trap of thinking just because Fairfax County has good scores overall, it means all the schools have students who are thriving and that's just not the case. We SEE MOUNT VERNON, PAGE 3

## 95 Express Lanes Set To Open in December

**B**eginning next month, a 29-mile stretch of I-95 should look a little different. Existing HOV lanes will change to "Express Lanes," offering drivers with an E-ZPass a less congested alternative. The change affects 95 starting in Stafford County around Garrisonville Road, north to I-395 in Fairfax County by Edsall Road.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) partnered with the Transurban and Fluor-Lane 95 LLC for design and construction of the \$925 million project. Funding came from Virginia's Public-Private Transportation Act.

SEE 95 EXPRESS, PAGE 5



**29 Miles Express Lanes on I-95 will require an E-ZPass.**

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**Mount Vernon** **\$549,000**

Lovely 4-bedroom, 3 full bath home located on large lot with extensive mature landscaping. Updated kitchen & baths, huge lower level rec room, tons of storage. Custom deck leads to fenced rear yard. Just off the GW Parkway, minutes to Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, & DC. 8720 Braddock Ave.

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# Mount Vernon Schools Host Virginia Secretary of Education

FROM PAGE 1  
have a significant cluster of them in the 44th district so I wanted to make sure our schools considered as part of the process.”

Earlier in the fall when the Virginia Department of Education released its 2013-2014 report cards for all state schools, FCPS dropped five percent in schools receiving full accreditation based on performance objectives in English, math, history and science. West Potomac and Mount Vernon high schools, as well as several elementary and middle schools, were accredited with warnings for not meeting all of the objectives.

The SOL testing doesn't take into account, however, student mobility and turnover rate, percentage of the student body receiving free and reduced lunch, or whether a school has passed students on to gifted and talented centers or Advanced Placement classes that don't take SOLs.

“What's important is how they're helping children to grow, to improve,” said Surovell. “How can we measure that, as opposed to where they are at any point in time?”

Kaufax agrees with Surovell about needing a more comprehensive assessment. On the tour of Hybla Valley, which had its accredited with warning status lifted, she said “SOLs are just one data point. It's great to have [Secretary Holton] out to see the success that's going on here.”

Despite having a Title I level of poverty, Hybla Valley Principal Lauren Sheehy, Ed.D., attributed their success to a solid curriculum, behaved learning environment and purposeful movement around the classroom and building.

“We're definitely proud of what we do,” said Sheehy, “and appreciate and recognize other schools could benefit from the things we do here.”

Holton was impressed with the behavior and engaged instruction she saw in several classrooms.



**Walt Whitman Middle School eighth grade members of the Advanced Women's Chorus (from left) Emily Coates, Sheila Pham and Larissa Hutcherson performed Katy Perry's "Firework" for Virginia Secretary of Education Anne Holton.**



**Walt Whitman eighth grade student and Mount Vernon resident Sameer Islam talked with Virginia Secretary of Education Anne Holton about the educational and life values included in the "Whitman Way."**



**Virginia Secretary of Education Anne Holton (left) asks Walt Whitman Middle School students what they like about school, positive feedback she can take to other schools around the state about what's working there.**

“You definitely see a tone, a consistency throughout this school that makes a difference,” Holton said. “You see great teachers, stable teaching staff and that's not always easy. Poverty is the biggest predictor of academic challenge, but teachers are the biggest predictor of academic success within the school environment.”

After Hybla Valley, Holton's tour continued to Walt Whitman Middle School, which was accredited with a warning by the state. Its mobility rate is first in Fairfax County,

according to Principal Jean Bell, owing in part to being 23 percent military. And 56 percent of students receive free and reduced lunch.

Bell acknowledged the school is struggling with math and reading, but highlighted their writing process and literacy initiative, among programs that are already affecting a performance turnaround.

“I felt that [Secretary Holton] heard our concerns,” said Bell, “and she can see that we're not a failing school even though we're

accredited with warning. We're making progress.”

Surovell said he's optimistic about Holton addressing the SOL reform task. “Everyone I spoke with is very impressed and excited about her ability to try and come to some fair and practical solutions to get our accreditation system focused on the right measures.

“Measure us on what we're able to do with a child once we're able to take our shot at them,” he added.



**Hybla Valley Elementary School students in Megan Sidari's (right) second grade class teach Virginia Secretary of Education Anne Holton (rear left), FCPS School Board Chairman Tammy Derenak Kaufax (rear center) and 44th District Delegate Scott Surovell (rear right) their "Shark Attack" song.**



**Virginia Secretary of Education Anne Holton (left) joins fourth grade students at Hybla Valley Elementary School for music class. 44th District Del. Scott Surovell (right) and FCPS School Board Chairman Tammy Derenak Kaufax (further right) play backup wood block and tambourine.**



## BUSINESS

# Shop Local on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 29



Unwined, 1600A Belle View Blvd., is ready for the holidays with wine, craft beer, fancy nibbles, cigars and gift baskets. They also host special tasting events.

The holiday shop at Holly, Woods, and Vines, 8453 Richmond Highway,

offers custom ornaments and decorations, fresh Christmas trees, wreaths, and poinsettias.



PHOTOS BY JASMYN HICKS

Philip Son, Sunflower Florist, 5906 N. Kings Highway, has fresh and silk flower arrangements, potted plants, and custom gift baskets.

Several local businesses will be participating in Small Business Saturday by offering special sales on Nov. 29, according to Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Small Business Saturday sales will be offered at In Stitches Needlework Shop, Sunflower Florist, Hilltop Golf Club, Holly, Woods and Vines, and the Back Porch Thrift Shop. More local businesses can be found at [www.ShopLocalMountVernonVA.com](http://www.ShopLocalMountVernonVA.com)

"Shopping local keeps your money in your neighborhood," said Holly Dougherty, executive director of Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce. "The people who own and work in local businesses live here in our community and when you shop here the money goes back into the community. Schools, non-profit organizations, and youth sports teams all receive support from local businesses. Even the sales tax goes back to our schools, police, fire protection, and roads."

The greater Mount Vernon, Kingstowne, and Lorton area is home to many businesses offering holiday specials such as Unwined in the Belle View Shopping Center, Top It Off Outlet in Hollin Hall Shopping Center, Solo Flooring in Lorton, and The UPS Store in Kingstowne.

### BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

#### TUESDAY/DEC. 2

**Luncheon.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Westminster at Lake Ridge, 12191 Clipper Drive, Lake Ridge. Older adults contemplating a move are invited to learn about the active lifestyle in a continuing care retirement community. Contact 703-496-3440 for more.

#### 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.burgundyfarm.org](http://www.burgundyfarm.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/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/)

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 20

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

Holiday Soirée December 11th from 5-7 pm  
featuring Music by Dale Jarrett



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Ruth Harvey pictured (visiting) with her son Tom.  
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# NEWS

## 95 Express Lanes Set To Open in December

FROM PAGE 1

VDOT recently released results from an online survey of 1,200 northern Virginia drivers conducted last month. They concluded from the sampling that many drivers aren't prepared for the new lanes to open.

To access the lanes, all cars must have an E-ZPass, the flat, white transponder that sticks to the inside of the windshield.

There are two types of passes available: the E-ZPass pays a toll wirelessly when drivers use the Express Lanes; the E-ZPass Flex works the same while in toll mode, but can also be switched to HOV mode.

With three or more passengers along for the ride, Flex cars travel the lanes toll-free.

The direction of travel on the Express Lanes should be familiar to 95 regulars, continuing on the current HOV schedule. But unlike the current HOV lanes, the Express

### More

Drivers can find out more information on where to purchase either kind of E-ZPass, as well as direction reversal schedules and the HOV transition location at the official website: [www.95expresslanes.com](http://www.95expresslanes.com).

Lanes will be in effect all day, every day.

Once the lanes pass north of the Edsall Road area on I-395, the current HOV rules go back into effect. Even with an E-ZPass, cars with fewer than three passengers have to exit during HOV hours.

— TIM PETERSON



## WATER! WATER! EVERYWHERE!

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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

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**Alex./Riverwood \$798,000**  
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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**  
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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.



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**December 5, 2014  
 1PM - 3PM**





The snowflakes dance.



Fiona Rosella and Maya Bolden dance at the Christmas party.

# 'The Nutcracker' To Open at West Potomac

**T**he Alexandria Community Nutcracker is celebrating its 6th season. Partnering with The West Potomac Dance Academy, the holiday classic opens on Dec. 4 offering an original version of the holiday classic "The Nutcracker."

The Alexandria Community Nutcracker is under the direction of Courtney Betzel, Gennifer Difilippo, and Adrienne Magnuson. The cast is comprised of dancers age 3-adult and mixes Ballet, Pointe, Modern, Jazz, Tap, and Gymnastics to create a modern twist to a classic holiday ballet. The production includes students from The West Potomac High School Academy dance, West Potomac High School guitar program, theater department, choral department, Color Guard, and dancers from various local studios. Showtimes are: Dec 4 at 5 p.m., Dec 5 at 6:30 p.m., Dec 6 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. A special Scout Performance



Dancing dolls Vivien Purser and Halley Roy.



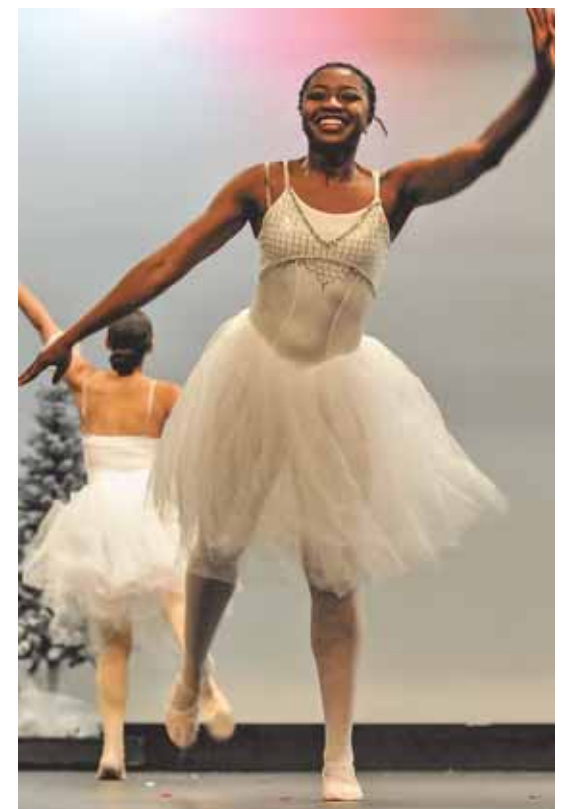
The soldiers, rats and snowflakes watch from backstage as the ballet begins.

will be held on Dec. 3.  
For more information visit  
[www.alexandrianutcracker.com](http://www.alexandrianutcracker.com)

PHOTOS BY  
LOUISE KRAFFT  
THE GAZETTE



The Rat King (Rey Navarro) surrounded by the rats and mice awake Clara (Bela Starinchak).



Snowflake Patricia Peters dances in the snow.



# CRIME

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

**ATTEMPTED BURGLARY**, 8800 block of Richmond Highway, Nov. 23. An employee reported someone attempted to enter the business.

**BURGLARY**, 8700 block of Sacramento Drive, Nov. 22. An employee reported someone entered the business and took property.

**BURGLARY**, 7900 block of Richmond Highway, Nov. 20. An employee reported someone entered the business and took property.

**BURGLARY**, 4000 block of Old Mill Road, Nov. 20. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

**LARCENIES**

7400 block of Mount Vernon Square Center, merchandise from business.

6700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business.

6600 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business.

6600 block of Wakefield Drive, tools from vehicle.

7900 block of Audubon Avenue, cash from residence.

8000 block of Martha Washington Street, phone from business.

5900 block of Richmond Highway, equipment from vehicle.

7700 block of Richmond Highway, jewelry from residence.

7500 block of Vernon Square Drive, license plates from vehicle.

7700 block of Richmond Highway, property and cash from business

## Storck Sets Office Hours

Fairfax County School Board Member Dan Storck will host Saturday Community Office Hours in December and January:

❖ Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Lorton Library Conference Room, from 10:00 a.m. to noon

❖ Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Sherwood Regional Library, Conference Room 3, from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

❖ Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015, at the

Lorton Library Conference Room, from 10:00 a.m. to noon

❖ Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015, at the Sherwood Regional Library, Conference Room 3, from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Members of the community are invited to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns, no appointment necessary. For more information, contact Dan Storck at Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or his assistant Mary Ellen Hook at mehook@fcps.edu.

**BLACK FRIDAY SPECIAL!**

# FREE Windows

## if it snows on Christmas Eve!\*

**If you need replacement windows, and you could get them for FREE,\* isn't it worth giving us a call?**

**Window appointment must be scheduled between Nov. 24th and Dec. 1st only\***

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# OPINION

## Holidays Are About Giving

Give thanks and share; tens of thousands of families around us are in need.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Surrounded by the bounty in so many neigh-

borhoods in Northern Virginia, many of us see little signs of the massive unmet needs here. But in Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 52,000 of the students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty.

In Arlington more than 32 percent of the students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals; that's 7,452 students at last count.

In Alexandria, 8,582 students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals. That's 60 percent of the 14,222 students enrolled.

These are children who are living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical

bills, car repair, heat and food. These are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school. School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again during the holiday, so let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Where to Give Locally in Fairfax County

In no particular order:

- ❖ Our Daily Bread — has been serving needy families in Fairfax County for 25 years. The Holiday Program helps those in need with food for the holidays and gifts for their children, making last year's holiday season brighter for approximately 3,000 families. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to [www.odbfairfax.com/holiday](http://www.odbfairfax.com/holiday)
- ❖ Cornerstones, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, [www.cornerstonesva.org](http://www.cornerstonesva.org). Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.
- ❖ FACETS helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or [volunteer@facetscares.org](mailto:volunteer@facetscares.org). [www.facetscares.org](http://www.facetscares.org). 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030
- ❖ The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577. Last year, 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients. [jsfreeclinic.org](http://jsfreeclinic.org).
- ❖ Alternative House — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. [www.thealternativehouse.org](http://www.thealternativehouse.org).
- ❖ SHARE of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards and more. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. [www.SHAREofMcLean.org](http://www.SHAREofMcLean.org)
- ❖ LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have signed up for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. 703-437-1776 [www.linkagainsthunger.org](http://www.linkagainsthunger.org)
- ❖ Committee for Helping Others (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of concerned churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple,

loving charity to those in need. 14th Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service is Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road. Vienna 703-281-7614 <http://www.cho-va.com>

- ❖ Fairfax City Area FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), working with the Office of Coordinated Services Planning, Fairfax County Department of Human Services, FISH helps local citizens who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>
- ❖ Herndon-Reston FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 <http://herndonrestonfish.org>
- ❖ Lamb Center, [www.thelambcenter.org](http://www.thelambcenter.org), Day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178
- ❖ Northern Virginia Family Service, 10455 White Granite Drive Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124 703-385-3267 <http://www.nvfs.org/>
- ❖ United Community Ministries, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306 <http://www.ucmagency.org/>
- ❖ Food for Others distributed more than 2.4 million pounds of free food to families in need in Northern Virginia in the year ending June 30, 2012. The nonprofit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. [www.foodforothers.com](http://www.foodforothers.com)
- ❖ Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org).
- ❖ Lorton Community Action Center operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. Now collecting gift cards and food baskets for Thanksgiving, gifts and food baskets for Christmas, and warm coats. 703-339-

8611 [www.lortonaction.org](http://www.lortonaction.org).

- ❖ Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and the Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. <http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/>
- ❖ Office to End and Prevent Homelessness needs just a few thousand dollars more in contributions for Jeans Day (in October) to qualify for a matching grant from the Phillip L. Graham Fund, turning many \$5 and greater donations into \$50,000 to help thousands of homeless in Fairfax County. [www.ziphomelessness.com](http://www.ziphomelessness.com)
- ❖ 12 Ways of Giving: Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships "12 Ways of Giving" campaign is an annual event that showcases many ways for meaningful, local giving during the holiday season, highlighting nonprofits in Fairfax County. [www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org](http://www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org)
- ❖ Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer organization that clothes, feeds, educates and nurtures those in need focusing five of the neediest elementary schools. Volunteers and donors are always needed. Contact [ALNorthernVA@yahoo.com](mailto:ALNorthernVA@yahoo.com) or see [www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org](http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org)
- ❖ Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE) — ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, [cause-usa.org](http://cause-usa.org)
- ❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. [www.capitalareafoodbank.org](http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org)
- ❖ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.
- ❖ Touching Heart in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. <http://www.touchingheart.com>, 703-901-7355

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Time for Trolley Bus

To The Editor:

The withdrawal of the proposed Arlington/Crystal City streetcar project only serves to demonstrate the lack of public will to look beyond the transportation status quo and the ill-informed NIMBY mentality. One could also not help wonder if the current discussion about the streetcars was all long no more than lip service being paid

to mass transit while being resigned to a seemingly endless orgy of road building.

Although a number of ideas have been put forth to relieve congestion we need to look seriously at building transit capacity on an incremental basis. While both heavy and light rail systems make the most sense for major trunk routes the emphasis should be placed on developing secondary lines so that once patronage level are sufficient they too can be converted more easily into these

modes. Unfortunately, the ubiquitous diesel bus operated by area transit agencies fails to deliver the route building capacity needed to facilitate this process. Taken as a whole these vehicles continue to suffer from a combination of poor public perception, questionable environmental impact coupled with growing concerns about their reliability. Therefore, the question becomes what vehicle can help build patronage while being environmentally friendly at the same time.

Enter the electric trolley bus!

The electric trolley bus (sometimes called the trolley coach or trackless trolley) combines the advantages of traditional streetcar technology with the flexibility of a motor coach. Operated from an overhead power source these buses share application of 600-750 volts direct current found in both office and industrial complexes for use in elevators, cranes or other electrical devices. In fact, 750 volts direct current is the standard for

SEE LETTER, PAGE 11

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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# LETTER

FROM PAGE 10

many electric transit systems, including Washington's Metro.

While some might raise aesthetic objections to the overhead cables employed they nonetheless serve as guide to the route since potential riders can see where the vehicles operate. One of the most common complaints leveled against transit operators is the roadside "bus stop" signs give little indication where the line actually runs.

Currently, in the U.S., there are five trolley bus systems located in such diverse cities as Seattle, Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Dayton. In each case their quiet performance, coupled with sufficient power for gradient operations have outweighed the use of traditional diesel technology. In fact, it was these environmentally desirable characteristics that saved Dayton's trolley bus system from extinction less than a 20 years ago. Additionally, Seattle is in the process of purchasing new trolleybuses due to come on line in 2015.

Any number of route combinations could be considered candidates for possible trolleybus conversion. Columbia Pike is one such route that would greatly benefit

from trolleybus conversion. In 1995 Quito Equator opened such a dedicated trolley bus system using special reserved roadways for these vehicles. For portions of the routes not initially placed under the wire a dual service vehicle could be employed.

Currently, Seattle operates some 236 Breda trolleys, equipped with both Westinghouse motors and Detroit Diesel 6v-92 engines, on all portions of its system.

Of course the question of financing for such an undertaking comes up.

While such a program would most likely involve a combination of Federal, State and local dollars there are strategies that might reduce costs.

One method might be the unique public/private partnership utilized in Kenosha, Wisc. to build

its heritage streetcar line. Here, the primary contractor acted as the purchasing agent to procure equipment, track and fittings at a substantial savings to the area transit agency.

Also, the North Jersey-Bergen County light rail, operated by New Jersey Transit, is the result of such partnering including that of local real estate developers.

Only through building capacity on an incremental basis can we begin to move people out of automobiles and on to transit with any degree of regularity. Thus, the trolley bus becomes a perfect vehicle to build ridership and infrastructure necessary to support larger more complex transportation operations.

**Peter D. Eldridge**  
Alexandria

## BULLETIN BOARD

**Telephone Support Group.** 7-8 p.m. on the 2nd 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/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/) Band musicians are invited to join the

**Mount Vernon Community Band.** Rehearsals are Tuesday 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School band room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. There are no auditions. The Mount Vernon Community Band is a nonprofit community service organization that has performed in the Mount Vernon area since 1978. 703-768-4172 or [www.mvbands.com](http://www.mvbands.com).



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# THANKSGIVING

## Giving Thanks Through Music

### Raising money for the Fred Begun Scholarship Fund

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

At first glance, one might not think that Pilates instructor Julie Begun and high school student Ramone Cason have much in common. But this Thanksgiving their worlds might collide. Cason, his mother, three siblings, relatives and friends will gather for Thanksgiving dinner in the Casons' one-bedroom apartment in Arlington. The 16-year-old might entertain the group with a musical performance. Although he has never been to an orchestra performance, he dreams of being a professional bass drummer.

For Begun, one person will be missing from her holiday table this year: her dad, Fred Begun, who served as the principal timpanist of the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) from 1951 to 1999. He died in 2012. Unlike Cason, her childhood memories were filled with musical privilege.

"My dad was playing in a concert in New York City and I was young, under 5," recalled Begun. "They had announcers in those days who announced the guest artist. That night it was my father. I was standing on my chair and when he was walking on to the stage, I screamed out 'Hi Daddy!' The entire audience totally cracked up."

This Thanksgiving, Begun is honoring her father's legacy by working to



**Julie Begun, pictured with her father Fred Begun, who served as the principal timpanist for the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) from 1951 to 1999, is raising money to help talented percussion majors afford to attend college.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE BEGUN

**"My dad tried to pass on what he knew to emerging percussionists and make some of the gifts that he had available to others who were not as fortunate."**

— Julie Begun

raise money for scholarships in his name for the George Mason University School of Music and the College of Visual and Performing Arts. The scholarships will support talented percussion majors at the undergraduate and graduate levels who might

have financial limitations.

### Donations to the Fred Begun Scholarship Fund

George Mason University School of Music  
Att: John Kilkenny, Percussion Area Coordinator  
4400 University Drive MSN 3E3  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Begun donated his entire library of musical scores and individual timpani parts to the university.

The collection is housed in Fenwick Library and includes notes from composers and conductors from his tenure with the NSO, as well as autographed timpani parts. In recognition of the gift, the School of Music named its percussion studio in the de Laski Performing Arts Building the Fred Begun Percussion Suite.

Begun began his professional musical career on the timpani in 1951 after graduating from the Juilliard School of Music.

"My dad tried to pass on what he knew to emerging percussionists and make some of the gifts that he had available to others who were not as fortunate," said Begun. Begun is asking others to contribute to the Fred Begun scholarship fund in order to help other musical aspirants.

Cason might be one of those budding musicians. Next year he will begin applying to colleges and is considering majoring in music. "I plan to be a famous musician one day," he said.

His mother, however, has other thoughts: "I'm glad that he likes the drums, and I would love to be able to send him to college," said Cynthia Jackson. "But I think he should study something that'll help him get a steady job."

As Cason prepares to perform for family and friends this holiday, Begun will honor her father's gift of music: "We spent his last Thanksgiving together," she said. "It was special."

We didn't know how many more Thanksgivings there were going to be so we were happy to be together."

### VIEWPOINTS

#### What are you thankful for?

PHOTOS BY  
TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

#### Karlie Herbst of Alexandria

"I'm thankful for family, that we're still together. I have 29 first cousins, with 21 great cousins. My brother is coming for Thanksgiving from Knoxville, Tenn."



#### Molly Herbst of Alexandria

"I'm thankful for family, because we don't get to see everyone very often. For Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for turkey, ham and everything that goes with it."

#### Laurie Kittle of Alexandria, as "Mrs Sinah McCarty of Mount Airy"

"I'm thankful that I live in a place where history abounds, and I get to dress up all the time: here at historic Pohick, historic Huntley and Gadsby's Tavern."



#### Janis Harless of Mason Neck, as "Ann 'Nancy' Mason of Gunston Hall"

"I'm thankful for family, the love, that we get to rejoice and be together. I'm going to see family in Oxford, Mississippi tomorrow."

#### Katherine Ward of Mount Vernon

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to be involved in the community, working with amazing other interested, involved citizens."



### VIEWPOINTS

#### What are you thankful for?

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE



**Marlene Clarke (right) Irene Swiadek (mother on left), Mount Vernon: "I'm thankful to, still, have my mom around."**



**Mayamerica, Alexandria: "I'm thankful for life, in general. We should be grateful, just for life. Many say life is hard. I believe what we believe, in our heads, makes our life."**



**Daniel Lam, Alexandria: "I'm thankful for friends."**



**A. Mponi, from D.C., originally from Africa: "I'm thankful to keep the relationship with my wife. She is in Tanzania, waiting for her visa."**





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Plantation Christmas**

On Dec. 6, 2-7 p.m., Christmas Past can become part of Christmas Present at Gunston Hall. Visitors can ride in a horse-drawn carriage, sip warm cider by the fire, and sample period food prepared in the hearth kitchen. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-18, free for children ages 5 and under.

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Leah Chapla 703.929.4875  
ALEXANDRIA / Stratford \$609,000

**NEW PRICE!** Beautiful inside and out. With 4BR/2.5BA renovated, this gorgeous Colonial home has an Edoneseque back yard and only 1 block from Stratford Park and ES. Replaced windows and doors, refinished hardwoods, and upgrades with attention to detail.



Ben Grouby 703.362.2891  
ALEXANDRIA \$560,000

**NEW PRICE!** Great Value - Great Location - Move-in-ready. Just painted, new carpet up and new vanities for this 4BR/2.5BA home with yard and 2-car attached garage. Granite, SS appliances, deck, off kitchen - wood floors on main level. LL family room with bar.



Val Klotz 703.303.9744  
ALEXANDRIA / Stonebrooke \$499,900

Turn-key home tastefully renovated from top-to-bottom. Open kitchen to dining and living rooms. Deck and fenced back yard off kitchen. LL has 1BR/1FBA, great for guests, and 2nd family room with fireplace. Perfectly sited on cul-de-sac on 1/4 acre. 2 car garage. 5BR/2BA.



Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144  
ALEXANDRIA \$440,000

WALK TO KING ST METRO "Larger than it looks - must see inside." Big (1,796 sq ft) and bright 3 level/1.5BA with lush backyard, beautiful hardwood floors on 2 floors, new roof, new carpet on LL, new lighting, newer water heater, newer W/D, freshly painted. 2 car driveway.



Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460  
ALEXANDRIA \$799,000

**NEW PRICE!** Beautiful total renovation of this 3BR+ / 3.5BA home with very private, professionally landscaped setting. Interior Brazilian cherry floors, plantation shutters, gourmet kitchen, custom molding / bookcases plus finished basement with custom built-ins.



Michael Manuel 703.615.6317  
ALEXANDRIA / Rivergate \$949,900

**PRICE IMPROVED!** Semi-detached townhouse backing to 2 parks, bike path and the Potomac River. Wood floors thru-out, gas fireplace, private patio and open floor plan for entertaining. Master and loft have cathedral ceilings. 3BR/2.5BA. 2-car garage. The Best!



# ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://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.gadbsytavern.org](http://www.gadbsytavern.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](http://torpedofactory.org/event/post-photography).

**Art Exhibit.** Runs Nov. 7-30. "Nourish & Flourish: The Food Show" art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This member show reflects and illuminates the ways food influences us all. Thursday, noon-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, noon-9 p.m. Sunday, noon-6 p.m. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) 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](http://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/](http://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;



FILE PHOTOS

**The first visitor to greet Santa and Mrs. Claus, Luke Harrington, fell asleep waiting for his turn during the 2013 City Holiday Tree Lighting event.**

## Lighting up the Holiday Season

Kick off the holiday season at the 2014 City of Alexandria Tree Lighting Ceremony at Market Square, 301 King St., on Friday, Nov. 28, with a pre-show concert by the holiday tree with the Adoration Ringers of the First Baptist Church at 5:15 p.m. The formal tree lighting ceremony begins at 6 p.m. Admission is free and the event will occur rain or shine.

Mayor William D. Euille and Santa Claus will light the City Holiday Tree in Market Square. Entertainment features a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, performances by West Springfield High School Madrigals and the Little Theatre of Alexandria, caroling and a community sing-along.

Call 703-746-5592 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation) for more.

\$17/senior citizen; \$9/child age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://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.Monticello.org](http://www.PresPassport.Monticello.org) for 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.forward.org](http://www.forward.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/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

**Second Thursday Music.** Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 pm. Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://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.

## CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Tavern Toddlers.** Every Monday (except Federal Holidays) 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Join other families with toddlers (walkers through 36 months) to have fun in Gadsby's historic ballroom. Playtime features a craft table, book corner, toys and group dancing. \$7 for a group of three. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/gadbsytavern](http://www.alexandriava.gov/gadbsytavern) or call 703-746-4242.

**Photography Workshop.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

**Life Drawing.** Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Just drop-in for the session and bring your supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for a schedule.

## WEDNESDAY/NOV26-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](http://www.metrostage.org) for more.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 28

**Alexandria Tree Lighting.** 6-8 p.m.



**Following the 2013 tree lighting, members of the Alexandria Choral Society sang Christmas carols beneath the tree.**

Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Annual event featuring lighting the City tree, performances and a visit from Santa to open the Christmas season. Pre-show concert begins at 5:15 p.m. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Calendar](http://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](http://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com/events).

## FRIDAY/NOV28THROUGHDECEMBER

**Tree Sale.** Beginning Friday, Nov. 28 and continuing weekends through December, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Enjoy music, warm drinks and cookies by the fire, while surrounded by frasier fir trees. Sales benefit of community outreach programs and local schools. Choose to have 10 percent of the sale amount go to St. Aidan's Day School or a local, public elementary school. St Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com) for more.

## 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](http://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 Travis Hester to pay homage to his mom

with Amalia'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](http://www.roughindustries.com/collections/amalias-fancy)

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3

**Christmas Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S Washington St., Alexandria. Dan Gifford will share his research in a presentation titled "Tidings of Comfort and Joy: Christmas Postcards and their Surprising Contexts." Tickets are \$5. Contact 703-746-4994 for more.

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

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3-MONDAY, JAN. 5

**"Friend Me" Exhibit.** Through Monday, Jan. 5. Opening reception Thursday Dec. 11, 6:30-8 p.m. The Art League Gallery, Studio 21, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Jeweler Whitney Staiger melds together her friends' public avatar with an aspect of their private selves on her handmade brass cameos in her first solo exhibit. [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) 703-683-1780.

## 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](http://peternoone.com) or [www.Birchmere.com](http://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](http://www.birchmere.com) or [www.darwilliams.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.campagnacenter.org/events/scottish-christmas-walk-weekend) or [www.visitalexandriava.com/events/44th-Annual-Campagna-Center-Scottish-Walk-Parade/983](http://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



# ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMAN

**Val Hawkins, a Vietnam veteran and president and CEO of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, with three of his paintings included in the Art League's veteran-focused exhibit.**

## Year of the Veteran Art Exhibit

The Art League's Injured Military Personnel Arts program, in partnership with the USO, Combat Paper and the Arts in the Military, is exhibiting the artwork of veterans through Dec. 10 in the Market Square and Vola Lawson Lobbies at City Hall, 301 King St. Exhibit hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit [www.theartleague.org/content/impart](http://www.theartleague.org/content/impart) or [www.alexandriaveterans.org](http://www.alexandriaveterans.org).

## CALENDAR

**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](http://carlylehouse.org) for more.

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.nvfaa.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](http://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](http://www.newdominion.org) or email [info@westernpresbyterian.org](mailto: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](http://www.nvfaa.org)

### MONDAY-TUESDAY/DEC. 8-9

**Musical Audition.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Audition to be a Beverly Hillbilly. Children ages 13-18 are welcome to audition.

## FOOD & DRINK

**Mount Vernon Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-noon, Wednesdays, through Dec. 17. Fresh local food, artisan crafts. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mtvernonmkt.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mtvernonmkt.htm) for more.

**Old Town Farmers Market.** 7 a.m.-noon, Saturdays year round. Local farmers and artists have been selling products there since 1753. Located at Market Square, 301 King St. Call 703-746-3200 or email [oldtownfarmersmarket@alexandriava.gov](mailto:oldtownfarmersmarket@alexandriava.gov).

**Del Ray Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays year round. Features fresh vegetables and fruits in season, meats, eggs, fresh pasta and sauces, Amish cheese, yogurt, bakery goods and more. Located at the corner of East Oxford and Mount Vernon avenues. Contact [pmiller1806@comcast.net](mailto:pmiller1806@comcast.net) for more.

**Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sundays through November. Brings fresh nutritious foods to people of all income levels. Located at the entrance to Four Mile Run Park at 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.4mrmarket.org/](http://www.4mrmarket.org/) for more.

**West End Farmers Market.** 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays through November. Fresh, locally grown, in-season vegetables as well as berries, apples, pears, and seasonal peaches. Vendors also sell fresh-squeezed orange juice, fresh-baked pastries, gourmet cheeses and more. Located at Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive. Visit [www.westendfarmersmarket.org/#FarmersMarket](http://www.westendfarmersmarket.org/#FarmersMarket) for more.

December 5-6, 2014

# SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND & PARADE

More than a Weekend, an Alexandria Tradition

### Heather and Greens Sales

Friday, Dec 5 from 9 am - 5 pm, Saturday, Dec 6 from 9 am - 4 pm

### Deck the Halls With Santa

Friday, Dec 5 from 1 - 3 pm

### The Taste of Scotland

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

### Holiday Designer Tour of Homes

Saturday, Dec 6 from 11 am - 4 pm

For more information visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com) or phone (703) 549-0111.



## Scottish Christmas Walk Sponsors

The Campagna Center extends its gratitude to our valued Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend sponsors. Thank you!

### Premier Partner



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Taste of Scotland Sponsor



Deck the Halls with Santa Sponsor



Scottish Christmas Walk Parade Sponsor



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National Beer Wholesalers Association (NBWA)  
Optimal Networks  
Saul Ewing

### Media Partners



### Supporting Partners





# ENTERTAINMENT

Visit [www.mvct.org](http://www.mvct.org) for more.

## MONDAY/DEC. 8

**A Peter White Christmas.** 7:30 p.m. The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$49.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

## TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9-10

**Live Music: Aaron Neville.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Christmas with Aaron Neville. \$59.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 9

**Santa Will Visit.** 1-3 p.m. at CVS, 1636 Belle View Blvd, Alexandria. Guests will receive a free photograph with Santa and goodies. Call 703-768-7044 for more.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 11

**"Friend Me" Opening Reception.** 6:30-8 p.m. The Art League Gallery, Studio 21, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Jeweler Whitney Staiger melds together her friends' public avatar with an aspect of their private selves on her handmade brass cameos in her first solo exhibit. Exhibit runs through Monday, Jan. 5. [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) 703-683-1780.

**Whiskey Store Tour 2014.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Featuring Tab Benoit with Tommy Castro and Samantha Fish. Tickets \$35. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

**Second Thursday Live: The Aloha Boys.** 7 p.m. Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. \$10 admission.

The Aloha Boys have played Carnegie Hall, The Birchmere and The Kennedy Center. They bring the warm aloha spirit on a cold day. [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org)

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 13-14

**Historical Candlelight Tour.** Saturday, 6-9 p.m. and Sunday, 3-6 p.m. at various locations in Old Town. This holiday event blends chocolate and history through special tastings, seasonal decorations, period music and tours highlighting chocolate through time. Visit [www.historicalexandria.org](http://www.historicalexandria.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 13

**Civil War Christmas.** Noon-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Visitors will meet a Civil War-era Santa at this family-fun holiday event exploring how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. Visit [apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/](http://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/).

**Holiday Concert.** 8 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Visit [www.alexandriachoralsociety.org](http://www.alexandriachoralsociety.org).

**Nutcracker in a Nutshell.** 3 and 7:30 p.m. Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. A condensed version of the classic holiday ballet performed by The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to any of the performances for the U.S. Marine's Toys for Tots program. Tickets are \$25 and are available in advance at [www.thecenterforballetarts.com](http://www.thecenterforballetarts.com) or 703-273-5344. Tickets will also be available at the door.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 14

**Colonial Favorites.** 2-4 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Colonial English Handbell Ringers will return with their annual concert at the Lyceum, featuring a group of 12 performers. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) for more.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 16

**Chocolate Class.** 12:45 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Learn how chocolate goes from cocoa bean to beverage in the 18th century. Participants will participate in the process and taste a final product. Tickets are \$8 per child. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 19

**Carbon Leaf.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$35. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 20

**Kwanzaa Celebration.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. The museum's annual program explores the history and significance of Kwanzaa. Learn about the principles of Kwanzaa, a seven-day cultural celebration. Tickets are \$5. Visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org) for more.

**Christmas Illuminations.** 5:30-9 p.m. Sip hot chocolate while watching fireworks over the Potomac. This is a limited capacity event. Advance ticket purchase is suggested. Tickets are \$30 adults, \$20 youth (6-11), children five and

**Home for the Holidays**  
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Featuring Items New & Old  
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Open FRIDAYS, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
SATURDAYS, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Most Wednesday evenings, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.  
\*Other Weeknights as scheduled

\*Weekly Schedule will be posted on  
<https://www.facebook.com/BucketListBoutique>.

\*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 donations will be made to designated charity.

  
218 N. Lee Street • 703-683-1007  
[www.labergerie.com](http://www.labergerie.com)

**Black Friday and Small Business Saturday**  
November 28th & 29th, 2014  
Receive 5% off face value when you come in to either restaurant and purchase a Gift Card.

  
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**Thanksgiving**  
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**Breakfast** (8 am-11:30 AM) Regular Service:  
You May Order Off the Regular Breakfast Menu  
Until 11:30 AM

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11:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**Hand-Carved Hot Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing**  
**Savory Gravy ~ Baked Virginia Ham with**  
**Raisin Sauce ~ Fresh Homemade Mashed Potatoes**  
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# ENTERTAINMENT



Scouts from Troop 600 at Stratford Landing Elementary School carry the lead banner for the Campagna Center in the 2013 Scottish Walk parade on Saturday morning.

## 44th Scottish Walk

The Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., partners with the Campagna Center and the City of Alexandria to host the annual parade. The iconic Scottish Christmas Walk Parade takes place on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 11 a.m., when more than 45 Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans will parade through the streets of Old Town, joined by pipe and drum bands from around the region, as well as terriers and hounds. More events Friday and Saturday include a Taste of Scotland (Dec. 5), Deck the Halls with Santa (Dec. 5), Heather and Greens sale (Dec. 5-6), Holiday Marketplace (Dec. 6) and the Campagna Center's Holiday Designer Tour of Homes (Dec. 6). Free for parade, holiday marketplace and heather & green sales; \$110-290 or Taste of Scotland; \$35 for Designer Tour of Homes; \$20-\$35 for Deck the Halls with Santa. Visit [www.scottishchristmaswalk.com](http://www.scottishchristmaswalk.com) for more.

## CALENDAR

under are free. Visit [MountVernon.org](http://MountVernon.org) for more.  
**Orchestra.** 7 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic Memorial Theatre, 611 King St. The Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia presents "Holidays in Paris." Visit [www.sonovamusic.org](http://www.sonovamusic.org) for more.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 21

**Skincare Treatments from Garden and Kitchen.** 1-2 p.m. Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Mellenie Runion of Truly-Life Eco Gifts explains how to use simple ingredients for a healthy skincare regimen. [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org)

### MONDAY/DEC. 22

**A John Waters Christmas.** 7:30 p.m. The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$49.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

### MONDAY-WEDNESDAY/DEC. 22-24

**Breakfast with Santa.** 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St., Alexandria. Have breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus before they take off for the big night. \$10 per child (age 0-12) and \$15 per person (age 13+) includes a continental breakfast, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and tax. Tickets required. Limited amount for every seating. Reservations [www.unionstreetpublichouse.com/breakfast](http://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com/breakfast).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 27

**Live Music.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Performance by Southside Johnny and The Asbury Jukes. \$39.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

[www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

Sunday/Dec. 28

**Hank Williams Tribute Show.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$29.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

**First Night Alexandria.** Events take place throughout the day at numerous venues around the City of Alexandria. Visit [www.firstnightalexandria.org](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org) for more.

**Live.** 8 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Watch Seldom Scene, Bumper Jackson and The Hello Strangers perform. Tickets \$39.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 3

**Hal Ketchum.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$35. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 4

**Evening of Musical Comedy.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$49.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 9-10

**Concert.** 8 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder will perform. Tickets \$39.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.



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—James F. Hind

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## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

### THURSDAY/DEC. 11

**Information Breakfast.** 8 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria.  
Learn more about the World Police and Fire Games. Tickets are \$25. Contact 703-360-6925 for more.

### 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.burgundyfarm.org](http://www.burgundyfarm.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](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org) to learn more. Visit [www.mountvernonathome.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/ltombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/), email or call Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

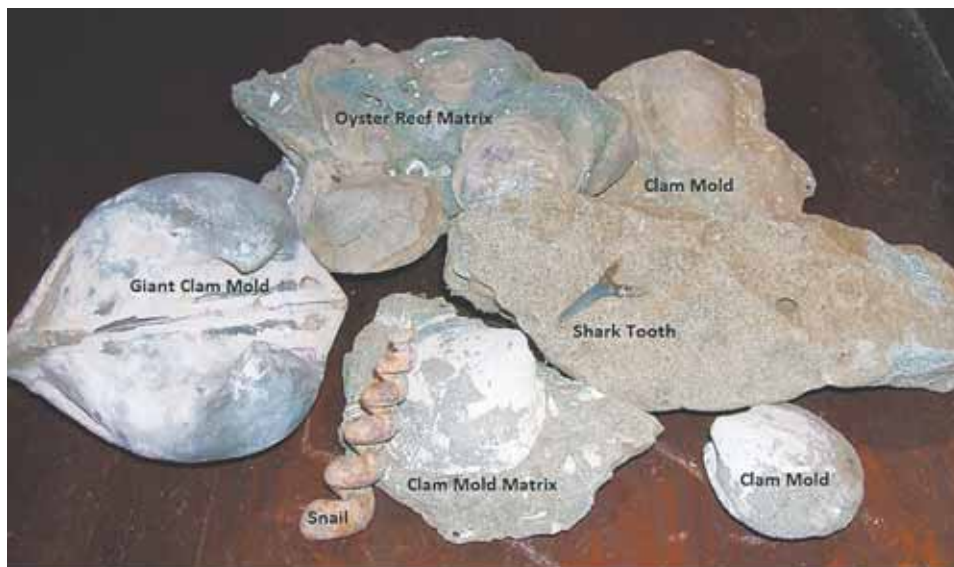


PHOTO BY SALLY B. MACKLIN

**Special Tour**  
Ginger Sparkles came to take the "Doggy-walk, Outside Tour" at the George Washington Estate earlier this fall.

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Assemblage of various marine fossils collected from a sedimentary rock exposure in the bank of an Oxon Hill, Maryland stream.



Sandstone cobbles found in Quander Brook contain trace fossils of a marine worm identified as *Scolithus linnearis*.

# Origin of Mount Vernon Watersheds

## History under one's feet.

BY MARTIN TILLET

Many ancient watersheds with origins in the Appalachians drained towards the ancient Atlantic coastline and at the places where they met the ocean, large river deltas formed creating mineral rich deposits made from rocks that were crushed and broken apart under the stresses of time and nature. One hundred million years ago, the latitude of the North American plate was much closer to the equator thus creating a more equatorial climate that resulted in tropical rainforest ecosystems of plant and animal life including dinosaurs and other reptiles. In parts of Washington D.C. and nearby Bladensburg and Laurel, Md., fossil evidence from such animals exists in collections at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Recently, a public dinosaur park was opened in the Laurel, Md. area where families can sign up for fossil camps that allow parent and child under the direction of park staff to search for dinosaur remains. Finds are not uncommon and several never before known Maryland dinosaur fossils have been found by children at this site.

Over the succeeding millions of years, the continental plates drifted ever closer to their present day locations. These moving plates led to a slowly evolving change in both climate and animal and plant life. The Atlantic Ocean inundated coastal areas periodically and the Appalachian Mountains continued to erode and to send their river and stream sediment loads to the east. Areas that today are land were periodically covered by ocean waters that were home to different forms of marine organisms.

As a former science educator, I collected fossils on the other side of the Potomac River from Mount Vernon in Oxon Hill, Fort Foote, Fort Washington and Accokeek, Md., that represent a wide array of marine animals typical of shallow water reef environ-

ments. These fossil deposits range over tens of millions of years as far back as 70 million years ago with remains from marine reptiles such as mosasaurs, plesiosaurs, marine crocodiles, sea turtles, sawfish, sharks, sting rays, bony fishes, mollusks, corals, sponges and microscopic fossils like ostracods and foraminifera. Later deposits from 55 to 65 million years ago are missing the giant marine reptiles like the mosasaur and plesiosaur as well as ammonites, a form of coiled mollusk resembling a chambered nautilus. They all died out as did the dinosaurs due to a cosmic collision with an asteroid around 65 million years ago.

As the sea finally withdrew eastward from our region around 6 or 7 million years ago, the many streams draining from the mountainous highlands to the west spread blankets of silt, sand, and gravel over the Coastal Plain and Piedmont Plateau deposits. At this time, these blanketing deposits were not laid down by a single major river, but by numerous streams that constantly shifted back and forth forming a complex series of fan-shaped deposits. Some of these deposits are still preserved capping some of the higher hills in the Piedmont near Tysons Corner.

Slow, gradual uplift of the Piedmont Pla-

teau and Appalachian Highlands increased the slope of the land, causing the streams to deepen their valleys and to in time combine into a single river forming the early Potomac River. The Potomac deepened its valley leaving scattered remains of its former flood plains at various levels as gravel-covered terraces. Many neighborhoods situated on higher elevations and hills on both sides of the Potomac are built on these terraces. Sand and gravel industries of modern times used these materials to make concrete to construct many of the buildings and infrastructure of today. About 2 million years ago, the river had carved a broad, open valley in approximately its present position.

Continental glaciation began around 2 million years ago occurring at least four times up until the end of the last glaciation around 12,000 years ago. Sea level was lowered and the Potomac River began deepening its earliest valley. As water was withdrawn to form the ice sheets covering land as far south as Pennsylvania and New Jersey much of the continental shelf off the Eastern U.S. was exposed and the shoreline lay as much as 60 to 80 miles east of its present position. The last of these glaciers disappeared around 12,000 years ago with

sea level rise creating the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary river systems of today including the Potomac River.

So far we have traveled across nearly a half a billion years of Earth history. Our landscape here in Mount Vernon was being formed by the deposition of marine sediments later covered by silts, sands and gravels transported by watersheds originating in the eroding mountains and hills to the west and in more recent time shaped by the ancient Potomac River as it meandered back and forth across its flood plains. These accumulating deposits formed veneers of varying rock and mineral composition over the ancient basement rock complex.

When you stand on ground in Mount Vernon today, you are standing on the eroded remains of the once towering mountains and plateaus to our west. Some of the rocks that you may find in your yard today can be traced back to regions within these mountains where identical parent rock material exists today. A fairly common quartzose, sandstone cobble found in Mount Vernon streams contains trace fossils of a marine worm identified as *Scolithus linnearis*. It lived nearly 500 million years ago in shallow water reefs in what is present day western Maryland in southern Washington County just north east of the Potomac River. Those found in the Mount Vernon area are out of their originating geologic context. As such, they are direct evidence of the geological process of erosion transporting materials from the higher elevations in the west to the Coastal Plain here in Mount Vernon.

Few humans in history have had such an opportunity to both see and comprehend themselves in the continuum of time and space. We as citizens residing in an industrialized country are fortunate to live in a nation whose government values the search to understand humanity's place in the universe — a society in which intellectual pursuit can take citizens to the frontiers of discovery and in which news of such discoveries can be routinely disseminated.

Next: Part 3 – Humans enter the Mount Vernon area and impact the watersheds.





# PEOPLE



Volunteers from Heritage Presbyterian, United Methodist, and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints gathered to participate in Day to Serve in September. The interfaith service day provides houses of worship the opportunity to work together and get to know each other. In the future, should a need arise, they have an established network to use.

PHOTOS BY  
RENÉE RUGGLES  
THE GAZETTE

## Working Together on Interfaith Day of Service



Amanda Paone, one of the event coordinators, gives instructions on how to assemble the packages.



Michael, Brooke (center), and Jordan were busy assembling Hygiene Kits. The kits will be donated to Rising Hope Mission Church.



The team of organizers comprises members from Fairfax County government, local clergy, and church leadership. A total of three Saturdays were planned as part of Day of Service, with multiple opportunities to volunteer, each day.



Volunteers got right to work, putting together the Food Power Packs. They contain two days of meals for children being served through the Food for Others program.



# SCHOOLS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Artie the Fox, Carly Olsen, Sara Langdon, Ella Sessine, Drew Wallach, Ella Cronin.

## Fort Hunt's Fox Trot

On Saturday morning, 331 humans and nine dogs registered for the annual Fort Hunt Elementary School's Fox Trot at Fort Hunt Park. Best overall times went to Cullen Boyle, Connor Foss, Morgan Long, Stefani Watterson and Chris Santangelo. Truman Verich led the dogs and crossed the finish line first in the canine division. Truman was followed by Gracie Culver and Call Land.



The runners warm-up in the pavilion before the start of the Fox Trot on Nov. 22.



Ella Sessine, Emily Fricka, Sara Langdon, Carlye Olsen, Zoe Wallach, Ella Cronin Morgan Rivera and Erin Althouse.

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6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)

#### Sunday

7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm

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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

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION.....12/24/14

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### Monthly Networking

Feb 13, 5:30-7:00 pm @ Hampton Inn Mt Vernon  
Mar 13, 5:30-7:00 pm @ Good Shepherd Housing

MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
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# MVHS Girls' Basketball Looking for Improvement

**Majors open at home against Centreville on Dec. 2.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**M**ount Vernon girls' basketball coach Courtney Coffey didn't hold back when voicing his displeasure with the Majors' performance following a recent scrimmage.

"We're terrible," the coach said in a phone interview. "... I was trying to get these kids in the gym all fall and none of them showed up. None of them were really interested and we're paying the price so far."

Coffey, who is entering his fifth season as head coach of the Majors, went on to say his players have a subpar basketball IQ and lack toughness.

While Coffey's words paint a grim picture for Mount Vernon, which opens the 2014-15 season at home against Centreville at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 2, there is still hope for the Majors.

After graduating a trio of college-bound players, Mount Vernon opened the 2013-14 season with a 60-32 loss to a Centreville team that would make its second consecutive trip to the region semifinals. At the time, Coffey hoped the loss would serve as a wake-up call for a group that could no longer rely upon Kelly Loftus (Hofstra), Taylor Dunham (Navy) or Tiffany Webster (Barton).

The Majors responded by winning 19 of their next 22 games and went on to finish runner-up in Conference 13 and the 5A North region, losing to Edison in the conference and region championship games. Mount Vernon qualified for the state tournament, where the Majors lost in the semifinals to eventual champion Princess Anne, which has reached the state championship game in six straight seasons.

Coffey said this year's team can fix its problems, but the Majors will have to work.

"The problems are pretty similar," Coffey said, comparing this year's Mount Vernon team to last season's. "... I had real basketball players last year. If they lose a game they're going to take it to heart. It's going to matter to them. These kids are going to



**Mount Vernon 6-foot freshman Susannah Anderson (31) has a chance to be a key contributor for the Majors.**



**Mount Vernon junior Jasmine Collier averaged 14 points per game during the Majors' final 12 games last season.**

have to prove they're of that caliber.

"... These kids ... are not showing any heart. We're so soft."

Mount Vernon again lost a trio of primary contributors to graduation. Gone is 1,000-point scorer and rebounding machine Samantha Porter, a 5-foot-11 post who was the heart of the Majors' defense. She now plays at Christopher Newport.

Coffey spoke highly of Porter's toughness, referring to a time she got one of her front teeth knocked out during a game and continued to play.

"They don't make them like her anymore," Coffey said. "... A kid like Samantha Porter comes around once every 20 years."

Mount Vernon also graduated DJ Jeanpierre, a 5-foot-7 point guard who spent one season with the Majors as a military transfer, and sharpshooter Chanel Shannon.

While Mount Vernon has lost ample talent in recent years, the Majors still have some weapons, including a pair of freshmen who Coffey said are "oozing with potential"

Nori Solomon, a 5-foot-8 guard, and Susannah Anderson, a 6-foot post, have

bright futures ahead of them, but also have the opportunity to be difference-makers as ninth-graders.

"[Solomon is] freakishly athletic," Coffey said. "She's quick, tough, and she can score the ball, but she does not have a basketball IQ whatsoever. I'm excited, but until we can get her to understand the game, she's going to struggle."

"... [Anderson has] got a lot of potential, but she's soft."

Coffey asked junior guard Elisa Solomon (5-8) to shoulder more of the scoring load this season and the coach has liked what he has seen in the preseason.

"Elisa Solomon is playing really strong and consistent," Coffey said. "... She's actually been a bright spot. She's looking pretty good."

Five-foot-6 junior Chanise Ray enters her third season on the varsity and takes over as the team's starting point guard. Junior forward Jasmine Collier (5-9) averaged 14 points per contest during Mount Vernon's final 12 games last season, and scored 18 in the Majors' state semifinal loss.

Coffey said he's looking for seniors Shazia Smith (5-6 guard) and Iris Garcia-Rivera (5-



**Mount Vernon girls' basketball coach Courtney Coffey is hoping the Majors can overcome early-season struggles.**

10 post) to step up.

One week after Mount Vernon's season opener against Centreville, the Majors will travel to face West Potomac on Dec. 9.

"This is going to be my most challenging season ever," Coffey said. "I'm one of those people, I love a challenge ... I'm going to be hard on these kids ... because I expect perfection. ... We're striving for perfection so we can reach excellence."

"... This scrimmage was so bad for us, hopefully this wakes us up the way we woke up after that Centerville loss [last season]."

## UVA, Tech Rivalry Meaningful to Sable Family

**Mount Vernon High School's Amber Sable all-conference in field hockey, softball.**

**M**ount Vernon senior Amber Sable is an all-conference performer for the school's field hockey and softball teams.

In field hockey, Sable recently completed her fourth varsity season and earned first-team all-conference honors. After a rare

down year and a 5-13 record in 2013, Sable helped the Majors bounce back in 2014.

**Q&A** Mount Vernon went undefeated against Conference 13 opponents during the regular season and qualified for the 5A North region tournament with a third-place finish in the

conference tournament.

In softball, Sable is an all-conference shortstop who helped the Majors win 20 games and reach the 2014 Conference 13 tournament championship game. She will enter her fourth varsity season in the spring.

Sable recently participated in a Q&A via

email, sharing some insight about her Thanksgiving plans.

**Q: What are your plans for Thanksgiving?**

Sable: My family and I are staying at home this year. My aunt, grandmother, and a couple of my cousins are going to have dinner with us.

SEE SABLE, PAGE 27

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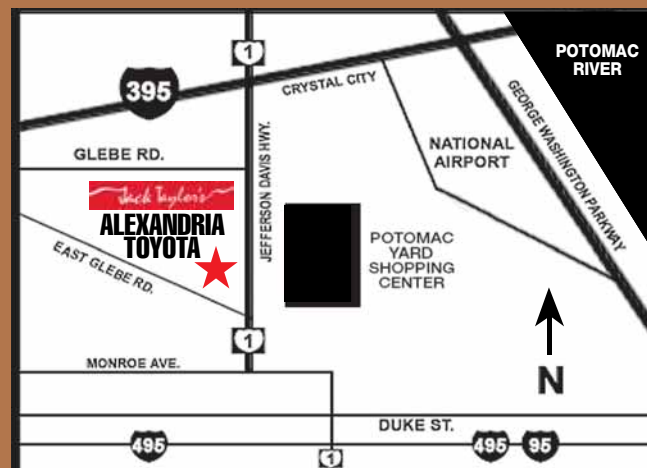


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I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.  
-Arthur Wing Pinero

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Good is not  
good, where  
better is  
expected.  
-Thomas Fuller

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### OBITUARY

**CARY, NC: Lillian McCarter Wright Andrews.**  
wife of the late Col. John Taylor Andrews, Jr., passed away on  
November 15, 2014 in Cary, NC at age 95. Daughter of Rose  
Wheeler Wright and William McCarter Wright, M.D., she was  
born in Baltimore, Maryland on October 23, 1919.

She is survived by her children, John Andrews, III (Linda); Sus-  
an Lederer (Lyle); Pamela Andrews (John Little); George An-  
drews (Jan Carey); former daughter-in-law Mary Andrews; ten  
nieces and nephews, ten grandchildren and twelve great-  
grandchildren.

A Memorial Service and Interment at Arlington National Ceme-  
tery will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family re-  
quests that donations be made to an Alzheimer's organization of  
your choice. A full tribute and online guestbook are at  
www.ApexFuneral.com

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### OBITUARY

**Michael Warren Martin, 63,** passed away  
Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

Originally from Alexandria, he more recently resided in Luray  
and then Fredericksburg, VA.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Niklewski, and step-father,  
Martin Niklewski. He is also survived by his loving Aunts,  
numerous cousins and close friends.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2014  
at 11:00 am, with the family receiving friends an hour prior to  
the service. Interment will follow in Mount Comfort Cemetery,  
Alexandria, VA at 2 pm.

In Lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials may be made  
to the American Diabetes Association, the Virginia Association  
of Worker's for the Blind - Burkeville Lodge, the American  
Heart Association or to a charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be sent at  
www.mullinsthompsonfredericksburg.com.

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provision of  
section 4-1-16 of the code of  
the City of Alexandria, the  
Alexandria Police Department  
located at 3600 Wheeler Ave-  
nue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is  
now in possession of un-  
claimed bicycles, mopeds,  
lawn equipment, money,  
scooters, and other items. All  
persons having valid claim to  
the property should file a claim  
to the property with reason-  
able proof of ownership or the  
items will be sold, destroyed,  
converted or donated. For a  
complete listing go to  
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# SPORTS



GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

**Amber Sable and the Mount  
Vernon field hockey team qualified  
for the 5A North region tourna-  
ment in 2014.**

# Sable

FROM PAGE 24

**Q: Do you or your family have any an-  
nual Thanksgiving traditions?**

Sable: My mom, sister, and I always watch the  
Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. It's always so fun  
to watch.

**Q: Does your family incorporate sports  
into Thanksgiving? If so, how?**

Sable: Every year the day after Thanksgiving,  
[the] Virginia Tech and UVA [football teams] play  
each other. A lot of my family has attended Virginia  
Tech, and my sister attends UVA, so the game is a  
huge deal in my family.

**Q: What is your favorite thing to eat on  
Thanksgiving?**

Sable: Definitely the pie. Pumpkin pie is the best.

**Q: The Mount Vernon field hockey team  
had a bounce-back season, reaching the  
region tournament. What are your  
thoughts on how the season went?**

Sable: I was proud of the way our team did as a  
whole. We were undefeated in our conference dur-  
ing the regular season, and we improved so much  
since last year. Sure, the outcome wasn't what we  
wanted, but it was huge improvement from the  
year before, and that was our goal since the begin-  
ning of the season.

**Q: You also play softball at Mount  
Vernon. The team reached the Conference  
13 championship game last year. What are  
your expectations for this year?**

Sable: My expectation as a team is to improve  
from last year. We had a great year last season. We  
still have a great group of girls, so I am expecting  
this year to be even better.

**Q: What are your college plans? Will you  
play a sport in college?**

Sable: I hope to attend the University of Virginia,  
or Virginia Tech. I don't plan on playing sports in  
college, but club seems fun.

**Q: What is your favorite movie? Why?**

Sable: Probably "The Blind Side." It has a great  
story behind it.

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

Sable: My mom is from Washington State, so to  
there.

**Q: Who are your favorite pro sports  
teams?**

Sable: Redskins, Nationals, and Capitals.

**Q: Who are your favorite pro athletes?**

Sable: Bryce Harper. I am planning our wedding  
now.

— JON ROETMAN

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Mount Vernon community family and friends are invited to join us and welcome the holiday season in a very special way.

Ceremony includes Festival of Music by Donald Brideau, MD and Ron Speerl.

Reception follows in the cafeteria.

**Saturday, December 6, 2014, at 5:00 p.m.**  
in the Hospital Main Lobby

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**Admission is FREE**

**Special Guest Appearance by Santa Claus  
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