



Jason Lewis carries a Fraser fir tree out for a customer to look at on Sunday afternoon.



Mt. Vernon resident Scott Mitchell picks out a tree at the Kiwanis tree sale on Sunday afternoon.

53rd Annual Kiwanis Christmas Tree Sale

The trees have arrived and the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club is selling them once again in the parking lot at the Belle View Shopping Center. The 700 Fraser Fir trees are from the Powers Tree Farm in Lansing, N.C. Along with the trees, wreaths and garland are also available.

The Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club raises nearly \$25,000 annually from the Christmas tree sales. All of the profits are used to support programs and activities in the Mount Vernon community including United Community Ministries, New Hope Housing, Good Shepherd Housing, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, "Help the Homeless" Walkathons,

Fairfax County Park Association summer camp scholarships, Key Clubs at Mount Vernon High School/ West Potomac High School/ South County and Hayfield High/Secondary Schools, Builders Club at Carl Sandburg Middle School, K-Kids at Stratford Landing Elementary School, Reading is FUNDamental free book distribution, Disabled Boy Scout troop, the 30/30 Club at Mount Vernon High School, Food Drives at Hollin Hall Safeway and the Farmers Market Food Collection. The hour of operation are: weekdays noon to 8 p.m. and weekends 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the parking lot of the Belle View Shopping Center.



PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE

Piper Pratt and Jeanette Wong watch as David Morris and Jason Lewis trim the base of a holiday tree.

Beautify Más

Taco Bell wins Mary Thonen Award.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

When she first heard Taco Bell had won, Yolanda Frye was shocked. "It means a lot to our Taco Bell," said the regional general manager for the chain.

The location at 8652 Richmond Highway in particular won first place at the Mary Thonen Highway Beautification Awards, presented by the Southeast Fairfax



TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova praised the redevelopments in southern Fairfax County at the SFDC open house and Mary Thonen awards ceremony.

SEE AWARD, PAGE 3

Citizens Coalition Petitions DOJ

Calls for investigation of Fairfax County Police.

Nicholas Beltrante is trying to put even more pressure on the Fairfax County Police Department. The Mount Vernon resident and executive director for the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability (CCPA) recently filed a petition with the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights division to investigate the FCPD.

"It says that the FCPD is lacking accountability and transparency," said Beltrante. "The department has not charged any officer with a crime in a shooting death in Fairfax County, going back 74 years."

The 64-page petition includes newspaper clippings, coroner's reports and letters from the families of eight individuals who, all reportedly unarmed, were shot and killed by Fairfax County Police officers.

Those include Dr. Salvatore J. Culosi, Jan. 24, 2006; Randall Laroy Rollins, March 23, 2007; Hailu Brook, Dec. 10, 2008; David A. Masters, Nov. 13, 2009; Ian C. Smith, Feb. 5, 2010; Nicholas Allen Kaelber, July 8, 2012, John B. Geer, Aug. 29, 2013 and James Bryant, Oct. 30, 2013.

"We feel the Justice Department should investigate this matter," said Beltrante, who hopes a response and investigation will bring a change in FCPD "policies and procedures, specifically the use of lethal force."

Though Beltrante is confident with the petition itself to be "eye-catching," he acknowledged the slow pace of this type of investigation. "I wouldn't expect any results for at least a year," he said.

— TIM PETERSON

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Beautification Award

FROM PAGE 1

Development Corporation (SFDC) Dec. 3 at the recently completed Shelby apartment building.

Mary Thonen was once the SFDC board president and a longtime volunteer with the organization. Described in a short video for the awards presentation as “gentle” and “wonderful,” Thonen was driven to encourage beautifying the Route 1 corridor.

The awards named for her recognize and thank commercial property owners who exemplify that mission, be it through improved landscaping, architectural enhancements, design or simply exceptional exterior cleanliness.

Criteria are just that the business be visible from Route 1, from the Fairfax County Parkway south of Fort Belvoir up to the Beltway.

The citizen committee that made the selections recognized Taco Bell’s six-month remodeling of both its interior and exterior. “It’s obvious they care,” said Roger Reutershan, a member of the SFDC.

“Everything is new,” said Frye. “Outside, inside, changed restrooms, all new tables and chairs, the walls, everything.”

SFDC Executive Director Edythe Frankel Kelleher noted the diversity of businesses being recognized.

“First place is a franchise Taco Bell,” Kelleher said. “When I spoke with [Frye] on the phone, she was so excited, she said, ‘Oh I’m going to tell my whole team.’ Then the second place, Mount Vernon Plaza, a big outfit with Federal Realty, investment trust, property: It was really the two ends of the spectrum from number one and number two.”

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) helped open the program and stalled for Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova to get to The Shelby (6200 North King’s Highway). “I’m glad the chairman is late,” McKay deadpanned, “because that might mean she’s stuck in traffic, which might mean it’ll be easier to get even more road money to this end of the county.”

But he took the opportunity to highlight the need for improved transit along the corridor. “The quality of our transit



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Walter Clarke (left), Burke & Herbert Bank Business Banking Vice President and SFDC board of directors president, and Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) begin the presentation of the Mary Thonen awards.

leaves a lot to be desired,” he said. “We should have first class bus rapid transit system in place today. There’s no reason we can’t do that in the short term.”

As for a Yellow Line expansion, “There’s not an elected official that doesn’t want to see rail on the highway,” McKay continued.

When Bulova arrived, she was quick to confirm that yes, she was stuck in traffic and yes, “We’re working on that.” The chairman then transitioned to the topic of beautification of Route 1.

“I’m originally from this part of the county, when I first moved into Fairfax County in 1966,” she said. “I can tell you that this area is really blooming, just turning into something more wonderful than it ever was before. So congratulations for helping that happen.”

Honorable mentions for beautification awards were Huntington Gateway, Red Roof Inn, Montebello Condominium, Cityside/Huntington Metro Apartments and Mount Vernon Square Apartments.



From left: SFDC Executive Director Edythe Frankel Kelleher, Taco Bell Regional General Manager Yolanda Frye and SFDC board of directors president Walter Clarke recognize Taco Bell with the first prize Mary Thonen Highway Beautification Award.

A Different Perspective

Ian Temple Roberts writes of life, beauty.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE



PHOTO BY ED SIMMONS, JR.

Ian Temple Roberts

In time for the holidays, Mount Vernon-area resident Ian Temple Roberts has published a book of memoirs with page after page of art photography and poetic commentary; the volume’s called “Hidden in Plain Sight: Moments of Beauty.”

“It’s for people who like art books — a compact coffee table book, a travel-related book. It’s also for people who like to read about traveling Brits,” he said at his home in Hollin Hills which he shares with wife Kathy, son Kevin and black labrador Pippa who’s a star at the Westgrove Off-leash Dog Park.

Roberts was born in Yorkshire April 21, 1933, a mellowing 81 years ago.

“Certainly Yorkshire is a part of England,” he mused, “but there are people who would argue.”

At his living room perch at a plate glass window where he writes overlooking woods and birds, he observed, “This a North of England day. Miserable. Damp, cloudy, dead leaves all around the ground.”

Then he found a silver lining, adding, “The ground has a lovely wet smell.”

Silver linings are much a part of “Hidden in Plain Sight” as he reminisces on his pleasant childhood despite German bombs and then in peaceful years being led around the countryside and abroad to France and the Pyrenees by his travel-loving school teacher parents.



The book can be purchased at Friesen Press, the Washington, D.C. bookstore Politics and Prose and also from the author.

From them, as his art photographs show, he learned to love travel. “They were very literate parents, Church of England ‘church people.’” He now attends regularly the morning and the 5:30 p.m. Celtic Service at St. Aidan’s and still travels, just back from

England and Scotland.

His memoirs are filled with chatty, humorous, idiosyncratic prose humming along like a well-tuned Jaguar (a backfiring, broken-down 1936 model was his first car purchased in 1957). The book describes his growing up, his travels, his work as maverick business consultant, and his loves, both familial and otherwise.

Then comes page after page of quirky photographs that reveal more when closely observed, as he instructs with accompanying pages of

commentary that ruminate and delve, often poetically.

To purchase copies, visit Freisenpress.com, order at any bookstore, or contact him by email at templerian@aol.com. That way one can make an appointment to drop by for a chat and get a copy signed.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

WPHS Booster Club Sells Trees

West Potomac High School Boosters began its annual Christmas Tree fundraiser at Sandburg Middle School on Nov. 29. Sales are weekdays 5-8 p.m. and weekends Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays 12-5 p.m. until Dec. 20. This has been a community-based event for over 30 years starting with Ft. Hunt High School and now continued by the West Potomac High School Booster Club. The trees are all freshly cut from southwest Virginia. Athletic teams and parent volunteers participate. Current Fairfax County Public School employees receive a discount. Above are WPHS Country and Winter Track Team volunteers.

Local Film Maker Shines at International Film Festival

Story focuses on life after high school.

BY VICTORIA SVANBORG
THE GAZETTE

After growing up in Tennessee, and a three-year stay in Greece when he was 14 through 17, Chris Kiros came to Alexandria. He now lives in Belle View with his wife, Christina, and 7-year-old son, Lucas.

In 1996, 21-year-old Kiros attended New York University for a course in filmmaking. By then, all work was done on 16 millimeter film and editing was done by literally cutting the film, not by using a shortcut on a computer.

"It was a great experience," Kiros said, explaining how he had to learn it all over again when filmmaking went digital.

Kiros started getting into film making when he was 10 years old after he had seen "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." Kiros liked storytelling as a child and always imagined he would write a book.

"I never thought filmmaking was possible, never thought it was something I could do," he said, and takes another sip of the Gatorade in his hand, an aftermath of the

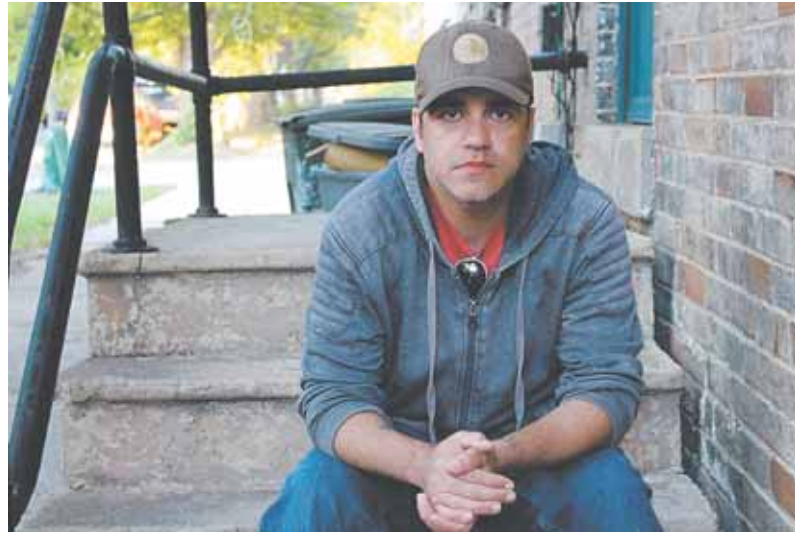
previous night's 20-year West Potomac High reunion.

Kiros' latest film, "The Maladjusted," is loosely based on himself and his high school friends after they graduated. The movie follows a group of friends in Alexandria who experiences long nights, late mornings and the art of growing up. Kiros had always wanted to shoot a movie in Old Town because it is where he and his friends hung out and went to work.

He wanted to write something simple and without a lot of special effects because he had to keep the costs down.

Kiros said that writing is always tough, but once it begins to flow it's easier, but the budget is what really affects things. If he had had unlimited funding for the movie, there would be two things Kiros would change. The first would be sound, and he would also "burn every one of the DVDs and make it Blue Ray instead." He is very happy with the music and acting performances.

"I don't recommend [film making] for anyone. You can't stop. It's like heroin. Not



Filmmaker Chris Kiros

PHOTO BY VICTORIA SVANBORG/THE GAZETTE

that I know what it's like to be on drugs. The pain and the suffering fades quickly, it's like with kids. They cry for six months and then you want to make another one," Kiros said.

"The Maladjusted" won Best Ensemble Cast at the Orlando Film Festival in October, and John C. Bailey, who played Yon Zamolla, was nominated for Best Supporting Performance.

Jerry Cavallaro, associate director of Or-

lando Film Festival, said the programmers found the film to be a fun and emotional reflection of the struggles on writing and friendship. "Aside from the story and tight script, the film is excellent on a technical scale as well. Chris Kiros has a great eye for composition and finding the best way to present the story," Cavallaro said.

Josh Davidson, producer, director of photography and editor of "The Maladjusted" said he learned a lot from making the movie. Davidson and Kiros have created movies together before but this was different. Previously they had done horror films

with a lot of special effects, but this time they focused more on casting.

"Chris Kiros is great to work with," Davidson said. "He and I have become good friends since he cast me in ZOMBthology. We have a great working relationship and we don't let each other settle or get complacent on a film set, no matter how tired we may be."

Visit <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2041510/> for more.

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Family Worship 5:30 p.m. especially for children • Preservice music at 7:15 p.m.
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December 25
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Festival Worship 10:00 a.m.

December 31
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Adam Fitzgerald of Mount Vernon picked up chocolate banana, spice cake, chocolate-chocolate chip and creamicle cupcakes from Occasionally Cake for his mother's birthday.



Occasionally Cake owner and cake designer Sabrina Campbell ices a layered vanilla cake with "Classic Vanilla" frosting.

Occasionally Cake

8859 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria
Gingerbread man cookies \$3, cupcakes \$2.75-\$3.25, cakes \$4.50 per serving plus additional design work, own line extracts and flavorings \$12.50-\$15.

"We've reached that age where we have so much stuff, people like to find unique, consumable things they don't have to dust," said owner and cake designer Sabrina Campbell. "We're doing a lot for December birthdays, business celebrations and inter-office giving."



Susan (left) and John Roe (right) of Alexandria went home with a bottle of white Dow's port.



Gourmet wine, cheese and beer make great consumable gifts.

PHOTOS BY
TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

UnWined Gourmet Wine and Cigars

1600-A Belle View Blvd, Alexandria
Hardywood Great Return IPA \$12 (Richmond),
Firehook Baked Sea Salt Crackers \$6 (Chantilly),
Thibaut-Janisson sparkling wine (Monticello) \$30,
Cowgirl Creamery Mt Tam Triple Cream cheese \$20,
Potter's Farmhouse Dry Cider (Free Union) \$12,

Swing's Diplomat and G Street coffee blends (Alexandria-roasted) 1 lb bag \$11.

"Consumables are the perfect gift that anyone loves to get," said general manager Renée Lorraine. "These are nice treats, things people normally wouldn't buy for themselves."



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\$509,900/\$2,600
8506 Wagon Wheel Road

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

RENTAL



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

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

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Alexandria • River Towers
6641 Wakefield #405 • \$1,250

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\$839,900
8632 Plymouth Road

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

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UNDER CONTRACT



Alex./Riverwood \$798,000
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Gifts of Artists, Gardeners, Hobbyists



Melanie Lynch, one of River Farm's newer volunteers, shares a display of books and gardening gear that the gift shop carries. All profits support maintaining the grounds. On Dec. 13, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., the house gift shop will be open. They will be serving hot cider and cookies. The house will be decorated for the holidays and a shop filled with items to interest local gardeners of all ages. More information about River Farm and its gift shop, can be found at www.ahs.org.



The River Farm gift shop carries many items, made locally including pottery, soaps, notecards, and pieces made from wood found on the property.

The Mount Vernon-area is filled with opportunities for participating in the arts and working on hobbies. Local shops carry an array of gifts for a range of interests.

— RENÉE RUGGLES

VIEWPOINTS

What is the best gift, that you have given, that did not cost anything?



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

Jo Cowie and daughter, Abi, Alexandria: "The best gift, is being there for my friends when they needed someone."



Patricia Eaton, In Stitches' store manager, shares some of the store's array of supplies for needle artists of all skill levels. It also offers classes, framing, and an extensive selection of yarn and thread. More information can be found at www.institchesneedlework.com.



Gift-giving inspiration, found at In Stitches: Project bags, yarn bowls, fun stocking stuffers, and magnetic needle and scissor cases that will also work for jewelry.



The Eagle and Empire Game and Hobby Shop carries a wide selection of games, models, supplies, puzzles and more.

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES
THE GAZETTE



Doug Ray, stands among the comic books, games, books, and models sold at his Eagle and Empire Game and Hobby Shop. He carries something for hobbyists and game players of all ages. On Dec. 13 and 20, customers can also support the Neuroblastoma & Pediatric Cancer Research Fundraiser, by having their purchases wrapped at the store (12-5 p.m.). More information about Eagle and Empire can be found at www.eagleandempire.net



Bobby Wilcox, visiting from Iowa: "I like to carve spoons. I burn out the bowl with coal, from a campfire, and smooth them out, so they can be used. I've given them to my mom and sister."



Kaitlin Murphy, traveling field biologist: "One Christmas, I asked a cigar store for their empty boxes. I painted birds on them and filled them with nature's treasures, like bird's nests. I gave them to my friends and family."



Bill Carnell, with his children William and Mary V, Alexandria. Mary V: "We played wheelchair volleyball, at the Franconia Senior Center, when I was in 3rd grade." William: "I was going to say the same thing, because I'm in 3rd grade, now."



OLD TOWN

201 South Lee Street | \$3,985,000

One of Old Town Alexandria's largest historic townhomes beautifully renovated to incorporate every modern amenity while retaining the fine original details of this 1794 federal. Four completely finished levels with period molding, warm heart pine flooring, a gourmet kitchen with adjoining family room and fireplace, a lavish slate patio and an amazing fourth level loft with a wet bar, water views, exposed beams, built-in seating and full bath.

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724-726 South Lee Street | \$1,725,000

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BEVERLY HILLS

3403 Old Dominion Boulevard | \$924,500

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

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CLOVER

411 Skyhill Road | \$749,900

This is a Beautiful updated home in Clover with a very functional layout. Open kitchen, large breakfast bar, gourmet appliances and built in window seating. Amazing level backyard with firepit.

KRISTIN TROILO +1 703 609 1661

OPINION

Make a Plan, Talk About It

Here is help in keeping impaired drivers off the roads.

The holiday party season is upon us, and with it an increase in drinking and driving. It's up to you to make a plan to get home safely.

Plan to bring a designated driver. Plan to take public transportation. Plan to celebrate at home or someplace where you can spend the night. Plan to abstain.

And if all of that fails, the Washington Regional Alcohol Project has a safety net for you.

WRAP, a local nonprofit organization, will offer free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout Northern Virginia during the winter holidays.

More than 10,000 people died in drunk driving related accidents in 2012, including more than 200 in Virginia and 160 in Maryland. Tens

of thousands more were injured. Holidays lead to an increase in impaired driving, the Christmas and New Year season in particular.

The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate nightly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, and continuing until Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During these times, area residents celebrating with alcohol can call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home. Callers will be responsible for fare amounts over \$30.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided more than 61,000 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

We know that many young people over 21 are living at home with parents, or will be visiting for the holidays. Parents, be brave. Have a conversation with your children whether they are under or over 21. Be sure those over 21 have a plan, and are equipped with the

SoberRide number.

SoberRide is not available for underage drinkers, but parents still should talk to their children about their plans, and tell them out loud that you expect them not to drive impaired and not to get into a car with an impaired driver.

Tell them to call you, and you'll come get them if necessary. The news has been full of teachable moments about the consequences and vulnerabilities of drinking to excess, drinking and driving and beyond. Don't let the opportunity to talk about it pass you by.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

Safe Ride Home

WRAP's 2014 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly from Dec. 12, 2014 to Jan. 1, 2015. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). See SoberRide.com information listed below for important details concerning this program.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fox Guarding The Hen-house

To the Editor:

Fairfax County Police shot unarmed John B. Geer in the doorway of his home last year, and for 16 months now Fairfax Police have been saying no comment, under

active investigation. Why is it taking so long? Well, it took a U.S. senator, a federal prosecutor, and an evidence disclosure lawsuit, but now we know why. Assistant Attorney General Peter J. Kadzik wrote in a response to U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa: "Issues concerning withheld materials were favorably litigated by the

Department in a court matter that is and remains filed under seal."

Now I'm not a lawyer, nor do I play one on TV, but that means: Fairfax County Police refused to provide evidence to the federal investigation, forcing them to successfully sue Fairfax Police. Only once ordered by the court was Fairfax Police forced to disclose the evidence. By the way, Virginia Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, are you at all embarrassed this inquiry came from a senator from Iowa? With respect, perhaps it is time to play catch up.

The question is no longer whether the shooting of Geer was an accident, an overzealous officer, or a police-sanctioned execution of a citizen. We have sealed court records to conceal the results of the attempt to cover up the cover up. Is Fairfax County Police chief Edwin Roessler confusing his "chief" title with a station chief for the CIA in a terrorist stronghold? Perhaps he thinks Fairfax Police officers have a James-Bond-007 license to kill? I would like to think I am exaggerating, but the message from Chief Roessler seems to be: I'm not telling, I don't have to, and you can't make me. At least he is consistent, since he gives that same response to the top Fairfax County supervisor, a federal prosecutor, and a U.S. senator.

I hope I am not taking my life into my hands by publishing this letter. Please remember I wrote this should I get gunned down by Fairfax Police in my doorway like Geer, or shot in my car like unarmed David Masters in 2009, or

killed by a red-light-running police car ramming into mine like Ashley McIntosh in 2008. This is not about anti-police, this is about equal protection under the law, for both police and citizens. The NTSB is not against pilots, the USDA is not against meat. Both of these agencies provide oversight to prevent wrongdoing and protect the citizens. This police cover up makes it clear the fox is guarding the hen-house, and it just can't continue. We trust the police to protect us, but how can we trust them when the few bad apples among them are the ones we need protection from? We need an independent authority to investigate police involved shootings.

Keith Harmon
Mount Vernon

Hold Line On County Taxes

To the Editor:

You should either hold the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors accountable for their spending actions or pay higher and higher taxes. The Board of Supervisors has increased taxes for the last seven years.

In November 2013, the Board of Supervisors, consisting of Bulova (D), Chairman, Gross (D) Mason District, Cook (R) Braddock, Foust (D) Dranesville, Hudgins (D) Hunter Mill, McKay (D) Lee, Hyland (D) Mount Vernon, Smyth (D) Providence, Herrity (R) Springfield, Frey (R) Sully, unani

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469

days since a still-unnamed Fairfax County police officer shot unarmed John Geer standing in the doorway of Geer's home in Springfield, then let him bleed to death on Aug. 29, 2013. No information has been released about the incident, officers involved not named, no explanation, no grand jury, no charges. (as of Dec. 10, 2014)

Mount Vernon Gazette

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A Connection Newspaper



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

mously approved a \$10.6 million bonus to merit and exempt county employees with 12,000 merit employees earning an average of \$68,000 annually whether or not their work performance merited a bonus. A lose, lose situation. Those employees whose work performance excel need not continue to do so because they will receive a bonus nonetheless and those who should work hard to earn the bonus have no incentive to do so. Also, how many hardworking taxpayers are earning an average of \$68,000 annually let alone getting a bonus?

But, that wasn't enough. In 2013, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a plush pay plan for general county

employees with an estimated cost of \$15.26 million in FY 2016. Employees should receive a fair wage but, taxpayers should be considered after all they work hard and are asked to pay higher taxes to fund such plush pay plans.

And, in 2013, with only Herrity voting "No," the Board of Supervisors approved a \$30 million bank bailout to pay off an unsecured loan belonging to the Lorton Arts Foundation.

In 2014, our real estate taxes increased over 2013 because property values increased. But, the Board of Supervisors with only Herrity, Cook and Symth voting "No" raised the real estate tax rate by one-half cent per \$100 of assessed value generating

an estimated \$10.9 million tax revenue increase. The bonus and the bank bailout alone total about \$40.6 million. Without the types of spending stated above would a tax rate increase be necessary?

To add insult to injury, the Board of Supervisors is considering increasing their salary. They each earn \$75,000 per year. They must keep uppermost in their minds that they work for the people and are public servants who are paid with hardworking taxpayer dollars. If any one of them believe that the current salary of \$75,000 is not enough, they can resign and seek employment elsewhere. No one is forcing them to run for office or continue to hold office.. I'm reasonably sure that there are persons

who would seek the supervisor position, who would be satisfied with the \$75,000 per year and gladly work for the benefit of the Fairfax County residents.

To keep up with what the Board of Supervisors does and votes on spending go to web page <http://www.Fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/meetings/archive.htm> Again, it is your choice to hold the Board of Supervisors accountable for their spending or continue to pay higher and higher taxes. You can call 703-324-3151, the clerk to the board and provide your input for the Board of Supervisors. You can also email the Clerk at clerktotheboard@fairfaxcounty.gov. You can make a difference.

Frank Medico, Mt. Vernon

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The Origin of Mount Vernon Watersheds

The role of tobacco.

BY MARTIN TILLET

The first Europeans visiting the Potomac watershed witnessed the native people living along the river and immediately recognized this area to be a cherished place that provided the bounty of the earth and her rites of passage. These Algonquian-speaking natives called the river Cohongoroota and the literal meaning of the word is “River of Wild Geese Flying.” Early explorer and adventurer Captain John Smith

PART 4 noted in his writings how these people harvested anadromous fish, crabs, oysters, turtles, and migratory birds like geese and ducks from the waterways and grew gardens of corn, beans, squash, pumpkins, gourds, sunflowers, nuts and berries on rich lands. They also grew tobacco which they considered sacred and smoked ceremoniously. To them it was powerful magic and medicine. The Algonquian tradition put tobacco fourth in the order of creation: God first made woman, second man, then corn, and then tobacco. Little did these Woodland Culture people know that the sot weed they so revered would lead to their own undoing and the first serious impacts on local streams and tributaries.

It was the Jamestown farmer, John Rolfe who pioneered tobacco production (1615) in the wilderness of Virginia. He experimented with the golden weed *Nicotiana tabacum*, a Brazilian tobacco that grew sweeter, less harsh and more resilient in the Virginia soil than the native species *Nicotiana rustica*. His new wife — the recently Christianized Pocahontas — advised him in planting in the traditional native way. John Rolfe’s crop came in and by 1617; the Virginians had exported 20,000 pounds of leaf; by 1618, 40,000 pounds. John Rolfe witnessed another foreboding event, the first cargo of African slaves to be sold on America’s shores. From 1675 to 1708, the Potomac valley drew over 300 slaves a year;



Tobacco or Sot Weed

the trade then increased as more settlers entered the region.

Armed with gunpowder and religion, Europeans immigrated into the Potomac River valley. Natives were forced off of their ancestral lands; corn, wheat, barley, hogs, cattle and tobacco spread throughout the watershed with the immigrants. Whole tribes fled, north to the Great Lakes, west over the mountains, pursued into non-existence. By 1750, the valley was explored and settled. “During the 62 years following the settlement at Jamestown [Virginia],” wrote Thomas Jefferson, “two-thirds of the Indians of 40 tribes disappeared because of smallpox, spirituous liquors, and the abridgment of territory.”

After the founding of Jamestown, colonial Virginia Plantations were established first on the James and York rivers. Later the plantations crept north to the Rappahannock and into the Potomac Valley. Plantations sprouted out of the Potomac wilderness, looming mansions at their hearts. Here lived the planter elite — the Washingtons, Lees, Masons, the Lords Fairfax and others. They built elaborate homes; their gardens were stocked with exotic plants and peacocks. Their land holdings and homes exemplified their prestige and power. Almost everyone lived on plantations; almost everyone farmed tobacco.

The Potomac was a common bond for the planter elite. Conversation ran on tobacco, horses, hunting and more tobacco. Ships from Europe and the West Indies brought sugar, chocolate, spices, presses and books, copper and silver, Oriental porcelain, exotic woods along with fine fashions and cloth. All ships that sailed for England were loaded with tobacco. Rich planters living on the river had their own sloops



17th Century Virginia Tobacco Planter

and barges manned by slave crews. They came together for elaborate banquets. They fox-hunted and cock-fought, raced horses, matched wits and swords. They feasted, drank and they toasted, “our Land free, our Men honest, our Women fruitful.” Their philosophy was riddled with contradiction as the elite partnered in slaving voyages to Africa. Opulence and profit were won as tobacco and slavery harnessed all — Africans, indentured servants, hired hands, wives and children — to the land. Tobacco is “the crop that wears out men and land,” wrote Thomas Jefferson, who called it “a culture productive of infinite wretchedness.”

Washington denounced slavery in print, but defended its practice. Washington was unwilling to free his slaves. At his death (1799) he owned 316 slaves. He never set them free. Surveyor, statesman, soldier — George Washington’s greatest love was farming. Great-grandfather John secured the tracts that the industrious George grew into a 7,600-acre tobacco plantation. By 1783, the Revolutionary War’s end, tobacco as the most important crop was dying; the land could not take it. People moved away, plantations collapsed, slaves and land were sold. Anticipating tobacco’s demise, Washington began diversifying his Mount Vernon industries by phasing tobacco out, churning profit out of his granaries, his fisheries and whiskey distillery. With wife Martha’s death in 1802, even Mount Vernon succumbed to decay.

Unlike Mount Vernon, at nearby Gunston Hall, lived George Mason, the second largest slaveholder in Fairfax County and a tobacco farmer. Mason helped draft the U.S. Constitution, but refused to sign the final copy because it did not prohibit the importation of slaves, did not adequately restrain the powers of federal government and it lacked a bill of rights. Mason’s position on

slavery is found in his 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights: “All men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights. Namely: the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.” Mason’s apparently strong condemnations of the slave trade and of slavery were strongly nuanced, and his actions (and, perhaps more importantly, his inactions) toward his own slaves run counter to the judgment of Mason as a slavery opponent.

One unintended consequence of the economic prosperity attributed to tobacco, resulted from the impact of the agriculture practices necessary to keep clearing more land to replace the worn out land due to intensified tobacco farming. Clearing large swaths of forest into farm land resulted in the rapid decline of the preexisting tree cover that contained the flow of water during rain events and kept in check the flow of nutrients and sediments into streams and tributaries. Where there was once a forest canopy of branches and leaves and a floor of rich organic humus that acted like a sponge to absorb and slow down the erosive energy from rain, are now open fields leaving the soil bare to the elements. Navigable waters began silting up and small colonial era port towns such as Colchester on the Occoquan and Belle Haven on Hunting Creek were no longer able to accommodate the deep draft ocean going ships.

George Washington as a little boy came on his brother Lawrence’s barge bringing Mount Vernon tobacco to the Hunting Creek tobacco warehouses established by act of Assembly in 1730 at the mouth of Great Hunting Creek, where it empties into the Potomac River, on the land of Hugh West, Sr. and where there was already a ferry to the Maryland side of the river. Almost immediately a little



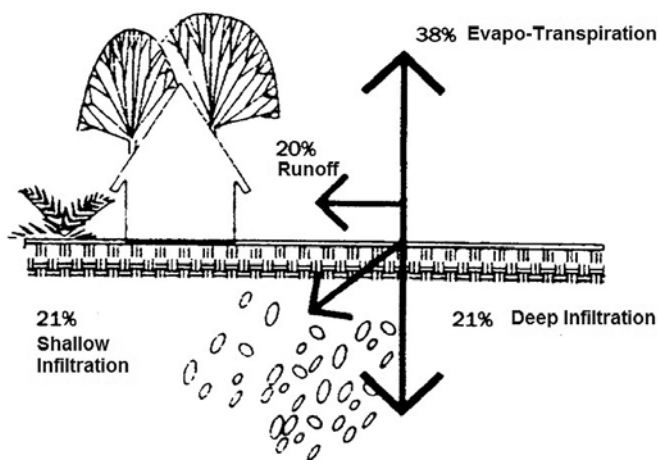
18th Century English Ad for Virginia Tobacco

village grew up — a group of small houses and a school — known then as Belle Haven. For years the Hunting Creek warehouse had handled tobacco from Mount Vernon, Belvoir, Gunston Hall, and their neighboring estates. By the time Washington had died, these ports were silted in and no longer able to accept seafaring ships.

Next Week

Part 5 will examine the impact of suburban development and urbanization on Mount Vernon Watersheds.

The author is a Mount Vernon resident since 1981. A retired science educator from Prince George’s County Public Schools, he taught K-12 science at the Howard B. Owens Science Center in Greenbelt, Md., as well as community college, university and adult education classes in natural history, physical geology, ecology and environmental science.



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Colonization and introduction of agriculture on a forested ecosystem doubles the amount of runoff and decreases the shallow and deep infiltration of water during rain events. The doubling of the storm water runoff has a negative impact on streams by both increasing the sediment loads and causing erosion.

OBITUARY

Capt. Robert "Bob" Rice USN (Ret)

Robert Rice, 82 died at his home in Alexandria on Nov. 19, 2014 after a long struggle with COPD.

Bob was born March 5, 1932 in Lawrence, Mass. He is the son of the late Willard and Ethel Rice of So. Yarmouth, Mass. He is survived by his wife of 49 years Betty (Georgia) Rice of Alexandria; his brother George and sister-in-law Moira of Osprey, Fla., niece Kimberly and her husband Robert Hofeldt with daughter from Manchester, Mass., and nephew Bob and his wife Jennifer and their seven children from Steubenville, Ohio.

Bob was a career Naval Jet Pilot who retired as Captain after 27 years which included five tours of duty in Vietnam, the last one as Commanding Officer of VF-111, flying the world famous F4B attack jet aircraft aboard the USS Coral Sea (CVA-43). During his lengthy career Bob flew a total of 3,347 flight hours and had 687 carrier landings which included 315 combat missions in Vietnam. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal "24" Strike Force Numeral with 2 Stars, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Awards, the National Defense Service Medal,



Navy Occupation (Europe) and the Vietnam Service Medal. He is a member of the Caterpillar Club. Bob, considered

one of the best jet pilots in the Navy, was invited to fly with the famous Blue Angels but instead he opted to take his 5th tour of duty in Vietnam as squadron leader.

In addition to his flying time, for two years in 1963-1965, Bob was the Aide/Flag Lieutenant to Vice Admiral John T. Hayward in Hawaii. In 1967 he attended the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. In 1968 he attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., and in 1973 the National War College, followed by staff assignments in the Pentagon.

Bob and Betty have lived in Alexandria since 1974 where Bob had a side activity as a docent at the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum where he could provide his great depth of military knowledge to visitors. Bob had a wonderful sense of humor and he truly loved life. He will be sorely missed by his family and his many, many friends. Full military service and burial will be held at a future date at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mary Ann Dunn

Mary Ann Dunn, 75, of King George County died Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, at Mary Washington Hospital.

She is survived by her husband, James Seth Dunn Sr. of Fredericksburg; two sons, James Seth Dunn Jr. of Maryland and Dan Dunn of King George; eight grandchildren; and one sister, Ellen Tambolas of Mechanicsburg, Pa.

A service will be held at 11 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Louis Catholic Church, 2907 Popkins Lane, Alexandria.

Interment will follow in Mount Comfort Cemetery.

Mary Ann, a former Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce member, was a Realtor with Weichert Realty. She also served several years on the Virginia Real Estate Board. Mary Ann and her husband Jim were active in the chamber and the Mount Vernon Knights of Columbus.

www.soberride.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

HOLIDAY SAFETY

Free Cab Rides. 10 p.m.-6 a.m. daily, Friday, Dec. 12-Thurs., Jan. 1. Washington-metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home. Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 61,002 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area. Visit

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.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

Office Hours. Fairfax County School Board Member Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Members of the community are invited to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns, no appointment necessary. Contact Dan Storck at Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or his assistant

SEE BULLETIN BOARD. PAGE 20



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Open House in Alexandria Dec. 14th from 12-3 at the home of Kieran and Billy Mitchell. Please call for location information.



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4712 Ferry Landing Rd
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Spacious home in prime Mt. Vernon location at truly amazing price! All the fundamentals are here just waiting for your finishing touches: open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, large eat-in kitchen, 4BR, finished LL, and 2 car garage. **OPEN SUN 12/14, 1-4!**



9201 Cherrytree Dr
\$599,500 **Huge House—Small Price!**
Most home for the \$ in premier Mt. Vernon neighborhood! 5BR, 3BA home with bright, open floor plan in pristine "move-in" condition! Major updates: roof, windows, HVAC, kitchen & more! Sunroom, deck & magnificent grounds. **OPEN SUN 12/14, 1-4!**



8720 Plymouth Rd
\$1,719,000 **Spectacular Wakefield Home!**
New home loaded with virtually every custom upgrade & amenity. 3 levels of luxury! Striking open floor plan, designer kitchen, luxury baths, hardwood flrs, sumptuous master suite, screen porch & 3 car garage. Walk to Wayneswood School.



9000 Beatty Dr \$739,000



4713 Dolphin Ln \$995,000



8704 Plymouth Rd \$1,700,000



3801 Riverwood Rd \$695,000

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Val Klotz 703.303.9744
ALEXANDRIA / Stoneybrooke \$ 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.



Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343
ALEXANDRIA / Mount Vernon \$ 650,000

Quick! Bring your contractor! Small house on big lot (.58 acres). Build up or out or live comfortably while you plan your dream home. Million dollar homes all around. Just off GW Parkway in Wellington/Tauxemont. Great street in Wayneswood ES District.



Martha Deal 703.622.6797
ALEXANDRIA / Porto Vecchio \$ 459,000

Great for Investors! Large 1BR with sunny exposure, eat-in kitchen and marble foyer. Open balcony with sunset views overlooking river, tennis courts and golf course. Hardwoods. Large walk-in closets/extra storage. 1 garage space. Sale subject to lease.



Cindy Nelson 703.965.7562
VIENNA \$ 675,000

Delightful 4BR/2.5BA sited on a cul-de-sac, .23 acre lot with mature trees. Amazing 2 level deck, patio, shed, newer siding, windows. Hardwoods thru-out ML. Eat-in kitchen with newer appliances, granite. Neutral paint! Steps to W&OD trail, schools, shops.



Mary Bourke 703.906.5825 & Mary Taylor 703.785.5619
ALEXANDRIA / Hunting Creek \$ 250,000

Views of the Potomac River and National Harbor from this updated 2BR/2BA condo. Parquet wood floors thru-out, renovated kitchen and baths, and spacious balcony. 24hr desk, outdoor pool, tennis, sauna, and plenty of parking. 5 blocks from Metro. FHA and VA approved.



D'Antonio-Kohler Realty Group 202.460.1809 or 703.967.7633
ALEXANDRIA \$ 514,900 OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4

8414 CULVER PL Bigger than it looks! Move-in ready, well cared for home with open ML, kitchen/dining/family room, sunroom, formal living room with fireplace + 3BRs. Fenced yard, carport, storage. Walk to Wayneswood ES, park, pool, Potomac River and hike / bike path.



Pat Tierney & Mary Taylor 703.850.5630 or 785.5619
ALEXANDRIA \$ 1,100,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

1250 S WASHINGTON ST, #802 offers stunning panoramic views of the Potomac, Washington Monument and National Harbor. 2BR/1br/ solarium with 1,800+sf, renovated kitchen with high-end appliances, remodeled baths, fireplace, hobby room (only one) and wine cellar.



Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343
ALEXANDRIA / Wellington Estates \$ 447,000

BEST BUY! Good things come in small packages! Rambler with updates, screened porch, garage. Newer vinyl windows, plantation shutters, wood-burning fireplace. Newer gas furnace and electric CAC. Bus at your front door. Wayneswood Elementary School.



Leah Chapla 703.929.4875
ALEXANDRIA \$ 629,000

Home for the Holidays with this lovely home featuring plantation shutters, replaced windows/doors, hardwoods plus bath/kitchen updates. Gather in the family room with wood-burning fireplace in the winter or on the large private deck in summer. Close to ES and MS.



Pat Tierney & Mary Taylor 703.850.5630 or 785.5619
ALEXANDRIA \$ 549,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

3562 GEORGE MASON DR #15 Move-in ready 4-level townhouse - recently renovated kitchen with granite, breakfast island, formal living/dining rooms, LL rec room with gas fireplace. Hardwoods, fresh paint thru-out, new backyard patio. Garage parking. Convenient location.



D'Antonio-Kohler Realty Group 202.460.1809 or 703.967.7633
ALEXANDRIA \$ 564,000 OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4

8711 PERRY LN Large move-in ready center hall Colonial in popular Stratford-on-the-Potomac! Great floor plan. 4BR/2.5BA, formal living/dining rooms, basement rec room/storage. Freshly painted interior. Newly refinished hardwoods. Fenced yard has brick patio/hot tub.



Georgia McLaughlin 703.628.4663
FALLS CHURCH \$ 579,999

NEW PRICE! Elegant 3BR/3.5BA garage townhouse in park-like setting. ML features wall of windows, wood floors gourmet kitchen with granite, living room + fireplace, separate dining room with French doors to deck. LL rec room, full bath and fireplace.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Visiting with Mount Vernon's Martha Washington

Mary Wiseman discusses the inspiration for interpreting the nation's first First Lady.

BY VERONICA BRUNO
THE GAZETTE

Imagine wearing five layers of clothing for your job. Well, that's exactly what Mary Wiseman does when she shows up for work as Martha Washington at Mount Vernon Estate every day.

"Thank goodness women didn't have to wear hoops and high heels at that time," she laughed as she described what goes into her dress as the very first First Lady of our country.

Wiseman also has to keep track of many accessories that go into all the details of being Mrs. Washington, including several shoes, mob caps, neckerchiefs, and ridicules (ladies purse).

"I got my car because it has a lot of room for my mob cap. Mrs. Washington wore a very high cap." You may see Mary driving her Kia Soul in historical dress while commuting to work.

Like you, she also orders new parts to her wardrobe every year, including a dress or two and gets her shoes repaired regularly. Wiseman has her own dressmaker and even more impressive, wears a corset every day. On top of that, the dress requirements are the same in winter as they are in summer. Imagine wearing all five layers in the Virginia heat. Like the original Martha did during the time, so does Wiseman as her interpreter.

But there is a lot more than dress that goes into playing Mrs. Washington.

"Her skills in the domestic art were amazing," as Wiseman explained all those requirements that went into being the household manager. "At that time, you had to be the family doctor, know every task, and had to have a lot of pride in being an accomplished housewife."

In addition to caring for the domestic duties of the household, Mrs. Washington traveled a lot during the presidency, which encompassed carriage travel—not an easy mode of transportation.

Described as the "soldier's best friend," Wiseman is proud to provide more clarity on her role for the nation. "There are a lot of misconceptions about her that I set straight. She could be up to her elbows in the nitty gritty and then put on the elegance of the presidency."

IN SPEAKING WITH Wiseman, there is a sense that there is a strong connection between the two ladies.

"Both of us were born in June. We have the same heritage—Welsh. We both moved to the area the same exact week. Washington brought Martha to Mount Vernon in the first week in April [the same week Wiseman moved to the Mount Vernon area from Williamsburg]."

And the similarities don't end there. "We were both left alone with young children."

Martha Washington became a widow at the age of 25 with two young children (her other children had already passed away) and five tobacco plantations to run. Wiseman was left with young children after her divorce (she has since remarried). She also sat in the Bruton Parish Church choir in Williamsburg, where the graves of Martha's grandfather and those of her children reside. She adds, "both of us have a love of company and conversation."

HOW DOES ONE become Martha Washington? Wiseman didn't start out portraying the first lady. She was the artistic director of women's history at Colonial



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUNT VERNON

Mrs. Washington (Mary Wiseman) welcomes visitors to the candlelight tours at Mount Vernon.

Williamsburg where she created the character actor program.

"I gathered the heads of Colonial Williamsburg and designed the program 'The Women Beside the Great Men,' with special emphasis on beside as she described the newly created program that focused on the women.

She designed a young version of Martha Washington to tour sites she visited around Williamsburg, played by another interpreter.

"I was so inspired by her story." After this initial success, Wiseman was then asked to create the older Martha herself, which she brought to Mount Vernon.

And there's an American Girl doll connection. While in Williamsburg she collaborated with creator Pleasant Rowland on the Felicity doll storyline.

"I was the chief research person for the Felicity doll. We modeled a lot of Felicity on the young women's interpretive program at Williamsburg." As Martha Washington, she also served as inspiration for Miss Manderly in the story.

Details

Mrs. Washington will be leading candlelight tours of Mount Vernon Estate through Dec. 21 in the evenings on the weekend. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$15 for children 11 and younger. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

For five years she was commuting between Williamsburg and Alexandria, where she performed Martha only on special occasions at first. After having lived in historical Williamsburg for 35 years, she decided to retire and move to the Mount Vernon area full time. She now resides in the Belle View area, where she frequents local restaurants such as Primo's Family Restaurant.

"I have my own table. It's one of the few places I feel comfortable stopping by after work [in full dress]."

Having performed Martha for more than 10 years now, she started out with the original General Washington historical actor, Bill Sommerfield. She has been interpreting with the current general, Dean Malissa, ever since he's been at Mount Vernon. "We interpret so well together now. People often ask us are they married in real life?"

If you are visiting the estate, you may find her performing needlework, much like Martha did, while conducting her tours or talks.

"My favorite part is every day when the kids sit with me."

In addition to being on the grounds regularly, Wiseman also participates in several distinct occasions for the estate. "I love the big events." A particularly busy day during the fall may include a local TV channel spot early in the morning at 7:45 a.m., a voiceover for public television for a Christmas special, interpreting on the grounds during the day for three hours, and participating in a special event in the evening for three and a half hours. As she joked, "I'm actually busier in my retirement!"

But she clearly enjoys her job. "It's been a wonderful journey."

Mary Wiseman is on site every day as Martha Washington and will be heading candlelight tours of the mansion during the holiday season.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Mount Vernon Virtual Tour.

Website users can now transport themselves to George Washington's Mount Vernon in a click of a mouse or touch of a screen through a new virtual tour. Featuring 29, 360-degree panoramic images, more than 200 points of interest, and dozens of in-depth videos highlighting

architectural details, objects and anecdotes, the tour recreates the experience of being at the estate in an unparalleled way.

www.mountvernon.org/virtualtour

Tavern Toddlers.

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

due to President's Day.

www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-746-4242

Broadway Christmas Carol.

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

Art Exhibit.

Through Jan. 2 at 1717 King St. and 300 S. Washington St. BB&T Bank hosts an exhibition of portraits of African American and women Living Legends of Alexandria at its Old Town branches. Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com for

more.

"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 a solo exhibit. www.theartleague.org 703-683-1780.

Christmas in Mount Vernon.

Through Tuesday, Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon decks the halls with themed Christmas trees on the estate and festive greenery in the Mansion. Visit www.mountvernon.org/

christmas for more.

Painting by John Trumbull.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. through Jan. 7. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. On loan from the Winterthur Museum, this portrait was painted by Washington's former aide-de-camp as a gift to Martha Washington in 1790. Regular admission rates: adults, \$18; senior citizens, \$16; children age 6-11, when accompanied by an adult, \$9; and children under age 5, free. Visit MountVernon.org 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

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

PenFed Foundation, supporting active military families, veterans and their families. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/shows/gww/ for more.

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

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

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

Dinner for the Washingtons. Noon at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find

out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/ for more.

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

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

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.alexandria.gov/gadsbystavern 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 for a schedule.

DECEMBER

Tree Sale. 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.

Alexandria's Holiday Market. At 300 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. Vendors will sell traditional European food, sweets and drinks combined with art and craft vendors to create a European holiday market shopping experience. The event also features the Holiday Sharing - Toy Drive program to support families in need, as well as the Hunger Free Alexandria initiative. Visit www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com for more.

❖ Dec. 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 — 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

❖ Dec. 24, Christmas Eve — 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Studio 12. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. About 20 artists will be showing their work in two-week exhibitions through the



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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	Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

end of 2014. This dynamic pop-up gallery provides an opportunity for many of the associates to have their work on view. Visit torpedofactory.org/events/ for more.

♦ **Dec. 1-14:** Felicia Belair-Rigdon, collage; Liz Roberts, paintings; Val Proudki, photographs; and Carol Talkov, mosaic

♦ **Dec. 15-28:** Fritz Des Roches, paintings; Barbara Muth, paintings; Norma Hintze, ceramics; and Marilynn Spindler, paintings

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 703-683-1780.

Reception for show "5x5(x5)." 6-8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Back by popular demand, this small works show is a juried exhibition that invites artists to submit work that cannot exceed 5" in any direction. Juror is local curator and arts writer, Kayleigh Bryant-Greenwell. Gallery talk at 7 p.m. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

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. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

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 or call 703-549-7500.

Second Thursday Art Night. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. "2nd Independence" will be performing jazz standards throughout the evening. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 12
Washington's Rye Whiskey Available for Sale. 10 a.m. At Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, 1,800 bottles of the aged and unaged George Washington Rye Whiskey will be available for sale in-person only. The aged whiskey retails for \$185 per bottle; the unaged rye whiskey retails for \$95 per bottle. Visit MountVernon.org/Distillery.

Music performance by Woodlawn Elementary School, 10:30-11 a.m. at Reagan National Airport, Terminal C, across from Cosi. See www.flyreagan.com for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/ DEC. 12-14
Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center Drive, Chantilly. Alexandria's Michael Heilman will be displaying his handmade rugs among more than 250 artisans who will display and sell their handcrafted work. Visit www.sugarloafcrafts.com for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13
Alexandria's Historic Breweries Walking Tour. 1-3 p.m. at Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S.

Fairfax St. Garrett Peck, author of "Capital Beer: A Heady History of Brewing in Washington, D.C.," will discuss Alexandria's brewing past, present, and future based on the amusing and informative brochure, "Alexandria's Historic Breweries: A Walking Tour & Pub Guide," which highlights 19 historic sites and 15 Official Hops Stops. See www.eventbrite.com/e/alxbrewtour-tickets-14698787469 for more. Free but reservations are required, as space is limited.

Annual Holiday Cheerleading Invitational. 11 a.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The competition features youth cheerleading teams from neighborhood recreation centers and the metropolitan area. Tickets available for purchase at the door. \$10 for ages 13 and older; \$5 for ages 5-12; and ages 4 and under are free. Call 703-746-5402 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

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 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

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar.

Holiday Concert. 8 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

Annual Tree Trim. 2-5 p.m. at The Gum Springs Historical Museum, 8100 Fordson Road, Alexandria. The public is invited to this annual tree trim. Call 703-619-6967 for more.

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 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 for more.

Decorate Gingerbread Cookies. 2 and 3 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Whole Foods Market, Old Town provides gingerbread cookies along with frosting, chips and sprinkles to decorate. Recommended for children 6 and older. \$10 suggested donation per child. Reserve for either timeslot by emailing admin@nvfaa.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 15

Annual Santa's Winter Wonderland.

5-7 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. The Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority (ARHA), in association with the City of Alexandria Recreation Parks Cultural Activities (RPCA) and Toys for Tots will hold its Annual Santa's Winter Wonderland. Community welcomed to view the Winter Wonderland and enjoy *Euille Tide* reading by Mayor Euille at Charles Houston Center. Dreamdog Foundation mascot singing. Gift of an unwrapped toy appreciated. The public is cordially invited to stroll through this Wonderland be transformed by the scale model of the City with features such as City Hall, the Masonic Temple, the Torpedo Factory and rows of town homes. For donation information, contact Ian Hawkins at ihawkins@arha.us or call 703-549-7913.

TUESDAY/DEC. 16

Annual Santa's Winter Wonderland.

12:30-6 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. ACPS school and community performances for the Alexandria community. Gift of an unwrapped toy appreciated. The public is cordially invited to stroll through this Wonderland be transformed by the scale model of the City with features such as City Hall, the Masonic Temple, the Torpedo Factory and rows of town homes. For donation information, contact Ian Hawkins at ihawkins@arha.us or call 703-549-7913.

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 for more.

TC Williams Winter Choral Concert. 7:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams Auditorium, 3330 King St., Alexandria. Free. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/ for more.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

Annual Santa's Winter Wonderland. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. The public is invited to stroll through this Wonderland with a scale model of the City with features such as City Hall, the Masonic Temple, the Torpedo Factory and rows of town homes. Gift of an unwrapped toy will be appreciated. For donation information, contact Ian Hawkins at ihawkins@arha.us or call 703-549-7913.

Music performance by Carl Sandburg Middle School. 10:30-11:45 a.m. at Reagan National Airport, Terminal B, across from Cibo Bistro. See www.flyreagan.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 18

Annual Santa's Winter Wonderland. 5-8 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. Gift distribution. Santa and the Grinch arrive at the event on an Alexandria

Fire Department fire truck. Gifts will be distributed to ticket holders. Children ranging in age from infant to 17 years old are welcome. For donation information, contact Ian Hawkins at ihawkins@arha.us or call 703-549-7913.

THURSDAY/DEC. 19

Carbon Leaf. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$35. Visit 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 for more.

Art at the Center. 5-7 p.m. at 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Enjoy light painting. Bring a book or toy to donate to Rising Hope. Call 703-201-1250 or visit www.artatthecenter.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 under are free. Visit 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 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

The T.C. Williams Choir. 8 p.m. The T.C. Williams Choir has been selected to participate in the annual Christmas Concert with the First Family, broadcast from the National Building Museum on TNT Channel 36 and Dish Channel 138.

MONDAY/DEC. 22

A John Waters Christmas. 7:30 p.m. The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$49.50. Visit 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.

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 for more.

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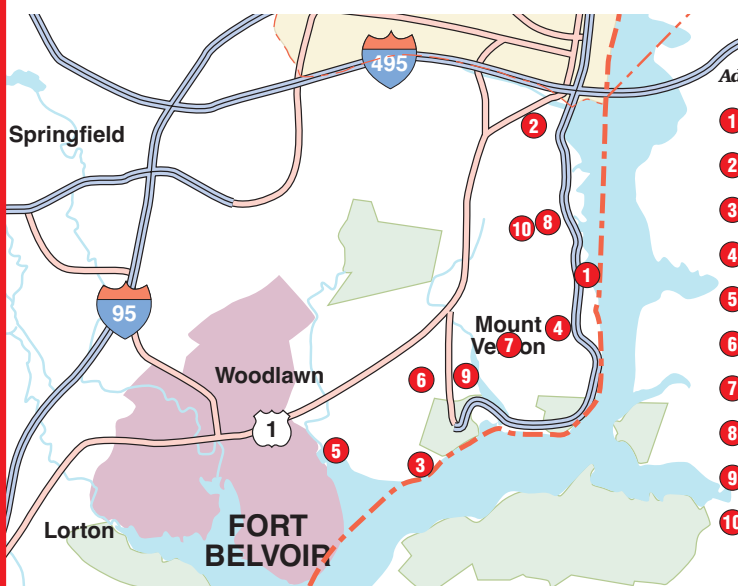
10 7216 Stafford Road — \$725,000



8 7119 Marine Drive — \$750,000



7 2308 Lakeshire Drive — \$840,000



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2 6124 VERNON TER	4	..	3	.	2	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,270,000	Detached	0.19	22307	BELLE HAVEN	10/30/14
3 3806 WASHINGTON WOODS DR	5	..	3	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,015,000	....	Detached	.....	0.34	.....	22309	.....	WASHINGTON WOODS POTOMAC	.....	10/01/14
4 8119 YORKTOWN DR	5	..	4	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$917,782	....	Detached	.....	0.15	.....	22308	.....	HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE	.....	10/15/14
5 5222 BURKE DR	5	..	3	.	2	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$915,000	....	Detached	.....	0.50	.....	22309	.....	MT VERNON TERRACE	.....	10/07/14
6 3807 WOODLEY DR	6	..	5	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$845,000	....	Detached	.....	0.58	.....	22309	.....	WOODLEY HILLS	.....	10/17/14
7 2308 LAKESHIRE DR	4	..	3	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$840,000	....	Detached	.....	0.25	.....	22308	..	MANORS AT MOUNT VERNON	..	10/02/14
8 7119 MARINE DR	5	..	3	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$750,000	....	Detached	.....	0.33	.....	22307	.....	MARLAN HEIGHTS	.....	10/03/14
9 3171 WOODLAND LN	3	..	2	.	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$750,000	....	Detached	.....	0.51	.....	22309	.....	WOODLAND PARK	.....	10/24/14
10 7216 STAFFORD RD	4	..	2	.	0	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$725,000	Detached	0.38	22307	HOLLIN HILLS	10/31/14

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Home LifeStyle

Gifts for the Home

Local shop owners offer suggestions to make holiday shopping easier.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

While holiday shopping is part of the spirit of the season, for some choosing a present for everyone on their list can be overwhelming. Local small business owners come to the rescue with gift ideas for the home.

Give the gift that keeps on burning long after the holidays. Autumn Clayton, owner of Covet, a boutique in Arlington that specializes in local and hand-made gifts, recommends hand-poured, soy candles by Sydney Hale in Purcellville, Va. Among the exotic fragrances are tobacco sandalwood and fir and blue sage.

"They are 100-percent soy and we carry a wide variety of scents," said Clayton. "10-percent of the sales from these candles benefit Lost Dog Rescue."

"The nice thing about these fragrances is that they smell great, but they're not overpowering," added Covet's Ximena Bryce.

At \$30 each, the candles have 50-hours of burn time and come in a glass that can be re-used for drinking when the candle is gone.

For the cook, Clayton also recommends hand-stitched kitchen towels by Nesta Home. "They make great hostess gifts and last longer than a bottle of wine," she said. "No one wants to come to a party empty-handed. You can even wrap a bottle of wine in the towel." The towels are \$14 each.

Wreaths with a nod to nature are among the top picks of Lauren Gregory of JT Interiors in Potomac, Md. "They will dry and turn brown and are made in such away that they can be stored and pulled out again next year," said Gregory. They range in price from \$60 to \$185 and come in natural materials like pine cones, cinnamon sticks and magnolia leaves.

Gregory also recommends electric hurricane lamps, which come on a strand and are priced at \$103 for a 90-inch strand, and prayer bowls. "They are made



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JT INTERIORS

Hand-poured, soy candles by Sydney Hale in Purcellville, Va., in fragrances like tobacco-sandalwood and fir and blue sage are available at Covet in Arlington.

by a woman who survived cancer and had a family who was praying for her kept their prayer intentions in a bowl," she said. "When the woman found out about it she was touched. The prayer bowls make a great gift because they tell the story behind them."

Limited edition ornaments by Mark Roberts are the choice of John Brown of J Brown and Company in Old Town Alexandria. "They're beautiful and they're all jeweled and come in colors like red, green white and robin's egg blue" said Brown. Handcrafted with an old-fashioned flair and embellished with crystals, the figurine-ornaments are a collector's item.



Gold-rimmed prayer bowls are a gift recommendation by Lauren Gregory of JT Interiors in Potomac, Md.

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PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE
Mount Vernon senior Jason Banks scored a team-high 18 points during the Majors' overtime victory against West Potomac on Tuesday.



West Potomac junior Jamie Sara finished with 19 points and 17 rebounds against Mount Vernon on Tuesday. He forced overtime with a bucket in the closing seconds of regulation.

Majors Pull Out OT Win

FROM PAGE 24

Sara was there clean up, scoring on a putback to tie the game at 56 in the closing seconds.

"I give my kids credit," West Potomac head coach David Houston III said. "I told them we had no timeouts, what we needed to do to take it to overtime and we did exactly what I thought we could do — go to overtime. I think that once we went to overtime we exhaled, and that was a problem."

While the Wolverines exhaled, the Majors regrouped and took care of business after their fourth-quarter collapse. Mount Vernon struck first with a 3-pointer by Jason Konadu 16 seconds into the overtime period and led for the remainder of the contest.

"I was happy at the way we bounced back," Wiley said. "[We] came over to the bench, [I] had to pick them back up, then we went right out ... and pulled the game out."

Senior forward Jason Banks came up clutch for Mount Vernon. After scoring three points in the first three quarters, Banks, a team captain, came up with 15 in the fourth quarter and overtime. He finished with a team-high 18 points, including 10 in OT.

"I just felt like I'm a captain on this team

... [and] I felt like I had to make these shots," Banks said. "I have a can't-lose mentality."

Junior forward Tarel Terry scored 15 points for Mount Vernon, including a trio of 3-pointers.

West Potomac had a pair of strong individual efforts go for naught. Cheng, a senior guard, knocked down six 3-pointers and scored a game-high 20 points. Sara, a 6-foot-4 forward, finished with 19 points and a game-high 17 rebounds.

"Chris shot the ball well," Houston said. "He's been doing that for a while. ... Jamie's really active."

Sophomore guard Khalil Williams Diggins scored 14 points for the Wolverines.

Mount Vernon improved to 3-0, including victories over Centreville and Hampton Christian. The Majors reached the National District championship game in 2013 and the Conference 13 final last season, and Wiley said they figure to compete with Wakefield and Edison for this year's conference crown.

Mount Vernon will travel to face Yorktown at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12.

West Potomac dropped to 1-3 and will host Chantilly at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

"A month from now, we won't even look the same," Houston said. "A staple of my teams is we get better as the year goes on."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

- Mary Ellen Hook at mehook@fcps.edu
- ❖ 10 a.m.-noon at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton, in the Conference Room.
 - ❖ 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, in Conference Room 3.

SATURDAY/ JAN. 10

Office Hours. Fairfax County School Board

- Member Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Members of the community are invited to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns, no appointment necessary. Contact Dan Storck at Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or his assistant Mary Ellen Hook at mehook@fcps.edu
- ❖ 10 a.m.-noon at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton, in the Conference Room.
 - ❖ 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, in Conference Room 3.

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OBITUARY



Edward A Delman passed away December 7, 2014 at the age of 86. He was born January 14, 1928 in Brooklyn, NY and enjoyed serving in the Merchant Marines and his time at sea. During a trip back on the train from his station at Fort Eustis in Virginia to New York, he met his wife, Edith Mortenson from Sioux Falls, SD who was traveling from New York back to Washington after visiting her sister.

Ed and Edie were married shortly after on May 12th, 1951 and settled in Maryland where Edward started working in electrical wholesale at Maurice Electric in Washington D.C. and Capitol Lighting in Alexandria. In 1961, he founded Alexandria Lighting & Supply with a partner, Irwin Goldberg, at the Powhatan Shopping Center in Alexandria. They moved the business to 701 N Henry St in 1964 where it still stands today. He credits all his success in business to his wife Edie who was the book-keeper and glue that held the company together.

Edward is well remembered for his engaging personality with anyone who came into the store. He affectionately greeted most customers with "kid" or "babe" and enjoyed learning about other people's backgrounds. Bagels and cream cheese became a tradition in the showroom on Saturdays in the "Electric Deli."

Edward was an excellent businessman and tough teacher. He was preceded in death by his wife, Edith in 1998. Edward is survived by his sister, Dorothy Solomon of Smithtown, NY; son Eric Delman (Danae) of Alexandria, VA, daughter Ellen Delman Rydell (William) of Alexandria, VA and five grandchildren; Zachary Delman of New Haven, CT, Samuel Delman of Fairfax, VA, Erika Delman of New York, NY, William Rydell of Alexandria, VA and Janna Rydell of Arlington, VA.

Memorial service will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Alzheimer's Foundation (3701 Pender Drive, Suite 400, Fairfax VA 22030) or Capital Caring (2900 Telestar Court, Falls Church, VA 22042).

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-Archimedes

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-Andrew Jackson

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-Theodore Roosevelt

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
La Tasca Inc trading as La Tasca, 607 King St. Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Francis McDonald, Vice President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

NOTICE: Sale of Dental Practice; On November 14, 2014, the assets of George S. Pugh DDS, Ltd., at 8492 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, Va., were sold to Woodlawn Family Dentistry, Inc., owned by Dr. Monique Nguyen. If any existing patient, or representative, would like their records sent to another dentist, or provided to the patient, please contact our office at 703-780-3300, before December 30, 2014. As usual, there will be a small charge for these copies, based on the number of pages.

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:
Title: Request for Proposals No. 00000480, Consulting Services for Review of Targeted Reimbursement Processes and Procedures Closing Date and Time: January 8, 2015, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.
For general inquiries contact Cynthia Davis, Contract Specialist at 703.746.3921.
The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

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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 Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Stomping Ground, LLC trading as Stomping Ground, 2309 Mt Vernon Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Erik Dorn Member
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

OBITUARY OF CAPT. ROBERT (BOB) PORTER RICE USN (RET.)



Robert Rice, 82 passed away peacefully at his home in Alexandria, VA on November 19, 2014 after a long struggle with COPD.

Bob was born March 5, 1932 in Lawrence, MA. He is the son of the late Willard and Ethel Rice of So. Yarmouth, MA. He is survived by his wife of 49 years Betty (Georgia) Rice of Alexandria; his brother George and sister-in law Moira of Osprey, FL; niece Kimberly and her husband Robert Hofeldt with daughter from Manchester, MA; and nephew Bob and his wife Jennifer and their 7 children from Steubenville, OH. Bob was a career Naval Jet Pilot who retired as Captain after 27 years which included five tours of duty in Vietnam, the last one as Commanding Officer of VF-111, flying the world famous F4B attack jet aircraft aboard the USS Coral Sea (CVA-43). During his lengthy career Bob flew a total of 3347 flight hours and had 687 Carrier Landings which included 315 Combat Missions in Vietnam. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal "24" Strike Force Numeral with 2 Stars, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Awards, the National Defense Service Medal, Navy Occupation (Europe) and the Vietnam Service Medal. He is a member of the Caterpillar Club. Bob, considered one of the best jet pilots in the Navy, was invited to fly with the famous Blue Angels but instead he opted to take his 5th tour of duty in Vietnam as squadron leader.

In addition to his flying time, for two years in 1963-1965 Bob was the Aide/Flag Lieutenant to Vice Admiral John T. Hayward in HI. In 1967 he attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI. In 1968 he attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA and in 1973 the National War College, followed by staff assignments in the Pentagon. Bob and Betty have lived in Alexandria since 1974 where Bob had a side activity as a docent at the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum where he could provide his great depth of military knowledge to visitors. Bob had a wonderful sense of humor and he truly loved life. He will be sorely missed by his family and his many, many friends.

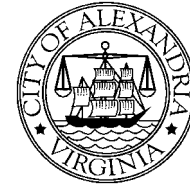
Full military service and burial will be held at a future date at Arlington National Cemetery.

102 Instruction

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, December 13, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article B (FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE), Chapter 5 (OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES), of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

This represents a drop in reporting of financial disclosure from annually (January 15) to semi-annually (December 15 and June 15).

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 058.02 of the "Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia," adopted by Section 1-300 (OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the property at 100 South Pickett Street from CRMU-M/Commercial Residential Mixed Use (Medium) with Proffer to CRMU-M/Commercial Residential Mixed Use (Medium) with an amended Proffer in accordance with the said zoning map amendment approved by city council on November 15, 2014, as Rezoning No. 2014-0006 for the Pickett's Place development. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2014-0006 to rezone the property at 100 South Pickett Street from CRMU-M/Commercial Residential Mixed Use (Medium) with proffer to CRMU-M/Commercial Residential Mixed Use (Medium) with an amended Proffer approved by city council on November 15, 2014 for the Pickett's Place development.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 074.03 of the "Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia," adopted by Section 1-300 (OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the property at 1323 Wilkes Street from RB/Townhouse Zone to CRMU-L/ Commercial Residential Mixed Use (Low) with Proffer in accordance with the said zoning map amendment approved by city council on November 15, 2014 for the West-Parc Townhouse Project. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning NO. 2014-0004 to rezone the property at 1323 Wilkes Street from RB/Townhouse zone to CRMU-L/Commercial Residential Mixed Use (Low) with Proffer in accordance with the said zoning map amendment approved by city council on November 15 for the West-Parc Townhouse Project.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the property owner of 906 First Street to construct and maintain an encroachment for a porch overhang at that address in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

The proposed ordinance permits the property owner at 906 First Street to construct and maintain a porch that overhangs the adjacent public sidewalk right-of-way.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by city council to such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. MPA 2014-0009 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of this said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. MPA 2014-0009 to transfer density to Hoffman Block 2 from Hoffman Blocks 4 and 9B and to increase building height, as approved by the City Council on November 15, 2014.

PUBLIC HEARING and consideration of the Report on the recommended priorities and process for implementing recommended changes to Alexandria Fund for Human Services.

PUBLIC HEARING and consideration of adoption of an implementation plan for Alexandria Public Art Policy.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. JACKIE M. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

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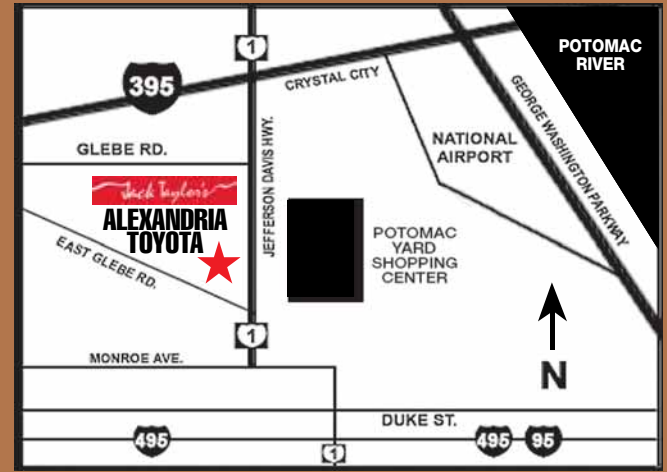
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Let's Go Places

SPORTS

Majors Pull Out OT Win

Jones' dunks excite crowd, Banks scores 10 in OT.

By JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon senior Earnest Jones threw down a two-handed dunk midway through the first quarter of Tuesday's matchup with rival West Potomac, igniting the Majors' home crowd into a frenzy.

Jones again went above the rim in the second quarter, but this dunk attempt went awry, leading to a transition 3-pointer for West Potomac and a seven-point Wolverine lead.

The game would go to overtime and Jones, a senior captain, made the most of his final highlight opportunity.

Jones's dunk with 1:40 remaining in the extra period sparked an 8-0 run and the Mount Vernon boys' basketball team remained undefeated with a 72-63 victory over West Potomac.

"It's great to throw one down in front of the crowd," Jones said. "It felt pretty good. I was glad I was able to get the crowd hyped and my team hyped."

Along with his dunks, Jones, a 6-foot-5 forward, scored nine points during the fourth quarter and overtime. He finished with 14 points and five rebounds.

"[Jones] is our senior captain and we look to him for everything," Mount Vernon head coach John Wiley said. "... [Jones] is who we look to for guidance, leadership and today he came through and had some good drives and really picked us up with some nice dunks."

Mount Vernon appeared to have the game in hand during the fourth quarter, when a pair of Jones free throws gave the Majors a 55-48 lead with 32.6 seconds remaining.

The Wolverines, however, continued to battle.

West Potomac guard Chris Cheng buried his sixth 3-pointer of the evening, cutting Mount Vernon's lead to four with 21.5 seconds on the clock. After a Majors free throw, junior forward Jamie Sara scored for the Wolverines, cutting the deficit to three.

West Potomac stole the ensuing inbound pass and Andre Copeland

went to the free-throw line with 6.4 seconds remaining. The senior bounced in the first attempt, but missed the second. The Wolverines grabbed the offensive rebound and missed a putback attempt, but

"I think that once we went to overtime we exhaled, and that was a problem."

— West Potomac boys' basketball coach David Houston III

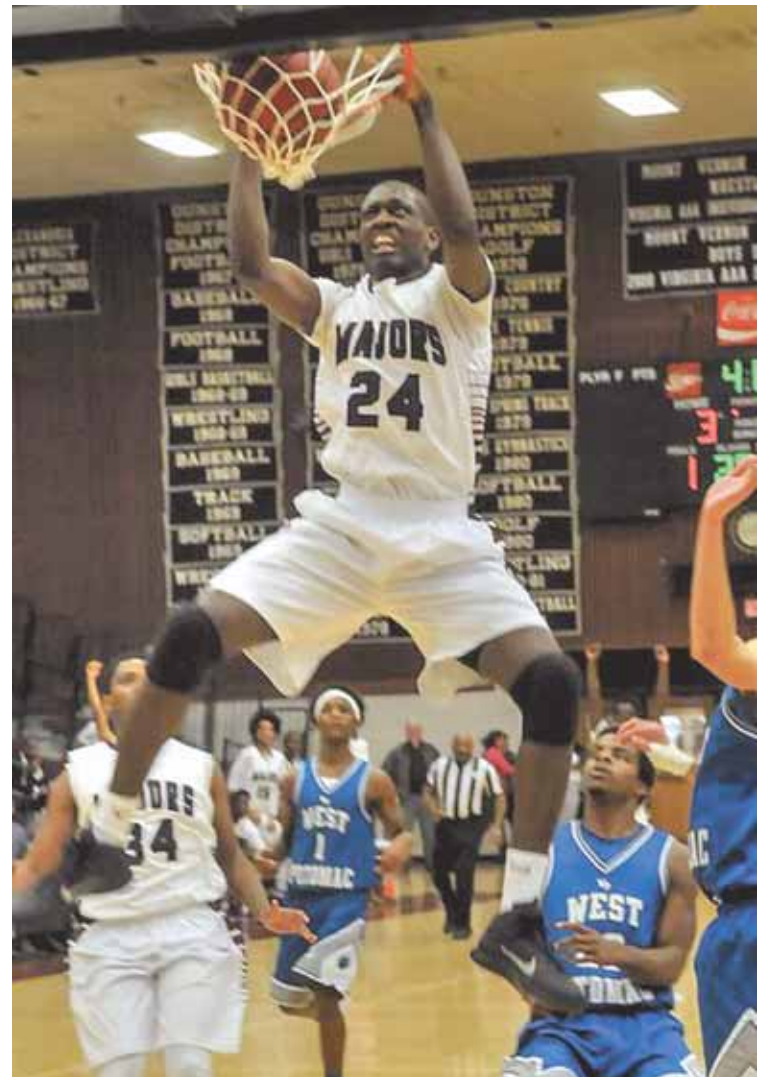


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon senior Earnest Jones throws down a dunk in the first quarter of the Majors' matchup with West Potomac on Tuesday at Mount Vernon High School.

SEE MAJORS, PAGE 20

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