



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Holiday Toy Drive

Santa gets a thank you from a student at the Gum Springs Head Start.

Widening Continues On U.S. Route 1

Improvements project team holds update meeting.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Douglas White is the “unofficial mayor” of Accotink Village, he said. He was at the South County Center on Dec. 10 to hear project updates from members of the U.S. Route 1 Improvements project team handling the widening of the major roadway.

“I’m here so I can tell everyone in the community what’s going on,” he said.

Several Accotink Village buildings are on the demolition list for this winter and spring, according to Mitch Rubin, Design Build Project Manager with the joint contractor team Corman-Wagman, based in Lorton.

Some of the other key progress updates Rubin presented include putting three drainage pipes across the road at Mason Run, installing storm drains and storm drain ponds, and “cutting and filling” stretches of dirt to widen the heavily trafficked roadway.



Douglas White of Accotink Village attended the Dec. 10 U.S. Route 1 Improvements meeting to report back to his community.

Depending on the weather, they’re also hoping to demolish the existing bridge and build a new one over Accotink Creek.

“If Mother Nature is good to us this winter, it’ll be sooner,” said Rubin. “Right now she’s not cooperating very well with us.”

Widening U.S. Route 1 to a six-lane divided highway has been on the county’s comprehensive plan since the 1970s, according to Jane Rosenbaum, a senior transporta-

SEE IMPROVEMENTS, PAGE 6



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Laura Mehiel (center), design manager with A. Morton Thomas, explains some of the U.S. Route 1 improvements to citizens at the Dec. 10 update meeting.

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Volunteers accompanied the Gum Springs Head Start students through the Penn Daw fire station.



Volunteers sorted the toys into age groups before bringing the children in to select a favorite.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Firefighters Host Annual Holiday Toy Drive

Partnering with private corporations and local businesses, Fairfax County firefighters and paramedics sponsored the 17th Annual Firefighters Holiday Rescuer's Toy Distribution. On Thursday, Dec. 11, the toys, coats, gift cards and bikes were distributed at Penn Daw Fire and Rescue Station 11 in Alexandria.

Department members, Progressive Firefighters of Fairfax County, Inc., and International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2068, collected new toys, games, bikes, coats, and other items for distribution to children throughout Fairfax County and Alexandria during the holiday season.

Three thousand toys, 600 coats, \$3,000 in gift cards and 80 bikes were distributed thanks to donations and support from businesses and civic organizations including



Antonia Williams says hello to 6-year-old Jazz with Sit Means Sit dog trainer and owner Ted Madsen at the annual toy drive.

Operation Warm/Firefighters Coats for Kids, Apple Federal Credit Union, Nationwide Credit Corporation, Fairfax County Fed-

eration of Teachers, Cardinal Plaza Shell, Union Street Public Restaurant, Promax Realtors, Rutherford, Medocracy Inc., ACT for Alexan-



Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Captain II Willie Bailey is joined by ACT for Alexandria executive director John Porter and Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland at the Holiday Toy Drive.

dria, FCAC Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Fairfax County OP3, Primo Family Restaurant, Five Guys, Kelly's Irish Times Restaurant, St.

Stephen's St. Agnes School, StayWell, Fire & Rescue Retirement Association and the Connection Newspapers.



Firefighters and paramedics collected more than 3,000 toys as well as 80 bikes.



More than 3,000 new toys were collected and distributed at the annual firefighters holiday toy drive.



Fairfax County Fire & Safety Lieutenant Jeff Mongold has a visit with Santa at the fire station.

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Alexandria/Quaker Ridge **\$1,195,000**
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Christine Garner 703-587-4855



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\$775,000
823 South Fairfax. Sensational circa 1950 home on sought-after Fairfax Street. 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths and 2 fireplaces.
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OLD TOWN



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Christine Garner 703-587-4855

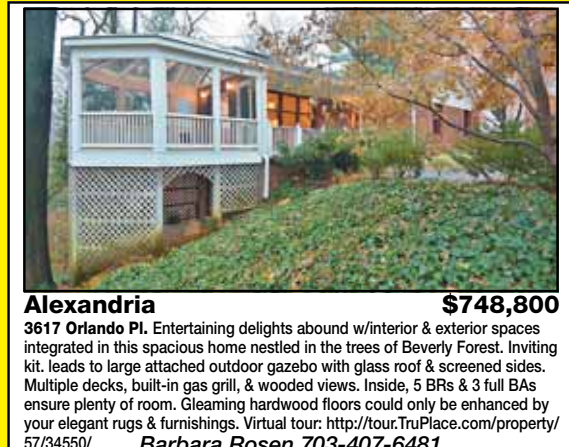


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Cindy 703-593-1418 & Leslie 703-400-3010



Alexandria **\$748,800**
3617 Orlando Pl. Entertaining delights abound w/interior & exterior spaces integrated in this spacious home nestled in the trees of Beverly Forest. Inviting kit. leads to large attached outdoor gazebo with glass roof & screened sides. Multiple decks, built-in gas grill, & wooded views. Inside, 5 BRs & 3 full BAs ensure plenty of room. Gleaming hardwood floors could only be enhanced by your elegant rugs & furnishings. Virtual tour: <http://tour.TruPlace.com/property/57/34550/>
Barbara Rosen 703-407-6481



GREAT LOCATION!

Alexandria **\$650,000**
6516 Princeton Dr. Fantastic value in wonderful Belle Haven Terrace! Spacious colonial with 3 fin. lvls. 4/5 BR's, 3.5 BA's & 2-car gar. Steps to Shops, Restaurants, Rec. Center, Grocery, School, Bike Path, River & G.W. Pkwy! Charming Front porch, Great Fir. Plan & Lrg. Rooms. Lower Lvl. w/Rec. Rm., Den & Full BA. Peaceful lot backs to trees. Mins. to OLD TOWN, Metro, I-495, D.C., Ft. Belvoir & The Pentagon!
Lisa McCaskill 703-615-6036



Alexandria/Sherwood Forest **\$539,000**
7818 Friars Ct. Spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with attached garage on quiet cul-de-sac. Great home for entertaining with plenty of space for all! Large walk-out lower level with family room & wet bar. Large fenced yard with patio, deck, garden and CUSTOM STUDIO with wood-burning fireplace!
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

Alexandria/Island Creek
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6537 Parish Glebe. 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 baths, bright & light with completely renovated kitchen: granite, stainless, cabinets to the ceiling! Gorgeous new hardwoods on the main & upper levels. Move-in ready! Great community amenities and access to Belvoir, Kingstowne, Metro & I-95.
Nadine Wren 703-403-4410



Alexandria **\$469,000**
8605 Cherry Valley Ln. Wonderful home & community. Large 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA well-maintained colonial with hardwood floors, spacious finished basement, 2-car garage. Near Potomac River and scenic G.W. Parkway with bike, jogging, walking trail.
Mike Downie 703-780-2727



Alexandria
\$344,900
6534 Brick Hearth Ct. Must see amazing town home in great community of South Kings Station. 2 Bed, 2 1/2 Bath, 3 Level Town home, updated Eat-in Kit w/granite, oak cabinets, wood-burring FP, fenced back patio, 2 Master Suites w/lots of closet space & attached baths. Lower level, partially finished. W/D lower level, and tons of storage. New paint & carpet throughout!
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Alexandria/Montebello **\$310,000**
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NEWS

Deborah Addo, CEO of Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, with Mark and Brenda Moore as the new Mark and Brenda Moore Patient Tower sign is lit for the first time.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

New Patient Tower Dedicated

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital officially dedicated the new Mark and Brenda Moore Patient Tower building at a special ceremony on Dec. 9.

Hospital leaders joined with major donors and more than 125 dignitaries representing community, business, political and Inova Health leadership from across the region to celebrate the culmination of more than four years' work and planning.

The Mark and Brenda Moore Patient Tower features all-private patient rooms, expanded facilities for the Inova Joint Replacement Center and Inova Rehabilitation Center, a new gymnasium, and new cognitive suites and other state-of-the-art patient

care areas.

In her remarks, Deborah Addo, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Chief Executive Officer, remarked that this aesthetically pleasing, world-class facility will enhance privacy and promote a healing environment for patients.

The Mark and Brenda Moore Patient Tower is the most recent tangible example of a series of infrastructure improvements and expansion across the hospital campus. In October, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital opened an expanded operating room suites area, and in spring, 2015, the hospital will break ground on a great expanded emergency department project.

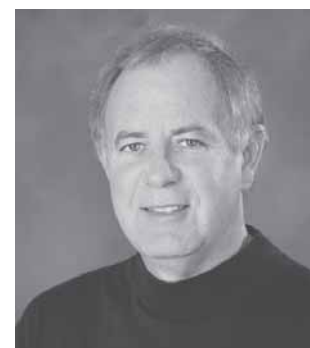
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Mt. Vernon is Rex's hometown. He moved here in 1960 when his father, an Air Force pilot, was stationed at the Pentagon. Rex also became a pilot, graduating from the Air Force Academy and flying for 20 years with the Air Force and Eastern Airlines.

Rex returned to his roots in Mt. Vernon where he and his wife, Doris, raised their four children, and where Rex embarked on a second career in Real Estate.

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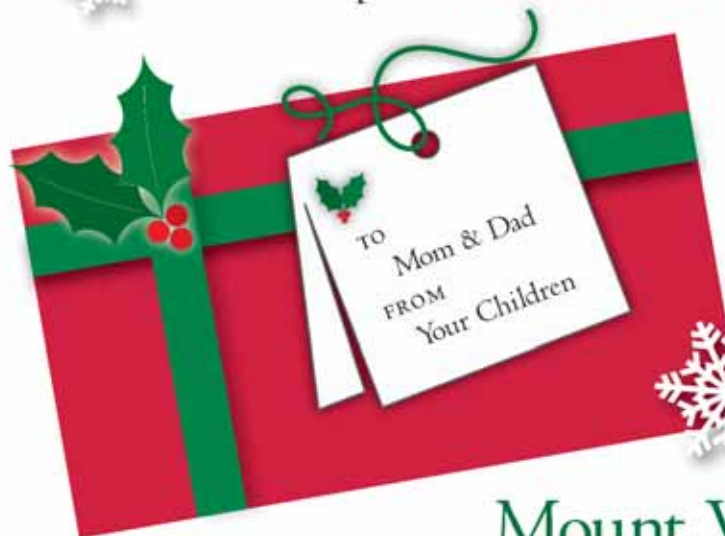
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 **Mount Vernon *At Home*** is a nonprofit "village" dedicated to helping seniors age-in-place.

Improvements Project Team Holds Update Meeting

FROM PAGE 1

tion planner with Fairfax County who was at the meeting.

“We were doing incremental widening, from two to four lanes, some development widening in around Inlet Cove,” said Rosenbaum. “But we never had enough money to put in such a huge project. 3.7 miles: It’s a huge chunk of a road building.”

But when the relocation of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and other Fort Belvoir realignments promised to add 9,000 vehicles per day on U.S. Route 1, according to Rosenbaum, the comprehensive plan needed a booster.

Del. Scott Surovell spoke after Rosenbaum and explained how U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) helped secure \$180 million in grant money for the project, collaborating with the Office of Economic Adjustment and the Department of Defense.

In April 2013 the contract was awarded to a joint venture of Corman Construction, Inc. and G.A. & F.C. Wagman, Inc., with design work by A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. Consulting Engineers. Design lasted until spring 2014, at which point construction began. The project team anticipates a completion date of Feb. 19, 2016.

The contractors are working under guidance from the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division and Virginia Department of Transportation.

Surovell responded to generally positive feedback from the public audience about the progress so far. “This project is coming in on time and under budget, and it’s appearing there’s money left over from it,” he said. “This is happening right here in our community, one of the biggest road projects in the county. And I’ve gotten virtually no complaints from my constituents about it.”

For updates on lane closures and traffic flow changes, visit the project Facebook page or website at www.rte1ftbelvoir.com.

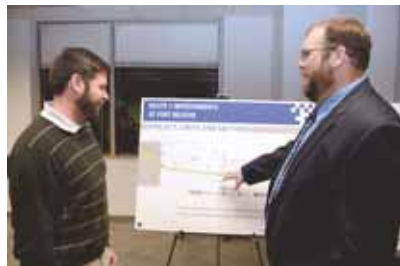
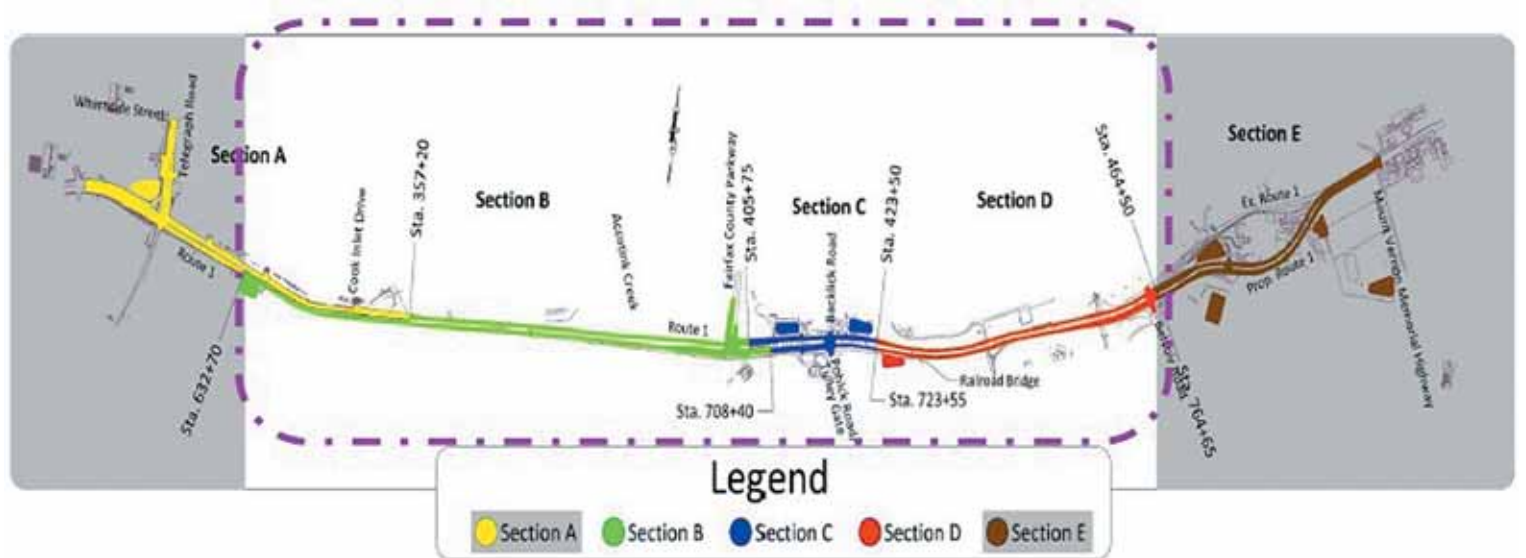


PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE
Tim Brown (right) with the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration points out the five areas of U.S. Route 1 improvements to Adam Vencill, a project team member who lives in Maryland.



The project team has broken the three and a half-mile stretch of U.S. Route 1 being improved into five main sections.



IMAGE COURTESY OF EASTERN FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY DIVISION

Section B of the U.S. Route 1 Improvement project, showing clearing and grading taking place, as well as the location of the new bridge over Accotink Creek.



IMAGE COURTESY OF EASTERN FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY DIVISION

Sections C and D of the U.S. Route 1 Improvement project continue north from the Fairfax County Parkway.

NEWS



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

The annual Mount Vernon Athletic Boosters holiday tree sale features Fraser Fir trees from North Carolina.

Mount Vernon Athletic Booster President Pete Cutler shows a 6' Fraser Fir to a customer at the tree sale on Saturday, Dec. 13.

MVHS Hosts Holiday Tree Sale

The Fraser Firs have arrived at Mount Vernon High School for the annual holiday tree sale. The sale is sponsored by the Mount Vernon Athletic Booster Club which is raising money to build a new gatehouse complete with restrooms and a snack bar at the Melvin Landes Stadium. The trees are available daily from 5 to 8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The sale is located outside the Melvin Landes Stadium at the school.

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ALEXANDRIA 1001 Janneys Lane | \$2,995,000
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OLD TOWN 700 South Pitt Street | \$2,935,000
 Modern magnificence with historic significance. One-of-a-kind freestanding townhouse on a corner lot features: open floor plan, custom kitchen, modern amenities, walled garden with outdoor living room. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and 5 fireplaces throughout. 7-9 reserved off-street parking spaces.
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ALEXANDRIA 210 North View Terrace | \$2,375,000
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ALEXANDRIA 4205 Kimbrelee Court | \$1,149,000
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OPINION

Holidays Are for Giving

In the scramble to finish Christmas shopping, remember tens of thousands of local children are short of food as well as presents.

The holidays are for giving. Christmas and Hanukkah are about children and family, about sharing, about joy, about being thankful and about faith and appreciation.

Here in Northern Virginia, many of us see few signs of families in need as we go about our daily lives and holiday shopping. Our neighborhoods are largely segregated economically; we mostly see the people who are most like ourselves economically.

But in Fairfax County, about 65,000 people live below the poverty line, about 6 percent. In Arlington and Alexandria, more than 8 percent of the population lives in poverty, about 18,000 people in Arlington and more than 12,000 people in Alexandria.

WHERE TO GIVE LOCALLY IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

In no particular order:

- ❖ **Our Daily Bread's Holiday Program** helps those in need with food for the holidays and gifts for their children. Donations are still needed, go to www.odbfairfax.com/holiday
- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.
- ❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org.

To be clear, the poverty line is \$19,780 for a family of three; it's \$11,670 for a single person household. Imagine for a minute how far \$20,000 a year would go in your family. To live in Northern Virginia, a family needs to earn about twice the rate of poverty to get by. The median household income in Fairfax County and Arlington is well over \$100,000.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 52,000 students, or more than 28 percent, are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty.

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

In Alexandria, more than 8,500 students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized

meals. That's 60 percent of the 14,222 students enrolled.

These are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school. School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Christmas, Hanukkah and winter holiday vacations.

Many of these are children are living in families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Almost all are families where at least one adult is employed full time, but still many are one unexpected expense away from disaster. Many of these families live on the brink of homelessness.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Also mark your calendar to help again in a month or two. The needs don't go away after the holidays. Here are a few ideas.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

- ❖ **HealthWorks for Northern Virginia**, formerly the Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, provides medical, dental and behavioral health care to anyone in need, regardless of age or ability to pay. Herndon location, 1141 Elden St. Third Floor, Herndon, VA 20170, 703-481-8160 <http://hwnova.org/>
- ❖ **Alternative House** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. www.thealternativehouse.org
- ❖ **SHARE of McLean** seeks donations of grocery gift cards and more. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. www.SHAREofMcLean.org
- ❖ **Committee for Helping Others (CHO)**, Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of concerned churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. 703-281-7614 <http://www.cho-va.com>
- ❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), working with the Office of Coordinated Services Planning, Fairfax County Department of Human Services, FISH helps local citizens who are in temporary need of basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 Also operates thrift store, The Bargain Loft, 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 20170, 703-437-0600 <http://herndonrestonfish.org>
- ❖ **Lamb Center**, www.thelambcenter.org. Day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**, providing gift cards and toys for 1,700 of Northern Virginia's neediest families this season. 10455 White Granite Drive Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124 703-385-3267 <http://www.nvfs.org/>
- ❖ **United Community Ministries**, providing services to prevent homelessness, keep the utilities on, help with food insecurity and more. Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306 <http://www.ucmagency.org/>
- ❖ **Food for Others**, largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia, plus provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or spouse. 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.org
- ❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO)**, 703-569-9160,

admin@echo-inc.org 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. www.echo-inc.org.

❖ **Lorton Community Action Center**, now collecting gift cards and food baskets for Christmas, drop off on Dec. 20, 2014. Also operates Lorton's Attic, 9506 Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1), Lorton, VA 22079 703-339-5161 703-339-8611 www.lortonaction.org.

❖ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and the Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. <http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/>

❖ **Office to End and Prevent Homelessness** has a strategic road map to prevent and end homelessness, created by the Planning Committee to End Homelessness, in partnership with the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, government agencies, nonprofits, faith communities and businesses. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/>

❖ **12 Ways of Giving**: Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships' "12 Ways of Giving" campaign is an annual event that showcases many ways for meaningful, local giving during the holiday season, highlighting nonprofits in Fairfax County. www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer organization that clothes, feeds, educates and nurtures those in need focusing five of the neediest elementary schools. Volunteers and donors are always needed. Contact ALNorthernVA@yahoo.com or see www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org

❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)** — organizes programs that promote recreation, relaxation and resiliency for members of the U.S. Armed Services recuperating from injuries received in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org

❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org

❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656. <http://www.wfcmvva.org/>

❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. <http://www.touchingheart.com>, 703-901-7355

❖ **Bethany House** provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia. www.bhmv.org, 6121 Lincolnia Road, Suite 303, Alexandria, VA 22312, 703-658-9500. See <http://www.bhmv.org/getinvolved1/> for a list of needed items.



476

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



LETTER

Oversight Needed for the Few

To the Editor

This note to you is concerning the continuing discussion on the need for a citizen oversight committee of the Fairfax County Police Department.

There are unchecked gunslingers in the Fairfax Police Department.

As background I have lived in Mt. Vernon area for 20 years. During this time I have written four letters of commendation to the captain of the Mt. Vernon office commending different officers for their great work. I have not even had a parking ticket for years. I am sure that I have a "5" point rating for my driving record. I am not one who breaks the law.

If everyone in this county went through the trauma that I went through when a number of Fairfax officers attacked my home with me in it over a year ago they would demand some citizen involvement to hold officers accountable for severe actions. Officers with drawn guns entered my home, told me not to move and went through my home. I was not given a copy of the search warrant until they left. I did not know what they were looking for until they were gone. They tore up one room in my house and left it that way. At one point they threatened to shoot my dog. At no time did I re-


ceive any charges or was accused of any wrongdoing.

I wrote a complaint to the chief about six months after this attack after I cooled down and could use acceptable language. I have never received a reply to my letter and picture of my ransacked room. I no longer feel protected by the police but live in fear that this will happen again.

When I took the warrant to the person who signed it and pointed out that my name was misspelled in several places, my house was not described correctly and that they did not find anything listed on the warrant she was very nervous and said she "just signed what the officer gave her." This is not the oversight a magistrate is hired to provide.

I think that there is a preponderance of really great officers in the Mt. Vernon station. What there is not is a means to hold accountable the few officers who do not meet the standards of serving and protecting. A citizens advisory group could be useful to give someone like me a way to express my displeasure with an issue and feel like someone would correct this kind of unjustified attack.

Phil Boughton
Mt. Vernon



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- ▶ **ALEXANDRIA'S HOLIDAY MARKET**
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DECEMBER 5 - 24
- ▶ **CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS**
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DECEMBER 20
- ▶ **WATERSKIING SANTA**
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DECEMBER 24
- ▶ **20TH ANNIVERSARY OF**
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DECEMBER 31

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OPINION

Helping People without Homes

BY PAMELA L. MICHELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NEW HOPE HOUSING

The weather has turned colder and the holidays are in full swing, which means it's the time of year when people ask "what can we do for the homeless now that it's so cold?" Or "how can we help the homeless have a good Christmas?" For those of us working with men, women, and children who are experiencing homelessness, the great community interest in December in those we serve can be heartwarming — and overwhelming. Overwhelming because we are inundated by your extraordinary generosity during this time. But heartwarming, because you are thinking about the persons in our program as individuals; as people with their own holiday dreams.

In my 30-plus years in homeless services, one of my pet peeves is the phrase "the homeless." When we use that phrase we unknowingly dehumanize the people we describe. We are also inaccurately lumping together a diverse group of people under one label as though they are all the same with the same needs. Nothing could be further from the truth. They are individuals, each with a unique story. They are children. They are mothers and fathers. They are veterans. They are people from all walks of life. The one thing they have in common is

not having a permanent address.

At New Hope Housing, we don't help the Homeless, we don't house the Homeless, we don't serve the Homeless, we don't work for the Homeless, because here, we don't believe the Homeless exist. We serve people. And sometimes people experience homelessness. We believe homelessness is something that happens to you. Our job at New Hope Housing — and the job of our nonprofit partners — is to prevent that experience from happening, or if it does happen, making it as short as possible by helping get people back into appropriate permanent housing.

We at New Hope Housing, and our partners, as well as the families and single adults in our programs, are truly grateful for your support in filling a holiday wish list, providing a meal, volunteering at one of the many hypothermia sites, or donating money to help our agencies end the homelessness of each person who walks through our doors. We will still need you on Dec. 26 and Feb. 5 and during the summer. Until each person is home, we've all got work to do.

Thank you for making this person-to-person connection this holiday season. Thank you for seeing that those who seek our assistance are not "the homeless," but men, women, and children with hopes and dreams, just like each of us who are blessed with a place to call home. Because there is no place like home — anytime of the year.

COMMENTARY



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Now Open 7-Eleven on North Kings Highway is now open for business. Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, Dec. 15, to welcome this new business located at 6138 North Kings Highway. Participating in the ribbon-cutting were Diane Moery, Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce; Sharon Leake, Belvoir Federal Credit Union; Azad Haghghi, Moeen Omar, Kay Bradley, and Jason Horan, with 7-Eleven; owner Michael Brasseur, wife Darby, and baby Kaylynn; Supervisor Jeff McKay, Del. Mark Sickles, and Walter Clark, Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation.

Students at Episcopal High School in Alexandria collaborate on a school project. Essays and interviews help admissions teams determine how an applicant would fit into the school community.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUDRA WRISLEY

An Essay To Remember

Local educators offer advice on acing school admission essays and interviews.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

While many are knee-deep in wrapping paper and eggnog, some students are holed up with computer keyboards and books of quotations. In addition to driving to the mall for holiday shopping, some parents are throwing rapid-fire questions at their children to make sure they are fast on their feet.

For students and parents who hope for slots at the area's top independent schools next year, 'tis admissions season.

"As a school we want to know what the relationship will be between what a student brings to the table and what we will need to bring to the table," said Tim Simpson, assistant head of school and director of admission and financial aid at Bullis School in Potomac, Md.

Interviews are opportunities for admissions teams to get to know applicants and their parents, and share information about their schools.

"We try to encourage students to view the interview as a conversation," said Julie Jameson, director of admissions at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac. "They should feel comfortable ... be themselves ... and feel free to ask any questions they might have."

In fact, the interview is really a two-way street, says Ann Richardson Miller, director of admission and financial aid at The Madeira School in McLean. "The girl and her parents should be asking as many questions of me as I am asking of her," she said. "After all, this will be her school for the next four years, and fit is critical, both for us, but also for the girl and her parents."

"Learn as much as you can about the school before your visit and be prepared to ask questions," said Scott Conklin, director of admissions, Episcopal High School in Alexandria. "This is also an opportunity to brag about your interests, talents and accomplishments. ... Be humble, but make sure you let us know all about you."

That doesn't mean you should ignore your flaws, however. "We look for genuine conversations that convey the student's real interests and passions," said Simpson. "We also want students and parents to be open to talking about strengths and weaknesses."

THE ADMISSION ESSAY is another opportunity for students to reveal facets of their personalities that might not be obvious through test scores, transcripts and even letters of recommendation, said Patricia Harden, director of admissions and financial aid at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac.

"It should be a well-written snapshot of how an applicant thinks and how she understands some aspect of her world," Harden said.

Some schools even require the admission essay to be completed in person.

"We want to see a student's true, natural writing ability, and we are interested in assessing their ability to develop and present a cohesive, thoughtful essay on the spot," said Michael Cresson, director of admissions, Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington. "A polished essay prepared at home with lots of edits really doesn't tell us what we want to know to best evaluate an applicant."

No matter where the essay is written however, the same basic writing advice applies.

"We are looking for students to express themselves and give us an insight into what kind of person he or she is," Cresson said. "My suggestions for students ... would be ... to proofread their essay, allow for enough time, do some research on the school and include that in the essay."

"These are simple suggestions, but it is disappointing as a director to read through essays and find simple mistakes and see that it was rushed."

"When interviewing, I think it is also helpful to learn as much as you can about the school before your visit and be prepared to ask questions."

— Scott Conklin,
director of admissions,
Episcopal High School



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Franki Roberts 703.898.0840
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Location! Location! Take another look! A complete redo! Freshly painted inside/out! Lovely 2-level home with an open flow. Fenced in yard, in-ground pool with pool house/studio. ML master bedroom. Separate laundry. 4BR/3BA



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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.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Persistence of Time

The concept of time is reflected in Little Theatre of Alexandria's new set design for "A Christmas Carol."

BY VERONICA BRUNO
THE GAZETTE

Little Theatre of Alexandria's production of "A Christmas Carol" brings time center stage.

"I really liked the concept of time," said Andrea D'Amato, set designer for The Little Theatre of Alexandria's A Christmas Carol. It's a brand-new set design and time plays a key element throughout the play. The new model incorporates a familiar backdrop of London behind the frame of an ornate and interactive clock conceived especially for this production.

"The producers liked the backdrop of London from 2012. They've had a clock somewhere in past productions. This year they wanted it more integrated," said D'Amato. She noticed the clock diagram while reading "A Christmas Carol" and was inspired by the picture of a large clock on a scrim. She also viewed sketches from the musical "Wicked."

"I liked what they came up with," D'Amato said while describing the "Wicked" inspiration. She also wanted to keep with the traditional elements in the story. "I wanted to keep it simple. I thought maybe the clock could be dropped behind [the action]. The clock makes a nice silhouette."

The show has certainly kept D'Amato busy. Juggling her full-time work at the National Gallery of Art during the day, she has been spending her nights at Little Theatre of Alexandria. An interior design architecture graduate student from Rhode Island School of Design, she recently moved to Old Town along with her fiancé, Alan Carniol.

She volunteered as part of the set crew for a previous LTA production, "Boeing, Boeing" and was hooked. Andrea became a member of the organization and met one of the "Carol" producers, Eddie Parker at an LTA meet-and-greet event.

"I've always been interested in exhibition design." She got her wish when Parker called her about the holiday show. Being the first play set she's designed, D'Amato brought a fresh perspective to the process.

She designed a computer drawing of the scenery with a giant clock set against the backdrop of London in AutoCAD.

"I was thinking we could do two layers so it wasn't just a curtain," D'Amato said.

With all the angles and dimensions included in the AutoCAD blueprint, it was translated into code so that it could be milled by a CNC shopbot production tool into seven sections. The parts were cut and assembled in about 20 hours in the shop. The finished product was brought in seven pieces and built in the theater.



The full set design in silhouette at Little Theatre of Alexandria.



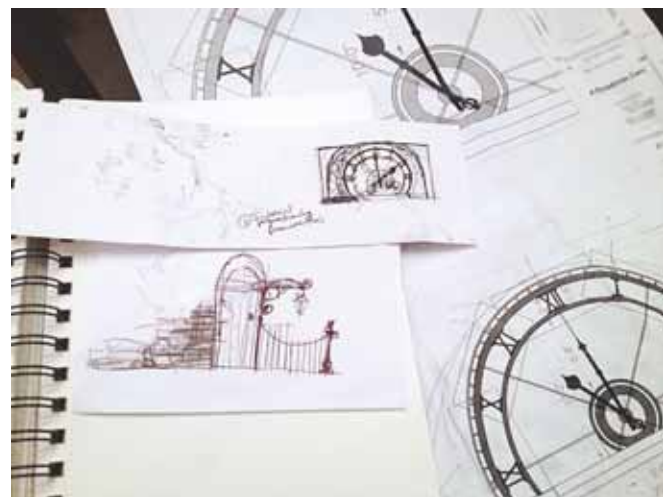
Cast members of Little Theatre's production of "A Christmas Carol" await their cue during a production run-through.



The full production cast of this year's show poses in front of the newly created set.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY
ANDREA D'AMATO

D'Amato's conceptual notes for the set design, including the large, complicated clock that forms the theme for the show.



"It's new and interesting," Andrea said of her concept. "We had a short build time. I lucked out with the volunteers who showed up."

One of those volunteers was also her fiancée, Carniol, who worked as assistant head carpenter throughout the process.

The clock is also a part of the action. Several of the actors move the hands throughout the play and it helps progress the story. "Time is a backdrop within the script for Scrooge. It's moving fast, it's moving slow, it's hard to grasp."

Time will tell if audiences like the new design. D'Amato is pretty enthusiastic about the concept and hopes they will. "I'm excited to see how people react to it."

Little Theatre of Alexandria rings in the holiday season with a return of the classic by Charles Dickens. The show runs through the Dec. 20 with performances Thursday and throughout the weekend at 3, 5, and 8 P.M. Tickets are \$15 each. Call LTA at 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.



Andrea D'Amato, set designer and head carpenter for the show, handling one of the clock's pieces.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Middle School Artists. Art display by George Washington Middle School students, at St.Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Working in peer groups, the students created a written explanation of their intent to accompany the display. Visit www.stelmoscoffee.pub.com.

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 PenFed Foundation, supporting

FOOD & DRINK

"Reveillon de Noel" Christmas Eve Dinner. At Bastille, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Chefs Christophe and Michelle Poteaux will serve a four-course prix fixe feast, with wine pairings upon request. Menu highlights include lobster bisque with poached oysters; pan-roasted foie gras; tartare of Skuna Bay salmon; grass-fed Angus beef filet roasted whole in salt crust; Hudson Valley Moullard duck breast; and a chocolate hazelnut "Buche de Noel" with cranberry ice cream. \$85 per person, exclusive of taxes and gratuities. Call 703-519-3776 for more.

"Reveillon de la Saint Sylvestre" New Year's Eve Dinner. At Bastille, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. The first seating from 5-6:30 p.m. is a three-course prix fixe for \$79, exclusive of taxes and gratuities, with wine pairings upon request. After the market surprise amuse bouche, guests will enjoy menu highlights including butternut squash risotto and parmesan broth; braised lobster in a curried coconut emulsion; bacon-wrapped rabbit loin; and coconut cake with caramelized pumpkin butter and curry ice cream. Taking things to the next level with the second seating from 8-10 p.m., guests will enjoy a four-course prix fixe for \$99, or \$139 with wine pairings, exclusive of taxes and gratuities. After the market surprise amuse bouche, guests may choose from dishes including steak tartare; seared foie gras; sautéed Wild Turbot filet; and roasted spiced pineapple marmalade almond cake. Call 703-519-3776 for more.

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

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

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

New Exhibit. Mount Vernon invites visitors to explore George Washington's design for the grounds of his estate, through a new exhibition, "Gardens & Groves: George Washington's Landscape" at Mount Vernon through Jan. 12, 2016. Gardens & Groves is the first museum exhibition to focus

specifically on Washington's landmark achievements as a landscape designer combining rarely-seen original documents, artwork, and books with period garden tools, landscape photography, and a scale model of the Mount Vernon estate. Included in admission \$18/adult; \$17/senior citizen; \$9/child age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Alexandria Cars & Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at

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

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

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

SEE ENTERTAINMENT. PAGE 20

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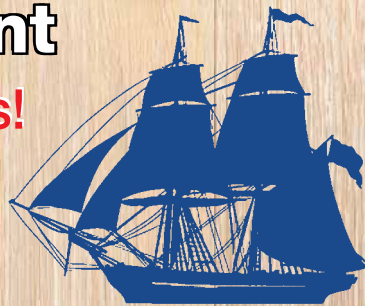
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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

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.

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.
♦ Dec. 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 —11 a.m.-8 p.m.
♦ Dec. 24, Christmas Eve —11 a.m.-2 p.m.

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.

TORPEDO FACTORY ASSOCIATE ARTIST GALLERY

Studio 12. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. About 20 artists will be showing their work in two-week exhibitions through the 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. 15-28:** Fritz Des Roches, paintings; Barbara Muth, paintings; Norma Hintze, ceramics; and Marilyn Spindler, paintings

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.

Light the Night. 5-7 p.m., Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Light painting along with an opportunity to celebrate and close out the center's time on Sherwood Hall Lane. Bring a flashlight, bring a book or toy to donate to Rising Hope and bring your memories of Art at the Center. Call 703-201-1250 or visit www.artatthecenter.org for more.

Vian Shamounki Borchert Art Exhibit Opening Reception. 5-8 p.m. at Local Colour Old Town, LLC Art Gallery, 218 N Lee St., Suite 107, Alexandria. Gallery Hours: Monday - Saturday, 12-8 pm. Closed Sundays. Free. The exhibition will showcase 15 of Vian's latest works. Visit www.vianborchert.com 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. Visit 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.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 24

Water-skiing Santa and his Kneboarding Reindeer. 1-1:30 p.m. at Old Town Waterfront, between King and Oronoco streets, Alexandria. This is the 29th Anniversary of this one of a kind Washington, D.C. tradition and includes the Flying Elves, the Jetskiing Grinch, and Frosty the Snowman in a dinghy. Email waterski.santa@gmail.com for more.

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.

SUNDAY/DEC. 28

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

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. Events take place throughout the day at numerous venues around the City of Alexandria. Visit www.firstnightalexandria.org for more.

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

SATURDAY/JAN. 3

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

SUNDAY/JAN. 4

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

TUESDAY/JAN. 6

"Self Portraits: How Our Artists View Themselves." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Through Feb. 8 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Studio 18, Alexandria. A self portrait can be what our face/body looks like or it can be what we stand for, what we believe, what we love. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St., Alexandria. Grant Hellmers, organist and choirmaster of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, will direct the adult choir in a Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany. Donations and non-perishable foods will be accepted for St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry. Contact Grant Hellmers at 703-549-3312 or grant@stpaulsalexandria.com.

Christmas at Bethany Lutheran

December 24
Family Worship 5:30 p.m. especially for children • Preservice music at 7:15 p.m.
Candlelight Worship 7:30 p.m.

December 25
Preservice music at 9:45 a.m.
Festival Worship 10:00 a.m.

December 31
Community Watch Night Service by the African Immigrant Ministry 8:00 p.m. -1:00 a.m.

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PEOPLE



Seen here with Pastor Keary Kincannon, Steve Warhol, a regular visitor at Rising Hope over the years, lost his legs due to hard living while homeless.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

After the meal, Rising Hope members gathered at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church for an evening Thanksgiving service.

Giving Thanks At Rising Hope

Volunteers serve those “with nowhere to go.”

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church was a bustling, busy place in the days preceding Thanksgiving with a sign out-front proclaiming all were welcome for a Thanksgiving meal.

As the holiday approached, the Milk & Honey Food Pantry Coordinator Melissa Lee sent out 375 Thanksgiving baskets to families in need. She would also coordinate the Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday.

A hot meal always follows Rising Hope’s Sunday service and bringing an early Thanksgiving dinner to the congregation on the Sunday before Thanksgiving were volunteers from Franconia UMC, St. John UMC and Trinity UMC. Ninety percent of Rising Hope’s members are very low income and two-thirds have been or are homeless.

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Rising Hope’s pastor, the Rev. Keary Kincannon, preached at a combined Thanksgiving Service at Mount Vernon UMC attended by members from Rising Hope, Wesley UMC and Robert’s Memorial UMC.

When Thanksgiving Day arrived, 100 meals were served to 55 guests who, as Kincannon said, “Had nowhere to go for Thanksgiving.” They took home the leftovers. Forty-five volunteered to help.

Among the guests was Steve Warhol whose legs were recently amputated as a result of hard living on the streets and in the woods along Route 1. Kincannon said that 15 years ago Rising Hope helped get Warhol into a detox program at the VA hospital in Martinsburg, W.Va.

“Grateful for the help, when Steve returned he volunteered in many ways at Rising Hope,” said the pastor. “Steve has always been grateful and with a positive attitude even this first Thanksgiving without his legs.”



Rising Hope Food Pantry Coordinator Melissa Lee organized the Thanksgiving meal. Claude (Paul) Grimes, a regular congregation member, was one of many who attended.



Mike Davis gets a Thanksgiving meal served by members of the Word Production Church who volunteered at Rising Hope.



On Thanksgiving Day 100 meals were served to 55 guests who took home the leftovers. There were 45 volunteers. The Rising Hope Milk & Honey Food Pantry sent out 375 Thanksgiving baskets to families in need.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a brief fireworks display will take place as part of a public event at George Washington’s Mount Vernon on the following date:

December 20,
between 8:45 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. (10 minutes)

The Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to Events@MountVernon.org.

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The Origin of Mount Vernon Watersheds

The impact of development and urbanization.

BY MARTIN TILLET

In the past half a billion years, the dynamic forces of our Earth created, sculpted, destroyed and recreated the landscapes upon which our local watersheds flow today. Up until a few millennia ago, nature alone controlled the shape and appearances of our landscapes and ecosystems. As humankind arose from a primitive past and created civilization, the influence of the anthrosphere of human activity, over the environment increased sometimes with disastrous results.

Early civilizations abandoned areas that were no longer habitable and moved to new sites. These people rejected ideas that the Earth has finite resources. As civilizations prospered and grew, populations increased and limits on resources were finally realized but were resolved through conquest and empire building. An empire requires administration, commerce and defense leading to civil engineering and the creation of infrastructure to maintain those requirements.

Competition for resources among nations led to exploration, discovery and new conquests in distant lands. Internal conflicts within Europe over religious, political and economic freedoms plus diminishing natural resources, led to colonization abroad. Virginia like much of the New World was there for the taking to be turned into an extension of the growing British Empire. The first colonists settled along the shores of the estuaries and rivers as water was the primary system of transport. In our area of the tidewater an agricultural economy grew that cleared away of the climax forest ecosystem that once protected and helped to maintain the ecosystems of nearby bays, rivers and tributaries.



The successes of the British Crown colonies and their eventual struggle for independence from the mother country led to a fledgling nation looking to expand its wings and create an empire of its own. The port towns and cities grew and prospered with trade. Growing numbers of people began moving to the interior regions of the nation as cheap land resources dwindled in the east. Civil engineering to construct canals and roads to the interior regions were integral to that expansion.

South of the historic seaport of Alexandria in between the Potomac River and Telegraph Road, lay the hills of Southeast Fairfax County. These once wooded heights overlooking Alexandria, the District of Columbia and parts of Maryland, are today neighborhoods such as Huntington, Belle Haven, Penn-Daw, Spring Bank and Groveton. Splitting the middle and winding its way from Hunting Creek to the top of Beacon Hill runs historic Route 1. This approximate two square mile portion of Fairfax County has remnant historical sites that if examined and interpreted, tell a more recent chapter in the origins of our watersheds. This area was once home to historic manors and their occupants who bore witness to the changes brought to the region.

Spring Bank was one such manor with something special about the place, as a number of famous men called it home. The land was fertile and held several fruit orchards. A creek ran from Great Hunting Creek and spawned several springs. Those springs were there because of conditions created during the geologic past when marine clays accumulated as sediments nearly one hundred million years ago and were subsequently covered by sand and gravel deposits millions of years later when the

Potomac River meandered back and forth across its flood plain. Even today when there is rainfall, water that infiltrates into the soils, penetrates only as far down as the compact marine clay deposits and finds its way out from the banks above the stream floor and flows into the creek now known as Quander Brook. Water from the springs is clean and safe to drink as it has been treated and filtered by nature.

At the time of the construction of the Spring Bank mansion in 1809, ads appeared in the Alexandria Gazette announcing the construction of a bridge crossing Hunting Creek from south Henry Street to what is now Fort Hunt Road and the Route 1 intersection establishing a new route to Penn-Daw, then to South Kings Highway all the way to Occoquan, Va.

The first resident at Spring Bank mansion was Alexandria merchant Robert Patton who raised sheep on the property. Patton's heirs rented Spring Bank in 1828 to John Armfield who was co-owner of a slave pen at 1315 Duke Street and later teamed up with his uncle Isaac Franklin to run a business that sold over 5,000 slaves from 1828-1835.

In 1844, George W. Mason, grandson of George Mason from Gunston Cove bought Spring Bank when it was described as a 25-room mansion with a three-story brick barn, stables and outbuildings. During the Civil War the property was occupied by Union troops using the mansion as their headquarters. As many as 5,000 troops from the 2nd Vermont Brigade and the 63rd Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers were quartered there.

Their duties included building Fort Lyon and other nearby defenses. These troops lived in log constructed structures with canvas tent roofs to keep out the weather. The soldiers drew their water for cooking and drinking from the springs. George W. Mason died in 1870 and his son George lived there until his death in 1888.

Fitzhugh Lee, Robert E. Lee's nephew, lived at Spring Bank as a boarder when he was elected as the 40th Governor of Virginia in 1885. In 1885, Johnson Downey of Frederick, Md., bought Spring Bank and upon his demise, his widow, Rose E. Downey sold 88 acres to Charles Henry Quander. Charles was born into slavery in Maryland and was the first African Ameri-

can to settle as a free black man at Spring Bank. He operated a farm that sold milk and produce to residents in Alexandria and Mount Vernon. Charles willed portions of his land to his children when he died in 1919.

Several Quander family descendants live in the Spring Bank area today. The late Welton A. Quander born in 1925 spoke to the Spring Bank Community Association about his life growing up in the area. He recalled attending the one-room colored school during the Jim Crow era of Virginia near Quander Road and U.S. Route 1. A short distance east of the school was the stream that traveled north on its journey to Hunting Creek. He conveyed an archetypal memory of the traditional swimming hole, the rope wrapped around the overhanging branch from which generations of adventurers swung and splashed on hot summer days. He described a translucent, crystal clear stream inviting one to plunge their hands for a sip of cool water: through whose lenses they could see rocks, crayfish, tadpoles, fish; on whose surface stride as if by magic, whirligig beetles and damsel flies flitting over the surface.

One wonders today how it changed so dramatically in just 70 years from the boyhood memory of Mr. Quander. An improved highway system south to Fort Belvoir around the time of World War I straightened out U.S. Route 1 just as the automobile was beginning its reign as the great designer of the 20th century American landscape. The rise of the auto created successive changes in how Americans lived, worked and played. After World War II, Americans left the cities for newly constructed suburbs followed by merchants seeking their business. U.S. Route 1 was now crowded with travelers, motels, restaurants and merchants just south of Alexandria.

The addition of new homes and businesses led to an increased imperviousness over the area and the storm event runoff dynamics changed again from when the land had a more rural character. Runoff due to added imperviousness increased up to 30 percent during rain events thus decreasing the shallow and deep infiltration to 35 percent from the 50 percent infiltration when the area was forested. The additional runoff deeply erodes the stream banks undercutting the trees that were holding the bank together with their roots. The trees fall into the stream exposing more bank to erosion during future rain events. Quander Brook soon began to lose its charm as more and more of its watershed was developed.

Next Week

Part 6 will examine how development and planning decisions led to further degradation of our 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.



Stream erosion in Quander Brook undermining trees along the banks.

Mount Vernon Girls Bounce Back From Opening Loss

Freshmen Anderson, Solomon are key contributors.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon girls' basketball coach Courtney Coffey called a timeout and told his players not to give up. The Majors were down by nine points with five minutes remaining in the fourth quarter of their Dec. 9 road contest against rival West Potomac.

One week earlier, Mount Vernon lost its season-opener to Centreville, 51-44. Coffey was critical of his team's performance, going as far as asking his players during a timeout if they were trying to lose on purpose.

While it would be understandable if the Majors, minutes from a 0-2 start, lacked confidence, players found a



Mount Vernon freshman Susannah Anderson (24) was the Mount Vernon girls' basketball team's leading scorer through four games.

way to rally against West Potomac. Mount Vernon forced overtime and went on to win, 43-39.

The Majors' strong play down the stretch continued in their next two games as Mount Vernon blew out Yorktown,

78-48, and beat Middleburg Academy, 69-45. Only time will tell, but Mount Vernon could be on an early-season path similar to the one the team traveled last season, when the Majors lost to Centreville by 28 in the opener, but responded by winning 14 of their next 16 games.

"They're really coming together," Coffey said. "The key thing is they're believing in one another. ... They're just growing. The younger kids are becoming more seasoned."

A pair of young players who have stepped up early in the season are freshmen Susannah Anderson and Nori Solomon.

Anderson, a 6-foot post player, led the Majors in scoring through four games. Prior to the season, Coffey said Anderson had potential, but was "soft."

"She's really stepped up to the challenge," Coffey said. "She's playing so much more

aggressively. She's battling for rebounds, she's being a lot more physical, taking contact and finishing. ... She's stepping forward." Against Yorktown on Dec. 12, Anderson scored 16 points, grabbed eight rebounds and blocked four shots. Solomon had her first double-digit scoring performance with 13 points.

Both freshmen have cracked the starting lineup. "You see them grow every day," Coffey said.

Junior forward Jasmine Collier scored a combined 32 points against Yorktown and Middleburg Academy. Junior point guard Chanise Ray knocked down 10 3-pointers through four games.

"The kids," Coffey said, "are doing a good job of responding."

Coffey said practices have become very competitive. The team's quality depth al-

lows him to make substitutions if players aren't getting the job done.

"Our practices have been a lot better," Coffey said. "We're challenging them even more so than what we were before. The competition level in practice has been good. ... [Players are] competing for playing time in practice. It's making us a lot better."

Mount Vernon faced Brooke Point on Tuesday, after The Gazette's deadline. The Majors will host Wakefield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19 before participating in a holiday tournament in Washington, D.C. Dec. 27-30. The Majors will open the 2015 part of their schedule with a road game against perennial power Oakton on Jan. 6.

"I'm proud of them," Coffey said. "I coach my kids extremely hard and I demand the best out of them. ... They've done a great job responding to my coaching style."



Mount Vernon junior Jasmine Collier is one of the Majors' top scoring threats early in the 2014-15 season.

"I'm proud of them. I coach my kids extremely hard and I demand the best out of them. They've done a great job responding to my coaching style."

— Mount Vernon girls' basketball coach Courtney Coffey

West Potomac Swimmer Valceanu Signs with Marist

West Potomac senior Michael Valceanu signed a letter of intent to swim for Marist College, an NCAA Division I school in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Valceanu has been a standout on the West Potomac swim team under head coach Bob Lombardi and assistant coach Sam Burgi. He was a finalist in both the 100-yard butterfly and 200-yard freestyle events at the Virginia High School League state championships, which led to his selection to the 2014 VHSL All-State team.

As a junior, Valceanu was West Potomac's runner-up for most valuable athlete in an

individual sport and earned swimming team MVP honors both his junior and sophomore years. He holds the team record in both the 200 free and 100 butterfly, according to Lombardi.

"We have not had a male swimmer that has dominated our team like Michael since 1986," Lombardi said. "A swimmer of Michael's magnitude comes along once or twice in a coach's lifetime. He will be sorely missed!"

Valceanu started swimming competitively at age 8 for the summer-league Hollin Hills Bluefish in the Northern Virginia Swimming League. He's still swimming for the Blue-

fish, and is also an assistant coach. He's also been swimming year-round since age 9 on the Fort Belvoir Swim Team, a local USA Swimming club team, where he is coached by Burgi and head coach Mark Murray. He holds team records in multiple age groups on both teams for butterfly, freestyle, backstroke and individual medley, as well as on record-breaking relay squads.

"I'm grateful to my coaches and my parents for giving me the opportunity to excel in a sport," Valceanu said. "I'm really looking forward to being a Marist Red Fox next year. Marist is really the perfect fit for me, both athletically and academically."



West Potomac senior Michael Valceanu signed a letter of intent to swim for Marist College. Pictured from left: (front row) Michael Valceanu, Mr. Valceanu, (back row) coach Bob Lombardi, and Aaron Helmick, DSA.

NEWS

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Saturday Evening
5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)
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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Grand Champions

At the Dec. 13 Winterfest Cheer and Dance Competition at CD Hylton High School, the Carl Sandburg Middle School Dance Team, competing in the middle school category, won first place trophies in Pom, Lyrical, Jazz and Hip Hop. Natalie Edwards placed first for her jazz solo. Additionally, the dance team had the highest team average thus earning the title of Grand Champions. This competition was the start of their 14-15 dance season. Throughout the winter, the dancers will compete in three more local competitions.

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-Thursdays, 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 www.soberride.com.

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.

SUNDAY/JAN. 11

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

SATURDAY/JAN. 17

Winter Waterfowl Identification. 9 a.m.-noon at Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge and State Park. Join an introduction to winter waterfowl

identification, in preparation for the annual ASNV Waterfowl Count. Dress for an outdoor field trip/bird walk. Bring binoculars and a scope if available; leader will have a scope and waterfowl identification guides. Meet at the Woodmarsh Trail parking lot on High Point Road. Directions: from Route 1 in Lorton, take Gunston Rd east. Turn right on High Point Road (toward Mason Neck State Park) to parking lot for the Woodmarsh Trail on the left. Free; advance registration required. Visit www.audubonva.org to register.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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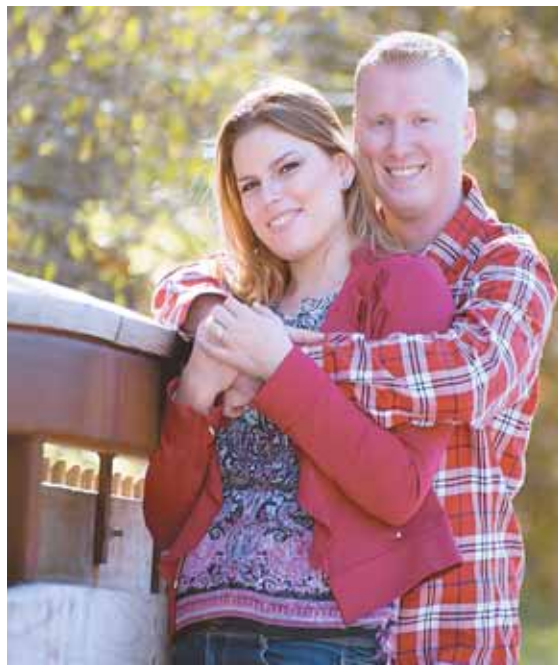
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Tertell, Harrell Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Madeleine Tertell of McLean are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Trish Tertell, to Tom Harrell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Robin Harrell of Alexandria. A May wedding is planned.

Trish studied environmental sciences at the University of Virginia and is a systems integration consultant for Deloitte Consulting. Tom studied psychology and aquatic entomology at Virginia Tech and is an organized retail crimes specialist.

A 'Somewhat True Tale'

BY LILA WEITZNER
 DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

If motion picture actress Mary Pickford's statement that the theatre is an "emotional exercise" — a place where one should "laugh, cry and then laugh again" — is true, then the cast of Mount Vernon High School's "The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood" succeeded in fulfilling a crucial purpose of the theatre. Gales of laughter exploded from every body in the theatre at the antics of a forest gang armed with wooden spoons and the ludicrous actions of a group of royals, led by a man with a beard drawn on with a Sharpie.

CAPPIES REVIEW

"The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood" by Mary Lynn Dobson is so beloved by high school theatre groups that it has been performed in every state of the United States. Its family-appropriate, but still complex humor follows classic literary hero Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest and his band of Merry Men in their quest to clothe the poor and win the hand of the Lady Marian in marriage.

What differentiates this telling of Robin Hood from more conventional renderings is the highly effective disregard for theatrical conventions. Requests for the technical director to speed up time are frequent and at one point a member of stage crew visibly walks on stage carrying a sign that tells the audience she is not, in fact, there.

In this play, it is the actors/actresses who inspire the most laughter that win the hearts of the audience. Actress Molly McClelland's portrayal of the evil Prince John was hilariously pathetic due to her precise comic timing and intentionally floppy physicality. Tyler Shore as Robin Hood and Joshua Sperling as the Sheriff of Nottingham had complementing pompous energies of their own that faltered hilariously when they met in a bowling competition. Another noteworthy performance was the Town's Girl, played by Alicia Foster, whose impeccably clear voice guided the audience through the plot with poise and humor.

The strength in this production lay in the two ensembles and the full-cast scenes, where the jovial energy multiplied, resulting in a delightfully hilarious chaos. Robin Hood's Merry Men flip-flopped between enthusiasm and weariness at the antics of their impulsive leader. The royals' obliviousness to obvious moral values and the strength of their evil convictions were delightfully malicious. The emanating enthusiasm of the players was evident throughout the play.

"The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood" is not a sophisticated story of emotional ups and down. It does not reveal a deep truth about the human condition or make one confront moral quandaries, but the sheer jubilation present in the theatre, provoked by slapstick humor and puns, illustrated that one key goal of the theatre is simply to entertain.



Ringing in the Season

Ringing a bell for the Salvation Army, Virgil Jenkins was braving the cold at the Fort Hunt Road Safeway recently. Originally from Front Royal, Va., he worked for many years as a barber and spent his free time playing guitar. He and his wife Donna attend Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church.

PHOTO BY
ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

CRIME REPORT

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

ROBBERY, 5800 block of North Kings Highway, Dec. 12, 1:15 a.m. Two men entered a convenience store and displayed a handgun to an employee. The suspects took cash and property and fled. There were no injuries. The first suspect was described as black, 30s, and about 5 feet 9 inches tall. The second suspect was described as black, 30s, and about 5 feet tall.

SEARCH WARRANT SERVICE, 4300 block of Pembroke Village Drive, Dec. 12, 4:45 a.m. Detectives and tactical officers from the Fairfax county police department executed a search warrant. An 18-year-old man was arrested and charged with tobery and use of a firearm in commission of a felony. There were no injuries.

ROBBERY, 2400 block of Windbreak Drive, Dec. 6, 11:43 p.m. The victim was walking and was approached by two males and one female. The suspects displayed a handgun, took property and fled on foot. The victim did not require rescue. The female suspect was described as black, between 19-20 years of age and about 5 feet tall. The male suspects were described as black, 20s, and about 5 feet 8 inches tall.

BURGLARY, 7900 block of Richmond Highway, Dec. 9. A resident reported someone entered the apartment and took property.

ROBBERY, 2400 block of Fairhaven Avenue, Dec. 7, 11:11 p.m. A man entered a convenience store and displayed a handgun to an employee. The suspect took cash and property. There were no injuries. The suspect was described as black, 25 to 35 years of age, and between 5 feet 8 inches and 6 feet 2 inches tall.

BURGLARY, 8600 block of Sacramento Drive, Dec. 4. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

ROBBERY, 8400 block of Richmond Highway, Dec. 2, 5 p.m. The victim was walking when he was approached by a man. The suspect displayed a handgun and took property from the victim. The victim did not require rescue. The suspect was described as black, 18 to 20, about 6 feet to 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighing around 150 pounds.

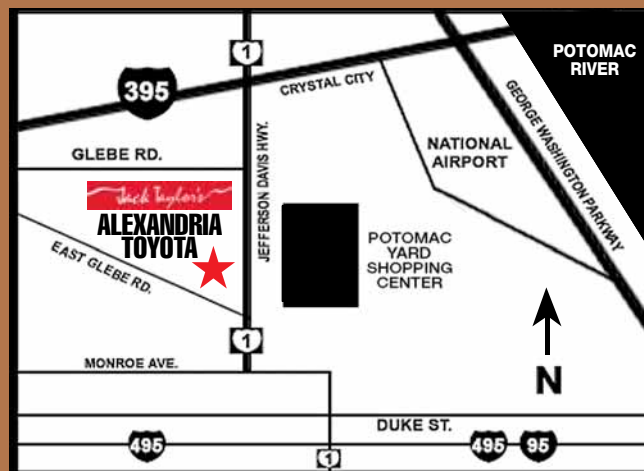
PURSUIT/HIT AND RUN, Glassell Court/South Kings Highway, Nov. 28, 11:32 p.m. A police officer on patrol attempted to stop a vehicle but the suspect fled onto Richmond Highway. Officers pursued the vehicle and while attempting to elude police, the driver struck another vehicle. Officers managed to stop the suspect vehicle on Glassell Court and arrested the driver and passenger. The driver was charged with disregarding police signal to stop, felony hit and run and possession of marijuana. The passenger was charged with possession of marijuana.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$1⁰⁰</p> <p style="text-align: center;">& GET A 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$39⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>GOT TIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$89⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>PREVENT UNEVEN WEAR</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$139⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Does not apply to hybrid batteries. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">WINTER DETAIL SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$119⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior. Vans & SUVs add \$20.00.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">5K, 10K, 20K, 25K, 35K MILE MINOR FACTORY RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$54⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>SYNTHETIC OIL ADDITIONAL \$10.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">BRAKE SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$79⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PADS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$5⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Includes: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">WINTERIZATION SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$59⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Includes: Drain and fill radiator with genuine Toyota anti-freeze inspect belts hoses and water pump. Lifetime anti-freeze \$10 more</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">DETAIL SPECIALS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$39⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Wash & Vacuum</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$139⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Hand wash, wax & interior cleaning</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$295⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Full premium detail</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><small>GENUINE TOYOTA</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">15% OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WIPER INSERTS & WIPER BLADES</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">NITROFILL SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$39⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>We will purge the tires of air and refill them with nitrogen.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR VEHICLE!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BG FLUID EXCHANGE SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRANSMISSION FLUSH \$189⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POWER STEERING FLUSH \$139⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BRAKE FLUSH \$139⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FUEL INDUCTION FLUSH \$139⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>FOR TRANSMISSION FLUSH, TYPE T OR WS FLUID ADD \$50.00</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p>

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA / SCION

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3750 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY. | ALEXANDRIA, VA 22305
1-866-616-8420 | ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM
JUST MINUTES FROM REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT!


TOYOTA

Let's Go Places

Scouts from Arlington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon volunteered to help with this year's wreath laying.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE



Waynewood Pack 1504 Cubmaster Tim Salter waits in the garden for his scouts to return after all the wreaths were placed on Saturday afternoon.

Wreaths Across America

They started arriving before noon. Dozens and dozens of Northern Virginia scouts and their families joined active and retired service members and members of the Mount Vernon and John Alexander Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution to place wreaths upon the graves at the Alexandria National Cemetery. This is the 12th year of the annual wreath laying at the cemetery.

VFW Post 609 Commander Bill Jones remembered the first year: "We raised enough money to decorate

40 graves with six volunteers." This year more than 1,700 graves were decorated and more than 300 volunteers helped.

The American Heritage Girls of St. Rita Troop VA1381 raised funds to sponsor 896 wreaths for the Alexandria cemetery this year.

At the conclusion of the opening ceremony, the volunteers moved out into the garden and placed a wreath on every third grave, the graves of the past post commanders and all of the graves of unknown soldiers.

**YOU KNOW
OUR DOCTORS.**

Meet their new practice.



Dr. David Gehring is joined by Dr. Kathleen Melendez and Dr. James Reed in our new Mt. Vernon practice.

There's a new primary care practice in town – VHC Physician Group Mount Vernon. We've got decades of experience serving your community, and now we have a new practice. We welcome former patients and new patients to our new location. Same-day appointments available. Call us today!



Primary Care
Mount Vernon

1625 N George Mason Dr., Suite 314, Arlington, VA 22205 | 703.528.8260 | vhcphysiciangroup.com/mount-vernon