



Fairfax County sheriff's deputy Marcus Lively helped Nate Anibal, 5, select a new toy.



Firefighter Mike Furman as superhero Flash Max gets a hug from 4-year-old Samaya.



Trinity Brown, 4, poses for a photo with Santa (firefighter Dave Saunders) during the 16th annual Firefighters and Friends toy distribution Dec. 15 at Penn Daw Fire Station 11.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

To the Rescue

Firefighters provide toys for area children.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Christmas arrived early for more than 250 children from local Head Start programs as they picked out toys and visited with Santa and Superhero Flash Max during the annual Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue toy drive distribution day Dec. 15 at Penn Daw Fire Station 11.

"We distributed over 3,000 toys to 65 schools, shelters and nonprofits in the City of Alexandria and Fairfax and Prince Georges counties," said Capt. Willie Bailey, who founded the toy drive 16 years ago. "Prior to the distribution to school representatives, we escorted and gave 250 toys to local preschool kids."

Bailey, a resident of Del Ray and councilman-elect for the City of Alexandria, said that 500 new coats were also given out to children in need. "This was done with the support of numerous local businesses including the police and Sheriff's Office,"

he said.

Fairfax County Fire Chief Richard Bowers was on hand to help with the toy distribution, which also included bikes, gift cards and books.

"This is a very special day," Bowers said. "It's

SEE FIREFIGHTERS, PAGE 16



Sit Means Sit therapy dog volunteers Ted Madsen (with Skjold), Tiffany Singleton (with Thor) and Sonny Madsen (with Freyja) lend a helping paw at the toy distribution.

Staying Here ... And Growing

New Inova Emergency Department to open late 2016.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital isn't going anywhere. That was the message hospital Chief Executive Officer Deborah Addo had for local business leaders at the Dec. 10 breakfast sponsored by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce at Belle Haven Country Club.

Addo referenced the threat of the hospital closing about a decade ago. "I'm here to say I'm glad that didn't happen," she said. "We're here to stay. Any doubt about the future, put it to rest, you're in good hands. We have the support of Inova services and seasoned leaders."

The hospital leader touted their award-winning services, including recently receiving an elite "A" ranking from the Leapfrog Group, a national hospital patient safety organization. But as Mount Vernon approaches 40 years old in October 2016, Addo said the facilities have been falling behind the level of treatment.

"It's like a woman who's turned 40," she said, "and looked back and said, 'What happened?' There are places we're doing a little cos-



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Deborah Addo, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital chief executive officer, speaks to business leaders at the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce business breakfast on Dec. 12.

metic work, some augmentations and enhancements."

Those enhancements include expanding existing operating rooms, the new Mark and Brenda Moore Patient Tower (a donation from a former patient) and a renovated patient and visitor lobby.

Addo introduced Senior Project Manager for Design and Construction with the Inova Facilities Man-

SEE NEW INOVA, PAGE 3

Police Charge to Murder

Fairfax County Police detectives have increased the charge for Andre Curtis Wilkins from malicious wounding to murder in the shooting death of 27-year-old Marquel Davis.

Davis was shot Nov. 18 in the Audubon Road area of Hybla Val-

ley. Police apprehended Wilkins Dec. 4.

He was already in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center when detectives served the murder warrant on Dec. 11.

— TIM PETERSON

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IMAGE COURTESY OF INOVA MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL

The new Veatch Family Emergency Department is expected to be open by the end of 2016.



IMAGE COURTESY OF INOVA MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL

A new Emergency Department will add around 19,000 square feet of treatment space and 15 additional treatment rooms beyond the current facilities at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital.

New Inova Emergency Department to Open Late 2016

FROM PAGE 1

agement Department Lee Barton to talk about an entirely new Emergency Department that's expected to be operational for employee training by December 2016.

"It's affording us the space we need, the facilities to catch up to the service," Barton said.

The new department is being funded largely by Jeffrey Veatch, an entrepreneur from the Mount Vernon area, who's committed a \$2 million lead matching gift toward the new construction. Addo said the hospital has raised more than \$800,000 towards a goal of a matching \$2 million.

"Mr. Veatch has given us a wonderful opportunity with the matching gift," said Karen Corbett Sanders, who was recently elected to the Fairfax County School Board to represent the Mount Vernon district. She spoke during a question and answer session at the breakfast but addressed the members of the business community and potential donors. "We need to take advantage of those resources."

Addo said local business owners are among the groups they're reaching out to for donations to the new emergency depart-



Karen Corbett Sanders, recently elected to the Fairfax County School Board to represent Mount Vernon district, thanked Inova Mount Vernon Hospital for working with students at West Potomac High School.

ment. Others include "friends, supporters, grateful patients and other donors."

Holly Dougherty, executive director of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, said the possible closing of the hospital years ago "was a huge crisis to the community." But seeing Addo's presentation, she said, "means a lot to the community, knowing Inova is making a big investment."



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

From left, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce President George Ksenics, Chairman Sean O'Connell, Vice President Jane Gandee, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Chief Executive Officer Deborah Addo and Senior Project Manager for Design and Construction with the Inova Facilities Management Department Lee Barton.

Proposing More for Education

Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D, left) unveiled his budget proposal for \$1 billion in public and higher education investment at Mark Twain Middle School in Alexandria on Dec. 16, as part of the total state budget he



plans to roll out on Thursday, Dec. 17. The education plan includes measures to bring back 2,500 teaching positions throughout the state, pay raises for teachers, closing the achievement gap and funding an expansion of his wife Dorothy's Breakfast After the Bell program, Standards of Learning innovation grants to continue improving testing styles. "If we truly want a world-class economy," McAuliffe said, "we truly need a world-class education system. Laying the foundation for a new Virginia economy all starts, for me, with education."



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Virginia Secretary of Education Anne Holton said that education is not a partisan, political issue.

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NEWS

Help Identify Larceny Suspect

Police are investigating a larceny case that happened at the 7-Eleven convenience store in the 6000 block of South Kings Highway on Tuesday, Dec. 8 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The victim left his wallet on the counter.

A man entered the store after the victim left and was seen taking the wallet from the counter. The suspect used the victim's Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) card to withdraw an undisclosed amount of money.

The suspect was described as black, with a heavy build. He wore gray pants, a dark shirt and a blue jacket with gray sleeves.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers electronically by visiting <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org> or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES(274637)** or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



CRIME REPORT

ARMED ROBBERY: 3600 block of Robert E. Lee Pl. Dec. 14, 12:15 a.m. A 53-year-old man was seated in his car when he was approached by two men; one displayed a handgun, the other a knife. The suspects threatened the victim and demanded money. The victim handed over an undisclosed amount of cash and was not injured. The suspects fled on foot toward Richmond Highway. A K9 team and the police helicopter assisted in the search, but the suspects were not located. Both suspects were described as being black, in their mid-20s. They were both about 5 feet 5 inches tall and 120 to 160 pounds. They were both wearing all black clothing.

ROBBERY/SHOT PERSON: 7900 block of Richmond Hwy. Dec. 13, 5:23 p.m. Officers responded to the Walmart parking lot for the report of a robbery and shooting. The initial investigation suggests that at least some of the parties involved knew each other and that they had a pre-arranged meeting; the purpose of which remains unclear at this time. At some point during the meeting, one subject produced a handgun and announced a robbery. Involved parties fled in all directions. One 19-year-old male was shot in the back. He was flown to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The investigation continues.

ROBBERY: 4100 block of Melon St. Dec. 13, 8:30 p.m. A 20-year-old female had just made a pizza delivery and was walking back to her car when she was approached by an unknown man. The suspect pushed the victim's head against her car and demanded money. The victim handed over an undisclosed amount of cash and sustained minor injuries. The suspect fled toward the Washington Square apartments. A K9 team and the police helicopter responded. The suspect was described as mixed race, about 6 feet tall with a thin to medium build. He was wearing a baggy jacket with buttons on the sleeves, baggy pants and tennis shoes.



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<p>DECEMBER 24, 2015 McLean Bible Church Tysons Campus 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22182 Family services at 3 pm and 4:30 pm Communion services at 7 pm 6p, 9 pm and 11 pm</p>	<p>McLean Bible Church Prince William Campus 10002 Battleview Parkway, Manassas, VA 20109 Family services at 5 pm and 6 pm Communion service at 7pm</p>

To learn more about our Christmas celebration, visit www.mcleanbible.org/christmas.

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH

OPINION

Season of Giving Never Has To End

Why ending childhood hunger should be your New Year's resolution.

BY AMY JOHNSON, JENNIFER KONISH
AND NICK ARENT

The holiday season is one of our favorite times of year because it's all about the best things in life. It's a time for celebrating, bringing age-old cultural traditions to life, and spending time with family and friends. It's about being thankful for all of the things we are fortunate enough to have in our lives and reminding people how much we love and appreciate them. Oh and we suppose the delicious food that accompanies all of these things makes them that much more enjoyable!

COMMENTARY

During the holidays there are still a number of people who are struggling to make ends meet and many who don't have enough to eat, but luckily, it is also the season of giving. Around the country, the holidays inspire hundreds of thousands of people to give to the poor. Caring individuals get involved by donating to hunger-relief organizations such as the Capital Area Food Bank — the largest non-profit serving the Washington metro area — serving at soup kitchens, and finding other ways to contribute to the improvement of our communities. Especially when it comes to sharing food, we make sure that everyone has something to eat. The holiday spirit unites us, brings out the best in us, and motivates us to make a real difference in the lives of others.

This year, let's make it our New Year's resolution to keep this level of engagement con-

tinuing into 2016 by tackling one of most tragic problems facing our country — childhood hunger.

About 400,000 children here in Virginia alone are at risk of going hungry and it's a problem we can't afford to put off for another year. Despite all the pies, casseroles, hams and turkeys that will be enjoyed over the next several weeks, over 15.5 million kids across the country are food insecure. According to No Kid Hungry "three out of four public school teachers say students regularly come to school hungry" — another alarming statistic. In a country as prosperous as our own, it is absolutely unacceptable that there are any children who don't know where they are going to get their next meal.

The bottom line is that when kids are hungry, they struggle to learn, and kids who struggle to learn, struggle in life. With stomachs growling, hungry children sit through class unable to focus and get the most out of school. Fatigue and weakness as the result of poor nutrition make it difficult for them to stay awake or participate in physical activities like recess and PE. They are more likely to suffer from hyperactivity, miss school, and experience other behavioral problems which creates a negative learning environment for all students — even their peers who are not food insecure. Perhaps the scariest thing about childhood food insecurity is the inability for a child to reach their full potential because of the dramatic damage hunger does to their brain. Over time, hungry students fall behind their peers academically and many of them never catch up making it far more difficult for them to find good jobs and take care of their children once they grow up. The medical sector is beginning to reprioritize its resources to see healthy food as the important intervention it is. For example, the American Academy of Pediatrics recently

recommended for the first time that pediatricians screen all children for food insecurity.

If we want to make sure every child gets a fair shot in life, we need to make sure our elected officials and decision-makers properly fund and improve existing food assistance programs such as free/reduced price school meals, SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) and WIC. Research shows that these programs help students to perform better in school and in life — but they don't go far enough. First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe is an excellent example of how politicians from both sides of the aisle should be making this issue a priority and continuing to develop new solutions.

Congress is currently considering legislation to reauthorize the Child Nutrition Act and to make changes to a number of food assistance programs. This legislation will influence funding for programs like the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program which allows the Capital Area Food Bank and other organizations to provide nutritious meals to food insecure children when school is out of session. If you are as concerned about childhood hunger as we are, you can contact your elected officials and urge them to take action by calling the congressional switchboard at 202-225-3121.

We will start 2016 with one in six kids across Virginia waking up at risk of going hungry throughout the year. With your help — by making ending childhood hunger your New Year's resolution and taking action on this issue throughout the year — we can work toward a future where we wake up on New Year's Day to a country where every child's basic needs are met so that they all have a fair opportunity to be successful in life.

Amy Johnson and Jennifer Konish are the NOVA Kids Cafe Coordinators with the Capital Area Food Bank. Nick Arant is a Campaign Organizer with Virginia Fair Share.

Frustrations of Enacting Sensible Gun Restrictions

BY PAUL KRIZEK
DELEGATE-ELECT (D-44)

Gun violence is a painfully familiar problem for Virginians and continues to affect us in our communities and homes. Seven mass shootings took place in Virginia in 2015 alone, according to the mass shooting tracker online database. One in Arlington occurred just 10 miles from the the 44th district, and left one person dead and three others injured.

COMMENTARY

Many Virginians share a deep frustration about the failure to enact common sense gun reform in Virginia and throughout the U.S., despite 90 percent of gun owners in 2013 supporting universal background checks.

Last session alone, members of the House and Senate put forward many bills to enact common sense gun regulations. Some measures were as straightforward as universal background checks and banning the sale of large-capacity magazines. Other measures were more targeted, such as preventing the purchase of ammunition by persons involun-



tarily admitted or ordered to outpatient mental health treatment.

The Militia, Police, and Public Safety Subcommittee #1 tabled every single firearms reform bill before they reached full committee or the General Assem-

bly for a recorded vote. This poses a considerable challenge for delegates who are not on this subcommittee and want to make their voices heard on this issue.

When it became clear that the lack of safety features in automobiles was killing drivers it prompted nationwide seat belt laws. In the 1980s, after a rash of drunk driving deaths, we created legal Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) limits for driving after consuming alcohol. In both cases the number of deaths went down dramatically. While mass shootings have been a significant problem for a generation and this year saw more active shooter mass killings than days, we have been unable to pass meaningful reform to bring down the loss of life.

Instead, we have made firearms even more

accessible by rolling back previous regulations, including Virginia's one-handgun-a-month rule.

As an advocate for meaningful gun reform, I am not under the illusion that we can stop every mass shooting incident or make gun violence disappear. Rather, I want to slow the rate of these tragedies and refuse to accept that "there is nothing we can do."

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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.

THROUGH JAN. 1

Holiday SoberRide. 10 p.m.-6 a.m. Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the annual Holiday SoberRide program will provide free cab rides up to \$30. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 7

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OPINION

Praise for Fox Trot

To the Editor:

Learning about Fort Hunt Elementary's traditional Fox Trot Race was delightful ["Fox Trot Tradition Continues," Mount Vernon Gazette, Dec. 3]. Inspired name and purpose, their Fox Trot Race is spot-on appropriate for elementary school students.

A bit slower, these retired teachers have the daily pleasure of foxes trotting through our Hollin Hills yard. Trotting, trotting, trotting, we've yet to see one walking or running. We fondly remember our generation's aptly named Fox Trot dance. Its tireless tempo left just enough energy for another.

Over these foxtrot years, we've decided foxes have long-since been foxy enough to know a trot's continuous pace will win the race: A meal and dependable homecoming after a day's work in the school of the

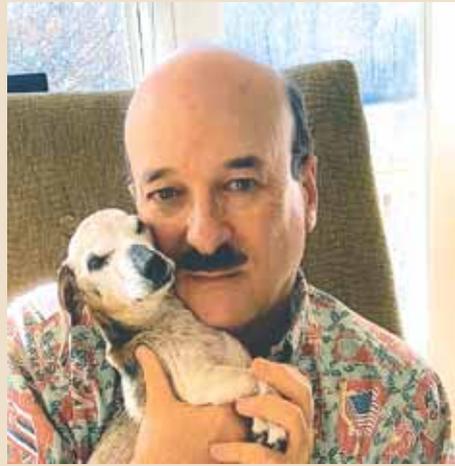


PHOTO BY H. JAY SPIEGEL

Snapshot

Happy 19th birthday to Acappella Mia (Dec. 7).

woods. Wherever birds fly, foxes trot. And our kits race a Fox Trot miles for a good cause.

Julie and Rocky Curtis
Alexandria

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway; and Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Alice's Kids, a nonprofit that serves hundreds of needy children throughout Fairfax County, will

be holding its third annual gift-wrapping fundraiser. \$3 suggested donation. Visit www.aliceskids.org for more.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

School Open House. 2-4 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road.

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 17

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Sunday: 7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter and Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm
Weekdays & Saturday Morning: 9:00 am (Rosary at 8:30 am)
En Español: Monday, 6:30 pm; Thursday, 7:30 pm; First Friday, 7:30 pm
Eucharistic Adoration: (Silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament) First Friday: following 9:00 am Mass; Wednesday: 6:00 pm; Thursday and First Friday: 7:00 pm

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Lessons in Giving

Conversations, modeling behavior and hands-on actions can help teach children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Matthew Mamalian's holiday shopping list included some items that might seem atypical for a 12-year-old middle school student: shampoo, socks, soap and a few snacks. He, along with several friends from his Sunday school class, packed the items in shoeboxes wrapped with holiday paper and tucked a handwritten note of encouragement inside each box.

"We were all laughing and having fun packing them," he said. "We also learned that there are people who really need these things because they don't have a lot else."

The project was part of Interfaith Works' holiday giving program, an effort by the local nonprofit organization to meet the needs of the homeless. The holiday season can be a time for children to learn the principals of benevolence, say child development experts. Involving children in charitable activities, modeling altruistic behavior and making a link between compassion and a higher power are all effective ways parents can teach their children the value of giving to the less fortunate.

"Children need to have empathy modeled for them and they need a script to follow or

ideas for carrying out charitable acts," said Christine Pegoraro Schull, Ph.D., professor of Early Childhood Education at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. "Children aspire to be kind and to be good citizens, but they don't necessarily know how to do these things."

Involving Matthew and his siblings in philanthropic efforts through Potomac Presbyterian Church is one of the ways that their mother, Cyndy Mamalian, makes a connection between gratitude, charity and a higher power. "I think it's important for them to think beyond themselves and live out their faith," she said. "You need to put your faith into action, and that is about caring for other people."

Janet Dunlop, Matthew's Sunday school teacher and a member of the Mission Committee at Potomac Presbyterian Church, melds volunteer projects with class discussions to teach her students about gratitude and charity. This holiday season, as the middle-school aged children clipped wrapping paper and tied ribbons around shoeboxes filled with deodorant, toothpaste, snacks and other essentials for the homeless, she gave them a description of those who are on the receiving end of their project.

"Many young people growing up in

Potomac don't have much experience with homelessness," said Dunlop. "When my husband and I arrive at the shelter with these boxes, the people there are so happy to receive them. So, this is also about helping the children see another aspect of life and trying to instill in them a life-long ideal of service."

Charitable giving for adults often means donating old clothes at the end of the tax year or writing a check to a nonprofit organization. However, children might find it difficult to understand how these abstract actions make a difference. That's why psychologists and educators recommend giving children first-hand experience in caring for others.

Jenny Trope, Ph.D. and her children raised money to purchase grocery store gift cards that they are distributing to homeless men and women they encounter this winter. "It gives the kids a glimpse of what it's like to be alone, hungry and stuck outside when it's cold," said Trope, who is also a marriage and family therapist based in Arlington.

Such hands-on projects, coupled with a conversation about why it's important to take action to aid people in need of a helping hand, could drive home the message. "Children aspire to be kind and to be good

citizens, but they don't necessarily know how to do these things," said Schull.

A study by the United Nations Foundation and the Women's Philanthropy Institute at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis found that talking to children about giving is highly effective for encouraging philanthropy, and increases a child's inclination to give by 20 percent.

"Conversations are critical. Talking about giving in combination with modeling is what actually increases children's giving," said Debra J. Mesch, Ph.D., director of the Women's Philanthropy Institute. "We ... know that these conversations need to be focused on why and how giving ... makes an impact on individuals in need, rather than simply talk that is more general, such as giving is the right thing to do."

The dialogue can include concrete examples of how a charitable action will benefit others, say mental health experts. "Around the holidays when you're struggling to survive, when you've lost everything and every decision you make is about meeting your absolute, basic needs, like how you're going to take a shower, it's a nice surprise to get a wrapped box of soaps, toothpaste, socks, snacks and a personal note," said Nikki Stanaitis, LCSW-C of Interfaith Works.

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—Helena Scott

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

DECEMBER

12/30/2015.....Children's Connection

JANUARY

1/6/2016.....Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions
1/13/2016.....HomeLifeStyle
Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 18
1/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
1/27/2016.....Community Guide
1/27/2016.....Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment; Valentine's Preview

FEBRUARY

2/3/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
2/3/2016.....Wellbeing – National Children's Dental Health Month
2/10/2016.....HomeLifeStyle
2/10/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
2/17/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

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- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

OPINION

The Time To Give

County promotes 11 ways to give back to your community.

BY WENDY LEMIEUX
FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFICE OF PUBLIC
PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (OP³)



It's the most wonderful time of the year ... to help others. Fairfax County has made it easy with its "Forget the Fruitcake — Ways to Give Campaign" that promotes 11 ways to give back to your community. Running through the end of the year, you can donate to any of these 11 county nonprofits, foundations and agencies in honor of anyone on your gift list. It makes shopping easy and offers you a nice tax deduction. But best of all, it helps those organizations succeed in bringing goods and services to those who need them most at this time of year.

On any given day more than 67,000 people go hungry in the county and more than 30 percent of the students in Fairfax County schools are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Despite its affluent status, Fairfax has a population that benefits from programs such as "Ways to Give." There is something for everyone on your list whether

they like animals, education, summer fun or community spirit. Gifts that give back include books, a week at camp, medical care, bikes, trees and food for the hungry.

Through a partnership with ad agency Williams Whittle, Fairfax County's Office of Public Private Partnerships has honed the message and the graphics which has made a difference in the look and feel of the campaign. Williams Whittle liked the campaign in previous years and offered their professional services and contacts to make the program even better.

And it's resulted in numerous pro bono advertisement and engagement from community stakeholders. One beneficiary of the increased exposure was the Fairfax County Restoration Project (FCRP) — whose mission is to restore the tree canopy in Fairfax County. When the first ad was placed in the Connection in mid-November, FCRP reported a 70 percent increase in visits to their website that offers to plant five native trees in honor of a family member or friend.

This is the fifth year of the "Ways to Give" campaign that so far has resulted in an increase of 50 percent in web traffic. Although donation numbers won't be available until January, participating agencies and nonprofits have reported a surge in traffic to their sites.

To donate and learn more visit www.GiveFairfax.net.

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MLS # AX8755141

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Alexandria VA
Beautiful French Country House is a Gardeners Delight! Gourmet Kitchen with SS, Quartz, 2 Sinks, Kitchen Island. 5 Large Bedrooms with 4 Full Baths. 2 Patios and 2-Car Garage.
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Greg Doherty MLS # FX8751957



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\$689,900
Karen Leonard
MLS # AX9513273

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\$599,500 Donnan C. Wintermute
MLS # FX9876574



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\$560,000
Michelle Mitchell
MLS # AX9529133

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ENTERTAINMENT

Three Restaurants For Takeout Today

Short on time during the holiday season?

BY HOPE NELSON
THE GAZETTE

It's the middle of the holiday season, and free time is short. Often, spare time is downright nonexistent, in fact, and the thought of sitting down to a home-cooked meal is but a dream. Here are three remedies that are sure to lend a hand during breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Breakfast: Stomping Ground

2309 Mount Vernon Ave.

A low-key, walk-in establishment that's new to the Del Ray scene, Stomping Ground will give you everything you need to get revved-up in the morning. Fair warning that you'll want to sit down and relax with a café au lait (with both dairy and nondairy options), but if you're really set on grab-and-go, they can do that for you too.

The first thing you'll notice about Stomping Ground's menu is the biscuits. As a sandwich, served with gravy, by themselves — biscuits serve in many functions here, and you would do well to take part in the trend. Slightly crispy on the outside and wonderfully tender and crumbly on the inside, these biscuits will allow any Southerner to hark back to their childhood (or their grandmama) and will introduce any Yankees to the Real Deal right away.

For something hearty and portable, the Farmers Frittata sandwich is always a solid bet. Made with seasonal ingredients, its filling change from time to time but the won-



derful eggy flavor remains. Need fuel for the whole day? Give the Classic sandwich a try; its filling of fried chicken and pimento cheese will give you the protein (and caloric) boost you need to see you through the hours ahead.

Lunch: District Taco

701 S. Washington St.

District Taco has become a bit of a legend in the D.C. area. Beginning as a food truck in 2009, it has since expanded to half a dozen brick-and-mortar locations, including one in Old Town, which opened one year ago. Serving Yucatan-style Mexican food from morning till night, it's an excellent place to drop in, pick up a taco or two, and head back out to face the busy day ahead.

The restaurant opens early enough in the day (7 a.m.) for diners to enjoy breakfast — and indeed, District Taco does have an all-day breakfast menu for just such an oc-

casional — but at lunchtime, your best bet is a burrito. Take a long look at the proteins and toppings before making your decision. The list is lengthy and enticing, but the wise diner knows that not everything under the sun can fit into a single burrito, so choose wisely. Some local favorites: Barbacoa shredded beef, al Pastor rotisserie pork (marinated with guajillo chilies and chopped pineapple), or vegetarian. Add some veggies and top the masterpiece with one (or more) of District Taco's salsas at its salsa bar, and you'll be in good shape until dinnertime.

Dinner: Oriental Bistro

3221 Duke St.

Though it sports a proper dining room as well, Oriental Bistro (formerly Oriental Star) is a gem of a place to order takeout or delivery on a busy evening. It's true: Chinese food can be a bit, shall we say, typical

when it comes to a delivered-food choice, but Oriental Bistro bears this mantle proudly and surpasses expectations.

When perusing the menu, one tidbit that stands out is the "mock meat." Plant-based eaters, rejoice: Now you, too, can enjoy Mongolian beef, Hunan pork, or sweet and sour shrimp. But omnivores will also be quite at home with this menu, which offers all of the takeout staples and more.

Order the fried rice (with your choice of protein) and you'll have at least two meals taken care of; select the General Tso's Chicken and you'll be treated to a spicy, slightly sweet entrée that's teeming with flavor. Order a couple of spring rolls and your meal is complete. With that, you can get back to the business (or busy-ness) of the holidays.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.



(Left) Café au lait at Stomping Ground in Del Ray. (Above) For breakfast, lunch, and dinner, District Taco on Washington Street has a burrito waiting in the wings.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

"A Christmas Carol." Through Dec. 19, 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. The Little Theatre of Alexandria performs the classic Victorian tale of Ebenezer Scrooge who travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market. Through Dec. 20, various times at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray's annual Holiday Market offers handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists (including pottery/ceramics, photography, jewelry, fiber, paper crafts and glass). Find different artists each weekend. Free to attend.

Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/holidaymarket.

Alexandria's Holiday Market.

Through Dec. 23, various Times at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Visitors can enjoy live entertainment, traditional European food and sweets, wine and beer, while shopping for arts and crafts. Free. Visit www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com.

Green Spring Gardens Art Show.

Through Dec. 27, gallery hours at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist Carol Higgs works in batik, oil, watercolor, and collage. Painter Joan Wolfe works with acrylic and Erik and Caroline Hottenstein use watercolors. Free. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

"A Broadway Christmas Carol."

Through Dec. 27, various times at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Created by Kathy Feininger and directed by Michael Sharp, this MetroStage holiday tradition is a cross between the classic Dickens' tale and Broadway parodies. Tickets are \$50. Visit www.metrostage.org.

Tag on 3rd: Gallery 311 Opening

Exhibit. Through Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The Associates' Gallery is re-opening in a renovated space on the Torpedo Factory's third floor, studio 311. The exhibit will honor Robert Rosselle, a sculptor who died in July. He occupied Studio 311 for many years, and two of his sculptures will take center stage in the group's new show. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

"Not-So-Modern" Jazz Quartet Performance.

Thursdays through Dec. 31, 7:30-10 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Not So Modern Jazz Music plays music from the glory days of traditional jazz, including tunes from traditional Dixieland and the Swing era. Free. Visit www.stelmoscoffeepub.com for more.

"Nature's Journey." Through Jan. 2, at American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. Darlene Kaplan will exhibit more than 60 of her original oriental brush paintings in a one-person art exhibition. Free. Visit www.darlenekaplan.com for more.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery:

"Winter Wonderland." Through Jan. 3, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory Art Center—Studio 18, 105 N. Union St. Artists working in textile focus on "sparkle and shine, clean and white." Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Christmas at Mount Vernon.

Through Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Visit George Washington's estate and see Aladdin the camel on the grounds, in honor of the camel that Washington paid to visit Mount Vernon in 1787. Stroll through Mount Vernon's modern buildings and view sparkling holiday decorations, featuring 12 dazzling Christmas trees, and historical chocolate-making demonstrations. Also visit the rarely-open third floor of the Mansion. All is included in the general admission price which is \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth ages 6-11, and free for children 5 and under. Visit www.mountvernon.org/christmas for more.

"George Washington's

Thanksgiving Proclamation."

Through Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. This exhibit will detail the history of Thanksgiving at Mount Vernon. On October 3, 1789, Washington issued his Thanksgiving proclamation, designating for "the People of the United States a day of public thanks-giving." Admission to the exhibit is included in Mount Vernon ticket prices. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$9 for children, and free for children ages 5 and younger. Visit www.mountvernon.org/thanksgiving.

"Printed Matter."

Through Jan. 17, at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Printed Matter features a mix of works (printed media, such as xerography, book arts, and graphic design) created using traditional techniques as well as newer or reimagined ones. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital Art Show. Through Jan. 31 at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St. The artwork is on display in

ENTERTAINMENT



Exhibit Inspired by Jefferson's 'Notes on the State of Virginia'

Artist Suzanne Stryk's exhibit titled "Notes on the State of Virginia" was inspired by the book of the same name published by Thomas Jefferson in the 1780s. Stryk travelled the state, met with local experts and guides, and created her assemblages based on her reflections. "Notes" will be on display at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Dec. 17-Jan. 31. The opening reception will be 4-6 p.m. on Dec. 20, and Stryk will give an artist's talk on Jan. 31 at 3 p.m. Admission to all events and to the exhibit is free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Pictured here: "Sacrament"

waiting areas and examination rooms as a part of Del Ray Artisans' Gallery Without Walls program. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

"Art Uniting People." Gallery hours at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. "Art Uniting People – A Celebration of Recovery, Creativity and Mental Health," is an art exhibition presented every year to showcase the artwork by local individuals. Free. Visit www.artunitingpeople.wix.com/artunitingpeople.

"Ancient Art of Movement." 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

Flamenco Show. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit www.latascausa.com.

French Movie Night. Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit

www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html.

Journey to Be Free: Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery. Through March, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A new exhibit tracing the 150-year history of the long-forgotten Freedmen's Cemetery, its rediscovery and how the new Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial was created at the site. Call 703-746-4356.

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812. Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

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

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary

exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

National Inventors Hall of Fame Exhibit. Through November 2016 at The National Inventors Hall of Fame-USPTO campus, 600 Dulany St. The exhibit features the stories of Inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame who served their country during World War II and returned home to help build the nation with their innovations. Free. Visit www.inventnow.org.

Dinner for the Washingtons. 12 p.m. 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 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free, 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.

FIRST NIGHT ALEXANDRIA

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ENTERTAINMENT



“Caught and Found,” Rusty Lynn (above) and **“Totem,”** Pamela Underhill (right)

Convergence Hosts ‘No Holds Barred’

“No Holds Barred” is an exhibit featuring two artists working in sculpture, Rusty Lynn and Pamela Underhill. “No Holds Barred” will be on display at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Jan. 8-Feb. 27. The gallery is open on Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The reception and artist talk will be held 6:30-9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 15. Patrons may also attend a workshop on box sculptures. All admission is free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.



IMAGES COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY/DEC. 23-24

“I Am Anne Hutchinson/I Am Harvey Milk.” 8 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. The Alexandria Harmonizers will act as the chorus for musical interpretation of the lives of civil rights leaders Harvey Milk and Anne Hutchinson. Kristin Chenoweth, of various Broadway musicals and “Glee.” Tickets are \$49-99. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 24

Water Skiing Santa. 1-2 p.m. at Old Town Alexandria Waterfront, between King and Oronoco streets. Attend a holiday-themed watersports show along the Potomac. Free. Visit www.waterskiingsanta.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 26

Southside Johnny. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Southside Johnny is joined by The Asbury Jukes. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 27

Kwanzaa Celebration. 2-5:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. This “Kujichagulia,” or self-determination, celebration will feature Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright. Free. Visit ow.ly/V30mp.

Hank Williams Night. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Musicians perform in the 19th annual tribute to Hank Williams. Tickets are \$29.50 plus a service charge. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

TUESDAY/DEC. 29

Mint Condition Holiday Show. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. R&B group performs. Tickets are \$65. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 2 p.m.-12 a.m. at venues throughout Old Town and Alexandria. This 21st annual New Year’s Eve celebration will feature more than 175 performances at 29 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, children’s face painting and games. The afternoon’s Seventh Annual Fun Hunt is accompanied by all-new activities for families and pets. There’s an old fashioned carnival at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray. First Night’s fireworks finale returns with a spectacular display over the Potomac River at midnight. Tickets are \$20 before Dec. 14, \$30 after. Admission for children 12 and under, seniors, military, and volunteers are free. Visit www.firstnightalexandria.org.

Seldom Scene. 8 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Blue grass band Gold Heart will perform with Seldom Scene and Only Lonesome. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 1

Mo’Fire. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. MO’Fire and In Gratitude perform a tribute to Earth, Wind & Fire. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 2

Bill Kirchen. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Musician Bill Kirchen is

Art for Life. Third Thursday of every month. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Hyatt Regency Crystal City has partnered with the National Kidney Foundation for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers 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.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

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

Community Yoga. Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Suite 100. No experience required to participate in

weekly community class. Suggested \$10 donation. Visit www.532yoga.com.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/DEC. 17-18

Carbon Leaf. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Richmond-based folk/rock band Carbon Leaf will celebrate the release of “Love Loss Hope Repeat Reneaux.” Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

DEC. 17-JAN. 31

Suzanne Stryk: “Notes on the State of Virginia.” Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Suzanne Stryk’s art exhibit includes a series of assemblages inspired by Thomas Jefferson’s book “Notes on the State of Virginia.” Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 18

Holiday Wine Tasting. 7-9 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The Factory Society, the official young-professionals group of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, hosts an after-hours holiday wine tasting. Attendees will have an opportunity to talk with resident artists in their studios and watch them work while meeting and networking with other young-professionals. Wines and light desserts will be paired with each studio along the tour. Tickets are \$30. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/holidaywine.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 18-19

Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon. 5:30-9 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200

Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Enjoy choir performances, fireworks, visit with re-enactors, learn 18th-century dance moves, learn how chocolate was made in the 18th century, and more. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org/christmas for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

Brunch with Santa. 9-11:30 a.m. at The Pub by Wegmans, 7905 Hilltop Village Center Drive. Families are invited to a breakfast with a special brunch menu and a visit from Santa. Free to attend. Call 571-527-2465 to make a reservation.

“Downton Abbey Christmas Tea.” 1 p.m. at The Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Discuss what may happen in the show’s final season over a traditional tea. Take a private tour of the house showing the connections between the people and places of Downton Abbey and those of the Lee-Fendall House. Tickets are \$50 per person. Visit www.leeendallhouse.org for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 20

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra: Family Holiday Concert. 3 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Select musicians of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra perform holiday classics. Tickets are \$20 and \$5 for youth. Visit www.alexsym.org for more.

Suzanne Stryk: “Notes on the State of Virginia” Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Celebrate Suzanne Stryk’s art exhibit which includes a series of assemblages

inspired by Thomas Jefferson’s book “Notes on the State of Virginia.” Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Carol Sing and Pageant. 5:30 p.m. at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Cider and desserts will follow a children’s nativity pageant. Free. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com.

A Sinatra Christmas. 7 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Rob Zappulla performs Frank Sinatra’s versions of Christmas classics. Tickets are \$28. Dinner additional. Visit www.carlyleclub.com for more.

SUNDAY-THURSDAY/DEC. 20-24

Art Pop-Up Shop. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The “Made in Alexandria” Pop-Up Shop will feature 28 local artists selling art and crafts. Everything priced under \$100. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com for more.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY/DEC. 22-24

Meet Santa. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Children get approximately five minutes to meet and take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. A \$20 fee reserves a time slot, professional photos will be available for purchase. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 23

Charles Esten. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. “Nashville” star and musician Charles Esten will perform. Tickets are \$55. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

ENTERTAINMENT

joined by Too Much Fun and Commander Cody. Tickets are \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 5

“Twelfth Night of Christmas.” 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Addison Academic Center—Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. The Evening School of Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary invites the public to a Twelfth Night of Christmas celebration. Free, but registration required. Visit www.vts.edu/evening.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 6

Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Grant Hellmers, Organist-Choirmaster of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, will direct the adult choir in a Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany. Free. Call 703-549-3312 or email grant@stpaulsalexandria.com for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 7

Civil War Ball Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Civil War Ball on the Jan. 23, learn the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel and more from an expert. Tickets are \$12 per class, \$30 for the entire series. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

FRIDAY/JAN. 8

“True Colors: Like a Rainbow” Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at

The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Meet the artists of the “True Colors: Like a Rainbow” exhibit. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/True.
The Cecilian Players. 8-10 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Concert consisting of works by Debussy, Ravel, and Shostakovich. Free. Call 703-836-7480 for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 8-9

Ricky Skaggs. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Bluegrass musician Ricky Skaggs is joined by Kentucky Thunder. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

JAN. 8-31

“True Colors: Like a Rainbow.” Gallery hours at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans' artists use colors of the rainbow for inspiration. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/True.

JAN. 8-FEB. 27

“No Holds Barred.” 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is named for the “don't hold back, just let go” approach artists Pamela Underhill and Rusty Lynn employ in their artmaking. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

Panel Discussion: “Take a Turn Down Mercy Street.” 1 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.

George Combs, manager of Alexandria Library's Special Collections Branch, author Michael Lee Pope, and Callie Stapp of The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum will introduce you to the history behind the new PBS series, “Mercy Street,” which is based in Alexandria. Free. Call 703-746-1721 or email admin@nvfaa.org to RSVP.

Winter Warmer Ladies Tea. 3-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Choose from a variety of 18th-century desserts, drink tea, and visit with “Dolley Madison.” Tickets are \$35. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

“Twelfth Night: A Celebration of Epiphany & Winter Solstice.” 6 p.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Armonia Nova performs using historical instruments including baroque harps and early viols. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.armonianova.org for more.

Maceo Parker. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Saxophonist Maceo Parker performs. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Meigs Hodge. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Traditional and contemporary blues guitar and vocals. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Civil War Ball Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Civil War Ball on the Jan. 23, learn the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel and more from an expert. Tickets are \$12 per class, \$30 for the entire series. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

more.

Holy Holy. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Band Holy Holy will perform featuring Tony Visconti and Woody Woodmansey performing David Bowie's “The Man Who Sold the World.” Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 15

“No Holds Barred” Opening Reception. 6:30-9 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Celebrate the exhibit named for the “don't hold back, just let go” approach artists Pamela Underhill and Rusty Lynn employ in their artmaking. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 15-17

Eddie From Ohio. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Local folk band will give a show entirely based on requests from the audience. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 16

Family Art Workshop: Shape Tape Art. 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Parents and children ages 4-9 are invited to make art using tape, acrylic paint, and a canvas. Tickets are \$30, \$5 for each additional child. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com/mommy-me-holiday-workshops.

Celebration Gala. 6-11 p.m. at Holiday Inn, 625 1st St. This Black Tie Gala will celebrate the installation of the new Pastor of Historic Shiloh Baptist Church, Reverend Taft Quincey Heatley.

Tickets are \$60. Visit www.shiloh-bc.org for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 16, 23-24, 30

Jane Franklin Dance: “Niche.” 7:30 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Alexandria dance company Jane Franklin Dance performs “Niche,” which follows an unremarkable couple with a new house, big careers, and odd neighbors. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Visit www.janefranklin.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 17

Celebrate Community 5K & 1K Fun Run/Walk. 8-11 a.m. at Eisenhower Ave. This event will honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with an additional food drive for ALIVE. Registration costs will be \$15-25, and \$20-25 on the day of the race. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 21

Morris Day and The Time. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Listen to live R&B. Tickets are \$69.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Civil War Ball Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Civil War Ball on the Jan. 23, learn the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel and more from an expert. Tickets are \$12 per class, \$30 for the entire series. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

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OBITUARY

Charles 'Chuck' William Higdon

Charles "Chuck" William Higdon, 71, was born March 18, 1943 in Cisco, Ga. to William Emmanuel and Rosevelt Carter Higdon. "Charlie" attended the Cisco two-room schoolhouse, Eton elementary and graduated from Murray County High School in 1960. Just 17 years old, July 1960, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served for 30 years, retiring as a Master Chief Electronics Technician in August 1990.

Charles received training at NTC San Diego, Calif. (1960); NAD Concord, Calif. (1960-1961); NTC Treasure Island, Calif. (1961); and NAVSCOLCOM Mare Island, Calif. (1964). During his career he served aboard USS Kitty Hawk CVA 63 as a RADAR technician (1961-1964), USS Constellation CVA 64 as the Chief in charge of the RADAR repair work center (1969-1971), USS Independence CV 62 as Operations Department Leading Chief (1983-1985), USS John F. Kennedy CV 6762 as Operations Department Leading Chief (1985-1986). Charles was twice deployed with NCSJ's Air Transportable Communications Unit (ATCU 100) to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. He was stationed at Naval Communication Stations in Yokosuka, Japan as a cryptographic repair technician and Maintenance Division Leading Petty Officer in the Technical Control Center (1964-1969); Honolulu, Hawaii, as Leading Chief and Maintenance Division Officer at Pearl Harbor (1971-1976); Adak, AK as Senior Chief in charge of the transmitter facility on Mount Moffett (1976-1979); Patuxent River Naval Air Station as Air Operations Department Master Chief (1979-1986), and Naval sea systems command Washington, D.C. as the Mobile Technical Training Unit liaison officer (1986-1990). After retirement from active duty he worked for DTI Incorporated for another 22 years dealing with Navy software development, training and logistics issues. He retired from DTI in September 2012.

On Feb. 9, 1977, at the county courthouse in Chatsworth, Ga. he married Faye Sachie Okouchi. Together they lived on Oahu, Hawaii; Adak, Alaska; Lexington Park, in Saint Mary's County, Md.; and finally came to reside in Alexandria in 1992. Their children are Carla Ho'onoa Higdon Okouchi (married to Cory Okouchi, their children are Kaleo and Kiana), Damien William Palani Yukio Higdon (married to Annie Lee Higdon, their children are Nashira and Zorion), Danica Jennie Iolani Sachi Higdon King (married to Eric King, their children are Caden, Kiran, and Naomi), and Nalani



Naomi Misako Higdon Staats (married to Sean Staats, their children are Taylor, Madeline, and Riley).

Charles, "Chuck" to many of his friends, was an active member, Elder and property manager of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. He served on multiple committees at the National Capital Presbytery as well.

He created historical records for his family and traced their genealogy for many years, amassing enough information to compile a book for the Higdon Family Association. He was a car enthusiast who collected model cars and was interested in all things related. But it didn't end with cars, Chuck loved trains and aircrafts, basically anything that could move.

Most of all he liked to be around and show love to his family. Chuck was the best at giving hugs. He was a wonderful and an exemplary husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

Charles died Feb. 7, 2015 in the care of the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital team who had been attending to his ongoing cardiac care. A funeral celebration of Charles' life was held at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church on Feb. 14, 2015. A second celebration of his life was held at Mililani Presbyterian Church on Oahu, Hawaii Aug. 22, 2015. A third celebration of his life was held during the Cisco One-Room Schoolhouse Reunion in Georgia on Oct. 17, 2015.

In this season of giving it is only too fitting that Master Chief Petty Officer Charles W. Higdon U.S. Navy (Ret) comes to his eternal resting place alongside his brothers in service with full military honors. His interment will be held at 9 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2015 at Arlington National Cemetery. All are welcome.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Sunday/Jan. 10

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center in Alexandria needs a licensed beautician, a social companion and a Spanish-speaking social companion. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click

on Volunteer Solutions under "Get Involved." **Mount Vernon At Home** is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteers to assist older adults aging in place in their homes. Volunteers are needed for local transportation to medical and personal appointments, errands, and grocery store trips; light handyman chores, home technology and more. No minimum volunteer hours required. Call Mount Vernon At Home 703-303-4060 e-mail info@mountvernonathome.org or visit mountvernonathome.org



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Firefighters and Friends founder Capt. Willie Bailey, left, is joined by Charise Mitchell, Annie Dawkins and Fairfax County Fire Chief Richard Bowers at the Dec. 15 toy distribution day at Penn Daw Fire Station 11.

Firefighters Provide Toys

FROM PAGE 1

incredible to see the community come together like this. It gives the children a start and place to look for a finish in life."

Volunteers included firefighters Mike Furman as Superhero Flash Max and Dave Saunders and his son Hunter as Santa and his elf. GO TEAM Sit Means Sit volunteers were on hand with therapy and comfort dogs. "It's wonderful seeing Will continue to give back to the community," said ACT

Executive Director John Porter. "From backpacks in August, coats in October and toys in December, Will continues to

be concerned about those in need in Alexandria and Fairfax County. He's amazing."

Bowers concurred.

"We have Santa, a superhero — everything a kid wants in life in one place at one time," Bowers said. "Will does a great job and makes this a special day for everyone."

"It's incredible to see the community come together like this."

— Fairfax County Fire Chief Richard Bowers



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Helping in Fight against Hunger

United Community Ministries (UCM) has received a \$15,000 donation from the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR). From left are Ryan T. Conrad, new NVAR CEO; Mary Bayat (Bayat Realty), 2015 chair of the NVAR Board; Nichelle Mitchem, UCM executive director; and Virgil Frizzell (Long & Foster), 2015 NVAR chair-elect. Every October at the NVAR educational convention at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, the association asks members to bring a bag of nonperishable groceries (or a check donation) to support UCM – in lieu of paying an admission fee.

SPORTS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

West Potomac senior Jamie Sara signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball at William & Mary. From left are: Josie Sara (sister), Tim Sara (dad), Jamie Sara, Vikki Sara (mom), (second row) head baseball coach Jim Sullivan; Director of Student Activities Aaron Helmick, assistant basketball coach Tyrone Strother, head basketball coach David Houston, III.

Mount Vernon Girls Win Conference Opener

The Mount Vernon girls' basketball team defeated Woodson 41-35 on Tuesday in Fairfax, improving its record to 2-2 overall and 1-0 in Conference 7.

The Majors will travel to face South County at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18. Mount Vernon's next home game is Jan. 8 against West Springfield.

West Potomac's Sara Signs with W&M

Having verbally committed to attend the College of William & Mary to play NCAA Division I baseball, West Potomac senior Jamie Sara signed his National Letter of Intent to attend that institution beginning in fall of 2016.

To commemorate the event, a signing ceremony was held at West Potomac High School with his immediate family members — parents Tim and Vikki Sara, and sister Josie Sara, West Potomac Athletic Director, Aaron Helmick; baseball head coach Jim Sullivan; basketball head coach David Houston III; and basketball assistant coach Tyrone Strother.

Sara grew up in the Fort Hunt area never missing a fall or spring baseball season with Fort Hunt Little League, the Mount Vernon Mavericks, and more recently the DeMarini

Stars. In high school, he was selected first team All-Conference 7 for baseball in 2014 and 2015, and second team all-conference for basketball in 2014-15.

As a two-sport athlete, Sara was also awarded the West Potomac's Team Sport Most Valuable Athlete Award in 2014-15.

Mount Vernon Boys Fall to Woodson

The Mount Vernon boys' basketball team lost to Woodson 56-50 on Tuesday in Fairfax.

The Majors fell to 1-4 overall and 0-1 in Conference 7.

Mount Vernon will host defending conference champion South County at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18. The Majors will host a holiday tournament Dec. 28-30.

West Potomac Boys, Girls to Face T.C. Williams

The West Potomac boys' and girls' basketball teams will face T.C. Williams on Friday, Dec. 18.

The boys' team (2-3 overall, 0-1 Conference 7) will host the Titans at 7:30 p.m. The girls' team (1-5, 0-1) will travel to face the Titans.

Both West Potomac teams lost to West Springfield on Tuesday. The boys lost 61-54, and the girls lost 45-30.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Childcare available. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit www.burgundyfarm.org for more.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

United Community Ministries seeks volunteers to act as food pantry assistants, basic needs

counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office admin/data entry, community outreach, ESL teachers and co-teachers, and teacher aides. Visit www.ucmagency.org/volunteer-at-ucm.html.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center needs a volunteer to maintain a fish aquarium upkeep and instructors for the following classes: Basic Guitar, Italian, Pottery and Ballroom Dance. Call 703-324-5406 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults for more.

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Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

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21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-12-01

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Special Education Consulting Services in the ACPs school district.

Emailed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-12-01 Special Education Consulting Services will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, January 8, 2016. Proposals received via email shall be transmitted with a date and time stamp. Any email response received where the senders date and time are after this specified time shall not be considered. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPs reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
ACPS Senior Buyer

21 Announcements **21 Announcements**



Dana McLeod 1955 - 2015

The wise and wonderful lady with the incredible laugh and a smile that just lit up the room, the sensitive friend who really listened, the spirited role model whose courage amazed us all, the protective big sister every little brother needs, the brilliant and caring teacher/director every young theatre performer should experience at least once. Peacefully, in the early morning hours of Nov. 16th 2015, Dana McLeod passed away in the loving care of the staff at Mt. Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Dana had fought an incredibly brave battle with MS for twenty years and though the disease changed the course of her life, it would never define her. A former actress, dancer and musical theatre performer, she played roles as varied as Harpo Marx, Louise in the musical "Gypsy" and even Yosemite Sam. She also danced at Radio City Music Hall in a special holiday extravaganza. When performing was no longer an option, she became a teacher, director and choreographer spending many years working in the children's theatre program at the Alden Theatre in McLean, Virginia.

Dana faced her final days with grace, strength and even humor. So moved by Dana's unbreakable spirit, one nurse on her palliative care team said, "I feel so blessed to have met you." Dana left this world with a beautiful look of peace and total contentment on her face. We think she knew how much we loved her, what a difference she had made in our lives and how we all felt so blessed to have known her.

She is survived by her mother and step father, Marilyn and Ken Murton, and her brother Kenneth John Murton of Toronto, Canada.

Our deepest gratitude goes to Nora Miller, Margo Harris and the incredible staff at Mt. Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center who brought Dana home in her final days with open arms and a hero's welcome. To Janet, Retta, Carolyn and Mary Beth who truly redefined the word "support". And to the amazing people at Inova Fairfax Hospital and Capital Caring you are forever in our hearts.

A Remembrance of Dana's Life will be held on Sunday May 15, 2016 at the McLean Community Center in McLean, Virginia at 2:00 p.m.

Donations in Dana's name may be made to the National MS Society, Greater DC - Maryland Chapter, 1800 M Street, NW, Suite B50 North, Washington DC 20036

21 Announcements **21 Announcements** **21 Announcements** **21 Announcements**

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-11-08

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors for Service/Recognition Awards.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-11-08 Intervention (RTI) Tool for Elementary Mathematics for Alexandria City Public Schools. Proposals will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, December 5, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8140, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

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OBITUARY

Otto Harrison Shupe, 76, of Fries, Virginia passed away Thursday, December 10, 2015 in the Holston Valley Hospital, Kingsport, Tennessee. Harrison was born April 19, 1939 in Virginia to the late Otto Bruce and Cenie Katherine Sexton Shupe. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Susie Underwood Shupe. Harrison and Susie both lived in Alexandria for many years before moving to Fries.

He is survived by son Michael (Sharon) Shupe of Fries, VA; Daughter Heather (Daniel) Osborne of Clintwood, VA; six grandchildren: Lori and Eddie Shupe, Kylie, Seth, Micah and Luke Osborne; step grandchildren Keshia Carpenter, Darren Felts; sisters Luann (Buddy) Mays of Kingsland, Georgia; Sharon (Donald) Sharp, Debra (Mike) Thomas, Sheila (Alan) Rogers all of Columbia, Tennessee. Several other relatives and many friends survive.

The funeral service will be held Monday, December 14, 2015 at the Liberty Hill United Methodist Church, 40 Crusader Lane, Fries, VA at 4:00 PM. Interment will follow in the Liberty Hill Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 2:00 PM until time for the service.

Flowers will be appreciated or donations can be made to Camp Jacob, 2723 Camp Jacob Road, Clintwood, VA 24228 or Atkins Memorial UM Church, 199 Atkins Lane, Fries, VA 24330 or the donor's choice.

A guestbook is online at www.vaughanguynn.com

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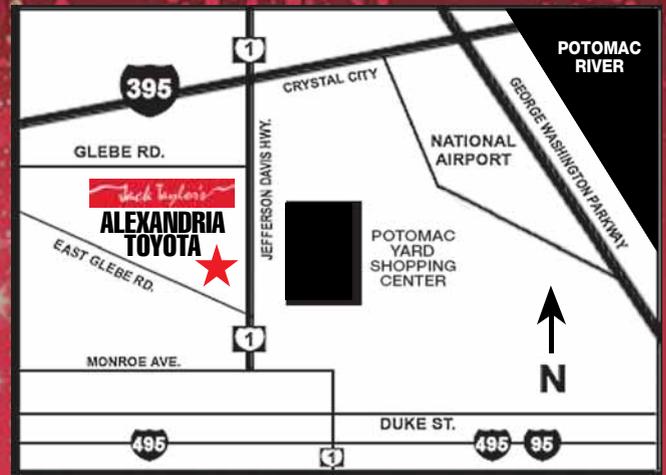
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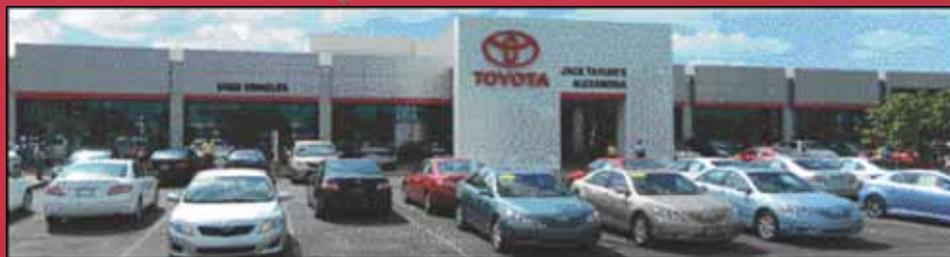


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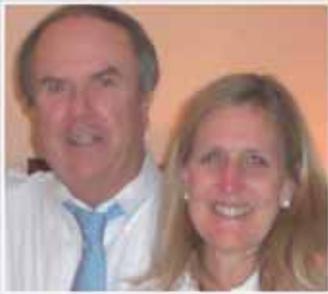
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3719 Riverwood Rd \$709,000
Fabulous Opportunity—Prestigious Riverwood!
Exceptionally attractive price for updated Colonial in premier riverfront community. Recent work including custom interior paint and beautifully refinished hardwood floors provide true "move-in" opportunity! Other features include main level family room w/fireplace & custom built-ins, bright white kitchen, 4 spacious bedrooms, thermal windows, 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on large fenced lot.



9429 Forest Haven Dr \$699,000
Spectacular Contemporary!
4831 Stillwell Ave \$549,500
Absolutely Adorable!



8824 Stratford Lane \$949,000
Best New Home Value in Stratford
3232 Woodland Lane \$659,000
Gorgeous Designer Kitchen!



4005 Mavis Ct \$698,900
Stunning Open Floor Plan!
Spacious & open—truly spectacular property with stunning family room addition. Expansive glass walls, soaring cathedral ceilings & open floor plan bring light to every corner of the home. Other features include custom, gourmet kitchen with huge 17x6 pantry. Updated baths and oversized 2 car garage. Huge deck capitalizes on private back yard. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in heart of Mt Vernon!



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