

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 24, 2015



PHOTO BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

## Breakfast with Santa

Santa Claus came with a full team of helpers to the Breakfast with Santa fundraiser at Mount Vernon High School on Dec. 12. More photos, page 4.

## Uplifting and Empowering

Mitchem spent her first year as UCM executive director adjusting how to elevate people out of poverty.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

Nichelle Mitchem has always been interested in poverty issues. “In the high school yearbook, other people’s future interests were roller-skating and disco dancing,” she said. “Mine said ‘poverty lawyer.’”

Mitchem took over as executive director of United Community Ministries in Alexandria in December 2014. UCM, located on Fordson Road, provides food, rental assistance and other programs including early learning, workforce development and community center space to help empower and uplift Mount Vernon and Alexandria families and individuals who are struggling and or living in poverty. The organization has been around since 1969.

Each year, UCM’s services help

more than 10,000 individuals, more than 40 percent of whom are children.

Mitchem has spent more than 20 years working with non-profit organizations doing this type of service.

“I’ve been inspired to give people a voice,” Mitchem said, citing Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and John F. Kennedy as role models for eradicating poverty. “I have to be an instrument of change.”

Among other leadership positions, Mitchem has served as executive director of Women Against Abuse, Inc. in Philadelphia, director of operations for Georgia State University’s National Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Atlanta, and executive director of My Sister’s Place, Inc. in Washington D.C.

Charles O’Connor recently took  
SEE ADJUSTING, PAGE 3



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

United Community Ministries Executive Director Nichelle Mitchem (left) and recently installed Board Chair Charles O’Connor (right) are bringing transformative changes to the organization.

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# Happy Holidays!

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From our family to yours, we hope your holidays are filled with warmth and cheer.*

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# Adjusting How To Elevate People Out of Poverty

FROM PAGE 1

over from Christiane Gigi Hyland as Board Chair for UCM. The retired labor lawyer said Mitchem has a “remarkable skill set” and is helping adjust and refocus the concept of services at UCM.

“We provide food, protection and shelter,” O’Connor said, “but don’t want to stop there. We want to develop [clients’] ability to be hired, to move down the continuum. We want a productive citizen, who’s giving back to the community.”

O’Connor is also impressed with how Mitchem has re-organized work group silos to solve problems jointly with her high “level of knowledge and understanding.”

“And the beneficiaries are the clients,” O’Connor said.

Mitchem said they’re working to communicate with the local business community that a fully self-actualized immigrant population, the kind UCM is hoping to keep empowering and uplifting, “is your

## Holiday Gift Room

Laurel Cunnane of Alexandria has been volunteering for the past five years at UCM. She coordinates the 45 other volunteers who set up the Holiday Gift room that provides gifts for parents to bring to 1,000 children.

All the gifts are donated, with enough available for clients to choose up to five gifts to take home. Distribution in the Gift Room took place Friday, Saturday and Sunday the weekend before Christmas.

Seeing the parents come in and start shopping for the first time is “the most rewarding part of it,” said Cunnane. “We’re providing kids gifts they otherwise wouldn’t be able to receive.”

Rita Green of Hybla Valley in Mount Vernon has been donating toys and clothing for the Gift Room for the last nine years, but finally decided to come in and volunteer herself, working about three hours a day over the last week and a half.

“My human resources are much better than my financial resources,” Green said.

workforce of the future.”

“You have to invest in good workers,” she said. “People living in poverty know we exist. We need more corporate partners to help us empower this population, who can then contribute to the tax base.”

Mitchem referenced the Equitable Growth Profile of Fairfax County, released in the summer of 2015, that highlighted the growth in the prevalence of poverty along with a growing immigrant population. The profile also acknowledged the workforce and tax revenue potential in elevating more people from struggling lifecycles.

“If Fairfax County is successful in uplifting and empowering its growing immigrant population,” Mitchem said, “there’s \$23.6 billion if they become fully actualized.”

In addition to their adjusted focus on developing productive members of society, Mitchem has made other changes at UCM during what she called “a transformative year.”

They’ve added an emeritus board of former members of the governing body, to get them involved again with engaging in advocacy. There’s also a young profession-

## UCM Receives \$5,000 CVS Grant

UCM recently received a CVS Health Community Grant for \$5,000, announced Dec. 15. Mitchem said it’s not often thought of, but many of their clients are able to visit the doctor but then have no money to pay for having their prescription filled.

“We are grateful for this generous funding that will enable us to provide emergency medical, dental, and prescription drug assistance to about 179 additional uninsured or under-insured people

who are suffering with emergency illnesses or injuries, or chronic conditions,” UCM Director of Social Services Richard Dobber said in a statement.

“Despite the hundreds of people we can help each year, our waiting list for dental services, and half of the requests for prescription drug assistance, typically have to be turned down. Many of these chronic conditions, such as diabetes, are life-threatening if left untreated without medications.”

als board, still in its infancy, to promote more civic engagement among the millennial crowd.

Bruce Malkin with the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club, a longtime partner with UCM that focuses on helping families with children by providing food and backpacks with food supplies, is “really impressed” with Mitchem in her first year.

“Things going very well there under her

leadership,” he said.

But Mitchem is particularly proud of a new client advisory board, which met for the first time earlier this month to discuss how UCM programs are or are not meeting their needs. This board mirrors the UCM governing board, she said, and “is giving them a voice.”

For more information, visit [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org).



**Volunteer Rita Green of Hybla Valley ties up a bundle of donated clothing for the United Community Ministries Holiday Gift Room.**



**Toy collection boxes in the community came in filled with donations for the United Community Ministries Holiday Gift Room.**

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE



**United Community Ministries volunteers Mary Atta-Akosah (left) and Rick Basham of Mount Vernon (right) stock food in the pantry that serves at least 100 clients each day.**

PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

## Food Pantry

The UCM food pantry serves about 100 clients per day, according to manager Jose Flores. Their pantry is “client choice,” meaning individuals have a limit but may shop the pantry shelves themselves rather than being given a pre-selected handout.

Flores said about 30 percent of the food is donated from local grocery stores including Costco, Whole Foods, Giant and Safeway, and the rest they purchase from the Capital Area Food Bank at 19 cents per pound.

Some of the most sought after items for the pantry stock are low-sugar cereal and tuna.

“\$400 will fill a shelf with cans of tuna,” Flores said. “It’s good protein and there’s a high need.”



**Holiday Gift Room coordinator Laurel Cunnane of Alexandria prepares the toys at United Community Ministries to go out to roughly 1,000 children.**

PHOTO BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE



Volunteers Kris Whitridge (left) and Eddie Stapleton make pancakes for the breakfast. The money raised will go to help fund future activities, including Prom Night.



Ethan and his little sister, Caroline, show the results of having fun with the great variety of pancake toppings.



At least 250 guests came to enjoy pancakes and a visit with Santa Claus, during the Freshman Class Fundraiser on Dec. 12 at Mount Vernon High School.

# Breakfast with Santa



Sister and brother pair, Alyssa and Edwin, spend some time visiting with Santa Claus, taking pictures and telling him their Christmas wishes.

Three-year-old Dhani was one of the many children who filled the Mount Vernon High School Cafeteria, ready to enjoy a pancake breakfast.



Volunteers manned several tables where children could color a picture or make a holiday-themed craft.



Even Santa's reindeer were a part of the Freshman Class Fundraiser.

# Adjusting Policy on School Names

**No decisions made to affect current school names.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he Fairfax County School Board did not change any names of schools at its Dec. 17 regular business meeting.

Though numerous student and adult advocates in attendance spoke in support of changing the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church, named for a general in the Confederate Army, to Thurgood Marshall High School, that's a future conversation the members of the board intend to have with the community.

What the board did vote on, unanimously, is a revision to the school system's facilities policy on naming, section 8170.5. Previously, the policy allowed for a name change only if the use of the facility was changing, say for a former high school transitioning to a middle school. The update adds the language "a compelling need" as a condition allowing the board to act.

Vice Chairman and Mason District representative Sandy Evans introduced the motion for the policy change. "This modest revision would enable the School Board to change the name of a school if the School Board deemed there was a good reason to do so," she said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPS  
**Sandy Evans introduces the school name change policy revision at the Board's Dec. 17 meeting.**

**STUDENTS** from Stuart High School, as well as other advocates including Shirley Ginwright, president of the Fairfax County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, have spoken at School Board meetings and been petitioning in support of changing the school's name to honor Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American United States Supreme Court justice, who has ties to the area.

"We're really excited about it," Ginwright said in an interview after the vote. She's been collaborating with a student group at Stuart for about five months after they reached out to her. Together, they're promoting a national petition on Change.org for Stuart to become Marshall.

"Now we have to get it on the agenda," Ginwright said about the actual name change, "and continue

keeping it on the forefront. What really impressed me was how eloquently these students speak, how well it's done. I think it impressed the School Board as well."

Braddock District representative Megan McLaughlin cited the recent decision by the Georgetown University community to change the names of Mulledy Hall and McSherry Hall, each named for former presidents of the institution who were involved with the sale of slaves in the 1830s.

"I think that's pretty remarkable," McLaughlin said in an interview. "We owed it to our community to enable those types of conversations to occur."

Though Board members all voted in support of the policy change, several voiced concerns about the door it opens.

**CHANGING THE NAME** of Stuart to Thurgood Marshall "will enable us to achieve two goals," said at-large Board member Ted Velkoff, "repudiating the racism and segregation that was in Virginia in past, present and future, and second to honor the contributions of Thurgood Marshall as a Fairfax County resource to combat and eradicate those things."

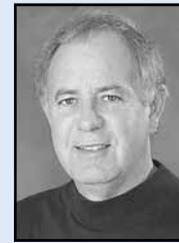
"I hope you can be wary of conflating specific potential changes with these two goals," Velkoff continued. "If it's Stuart but not [Robert E.] Lee [High School], there's going to need to be an explanation. Civil War history is complicated."

"I want us to be very careful," said Springfield District representative Elizabeth Schultz.

"Where do we stop the unraveling of the sweater? James Madison didn't release slaves on his deathbed in his will. Are we throwing out James Madison's name as well? What's the cost, what's to be gained? I'm very trepidatious of acting on something other than a policy change itself."

Velkoff and Schultz each brought up George C. Marshall High School, also in Falls Church, as a potential issue. "There are more complications than solutions with two Marshall High Schools," Schultz said.

"This is the easy part, the hard part is going to be the next conversation," concluded Chairman Pat Hynes. "It's up to the community. This policy allows us to have those very important community conversations."



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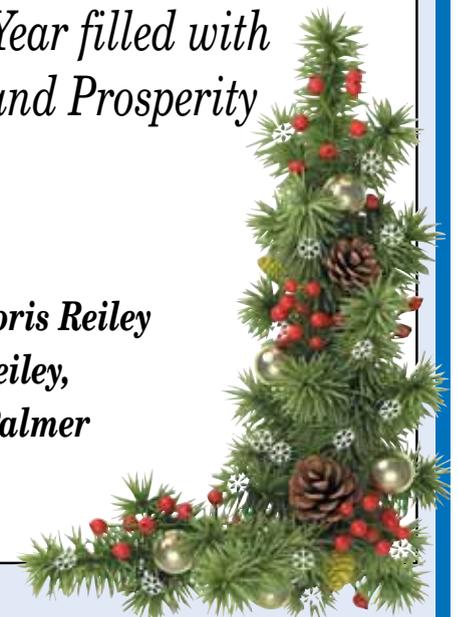


## Season's Greetings

*During the Holiday Season,  
I find myself reflecting on the  
past year and on those who have  
helped us shape our business.  
Thank you for your  
continued support.*

*Wishing you and yours  
a Happy Season and  
a New Year filled with  
Peace and Prosperity*

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Each year, UCM nourishes 5,000 needy children in the Huntington-Mount Vernon community.

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# OPINION

## Merry Christmas

The pages of our newspapers have been full of holiday spirit for more than a month. Menorah lightings, group and individual efforts to help the needy, stories of giving, secular celebrations, religious celebrations. Shopping locally. Giving locally.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, the promise of redemption.

It is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to treat others as you would have them treat you.

Matthew 7:12 "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 25:35-40 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'"

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one

of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

So let us share the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and

We wish you hope, peace, love and joy during this holiday season.

on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

**Editor's Note** about the rest of 2015: This is our last regular edition of 2015. Next week, after Christmas, we will publish our annual Children's Gazette, devoted entirely to the artwork and writing of local students. Our next regular editions will publish Jan. 6-7, 2016, with deadline for content and advertising of Dec. 30 (late ads accepted).

In the meantime you can reach the editors at [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com) and sales/marketing/advertising at [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com).

Digital replica editions of the most recent week's papers are available at [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs)

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### EDITORIAL

## A Canine Partner's Super Power

BY LAURA S. GENUARIO

The best part is when I become invisible. My partner and I swoop in on our targets — a hospital, school or library — deploying our stealth weapons. Soon, chaos and loneliness become normalcy and joy. Anxiety, fear and pain retreat at the mere appearance of my partner. Frowns turn upside down. What is our super power? My canine partner, Luca, is uniquely qualified for helping people in ways people cannot.

Luca and I are one of several dog and handler teams serving Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, which has used pet therapy for more than 20 years. Our escort there on Mondays is recreational therapist Paula Bernsten, and she appreciates the results: "I enjoy watching the interaction between dog and patient, seeing the benefits of their time together." Particularly satisfying for her is to see a recovering stroke patient. "They reach to pet the dog while working to say the dog's name."

"I think the dogs are very helpful," said hospital patient Adrienne Thompson on a recent visit. "Luca really cheered me up."

On one visit, a gregarious elderly woman recuperating from surgery fondly recalls the many dogs she has had in her long life. In another room, a young man whose partially shaved head reveals tracks of stitches, reaches wordlessly to pat Luca's soft head. I tell him Luca's breed — Labrador retriever, his weight



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

From left, Tammy Looper; Paula Bernsten, recreational therapist at INOVA Mount Vernon; Adrienne Thompson; Laura Genuario and her therapy dog, Luca.

— 92 pounds and his age — six. On another visit, this time with Phil Bush, the hospital chaplain, we enter a quiet, darkened room, and come to the bedside of an oncology patient receiving treatment. Time stands still as his

hand runs slow, careful strokes along Luca's head, neck and spine, his gaze focused only on the dog. There are times Luca's presence

SEE DOG THERAPY, PAGE 7

### Mount Vernon Gazette

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NEWS DEPARTMENT: [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

Steven Mauren Editor, 703-778-9415 [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

Tim Peterson Community Reporter 703-314-0789 [tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com)

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

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

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David Griffin Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431 [dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

Publisher Jerry Vernon [jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

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

Editor in Chief Steven Mauren  
Photography: Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel  
Art/Design: Laurence Foong, John Heinly  
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A Connection Newspaper



**Like Father,  
Like  
Daughter.**

**"It took me 'til I was in my 40s to write my first book. My daughter beat me by 20 years," said Reagan scholar and historian Craig Shirley. Shirley of the Mount Vernon**

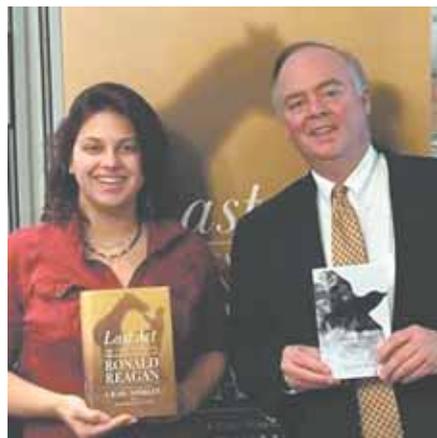


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**section of Alexandria is out with his latest book on Ronald Reagan, "Last Act," which covers Reagan's final years and growing legacy. And now his daughter Taylor just published her first dystopian novel, "Risen From the Ashes."**

**Man Shot in Brockham Drive Home**

Fairfax County Police are investigating the relationship between a 49-year-old man who was shot in a residence in the 8300 block of Brockham Drive and a possible suspect.

Police responded to a report of the shooting just before midnight on Dec. 18.

The two men were reportedly acquaintances and visiting together at the residence when they began arguing and one shot the other in the upper body.

Police said the suspect fled after the shooting and was described as a black male, about 5 feet, 8 inches tall, and bearing a handgun.

They ask anyone with information to contact Crime Solvers electronically by visiting [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus the message to CRIMES(274637) or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

— TIM PETERSON

**CRIME REPORT**

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

**BURGLARY:** 8400 block of Madge Lane, Dec. 11, 6:06 p.m. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

**DEC. 17**

**LARGENIES**

7900 block of Central Park Circle, phone from residence  
8500 block of Culver Place, wallet from business  
8600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

**BULLETIN BOARD**

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

**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.

**SUNDAY/JAN. 10**

**School Open House.** 2-4 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Childcare available. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit [www.burgundyfarm.org](http://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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

**The Power of  
Dog Therapy**

FROM PAGE 6

invokes tears, but they can be a part of the healing process.

At the schools and libraries we visit, children read individually to Luca. The effects are less immediate, but just as important as our hospital visits. Under the guise of mere fun, the seeds of learning and confidence are taking root. By the end of one school year, teachers reported their shyest students had begun to raise their hands in class. Those whose reading levels had lagged behind their peers were catching up. The teachers attributed these advancements, in part, to dog therapy. A dog will never judge or compare either one child's early reading skill or halting speech to another's more advanced level and fluidity. A dog can listen, however, and Luca listens best with his eyes closed!

In order to perform these seemingly simple tasks and to become a therapy dog with Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, Luca had to pass the AKC's Canine Good Citizen test. He is also registered with both People Animals Love (PAL), a local pet therapy organization, and Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc., a non-profit, all-volunteer organization in Morris Plains, N.J.

**Interested?**

To contact INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital's Recreational Therapy, call 703-664-7521

To find out about the AKC's test, visit [www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/canine-good-citizen/](http://www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/canine-good-citizen/)



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

**Kim Stewart, seated, is a patient at INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital, and she enjoyed a recent visit by Laura Genuario and her therapy dog, Luca.**

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Church Mass Schedule**

**Saturday:**  
5:00 pm Vigil Mass  
6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)  
**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  
**Monday-Saturday:**  
9:00 am Mass  
**En Español:** Monday, 6:30 pm;  
Thursday, 7:30 pm;

First Friday,  
7:30 pm  
**Eucharistic Adoration:**  
Wednesday: 6:00 pm;  
Thursday: 7:00 pm; First Friday:  
following 9:00 am Mass & 7:00 pm  
**Confession:**  
Wednesday, 6:00 pm;  
Saturday, 8:00 am, 4:00 pm  
**En Español:**  
Sunday, 1:10 pm;  
Saturday, 6:00 pm



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# Assisting in Vaccine Trial for Ebola in Sierra Leone

Local resident worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
THE GAZETTE

With the 2013-14 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, people all over the world were on high-alert. People in the United States who had been to West Africa were quarantined and the highly-contagious, deadly virus struck hysterical fear in Americans when the disease made it way stateside.

Alexandria native and health professional Nora Macklin has stared Ebola in the face. Macklin just returned from a seven-week-long trip to Sierra Leone, West Africa with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where she assisted with the Ebola vaccine trial.

"I was the district epidemiologist in Port Loko which is a rural area about two and a half hours outside of the capital Freetown," Macklin said. "Port Loko was where one of the last clusters of Ebola cases occurred so it was an exciting place to be helping with the vaccine trial. My job as the district epidemiologist was to help the vaccine study staff in Port Loko with the technical aspects of the study like establishing procedures to collect important data from trial participants and assuring that participants came in to receive their vaccine on time."

Launched in April 2015, the STRIVE (Sierra Leone Trial to Introduce a Vaccine against Ebola) Vaccine Trial is a clinical trial that was formed by the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, University of Sierra Leone (COMAHS), the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Despite the challenges the team faced during the health mission, including unreliable electricity, she said that being a part of STRIVE was an honor because it was the first of its kind in this part of Africa.

"The CDC conducted this trial with two Sierra Leonean partners, the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the University of Sierra Leone's College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences," she said. "Neither partner had ever conducted a clinical trial before, in fact it was the first clinical trial in Sierra Leone, so it was exciting to share my technical knowledge with these colleagues. Hopefully they will be able to put these new skills to use now and in the future."

Since the first STRIVE team members arrived in Sierra Leone in late 2014, more than 8,000 people have been vaccinated. A total of 230 CDC staff members, both in



Nora Macklin (left) stands with fellow members of the STRIVE team.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Atlanta and Sierra Leone, have been involved.

Macklin said that while conclusive results won't be available until the study ends in 2016, she is hopeful.

Macklin's supervisor in Sierra Leone, STRIVE team lead Jane Seward, is also optimistic about STRIVE and its impact on Sierra Leone. Seward is deputy director in the Division of Viral Diseases, National Center for Immunizations and Respiratory Diseases, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"STRIVE was successful," Seward said. "The CDC was able to implement a clinical trial in the midst of the largest public health emergency in Sierra Leone's history. With our Sierra Leonean partners, we were able to get STRIVE up and running within months of getting staff on the ground. It was an amazing feat in a country whose public health infrastructure was very fragile even before the Ebola epidemic. To put the achievement in context, a clinical trial in the United States can take years. Should the data from this trial and others show that the vaccine prevents Ebola, produces a good immunological response against Ebola and is safe, it could be an important tool to prevent the type of tragedy West Africa experienced in the last year and a half."

Seward also said Macklin was a critical part of the STRIVE team, and not only because of her experience and skill with clinical trials and vaccinations.

"Working on STRIVE has been a challenging assignment for everyone," Seward said. "It's been particularly challenging for those working in Sierra Leone. Working in an international emergency requires flexibility and a sense of purpose as well as a sense of humor, and Nora had all of these qualities. But she was also uniquely well-qualified to work on STRIVE. She has strong vaccine experience as well as clinical trial experience. Because of her experience working at the state/territory level, Nora was used to working with many different groups which

translated into her being able to communicate with our partners, the study participants and the community. It was a real asset for STRIVE."

While Macklin didn't encounter Ebola firsthand, as the World Health Organization declared that Sierra Leone was free of Ebola transmission earlier this year, Macklin is passionate about stopping the dangerous virus.

"We are in the beginning stages of truly understanding Ebola and taking concrete steps to fight it," Macklin said. "As a public

**"Growing up in the Northern Virginia area, I was surrounded by many civil servants working for the federal government, including my father. I always thought that working for a government agency would be a rewarding career path."**

— Nora Macklin

health professional, your desire to help during a health crisis is almost instinctive. Being a part of the Ebola response was something I wanted to do to protect the health of Americans and the people of West Africa."

**MACKLIN DISCOVERED** her interest in international health long before she graduated from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine with her Master's of Public Health degree.

"I stumbled upon my career path while backpacking in Central America after undergrad and participating in a vaccine trial as a study subject," Macklin said. "It was at that point that I became passionate about international public health issues. By being exposed to the healthcare system in a developing country, I learned how some diseases that are seen as non-serious in some places can be deadly in resource-limited settings, and I wanted to focus my ca-

reer on finding solutions to this."

Since earning her Master's of Public Health, she has conducted vaccine clinical trial work throughout Central America. She has devoted professional life to studying perplexing diseases like HIV/AIDS, HPV and, most recently, Ebola.

Having grown up in the D.C.-Metropolitan area, a hotbed of potentially life-changing legislation, Macklin said she was drawn to working for organizations like the National Institutes of Health, and currently, the CDC.

"Growing up in the Northern Virginia area, I was surrounded by many civil servants working for the federal government, including my father," she said. "I always thought that working for a government agency would be a rewarding career path. After a few years at NIH, I decided to try something new with the federal government, and moved to Puerto Rico with the CDC. I am currently working for CDC in Virginia. I was drawn to the CDC because of its mission to keep Americans safe by detecting and responding to health threats in the United States and around the world. My roles have changed over the years but I have always worked with immunizations; they are truly one of the greatest public health achievements."

Although back in America from Sierra Leone, Macklin said that disease — Ebola being just one — is never far from her mind. Her return to Virginia certainly did not mean a vacation from her work.

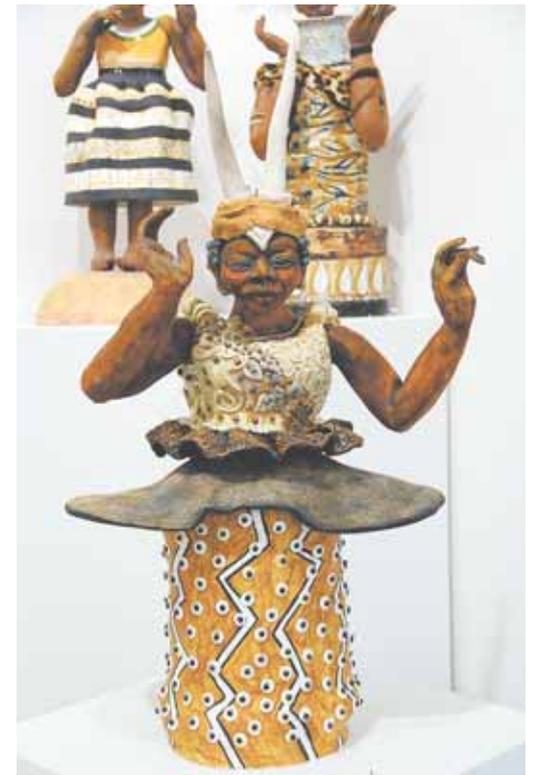
"I am currently stationed in Richmond, Va., as a CDC federal field assignee with the Virginia Department of Health's Division of Immunization," she said. "I love being back in my home state, providing assistance to a program that helps keep children and adults healthy throughout Virginia. Currently I am focusing

a lot of my efforts on helping improve HPV vaccine coverage rates among Virginia's adolescents. This relatively new vaccine gives us an opportunity to protect men and women early in their lives against cancer."

And, even when the Ebola vaccination trial ends, Macklin is aware that there is still more work to do on that front as well.

"I was lucky to be supporting the study when vaccination was ending, which meant that I got to see the totality of months of work," Macklin said. "But when vaccination ends, there is still a lot of work to be done. It will take some time before there are results from the study — the data is still being collected and analyzed. Once all that is finished CDC and the other partners will share the results. I know that for all of us who were part of STRIVE are really proud of the work and hope our study can help in making a safe and effective Ebola vaccine widely available."

# ENTERTAINMENT



## Avila's 'No Ordinary Woman' On Display at Art League

Alexandria-based artist Kathlyn Avila says her ceramic sculptures embody "familiar souls." In the "No Ordinary Woman" exhibit, patrons will find characters inspired by Avila's childhood as an African American in the '50s and '60s including a seamstress and griot. See "No Ordinary Woman" through Jan. 3 at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Thursdays, 12-6 p.m. on Sundays. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

## CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

#### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 waiting areas and examination rooms as a part of Del Ray Artisans' Gallery Without Walls program. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.inventnow.org).

#### Dinner for the Washingtons. 12

# FIRST NIGHT ALEXANDRIA

**DECEMBER 31, 2015**  
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## ENTERTAINMENT

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](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

### Second Thursday Music.

Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 pm. Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

### The Monday Morning Birdwalk

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.

### 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.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.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](http://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](http://www.532yoga.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org).

### New Year's Eve at Mount Vernon Inn.

5:30 p.m.-12 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Eat a five-course meal. Tickets are \$99 plus tax and gratuity. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.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](http://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](http://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 joined by Too Much Fun and Commander Cody. Tickets are \$29.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://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](http://www.vts.edu/evening).

### JAN. 5-FEB. 7

**"Birds of a Feather."** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery-Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. The artist focus on things that go together: ham and eggs, bride and groom, etc. Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com) for more.

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 6

**"Buying a New TV."** 2-3 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Learn what to look for in purchasing and using a new TV. Presented by Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services. Free. Call 703-768-6700, ext. 4 to register.

**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](mailto:grant@stpaulsalexandria.com) for more.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 7

**Salon: An Artful Conversation.** 6-8 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Judith HeartSong's Salon: An Artful Conversation is a monthly meeting of artists, writers, and arts professionals. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.convergence.org) for more.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 9

**"The Real Greens."** 1:30-3 p.m. at Alexandria Library Special Collections Barrett Branch, 717 Queen St. Dr. Donald DeBats presents, "The Real Greens: Emma and the Green Family of Alexandria." Find out about the real Emma and her family at the center of "Mercy Street." JDeBats is the Head of American Studies at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1703.

**American Balalaika Society Concert.** 8 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St. This full orchestra has its roots in Russian folk music with two stringed instruments, the balalaikas and domras. This concert is titled "Roots of Romanticism: Musical Masters of the Late 18th/Early 19th Centuries." Tickets \$15 in

## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

### 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

2/24/2016..... Pet Connection

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

# ENTERTAINMENT

advance and \$20 at the door. Visit [www.absorchestra.org](http://www.absorchestra.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](mailto: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](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov).

**Organ Music.** 4 p.m. at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. The public is invited to hear organist Janet Yieh Sun perform. Free. Visit [www.vts.edu](http://www.vts.edu).

**"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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov).

**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](http://www.birchmere.com).

## FRIDAY/JAN. 15

**Tea Tasting: Teas for Winter Health.** 10 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Taste a variety of the best teas and herbal infusions to boost immunity and boost moods. Learn about their medicinal properties and discover new healthful brews. Tickets are \$22. Call 703-642-5173.

**Garden Talk: Houseplants.** 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn more about the proper lighting, soil, and watering for houseplants. The class fee is \$10. Call 703-642-5173.

**"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](http://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



PHOTO BY KRISTINE WALTON

**Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes will celebrate the release of new album "SOULTIME!" on Saturday, Dec. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.**

from the audience. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

Tickets are \$60. Visit [www.shiloh-bc.org](http://www.shiloh-bc.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 16

**Floral Design: Winter Cutting Garden.** 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Master gardeners will conduct a class to help you determine your needs and rethink your garden space to better match your style. Admission is \$38 plus \$25 supply fee. Call 703-642-5173.

**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.metamorphosisaacc.com/mommy-me-holiday-workshops](http://www.metamorphosisaacc.com/mommy-me-holiday-workshops).

**Lecture: Civil War Medicine.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Dr. Guy Hasegawa, a Civil War medicine scholar, will give a talk on "Medicinal Alcohol in the Civil War." Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us).

**Book Talk: "Kidnapped by Nuns."** 2-3 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Retired White House correspondent Robert Fuss will discuss his book "Kidnapped by Nuns and Other Stories of a Life in Radio," chronicling his four decades of traveling from Hollywood to Zimbabwe with presidents. Book sales and signing to follow. Free. Call 703-768-9840 for more.

**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.

## SATURDAYSUNDAY/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](http://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](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

**"Tea Traditions Beyond Downton Abbey."** 2-3 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Laurie Bell will share how other parts of the world celebrate and enjoy tea. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1751.

**The United States Marine Band.** 2 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Free. Visit [www.marineband.mil](http://www.marineband.mil) 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

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 17



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<b>Christmas Day, December 25</b> Family Christmas Worship 10:00 a.m. Christmas Festival Worship with Holy Communion	<b>NEW SCHEDULE beginning January 3, 2016</b> 8:45 a.m. Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship

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# 'Honor, Humility, Humanity'

**Members of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, constitutional officers, sworn in.**

PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE CONNECTION

**H**undreds of friends, family, constituents and county employees came on Tuesday, Dec. 15 to see the swearing-in of the members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and constitutional officers.

Music was provided by the Chantilly High School Orchestra. Deputy Sheriff Rob Deer played the bagpipes, and the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office Singing Stars, Myrna Kinney, Sommer Grasty and Nicole Arnet, sang the National Anthem and America the Beautiful.

Sharon Bulova was sworn in for her third term as chairman of the Board of Supervisors, although she began as Braddock District supervisor in 1988 and has served on the board since then. The Board of Supervisors consists of the chairman, elected at large, and nine district members.

With two members of the board retiring, there are two new members, both previously serving as members of the school board. Daniel Storck (D-Mount Vernon) will replace longtime supervisor Gerry Hyland (D). Kathy Smith (D-Sully) will replace Michael Frey (R).

Other members sworn in include: John Cook (R-Braddock), John Foust (D-Dranesville), Penelope Gross (D-Mason), Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee), and Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence).

Also sworn in on Tuesday were the three constitutional officers, Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh, Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid and Clerk of the Fairfax Circuit Court John Frey. Three members of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District also took oaths as directors, Scott Cameron, George Lamb and Gerald O. Peters Jr.

Judge Penney S. Azcarate, who administered the oath of office to each, reminded elected officials to serve with "honor, humility and humanity."

Bulova's inaugural speech included a note of serious gratitude:

"In light of recent racial and cultural tensions rising across the country, let us be grateful we live in a county that celebrates our differences and demonstrates acceptance and compassion for others."



**The inauguration ceremony began and ended with Master Deputy Sheriff Rob Deer playing the bagpipes.**



**Judge Penney S. Azcarate administers the oath of office to Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon). Storck served as Mount Vernon member of the Fairfax County School Board since 2004 and is the owner and developer of several health care, benefits and insurance consulting firms.**



**Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid (D) takes the oath of office.**



**Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay (D-Lee) takes the oath of office from Judge Penney S. Azcarate. McKay was first elected in 2007. McKay chairs the Board's Transportation Committee, Legislative Committee and co-chairs the Board's Committee on Community Revitalization and Reinvestment.**

## 'The True Story Of Christmas'

**The St. Aidan's Day School Kindergarten class entertained students and parents on Wednesday, Dec. 16, with their own telling of "The True Story of Christmas." The class is taught by Mary Anne Hesch and Anne Weikart.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

[www.ucmagency.org/volunteer-at-ucm.html](http://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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).

**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](http://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 number of volunteer hours required. Call Mount 703-303-4060, e-mail [info@mountvernonathome.org](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org) or visit [www.mountvernonathome.org](http://www.mountvernonathome.org).

**Volunteers needed in Fairfax County** to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults), see Volunteer Solutions.



West Potomac's Brandan Lisenby scored 12 points against T.C. Williams on Dec. 18.



PHOTOS BY RICHARD MAPLE

West Potomac's Jamie Sara finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds against T.C. Williams on Dec. 18.

## Mamo's 32 Points, Williams' Layup Lift TC Over WP Titans even Conference 7 record with win over Wolverines.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

Every time the West Potomac boys' basketball team tried to take control of Friday's Conference 7 contest against T.C. Williams, Fahmmi Mamo brought the Titans back.

West Potomac guard Khalil Williams Diggins buried a left-handed 3-pointer off the glass in the closing seconds of the third quarter, giving the Wolverines a six-point lead. Mamo answered with two buckets in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter, helping tie the score at 42.

Midway through the fourth, West Potomac's Brandan Lisenby grabbed a rebound and headed up the floor, weaved through some Titans and dropped in a layup, part of a 10-3 run that gave the Wolverines a five-point lead. Mamo countered with a pair of free throws and a three-point play, tying the score at 52.

With less than 2 minutes remaining, Lisenby buried a 3-pointer from the corner, putting West Potomac up 55-52. Mamo scored on a tip-in at the other end, pulling the Titans within one.

Then, with less than a minute remaining, one of Mamo's teammates made a play.

T.C. Williams forward Teyan Williams stepped in front of a West Potomac pass in the Wolverines backcourt and dropped in a

layup, giving the Titans the lead. The Wolverines' final possession resulted in a missed 3-pointer and T.C. Williams came away with a 56-55 victory on Dec. 18 at West Potomac High School.

"I dropped in my zone and I was, like, reading his eyes," Williams said about the West Potomac ball-handler. "I just saw where he was passing it, I got in front of it and [made] the layup."

The win evened the Titans' Conference 7 record at 1-1. T.C. Williams opened conference play on Tuesday with an 83-77 loss at Lake Braddock.

Mamo finished with a career-high 32 points against West Potomac, including 14 of the Titans' 20 fourth-quarter points.

"Their guy got hot," West Potomac head coach David Houston III said about Mamo. "He made a lot of shots late. ... You've got to give him credit."

Mamo grabbed eight rebounds and knocked down four 3-pointers, the last giving TC a 47-46 lead with 4:40 left in the fourth quarter.

"I just really wanted to win," he said.

Mamo's performance came three days after he scored 28 points against Lake Braddock, which at the time was a career best for the junior.

"He wasn't a major player for us last year," TC head coach Bryan Hill said. "... We were just really focused on working on his game

in the offseason, in the spring and the summer and the fall, and it's showing."

Freshman guard Jaquan Johnson-Terry finished with nine points for T.C. Williams. Jordan Jones scored five points. Williams finished with four points and six rebounds, and DeJuan Robinson had four points and five rebounds.

The Titans played without standout guard Tavaris James, who missed a second straight game due to illness.

West Potomac suffered its fourth straight loss after a 2-0 start, and dropped to 0-2 in the conference.

"Sometimes to learn, you've got to go through hurt," Houston said. "This is one of those times."

Williams Diggins led West Potomac with 17 points. He knocked down four 3-point-

ers and grabbed five rebounds.

Jamie Sara finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Wolverines. Lisenby scored 12 points and freshman guard Daryl Mackey, Jr. had eight.

Next up for West Potomac is the Wakefield holiday tournament Dec. 28-30.

T.C. Williams will compete at a tournament at the University of North Carolina Wilmington Dec. 28-30.

"Obviously, it's a confidence booster for us," Hill said about the win over West Potomac, "but we're trying to remain humble and recognize what got us the win. What got us the win was the work ethic in practice, taking the time to engineer victories because they're just not going to happen, you have to win them. ... It's like paying a bill: you've got to do it again."

### SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

**Macy E. Cheeks** and **Melissa Lee Moorehead** have graduated from Emporia State University (Emporia, Kan.).

Stevenson University (Owings Mills, Md.) football player **Cortez Taylor** has been named to a MAC All-Conference Team.

**Colleen O'Connor** and **Nancy Campos** have been inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, Va.).

**Matthew Donald Carpenter** has graduated from Brenau University (Gainesville, Ga.) with a M.S. degree.

**Margaret Gorguissian** and **McKinzey Torrance** have enrolled at Tufts University (Medford, Mass.).

**Megan von Kolnitz** has graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.).

**Erin Hendry** has graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in communication from Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.).

**Cortez Taylor** and **Bryan Corvera-Flores**, football players at Stevenson University (Owings Mills, Md.), helped the team beat Muhlenberg College in the inaugural Centennial Conference-MAC Bowl Series.

# ENTERTAINMENT

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R&B. Tickets are \$69.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://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](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 23

**Preparing for a Ball.** 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Explore the tavern where famous balls like George Washington's Birthnight Ball were held and practice the tasks involved in preparing for a ball. Includes an 18th century dance lesson and a craft to take home. The program begins each 45 minutes. Tickets are \$6. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

**"Our American Girl"** 1-3 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Join Mount Vernon's American girl, "Nelly Custis" on a tour of George Washington's estate. Enjoy refreshments with "Lady Washington" and create colonial crafts. Tickets are \$35 for youth, \$25 for adults. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Ladies Night Out Art Workshop: Vision Board.** 7-9:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Women are invited to make vision boards for 2016. Tickets are \$45. Visit [www.metamorphosisaec.com](http://www.metamorphosisaec.com).

**Civil War Ball.** 8-11 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. The evening will include live music, dance instruction, and period desserts. Period attire, either civilian or military, is encouraged. Tickets are \$45. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

## MONDAY/JAN. 25

**Lecture: "Medical Heroism in Alexandria."** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Tom Schultz of DC Military Tours will discuss the heroism and challenges that doctors and nurses experienced in ministering to the wounded in Alexandria and the advances in women's rights and medical science as a result of their efforts. Tickets are \$10. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 26

**Homeschool Day: Wrights' Flight.** 1-2:30 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear about Orville Wright's historic flight from Fort Myer to Alexandria and test basic principles of flight. Tickets are \$8 per child, free for adults. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

**"Talking Mercy."** 7-8 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. A discussion of the show so far and a look at the "real" Alexandria. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1703.

**Music at Mount Vernon.** 7-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. "Music at Mount Vernon" is a three-part series designed to educate through music. Tickets are \$175 for all three events, \$125 for members and supporters. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 28

**Reading: "Virginia Luxuries."** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Attend a staged reading of a new play written by Pamela Leahigh detailing the lives of two Alexandria families — one modern, the other living in the Civil War era. Tickets are \$15. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

**Birthnight Ball Dance Class.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Birthnight Ball on Feb. 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Tickets are \$12 per class or \$30 for the entire series. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 29

**Civil War Wine Dinner.** 7-10 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Start your evening in the museum for the first course and conversation with Gray Ghost Vineyards. Then head down to the restaurant's main dining room to experience more wine and great food inspired by the 19th century. Tickets are \$100. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

## JAN. 29-FEB. 7

**Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week.** Neighborhoods throughout Alexandria — including Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. More than 60 Alexandria restaurants offer a \$35 three-course dinner or a \$35 dinner for two. More than two dozen restaurants are also offering lunch deals at \$10, \$15 or \$20 per person in addition to the dinner specials. Visit [www.alexandriarestaurantweek.com](http://www.alexandriarestaurantweek.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 30

**"Explore the Real Mansion House."** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Go behind the scenes and learn about the true story of the nurses, doctors, soldiers and Alexandrians who star in PBS's new series *Mercy Street*. The program will begin in one of the original lobbies of the famous hospital, normally closed to the public. Tickets are \$10 for Alexandria Historical Society members and friends of the Carlyle House, \$20 for non-members. Visit [www.alexandriahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.alexandriahistoricalsociety.org) for more.

**Artist Workshop: "No Holds Barred."** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn to make box sculptures. Supplies will be provided. Free. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org) for more.

**"Northern Virginia Women in the Civil War."** 2-3 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Prof. Alice Reagan discusses the changes in lifestyle for women during and after the civil war. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 31

**Wonders of Science.** 1-4 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Visit the Apothecary and discover curious objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood, and find out how they were used — and if they worked. During the hour-long tours, Project Enlightenment, McLean High School's historical-reenactment society, will conduct 18th century scientific demonstrations. Tickets are \$6. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 4

**Salon: An Artful Conversation.** 6-8 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Judith HeartSong's Salon: An Artful Conversation is a monthly meeting of artists, writers, and arts professionals. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Birthnight Ball Dance Class.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Birthnight Ball on Feb. 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Tickets are \$12 per class or \$30 for the entire series. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

## FEB. 5-28

**"All aBoard."** 7-9 p.m. at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Eight board members, Ron Blank, Michele Reday Cook, Kim S. Joy, Stephen Lally, Marlin Lord, Elizabeth Guerry Mead, Kathy Turner and Joan Woodill, display their work. Free. Visit [www.delrayartisans.org/show](http://www.delrayartisans.org/show).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 6

**"The Green Family of Cabinetmakers."** 1:30-3 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Learn how the Greens made their money and became a prominent Alexandria family. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1703.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 11

**Birthnight Ball Dance Class.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Birthnight Ball on Feb. 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Tickets are \$12 per class or \$30 for the entire series. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 12

**Mount Vernon Chocolate Dinner.** 6:30-10 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Find a four-course meal in celebration of Valentine's Day featuring peppercorn crusted steak and triple chocolate cheesecake. Tickets are \$125 each. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

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**OBITUARY**



**Nell Elizabeth Hammond** of Fries, Virginia went home to be with her Lord on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at the age of 87. Nell was born on September 25, 1928 at home in Fries to Ernest and Nancy Shupe.

She attended Fries High School, Class of 1946. She then attended National Business College in Roanoke. While there she met and married Joseph M. Hammond of Troutville, VA. Eventually they moved to the Northern Virginia area where they lived for about 40 years. While there they raised a family, two daughters: Sheila and Joan. Nell was a homemaker, worked for Fairfax County School Food Services and Montgomery Wards. In 1987, Nell and Joe moved back to Fries. "Mama always said Fries was heaven and she would not want to live anywhere else."

Nell was crafty, enjoyed working outside, motivated working with others. She loved and supported her family. Her faith in the Lord was instilled in her at an early age by her parents and it stayed with her all her life. The ole hymns brought her pleasure and comfort. The Lord's foundation was her rock and now she is in His trusting hands.

Nell is survived by her brother Curtis Shupe of Fries, VA. Two daughters Sheila Jones and husband Dan of Springfield, VA and Joan Hammond of Fries, VA. Also surviving are grandchildren Angela and Joseph Campanella of Fries, VA; and Jeremiah and Nathanael Jones of Springfield, VA; great grandchildren: Nicole Campanella and Matthew Bourne of Fries, VA. Also many more family and friends.

The funeral service will be held Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 3:00 in the Liberty Hill United Methodist Church, Fries, VA with Rev. Donald White officiating. Burial will follow in the Liberty Hill Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1:00 PM until service time at the church.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to "Stand Up Dub" c/o Hillcrest Baptist Church, 1218 S. Main Street, Galax, VA 24333. This is a fund for E. W. Shupe to buy a track wheelchair which will allow him to stand.

A guestbook is available online at [www.vaughanguynn.com](http://www.vaughanguynn.com)

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

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler 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.



Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: Request for Proposals No. 00000576, Cooperative Procurement, Capital Bikeshare Operating and Maintenance Services

Closing Date and Time: February 4, 2016, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

The City will hold a Non-Mandatory pre-proposal conference: January 7, 2016, 10:00 AM prevailing local time, 100 N. Pitt Street, Suite 301, Purchasing Conference Room, Alexandria, VA 22314

For general inquiries contact Shawn K. Brooks, Contract Specialist III at 703.746.4289.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. **THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.**

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**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-07-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Architectural and Engineering Design Services for Parker-Gray Stadium Improvements.

Sealed Proposals with the notation "Parker Gary Stadium Design Improvements", **RFP# 15-07-05**, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, **January 21, 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 703-619-8343, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at [www.acps.k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us), Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services - Current Bids and Request for Proposals.

All questions should be submitted before 4:30 p.m., January 14, 2016. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.

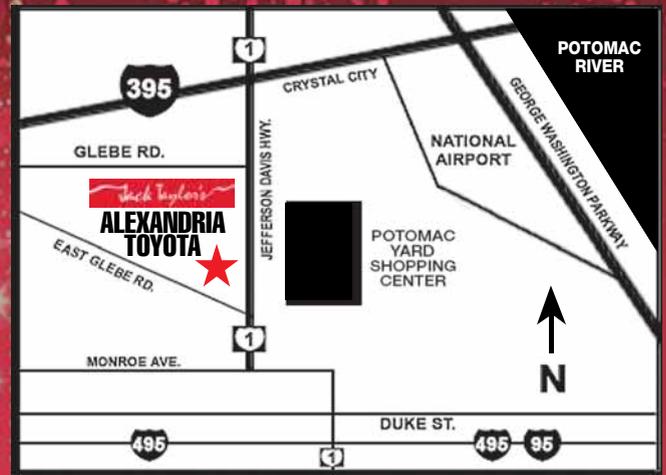
There is a non-mandatory pre-proposal conference for this RFP on January 7, 2016, at 10:00 AM, at the Alexandria City Public Schools Central Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place, in the sixth (6th) floor conference room 620, in Alexandria, VA 22314. All Offerors interested in providing the services in the RFP are encouraged to attend. 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.

Sharon T. Lewis M.P.S., CPM, CPPB, VCO  
Director of Procurement & General Services

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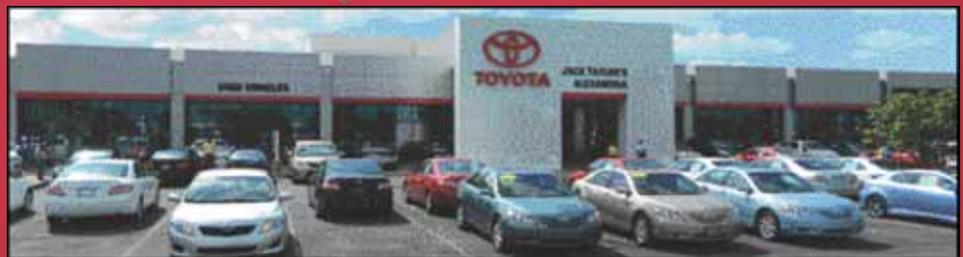
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