

## Looking for Gift Ideas?

The 51st Annual Holiday Shop at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church will be held this Saturday, Nov. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1909 Windmill Lane.



Mount Vernon Unitarian Church Minister Kate Walker and her husband Mark Gorman serve up bowls of homemade soup in the meeting house during the holiday fair last year.



Pam Koger-Jesup, owner and craft artist of Pidge Original finishes work on a silk and wool scarf at the fair last year.



Erin Dawson brought her poodle Hobie to last year's fair.

Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide 2012

Photos by  
Louise Krafft /  
Gazette Packet

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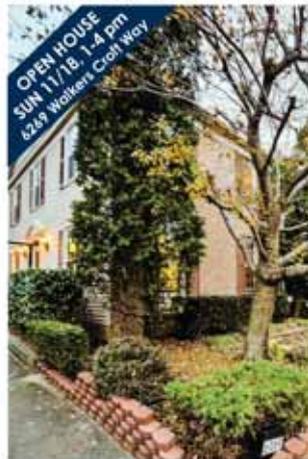
### Just Re-Listed at a New Price!

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# Holiday Gift Guide

Mount Vernon Gazette Editor Steven Mauren  
703-778-9415 or gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

## Finding Right Gifts Just Around the Corner

### Some treasures in Belle View Shopping Center.

By Yuhuan Xu  
The Gazette

**T**hanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner. Avoid the crowded malls. Find the perfect gift at local stores in Belle View Shopping Center that offer one-of-a-kind pieces. Shoppers can swing by on their way from work or spend an afternoon enjoying a talk with the owner.

Red and green, silver and gold, the Virginia Florist looks festive with all its holiday items.

"We have wonderful gifts for all ages," said Kevin Green, owner of the store. The Virginia Florist has been serving the Alexandria/Mount Vernon area since 1957, featuring historical items, fine arts, ornaments, unique jewelry, candles, china, baby's clothes and beautiful flowers.

Green is proud of original historical items in his store, from campaign buttons back to 1896, guidebook to Mount Vernon, to blueprints.

Anne Allen, buyer for the store, goes to New York and Atlanta twice a year to find unique art works. "The store is an eclectic mix of gifts and flowers," Allen said. She recommends a variety of gift choices, ranging from several dollars to a couple hundred.

- ❖ Glasses with different geographic locations,
- ❖ Original campaign buttons,
- ❖ French perfume line,



**The Virginia Florist offers a multitude of gift possibilities.**

- ❖ Decorative plates collection,
- ❖ Mabel Chong's jewelry collection,
- ❖ Pillows handmade in India,
- ❖ Handmade birds collection,
- ❖ Fine jewelry collection.

The Virginia Florist has two locations, one is at 1632 Belle View Blvd., another is at 7908 Fort Hunt Road. The store opens from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Visit 703-765-3355 or 703-765-0701, or visit <http://www.thevirginiaflorist.com/>

**AT EAGLE & Empire Game & Hobby Store**, the whole family can find a game to play together in a chilly night. The store features historical games, miniature games, comic books, role-play games, model trains, card



**Mabel Chong's jewelry collection at the Virginia Florist.**

games, jigsaw puzzles and hobby supplies for both children and adults. This year is its 25th anniversary.

"So far the store has been very well received," said owner Doug Ray. "We get a lot of families and a lot of kids. I'm extremely pleased over the fact that my business is still here for 25 years. I try really hard to make sure I have the newest, the most popular games for them."

"This time of the year, what's really popular is Thomas the Tank Engine," Ray said. "Kids love it. It's complete set, ready to go. You can have it circle around either underneath or over the Christmas tree."

Two other games will also make great holiday gifts. One is Flames of Wars, a World War II game, Ray suggested. It allows starters to get into the game, and it comes with a wide selection of plastic miniatures, and rulebooks, train and dice. "You pick up one box, it's enough for two people to play. If they really like it, there are other products to add into it like guns, artillery."

The other popular game is War Hammer 40,000, a science-fiction game based in the far future.



Photos by Yuhuan Xu/The Gazette

**Eagle & Empire Game & Hobby Store owner Doug Ray recommends War Hammer 40,000 starter game.**



**Munchkin, a card game where friends compete to kill monsters and grab magic items at Eagle & Empire Game & Hobby Store.**

In-person orders are accepted. Ray usually can have it for the customer within a week.

Eagle & Empire Game & Hobby Store is located at 1520 Belle View Blvd. and opens from 2 to 7 p.m. on Monday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Closed on Tuesday. Visit <http://eagle-and-empire.com/> or call 703-768-9777.

**RICHARD CARROLL** sells ties, lamps, chess sets, clothes, toys, pens, canes and a 2-carat diamond. "Starting next month, we're selling Lexus automobiles," laughs Richard Carroll, owner of the store. He opened the store in Crystal City 35 years ago then moved to Belle View Shopping Center two years ago. "I don't think anyone is as diverse as we are. And also we're very personal, we greet everybody with much enthusiasm," Carroll said. "And we offer complimentary wine and coffee to customers."

Carroll suggests a list of gift choices, in See Shopping Local, Page 20



**Richard Carroll recommends one of the jackets in his shop.**



**Politically neutral ties of Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower at Richard Carroll.**



**A variety of distinctive clocks at Richard Carroll.**

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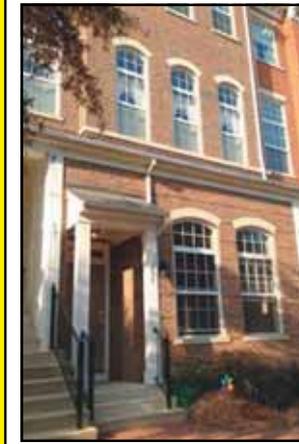
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**Alexandria South \$480,000**  
5215 Cedar Rd. Wonderful one-level-living all-brick exterior Rambler on a large corner lot. 3 bedrooms 2.5 bathrooms, features include beautiful hardwood floors, updated kitchen, freshly painted, new windows, furnace, and many more. Driveway to attached double garage, back deck, shed, minutes to Ft. Belvoir, shops and restaurants, near major highways.  
*Jacqueline Smith 703-864-4084*



**NEW LISTING**

**Alexandria \$349,000**  
4907 Upland Dr. Charming and surprisingly spacious 4 bedroom, 2 bath rambler on approx. 1/2 acre! Large kitchen with pass-thru to a sun drenched family room, wood floors throughout & new CAC. Awesome fenced yard with mature trees & manicured lawn. Convenient to I-495, shops & restaurants in Kingstowne & Rose Hill.  
*Christine Garner 703-587-4855*



**Alexandria/  
Cameron Station  
\$427,000**  
459 Cameron Station Blvd. This one has it all! Amazing 2-level town house-style condo with loads of recent updates! Open floor plan with soaring ceilings & gas FP. New hardwood floors, carpeting, granite, designer paint and more! Garage + assigned space. Shuttle to Metro, pool, fitness center & more!  
*Erika Carroll  
703-568-7376*



**Alexandria \$379,500**  
4105 Ronson Dr. Beautifully updated home with new windows and doors, granite/stainless/maple kitchen and new HVAC. Handsome new bath, hardwood floors, beautiful window treatments, huge, nearly finished basement with five rooms. Great shed for bicycles and lawn equipment. Deck for outdoor living. Short ride to Metro.  
*Sue Feintheil 703-819-1964*



**Beaverdam, VA \$135,000**  
19174 Country Rd. Just an hour away...and a great price! Beautiful 3.49 acre lot! Enjoy evenings in the country sitting by your own little pond. Main section of the home has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths with an enclosed breezeway, which would make a wonderful sunroom, connecting to the main home's master bedroom. Needs a little TLC. There are many possibilities for this home and wonderful country property.  
*Kerrie Price 703-901-2778*



**Alexandria \$299,900**  
8409 Mount Vernon Hwy. Fabulous opportunity for a single family home on 1/2 acre in the heart of Mt. Vernon! Large, flat lot great for expansion; circular driveway and 2-car garage. Hdwd flrs on 2 lvls (incl KIT), all freshly painted. It's ready to move into (very liveable), or make improvements as you go along, or it could be fully renovated. Minutes to Rt. 1, G.W. Pkwy, Metro, Old Town, I-495, Ft Belvoir...  
*Leslie Rodriguez 703-400-3010  
Cindy Baggett 703-593-1418*



**Alexandria \$799,000**  
311 Second St. Rarely Available, Beautiful Town Home only 1 block from the Potomac River in Hearthstone Mews! 2-Car garage, Plantation shutters, Hdwd floors, Deck off of kitchen and a lovely view from the loft. Must See.  
*Beverly Tatum  
703-585-9673*



**Arlington \$250,000**  
1300 Army Navy Dr. # 203 Check off your Must Haves List: Updated kitchen/bath, 2 replaced balcony glass doors, oversized closets. A 24/7 secure concierge building that is pet-friendly & all utilities included in condo fee. Convenience store, ATM, cleaners & garage parking. Metro bus stop to whisk you to the Metro. Walk to dining & shopping @ Pentagon Row  
*Greg and Joni Koons  
703-209-7678*



**Beverly Hills \$974,900**  
706 Grand View Dr. Beautifully expanded 4 bedroom, 4 bath home with fabulous 2-story addition. Gourmet kitchen with breakfast room, spacious family room with vaulted ceilings, abundant windows and french doors to a lovely yard with wrap around deck. Four upper level bedrooms, including a large Owner's suite. Lower level recreation room, ample closet & storage space throughout, 2 fireplaces, custom built-ins and off-street parking. 1 block from Beverly Park (aka "The Pit").  
*Christine Garner 703-587-4855*



**Alexandria/Old Town \$224,500**  
1634 Abingdon Dr. #302 One light to D.C., North Alexandria complex off the parkway, lots of grounds. Convenient location near the river, Old Town restaurants, bike path, close to Metro, open floor plan, fresh paint, new carpeting, new baseboards, new washer and dryer in unit, great sunlight. MUST SEE.  
*Fred Smith 571-215-3733*



**Beverly Hills \$985,000**  
903 Beverley Dr. Spectacular 4/5 bedroom, 2.5 bath Arts & Crafts home with over 3,100 sq ft of living space on a large level lot. Renovated & expanded with desirable open floor plan, quality finishes and custom appointments throughout!  
*Christine Garner 703-587-4855*



**Old Town \$2,700**  
420 N. Fayette St. Beautiful 1940s Row House in historic Old Town, only 3 blocks from Braddock Metro. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, 3 Lvls (2 FINISHED). Plenty of storage on lower level. Kitchen has been totally remodeled with beautiful cabinets and granite counters. Off-street parking and minutes to everything Old Town has to offer. Call for a private showing.  
*Kerrie Price  
703-901-2778*

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Photos by Louise Krafft/The Gazette

**WWII veteran Viola Rice answers questions about her time in the Navy Waves during her visit to one of the fifth grade classrooms.**

## Take a Veteran to School Day

**W**orld War II veteran Viola R. Rice stood in front of the fifth grade class and spoke about her time in the Navy Waves during WWII. At the end of her junior year in college, Rice took a course in Morse code and upon completion was encouraged to sign-up and teach the course for the Navy. Rice was joined by a few dozen veterans at the annual Take a Veteran to School Day at Fort Belvoir Elementary School.

This year's event was co-hosted by The History Channel, Cox Communications and the Department of Veterans Affairs. At the conclusion of the classroom visits, a luncheon reception was held in the school library after which members of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, Fairfax County School Board representative Dan Storck, and members of the Fort Belvoir community signed the Army Community Covenant.



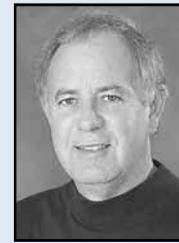
**Rear Admiral Richard Buchanan, US Navy (ret.) autographs the t-shirt of SCA representative Madison Kugler.**



**SCA chairperson Kayla Bowers, president Allison Stromberg and representative Madison Kugler welcome all to the annual Take a Veteran to School Day activities.**



**The younger students sing a song for the visiting veterans.**



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**Alex./Yacht Haven \$914,000**  
**4721 Tarpon Lane**

**WATERFRONT!** Live the life you've imagined: Come home to this spectacular Colonial located on a waterfront lot (.61 acre) w/full working dock & quick navigable access to the Potomac River. Less than 100 yds to prestigious Mt. Vernon Yacht Club. Stunning rms & open floor plan on main lvl provide for fabulous entertaining. 5 BRs, 3 Full BAs + 2 half baths. 3,462 sq.ft. of above ground living & finished basement. Gorgeous Great Rm addition w/expansive windows, vaulted ceilings. Beautiful remodeled kit w/lighted cabinetry, granite counters, & center island. Kit, Great Rm & Den off of kit all offer deck access via French doors. 2 FPLs. Sunken living rm. French doors off MBR lead to beautiful "Lounge Rm" w/two lg skylights, & a wall of windows facing the waterfront side of the property. This home is a 10!



**Alex./Hollin Hall \$489,000**  
**7926 New Market Road**

Absolutely lovely home w/over \$130k in recent improvements in great location! Stunning front porch and Family Room addition in 2009 by custom builder. Slate floor on front porch and back patio. Replacement windows. New 2012 & '09: large shed, cedar fence, driveway, roof, dishwasher, hot water, stove, humidifier. Beautiful backyard. It's a gem! Waynewood Elementary, close to GW Parkway, Potomac River and minutes to Old Town.



**Alex./Yacht Haven \$589,900**  
**4612 Tarpon Lane**

Lovely, updated 4BR, 4BA Split in sought-after Waterfront Community of Yacht Haven. Stunning sun rm addition w/vaulted ceilings, sky lites, hdwd flrs and wall of windows overlooking a manicured backyard. Newer HVAC, updated baths, and replacement windows. Just down the street from prestigious Mt. Vernon Yacht Club w/all its amenities. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 18 mins to Ntl Airport. This is prime property at a GREAT PRICE!



**Alex./Belle View \$259,900**  
**6612 Boulevard VW #A2**

Newly remodeled PORCH unit, shows beautifully. Lovely kitchen: granite counters, ceramic tile floor. Gorgeous bathroom with beautiful tile, everything brand new. Replacement windows. New flooring throughout, freshly painted. New screen door for porch. Convenient & ample parking next to bldg. FANTASTIC location: Steps to G.W. Pkwy, Potomac River, Bike Trail, 5 mins to Old Town. Bus to Metro.



**Alex./Riverside Est. \$489,900**  
**3404 Ramsgate Terrace**

**TURN KEY**—Beautifully updated 4 BR, 3.5 BA Colonial w/dbl carport on a lovely, landscaped lot w/fenced backyard. Updates since 2004 to include-kitchen, all 3 baths, HVAC, hot water, paint, hardwood floors refinished, deck, central vac and security system. Finished basement w/exterior exit. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 25 mins to National Airport. This is a Keeper! Alex/Mt. Vernon.



**Alex./Mt. Vernon Grove \$499,900**  
**4112 Scotland Road**

Lovely 4 BR, 3 BA Split in the heart of Mt. Vernon on a spacious .33 acre lot. Beautiful hdwd flrs thru out the main lvl, freshly painted interior. Bright & light-filled rooms, large 2-car garage & beautifully landscaped yard w/in-ground sprinkler system. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 17 to Old Town, 28 mins to National Airport & 35 mins to Pentagon/D.C. Priced for a quick sale.



**Alex./Mt. Vernon Woods \$299,900**  
**7901 Martha Washington Street**

Lovely 3BR/2BA Rambler with Family Room addition and a large screened (20x19) porch. Beautiful corner lot with fish pond off the porch. Large shed/workshop out back. Hardwood floors add to the charm. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 25 to National Airport and 30/35 mins to Pentagon/D.C.

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Photo by Michael Lee Pope/The Gazette

Progress has been as slow as the traffic-clogged roads south of the Beltway.



Arlington County

Inside the Beltway, leaders are arguing about bus-rapid transit versus streetcars.

# The Two Faces of Route 1 A different approach to transit on opposite sides of the Beltway.

By Michael Lee Pope  
The Gazette

**I**nside the Beltway, Richmond Highway is a bustling transit corridor. It will soon have the region's first dedicated lanes in Alexandria. A bus-rapid transit system with real-time information about arrivals is about to open. Arlington County is planning to upgrade the buses to streetcars in 2018.

Outside the Beltway is another story. Leaders in Fairfax County say widening the road from Woodlawn to the Beltway is at least 15 years away. Elected officials have talked about conducting a transit study for years, and now they're talking about a more comprehensive alternatives analysis to consider everything from bus-rapid transit to extending the Metro line. But the study hasn't started yet because county officials are still trying to figure out who will pay for the \$3 million study.

**"I'm 41 years old, and I don't want to be watching all this happen when I turn 80. It's unacceptable."**

**— Del. Scott Surovell (D-44)**

focusing on the Richmond Highway corridor.

"Given the size of Fairfax County, it's much more difficult to bring attention to bear on a specific area," said Del. Bob Brink (D-48). "Because it's so large, you have so many competing corridor interests."

For decades, members of the legislative delegation have tried to fund a transit study. Those efforts floundered until recently, when legislators were able to earmark a \$1 million appropriation for a transit study. Leaders in Fairfax County decided they wanted a more comprehensive alternatives analysis that would cost about \$3 million. They applied for federal grants, and are still

waiting to hear whether or not federal money will pay for the alternatives analysis.

"It's a crime the state's not paying for it," said Jeff McKay, Lee District supervisor. "It's a darn good thing the county was willing to pay for the grant, and it's a darn good thing we are willing to pay for it if we can't get federal assistance to do it because it's something the state should have done 20 years ago."

tance to do it because it's something the state should have done 20 years ago."

**THE TWO FACES** of Richmond Highway pose a stark contrast for motorists who drive from Rosslyn to Fort Belvoir. The north stretch is an urban corridor that will soon have a streetcar grid connecting Metro stations. The southern stretch is a traffic-clogged suburban highway that hasn't changed much since the 1960s. While action is already taking place in the north, leaders are still arguing about who's paying for an alternatives analysis in the south.

"I'm 41 years old, and I don't want to be watching all this happen when I turn 80," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "It's unacceptable."

On the campaign trail, the politics of transit have become a talking point — but the argument hasn't always worked. For example, Republican challenger Jeff Frederick tried to attack incumbent Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) for the lack of progress on Richmond Highway. But a few days before the election last year, the Department of Defense announced a \$180 million appropriation will widen Route 1 from Telegraph Road at the southern end to Mount Vernon.

"This is a huge jumpstart to the ongoing revitalization of the Route 1 corridor," said Puller at the time. "Because we showed that we are serious about working with county, state and federal governments on comprehensive transportation solutions, our grant was able to make it through."

More recently, the issue of streetcars took center stage during the campaign for Arlington County Board. Incumbent Democrat Libby Garvey was facing challenges from the Republican and Green Party candidates that the streetcar system was too expensive. Weeks before the election, she announced that she would oppose efforts to upgrade the transit system to streetcars.

"These things take a lot of preparation time, which of course is part of why they are vulnerable to political attack because they sit out there for a long time," said County Board member Chris Zimmerman, one of the leading advocates for streetcars. "People who like it say, 'When is this ever coming' while people who were against it in the first place will continue to attack it."

In Alexandria, Councilwoman Alicia Hughes led the criticism of upgrading Alexandria's transit system to streetcars. She lost, and will be replaced on the council by

Tim Lovain — one of the leading advocates of streetcars. In the race for mayor, incumbent Bill Euille beat back independent candidate Andrew Macdonald, who waged a campaign that was highly critical of the city's planning efforts.

"Andrew Macdonald ran on a platform of returning to the late 1700s," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government Leadership. "He's from the Georgetown and Old Town school of resisting Metro, and that side lost."

**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**, one area of widespread disagreement is whether or not Richmond Highway needs rail. Surovell has argued that county leaders should start planning for extending the Yellow Line past the Huntington Metro station down Richmond Highway toward Fort Belvoir. He acknowledges that the density does not currently exist to make that happen, but he argues that with planning and determination the circumstances could exist to fund a Metro extension that provide the corridor with

"It could be a game-changer for Route 1," said Surovell. "When I survey constituents, a majority of them always say they would prefer to see an underground Metro as opposed to light rail."

Others disagree. McKay says he doubts the neighborhoods up and down the corridor would ever agree to the kind of increases to density that would be required for Metro.

"I just don't see us getting to the point where there's an appetite for the density you would need," said McKay. "And I certainly don't think there's an appetite for the type of tax increases that would be necessary to finance it."

Meanwhile, a separate debate is playing

See Route 1, Page 8

# News

## Parents: Board Lacks Communication

### Storck hosts town hall meeting on educational issues.

By Gerald A. Fill  
The Gazette

**A**t a town hall-style education meeting at Whitman Middle School on Nov. 7, parents and advocates expressed their disappointment with the new online math and social studies textbook program.

Superintendent of Schools Jack Dale, responding to community complaints, admitted that the Fairfax County Public Schools had probably moved too fast and underestimated the continuing need for traditional books and it needs to rethink the process so that all groups of students would have equal access and capability to take advantage of the move to online math and social studies textbooks.

The overarching concern by the community was its dismay at the lack of communication and involvement by parents and teachers with the School Board regarding instructional and other policy changes.

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations Education Committee chair Judy Harbeck said the concerns voiced by the attendees about "e-questions" were of particular importance. She and the MVCCA Education Committee have long been concerned about the "digital divide" and its effect on access to learning. She predicted that the equity, access, and



Photo by Gerald A. Fill/The Gazette

**From left: Supervisor Gerald Hyland, Mount Vernon School Board member Daniel Storck and At Large School Board member Ted Velkoff.**

policy concerns voiced by parents about the newly established online math and social studies textbooks would not lend itself to quick fixes as they will affect "instructional efficacy, budget issues, and community access to information and services" over the long run.

The panel included Dale, School Board member Daniel Storck, Supervisor Gerald Hyland, At-Large School Board member Ted Velkoff, and Deborah Tyler, Cluster IV assistant superintendent.

**MORE THAN A YEAR AGO** West Potomac parents and then other parents elsewhere in the county

See Parents Question, Page 8

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## News



Photo by Gerald A. Fill/The Gazette

**Deborah Tyler, assistant superintendent and Jack Dale, superintendent of schools.**

## Questioning Delay for Auditor

From Page 7

complained about the lack of communication by the FCPS with parents and teachers when changes in the Honors Curricula were being made, and the impact on students. It became a 2011 election issue. Now, a year later, lack of effective communication outreach has once again become a Mount Vernon area community concern.

Storck's second annual town hall education meeting pointed toward the need for a more careful outreach approach on a number of pending issues: Superintendent selection process, boundary changes, advanced academic offerings and discipline policy.

Several parents and advocates stated that such a fundamental change in instructional access, and the impact of what one West Potomac parent and advocate Kate Vandyke described as a "sudden switch to online textbooks in math and social studies" was ill advised. "Insufficient attention was given to the impact of the program on a significant number of students who may lack home access to Internet and computers," said Vandyke. "The precipitous purchase preceded public engagement, research on efficacy, no consultation with teachers or principals, no prior training on use, and no pilot study at a single school before going county-wide."

Vandyke said the online textbook program was a \$7 million "miscalculation" that didn't include School Board involvement or approval.

State Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) highlighted several issues: the shortfall in fund-

ing for supplies, boundary changes and teacher salaries. "Having lived through the birth of West Potomac High School [boundary changes many years ago that resulted in the closing of Fort Hunt High School and combined that high school boundary with Groveton High School], I hope the process is done carefully with maximum community input and transparency. Pending boundary studies will affect Mount Vernon, Hayfield, and West Potomac High Schools, and there is a lot of anxiety about this in my district.

"An issue that I have received constituent feedback on but that I was surprised did not come up in the town hall meeting was student discipline policy. The School Board has delayed a decision on whether or not to institute parental notification requirements and the degree of transparency in the student discipline process. The superintendent and participating School Board members did not comment on this subject and I was disappointed no one in the audience brought it up. Among my fellow state legislators there has been a lot of discussion about this issue.

"There was a lot of questions raised about the gifted and talented and advanced placement and International Baccalaureate program, and effective communication between parents and the FCPS staff will be important as they move forward on changes in this area.

"I was disappointed that the town hall outreach did not result in any attendance by Hispanics, and African-American fami  
See Increased, Page 18

## The Two Faces of Route 1

From Page 6

out in Alexandria — whether or not to upgrade the city's transit corridor to a streetcar system. The debate is sparked by Arlington's aggressive push for streetcars, which is expected in 2018. For now, Arlington and Alexandria have agreed to go in separate directions.

City leaders say they are more concerned with financing the new Metro station at Potomac Yard, including difficult decisions in the near future about the location of the

facility and its design. So the cost of upgrading from a bus-rapid transit system to streetcars in Alexandria is one that will have to wait — at least for now.

"It's going to depend on the numbers," said Wilson. "Do we feel like we're going to get that much more ridership to make the additional investment worth it? If those numbers make sense, then I'll be a strong supporter.

If they don't then I think we'll stick with BRT."

# Development Grows Around Huntington Metro Station

## Market price rentals in demand.

By Nicholas Horrock  
The Gazette

**I**nsight Property Group will begin construction next month on 240 luxury style apartments that is part of the exploding development near the Huntington Metro Station south of Alexandria.

Insight Development Partner Trent Smith said the rental apartments at Kings Highway and Route 1 will range in size from small one-bedroom units to two bedroom two bath apartments with dens. The rents will range between \$1,500 a month to \$2,800 a month. The \$52 million project is four blocks south of the Huntington Metro station. Insight is also building projects in Washington and Silver Spring, Md.

David Versel, the executive director of the South Fairfax Development Corporation, said the Insight project is part of a recognition that market price apartments are in sore demand in the area south of Alexandria. The Beacon at Groveton, three miles south of Huntington, opened earlier this year and rents apartments in the same price range.

Until recent years, the nine miles along Route 1 from Alexandria to Ft. Belvoir was



Photo by Louise Kraft/The Gazette

**Huntington Metro between Huntington Avenue and South Kings Highway.**

a hodge-podge of strip malls, aging office buildings and low rent apartments. But the Insight project is part of the quickening pace of redevelopment of the area, particularly around the Huntington Metro Station. Huntington Metro is now a hub of transportation routes with the entrance to new hot lanes and Telegraph Road interchange near the station.

In its "Status of Projects" report the South

Fairfax Development Corporation ticked off these developments:

- ❖ The Fairfax Board of Supervisors will review for final approval on Nov. 20 a plan by MRP Realty to tear down a 40-year-old office building located immediately adjacent to the Huntington Metro and replace it with a 390-unit, 4-6 story multi-family residential development, 15-story office/retail building and a 200 room hotel. It got

the approval of the Planning Commission in September and is seeking Supervisors sign off in November.

- ❖ Combined Properties, the owner of Penn Daw Plaza, is expected to seek rezoning in 2013 for building 490 apartments and ground level retail space in the old Penn Daw shopping center site that is next to Insight's project on Kings Highway.

- ❖ A&R Development is seeking regulatory approval for a 173-unit mixed use redevelopment project at the corner of Huntington Avenue and Biscayne Drive adjacent to the metro station.

- ❖ The Carlyle Group is proposing an addition of an apartment building with 145 units as part of its Cityside Hunting Metro complex at Route 1 and Huntington Avenue. It will replace an open parking area with a parking garage for the current building occupants and residents of the new addition.

Perhaps the most ambitious plan under study is an idea by the Huntington Club condominiums Association to build a mixed use development with 1,200 to 1,800 units, 600,000 to 1 million feet of office space and 127,000 square feet of office space on property it owns at Huntington Avenue and North Kings Highway. The project would require a change in occupancy densities and a hearing before the Planning Commission for Jan. 24, 2013 and a Board of Supervisors hearing on Feb. 26, 2013.

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# Opinion

## Shop Locally ...

Small business Saturday isn't enough; don't wait until then, and don't stop after that.

An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year that is Nov. 24. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is a day of national zeal for shopping. Presumably the next day shoppers can focus on local shopping.

It sounds like an obligation, and it is. But there is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to

thrive. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Supporting small businesses, locally owned businesses, has to be more than a one-day affair.

The economy continues to improve slowly without inspiring. But still, local families will shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of places.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability

and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping online. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the local businesses and holiday spirit there.

— Mary Kimm,  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

*Poverty and homelessness are sometimes hard to see in Northern Virginia, but there is no shortage of families in need locally, especially at the holidays. Here are some of the local organizations ready to help, and in need of your help. Financial contributions are always preferred.*

## ... Give Locally

### Where To Give Locally

In no particular order:

**United Community Ministries**, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306 <http://www.ucmagency.org/>

**Our Daily Bread** — has been serving needy families in Fairfax County for 25 years. The Holiday Program helps those in need with food for the holidays and gifts for their children, making last year's holiday season brighter for approximately 3,000 families. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to [www.odbfairfax.com/holiday](http://www.odbfairfax.com/holiday)

**Food for Others** distributed more than 2.4 million pounds of free food to families in need in Northern Virginia in the year ending June 30, 2012. The non-profit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. [www.foodforothers.com](http://www.foodforothers.com)

**Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO)**, 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org).

**Lorton Community Action Center** operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. Now collecting gift cards and food baskets for Thanksgiving, gifts and food baskets for Christmas, and warm coats. 703-339-8611 [www.lortonaction.org](http://www.lortonaction.org).

**Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)** — ensures that recuperating

service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, [cause-usa.org](http://cause-usa.org)

**National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia. [capitalareafoodbank.org](http://capitalareafoodbank.org). 703-541-3063.

**Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). Call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.

**The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic**, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577. Last year, 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients. [jsfreeclinic.org](http://jsfreeclinic.org).

**Alternative House** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. [www.thealternativehouse.org](http://www.thealternativehouse.org).

**Reston Interfaith**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, [restoninterfaith.org](http://restoninterfaith.org). Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

**SHARE** of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards and more. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. [www.SHAREofMcLean.org](http://www.SHAREofMcLean.org)

**LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have

signed up for help with holiday meals. 703-437-1776 [www.linkagainsthunger.org](http://www.linkagainsthunger.org)

**FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or [volunteer@facetscares.org](mailto:volunteer@facetscares.org). FACETS offers a monthly Youth Volunteer Night, with the next one scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 20, 5:30-6:30pm. Information about donations and holiday gift drive at [www.facetscares.org](http://www.facetscares.org). 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

**Committee for Helping Others (CHO)**, Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of concerned churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. 14th Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service is Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road. 703-281-7614 [www.cho-va.com](http://www.cho-va.com)

**Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), working with the Office of Coordinated Services Planning, Fairfax County Department of Human Services, FISH helps local citizens in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>

**Herndon-Reston FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 <http://herndonrestonfish.org>

**Lamb Center**, [www.thelambcenter.org](http://www.thelambcenter.org), Day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178

**Northern Virginia Family Service**, 10455 White Granite Drive Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124, 703-385-3267, [www.nvfs.org/](http://www.nvfs.org/)

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# Letters



**Two-legged and four-legged friends make use of the new off-leash dog area at Westgrove Park.**

## Well Done

To the Editor:

To those who are unaware, the off-leash dog area (OLDA) at Westgrove Park is now open for business. The gate at the entrance of Fort Hunt Road is now permanently open. The asphalt driveway and roadway around the OLDA have been beautifully coated and striped with numerous parking spaces. The perimeter fence and access gates are installed.

I have visited Westgrove Park several times over the past week and have never seen fewer than a dozen dogs and their owners frolicking within the OLDA enjoying themselves and with the owners socializing with one another (see accompanying photo). Without doubt, this is one of the most favorable uses of Park Authority property I have ever seen.

Since OLDAs have been deemed a "best management practice," it is truly a shame that it took three years from start to finish to accomplish creation of the OLDA. Members of Westgrove PACK are to be commended for their perseverance in the face of unreasonable opposition from a handful of anti-development zealots. Also, thanks to Supervisor Gerry Hyland, Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan and Mount Vernon Park Authority Representative Linwood Gorham for their support of the OLDA.

The Westgrove Park OLDA should become a show piece for our county as an example of a great way to utilize our county's park land for the benefit of tax payers who have been clamoring for OLDAs for many years. The Westgrove Park OLDA is several times larger than other county OLDAs and this was done intentionally since most other OLDAs have a ground surface of stone

dust and the Westgrove Park OLDA has retained its grass ground cover. The larger surface area reduces wear and tear on each square foot of grass.

To those dog lovers who now have a place within our community to safely run their dogs, I say visit Westgrove Park and enjoy your new facility. Also, send an e-mail to the sponsoring organization Westgrove PACK at westgrovepack@gmail.com to register your name as a supporter to help ensure that the OLDA is included in the final Master Plan for the park.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

## Appreciates Precinct Officials

To the Editor:

Sometimes it's difficult to realize how good you have it until you see how bad things are for other people. In this case, the issue is voting problems: specifically, the fact that we haven't had any in the 15 years that's we've been voting at Hollin Meadows Elementary School.

Heartfelt kudos to our neighbors who serve as Kirkside Precinct voting officials and make it such a non-stressful experience for us, election cycle after election cycle. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone who wants to vote in our great democracy had it so good?

**Jeff and Ginny Carver**

## Next Step: Audits

To the Editor:

I support our schools and our teachers but, like many, question whether we should increase school budgets unless we know the school

system is squeezing out waste and operating efficiently. To argue that the schools need more money because student loads increase is not enough; to make informed decisions we need to know the baseline cost of efficiently managed school programs and services and add to that increasing student loads and some of the new programs we think we'd like to see in our schools. One would think we'd have the information to make an informed judgment but we don't. So, how do we get to where we need to be?

The first step is the obvious one: engage an outside auditor reporting to the School Board and find out what we're spending, where; and for what and to what end. This is long overdue. The notion that staff can audit itself - our schools' current practice - is not prudent in an organization with a \$2B annual budget. Self-audits have no credibility in today's world if, indeed, they ever did.

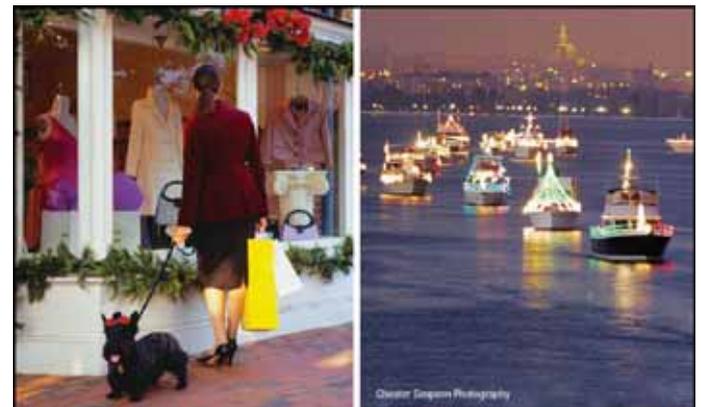
How you spend your money tells you what your priorities are; outcomes tell you how well you are meeting those priorities. An outside auditor reporting to a board of directors is a long-held standard in business and should be common practice in our school system. That the school system might consider outside audits now, one can only say "better late than never."

But there's more. As good as they are, outside financial audits, by themselves, don't get us where we want to be. To get a baseline we need to do more. We need to complement financial audits with programmatic or "operational audits" which drill down on specific programs to evaluate how closely each program and expense aligns

See Letters, Page 27

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# Home LifeStyle

## Thanksgiving Centerpiece Ideas: Flowers Not Required

Floral design pros share secrets to creating swoon-worthy centerpieces.

By Marilyn Campbell  
The Gazette

While the turkey is often the star of a Thanksgiving dinner table, a nonedible focal point can play a leading role in creating an elegant dinner table aesthetic. From lush floral arrangements to designs without blooms, three local floral design pros offer ideas for spectacular centerpieces that can be replicated easily at home.

"We usually suggest low containers for the Thanksgiving dinner table," said Jenny Park, a floral designer with Reston Floral Design in Reston. "I use things that represent harvesting like pumpkins or artificial fruit like grapes and apples."

Floral designer Alison de Wit, of Distinctive Floral Designs in Great Falls, suggests going horizontal: "Create a runner of sorts at the midpoint of a long table with blooms and autumn harvest elements. These can be placed in a lush carpeted type form to create a meandering avenue of décor or grouped along the length of the table. The effect is one of abundance and is particularly aesthetically pleasing when paired with groupings of candles of different heights [such as] pillar candles, votive

candles or floating candles."

Old Town Alexandria-based designer Rebecca A. Henry often includes elements of nature. "Incorporate leaves — either dried or fresh," said Henry. Henry owns Petal's Edge Floral Design with her business partner, Arlington resident Gerry Rogers. "Fresh leaves don't hold up very well, so preserved leaves are actually a better choice with gourds and mini-pumpkins. They add a touch of nonfloral, and Thanksgiving arrangements tend to veer toward nonfloral."

**DESIGNERS SAY GLASS,** basket or pumpkin containers are ideal for Thanksgiving. "If you want to do something contemporary, but still stay within that feeling of fall, use a glass container but fill it with something like cranberries or coffee beans to give it the color of fall," said Henry. "Fill a square glass vase with cranberries and top it with an arrangement that has a lot of oranges and yellows and reds and rust colors and some dried elements. You can fill a vase with just about anything."

De Wit adds that berries are always a welcome addition to fall arrangements, suggesting pepper berries, snowberries and hypericum berries, along with pods such as scabiosa and poppy. "Greens can diverge from the traditional to a mélange of hues from soft mint to deep leaf green. Lambs ear, seeded eucalyptus, variegated ruscus, pittisporum and papyrus all provide a lovely aesthetic within a composition. Likewise, feathers are a beautiful component of mixed medium pieces."

Make use of the woody elements that are in abundance now. "Popular things to in-

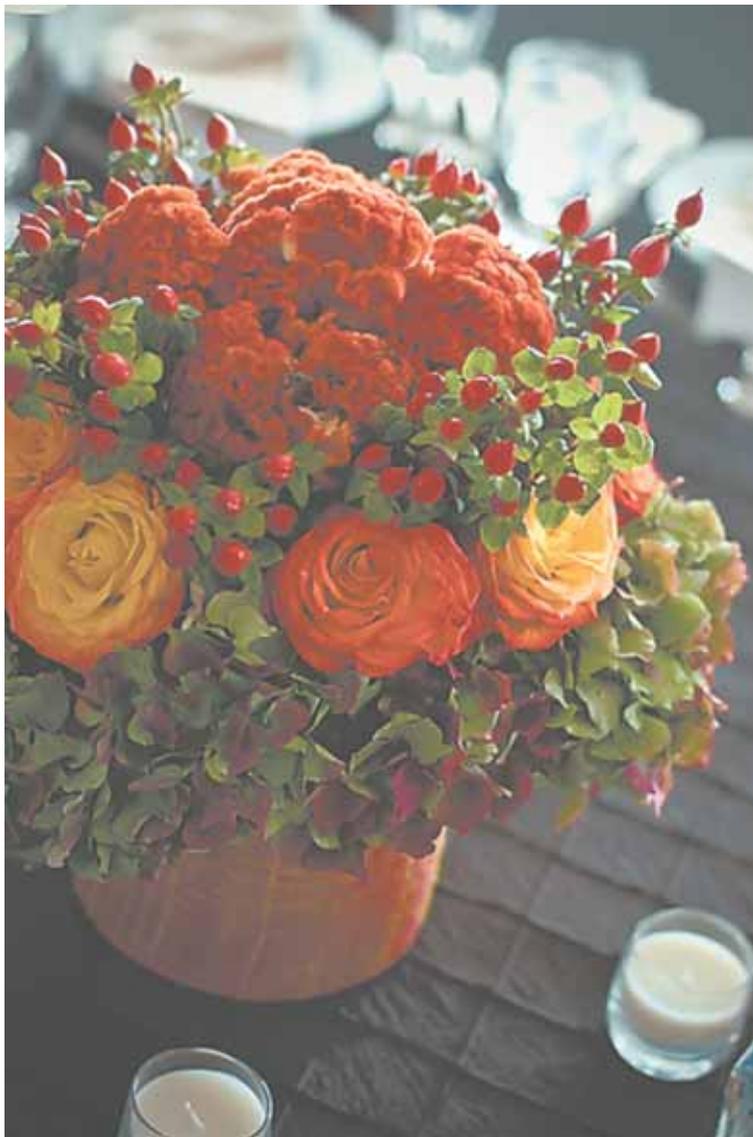


Photo by Glenn Barnett

**Berries and flowers in deep colors like orange, yellow and red are popular for Thanksgiving centerpieces.**

**"Popular things to incorporate into fall centerpieces are dried pods like lotus pods or cattails, dried wheat, dried pomegranates, dried fruits or anything that reminds you of harvest time."**

— Rebecca A. Henry, Petal's Edge Floral Design

corporate into fall centerpieces are dried pods like lotus pods or cattails, dried wheat, dried pomegranates, dried fruits or anything that reminds you of harvest time," said Henry. "Most of these dried items can be picked up at a craft store."

Use sentimental or personal pieces to create an elegant presentation.

"Rather than having a singular arrangement ... create a tableaux with floral or organic pieces to form a pleasing central theme," said de Wit. "This would include a grouping of smaller vases — and these can be special pieces

from personal collections or all glass, ceramic or antique pieces. This offers an interesting variant on a single arrangement."

Marika Meyer, of Meyer Interiors, in Washington, said, "Look for flowers that are in the autumn palette but might be out of season. I recently saw a beautiful arrangement of French tulips in oranges and reds, but used on a tablescape with gourds, it was a fresh take on a flower arrangement."

Inexpensive flowers are in vogue. "This is a great time of year to use less expensive flowers that are not always highly prized like mums," said Henry. "At this time of year that it what is in the garden, so those make a lot of sense in Thanksgiving arrangement."

Consider mixing warm and cool tones, as well. "Color for autumn arrangements were traditionally the rich saturated orange, yellow and reds," said de Wit. "These colors retain their popularity but are often augmented with deep purples and blues to offer a counterpoint to the warm tones. Perennially popular blooms are hydrangea, roses, sunflowers and dahlia."



Photo by Tom Glasco

**Great Falls-based floral designer Alison de Wit of Distinctive Floral Designs created this fall centerpiece in a hollowed pumpkin that rests on a bed of woodland moss. Designers suggest incorporating elements of nature into Thanksgiving centerpieces.**



Photo courtesy of Petal's Edge Floral Design

**Floral designer Rebecca A. Henry suggests using dried pods like lotus pods or cattails, dried wheat, dried pomegranates or anything that is reminiscent of harvest season.**

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## Old Town Alexandria

310 King Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300

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The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification.



**JUST LISTED** **OPEN SUN**

**4002 Belle Rive Terr**  
\$798,500  
**Classic Colonial**  
**Near River!**

Unique opportunity to purchase river view home in prestigious Belle Rive for under \$800K! Fabulous custom all-brick colonial on cul-de-sac with stunning views of Potomac River! Gorgeous kitchen featuring all SS appliances, farmhouse sink and carrera marble counters. Hdwd frs and plantation shutters abound. Recently finished walk out lower lvl. New Pella doors. **OPEN SUN 11/18, 1-4! GW Pky S; L-Old Mt Vernon; L-Rive; R-Belle Rive.**

**JUST LISTED** **OPEN SUN**

**6405 E. 14th Street**  
\$735,000  
**Minutes From Old Town!**

Uniquely attractive property tastefully updated combining the best of modern amenities while preserving the character of the original home. Many fab features include: distinctive courtyard setting w/stone patio, hdwd frs, updated gourmet kit w/granite counters, "Viking" range & custom cabs. Four large BRs, MBR with private bath. Prime location off GW Pkwy, mins to Old Town. Truly special property. **OPEN SUN 11/18, 1-4! GW Pky S; R-Belle Haven; L-Potomac; R-Old Towne; L-E. 14th St.**

**9317 Old Mansion Rd**  
\$959,000  
**Stunning Colonial in Riverfront Community!**

Classic colonial tastefully expanded and landscaped. One of area's most distinctive properties! Fab features: 3 fin levels, expanded custom kitchen opening to sunroom and elevated stone terrace overlooking garden. MBR with dual granite vanities, separate shower & whirlpool tub. 4BR, 3.5BA, 2FP and 2 car garage. Community path to river access.

**NEW HOME**

**8313 Mount Vernon Hwy**  
\$789,000  
**Brand New!**  
**Amazing Price!**

Brand new home opportunity in prime Mt. Vernon location by Wakefield Homes. Custom home with many modern amenities and upgrades. Features include: expanded master bedroom suite, front porch, gourmet kitchen, high ceilings, 2 car garage. Fabulous new home amenities combined with convenience of a prime Mt. Vernon location.

**9032 McNair Dr**  
\$449,750  
**Spacious Rambler-Great Price!**

Rare large Rambler on gorgeous 1/2 acre lot in prime Mt. Vernon location. Home has huge potential with 4 BR on main level including master with private bath. Other features include fireplace with marble surround, oversize two car garage, hdwd frs & huge lower level. Home needs a little TLC & is priced accordingly. Exceptional Value

**CONTRACT!**

**3618 Old Vernon Ct**  
\$839,000  
**Stately Columned Colonial!**

Fabulous opportunity! Spacious 5BR Colonial with updated modern floor plan. Numerous features include: high ceilings, 3 finished levels, stunning master suite, custom built-ins and oversize two car garage. Prime location on large, fenced lot fronting quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Nothing like it on market at close to this price.

**8614 Camden St**  
\$525,000  
**Spacious Contemporary! One Level Living!**

One of Stratford's largest contemporary models featuring striking open floor plan with 4-5 bedrooms & exceptionally large room sizes. Numerous updates include roof, thermal windows, water heater & electrical. Features include large deck with hot tub, private rear deck & covered parking.

**2406 Wittington Blvd**  
\$599,000  
**Updated Charming Colonial!**

The home you have been waiting for! Classic 3 level Colonial in prime Stratford Landing location. Features include: updated gourmet kitchen, 4 large BRs, "Andersen" thermal windows, updated baths, screened porch and side load 1 car garage. Walk to neighborhood pool! Unique opportunity!

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marytaylorrealtor.com  
**Mary Taylor 703.785.5619**

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**\$ 230,000**  
**Alexandria South**  
**7520 SNOWPEA CT, #M**

Top floor unit. New carpet, new paint, newer furnace, newer W/D. Kitchen features oak cabinets with Corian countertop. Pantry. Great roommate setup. Vaulted ceilings. Living room with gas fireplace. Sunroom. Assigned parking. Low fees. Pool and tot lots. Close to shopping, schools, and EZ commute/minutes to Huntington Metro and Old Town.

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**Brian Hong & Jery Beamer 703.929.5764**

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**Martine Imer & Alexander Imer**  
703.346.7283 or 703.403.2465

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**Alexandria South**  
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Exceptionally beautiful home in Hollin Hills worthy of Architectural Digest! This light-filled contemporary home has 4BR/2.5BA, eat-in kitchen and separate dining room, a living room with wood-burning fireplace and a comfortable family room. The lovely 1/3 acre landscaped open yard is a gardener's paradise. Please come and see for yourself.

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**\$ 437,000**  
**Alexandria South**  
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**Wayneood**  
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www.thebendergroup.net  
**Randy Bender 703.906.1749**

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**Wellington Estates**  
**"JUST LISTED"**

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**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
**\$ 579,000**  
**Hollin Hills**  
**7406 RECARD LN**

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**Franki Roberts 703.898.0840**

**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
**\$ 695,000**  
**Alexandria**  
**2151 JAMESON AVE, #2109**

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**Michael Manuel 703.615.6317**

# Mount Vernon REAL ESTATE

## Top Sales in September 2012

In September 2012, 72 homes sold between \$835,000-\$75,000 in the Mount Vernon area.

1 3711 Washington Woods Drive, Mount Vernon — \$835,000



2 1019 Priscilla Lane, Mount Vernon — \$800,000



3 6424 Wood Haven Road, Mount Vernon — \$740,000



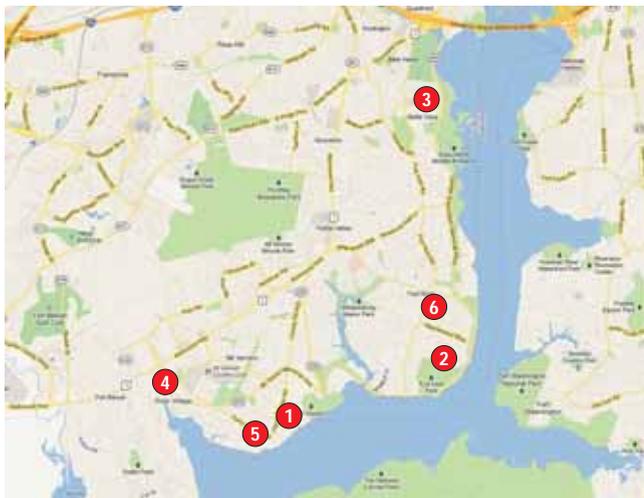
4 8910 Grist Mill Woods Court, Mount Vernon — \$735,000



5 9403 Ferry Landing Court, Mount Vernon — \$695,000



6 1123 Neal Drive, Mount Vernon — \$621,500



© Google Map data

Address ..... BR FB HB ... Postal City ..... Sold Price .... Type ..... Lot ACPostalCode ..... Subdivision ..... Date Sold

1	3711 WASHINGTON WOODS DR	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$835,000	Detached	0.42	22309	WASHINGTON WOODS POTOMAC	09/20/12
2	1019 PRISCILLA LN	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$800,000	Detached	0.24	22308	WAYNEWOOD	09/20/12
3	6424 WOOD HAVEN RD	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$740,000	Detached	0.25	22307	NEW ALEXANDRIA	09/19/12
4	8910 GRIST MILL WOODS CT	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$735,000	Detached	0.37	22309	GRIST MILL WOODS	09/10/12
5	9403 FERRY LANDING CT	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$695,000	Detached	0.48	22309	FERRY POINT ESTATES	09/20/12
6	1123 NEAL DR	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$621,500	Detached	0.27	22308	COLLINGWOOD ESTATES	09/07/12

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# Getting Organized for Thanksgiving

By Marilyn Campbell  
The Gazette

Local experts offer a survival guide.

**J**ill Mahon is hosting her family for Thanksgiving next week, which is, of course, the kick-off of the holiday season. But for Mahon, the holidays herald an organizational nightmare.

"The thought of getting my house cleaned and in order for eight additional people made me feel like crawling into bed with a bag of M&Ms," Mahon, an Arlington resident, said in jest. "I got up to start planning dinner and five [minutes] later I crawled back into bed with my M&Ms."

The holidays don't have to be so logistically challenging, however. Area organization experts say, "let the planning begin" and offer suggestions for Thanksgiving and beyond.

"When it comes to the holidays, I always suggest that you start early and plan ahead," said Susan Unger, of ClutterSOS in Vienna.

Sally Reinholdt, of Closets 911, in Alexandria, says to begin by getting out a pencil and paper. "Make a list of all the things that need to be done and a date when the list needs to be completed. Write one or two things that can be accomplished each day on your calendar. Breaking down the to-do list will make it a lot less overwhelming."

**SPECIAL TOUCHES**, say experts, can help make out-of-town guests feel welcome. "Put together a welcome basket with extra toothbrushes and toiletries just in case your guests forgot any of their personal items," said Reinholdt. "If you know what their interests are or if they want to sightsee, spend a few minutes on the computer and print out some relevant information."

Experts say planning ahead for meals is important, particularly when one has visitors. "If you are going to have house guests, plan the other meals," said Unger. "Maybe you could make things ahead of time and put them in the freezer like a lasagna or chili. Buy a bagged salad, so it's less work. Always keep it simple."

Unger said, "When grocery shopping for the holidays, if you can, pick up everything early, maybe the non-perishables with your regular weekly shopping and save the perishables for the week of. I tend to go to the grocery store very early in the morning the week of Thanksgiving because the stores get really busy later on and you

end up waiting."

One take-charge tool that Jody Al-Saigh, of Picture Perfect Organizing, in Alexandria, recommends is a filing system. She said, "Create a holiday binder or accordion file with categories like cards, crafts, décor, food, gifts, parties,

menus, lists, songs, traditions and budget."

"Have home decorating and home de-decorating parties with a few family members and friends. The whole process will go a lot more quickly and be a lot more fun," said Reinholdt.

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## Increased Communication Promised

From Page 8

lies were underrepresented. Current minority enrollment at Mount Vernon and West Potomac High School is 40-50 percent of the total student enrollment. We need to do a much better job of minority outreach. We are never going to close the achievement gap if the entire community is not present at meetings like this.”

Vandyke, commenting on the board’s delayed decision to establish an independent auditor reporting to the School Board expressed her concern that the School Board “does not have access to an independent audit process that reports only to them; leaving an over-reliance on feedback filtered through the school staff who have no degree of separation from the programs in question and which they supervise. The School Board needs to stop deferring the addition of such assistance and put it in place.”

Hyland said that he supports placing a referendum on the ballot in the next election cycle to seek community support for establishing a meals tax to help finance education program needs. However, he said

that right now the feedback he is getting on the Board of Supervisors is not supportive.

“The questions and concerns raised about future boundary changes, advanced academic programs, curriculum rigor, and many others were well known to me.” Said Storck. “But having the district supervisor, at-large school board member, myself, the superintendent, and the area’s assistant superintendent, in one room to address them first-hand was very helpful to our understanding and getting changes made. The superintendent’s hearing from parents about the need for more new traditional math textbooks and reducing the number of math online textbooks was particularly valuable.”

Storck said that the following day at a School Board meeting Dale “identified specific steps that he was taking to correct the problem.” Storck also said that more public meetings to supplement PTA meetings that he attends such as this “could also be beneficial” and intends to revise his schedule to be more accessible to parents and others in the community.



**New officers for the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club are inducted (from left) Greg Engelking, John Crawford, Vivien Peterson, Perry Leonard and Jack Dobbyn.**

## New Officers Lead Kiwanis Club

The Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club celebrated the beginning of its 60th year of community service on Oct. 17 with an induction of new officers and board of directors by the Division Lt.-Governor John Crawford. After the dinner at the Mount Vernon Country Club, Crawford swore in Perry Leonard as president, Jack

Dobbyn as vice president, Vivien Peterson as secretary, Amber Gould as assistant secretary, Stephen Vajs and Greg Engelking as co-treasurers for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. He also swore in Don Reynolds, Betty Puscheck, Rich Keil, Ken Smih, Bruce Malkin, Lee Palmer, and Herb Puscheck as members of the board.



**Division Lt. Governor John Crawford inducts Perry Leonard as President.**



**Dr. Dave Reynolds sings a karaoke duet with his wife, Lianne.**

# Employment

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Tuesday 4 p.m.

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Our company is seeking telemarketers for part time positions. Hours are flexible between 12:00pm - 8pm. Experience strongly preferred but not necessary. Must have good speaking voice. Clean, fun work environment with excellent commission packages & contests. Located in Fairfax off Rt. 66.  
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### HOUSEKEEPERS NEEDED

Experienced housekeepers needed to assist elder and disabled individuals in the City of Alexandria with cleaning, laundry, meal preparation, grocery and pharmacy trips. Applicants are courteous, reliable and able to follow written and verbal directions. Position pays \$10 per hour. Applications are available at the Department of Community and Human Services, 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301 or by emailing [bonita.copeland@alexandriava.gov](mailto:bonita.copeland@alexandriava.gov).

### Part-time Church Nursery Worker

Plymouth Haven Baptist Church is seeking a caring, reliable part-time caregiver for nursery-age children (newborn through kindergarten) from 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each Sunday morning and two hours each Sunday evening, and two hours one Tuesday evening per month (September - May). Competitive hourly pay. Must be at least 18 years old, speak English and have general knowledge of first aid; non-smoking candidate preferred. Email resume and 3 references to [jobs@plymouthhaven.org](mailto:jobs@plymouthhaven.org) or call 703.360.4370.



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**Fairfax Water**

**NOTICE OF WATER RATE Public Hearing**

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2013, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,700 to \$3,850†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,000 to \$9,500.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,000 to \$1,050†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$33 to \$35.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$8.35 to \$9.20†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.16 to \$2.29 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.20 to \$3.45 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$46 to \$50.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
10. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$41 to \$44.
11. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$16 to \$17.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water  
Public Hearing Comments  
8570 Executive Park Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

**Fairfax Water**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2013 BUDGET**

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$143.4 million budget for calendar year 2013<sup>1</sup>.

On Thursday, December 13, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2013 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m.

A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Revenues are expected to be \$143.4 million in 2013. Water sales are expected to provide \$124.6 million. Approximately \$18.8 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2012	2013
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$46,473	\$48,367
Power and Utilities	11,345	11,686
Chemicals	6,694	7,968
Fuel	916	960
Postage	547	460
Insurance	1,300	1,107
Supplies and Materials	3,976	4,233
Contractual Services	8,749	8,657
Professional Services	1,656	1,902
Other	2,005	2,285
Sub-Total	83,661	87,625
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,559)	(9,613)
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,102</b>	<b>78,012</b>

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$39,374,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$14,068,000

<sup>1</sup> Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot from Oct. 15 to Nov. 20, 2012 to elect the President Elect, three seats on the Board of Directors, and three seats on the Nominating Committee for service beginning on June 3, 2013. Information about proxy ballots is available at [www.asco.org](http://www.asco.org). Completed proxy ballots will be delivered to the ASCO President or his designee for casting at a meeting held on Nov. 26, 2012, 8:30-9:00 AM at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22318. Members with questions can email [ASCOelection@asco.org](mailto:ASCOelection@asco.org) or call 571-483-1316.

### 21 Announcements

### 21 Announcements

**OBITUARY**

**Jennifer Johnson Nelson**

Jennifer J. Nelson of Alexandria, VA died on October 27, 2012 in Warrenton, VA. She was born on February 20, 1946 in Jackson, MI to the late Carl E. and Muriel Johnson. She worked for the U.S. Senate as an Information System Analyst. She is survived by her brothers, Andrew Johnson of Cave Spring, GA and Peter Johnson of Lilburn, GA along with her nieces, Amy Harwood of Warrenton, VA, Hannah Johnson of Lilburn, GA and her nephew, Carl Johnson of Greenville, NC. A celebration of Jennifer's life will be held on Sunday, November 25, 2012, at 1:30pm, at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 8695 Old Dumfries Road, Catlett, VA 22019. In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial contributions be made in Jennifer's name to Capital Caring Hospice, Attn: Philanthropy Office, 2900 Telestar Court, Falls Church, VA 22042.

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From Page 3

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Miniatures on the play table at Eagle & Empire Game & Hobby Store.



Wood-crafted pens and razors at Richard Carroll.

Photos by Yuhuan Xu/The Gazette

# Holiday Entertainment

## 'A Broadway Christmas Carol'

### MetroStage holiday classic opens Nov. 15.

By Carolyn Griffin  
MetroStage, Producing  
Artistic Director

Everyone loves a tradition — especially a tradition around the holidays. Well, a tradition returns to MetroStage this month in the form of “A Broadway Christmas Carol,” our answer to Ford’s Theatre’s “Christmas Carol” and the multitude of “Nutcrackers” on stages everywhere. Our “Christmas Carol” is told with Broadway show tunes and has been a hit since it was developed at Round House Theatre in Maryland running for seven years before MetroStage grabbed the baton and is now presenting it for the third consecutive season.

MetroStage has twice produced another Broadway parody, “Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)” so Broadway parodies have been a very popular genre. “Musical of Musical” parodies five Broadway composers from Rodgers and Hammerstein to Stephen Sondheim. “A Broadway Christmas Carol” uses songs from R & H’s “Oklahoma,” “Carousel,” “King and I,” and from Sondheim’s “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to



### Note from the Producer

tunes.

Characters include Scrooge, the Crachits, Fred, Baby Fan, Marley, the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, and, of course, Tiny Tim, and they are all played by three actors. Michael Sharp returns to MetroStage as Scrooge and also as the director/choreographer. He has played the role multiple times and says, “It is such fun because it parodies all of the Broadway shows that I have always loved. And, of course, it is the story of redemption which makes it a perfect holiday show.”

Tracey Stephens returns to play the Woman Who Isn’t Scrooge. A 12-year veteran of Capitol Steps, she has just returned from an exhaustive tour of the country dur-

the Forum,” “Sweeney Todd” and “Follies.” Throw in songs from “Godspell,” “Chicago,” “Pajama Game,” “Sweet Charity,” “Music Man,” “Avenue Q,” “Les Miz,” and “Secret Garden” and you have a riotous mélange of clever lyrics paired with recognizable show



Photo by Christopher Banks

Michael Sharp, Tracey Stephens and Russell Sunday star in “A Broadway Christmas Carol,” playing at MetroStage Nov. 15-Dec. 23.

ing this recently completed political season. Russell Sunday joins the cast this season as The Man Who Isn’t Scrooge. He has been seen on our stage in the past in “Closer Than

Ever” and “Musical of Musicals (The Musical!).” The next six weeks will be a “grand night for singing and dancing” and a lovely, redemptive story as well.

### Calendar

E-mail announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

#### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 14

**History Presentation.** 7:30 p.m. Join the Friends of Dyke Marsh to hear Matthew Virta, cultural resources program manager at the U.S. National Park Service, examine Dyke Marsh’s colorful history, from Native American Indian times to the present. The presentation will be held at the Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Call 703-768-2525 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks>.

#### Free Workshop: Exhibition Prints.

1-4 p.m. Join photographer John Burgess for his popular workshop on how to calibrate monitors and printers to create accurate color photographic prints. Call 703-683-1780 or email [gallery@heartleague.org](mailto:gallery@heartleague.org) to register. The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St.

#### WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/NOV 14-15

**Birchmere Show.** 7:30 p.m. Striking Matches to open for John Hiatt & The Combo. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

#### THURSDAY/NOV. 15

**Annual NOVA Jazz Night.** 7:30 p.m. Featuring the NOVA Alexandria Jazz Ensemble and NOVA Jazz Combo At

the Carlyle Club located at 411 John Carlyle St. Call 703-548-8899. No cover charge, donations requested.

#### Blurring the Line: Fine Art vs. Commercial Photography.

7pm. Free. The Art League and Target Gallery present a panel discussion examining the similarities and differences between fine art and commercial photography. Moderated by Torpedo Factory artist Craig Sterling, panelists include Allen Beland, Jesse Cohen, Lindsay Harris, Greg Knott, and Pamela Viola. Torpedo Factory Art Center’s Main Hall, 105 North Union St. Call 703-838-4565 or visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

#### History of Trains.

10 a.m. Model Railroad Club presents “History of the Pullman Experience in the Golden Age of Rail Travel” including AMTRAK’s version of the Pullman Experience today, the Auto Train version of luxury travel today, and a film clip of riding on the Dover Harbor Pullman Car. Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Call 703-765-4573 to reserve a seat.

#### THURSDAY-FRIDAY/NOV. 15-16

**School Theatre.** 7:30 p.m. The 7th-graders of Burgundy Farm Country Day School will perform “Haroun and the Sea of Stories,” a mythological fantasy that combines an exciting adventure story with hilarious physical theatre. The performance is family-friendly. Tickets are \$5 at the door. At Burgundy Farm Country Day

### Historic Mount Vernon Sparkles with Holiday Cheer

Join “Mrs. Washington” as she hosts an enchanting evening of candlelight tours, fireside caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. Tours include merry music, and characters from Washingtons’ world guiding visitors through the first and second floors of the home, adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. By popular demand, an additional weekend has been added this year.

Visitors will also meet a cast of friends and family of the famous founding couple. In the kitchen, the final stop on the tour, guests will hear about 18th-century holiday cooking, see Martha Washington’s

Great Cake, and be given a complimentary copy of the recipe to try at home. Following the Mansion tour, guests are invited to stroll candlelit walks, join in fireside caroling, and enjoy complimentary hot cider and cookies.

The Food Court at Mount Vernon is open during Candlelight Tours for fresh and convenient meals and special

holiday treats. The Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant, with its early-American fare and colonial servers, offers the perfect complement to the Mount Vernon by Candlelight program. Reservations are suggested for this popular dining experience.

The Shops at Mount Vernon are open late during Mount Vernon by Candlelight. Twelve themed departments, including The Christmas Corner, abound with a broad selection of unique gift items including holiday ornaments, estate jewelry, and an exceptional selection of gifts for children.

Tours take place Friday-Sunday, Nov. 23, 24 & 25; and Saturdays and Sundays: Dec. 1 and 2, Dec. 8 and 9, Dec. 15 and 16 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Ford Orientation Center (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily), or through [MountVernon.org](http://MountVernon.org). Admission is \$22 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Call 703-780-2000; 703-799-8697 (TDD); or visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

School, 3700 Burgundy Road.

#### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV 15-17

**Theater.** 7 p.m. Mount Vernon High School Theatre presents “The Velveteen Rabbit.” Show times for Nov. 17 are 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, and \$5 for children ages 10 and younger. Call 703-619-3259.

#### NOV. 15 THROUGH JAN. 6, 2013

**Net Worked: Horjus, Lister, and Pearson.** Opening reception is on Sunday, Nov. 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. Free. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince

St. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

#### FRIDAY/NOV. 16

**Shotgun Justice: One Prosecutor’s Crusade Against Crime and Corruption in Alexandria & Arlington.** 7 p.m. Author Michael Lee Pope uncovers the little-known story of one man’s battle to rid Alexandria and Arlington of vice and violent crime. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Call 703-548-0035.

**Wee Ones Storytime.** 10:30-11 a.m. Explore the world with favorite stories and songs. Ages 2 and under. Free. Hooray for Books is located at

1555 King St. Call 703-548-4092 or visit [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com).

#### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 16-18

**Alexandria Film Festival.** Sixth Annual Alexandria Film Festival will be held at Beatley Central Library at 5005 Duke St. The festival will showcase multiple high-quality films during this celebration of burgeoning and established filmmakers and their new or rare films. In partnership with the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services, Office of

See Calendar, Page 22

From Page 21

Environmental Quality's Eco-City Alexandria initiative, free films with environmental themes will be featured. The festival also includes filmmaker panels and arts presentations to unique and historic venues throughout Alexandria. Visit <http://alexandriafilm.org/>.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 16-17

**St. Mary's Annual Christmas Bazaar.** Bazaar begins with the Quite the Stir! Preview Party on Friday from 7-9 p.m., in the school's gym. Attendees will get an early peak at vendors' merchandise as they enjoy hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and a special signature libation. Tickets are \$30 per person in advance, or \$35 per person at the door. The Christmas Bazaar is on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Mary's School. This year, the Christmas Bazaar will feature more than 60 vendors specializing in arts, jewelry, ceramics, clothing, and more. The event will include a Bake Sale and Christmas Café, as well as children's games, prizes and activities, book sale, and pictures with Santa Claus. At St. Mary's School at 400 Green St.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 17

**Cider Assembly Ball** 8-11 p.m. Reservations required. This evening in the 1780s will feature a variety of English country dances in the ballroom, live music, cash bar showcasing Virginia ciders and seasonal dessert collation. Period costume optional, "after-five" attire encouraged. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Call 703-746-4242

## Run for Shelter 5K/10K + Fun

**Run.** 8 a.m. Carpenter's Shelter and Pacers are hosting their second annual Run for Shelter 5K/10K + Fun Run. Musicians from the Del Ray School of Music will be performing along the course route. All proceeds benefit Carpenter's Shelter and its work on behalf of homeless individuals, children, and families. It is an out and back course, starting at the USPTO Madison Building on Eisenhower Avenue. 5K/10K registration is \$35 and Fun Run registration is \$30. On-site registration will be available for \$40 beginning at 7 a.m. Free parking is available in the USPTO East Parking Garage located on John Carlye Street. Visit [www.runforshelter10k.com](http://www.runforshelter10k.com) or tweet @Run4Shelter10k.

**Candlelight Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Presented by The Suspicious Cheese Lords, this concert will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Admissions are \$20, \$15 for seniors, \$10 for students and teachers. Call 703-765-4342.

**Holiday Shop.** 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The event features a day-long bazaar of 50 artisans from the metro area as well as the popular Country Kitchen featuring savory chutneys and baked goods from the MVUC kitchen; Helene's Boutique, with upscale resale decorative household items; and the Jewelry Box shop with estate jewelry. At the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. A quilt made by the Church Quilters will be raffled off. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Proceeds are used by the E.T. Group to fund church projects. Call 703-765-5950 or visit [www.mvuc.org](http://www.mvuc.org).

**Belle Masquerade.** 8 p.m. J Weeks Entertainment presents "Belle Masquerade: A Beautiful Disguise," a play that captures the faces of women and their struggles in the dark. At Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center at 1108 Jefferson St. Tickets are \$12. Call 202-642-

See Calendar, Page 23

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- **Wednesdays**.....Jazz Night with Bob Williams
- **Fridays**.....Sophisticated Swing with Betsy Ruderfer
- **Saturdays**.....Accordion and Piano with Roberto
- **Sundays**.....European-Style Brunch

**Live Opera... Every Month November 25**

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Check our menu online at [mammaskitchenva.com](http://mammaskitchenva.com)

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10% Off your next Catered Event with this coupon • expires 12/31/12

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Food fit for a king on a family budget

**Thanksgiving at Royal Restaurant**

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

**Lunch and Dinner Carving Stations and Buffet**  
11:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Hand-Carved Hot Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing ~ Savory Gravy ~ Baked Virginia Ham with Raisin Sauce ~ Fresh Homemade Mashed Potatoes Broccoli and Hollandaise Sauce  
Sautéed Whole Green Beans ~ Corn  
Apple Pie ~ Pumpkin Pie ~ Pecan Pie ~ Mince Pie  
Everything on Our Menu is Homemade and Fresh!

Football Games and Parades will be on our TVs.  
Cocktails, Beer and Wine Available.  
Ample On-Site Parking Free  
Please Note that Beverages and Gratuity are not included in the Buffet price.  
Reservations Suggested

734 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
703-548-1616 • [www.theroyalrestaurant.com](http://www.theroyalrestaurant.com)  
Award-winning wine menu • Major credit cards accepted

**FONTAINE**  
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Sweet and Savory Crepes, Steak Frites, Mussels, Boutique Wines and Craft Beers, French Movie Night

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Spice up your party with catering from Chakra Café!  
Please visit [www.chakracafe.com](http://www.chakracafe.com) to view our full catering menu.

# Holiday Entertainment

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4227 or visit [www.JWeeksEntertainment.com](http://www.JWeeksEntertainment.com).

## Emmanuel Church

**Christmas Bazaar.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The bazaar includes a silent auction with items such as vacation house rentals, a magician and crafts for kids, artists and other vendors, and yummy baked goods, freezer meals, and hot lunch for sale. At Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Road.

## Annual Holiday

**Craft Fair.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The fair will take place at the main campus of T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. This year's event will feature more than 45 local vendors of handmade items including soaps, jewelry and stationery. Academy of Finance will sell lunch, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) will sell knitted items, Fashion Club will sell baked goods and the Leadership class will sell T.C. gear. In addition, the softball team will sell tickets to win donated items from the vendors. And the T.C. Jazz Band will perform holiday music, beginning at noon in front of the auditorium. Free

and open to the public. A portion of the vendors' fees will be donated to Joining Hearts and Hands, an organization that builds schools and promotes economic and social improvements in Kenya and Tanzania.

## Holiday Traditions

**Del Ray Turkey Trot** 5-mile race

— Thursday, Nov. 22

**Black Friday** holiday promotions

— Friday, Nov. 23

**Holiday Tree Lighting** in Market Square

— Friday, Nov. 23

**Scottish Walk** weekend of events

— Friday, Nov. 30 - Saturday, Dec. 1

**17th Annual Holiday Market** at Del Ray

Artisans — three weekends: Nov. 30-Dec. 2,

Dec. 7-9 and Dec. 14-16

**Mount Vernon by Candlelight**

— Nov. 23 - Dec. 16

**Christmas at Mount Vernon**

— Nov. 23 - Jan. 6

**Holiday Parade of Lights** on the Waterfront

— Saturday, Dec. 1

**First Night Alexandria**

— Monday, Dec. 31

Find more information in our calendar as the dates approach.

**Annual Turkey Trot.** 8:30

a.m. The event will be held at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. To register and for more information, visit <http://register.racedctiming.com> and click on MVHS Cares 5K Turkey Trot.

**Wee Ones Storytime.** 10:30-

11 a.m. Explore the world

with favorite stories and songs. Ages 2 and under. Free. Hooray for Books is located at 1555 King St. Visit [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com) or call 703-548-4092.

**Film and Discussion.** 2-4 p.m.

The Alexandria Black History Museum and Port Of Harlem magazine present the free screening of the one-hour film African-American Pioneer Muslimahs at the Alexandria Black History Museum. This program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, RSVP by calling 703-746-4356. The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe St.

**THROUGH NOV. 17**

**Port City Playhouse.** 8

p.m. Alexandria's award-

winning theatre company

continues its 2012-13

season with the regional

community theatre

premiere of "The Soul

Collector." Saturday

matinee on Nov. 17 at 2

p.m. Port City Playhouse

performs at The Lab at

Convergence, located at

1819 N. Quaker Ln.

General admission tickets

are \$14-18. Visit

[portcityplayhouse.org](http://portcityplayhouse.org).

**SUNDAY/NOV. 18**

**Needlework Workshop.** 10

a.m.-1 p.m. Learn about 18th-

century samplers, participate

in a workshop and begin

needlework project. After the

workshop, participants can

walk over to Carlyle House

for a tour of the 1753 home of John Carlyle, a merchant and town founder of Alexandria. For beginners and intermediate. Reservations are required. Call 703-549-2997 to register. Admission is \$20 (includes materials). At The Athenaeum located at 201 Prince St.

**Squiggle Squirm Storytime.**

2:30-3:30 p.m. Join illustrator

Catherine Macorol for a

special story time to benefit

the eradication of neonatal

tetanus. All proceeds from

Squiggle Squirm will go to the

ELIMINATE projects,

sponsored by Kiwanis

International and UNICEF.

Ages 5 and under. Free.

Hooray for Books is located at

1555 King St. Visit

[www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com) or

call 703-548-4092.

**Author Margi Preus.** 4-5 p.m.

Newbery Honor winner Margi

Preus will talk about her

latest book, Shadow on the

Mountain, the story of 14-

year-old Espen's contribution

to the Norwegian resistance

during World War II. RSVP by

emailing

[info@hooray4books.com](mailto:info@hooray4books.com).

Ages 10 and up. Free. Hooray

for Books is located at 1555

King St. Visit

[www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com) or

call 703-548-4092.

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Sam Bush

and Del McCoury team up for

a tour beginning in

November. At the Birchmere

Music Hall located at 3701

Mount Vernon Ave.

See Calendar, Page 24

## Giving Twice at 10,000 Villages

Globally conscious DC-area residents have known for years that when they buy gifts from Ten Thousand Villages — a non-profit, fair trade retail store in Old Town, Alexandria — they are actually "giving twice." Not only do they find unique hand-made items, they provide income to Third World artisans enabling them to feed, house, and educate their families.

And for several evenings this holiday season shoppers can also support favorite charities, because Ten Thousand Villages will donate a percentage of the evening's sales to non-profit organizations working to improve the community and the world. Representatives of the charities will be on hand.

Ten Thousand Villages is located at 915 King St. Visit [www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com). Call 703-684-1435.

❖ Saturday, Nov. 17, 6-8 p.m.: **Phoenix Bikes**, an Arlington-based bicycle shop which gives local youth the necessary skills and education to prepare them for the future, while providing customers affordable, refurbished bikes and repair services. [www.phoenixbikes.org](http://www.phoenixbikes.org)

❖ Tuesday, Nov. 27, 6-8 p.m.: **Shelter House** works with homeless families in Northern Virginia. Their mission is to break the cycle of homelessness for families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. [www.shelterhouse.org](http://www.shelterhouse.org)

❖ Saturday, Dec. 1, 7-9 p.m.: **Computer C.O.R.E.** of Alexandria, which works to help low-income adults acquire the technological and life skills they need to pursue their career aspirations. [www.computercore.org](http://www.computercore.org)

❖ Sunday, Dec. 2, 4-6 pm: **Give to the World**, an international organization that provides medicine, clothing toys, school supplies and other goods to needy families around the world. [www.givetotheworld.org](http://www.givetotheworld.org)

❖ Thursday, Dec. 6, 7-9 pm: **Luke's Wings**, which arranges air travel for families of wounded veterans recovering in U.S. military hospitals. [www.lukeswings.org](http://www.lukeswings.org)

❖ Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6-8 pm: **Latin America Working Group Education Fund**, which promotes human rights, justice, peace and sustainable development throughout Latin America. [www.lawg.org](http://www.lawg.org)

❖ Thursday, Dec. 13, 7-9 pm: **Haiti-Micah Project**, which works to assist the street children of Mirebalais, Haiti by providing food, clean water, health care, education, vocational training and emotional well being. [www.Haiti-Micah.org](http://www.Haiti-Micah.org)

❖ Thursday, Dec. 20, 7-9 pm: **Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services**, which works to reduce homelessness, increase community support, and promote self-sufficiency in Fairfax County. [www.goodhousing.org](http://www.goodhousing.org)

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**The Must-See  
Holiday Attraction is Back!**  
at Gaylord National Resort  
November 16, 2012 - January 6, 2013

Come explore this magical winter wonderland, see your favorite DreamWorks Animation characters in **ICE!**, slide down the ice slides and enjoy the holiday spirit at Gaylord National's **Christmas on the Potomac**.

For package and ticket information,  
**ChristmasOnThePotomac.com**  
or call 301-965-4122

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*Celebrate  
Thanksgiving  
with style and silver*

**Thanksgiving Day Champagne Buffet**  
Thursday, November 22, 2012 from 11:00AM to 3:00PM

Caesar Salad, Spiced Shrimp, Pasta Salad, Mixed Greens Salad, Seasonal Fresh Fruit Tray, International Cheese & Cracker Tray

Top Round Roast Beef, Honey Cured Ham, Oven Roasted Turkey, Stuffing, Sweet Yams, Cranberry Sauce, Beef Bourguignon, Chicken Marsala & Broiled Flourish

Garlic & Herb Mashed Potatoes, Pasta Alfredo, Candied Yams, Green Beans Amandine, (2) Soups, Sautéed Zucchini & Yellow Squash, Butternut Squash, Apple Filled Pancakes, Bacon & Sausage and Corn Bread

**Egg Station:** Eggs Benedict, Omelet & Scrambled Eggs

**Children's Corner:** Chicken Nuggets, Macaroni & Cheese, Mini Corn Dogs, Chicken Fingers, Beanie Weenies, French Fries

An assortment of Desserts, Pastries and Fruit Pies, Ice Cream Cups

*& Champagne Toast*

ADULT \$28.95  
CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER \$14.95  
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[www.holidayinnalexandria.com](http://www.holidayinnalexandria.com)

# Holiday Entertainment

From Page 23

Admissions are \$39.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

**A Nation at War.** 3-4:30 p.m. Join President James Madison to discuss the progress of the war, with updates on the Army and Navy situation. He will also share his thoughts on financing the war, including taxation. The salon, held in the Main Dining Room of Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Reservations are recommended and tickets to each event are \$15 per person and \$10 for high school/college students. Madeira, Port and other libations will be available for purchase at the event. To purchase tickets, visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) or call 703-746-4242.

## THROUGH NOV. 18

**Free Art Exhibition.** Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of the juried show "Black and White." Black and white may be expressed as color, value, feelings, politics and/or mood. Jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited. The gallery is located in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 N. Union St. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**Oklahoma!** Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre, now in its 32nd season, presents Oklahoma, featuring a cast of 43 children and teenagers, ages 8-18. Performances will be held at Bryant Alternative School, 2709 Popkins Ln. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. To purchase online visit [www.mvctt.org](http://www.mvctt.org).

**FotoWeekDC at the Torpedo Factory Art Center.** Free. In conjunction with the 5th annual

FotoWeekDC Festival, celebrating photographic excellence in the DC metro area, the Torpedo Factory Art Center is offering a series of free, photography-themed exhibitions and special programming throughout the month of November. The complete schedule is online at [www.torpedofactory.org/fotoweek](http://www.torpedofactory.org/fotoweek). Torpedo Factory Art Center is located at 105 North Union St.

## NOV. 19 & 27 AND DEC. 4, 10 & 18

**Community Singers Wanted.** The West Potomac choirs invite alumni, parents, and community to rehearse and perform Part I (Christmas section) of Handel's Messiah. We rehearse 6:30-8:30 p.m. through Nov. 19; 6:30-9 p.m. through Dec. 18 with orchestra. At West Potomac High School in the Springbank Auditorium. Visit information is at <http://westpotomacchoirs.org>.

## TUESDAY/NOV. 20

**Chrisette Michele & Alex Boyd.** 7:30 p.m. \$59.50. Visit [www.alexboydmusic.com/](http://www.alexboydmusic.com/) or <http://thisischrisettemichele.com/>. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

**"Discovering the Past through Documents and Dirt."** 1 p.m. Presented by Pamela Cressy. She will explain how using the written records, wills, deeds etc. and the archaeological finds together can provide major insights to expand our appreciation of the past. Free and open to the public. The Hollin Hall Senior Center is located four miles south of Alexandria just off Fort Hunt Road at 1500 Shenandoah Road.

See Calendar, Page 25

## 51st Annual Holiday Shop – A Mount Vernon Tradition

Holiday Shop — a popular Mount Vernon tradition — will be held Saturday, Nov. 17, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, near Fort Hunt Rd., and Mason Hill Dr.

The event features a day-long bazaar of 50 artisans from the metro area as well as the popular Country Kitchen featuring savory chutneys and baked goods from the MVUC kitchen; Helene's Boutique, with upscale resale decorative household items; and the Jewelry Box shop with estate jewelry.

MVUC volunteers offer a tasty homemade lunch in the Hollin Hall mansion of cheese pie, soup, sandwiches, and dessert for a reasonable price.

Sponsored by MVUC's women's group, Every Thursday (E.T.), named for when they meet. Over the past half century, the event has grown into a huge bazaar that covers the Unitarian meeting house and the Hollin Hall mansion and includes outdoor craft booths. Unique holiday gifts are available from local artisans, who offer handcrafted pottery, basketry, fiber arts, paper, photography, and jewelry. Colorful orchids and other

plants are sold, as well as a variety of international crafts from India, Southeast Asia, and South and Central America. Gingerbread house kits are for sale.

A quilt made by the Church Quilters will be raffled



Quilters hold up their 2012 quilt, "Baskets of Joy," which will be raffled at the MVUC Holiday Shop Saturday, Nov 17.

off. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

Volunteers bake and can for a month to supply Country Kitchen with its famous array of chutneys, nut mixes, fudge, peanut brittle, Peruvian sauce, and homemade boursin (garlic) cheese as well as a variety of baked goods including cakes, cookies, quick breads, brownies, and pies. MVUC "ethical eating" cookbooks, as well as aprons and other kitchen items, round out the offerings.

The Holiday Shop usually enjoys fair weather though it may be chilly. At the end of the day, we salute the sunset from the Meeting House patio with wine and cheese overlooking the formal boxwood gardens.

Proceeds are used by the E.T. Group to fund church projects. Call 703-765-5950 or visit [www.mvuc.org](http://www.mvuc.org).

PORTCITYPLAYHOUSE.ORG

### The Soul Collector

Visit Community Theatre Premier!

written by Helen Hayes Award winning playwright David Emerson Toney  
directed by Helen Hayes Award winning actress Debra Starnes  
produced by Frank Pasqualino

NOV. 2-17, 2012

PORT CITY PLAYHOUSE

35th SEASON

1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302  
703.838.2880 | The Lab at Convergence

## Did you know?

60% of adults in families that were homeless were employed

### JEANS DAY 2012

Friday, Dec. 14  
Putting the ZIP on Homelessness

Put the ZIP on Homelessness by wearing jeans December 14 in exchange for a \$5 contribution to the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent & End Homelessness.

**Learn More & Sign Up**  
<http://jeansday2012.eventbrite.com>

In 2011, more than 100 employers representing 3,000 employees participated in this community-wide give-back initiative. Help us boost those numbers in 2012!

Preventing and Ending Homelessness  
Fairfax COUNTY Chamber OF COMMERCE  
THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online

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### Put Us to The Test

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# Holiday Entertainment

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Visit [www.MVGenealogy.org](http://www.MVGenealogy.org) or call 703-660-6969 or email [publicity@mvgenealogy.org](mailto:publicity@mvgenealogy.org).

**Free Art Exhibition.** Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery will open the juried show "Bedecked and Bedazzled" on Nov. 20. Gifts, jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited. The show

will be supplemented with additional juried items on Dec. 10 and close on Jan. 6, 2013. The gallery is located in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union St. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except on Thursdays when it is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 21

**Santa Claus.** 9:30 - 11 a.m. The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club will feature Kevin Rawlings, who will be in costume as he portrays Santa Claus during the Civil War Years of the 1860s. Free. Public invited. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Call Ann Connell at 703-360-4979.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 23

**Alexandria Black Friday Sale and Festivities.** 6 a.m. and all day. Participating stores will open at 6 a.m. offering initial discounts of up to 30 percent off. The city has waived all parking fees in city-owned garages and parking meters for the day. Stay for the city's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7 p.m. Call 703-746-3301 or visit [www.alexandriava.com](http://www.alexandriava.com).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 23-24

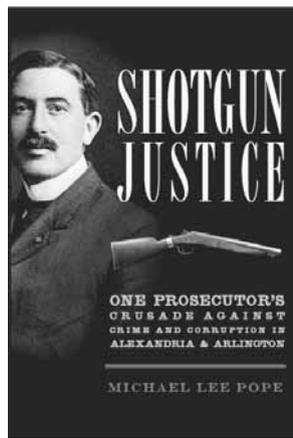
**The Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad** at the Birchmere. \$35. Visit [www.seldomscene.com](http://www.seldomscene.com) or [www.drybranchfiresquad.com](http://www.drybranchfiresquad.com). The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 23-25

**St. Aidan's Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale.** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Freshly-cut Fraser Fir Trees & wreaths from North Carolina. For parents with children in local public elementary schools, give back 10 percent to the PTA of any choice. Hot cider, cookies, and music will be offered. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church at 8531 Riverside Road. Call 703-360-4220 or visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com).

## Historic Candlelight Tours.

5-8 p.m. Join "Mrs. Washington" as she hosts an evening of candlelight tours, fireside caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. Tours include merry music, and characters from the Washingtons' world guiding visitors



## Book Launch

Reporter Michael Lee Pope is also an author of books on the foils and foibles of Alexandria, Arlington and District of Columbia. His newest release, "Shotgun Justice," tells the story of Commonwealth's Attorney Crandal Mackey who ended rampant crime and corruption in Alexandria, Alexandria County and Arlington.

"Shotgun Justice" will be available for sale at a book launch scheduled for Friday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, located at 201 Price Street. The evening will feature a display of rare photographs from the early 20th century and a discussion of how a rag-tag band of progressives overturned a political machine. A question-and-answer session will follow the speech, and the author will be signing books afterward.

through the first and second floors of the home, adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. Tickets may be purchased at the Ford Orientation Center (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily), or through [MountVernon.org](http://MountVernon.org). Admission is \$22 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Call 703-780-2000 or 703-799-8697 or visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

## NOV. 23 THROUGH DEC. 9

**Old Town Boutique District's Window Wonderland.** Come out to Old Town Alexandria and view the festive Window Wonderland of holiday lights and decorations on display at our local boutiques. Visit [www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com](http://www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 24

**Holiday Open House.** At Contessa's Home and Garden, 1906 Mount Vernon Ave. Kick-off the Holiday season with new gifts, live tree and seasonal decorative items. Refreshments will be served. Receive 20 percent off entire purchase 4-6 p.m. Visit [www.contessas.wordpress.com](http://www.contessas.wordpress.com) or call 703-548-1882.

## NOV. 24 THROUGH DEC. 23

**Santa Claus is Coming to Old Town.** Santa and Mrs. Claus are back in Old Town Alexandria to take pictures with children every Saturday and Sunday between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Presented by the Old Town Boutique District in partnership with the City of Alexandria and Bike and Roll Alexandria and with the support of area businesses. The cost for pictures is \$15 for a 5 x 7 print. Hours: Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except for Dec. 1 (Scottish Walk Parade day) when hours are 1-5 p.m.; Sundays, noon-5 p.m. At Bike and Roll Alexandria, One Wales Alley. Call 703-501-6289 or visit [www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com](http://www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 25

**Duncan Sheik.** 7:30 p.m. \$29.50. Visit [www.duncansheik.com](http://www.duncansheik.com). Courier to open. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

**Coffee + Critique + Conversation.** 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free. Photographers and art enthusiasts of all levels are invited to engage in friendly dialogue and share portfolios, projects, ideas, and questions. Multiple Exposures Gallery (Studio 312), 105 North Union St. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com) or call 703-683-2205.

## THROUGH NOV. 25

**"Photographers at the Factory Invitational Exhibit."** Juried by LensWork founder and editor, Brooks Jensen. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursdays 12-9 p.m. The opening reception is on Nov. 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. Free and open to the public. At Multiple Exposures Gallery located at 105 N. Union St. #312. Call 703-683-2205. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org). **Photography exhibition: "Telling Images."** See photographic techniques and interpretations that tell a story without words. Call 703-960-3873, email [jldtiff@cox.net](mailto:jldtiff@cox.net) or visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

## MONDAY/NOV. 26

**James Fortune & Jessica Reedy 'Celebrate Christmas.'** 7:30 p.m. \$29.50. Visit [www.jessicareedymusic.com/](http://www.jessicareedymusic.com/). The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

## TUESDAY/NOV. 27

**Graham Parker & The Rumour Reunion.** 7:30 p.m. At the Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$35. Visit <http://www.grahamparker.net>. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

# Thanksgiving



## Breakfast

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

## Lunch and Dinner Carving Stations and Buffet 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**Hand-Carved Hot Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing ~ Savory Gravy ~ Baked Virginia Ham with Raisin Sauce ~ Fresh Homemade Mashed Potatoes Broccoli and Hollandaise Sauce Sautéed Whole Green Beans ~ Corn Apple Pie ~ Pumpkin Pie ~ Pecan Pie ~ Mince Pie Everything on Our Menu is Homemade and Fresh!**

**Football Games and Parades will be on our TVs. Cocktails, Beer and Wine Available.**

Ample On-Site Parking Free  
Please Note that Beverages and Gratuity are not included in the Buffet price.  
Reservations Suggested

**734 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
703-548-1616 • [www.theroyalrestaurant.com](http://www.theroyalrestaurant.com)  
Award-winning wine menu • Major credit cards accepted**

# Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') GAZETTE



Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Mount Vernon Gazette turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com), or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 5, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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Photos by Richard Maple

West Potomac junior Demornay Pierson-El carries the ball against Centreville on Nov. 9 during the Division 6 football playoffs.

West Potomac kicker Chris Blewitt attempts a kick against Centreville on Nov. 9 during the Division 6 football playoffs.

## West Potomac Football Loses in Region Quarterfinals

**T**he West Potomac Wolverines defeated Centreville during the regular season, but came up short against the Wildcats in their postseason rematch.

No. 3 Centreville defeated No. 6 West Potomac, 28-11, on Nov. 9 in the quarterfinals of the Division 6 Northern Region football playoffs. The Wolverines defeated Centreville, 27-20, on Sept. 7, but it's the Wildcats who advanced to the region semifinals, where they will face No. 7

Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16.

According to stats from the Washington Post's Web site, West Potomac running back Demornay Pierson-El carried 26 times for 121 yards and a touchdown during the playoff rematch. Centreville's Xavier Nickens-zyer rushed for 120 yards and AJ Turner had 119.

West Potomac finished the year with a 6-5 record under first-year head coach

**Sports Briefs**

Jeremiah Davis. The Wolverines started 3-0 and won five of their first six games.

### West Po's Genuario Competes at State Cross Country Meet

West Potomac junior Katie Genuario placed 23rd in the AAA girls' race with a time of 19:04 at the VHSL state cross coun-

try meet on Nov. 10 at Great Meadow.

The top 15 individuals receive all-state honors and the top three teams are honored at the podium. Lee's Bailey Kolonich finished 15th with a time of 18:41. Lake Braddock's Sophie Chase won her second consecutive championship with a time of 17:24.

Lake Braddock won the team title with a score of 47, followed by Oakton (101) and Midlothian (101). Oakton finished runner-up due to a sixth-runner tiebreaker.

### Youth Football League Championship Game



Fort Hunt player Christopher Bourjaily carries the ball closer to the end zone in Saturday's game against Braddock Road on the Parker Gray Field at T.C. Williams High School.



Members of the 75lb. Gum Springs youth football league team receive a runner-up trophy after their game against SYA. Members of the team include: Avionte Carpenter, Randall Carter Jr., Antonio Jones, Jalen Marrow-Jackson, Daniel Danso, Markell Hamilton, Phillip McClusky, Jordyn Reid, Derick Brefo-Sarpong, Darius Harris, Kimani Mitchell, Immanuel Neal and Elijah Venzen. Coaches are Chuck Marin and Marcus Ferguson.

Photos by  
Louise Krafft/  
The Gazette

# Schools



**LTC Lahti answers questions in Ms. Rubenthaler's class.**



**LTC Conney visits with Ms. Giblin's first grade class.**

Photos Contributed



**A visit via web conference connects LTC Olson with the sixth grade.**

## Celebrating Veterans Day

*Fort Hunt Elementary School celebrated Veterans Day by inviting current and former serving military parents to share their military experiences with children in all grades.*



**CDR Wirth shares his perspectives with Ms. Rubenthaler and Ms. Alexander's fourth grade classes.**

### Letters

From Page 11

with the broad scope of policy, plans, objectives, and desired outcomes set by the board. These go beyond price and cost to purpose and effect. They examine systems, processes, and operations weighed against objectives, desired outcomes and efficacy. Whereas financial audits are largely quantitative, operational audits measure both quality and quantity.

Operational audits can give us answers to such questions as: is the objective, program, or process

sound? Does it relate to established goals and objectives? What is each priority relative to others? Are resources sufficient to task and outcome? Is the process effective? Is it efficient? Is it cost effective? Is it getting the desired result? Can objectives be achieved to the same or better effect in a more efficient or efficacious way? Most importantly, are there feedback mechanisms to alert managers before issues become problems?

I was encouraged when, at the Dan Storck-hosted Town Hall meeting last week, there was a

suggestion that the school system might not only be moving toward engaging an outside auditor but there was some thought being given to conducting operational audits as well. If these twin ideas can be put into practice, they'll give us the information we need to make informed program and budget decisions on which we can evolve to the world-class school system we all want here in Fairfax County.

**Barry M. Meuse**  
Alexandria

### Correction

The photo of Hope Warshaw, panelist for American Association of University Women's program on "Nutrition and Food Quality" on Nov. 15 at the Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, was incorrect in last week's Gazette.



**Warshaw**

## Gobblepalooza!!!

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**Saturday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

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