

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 12, 2013

PAGE 21  
Holiday  
& Gift Guide 2013



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Elizabeth Tolles and Jenny Kennedy display a few of the gift ideas on the holiday treats table at the annual church craft fair.

## Church Hosts Annual Craft Sale



A selection of Jenny Kennedy's festive holiday sweater pins.



Used incandescent light bulbs were turned into festive ornaments for the bazaar.

**H**oliday crafts and gift ideas filled the tables in the auditorium at Heritage Presbyterian Church on Fort Hunt Road last week-end for the annual craft sale. Incandescent light bulbs were hand-painted and turned into ornaments by one artist. Another artist worked with old greeting cards that resulted in colorful laminated holiday placemats. Jenny Kennedy turned colorful papers and drawings into fancy pins for sweaters and blouses. Mason jars were filled with the fixings for bean soup along with jars filled with ingredients for whole wheat chocolate-cherry cookie mix.



Candy sleighs filled with holiday treats make a great stocking stuffer.

## Woodlawn Reinvented

Horses will be evicted in favor of new interpretation focusing on agriculture and gardening.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

**I**n the coming year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation will step aside and let a nonprofit organization known as Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture take control of operations and interpretation. The move will mark a drastic departure for the plantation estate, which will discontinue its longstanding relationship with Woodlawn Stables. The horses will become a thing of the past and the museum will feature new interpretation that leaders at the National Trust hope will expand into a destination for visitors to eat, learn and garden.

"What you usually would not hear on a tour here is much about the agricultural history — why this was part of Mount Vernon origi-

nally, how Washington farmed this area, why he thought that this particular site where we are standing would be, as he called it, a great seat for a gentleman," said John Riley, interim director at Woodlawn. "The Trust is going to look at the agricultural history through Arcadia and with Arcadia, which predates equestrian facilities by 100 years here."

That means the end of an era for the Mount Vernon neighborhood, where Woodlawn Stables has been a popular destination and a cherished memory for many families through the generations. For more than 30 years, the business has leased a property at the southeast corner of Route 1 and Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. That longstanding history was challenged last year when officials at

SEE HORSES, PAGE 6

## New Approach to Mental Health

Reforms in wake of tragedy involving state senator's son.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

**A**dvocates for mental health services have been calling for improved services and increased funding for years, although the issue has been pushed aside year after year. But now that the son of state Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25) committed suicide after stabbing his father, a new sense of urgency is emerging in advance of the upcoming General Assembly session. This week, Republican

Gov. Bob McDonnell proposed adding \$38 million over two years to the existing \$250 million budget for community service boards across the commonwealth.

"It makes you wonder why a crisis was needed to initiate the type of funding that we need," said Pamela Barrett, a member of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. "We are so far behind other states in mental health crisis response funding as it is, and it's something that the CSBs have

SEE MORE STATE, PAGE 6

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### New Listing ~ Backs to Huntley Meadows

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Mary Andrews looks over the smaller works displayed on tables for the two-day show.



Watercolor students Trudy Levy, Donna Strum and Regina Barker-Barzel.

## Watercolor Show and Sale at Hollin Hall Senior Center

Color filled the hallways and cafeteria at the Hollin Hall Senior Center as the work of 50 watercolor students of Gwendolyn C. Bragg went on display at the Watercolor Show and Sale last weekend.

Bragg teaches out of her studio at the Lorton Workhouse Art Center and the Art League in Alexandria.

For more information on her classes, visit [www.gwendolyncbragg.com](http://www.gwendolyncbragg.com).



Diana and Brianna Willers explore the exhibit at the Senior Center on Saturday evening.



Mak Dehejia poses for a photo with watercolor artist and teacher Gwendolyn C. Bragg.



Ursula Dehetia, wearing a necklace of raffle tickets, moves through the crowd offering tickets for sale and a chance to win a work by watercolor artist and teacher Gwendolyn C. Bragg.

## Art Therapy Helps Wounded Warriors

**“Intrepid Spirit One” program gives soldiers tools for healing.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

Art Therapist Jackie Biggs, 28, of Arlington is working on a three-month pilot program at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital that helps wounded warriors find healing through visual arts therapy.

The “Intrepid Spirit One” program brings art therapy to military patients with mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) at Fort Belvoir’s satellite center of the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE). It is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense.

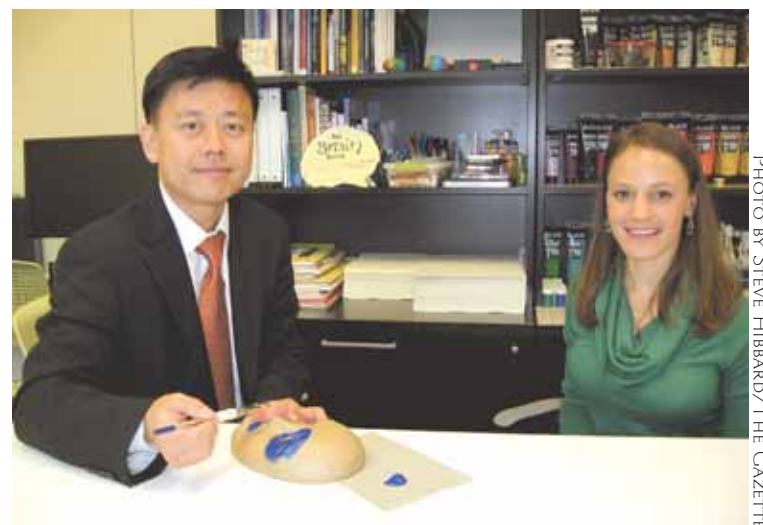
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“Art-making is very intuitive,” said Biggs. “An art therapist is a trained therapist who uses art to facilitate the therapy.”

Dr. Heechin Chae, 47, who oversees NICoE at Fort Belvoir, said art therapy is beneficial because it helps patients express what’s going on inside. “It’s very important that we understand what the person is going through — what they’re thinking, feeling, what’s going on internally,” he said. “It really helps the providers understand the person’s thinking process and emotional process.”

Many of the soldiers have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan where they encountered traumatic situations like blast injuries or gunshot wounds in combat. As TBI patients, Biggs said they can have memory-loss issues. So the art therapy helps them with remembering situations they may have blocked, as well as helping with hand-eye coordinating and dexterity.

SEE ART THERAPY, PAGE 9



Dr. Heechin Chae and art therapist Jackie Biggs of the “Intrepid Spirit One” program at Fort Belvoir.

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ DECEMBER 12-18, 2013 ♦ 3



#### ALEXANDRIA \$1,495,000

This renovated historic home offers an amazing blend of modern and traditional design, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, top-of-the-line kitchen, dramatic master suite, spacious L.L. family room, rear yard and off-street parking.

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#### ALEXANDRIA \$3,700,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/AX7731151](http://ttrsir.com/id/AX7731151)

George Washington spent his last 4th of July in 1798 in this residence when it was once a tavern. The half-acre lot features a 2-car garage, swimming pool, and carriage house.

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#### ALEXANDRIA \$2,900,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/21064841](http://ttrsir.com/id/21064841)

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#### ARLINGTON \$2,825,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/AR8191145](http://ttrsir.com/id/AR8191145)

This Colonial in Lyon Village has 6 BRs, 5.5 BAs, approx. 6,400 sf, gourmet kitchen, full-house entertainment system, outdoor kitchen, walk to metro, shops and restaurants.

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This stunning end-unit townhome in Old Town waterfront community offers 3 BRs, library, chef's kitchen, and a family room that leads to a brick patio. 2-car garage.

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This Federal-style home, on the most charming block of Prince Street, offers refinished original hardwood floors, beautifully landscaped back garden, and a spacious dining room and library.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOUNT VERNON ESTATE

The parlor is ready for games and port after dinner.

## Mount Vernon by Candlelight

Candlelight tours of the Mount Vernon mansion and grounds are ongoing on Saturday and Sunday evenings through Dec. 22 from

5:30-8:30 p.m. Admission to the Candlelight tour is \$22 for adults and \$15 for children 11 and under. This event is not included in general admission.



Parke Custis and Eleanor Parke Custis portrayed by Eben Kuhns and Natalie Fairchild greet guests in the mansion at the Christmas Candlelight tours at Mount Vernon.



Christopher Sheels, General George Washington's enslaved valet, is portrayed by Jonathan Douglass.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### HOLIDAY NEEDS

**Toy Drive.** Weichert, Realtors are holding a toy drive through Dec. 13. Drop off a new, unwrapped toy to any of the offices. They will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. To make a donation, visit any Weichert, Realtors sales office or to find a local office, visit [www.weichert.com/offices/](http://www.weichert.com/offices/).

**Toy Drive.** Sheehy Auto Stores will hold a toy drive to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Through Dec. 15, donate a new, unwrapped toy to Sheehy Honda of Alexandria, 2434 Richmond Highway.

**Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale.** Pick out a freshly-cut North Carolina Fraser Fir while enjoying some hot cider and cookies. Ten percent of the sale will go back to a designated PTA. Runs Saturdays and Sundays at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531

Riverside Road, through Dec. 15. Visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com) or 703-360-4220.

**Toy Collection.** From Dec. 9-13, drop off an unwrapped, new toy for Toys for Tots at entrance of the King Street Metro Station, 1900 King St. Hours are 6:30-8:30 a.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. Donations may also be dropped off at the Alexandria Transit store located across from the metro at 1775-C Duke St., and is open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday.

#### HOLIDAY SPECIAL

**SoberRide Program.** From 10 p.m.-6 a.m., Dec. 13-Jan. 1, Washington-metropolitan area residents can call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home. AT&T users can dial #WRAP for the same service. More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com).

**THURSDAY/DEC. 5**  
**Chamber Breakfast and Talk.** 8-

9:30 a.m. at Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. The Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce will host Glenn Spencer, vice president of the Workforce Freedom Initiative at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. \$25. Visit [www.mtvernon-leechamber.org](http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org) or 703-360-6925 for reservations.

**English Conversation.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults can converse with other adults learning English. Free. 703-765-3645.

**English Conversation.** 2 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Adults can converse with other adults learning English. Free. 703-971-0010.

**English Conversation.** 7 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane or Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Center. Adults can converse with other adults learning English. Free. 703-765-3645.

#### FRIDAY/DEC. 6

**English Conversation.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood  
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 20



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**Alex./Riverwood \$759,900**  
**3713 Riverwood Road**

Fabulous 5 BR, 3.5 BA Colonial in prestigious river front community of Riverwood. 3 finished levels, updated & expanded kitchen w/plenty of storage - large sun room addition with wrap-around deck overlooking a beautiful, fenced bkdy. 425 SF of storage below sun room - remodeled baths - finished walk-out lower level w/2 BRs, rec room, den and full bath. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, Alex, 25/30 mins to Pentagon/D.C.



UNDER CONTRACT

**Alex./Riverside Estates**  
**\$519,900**

**8305 Cherry Valley Lane**

Beautiful 5 BR, 3 BA Split with 1-car garage on lovely, fenced yard in popular Riverside Estates. Spectacular kit, totally upgraded w/granite, cherry cabinets, & ceramic tile floor which opens to dining area. 2-story addition doubles size of master bedroom & adds 5th bedroom on lower lvl. Walk to elementary and high schools - 1 mile from M.V. Estate & G.W. Pkwy - 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir.



RENTAL

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**Rental \$1,800**

**830 Belmont Bay Dr. #502**

Immaculate Condo. 2 BRs, Den & 2.5 Baths - Shows like a model - Top-of-the-line Kitchen with Granite & Breakfast Bar - Sunny and bright with beautiful MBA suite - Near Marina, Golf course and VRE - Short commute to Ft. Belvoir, and Quantico.



COMING SOON

**Alex./Riverside Estates \$609,900**

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Large, spectacular 4 BR/3 BA Split w/2-car garage and 3,100 sq. feet. 640 sq. ft. addition adds an expanded MBR/MBA suite. Beautifully updated kitchen & baths. Updated HVAC system, hot water heater and replacement windows. Professional office below the expanded MBR. This house will cater to your every need. Coming soon but can be shown now thru Rex. Agents 3% commission offered.



COMING SOON

**Alex./Wessynton \$649,900**

**3217 Wessynton Way**

Absolutely Stunning 5 BR, 3 BA Contemporary in prestigious Waterfront Community of Wessynton. Over \$150K in upgrades over the past 10-12 years. Beautifully landscaped .34 acre lot backing to the woods. Planning on coming on the market this spring but can be shown by appointment thru Rex Reiley and sold before that. List price \$649,900 & 3% commission to buyer agent. Call Rex for details.

For more information: [www.RexReiley.com](http://www.RexReiley.com)



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# Horses To Be Evicted from Woodlawn

FROM PAGE 1

the Federal Highway Administration began an effort to widen Route 1, a process that will eventually lead to demolition of Woodlawn Stables.

“Naturally, we are disappointed,” said Cynthia Mitchell, owner of Woodlawn Stables. “It does seem as if our roots have gotten pushed a little further away from us, and we tend to be pushing businesses such as this one that provides jobs in the local community out further and further.”

**SINCE WOODLAWN** was acquired by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and opened as a museum, visitors have learned about the story of Nelly Custis Lewis and Lawrence Lewis. But they would not have learned much about the agricultural history of the site — why it was part of the original Mount Vernon estate and how George Washington farmed the area. By the time Woodlawn opens again in the spring of 2015, leaders at Arcadia hope to have transformed the experience.

“We hope to bring a new life back to the house and the grounds, and make it the vibrant center of the community it once was,” said Arcadia founder Michael Babin in a written statement. “We look forward to expanding our farm production, farmer training and our educational programs and sharing Woodlawn’s inspiring agricultural and

social history with the region.”

Supporters of Woodlawn Stables say they are devastated by the news, especially considering the federal mitigation money that will be available because of the demolition of the existing stables. Some were holding out hope that the National Trust would incorporate horses into their property after Route 1 was widened. Now that it’s clear that won’t happen, supporters of the stable say they hope the federal money might be earmarked for a barn at the equestrian center at Laurel Hill in Lorton. “We’re saddened to see that they have decided to see that they’ve decided to go with a path that strays away from Woodlawn’s history,” said Shelley Castle, founder of a group known

as Save Woodlawn Stables. “This has been a horse farm or livestock for more than a century, and we think this greatly diminishes the historic value of the property.”

**LEADERS AT THE TRUST** disagree with that interpretation. They say Arcadia’s new focus on agricul-

ture will return the property to its roots, a time when George Washington sought tenants to farm parts of 8,000 acres of Mount Vernon estate. Like Washington, the Trust is now hoping its new tenant might plant a seed for future generations by recreating the Woodlawn experience.

“Washington came to the realization that tobacco — year after year — was going to ruin his land, and that’s why a lot of people

**“We’re saddened to see that they have decided to go with a path that strays away from Woodlawn’s history.”**

**— Shelley Castle, founder of Save Woodlawn Stables**



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE GAZETTE

**The National Trust for Historic Preservation will evict these horses from Woodlawn.**

were moving out west to find new land. But he didn’t want to move west,” said Riley. “So he hoped he was creating an example

for American farmers in terms of being able to stay on the land you were on and making fruitful.”

## More State Funds Proposed for Mental Health Services

FROM PAGE 1

been lobbying for and begging for for years.”

McDonnell also issued an executive order 68 to convene a task force on improving mental health services and crisis response. The governor described his task force as a group of leaders in the mental health and law enforcement as well as the judicial system and private hospitals. Within minutes of McDonnell’s announcement, Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe issued a statement commending the governor, an indication he intends to follow through when he assumes the reins of power next year. But advocates for mental health remain skeptical.

“But the governor’s budget proposals are just that — they are proposals. The General Assembly will have to approve them,” said James Mack, chairman of the Arlington Community Services Board.

“So while this is a step in the right direction, the General Assembly will have to act

and Governor McAuliffe will have to continue the executive order.”

**FOR NOW**, the issue seems to have newfound momentum — the result of a series of events that unfolded last month, when an emergency custody order was issued for the senator’s son but a psychiatric bed could not be located before the order expired. That’s why one of the reforms proposed by the governor is allowing magistrates to extend the orders by two hours. Another proposal would extend temporary detention orders to 72 hours, a proposal that would cost about \$1.6 million a year. Funding is also proposed for the Western State Hospital, where Northern Virginia jurisdictions send patients, which would be about \$680,000 a year.

**“These proposals will make a dent, but this is certainly not going to solve the problem.”**

**— Judith Deane, Arlington Community Services Board**

“These proposals will make a dent, but this is certainly not going to solve the problem,” said Judith Deane of the Arlington Community Services Board. “Northern Virginia jurisdictions put a lot of their own money into this, so in that sense we are better off than many other counties in Virginia. But we still have a lot of need.”

Alexandria Community Services Board director Michael Gilmore said when he was director of the community services board that serves rural Bath County and Rockbridge County, the local funding for community services was about \$5 per capita when he left a decade ago. In Alexandria, by contrast, the local funding for community services is \$125 per capita. That’s why a psychiatric bed might be much more difficult to find in the rural stretches of Virginia,

where services are few and far between.

“Much of the state is dependent on billing Medicaid to cover the cost of the services they provide,” said Gilmore. “But all five of the community services boards up here have much more local funding.”

**THE PROPOSALS INCLUDE** expanding programs for child psychiatry and children’s crisis response services as well as crisis intervention team programs, crisis stabilization services and discharge assistance programs. Other proposals include expanding mental health first aid programs, secure assessment centers and suicide prevention efforts.

One initiative would spend \$1.8 million to create six secure crisis intervention team assessment centers where people can be held safely for evaluation and finding a bed without tying up law enforcement personnel.

“That’s only \$300,000 a center,” said Gilmore. “I think it’s going to cost a lot more than that.”



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Living trees lighted in the memory of loved ones and to honor special friends will be lit at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lights of Love Ceremony.

Mount Vernon community family and friends are invited to join us and welcome the holiday season in a very special way.

Ceremony includes Festival of Music by Donald Brideau, MD and Ronald Speorl.

Reception follows in the cafeteria.

**Saturday, December 14, 2013, at 5:00 p.m.**  
in the Hospital Main Lobby

**Inova Mount Vernon Hospital  
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The National Breast Center combines advanced technology and over a decade of specialized surgical training with a truly personalized focus on breast health. Individual risk assessment and screening plans, BRCA gene testing, onsite diagnostics, and office based biopsies maximize efficiency and produce optimal outcomes. Breast cancer is one of the top two causes of cancer mortality in women. We are here to help turn the tide.

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## Early Detection Alliance

This program will use a variety of modalities to spread accurate breast health information to the public to empower women in our community.

**David C. Weintritt, MD, FACS**

*Founder, National Breast Center and Director, Inova Mt. Vernon Breast Care Institute*

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**NATIONAL  
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## OBITUARY

### Linda Klaveness Wheeler

**L**inda Klaveness Wheeler, 75, died at home in Asheville, N.C., on Dec. 4, 2013, from complications of end-stage Lupus.

Mrs. Wheeler was born Nov. 8, 1938, in Santa Monica, Calif. She is the daughter of Capt. Francis Ashtore Klaveness, USN (ret.) and Esther Hefele Klaveness. She was a graduate of George Washington High School in Alexandria in 1956. From there she moved with her family to Yokosuka, Japan. She attended Sacred Heart College in Tokyo, Japan.

It was in Japan that she met her future husband of 56 years, Lt. Col. Thomas McDowell Wheeler, USMC (ret.). She was highly active as a Marine Corp spouse, involved in multiple clubs and organizations. The later parts of Lt. Col. Wheeler's career were in the Washington D.C. area, where they resided in the Mount Vernon area with their three children for almost 25 years.

Mrs. Wheeler was active with the Gunston Hall Docent Association (past president), the Virginia Historical Society, the Alexandria Historical Society and the Alexandria French Club. In addition, she worked part-time for Plantation Flower Shop in Mount Vernon and Washington Square Antiques in Alexandria. She was also a member of



Immanuel on the Hill Episcopal Church, Alexandria.

Her parents precede her in death. She is survived by her husband, children: Major Robert Francis Wheeler, USMC (ret.), David McDowell Wheeler (Becky), Lisa Klaveness Wheeler (Dr. Patty J. Wilson), and adopted grandchildren: Julie Marie Harrison (Benjamin) and

Christina Rose Carter. She is also survived by her sister, Tinet Klaveness Crowell (Charles), nieces: Jennifer Wheeler Franzke, and Gisele Gros-Dubois Ford and nephews: Richard Wheeler, James Wheeler, Michael Wheeler and Eric Gros-Dubois.

Funeral services will be held at the Old Post Chapel on Ft. Myer, Arlington, followed by internment at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

A Celebration of Life will occur Dec. 23, 2013, at Biltmore Commons Clubhouse, Asheville, N.C. Please contact the family for further details.

The family respectfully requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to CarePartners Hospice Foundation, P.O. Box 25338, Asheville, NC 28813 or donate online: [www.carepartnersfoundation.org](http://www.carepartnersfoundation.org).

Groce Funeral Home on Patton Ave. is assisting the family and the online register is available at [www.grocefuneralhome.com](http://www.grocefuneralhome.com).

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## Coat Drive

Joe Hadeed and Wade Hardman, director, Volunteer and Community Services, Childhelp, Culpepper, Va., present an award to Stanhope Fairbanks, 11, of Mount Vernon thanking him for his help in exceeding the goal of gathering more than 1,200 coats for the 8th Annual Hadeed Carpet Coat Drive to benefit the Washington Area Chapter of Childhelp and their mission to end child abuse and neglect.

# Art Therapy Helps Soldiers

FROM PAGE 3

"A lot of people will recreate pieces of their traumatic event in their artwork," she said. "What's great about the art — as soon as they sit down, they pick up intuitively exactly where they left off."

Biggs lets soldiers work at their own pace, painting masks or doing drawings or sculptures, and cites three reasons that art-making is beneficial — for being relaxing, cathartic and insightful.

She doesn't dictate to soldiers what to draw or create. "I give open-ended directives so people can take it in a million different directions," she said. "Some people like to work quietly and tell me about it at the end, and some people talk while they're doing it. Everyone has a different way of doing it."

When they finish the art work, they process it, she adds. "Once it's on the page, they can talk about it ... So I might ask them to tell me what they've created. For some people, it's really helpful to get it out there."

When some soldiers encounter trauma, the "Broca" area of the brain's frontal lobe — the speech section — shuts down, so they don't have the words to talk about it. "That's when the art-making is very helpful," she said.

Christopher Walz, media relations officer with Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, added: "Our team works with 'mitigating strategies' ... getting them to talk about (the issues) so they can have a better quality of life."

He said sometimes symptoms don't show up until months or even years after traumatic incidents — when family, co-workers or colleagues point out differences in their behavior.

"One thing we've tried to emphasize is that while everything may not be curable, everything can be mitigated, and we can help," said Walz.

Depending on the need, Biggs sees some soldiers for an hour a week or four times a week. "It depends on what they're dealing with," she said.

There are many other benefits to art therapy as well, she added: "We use the creative process, art making and art working to improve a person's cognitive, emotional and physical wellbeing."

Chae adds that certain areas of the brain are activated by art therapy, which is critical to help promote "neuroplasticity" — or the ability of the brain to repair, reconnect or reorganize itself. However, 10 to 20 percent of the population does not recover fully and neuroplasticity doesn't take place. "That's why it's a public health crisis," he said.

Art therapy tries to promote this neuroplasticity, he said, by stimulating the brain.

And because many service members have not been exposed to art, through this therapy, they are tapping into "an unused therapy." He added: If you stimulate the healthy side of the brain, sometimes it promotes wellness and helps repair the damaged side as well.

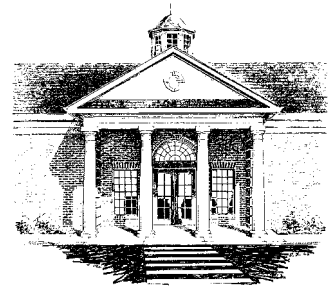
Chae said when someone has trauma, their brains can suppress the memory.

Those memories may get triggered in a crowded Wal-Mart or public place that induces sweats, panic attacks and tremors. "This is a subconscious process," he said.

Biggs works with an interdisciplinary team of physicians, psychologists, and case managers to really address the person. Through art therapy, Chae said, soldiers may start to connect the events — why they are having problems.

"It gives the other psychotherapists a tool to get to that point to resolve that conflict," said Chae. "That's the beauty of the system. Art therapy really helps a person's healing process."

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# OPINION

## Happy Holidays, Safely SoberRide 1-800-200-TAXI.

**H**oliday party season is well underway, along with winter weather advisories. It's up to individuals to make good decisions about celebrations that involve alcohol and how to handle transportation.

Plan to abstain. Plan to celebrate at home or someplace where you will be comfortable for some period of time. Plan to bring a designated driver. Plan to take public transportation. And if all of that fails, the Washington Regional Alcohol Project has a safety net for you.

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

More than 10,000 died in drunk driving related accidents in 2010. Tens of thousands more were injured. Holidays lead to an increase in impaired driving, the Christmas and New Year season in particular.

The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate nightly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Friday, Dec. 13, 2013, and continuing until Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

EDITORIAL During these times, area residents celebrating with alcohol can call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home. Callers will be responsible for fare amounts over \$30. Last December 1,927 people took advantage of this program. On New Year's Eve alone, 387 people call on SoberRide for a safe trip home.

SoberRide is offered in throughout the Northern Virginia and Maryland suburbs. In these areas, local taxicab companies will be providing this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who might otherwise have attempted to drive home after drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 58,576 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

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

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

It's a good time for a conversation about the risks of drinking to excess beyond drinking and driving as well.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Community Of Integrity

To the Editor:

Reading the recent issue of the Mount Vernon Gazette helped deepen my appreciation for the community we live in. The article about Brian Schoeneman's determination to get things right in the attorney general's race while being taken to task by members of his own party was very inspirational, Jay Spiegel, a guy I usually disagree with, gave a very enlight-

ening explanation of the decision by the MVCCA to deny something we need in order to create something we as a community abhor, and Scott Surovell's article on the fight to give all of our kids the same shot at a relevant 21st century education. And last but not least, the obituary for Henry Shackleford Junior, a man I did not know personally, but whose North Carolina BBQ at St Luke's put a smile on my face every October.

I appreciate all of these men, and I am grateful to live in a community where integrity is one of

our strongest values and a devotion to helping preserve the traditions that we all believe important is worth standing up for.

**Ron Brooks**  
Alexandria

## Serious Business

To the Editor:

My letter published in last week's Gazette discussed the latest car title lender on Richmond

Highway, replacing the Sunoco service station near Huntington Avenue. I pointed out the partial role of the MVCCA in this debacle and drew an analogy to the role of the MVCCA and an adjacent neighborhood in the demise of the Kings Crossing town center project and its replacement by a Wal-Mart store.

After I submitted my letter for publication, another analogy between the demise of the town center and the demise of the service station became evident. At Kings Crossing, the proposed developer of the town center promised to restore the park behind the property at their sole expense, a quite expensive promise indeed. Of course, that promise evaporated with the demise of the project. At the next MVCCA meeting, a representative of the adjacent neighborhood that was partially responsible for the demise asked the MVCCA to enact a resolution requesting that Fairfax County pay for restoration of the park. The MVCCA did so.

Analogizing to the Sunoco - car title lender transition, as I explained last week, one reason there will be a car title lender rather than a service station is that the MVCCA enacted a resolution opposing Sunoco's request for a special exception needed to operate a service station. Last week, the MVCCA Planning & Zoning Committee, in the wake of Sunoco's decision, passed a resolution asking the Board of Supervisors and the Virginia legislature to stem the proliferation of car title lending businesses. Of course, if the MVCCA had supported Sunoco's

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

### VIEWPOINTS

## "What is your favorite (or most memorable) gift that you've given?"



**Reagan C.** "My favorite gift is the one we just got for Harley." Harley is her grandparents' dog and they want him to play with toys, instead of barking, when visitors arrive.



**Sadie:** "It was an Impala for my honey."

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES  
THE GAZETTE



**Sonia N.:** Most memorable was the black and white television that she gave her son when he was 3. His response: "Why do you want me to have a gray TV?"

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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## OPINION



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CAZETTE PACKET

### At Scottish Walk

**Scouts from Troop 600 at Stratford Landing Elementary School carry the lead banner for the Campagna Center in the annual Scottish Walk parade in Alexandria on Saturday, Dec. 7.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

special exception request, we'd have a needed service station at that location, not a car title lender. This is because MVCCA support would have likely resulted in Supervisor Hyland's support.

Volunteering in the civic arena is serious business. Representing the community, weighing in on development proposals for the property of others is not a game. It also isn't something one should undertake without technical knowledge or without thoroughly preparing oneself for meetings and votes. People who volunteer for civic duty must do so with full awareness of the "big picture" and of the potential adverse ramifications from the positions they take as they claim the mantle of representing the community as a whole. In my opinion, the current iteration of the MVCCA has not earned the privilege of having its resolutions carry significant weight in the decision making process for developments in the Mount Vernon District. The Sunoco - car title lender debacle is just the latest proof.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

## Higher Standard

To the Editor:

This past Wednesday, Dec. 11, marked the 288th birthday anniversary of a great American patriot: the venerable George Mason of Gunston Hall; citizen, statesman, philosopher — Fairfax County's first and finest delegate to the Virginia Legislature. By British reckoning he was "born" a free

man. But the wider course of events bore confirmation of England's stern, authoritarian disposition, which took little notice of this alleged birthright, especially in those years immediately leading up to the American Revolution.

In the eye of His Majesty the King, even our most prestigious American forebears held the distinction of being inferior, with no category or manner of man ever fully being exempted from the purview of his tyranny. As such, "being the right color" bore little consequence in terms of providing any free-born American the proper assurance of freedom and independence, supposedly ascribed to him by birth.

That is why, when Mason drafted the opening statement of Virginia's Declaration of Rights, conscience compelled him to look beyond England and beyond the King.

He looked beyond the Earth and its earthly rulers, as it were, and asserted the supreme, God-ordained birthright of mankind — the one to which all human beings are permanently bound and entitled, without regard to class, condition or circumstance.

The standard of right to which we are all eternally held, not according to statutes of "privilege" (such as those ascribed to us by the purported benevolence of those in power), but by God's infinite, immutable law of nature. Properly defined, the dispensation of freedom (as it exists this side of eternity) is founded on the presupposition of natural equity, human dignity and worth, which God extends to all who are conceived in his image; and who are, by his good reckoning, generated of hu-

man stock.

Our founding generation gave their utmost respect to this premise — that all men, even at the moment of conception, are to be deemed full, equal, accountable members of the human race, not according to the privilege of birth, but by the basic right of nature. And to emphasize their respect for this premise — and much to the astonishment of a slave-holding generation — the Virginia Convention struck out the word "born" [as contained in the original draft] and revised the opening statement of this charter so that it would explicitly declare: That all men are "by nature" equally free. The point being, freedom was no longer to be considered a "birthright," as English tradition had arrogantly chosen to regard it. Instead, it was to be as God, himself, had ordained it: An object of divine principle.

And by the enabling grace of God, and the will of an extraordinary statesman, this guiding principle has, for the past 237 years, been guaranteed to each and every one of us under the founding charter of our Commonwealth.

The best way for you and I to show our appreciation and admiration of Mason's unparalleled contribution to this world is to live in away that rightly fulfills the precept of freedom envisioned by the Virginia Convention. Having the opportunity, as ordinary citizens, to stand by the light of this higher standard, rather than being forced to accept the sinister political scheme of murders and slaveholders, is a privilege we all can enjoy.

**Joe Glean**  
Alexandria

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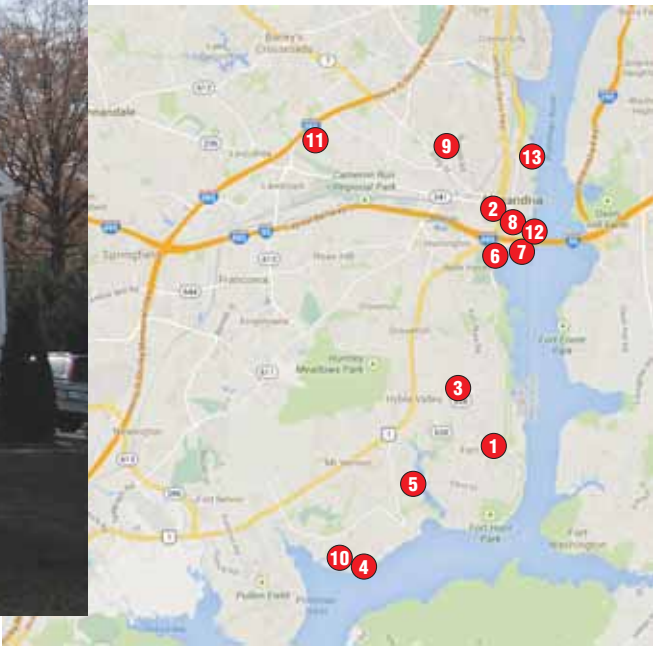
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Alexandria & Mount Vernon Top Sales in October 2013

1 1205 Cedar Dale Lane,  
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4 4006 Belle Rive Terrace, Mount Vernon — \$1,250,000



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5 3004 Cunningham Drive, Mount Vernon — \$1,250,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 1205 CEDAR DALE LN	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA/MV	\$1,375,000	Detached	0.51	22308	BOULEVARD ACRES	10/11/13
2 322 FAYETTE ST S	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,350,000	Townhouse	0.06	22314	OLD TOWN VILLAGE	10/21/13
3 1907 WHITEOAKS DR	5	4	0	ALEXANDRIA/MV	\$1,250,000	Detached	2.11	22306	HOLLINDALE	10/31/13
4 4006 BELLE RIVE TER	6	5	1	ALEXANDRIA/MV	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.70	22309	FERRY LANDING ESTATES	10/07/13
5 3004 CUNNINGHAM DR	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA/MV	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.39	22309	WESSYNTON	10/31/13
6 1250 WASHINGTON ST #609	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,226,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22314	PORTO VECCHIO	10/16/13
7 720 FAIRFAX ST S	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,200,000	Townhouse	0.09	22314	OLD TOWN	10/31/13
8 701 PITT ST S	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,185,000	Townhouse	0.11	22314	YATES GARDENS	10/24/13
9 607 BRADDOCK RD W	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,180,000	Detached	0.29	22302	LINDSEY-NICHOLSON	10/24/13
10 9494 LYNNHALL PL	7	8	1	ALEXANDRIA/MV	\$1,165,000	Detached	0.42	22309	OXFORD	10/11/13
11 1226 PEGRAM ST N	5	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,150,000	Detached	1.54	22304	ALEXANDRIA OVERLOOK	10/31/13
12 27 ALEXANDER ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,129,500	Townhouse	0.02	22314	FORDS LANDING	10/23/13
13 324 Third Street	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,075,000	Townhouse		22314	PRINTERS ROW	10/30/13

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## Come Home to a Luxury Bedroom

Local designers unveil inviting spaces that are perfect for dreaming of sugarplums.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

**B**edrooms are no longer just for sleeping, at least according to some local designers. They're for relaxing and watching television, but they're also for reading and for eating a lazy weekend breakfast. In fact, some modern bedrooms are probably larger than their owners' first apartments. Three local tastemakers unveil master bedrooms that are so opulent and amenity-filled that it's surprising their owners ever want to leave.

Lavish textiles and luxury characterize a bedroom in Old Town Alexandria that was designed by Sydnye Pettengill of Sydnye Pettengill ASID Interior Design, Inc. in Alexandria. "The owner enjoys luxury and finer things," said Pettengill. "She wants to surround herself with that luxury in her home and private spaces. When I think of this bedroom, I think of Marie Antoinette and traditional French style."

Pettengill created an opulent but cozy bedroom with a custom-made headboard featuring an iron panel, custom-painted to coordinate with the pale green and rich gold hues in the bedroom.

"There is an abundance of custom-designed pillows and a cozy reading space," said Pettengill. "We did a custom shelf in the alcove behind the headboard that pro-

vides additional storage for books and tea. A chair is on the other side of the room and a beautiful piece of art."

The room is decorated with luxurious fabrics and trims. "The pillows are silks," said Pettengill. "We have sheer drapery that filters soft light, creating a romantic hideaway."

Visitors to one Potomac home take an elevator to the bedroom suite and emerge in its foyer. "You then walk into a set of double doors that is the beginning of their master suite," said Carole Lindenberg of Potomac Designs. "This bedroom was my inspiration and I called in Natelli Homes to build it."

The suite comes complete with a kitchen that holds a sitting area and breakfast table that allows for a leisurely morning of newspapers and brunch. "The suite also includes a library with a replica of President Lincoln's desk," said Lindenberg.

The library leads to the bedroom, which has a Louis VX-style fireplace and a sitting area with two Bergere chairs with match-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SYDNYE PETTINGILL

**Designer Sydnye Pettengill created an opulent, but cozy bedroom in Old Town Alexandria using silk fabrics in pale green and rich gold hues.**

ing ottomans, which are accented with French-inspired drum tables. Over the fireplace sits a flat screen television. "Years ago we used to put a mirror above them. Now we put TVs above them," said Lindenberg.

"There is a window wall with three dormer windows," she continued. "And there is an entrance on either side of the fireplace."

The expansive bathroom has two showers and a freestanding tub. "There is marble on the floor of the bathroom and matching marble on the walls," said Lindenberg. "The bedrooms are carpeted, the library has hardwood flooring with rugs, as does the foyer."

A master suite in a Great Falls home was reconfigured recently to include a bathroom with his and her vanities, a large walk-in shower and an enlarged walk-in closet.

"People want more space for their clothing, shoes [and] jewelry, where their beds are typically only display pieces during the day and then used for sleeping at night," said Beth Walters, the director of communications at Sun Design, Inc., which has offices in McLean and Burke.

Walters says the bathroom cabinetry is made from alder wood in a Blackstone finish, the counter tops are Caesarstone in a Yukon Blanco finish and the floor is Timber Glen Contemporary tiling in a Thatch finish, while the walls are Time Levigato Rettificato porcelain tiling in white with river glass and stone mosaic tile accents.

## Holiday Décor: Make It Sparkle

Local designers offer suggestions for home decorating.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

**T**is the season for decking the halls. Whether your style is traditional and colorful, muted and demure or metallic and glittery, three local designers offer distinct holiday decorating ideas to spark your creativity.

Victoria Sanchez, who opened Victoria at Home, a home furnishings boutique and interior design studio on King Street in Old Town Alexandria earlier this month, said the décor begins with an aroma.

"Holiday scented candles immediately say 'holiday,'" said Sanchez. "Fresh greens tucked behind artwork and intertwined into tablescapes add a wonderful scent."

She recommends filling bowls with colorful holiday ornaments and displaying holiday cards to add a touch of nostalgia. "What I love most about the holidays is [that] each ornament and every tradition evokes memories of family, friends and

childhood," said Sanchez.

Designer Sharon Kleinman of Transitions by Sharon Kleinman in Potomac, said Christmas is no time for minimalism. "The Christmas season is the perfect time to go all out decorating the main areas of your home," she said. "I love the smell of fresh pine, so fill your home with it. Starting at the front entrance, hang a pine wreath on the door."

Kleinman recommends purchasing fresh wreaths. "Many local nurseries like American Plant and Benke's make some really beautiful ones," she said.

There are a multitude of uses for fresh winter foliage. "Place pine boughs, candles of varying heights and decorative accessories such as painted wooden toys [like] trains, toy soldiers, blocks or colored balls among the pine branches," added Kleinman.

Another idea, says Kleinman, is to wrap small boxes in colorful paper, top them with brightly colored bows and place them on the mantel. "Decorative stockings hung on

the mantel are traditional and a must in my book," she said. "Stair rails can be wrapped in pine boughs, ribbon and/or tinsel."

To add splashes of festive Christmas red to a home, Kleinman recommends "Placing pots of poinsettias throughout the house. Personalize your Christmas tree with homemade ornaments, sentimental items, colored bows and lots of tinsel."

When it comes to holiday tablescapes, Kelley Proxmire and Emily Wallace of Kelley Interior Design suggest adding a touch of shimmer. "Try breaking out of a set color scheme of red, white and green," said Wallace. "Try popular metallic finishes that could be used in fabric for pillows, gold accessories for the table [like] tiny vases [or] salt and pepper shakers and napkin rings with 'bling' metallic finishes."



PHOTO BY GEOFFREY HODGDON

**This holiday sideboard, designed by Emily Wallace of Kelley Interior Design, breaks from traditional red and green décor.**

Mix decorative objects with foliage to create a warm and inviting table. "Incorporate 'organic' items of the season, like greens from pine trees, magnolias, pine cones, and some fruit," said Proxmire.

Unconventional items can be used as vessels for a wintry, holiday centerpiece. Wallace and Proxmire found a "tortoise shell-like urn ... for next to nothing at a consignment store" and used it to hold a centerpiece.

# Learning to Create an Organized Holiday Season

Local pros offer tips for staying on track from Thanksgiving and beyond.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

**I**f you're organized, you'll definitely experience less stress this holiday season," said professional organizer Susan Unger, of ClutterSOS in Vienna. "If you figure out what your goal is and map out everything in advance, you won't find yourself staying up late wrapping presents and other chores and you'll have

more time to spend with family and friends."

**"One key is planning ahead and keeping it simple. Decide what traditions are most important to you and stick with those."**

— Eileen LaGreca, Sensational Spaces

stress and maximize merriment this season.

One key is planning ahead and keeping it simple. "Decide what traditions are most important to you and stick with those," said Fairfax-based professional organizer Eileen LaGreca of Sensational Spaces. "People have this ideal of what Christmas should look like and that is not reality, especially in today's world where people are working hard."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLUTTERSOS

**When it's time to wrap presents, Susan Unger of ClutterSOS suggests creating a wrapping station so all supplies are visible and easily accessible.**

When it comes to holiday event and party planning, organizers say don't be afraid to delegate. "A couple of fun ideas to save you some holiday headaches are to have a party as an open house," said Arlington-based professional organizer Jody Al-Saigh. "It's a little more free flowing and people can be more flexible with their busy schedules [and] their kids' activities."

Hire people when possible, suggests LaGreca. "If you're having a party, hire people to clean. That is one less thing you have to do," she said. "Enlist the help of others, have family members bring food, let others help decorate and enlist the help of your children."

"Another idea is a cookie-exchange party," Al-Saigh said. "Again, your gift [or] party favor is built in. You just bring a batch of cookies and everyone swaps and goes home with a great new assortment."

When it comes to meal planning, keep detailed lists. "Figure out your menu to the tee and list every ingredient you need," said LaGreca. "What you don't want to do is run out the door at the last minute for a pound of butter that you've forgotten. That is very stressful."

Holiday shopping can be another source

of stress say organizers. "I take inventory of what I am going to buy [and for whom] and make a list to go shopping," said Unger. "Make a list of everybody you need to buy gifts for, go to the mall when it not busy or crowded and you don't have to wait in line."

Unger recommends using a smart phone to help simplify gift shopping. "I like using Evernote, an application that you can access on your smart phone, computer or tablet that consolidates information and ideas and allows you to share it with others," she said. When it's time to wrap those presents, Unger suggests creating a wrapping station so all supplies are visible and easily accessible. "I have white round baskets to store wrapping paper so that it is easy to see," she said. "I have a paper towel holder that I put my ribbons on."

Color coordination is another time-saving trick. "I stick with red green and white with my papers and ribbons," she said. "If I stick with three primary colors that cuts down on the supplies that I have to buy."

To save money, you can even create your own wrapping paper.

"Something I have done with kids is use a large sheet of butcher paper, [which] comes in a roll from craft stores and have



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE GAZETTE

**Gift wrapping supply accessories can help keep you organized this holiday season.**

the kids decorate it," said Al-Saigh. "For holiday time, they could add stickers or do holiday drawings. This is a great personal way to wrap presents for [family members]."

To make the holiday card process more efficient, Unger suggests designing cards on a home computer. "I can design cards [with] my own captions and fonts," she said. "You can do letters in your own handwriting. I use sendoutcards.com. They print, address, stamp and mail them for you. You can also include gifts."

Decking the halls is most efficient, say organizers, when holiday decorations are easily accessible. "I have my decorations stored on workforce shelves and I have big clear bins," said Unger. "I put all the decorations for each room in one box. I have certain things I put in my living room and things for my dining room and a bin for each."

Al-Saigh likens creating a festive holiday to putting on successful play. "[There are] scripts, props, scenery, lighting, and you're the director," she said. "Create a holiday binder or accordion file with sections for cards, crafts, décor, food, gifts, parties, menus, lists, songs, traditions and budget."



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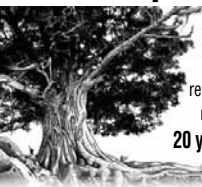
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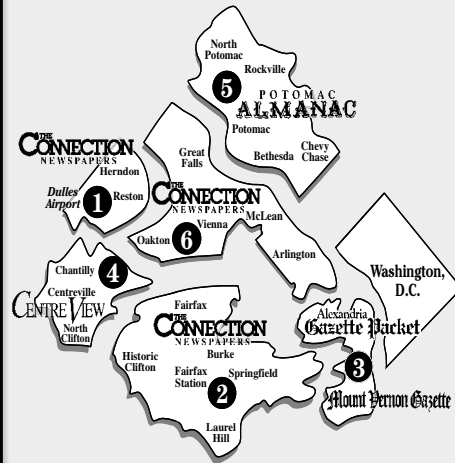
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FROM PAGE 5  
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The award will be made during the MVCCA Annual Gala on April 26, 2014. Visit [www.mvcca.org](http://www.mvcca.org)

### 21 Announcements

### 21 Announcements

### 21 Announcements

### 21 Announcements

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#### Obituary

#### Leonard Erwin Roberts (82)

On Monday, December 9, 2013 of Alexandria, VA. Loving husband of Renee; cherished father of Jeffrey Roberts (Janet) and Marla Popkin (Randy Abrams); loving grandfather of Marshall Popkin. He will truly be missed by many relatives and family. Funeral service will be held at Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Dr. Alexandria, VA 22302 on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 12:30 PM. Interment to follow at King David Memorial Gardens. In Lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his honor to Agudas Achim Congregation. Please view and sign the family guestbook at [www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com](http://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com)

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-Werner Heisenberg

### 21 Announcements

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### SATURDAY/DEC. 7

**Volunteer Information Session.** 11 a.m.-noon at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Learn how to become a child advocate with the Fairfax CASA. 703-273-3526 ext. 22 for reservations or information.

**English Conversation.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults can converse with other adults learning English. Free. 703-765-3645.

**EBook Workshop.** 1 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Adults can bring their eBook reader and library card and get any questions answered. Free. 703-971-0010.

### MONDAY/DEC. 9

**Auditions.** Teens age 12-18 can audition for MVCCT's teen production of "Much Ado about Nothing" at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Register for a slot at [mvccct.org](http://mvccct.org).

### TUESDAY/DEC. 10

**Google Plus.** 7 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Learn how to use maps, videos, pictures and more on Google. Free. 703-765-3645.

**One-on-One Internet/Computer Training.** 8 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults can get help with basic skills. Call for appointment. Call 703-768-6700.

**Auditions.** Teens age 12-18 can audition for MVCCT's teen production of "Much Ado about Nothing" at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Register for a slot at [mvccct.org](http://mvccct.org).

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 11

**English Conversation.** 10:15 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Adults can converse with other adults learning English. Free. Call 703-339-4610.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 12

**English Conversation.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults can converse with other adults learning English. Free. 703-765-3645.

**English Conversation.** 2 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Adults can converse with other adults learning English. Free. 703-971-0010.

**English Conversation.** 7 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane or Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Center. Adults can converse with other adults learning English. Free. 703-765-3645.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 13

**English Conversation.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults can converse with other adults learning English. Free. 703-765-3645.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**English Conversation.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults can converse with other adults learning English. Free. 703-765-3645.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 17

**One-on-One Internet/Computer Training.** 8 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults can get help with basic skills. Call for appointment. Call 703-768-6700.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 18

**English Conversation.** 10:15 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Adults can converse with other adults learning English. Free. Call 703-339-4610.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 10

**Application Deadline.** The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) is seeking to recognize a high school senior from Mount Vernon HS, South County SS and/or West Potomac HS, who demonstrates personal achievement through community involvement, volunteer work, and/or exceptional civic duties.

### TUESDAY/JAN. 14

**Pet Loss Support Group.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Talk with others who are dealing with the death of a beloved pet. Free, register by calling 703-333-6963.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 18

**Open House.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fort Hunt Preschool in the Carriage House, 1909 Windmill Lane. Learn about the school, meet teachers and our classrooms. Contact Alex St. Clair at [admission@fonthuntpreschool.com](mailto:admission@fonthuntpreschool.com) or visit [www.fonthuntpreschool.com](http://www.fonthuntpreschool.com) for more.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The **Kingstowne Senior Center** in Alexandria needs volunteers to assist at the front desk on Fridays and instructors for classes in art, Spanish, and Tai Chi or QiGong/Khi Cong. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and link to Volunteer Solutions or e-mail [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov).

The **Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center** in Alexandria needs social companions to help participants. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and link to Volunteer Solutions or e-mail [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov).

The **Wakefield Choral** needs a piano accompanist to rehearse with and accompany them during performances at Northern Virginia retirement communities. Rehearsals and performances are all on Tuesdays from 7:30-9:30 p.m., from mid-September thru mid-December and from mid-January through mid-June. They need an accompanist who can begin in mid-January. Contact 703-960-0440 or [donnaejan5536@gmail.com](mailto:donnaejan5536@gmail.com).

The **Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities throughout the area. Volunteers can work in facilities close to where they live.

Training and support is provided. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711, or email

[Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Find more information at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/vol\\_ombud\\_program.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/vol_ombud_program.htm).

Fairfax County needs **Somali-speaking volunteers** to provide rides to an older adult in the Lorton area. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadults) and link to Volunteer Solutions or e-mail [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov) for information.

Fairfax County's Adult Day Health Care Centers need **outreach volunteers** for 4 hours/week. Requires travel around the county. Marketing experience preferred. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and link to Volunteer Solutions or e-mail [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov) for information.

The **Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Program** needs a volunteer to greet people and answer phones one day per week from 10:30 a.m.-noon to start as soon as possible. Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186,

[VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov), or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices) and click on volunteers.

**Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels** needs drivers and a coordinator. Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov) or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices) and click on volunteers.

**AARP Tax-Aide**, a national volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service for low to moderate income and elderly citizens, needs volunteers to electronically complete and file federal and state income tax forms for the 2013 tax season.

The program offers free five-day training using IRS computers and software. Volunteers become IRS Certified Tax Counselors after completing and passing the IRS examination. Visit [www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2006/volunteer\\_aarp\\_tax\\_aide.html](http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2006/volunteer_aarp_tax_aide.html).

# HOLIDAY GIFTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Spreading Holiday Cheer

Wine shops from around the region give their suggestions for bottles to bring to holiday parties.

BY AMBER HEALY  
GAZETTE PACKET

**H**oliday season means parties, hostess gifts, office Secret Santas and other occasions where many people bring a bottle of some spirit or other to spread good tidings.

So what to pick up? What's right? What kind of wine goes with what kind of food? And where to go for some good advice?

A handful of wine shops provide some advice for a happy party season.

### CHEESETIQUE

**2411 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria;**  
**2056 Campbell Ave., Arlington**

When buying wine, environment can be important, said Missy Pankow, front-of-house manager with the Cheesetique location in Del Ray.

"If you're going to a dinner, you'll want to bring something nice, unless it's a big party," where many bottles will be opened, she suggested. While the holiday season tends to be a time in which people are willing to spend a few more dollars on a bottle of wine perceived to be nicer or of better quality, that will be less impressive if a bottle's sitting on a table with a dozen or so other options.

"If that's the case, you might want to go for something easier to drink, like a California Cabernet," something that's easily



**Missy Pankow, front-of-house manager at the Del Ray location of Cheesetique, lead a wine tasting last weekend to help customers get to know some new varieties.**

recognizable and people will know what to expect with the first sip.

If a bottle is to be given as a hostess gift, and might not be opened right away, consider a smaller batch, like Prisoner by David Phinney, a Grenache blend, or a Grand Reserve Rioja.

"Everyone is in the mood to indulge a little bit," Pankow said. "Even when buying for themselves, they go for heavier reds," and sometimes even more expensive bottles, regardless of their normal buying habits.

Those looking to buy a Virginia wine should consider Viognier wines, as it's the official grape of the commonwealth, she said. Viognier is a crisp white wine with "great aromatics, and it pairs well with turkey. It's a winner all around."

Also, consider not just the main dish of a dinner but sides and desserts as well, she said. One of her favorite pairings is apple pie with Sauternes, a sweet French white

wine blend made from Sémillon, Sauvignon blanc and Muscadelle grapes. "There's nothing better," she said.

"It's one of the lesser known and under appreciated classes of wine," Pankow said.

Another great option for dinner is a good German Riesling, a slightly sweet wine that's popular during the holiday season.

"Wine by itself has so much going on, it can be hard to pair with food," she said.

### GRAPE + BEAN

**118 South Royal Street, Old Town;**  
**2 East Walnut Street, Rosemont**

At the two locations of Grape + Bean, a wine and coffee bar that offers tasting classes and food pairing workshops, shopping for a good wine this time of year starts and ends with bubbles.

"We have bubbles year-round, but we definitely load up on Champagne and sparkling wines this time of year, said David Gwathmey, the store's co-owner. "We've got

vintages 10+ years old, some to end wines that you don't usually see" that are great choices for discriminating palates.

There are also wines made from grapes grown in the Champagne region of France that are either bubbly or flat but just as good for celebrating. Those wines "give you a lot for the money" as they might have slightly smaller price tags with equally appealing flavors, he said.

Another way to go is a port or other kind of dessert wine. "This year, we've got a new range of Cohiba ports that a really special, rare, tawny port." Ports are fortified wines, typically from Portugal and served after dinner as a digestif.

A favorite of Gwathmey's is a Dona Matilde port wine. It comes in various ages between 10 and 30 years old, and the older the bottle, the smoother the taste.

But for a more traditional gift or bottle to have on the dinner table, consider "big red Italian wines," he suggested. "It's our most busy sales time of the year" for those varieties, including Chianti and varieties he called "Super Tuscans," which are not made in traditional styles and include the Barbaresco and Barolo.

Those looking to spend serious cash on a bottle of wine might have found their match with Super Tuscans, as they can run up to \$200 per bottle, Gwathmey said. While not diminishing the good quality and flavor of wines that aren't priced nearly that high, he said if someone wants to treat themselves, or their guests, to a fancier vintage, "it will show itself. It's a subjective thing, of course, but it really is great to try really fine wines."

To really knock the socks off party guests, or to commemorate special milestones in life, his establishment offers oversized

SEE HOLIDAY WINE. PAGE 24

## CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

**Photography Workshop.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union Street.

Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

**Book a Librarian.** At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St., for help with research or to better understand the library's databases and resources. Make an appointment by calling 703-746-1751.

**Computer Tutoring.** At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Individual assistance from a librarian. Call 703-746-1751.

**Encore Chorale.** Mondays 10:30 a.m.-

noon at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Register now for Encore Chorale's fall season. The group of singers, ages 55 and up, practice classical and holiday songs to prepare for December performances. \$150 tuition. Visit [encorecreativity.org](http://encorecreativity.org) or call 301-261-5747.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Portent" in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., from Oct. 24 through Dec. 8. The works attempt to visually come to terms with, reflect or represent the magnitude of natural events. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

**Theater Performance.** Through Sunday, Dec. 22, see "A Broadway Christmas Carol" at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7 p.m.; Thursday-Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. This show is a cross between the classic Dickens' tale and song parodies of more than 30 Broadway show tune favorites. \$50/adult; \$25/student or child. Visit

[www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org) for tickets.

**Theater Performance.** See The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol" from Dec. 5-22 at the theatre, 600 Wolfe St. Performances are Thursdays-Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays-Sundays at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. \$15. Visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com) or 703-683-0496.

**Tickets Now on Sale.** Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House Historic Park, Lee-Fendall House and Lloyd House by candlelight and enjoy decorations, entertainment and more on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 6-9 p.m. or Sunday, Dec. 15 from 3-6 p.m. \$20/adult; \$15/senior and \$5/child. Tickets can be purchased at [shop.alexandria.gov](http://shop.alexandria.gov) or 703-746-4242. Visit [www.historicalexandria.org](http://www.historicalexandria.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Fotographers at the Factory" Nov. 1 through Dec. 31 at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit celebrates FotoWeekDC. Hours are Thursdays 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; all other days from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Photographs will line the hall walls and in multiple studios. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents "Holiday Sizzle" in Studio 18 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit starts on Nov. 19, additional items will be added Dec. 9 and the exhibit closes Jan. 5. Free. Some items will be for sale. Visit [www.potomacfiberarts.com](http://www.potomacfiberarts.com) or 703-548-0935.

**African American Activists Exhibition.** Through Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing photo-documentary project created in 2006 by artist-photographer Nina Tisara to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria. This free exhibit is at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 601 Wythe St. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org) or call 703-746-4356.

**Art Exhibit.** "Small Works," juried by Irene Owsley will run Nov. 26-Jan. 5,

at the Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit

[www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "IMPART," a project that is a collaboration between The Art League and the Wounded Warriors at Ft. Belvoir. Features ceramics by eight artists showcased at The Art League in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit runs through Jan. 5. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

**"The Street Sense Project."** Thien-Kim Pham presents "Portraits of People Who Live and Work on the Streets" in studio 21 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit runs Dec. 5 through Jan. 6. A portion of the sales will be donated to a local charity related to the subject matter depicted in the piece. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780 for more.

**Art Exhibit.** "Small Worlds," a multimedia juried exhibition with a focus on artists who work in miniature or small scales will run Dec. 6-Jan. 12,

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

## CLASSES

**Christmas Cooking Class.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14 at Osteria Marzano, 6361 Walker Lane, Suite 140. Chef Carmine Marzano will teach participants how to cook an Italian Christmas meal, then dine on the creations. \$85/person. RSVP to [info@osteriamarzano.com](mailto:info@osteriamarzano.com) or 703-313-9700.

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

**Winter Class Registration.** Early bird registration for classes at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane will end Dec. 20. Call 703-201-1250 or visit [www.artatthecenter.org](http://www.artatthecenter.org) for a list of classes.

**Holiday Cupcakes.** Through Dec. 31, Occasionally Cake, at 207 King St. in Old Town is hosting cupcake decorating classes on Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m.; Saturdays, as scheduled and Sundays 3-5 p.m. Each class is two hours and instructors teach four different cupcake designs for take-home cupcakes. \$60 per person. Students 11 years old and younger must be accompanied by a paying adult. Call 703-647-9638 or visit [www.occasionallycake.com](http://www.occasionallycake.com).

## CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

**Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale.** Pick out a freshly-cut North Carolina Fraser Fir while enjoying some hot cider and cookies. Ten percent of the sale will go back to a designated PTA. Runs Saturdays and Sundays at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, through Dec. 15. Visit [www.staidansepiscopal.com](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com) or 703-360-4220.

**Christmas Tree Sale.** Saturday, Dec. 14 from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15 from noon-4 p.m. in the parking lot adjacent to Trinity United Methodist Church, corner of Cameron Mills and Allison. Sponsored by the North Ridge Citizens Association. \$25-\$90 for a tree, \$16 for wreaths, \$20 for garland and \$25 for tree stands. Call Bruce Johnson at 703-548-9604.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 12

**2nd Thursday Art Night: Decadent December.** 6-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Do some holiday shopping while tasting chocolate and wine. There will be handcrafted ornaments, a DIY craft station and a musical performance by chamber choir Pro Coro Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) or 703-838-4565.

**Opening Reception and Meet the Artist.** 6:30-8 p.m. meet Thien-Kim Pham and see his exhibit "Portraits of People Who Live and Work on the Streets" in studio 21 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. A portion of the sales will be donated to a local charity related to the subject matter depicted in the piece. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780 for more.

**Spirit of the Season Concert.** 7 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants will perform. Free, but tickets are required. Visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at The

Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Rick Springfield performs. Tickets are \$69.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500 for tickets.

**Reception.** 6:30-8 p.m. meet some of the artists of "IMPART," a project that is a collaboration between The Art League and the Wounded Warriors at Ft. Belvoir. Features ceramics by eight artists showcased at The Art League in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 12-15

**Living Christmas Tree.** First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St., presents the Living Christmas Tree. Showtimes are Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday at 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. \$7/person. No children under 4. Childcare is available upon request. Visit [www.fbcalexandria.org/LCT](http://www.fbcalexandria.org/LCT) for tickets.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 13

**Music Performance.** See Mint Condition at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. 7:30 p.m. \$55. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

**Holiday Market.** 6-9 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

**A Christmas Medley.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Readings of holiday poems, stories and remembrances by Frederick Douglass, Frank O'Connor, William Shakespeare and others. \$10. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com](http://www.visitalexandriava.com) for more.

**Community Open House.** 2:30-4 p.m. at the Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Ave. The best decorated tree will be chosen. 703-845-5000.

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia will perform. \$10/advance; \$15/door. Visit [www.sonovamusic.org](http://www.sonovamusic.org) for tickets.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Grand Opening.** 8:30 a.m. at Potomac Yard Park, 2501 Potomac Ave. The park will officially open. Free.

**Breakfast with Santa.** 9 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road. Enjoy pancakes, crafts, photo ops and more. \$5/person. For additional information, contact Alicia Clarke at [alclarke@fcps.edu](mailto:alclarke@fcps.edu) or Erica Williams-Taylor at [elwilliamst@fcps.edu](mailto:elwilliamst@fcps.edu).

**Pictures with Santa on the Trolley.** 9 a.m.-noon at Market Square, 301 King St. Have your picture taken with Santa for free, and all children will receive a special gift from Santa, DASH and the King Street Trolley. DASH will also be collecting toys for Toys for Tots. Photography by Steven Halperson of Tisara Photography. Visit [www.tisaraphoto.com](http://www.tisaraphoto.com) for more.

**Wrap It Up Fundraiser.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Take your presents to a group of local students to wrap in exchange for donations. All proceeds go to ALICE'S KIDS ([aliceskids.org](http://aliceskids.org)). Bake sale and 50/50 raffle also. No gifts to wrap this year? Make a donation. Reservations required. For more information, call Dana at 703-819-9245 or e-mail [danamcguckin@icloud.com](mailto:danamcguckin@icloud.com).

**Holiday Market.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local

artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

## Garden Sprouts: Welcome Winter.

11 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Preschool children ages 3-5 with accompanying adult. Tour the garden to see the changes that winter brings. Learn why some animals stay and others migrate or hibernate. Make a winter landscape to take home and a pinecone feeder for the birds that remain. Code: 290 481 4402, \$6/child. Register on-line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) or call Green Spring Gardens 703-642-5173.

## Holiday Cheerleading Invitational.

11 a.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Features youth cheerleading teams from neighborhood recreation centers and the metropolitan area. \$10/age 13 and older; \$5/age 5-12; and children under 4 are free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation) or 703-746-5402 for information.

## Holiday Cheerleading Invitational.

11 a.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Features youth cheerleading teams from neighborhood recreation centers and the metropolitan area. \$10/age 13 and older; \$5/age 5-12; and children under 4 are free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation) or 703-746-5402 for information.

## Holiday Ice Show.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Watch as experienced skaters and beginners of all ages perform their routines. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/happy-holidays.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/happy-holidays.htm) or 703-768-3224.

## Civil War Christmas in Camp.

Noon-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Meet a patriotic Civil War Santa Claus, visit an officer's hut decorated for the season, talk with soldiers and tour the museum. \$2/person. Will also feature stories, activities and more. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or 703-746-4848.

## Book Signing.

Noon-2 p.m. at Killer E.S.P., 1012 King St. Lee Davis will sign copies of "Key Monster." Visit [killeresp.com](http://killeresp.com) for more.

## Family Fun: Winter Solstice

**Workshop.** 2-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how people in the past celebrated the winter solstice. Then create an evergreen centerpiece, complete with beeswax candle, to warm and welcome friends and family to your table. Family-friendly programs for ages 5 and up; children must be accompanied by registered adult. Code: 290 481 5001, \$10/person. Register on-line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) or call Green Spring Gardens 703-642-5173.

**Ballet Performance.** 3 p.m. or 7 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax will perform "Nutcracker in a Nutshell." \$25/person. Visit [www.thecenterforballetarts.com](http://www.thecenterforballetarts.com) or 703-273-5344.

## Gingerbread Firehouse Contest

**Judging.** Participants can create a gingerbread house that depicts a firefighting theme associated with an architectural structure. All entries will be judged at the Lloyd House and will be on display through Dec. 15. For more information or a list of the complete gingerbread contest rules and entry form, visit [www.historicalexandria.org](http://www.historicalexandria.org) or call 703-746-4554.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 15

**Holiday Market.** Noon-4 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

**Holiday Music.** 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Mount Vernon Flutes will perform holiday classics. Free. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com](http://www.visitalexandriava.com) for more.

**Handbell Performance.** 2 p.m. at Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The Brown Academy chorus will perform. Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or 703-746-1702.

**Colonial Handbell Ringers.** 2 p.m. or 4 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Listen to and sing along with the Colonial Handbell Ringers as they perform holiday classics. Free, but reservations required. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) or 703-746-4994.

**Ballet Performance.** 3 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax will perform "Nutcracker in a Nutshell." \$25/person. Visit [www.thecenterforballetarts.com](http://www.thecenterforballetarts.com) or 703-273-5344.

**Author Event.** 3 p.m. at Teatism, 682 N. St. Asaph St. Todd Coopee will discuss and sign copies of his book "Light Bulb Baking: History of the Easy-Bake Oven." Visit [www.teatism.com](http://www.teatism.com) for more.

## MONDAY/DEC. 16

**Tavern Toddlers: Rhythm and Music.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Toddlers through 36 months can enjoy storytime, dancing, crafts and more. \$7/group of three. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/gadsbysTavern](http://www.alexandriava.gov/gadsbysTavern) for more.

**Shopping Night.** 7-9 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Support Good Shepherd Housing while doing holiday shopping. Visit [www.goodhousing.org](http://www.goodhousing.org) for more.

**Santa Railway Express.** 1:25 p.m., depart King Street Station and return at 3:30 p.m. Ride the train with Santa and Mrs. Claus. \$27.50, tickets sold exclusively at Whistle Stop Toy & Hobby, 1719 Centre Plaza. Visit [www.whistlestophobbies.com](http://www.whistlestophobbies.com) or 703-549-4912.

**Annual Basketball Match.** 7 p.m. at Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 W. Reed Ave. The Bellefonte Wizards will take on the DCHS Shooting Stars for the Gilmore Cup. Free.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 17

**Library Tour.** 1:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Tour the new Fred W. Smith National Library for the study of George Washington. Led by Mount

Vernon tour guides and Library staff members, this new tour will offer access to the main floor of the center for scholarship about George Washington, Colonial America, and the Revolutionary Era. View rare books and manuscripts, special collections and art, research resources, and one-of-a-kind design details such as custom-created busts of the Founding Fathers. Tours are included in admission to the Estate, but are limited in capacity and are on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org) or 703-780-2000.

**Winter Choral Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The T.C. Williams concert, mixed and advanced choirs will perform. Free. Visit <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/> for more.

**Music Performance.** See Big Bad Voodoo Daddy at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. 7:30 p.m. \$39.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

**Holiday Music.** 7 p.m. The West Potomac High School choirs will perform in the Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. The audience will be invited to participate in a holiday sing-along culminating with the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. A silent auction will be conducted with the highest bidder winning the privilege of conducting the final song. Proceeds will benefit the West Potomac choral program. Free.

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 18

**Santa's Winter Wonderland.** 5-8 p.m., meet Santa at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. See a scale model of the City with features such as City Hall, Masonic Memorial and more, look at 20-foot-high trees decorated for the season and entertainment. Children ages infant to 17 can get a gift. To donate a new, unwrapped gift, contact Ian Hawkins at [ihawkins@arha.us](mailto:ihawkins@arha.us) or 703-549-7913. Donations should be received by Dec. 16.

**A John Waters Christmas.** 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear a compilation of Christmas music selected by director John Waters. \$49.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 19

**Music Performance.** Carbon Leaf will perform at 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for tickets.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 20

**Santa Railway Express.** 1:25 p.m., depart King Street Station and return

at 3:30 p.m. Ride the train with Santa and Mrs. Claus. \$27.50, tickets sold exclusively at Whistle Stop Toy & Hobby, 1719 Centre Plaza. Visit [www.whistlestophobbies.com](http://www.whistlestophobbies.com) or 703-549-4912.

**Holiday Market.** 6-9 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 21

**Holiday Market.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

**Holiday Food & Wine Event.** At Balducci's, 600 Franklin St. Join professional winemakers, importers, aficionados and gourmet chefs and sommeliers as they sample various wines, trade recommendations, and just share stories about their mutual passion for gourmet food and wine. Balducci's Food Lover's Market will have special holiday wine and food samplings. Free. Visit <http://www.balduccis.com/> for more.

**Author Event.** 3-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Brian Kilmeade will sign copies of his book "George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution." Estate admission is not required. Visit <http://www.mountvernon.org/specialevents> for more.

**Country-Western Dance.** Lessons start at 6:30 p.m., dancing from 7:30-10 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. A DJ provides music. \$10/NVCWDA member; \$12/non-member; \$5/child 18 and under. BYO refreshment, non-alcoholic. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or 703-860-4941.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 22

**Holiday Market.** Noon-4 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

**Pictures with Santa.** 6-9 p.m. at Osteria Marzano, 6361 Walker Lane, Suite 140. Children can take a free picture while enjoying dinner. Visit [www.osteriamarzano.com](http://www.osteriamarzano.com) or 703-313-9700 for reservations.



### Christmas at Bethany Lutheran

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

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

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

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Alexandria resident and runway model, Tameka Young

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria's Grape + Bean offers tasting classes on a regular basis, in addition to hosting a wine bar and featuring a wide variety of wines from around the world.

## Holiday Wine Selections

FROM PAGE 21

bottles of Champagne, including one that costs upwards of \$700. "We sold one bottle of rare Champagne that was four feet tall," he laughed.

For those hard to buy for wine lovers, Grape + Bean offers classes ranging from wine and food pairings to discussions on varieties from a specific geographic region, he added.

### LE TASTEVIN FINE WINES 1309 King Street, Old Town

"As the weather gets colder, people are looking for full-bodied reds, for sure," said Tina Seashore with Le Tastevin Fine Wines. Côte du Rhone, Syrah, Grenache and blends featuring those wines are good options for holiday dinners and gifts.

But for those people who really like white wines, or want to give something a little unexpected, consider Rieslings, she said. This is a good option for people who don't like sweet wines but want something lighter than a red. It pairs well with turkey and other heavy meals and complements those flavors without overpowering them.

Champagne and other sparkling variet-

ies, including Prosecco and Moscato, are surefire hits as well, with flavor profiles ranging from dry to sweet, depending on preference.

"There are certainly other sparkling wines made with the fine little bubbles but they can be made with different grapes," meaning even those who don't like drier Champagnes can find a festive drink, Seashore said.

Her store tends to carry wines from smaller producers, but a few Virginia vintners make the cut, including Barboursville, Linden and Glen Manor wines.

It's not unusual for people to come into the store, "do a lap and come up and say I have no idea what to get," she said. To help those customers out, she's happy to open a bottle and sample it, and the store keeps a good number of open bottles on hand for just such purposes.

"I work with smaller producers, so there's nothing here you're going to find at Total Wine or Giant," which can make buying wine, already an intimidating experience for some, downright terrifying.

To make up for that, "at least half" the wines in the store are \$15 and under, with the rest in the \$15-\$30 range.



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much  
energy  
to wish  
as it  
does to  
plan.**

# OBITUARY

## Dr. James Edward “Jay” Manning, III

Dr. James Edward “Jay” Manning, III, 78, died on Dec. 4, 2013. Jay was born on Dec. 27, 1934, in Hudson, Mass. He was born into a prominent Boston family of architects, builders, and academicians. After the Great Depression, his immediate family, to include eight siblings, moved to Washington, D.C. in the 1940s, after Jay’s mother, Helen Schofield Manning wrote a letter to President Harry S Truman and J. Edgar Hoover, garnering national recognition on the front page of The Washington Post, and eventually resulting in positions for Jay’s sisters with the FBI.

In Washington, D.C., Jay attended both St. Paul’s Academy and Gonzaga High School. Jay was awarded a basketball scholarship to, and graduated with honors from The George Washington University. While at GWU, he was featured regularly in the Sports section of the Washington Post, and his team won the 1954 NCAA Southern Conference Tournament Championship.

He served in the U.S. Army, from 1957-1959. After leaving the military, Jay Manning returned to Massachusetts and, was invited to training camp, as a basketball player for the world champion, Boston Celtics, with Bill Russell under coach, Red Auerbach.

He soon after found his vocation, as an educator, eventually relocating back to Washington, D.C. Jay began teaching and coaching at Our Lady of Good Counsel. He then found the love of his life and married Joanne Hyre Manning of Bethesda, Md., in

1963.

Jay was an advocate for desegregation. He successfully helped accomplish the desegregation of the public basketball courts in Washington, D.C.

Jay became the assistant principal of the old Fairfax High School, where he facilitated the transfer of the school location to the current Fairfax High School, under a new experimental “school without walls” setting, and fostered the implementation of this program, wherein most of its educational areas, as it was believed by the administrators of the era that students would learn better in an open environment.

He was then promoted to sub-principal, at the new, Lake Braddock Secondary School, also further utilizing the “school without walls” principles for secondary education. During this tenure, Jay earned his doctorate in education at GWU. He then distinguished himself as a high school administrator at both Fort Hunt High School and Langley High School. Throughout his career, Jay held adjunct professor positions at George Washington University, University of Marymount, and The University of Virginia, mentoring future secondary education administrators.

He contributed to his local neighborhood community with sports coaching, fund raising, promoting local parks, providing leadership to the Indian Guides, and teaching Catholic Church doctrine. He never lost his love of playing basketball.

As principal of Langley High School, he

received national attention by modernizing and initiating many services and procedures within the school, including the college preparatory library, publicly posting sports recognition for the school student’s achievements, and pursuing purposeful engagement with the entire student body, on school spirit and ethics codes, all of which are currently maintained by the school and, are now included in the general Fairfax County Public Schools system wide.

He was honored with a Citizen of the Year award in McLean for his community leadership, serving as the president of the McLean Chamber of Commerce; member of the board for the McLean Orchestra; member of the Rotary Club, McLean chapter, founding the Interact program for the Langley student body, and initiating a Rotary Club Cup for Girls Field Hockey which still continues.

He was known for his towering physical stature, strong moral values, and gentle nature. He had a talent to connect and draw out individual strength, potential, and a smile, from everyone he met. He is credited with uplifting students, futures and careers. He continued, as an adjunct professor and working with young people his throughout his life. Former teacher and friend, Anne Morton recalled that Dr. Manning was loved and respected by many and, he has left a legacy in his former schools, as a “principal who cared for each and every student.”

He was a loving husband and father of

four children. Dr. Manning was also a caring and involved uncle to almost 40 nieces and nephews and a proud grandfather of nine grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Joanne Hyre Manning. He is also survived by daughter Helen Stacy Manning of Great Falls, and her children, Trey Crowther, and Cassie Crowther; son, James Edward Manning IV, of Wellsboro, Pa., his wife Tracy Manning, and grandchildren, Liza Manning, Drew Manning, and Liam Manning; son, Mark Christopher Manning of Burlington N.C., wife Kimberly Manning and, grandson, Heaton Manning; and son, Matthew Alexander Manning of Greensboro N.C., wife Allison Manning, and grandchildren Virginia Manning, Eleanor Manning, and Margaret Manning. He is also survived by his sister, Sarah Manning O’Leary of Columbia, Md., and brother, Peter Manning, of Worcester, Mass. Jay was preceded in death by his parents James Edward Manning, Jr. and Helen Schofield Manning, as well as his siblings Alice Manning, Joan Manning Cusick, Martha Manning Costello, Claire Manning Fitzgerald and Jane Boyd Alvis.

His life will be celebrated with visitation on Dec. 13, 2013 from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home at 9900 Braddock Road, Fairfax.

There will be a funeral Mass at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 3901 Woodburn Road, Annandale, Dec. 14, 11 a.m. followed by a graveside service at Fairfax Memorial Park, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

### Festive

**The annual St. Aidan’s Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale begins ends Sunday, Dec. 15. The tree lot is a festive atmosphere for families, complete with a crackling fire, hot cider, cookies, and music. Ten percent of the total sale will benefit the school’s PTA.**



PHOTOS BY LESLIE TEITEL

### Out and About

**Lauran Ashworth (leader), Charlotte Teeples, Sadie Hampton, Alyson Early, Ginny Nelson, Kim Teeples (leader), Sydney Ashworth, Allison Burke, Maren Teitel, and Lucy Marshall donned period costumes and conducted tours of the Riley Lockhouse on the C&O Canal just north of the District during Brownie Troop 4834’s October outing.**



**Ginny Nelson, Lucy Marshall, Charlotte Teeples and Sydney Ashworth familiarize themselves with some of the items that will be shown during tours of the Riley Lockhouse.**

## Fatal Crash in Fort Belvoir Area

Around 6:12 a.m., on Friday, Nov. 22, a driver of a 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt was attempting to make a left turn from northbound Richmond Highway into 9114 Richmond Highway. According to Mount Vernon District police, the Cobalt was struck by a 2003 BMW, driven by a 45-year-old man, which was traveling southbound on Richmond Highway. Preliminary investigation indicates that the driver of the Cobalt, 69-year-old Alex Kovacs of The Plains, Va., may not have been wearing a seat belt and was ejected from his vehicle. Kovacs was transported to a local hospital, where he died on Dec. 6.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation though it does not appear that alcohol is a factor.

## Canine Distemper Alert

Animal Control officers collected five raccoons over the past few weeks in the area of Fort Hunt Road and Namassin Road. One raccoon was tested at the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, and on Friday, Dec. 6, the test result showed that the animal had canine distemper.

Canine Distemper is highly contagious and potentially deadly for dogs. According to the ASPCA, "The first signs of canine distemper include sneezing, coughing and thick mucus coming from the eyes and nose. Fever, lethargy, sudden vomiting and diarrhea, depression and/or loss of appetite are also symptoms of the virus."

Police recommend that all dog owners in the area should verify their pets are current on distemper vaccinations. If residents see any symptoms of canine distemper, take the dog to the veterinarian immediately.

Also, be on the look-out for wild life showing some of the same symptoms. Canine distemper can affect raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes.

## Puller Named to State Veteran Affairs Policy Council

Gov.-Elect Terry McAuliffe this week named state Sen. Toddy Puller to his Veteran Affairs Policy Council to advise on all areas related to the veterans of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"Our previous governors have done good work to promote policies and legislation that makes Virginia the ideal home for our nation's veterans. One in eight Virginians are either active-duty military or a veteran," Puller said. "I am happy to see Gov.-Elect McAuliffe hit the ground running and especially in the area of our veterans. It is an honor to be named to the Veterans Affairs Policy Council and I will continue to work with our Governor to promote policies that aid our brave servicemen and women."

Puller is also a member of the Board of Veteran Services. She will again in 2014 be patroning legislation to make it easier for active-duty military to exercise their right to vote while also serving in combat. Puller is also patroning bills related to the military and education and the employment program "V3".

Puller is the daughter of Col. Todd, U.S. Army and the widow of Lt. Lewis B. Puller, Jr., USMC and represents the 36th senatorial district of Virginia which includes parts of Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford counties.

## Inova Supports Operation Walk

On Dec. 7, orthopedic surgeons at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital provided free hip and/or knee replacements to 10 patients from the metropolitan Washington DC area, as part of Operation Walk USA.

Currently in its third year, Operation Walk USA, an independent medical charitable organization, provides all aspects of knee and hip replacement treatment — surgery, hospitalization, and pre-and post-operative care — at no cost to patients who may not qualify for government assistance, have insurance or afford surgery on their own.

Operation Walk USA is a volunteer effort on behalf of more than 120 volunteer orthopedic surgeons and 70 participating hospitals in 32 states.



PHOTOS BY PAULA RYBKA

## SLES Rock 'n Run Success

**More than 900 students participated in the Stratford Landing Rock 'n Run raising more than \$43,000 to fund teachers' wish lists, school improvements, technology needs, field trip buses, assemblies, community events and the Care and Share program. The October event was organized by the school's PTA. Sara Jefferies, SLES PTA president, explained: "Our goals were simple. Raise enough money to meet our teachers daily classroom needs, make a dent on technology needs and make it more than about fundraising — it really is a community event and its success will help us plan for additional community events rather than more fundraisers."**



## Bowlus To Receive Eagle Scout Rank

On Sunday, Dec. 13 at 5 p.m., at the Springfield Church of Christ, Andrew P. Bowlus of Alexandria will receive his Eagle Scout rank at a Court of Honor ceremony.

Andrew is a member of Troop 2215, which was formed in 2007, originally chartered for home schooled, Christian young men. Andrew's Eagle Scout project involved building a 20x24 paver patio at Harvester Presbyterian Church in Springfield. Shirley Contracting Company in Lorton and Lowe's in Woodbridge made contributions to support Andrew's project and the Boys Scouts of America. Andrew has been involved in scouting for seven years and in three different troops around the country due to the fact that his father serves on active duty in the Army. Despite the moves, Andrew was able to complete the requirements for Eagle.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Andrew P. Bowlus presents a certificate of appreciation to Mike Post, CEO of Shirley Contracting Company for donations of equipment and materials for Andrew's Eagle Scout project at Harvester Presbyterian Church.**

## MILITARY NOTES

Email [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com).

Army Spec. **Katherine N. Dixon** has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. Dixon

is the daughter of Dionisia and Leonard Dixon of Fayetteville, N.C. She is a 2007 graduate of Mount Vernon High School and earned a bachelor's degree in 2012 from George Mason University.

## SPORTS

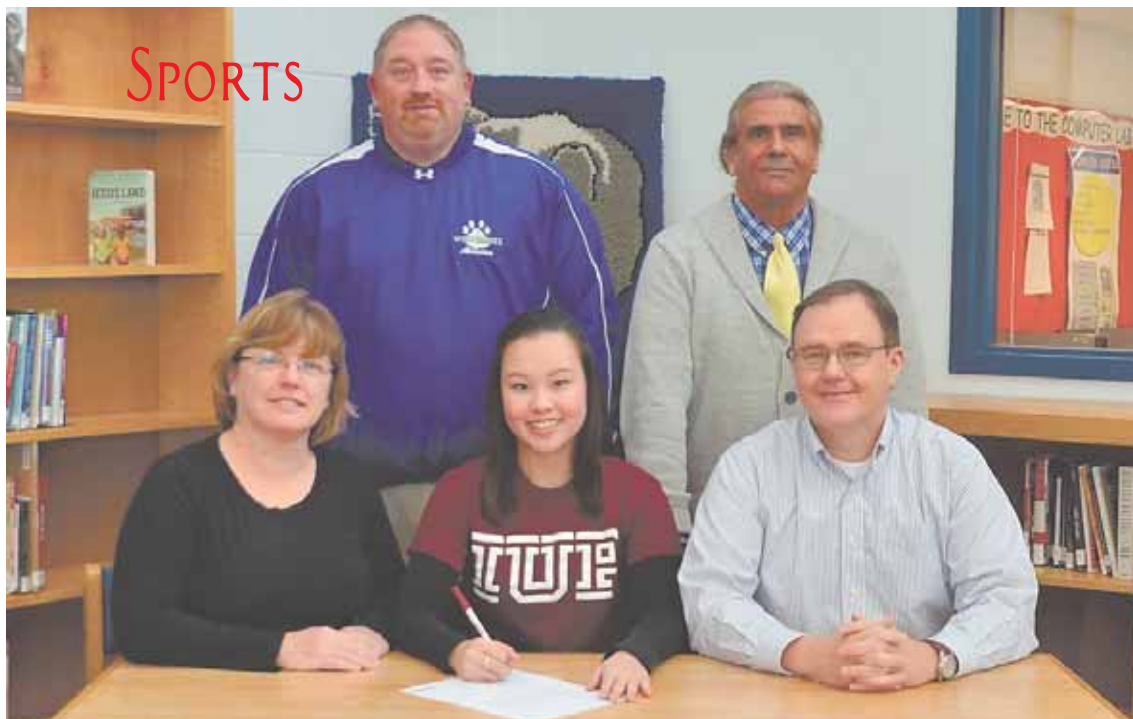


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**West Potomac senior Sara Bertram will swim for Indiana University of Pennsylvania. From left are: Rita McGill (mother); Sara Bertram, Tom Bertram (father); (back row) Aaron Helmick (director of student activities) and Bob Lombardi (swim coach).**

### SPORTS BRIEFS

## West Potomac's Bertram To Swim for IUP

West Potomac High School senior Sara Bertram signed a Letter of Intent to swim next year at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Bertram represented West Potomac at the Virginia state AAA championship meet the past three years in both individual and relay events. She was a member of the 2012 state champion 200-yard freestyle relay team and the Northern Region record-breaking 400-yard freestyle relay team. Bertram trains with Nation's Capital Swim Club and has qualified twice for the Junior Nationals Meet in Orlando.

Bertram is a USA Swimming Scholastic All-American, a member of the National Honor Society and an officer of the National Art Honor Society. She is an assistant coach for the Mount Vernon Park Gators swim team and has volunteered as a swim instructor with the Nadar Por Vida program for at-risk and minority youth.

## Mount Vernon Boys' Basketball Starts 3-0

The Mount Vernon boys' basketball team won its first three games of the season, with two victories coming by three points or less.

The Majors opened the season with a 52-51 win over Centreville at home on Dec. 3. During the weekend, Mount Vernon competed in a tournament at Lee High School. On Dec. 6, the Majors beat the host Lancers 70-44. The following night, Mount Vernon beat McLean 35-32.

Mount Vernon, led by head coach John Wiley, finished National District runner-up last season before losing to South County in the opening round of the regional tournament.

The Majors will host Yorktown at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13.

## West Potomac Girls' Basketball Wins First Four

The West Potomac girls' basketball team started the season 4-0, with wins over Westfield (60-55), Stuart (75-32), Lee (67-29) and Falls Church (52-38).

The Wolverines are led by head coach Kenny Farmer, who returned to the program after coaching West Potomac from 1988 to 1993, leading the Wolverines to a record of 84-38.

The Wolverines will host Chantilly at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13.

## Mark Vincent Basketball Camp

Registration ends Dec. 15 for the Mark Vincent annual basketball camp will be held Dec. 27, 28, 30 and 31 at Accotink Academy, located at 8519 Tuttle Road in Springfield.

Camp hours are from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Boys and girls are invited.

Go to [markvincentbasketballcamps.com](http://markvincentbasketballcamps.com) for more information. Enter "hardwork" as the promotional code when enrolling a child.

Potomac High School.

**Sunaina Malhotra, Kathleen Nguyen, Harrison Agyeman and Hiyab Yohannes** were initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Charles Paullin** of Alexandria graduated from the University of Hartford during fall commencement on Dec. 8 and received a Bachelor of Arts in communication.

**Kurt David Anderson** was recently elected to the Student Senate at Hampden-Sydney College. Kurt, a freshman, is a graduate of Episcopal High School and is the son of Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. Dave Anderson of Alexandria.

**Catherine Ray**, 16, of Alexandria, will graduate magna cum laude Dec. 19 with an undergraduate degree from George Mason University's School of Physics, Astronomy and Computational Sciences.

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

**Cristina Chilstrom**, a member of the Colgate University Class of 2016, has been inducted into the Colgate chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, the national scholastic honorary society that recognizes the outstanding academic achievement of first-year students. Currently a sophomore at Colgate, Chilstrom, is a graduate of West

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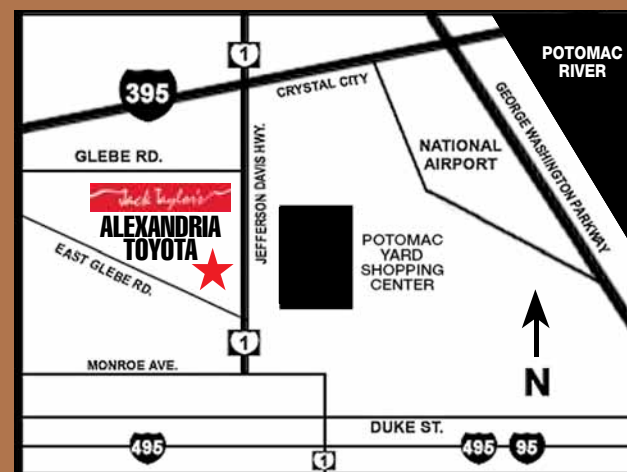
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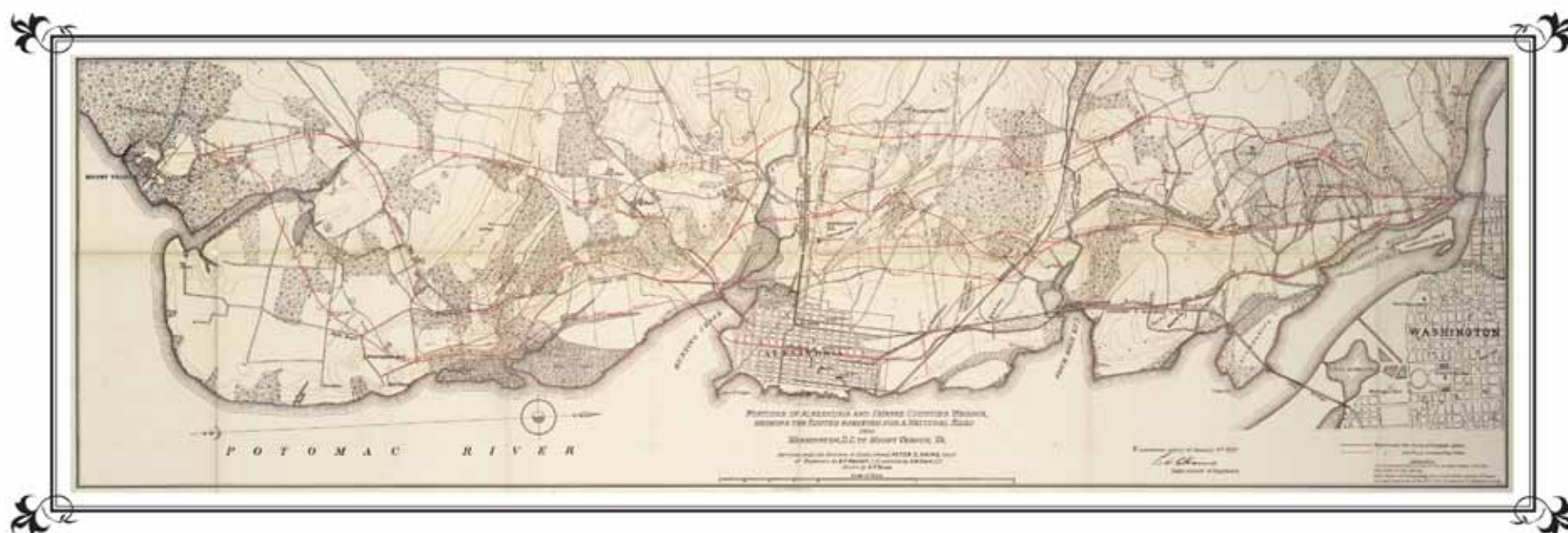
Dated 1890 and signed in the original engraved plate by its surveyor, U.S. Army Engineer Peter Hains, for whom Hains Point would not much later be named, the long map that you see here was originally four feet in length and folded into a fat little book. The book offered a proposal for the first "National Road from Washington, D.C., to Mount Vernon."

The proposal suggested three potential routes (with several interconnections) for a scenic parkway extending from Georgetown's canal-carrying Aqueduct Bridge, now replaced by Key Bridge, due south to Mount Vernon. Shown in red, the proposed roadways included an East Route that closely followed the Potomac River, a Middle Route that crossed the highlands above Shuter's Hill (site of today's George Washington Masonic Temple), and a West Route that roughly paralleled today's Quaker Lane. Topographic lines in 20-foot intervals clearly reflect the lay of the land. Perhaps most striking from a modern point of view is the fact that much of the

From the Virginia end of the bridge, the streetcar line entered Alexandria along the median of Commonwealth Avenue, turned east on King Street, then south again on South Royal Street, and crossed the wide mouth of Great Hunting Creek on a 1,500-foot-long wooden trestle roughly where today's George Washington Parkway covers the same distance, although mostly on filled land. The streetcar line continued along the Potomac as far south as Collingwood Road, where it turned southwest to make a beeline for Mount Vernon. The great circle at Mount Vernon's North Gate today was originally circumnavigated by streetcars beginning the return trip to Alexandria and Washington.

The length of the streetcar line required a power station near its halfway point, and that station was located where Belle Haven Road and Potomac Avenue intersect today, an area still bare on this map. The presence of electricity gave rise to new proposals for an industrial suburb south of Hunting Creek, to be known as New Alexandria. For reasons unknown, the industry never materialized, but New Alexandria became one of the nation's first "streetcar suburbs."

The streetcars ran from 1892 to the mid-1920s, when the call for a scenic parkway to Mount Vernon was revived. The first of its kind in the nation, the parkway was completed in time for the 1932 bicentennial celebration of George Washington's birth, more or less along the streetcar-line's route.



countryside below the city of Alexandria was cleared of trees for dairy-farm pasturage, affording long views of the Potomac River from the heights to the west—views now obscured in and by our verdant suburban neighborhoods.

The irony behind the map lies in the fact that the road that it proposed would never be built, at least not as proposed here, and not for another 40 years. Instead, the decision was reached to build an electric-streetcar line—one of the nation's first—along a roughly similar route, but one departing from Pennsylvania Avenue and 12th Street, N.W. In Washington and crossing the Potomac on what was still called the Long Bridge at 14th Street, N.W.

With the arrival of motorcar-commuting, suburban living became even more attractive and the hills above New Alexandria were shortly developed as Belle Haven, still one of Washington's loveliest residential neighborhoods. Belle Haven's developers knew shopping would be essential and spent the next 15 years persuading the National Park Service to allow the construction of an exit at Belle View Boulevard explicitly for the Shops at Belle View, completed in 1953. The rest, as they say, is holiday-shopping history!

*Copies of the original map shown here are available at The Virginia Florist in Belle View.*

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## EAGLE AND EMPIRE

### Game & Hobby Shop

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**SAVE 20%**  
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12/31/2013. One per customer.

**SAVE 10%**  
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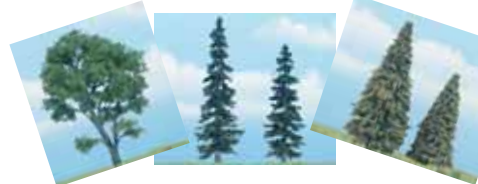
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**MAGIC**  
The Gathering



#### Featuring a Fine Selection of:

- HO Model Trains
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- Plastic Model Kits
- Family Board Games
- Hobby Supplies
- Warhammer 40,000
- Flames of War
- Osprey Military Books
- Magic The Gathering
- Comic Books



#### Store Hours for December:

Monday & Tuesday.....2 am to 7 pm  
Wednesday.....11 am to 7 pm  
Thursday & Friday.....11 am to 10 pm  
Saturday.....10 am to 9 pm  
Sunday.....2 am to 5 pm

1520 Belle View Blvd.

703-768-9777

## EGGSTRAORDINARY BREAKFAST DEAL



Limited time only.  
Additional charge for extras. Prices and participation may vary. Plus applicable tax.

Your choice of

1. Egg & Cheese
2. Bacon, Egg & Cheese
3. Black Forest Ham, Egg & Cheese

**\$1 OFF Any FOOTLONG  
Or 50C OFF Any 6-Inch  
Sub, Salad or Pizza**

Valid only at:  
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Expires 1/31/14



Not valid on \$5 footlong subs.  
One coupon per customer per visit.  
No valid with any other offers  
or discounts. No cash value.  
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**FREE Regular 6 Inch Sub when  
you buy \$25 Subway gift card.  
Two FREE 6 Inch Subs for \$50  
Subway gift cards purchase.**

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Belle View Subway  
Expires 1/31/14



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No valid with any other offers  
or discounts. No cash value.  
Not for sale.

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**\$10 OFF Any sandwich  
platter or Giant Sub  
(24 hr. advance notice  
required for Giant Subs)**

Valid only at:  
Belle View Subway  
Expires 1/31/14



Excludes Premium subs, Add-ons extra.  
One coupon per customer per visit.  
No valid with any other offers  
or discounts. No cash value.  
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**\$10 Two Regular  
Footlongs Subs after 4 pm.  
\$1 extra for each Premium  
or Supreme sub.**

Valid only at:  
Belle View Subway  
Expires 1/31/14



Excludes Premium subs, Add-ons extra.  
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**Get any 3 Regular  
FOOTLONGS for  
just \$15.00 after 4 pm  
Bacon, double meat, Avocado extra.**

Valid only at:  
Belle View Subway  
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Cold Cut Sub Just \$2**

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[oldtownalexandria@snapfitness.com](mailto:oldtownalexandria@snapfitness.com)



**1628 Belle View Blvd  
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(703) 348-8507**

[belleviewva@snapfitness.com](mailto:belleviewva@snapfitness.com)

**\$0**

**Enrollment at  
Old Town  
Location**

Expires 01/31/14

**Free Fitness  
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Trainer**

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**Enrollment at  
Belle View  
Location**

Expires 01/31/14

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\*2 Half Hour Sessions  
Membership Separate

**Contact Us Today For More Information**

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A parent, you'll be amazed to find out that our children's martial arts program was designed to make your job easier by reinforcing the life lessons and positive qualities that you work so hard to instill.



For example, our class curriculum is full of fun, exciting activities and character development lessons that teach and encourage students to:

- Treat themselves and other with respect
- Concentrate and always do their best work
- Serve as a positive role model for others
- Take responsibility for their actions
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Your child will enjoy our martial arts program because it's exciting and fun and you'll love it because we'll support your role as a parent . . . making your job easier.

**MEMBER:  
National Association  
of Professional  
Martial Artists**

**Don't wait! Call now to try a risk FREE no-obligation class:**

## **KARATE MASTERS**

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## Party Trays for the Holidays

Also Holidays Gift Certificates at  
**\$55.00 Gift Certificates for \$50.00**  
**\$110.00 Gift Certificates for \$100.00**

### Holiday Hours

Christmas Day: Closed for the Holiday  
 New Year Day: Closed for Lunch,  
 Open for Dinner 4:00 to 9:00.

## Chef's Special Menu for New Year's Eve

**Call 703-660-6085 for details**

Happy and safe Holidays.

**<http://www.dishesofindia.com>**



## Now Serving Luncheon Buffet Everyday

**Monday - Sunday: 11:00am to 2:30pm**

### **Dinner Hours:**

Sunday - Thursday: 4:30pm - 9:30pm  
 Friday & Saturday: 4:30pm - 10:00pm



JOIN US FOR OUR 2013 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES,  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

*Free Gifts, Festive Beverages, Holiday Jewelry Sale (Including Echo of the Dreamer)  
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*Unique Gifts & Spectacular Flowers*

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