



From left, Mount Vernon sophomore Victor Merriweather, Carla Moss (Mount Vernon class of 1989 and a U.S. Army veteran), interim principal Esther J. Manns and Senior Marine Instructor Col. Caroline Simkins-Mullins (U.S. Marine Corps ret.) celebrate Veterans Day and the birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps on Nov. 11.



Freshman Connor Salsido (center) and his family gather after the Veterans Day program organized by the Mount Vernon High School U.S. Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

## Veterans and Superheroes

**MVHS U.S. Marine Corps JROTC hosts Veterans Day program.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**M**ount Vernon High School senior Elisa Solomon is a Cadet Captain in the U.S. Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at her school. She's also a poet. The young officer stood at the podium in the center of the school's Michael M. Skinner Field House on Veterans Day, Nov. 11 and read her original work "The Superheroes."

"Veterans and superheroes are one in the same,

and that makes you our superheroes every day," she said.

With the birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps on Nov. 10, it was fitting to have a joint celebration with Veterans Day organized by her military organization.

"We let them work it," said Senior Marine Instructor Col. Caroline Simkins-Mullins (U.S. Marine Corps ret.). "The students planned, practiced and conducted it. It was our mission to keep it safe and professional."

With roughly 160 members in the U.S. Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Simkins-Mullins said Mount Vernon's is one of the larger groups for that branch in the area.

At the beginning of the program, a color guard marched in with the flags and then the student members demonstrated several disciplined formations.

SEE VETERANS, PAGE 11



**Michael Skinner, a history teacher, basketball coach and sub school principal at Mount Vernon High School between 1955 and 1983, recalls memories of serving in World War II before coming to the school.**



**Cadet Capt. Elisa Solomon, a Mount Vernon senior, reads her original poem "The Superheroes."**



**Members of the Mount Vernon High School U.S. Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps stand in formation during a Veterans Day program at the school.**



**Mount Vernon High School choral group Vocal Recall performs at a Veterans Day program organized by the school's U.S. Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.**

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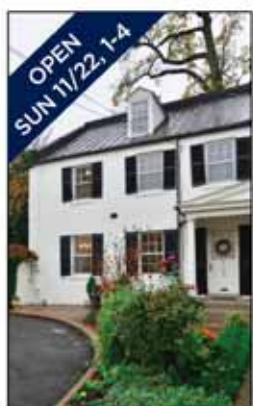
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Principal Thomas Fitzpatrick asked the students to raise their hands if they had a family member who was a veteran. Many hands went up and he used the example to encourage awareness of veterans and their families, not just on a special day, but in everyday life.



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

Recently retired Navy pilot Karen Anne Kulinski spoke about the Naval Academy and her job. She brought aircraft models to share with Miss Simpson's Kindergarten class, where her daughter Natalie is a student.

## Veterans Meet with Fort Hunt Elementary Students



Kindergarten students in Mrs. Blanco and Mrs. Olson's class placed flags in front of their school to honor veterans.



Master Sgt. Chris Clark is a member of the "President's Own" U.S. Marine Band. His presentation included playing the National Anthem for the second grade classes and discussing music programs in the armed forces.



Rows of small flags ran next to the walkways around Fort Hunt Elementary School.



Nico was excited when he was selected to try on the vest belonging to Navy pilot Lt. Cdr. Troy Turtaglian. The Lt. Commander came to speak about his career in the Navy to the second graders, which included his son Dominic.



Lt. Colonel Prescott Wilson (U.S. Marine Corps) delighted the second grade with a power point presentation, showing pictures of the places that his family, including their classmate Sophia, has lived. He also included a cartoon clip, showing Bugs Bunny in a Marine Corps uniform.

Colonel Rick Bailer (U.S. Army Retired) was one of many veterans speaking to classes at Fort Hunt Elementary School, as part of its Veterans Day Program. He led the second grade classes, which included his grandson, in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. He also passed out flag stickers and several MREs (Meals, Ready to Eat) for the students to take back to class and sample.





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# NEWS

## 17-year-old Charged in August Murder

**O**n Oct. 29, police announced a 17-year-old from the Huntington area was charged with the murder of Khalid Aboumalik, 42. Aboumalik's body was found in Huntington Park on Aug. 5 with wounding and trauma to his upper body.

The unnamed juvenile suspect and Aboumalik knew each other, police said. He was already detained in the Fairfax County jail for charges of robbing the victim.

— TIM PETERSON

### CRIME REPORT

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

**BURGLARY:** 2200 block of Roanoke Dr., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

**BURGLARY:** 5300 block of Bedford Ter., Nov. 12. A resident reported someone entered the home and took property.

**ARMED ROBBERY:** 3200 block of Audubon Ave., Nov. 10, 6:26 a.m. a 38-year-old, female victim reports she left her residence and was approached by a man in her driveway. The suspect displayed a handgun and demanded that the victim hand over her purse. She did so and was not injured. The suspect fled on foot. He was described as black; about 5 feet 10 inches tall, with a skinny build. He was wearing a black ski mask and jacket.

**NARCOTICS VIOLATION/AS-SAULT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** 5991 North Kings Hwy. at Mount Eagle Park. Nov. 11, 6:45 p.m. Two officers were investigating a suspicious vehicle in the park. The odor of burning marijuana could be detected, coming from inside the car. The officers asked the two juvenile occupants; one

male, one female, to exit the car. They did so and then became combative with the officers. The juveniles were taken into custody and transported to the Juvenile Intake facility where they were charged with assault on a law enforcement officer, possession of marijuana and obstruction of justice. Any injuries were minor and treated at the scene.

**BURGLARY:** 7900 block of Andris Ct. Nov. 11, 11:27 a.m. A resident reported someone entered the home and took property.

#### NOV. 17

**LARCENIES**  
6600 block of 10<sup>th</sup> Street, license plate from vehicle

2500 block of Parkers Lane, laptop computer from vehicle

#### STOLEN VEHICLES

1900 block of Holly Ridge Drive, Jeep Cherokee

#### NOV. 16

**LARCENIES**  
8900 block of Camden Street, watch from vehicle

6300 block of Gentele Court, cash from vehicle

8000 block of Kidd Street, bicycle from residence

6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

6700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

7900 block of Richmond Highway, phone from business

8200 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

8600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

#### STOLEN VEHICLES

6200 block of Houston Court, 2003 Ford 450

#### NOV. 13

##### LARCENIES

6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

##### NOV. 12

##### LARCENIES

2000 block of Belle View Boulevard, credit cards from business

8400 block of Frye Road, merchandise from business

7400 block of Mount Vernon Square Center, merchandise from business

3600 block of Ransom Place, phone, wallet and clothing from business

7800 block of Tysons Corner Center, phone from business



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floored attics w/pull-down stairs. Lovely screened porch/carport overlooks a deck & beautifully landscaped & fenced bkdy. Quality home for an attractive price – minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & Old Town, Alex (N).



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## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

### NOVEMBER

11/25/2015.....Celebrating Gratitude, Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER

12/2/2015.....Wellbeing

12/9/2015.....Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II

12/9/2015.....HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays

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## News Briefs

### ATM Skimmer Uncovered

An off-duty police officer called Fairfax County Police Department when he noticed a fraud device (skimmer) on an ATM in the Huntington area on Friday, Nov. 13.

The officer had inserted his card at Citi Bank ATM at the 7-Eleven, 5834 E North Kings Highway, around 11 a.m. when he noticed that the card slot fell off and he saw internal electronic components. After examining the machine, and the cash dispenser, he noticed a small hole and saw that there were batteries, a camera and a data storage device on the machine. The card slot and cash dispenser had been taped on.

The victim called police prior to making any cash transactions on the machine and was not victimized.

Police are asking customers to recall whether or not they may have used this machine recently as they don't know exactly how long the skimmer was in place.

Police offered the following advice: Always check bank statements and look for discrepancies. Look closely at ATMs when making financial transactions. Skimming devices may be affixed loosely with tape; contact bank personnel and police immediately.

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

### Lamp Causes Condo Fire

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department units responded to a townhouse condominium fire Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 8642 Village Square Drive.

Firefighters encountered smoke and fire coming from the two-story, end unit home upon arrival. Firefighters quickly brought the fire under control. The occupants were not at home when the fire broke out. The home had a working smoke alarm. Three adults and two children have been displaced. Support is being provided by Red Cross. There were no injuries.

Damage is estimated at \$93,000.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. A lamp in a second floor bedroom fell over and ignited combustible materials causing the fire.

### Seeking Donations for Victims

The Fairfax County Police Department Victim Services Section is kicking off its Second Annual Holiday Gift Card Drive in an effort to provide holiday help for children of domestic and sexual violence.

Many of these children and families are facing the reality of not celebrating the holidays this year due to the financial burden that comes with being a victim of crime.

The Victim Services Section is seeking donations of gift cards for the families they have worked with this past year, the opportunity to bring a smile to the faces of their children; those who have witnessed or been a victim of domestic or sexual violence themselves.

Gift cards can be dropped off or mailed to the Victim Services Section main office located at 10600 Page Ave., Fairfax, VA 22030.

### Join Fox Trot Fundraiser

The Fort Hunt PTA is hosting its 14th Annual 1-Mile Fox Trot Fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 21 at Fort Hunt Park. Warm-up begins at 7:45 a.m. .

The fee is \$20 per person/stroller/dog or \$75 maximum per immediate family of six or less. All students currently in the afterschool Fleet Foxes Running club are automatically registered. See <https://forhuntingpta.membershiptoolkit.com/FoxTrot>



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Civil Rights Icon

**U.S. Rep. John Lewis, an icon in the Civil Rights movement, visited with the fourth graders at Ft. Hunt Elementary School on Monday, Nov. 16. He met with the students for almost an hour, talking about working with Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr., Bloody Sunday and the Selma March, and the March on Washington.**



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

### Benefitting UCM

**On Nov. 8, The Friends of UCM hosted a sold-out crowd at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for the 24th annual benefit performance of The Capitol Steps. The event raised more than \$85,000 to benefit the mission of United Community Ministries.**



**Pictured with the check for \$85,000 raised for UCM are (from left): event co-chair Sandy Doyle; Suzy Coffey, president of The Friends of UCM and UCM board member; and event co-chairs Janis Surovell and Kristi Long.**



**Karen Corbett Sanders, Fairfax County School Board Representative-elect for the Mount Vernon District, enjoys the performance with her husband Dan Sanders of Four Sales, Ltd., which was one of more than 35 event sponsors.**





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Veterans Day at Waynewood Elementary

Macy Lindbloom, SCA president, leads the Pledge of Allegiance with Principal James Meier at her side during Waynewood Elementary School's celebration of Veterans Day. On the Daily Owl News, several children interviewed family members who are veterans. After the news, all students, each carrying a small American flag, walked silently out of the building to positions in front of the school. Each flag represented a person who served in either the Army, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Navy. Students placed their flags on their hearts and recited the Pledge of Allegiance, while the school flag was being raised. Students then placed their flags in the ground along the walkways and silently walked back into the building. After the ceremony there was a reception in the cafeteria for active military, veterans and their families. Coffee, pastries, and fruit were donated by Tom Harvey of Hollin Hall Automotive in honor of Veterans Day.



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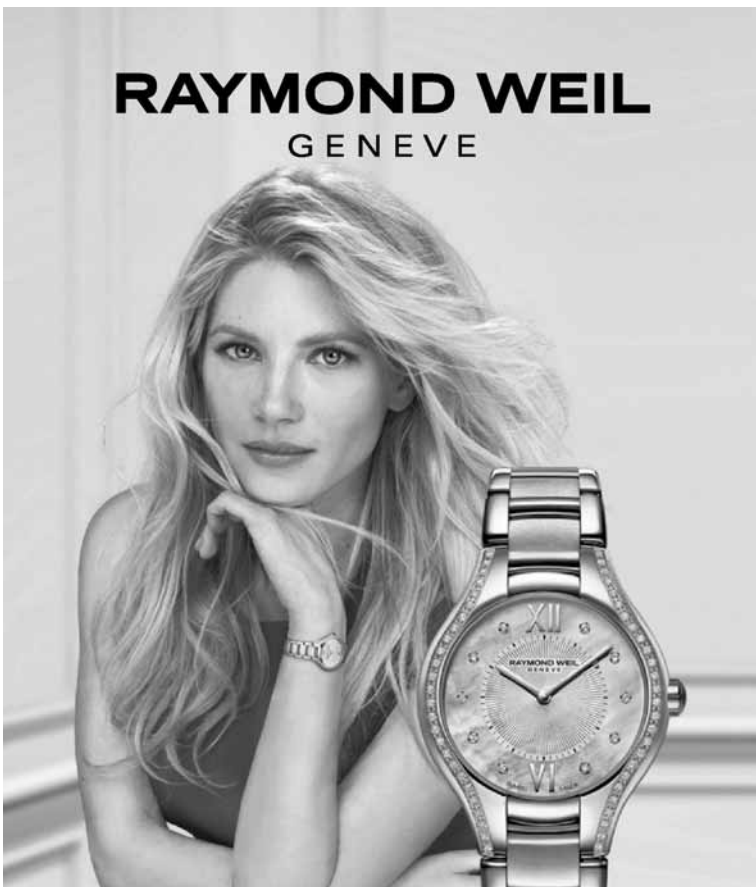
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**Kimberly Baldy, marketing director for Springfield Town Center, provided an update on new stores and restaurants there. Springfield Town Center will have extended hours for the holidays and contests for shoppers.**



**Jim Lindsay, ACC Family and Chamber Membership chair, introduced people new to the chamber.**



**Susan Klejst showed gift ideas from the American Horticultural Society Gift Shop.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Business Breakfast Kicks Off Holiday Season

The Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce kicked off the holiday shopping season with a Business breakfast on Nov. 12 at the Belle Havne County Club.



**Stanley Koussis, Andrews Federal Credit Union, sponsored the November Business Breakfast.**



**Alison Ross-Tompkins, The Fairfax, talked about the upcoming Holiday Biz Awards Celebration.**



**Chamber President George Ksenics, Belvoir FCU, talked with Shyann Trujillo, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory at Springfield Town Center.**



### Collecting Food

**Cub Scouts of Pack 1509 gather on Saturday, Nov. 14, in front of Ft. Hunt Elementary to collect food donations for Rising Hope United Methodist food pantry.**



**Melissa Lee, coordinator of the Rising Hope UMC food pantry, gives Cub Scouts of Pack 1509 a tour of the pantry facility. The Scouts were able to see first hand how their work benefits members of their community. Contact [mlee@risinghopeumc.org](mailto:mlee@risinghopeumc.org) for more information on volunteering or donations.**

PHOTOS  
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- Jennifer G.  
Alexandria, VA

Thanks to the 495 Express Lanes, Jennifer says she can balance being the mother of five young children and working at her job in Tysons. Traveling from Alexandria to Tysons Corner used to take her over an hour, but now it only takes 20 minutes. With those extra 40 minutes, Jennifer is able to eat breakfast with her kids and spend more time with them in the morning. She even has time to take her older children to school before heading to work—and now she can pick them up on the way home, too.

See more real stories from the Lanes at [ExpressLanes.com](http://ExpressLanes.com)



Jennifer's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.



# OPINION

## Holidays Are About Giving

Give thanks and share locally; tens of thousands of families around us are in need.

**T**he holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country, and many if not most of us go through our usual routines without encountering evidence of needy families among us.

But more than 51,000 children who attend Fairfax County Public Schools are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty. That's 28 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools.

In Arlington more than 31 percent of the students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals; that's 7,749 students at last count.

In Alexandria, 8,664 students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals. That's 59 percent of the 14,671 students enrolled.

These are children who are living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. These are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school. School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again during the holiday, so let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### Where to Give Locally:

❖ United Community Ministries, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306 assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UCM provides four different housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center to help prepare people for moving forward with their jobs. Last year, for the holidays, donations of nearly 10,000 toys, books, games, clothing, and other gifts ensured a joy-filled holiday for more than 1,200 children in 600 families. Please bring all donations no later than Friday, Dec. 11. Bring donations to UCM's main office at 7511 Fordson Rd., Alexandria VA 22306. Weekdays from 9am - 5.30pm. Or donate online [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org)

### EDITORIAL

❖ Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, 8305-17B Richmond Highway, PO Box 15096, Alexandria, VA, 22039. 703-768-9419, <http://www.goodhousing.org/> The mission of Good Shepherd Housing (GSH) is to reduce homelessness, increase community support, and promote self-sufficiency. GSH housing manages more than 70 housing units.

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

❖ Christian Relief Services, 8301 Richmond Highway, Suite 900, Alexandria, VA 22309, 703-317-9086, [christianrelief.org](http://christianrelief.org)

❖ Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia, Offers structure, supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, [info@friendsofguesthouse.org](mailto:info@friendsofguesthouse.org), <http://friendsofguesthouse.org/>

❖ Northern Virginia Family Service. Mail check or Shoppers Food Warehouse gift card to Northern Virginia Family Service, ATTN: Operation Turkey, 10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Gifting for Families was able to bring some extra holiday cheer to 2,122 children in Northern Virginia last year. Monetary contributions and online donations help the most. [www.nvfs.org](http://www.nvfs.org). Contact Pam Boyle at [pboyle@nvfs.org](mailto:pboyle@nvfs.org) or 571-748-2537.

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

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

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

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

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

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

❖ Homestretch is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email: [jhenderson@homestretchva.org](mailto:jhenderson@homestretchva.org); 703-237-2035 x125; <http://homestretchva.org/volunteer/>

❖ Pathway Homes focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030 703-876-0390 [info@pathwayhomes.org](mailto:info@pathwayhomes.org), [www.pathwayhomes.org](http://www.pathwayhomes.org), [www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/](http://www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/)

❖ Shelter House provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. <http://www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/>



PHOTO BY RICHARD MUMFORD

### Snapshot

A photograph from a bike ride on Sunday, Oct. 11 along the Mount Vernon Trail.

## Mount Vernon Gazette

[www.MountVernonGazette.com](http://www.MountVernonGazette.com)

@MtVernonGazette

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A Connection Newspaper





# Veterans and Superheroes

FROM PAGE 1

"You couldn't ask for more," said Simkins-Mullins. "You see the pride and professionalism in doing this, carrying it out."

Michael Skinner, the namesake of the field house, also took the podium to share a few memories from serving in World War II. Skinner was a history teacher, basketball coach and sub school principal at Mount Vernon High School between 1955 and 1983, and remains an iconic figure at graduations and sporting events.

Skinner remembered travelling with his servicemen past Fort Belvoir and seeing the high school. "I never thought I'd find myself

here," he said. "That was 1955, and I'm still here."

Carla Moss, Mount Vernon class of 1989, was in the audience for the program. Moss served in the U.S. Army from 1993 to 2001, lives in the Mount Vernon area and works at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington. She comes back to the school each Veterans Day. "I feel ecstatic and nostalgic," Moss said, "to see the students evolve over the years and continue to honor our veterans."

To conclude the program, students in the U.S. Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cut into several large birthday cakes celebrating the Corps.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Paul Krizek with Lucia Ylla, vice president of the organization in Peru promoting economic development there.

# Grant to Promote Tourism in Peru

The Running Strong for American Indian Youth board of directors approved a \$16,000 grant request to promote cultural tourism and economic development in a remote area of Peru. Running Strong for American Indian Youth is located at 8301 Richmond Highway, Suite 200.

On Sept. 19, Lucio Ylla, accompanied by Jose Barreiro, Ph. D., director of the Office of Latin America at the National Museum of the American Indian, gave a presentation to the Running Strong for American Indian Youth board of directors explaining a plan for the Quechua people in southern Peru to draw tourists to visit their village for a week to learn more about their culture and traditions.

To do that, however, they need

to have suitable accommodations for the visitors.

Ylla, vice president of the Association for the Inter-ethnic Educational and Cultural Development, explained that the organization is seeking \$16,000 to renovate four homes, at a cost of \$4,000 each, with each homeowner matching the grant with an additional \$2,000, to retrofit their homes for the tourists to include electricity and running water.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Running Strong for American Indian Youth board voted to approve the \$16,000 grant request.

Paul Krizek, Running Strong for American Indian Youth general counsel, said, "Running Strong for American Indian Youth is proud to support the Quechua people of Chawaytiri in their mission towards economic self-sufficiency."

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

Adopt  
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### Good Shepherd Catholic Church

#### Mass Schedule

**Monday**  
6:30 pm Mass (Español)  
**Saturday Evening**  
5:00 pm Vigil Mass  
6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)  
**Sunday**  
7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm  
**Weekday & Saturday Mornings:**  
9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)  
**Thursday & First Friday of the Month:**  
7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration  
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Alexandria—9037 Patton Blvd 22309 \$799,000



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Annandale—7410 and 7412 Hamilton St 22003 Starting at \$599,000



Buy one of these "as-is" houses "For Sale by Owner" and M&T Home Builders will build you a charming, contemporary craftsman home. New single family home will be customized to the buyer, ensuring another luxurious, meticulously designed M&T home—2-story (optional 3-story) home with approx. 3000SF of living space, 5 BRs and 3.5 baths. Must see these properties located inside the beltway—close to Fairfax, Tyson's, Alex, Pent, and D.C. See MLS#FX8733535 and MLS# FX8733393. (Image here is an example)

Alexandria—1130 Arcturus Lane 22308 \$1,295,000



A new charming, to-be built, contemporary craftsman, open-style home located between Fort Hunt Road and Geo Wash Pkwy. Home is customized to the buyer, ensuring another one-of-a-kind, meticulously designed M&T home on 15,000 SF lot. Optional 3 floors plus full basement, & 2-car garage. 4-5 large bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms. Gourmet kitchen with granite tops, professional-series SS appliances. See MLS#FX8645595. Financing info available. (Image here is an example.)



# Crafting Perfect Admissions Essays

Local educators offer advice on how to write effective independent school admissions essays.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

**C**inger Wilner spent almost every morning last month hovering over her MacBook Pro, at a window seat in Starbucks, scouring a series of essays. She was looking for fatal mistakes. Errors ranging from comma splices to illogical arguments could torpedo weeks of late-nights spent in front of a computer. The words weren't hers, though. They were those of her 13-year-old daughter, who is in the midst of applying for a slot at one of the Washington-region's independent schools.

"I haven't spent this much time proofreading since I was in college," said Wilner, an Arlington mother of two. "She's a good writer and put a lot of effort into these essays. But that's probably true of the other type-A students who are applying to these schools, too."

That's right: 'Tis the season for independent school admissions. Families are scrambling to meet the application deadlines for local private schools. In addition to school tours, open houses, applicant interviews and standardized tests, many independent schools require prospective students to demonstrate their writing and critical thinking abilities in the form of an essay.

"It ... gives the applicant another opportunity, beyond the interview, to share more about their passions, interests, character and creativity," said Lisa Knight, director of admission and financial aid at Flint Hill School in Oakton.

The essay is a chance for the applicant to



COURTESY OF BASIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

**Students seeking admission to many of the area's private schools, such as BASIS Independent School in McLean must write essays as part of the application process.**

give the admissions committee a glimpse of the qualities that distinguish them from hundreds or even thousands of other students who seek one of a handful of slots at a school.

"We hope that the students will reveal something about themselves," said Clare M. Dame, director of enrollment management at Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal. "We want to get to know them and what motivates them. Hopefully some of their personalities will come through as they write about their goals or the person they admire."

Admissions officers at independent schools that are considered academically rigorous are looking for well-read students who have a solid command of grammar and punctuation. "As we are reviewing ... essays, we are assessing their ability to write," said Dame. "As a college prep school, we expect every student to go from Randolph

Macon Academy to a four-year college. In order to succeed ... a student needs to know how to write fairly well."

In addition to writing abilities, admissions committees review applicants' aptitudes for analytical thinking, creativity and intellectual curiosity. "Are they making a thorough and well-structured argument?" asks Mark Reford, D.Phil., of BASIS Independent School in McLean. "How intellectually resourceful are they? How do these kids think and are they able to express themselves thoughtfully and carefully and clearly in writing?"

"They should come ... with an ability to express arguments clearly and concisely," he continued. "Over the long term, what that involves is an education where the students are used to investigating topics where there isn't a right or wrong answer. They have to be used to thinking through a problem. What's important is the quality of their analysis."

Admissions officials look for applicants who demonstrate excitement about attending a particular school. "The ... essay gives us an idea of why they are considering our school," said Dame. "It helps us to know them and what motivates them to come to a college-prep, Air Force JROTC school."

Applicants should use specific examples that show they understand the school's culture and environment and how they would fit into it. "In writing why they want to come to Randolph-Macon Academy, they need to be able to talk about the school itself so that we understand that it is an essay written specific to our programs, and not just a generic essay generated for all the schools that

they might be considering," said Dame.

Admissions officers can spot essays for which applicants have received an abundance of help. Such assistance can become particularly apparent when a student's application includes a writing sample from a standardized test, such as the Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT), which requires students to organize and write essays in a limited amount of time without help.

"We really value the essay from the SSAT because you're seeing their thought process and how they express themselves in a first draft," said Terri Collins, director of admissions, Oakcrest School in McLean.

Applicants should not eschew all assistance, however. In fact, school officials encourage applicants to get help proofreading their essays. Many families actually seek guidance from an independent educational consultant.

"We follow a strict code of ethics, so we don't help them write the essays or help them pretend to be someone else," said Leigh Ann Cahill of Independent School Options, an educational consulting firm in Alexandria. "But we show them how to present their best selves."

At the same time, essays that read like they've been written by the student, using age-appropriate language, are often the most engaging and most credible. "Don't necessarily try to write in the most erudite and intellectual manner unless that is natural for you," said Dame. "Efficient, concise language is most effective and often says what you mean to say better than trying to use the thesaurus."

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THROUGH DEC. 4

**Accepting Donations.** At Christian Relief Services, 8301 Richmond Highway. Christian Relief Services provides more than 2,700 frozen turkeys to its grassroots partners in Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia during the Christmas season. This year, they are asking for support to help ensure children will receive at least one toy from "Santa" this year. Visit [www.christianrelief.org](http://www.christianrelief.org).

### THROUGH DEC. 11

**Citrus Sale Deadline for Orders.** The Mount Vernon Evening Lions Club will be taking orders for oranges and grapefruit. Order deadline is Friday, Dec. 11; delivery on Dec. 19. Call Andrea Corsillo 703-960-4973.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 1

**"Guiding the College-Bound Athlete."** 7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. This seminar is to prepare parents and athletes with information and topics for every

student-athlete in middle and high school and their parents to educate and prepare them for opportunities and careers after graduation. Free. Email [MountVernonHS.KeepInTouch@fcps.edu](mailto:MountVernonHS.KeepInTouch@fcps.edu).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 5

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

### SUNDAY/JAN. 10

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

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**United Community Ministries** seeks volunteers to act as food pantry assistants, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office admin/data entry, community outreach, ESL teachers and co-teachers, and teacher aides. Visit [www.ucmagency.org/volunteer-at-ucm.html](http://www.ucmagency.org/volunteer-at-ucm.html).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**West Potomac High School Booster Club continues its Christmas Tree Sale tradition for 30th year at Carl Sandburg Middle School. The annual fundraiser begins Saturday, Nov. 28, and continues every day until the trees are sold. The hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, and from 5-8 p.m. on weekdays. Carl Sandburg Middle School is located at 8428 Fort Hunt Road. The bottoms of all trees are trimmed upon purchase. The Christmas Tree Sale is rounded-out by the sale of hand-decorated and plain wreaths by the West Potomac Crew Team. The boosters club raises funds in support of all high school sports at West Potomac, including an annual \$15,000 payment to Fairfax County Public Schools so that the stadium turf can be refurbished when needed.**



# HOLIDAY GUIDE

## Shop 'Til You Drop

Score local gifts on Small Business Saturday.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE GAZETTE

**Y**ou've made your list and checked it twice. If you aren't already one of the 57 percent of shoppers who have started their hunt for holiday gifts, circle Nov. 28 on your calendar for the sixth annual Small Business Saturday.

"Alexandria small businesses are the heart and soul of our economy," said Pork Barrel BBQ's Bill Blackburn, president of the Del Ray Business Association. "They are what makes our city unique and there is no better place to support small businesses than in Del Ray."

Alexandria will serve as the Washington region's Shop Small headquarters for this year's Small Business Saturday. Locally owned boutiques throughout the city will offer special promotions, including merchandise discounts, gifts with purchase, complimentary services, treats and special activities for shoppers to enjoy.

New this year, Random Acts of Holiday Cheer will surprise shoppers with an elf prize patrol, busker-style caroling in the streets, a swag bag giveaway and the "Spot a Bag" contest.

"The majority of our businesses are independently owned and face unique challenges in competing for shoppers," said Chamber of Commerce vice president Shari Simmans. "Small Business Saturday allows the chamber to help leverage the marketing dollars of small businesses to reach out



**Ladyburg owner Crystal Wellman stocks ready-made gift baskets in her shop on South Union Street. Custom gifts are also available.**

to more people."

The chamber will once again be handing out specially branded shopping bags filled with promotions from local businesses. About 100 random bags will have gift cards from retailers and restaurants such as A La Lucia/Hunting Creek, Port City Brewery, Society Fair, Teatism, Bastille and Valvoline. Office of Historic Alexandria Deputy Director Gretchen Bulova is providing discounts

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE GAZETTE



**The Christmas Attic is ground zero for shoppers during the holiday season, where nutcrackers are always popular.**

to The Museum Store.

"Our local businesses really stepped up to give lucky shoppers some special prizes," Simmans said. "From \$25 gift cards to free tastings at Port City Brewery, the Small Business Saturday promotions help keep shopping revenue here in the city."

Shopping Small Business Saturday still requires a bit of preparation, so be sure to write down the sizes, favorite colors and hobbies of gift recipients ahead of time.

**"Alexandria small businesses are the heart and soul of our economy."**

— Del Ray Business Association president Bill Blackburn

Know the return policy and ask for a gift receipt for easy returns or exchanges for the recipient.

Have a favorite store or boutique? Check it out now and ask about any upcoming holiday specials.

"Small Business Saturday is a chance for shoppers to revisit their favorite shops in town and also check out the many new businesses across the city," Simmans added. "You'll be able to find a unique gift for anyone on your list and experience a fun day to shop small for big rewards."

## Family Events

### SATURDAY/NOV. 21

#### Mount Vernon High School Turkey Trot.

8 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School Cares is a non-profit organization that helps the neediest children of the Mount Vernon/Route 1 Corridor. The race has been established for the last five years and has raised over \$20,000. The registration fee is \$20. Visit [www.facebook.com/MVCaresTurkeyTrot/](http://www.facebook.com/MVCaresTurkeyTrot/).

**Family Fun: Turkey Hunt.** 1-2 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn the history of the wild turkey and importance to early Americans. Track the bird through the gardens and natural spaces of Green Spring Gardens, then create a turkey-inspired decoration for your Thanksgiving table. Tickets are \$6 per person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) using code 290 487 5601.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 26

**Alexandria Turkey Trot.** 9 a.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. The 40th annual Alexandria Turkey Trot features a flat, fast, USATF-certified five-mile course. Registration is \$5-25. Visit [www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com](http://www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com).

### FRIDAY/NOV. 27

#### Tea With Santa Claus.

3-5 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Tea, cocoa, and other sweets will be served alongside storytelling and magic tricks. At the end of the tea, Santa and Mrs. Claus will lead a parade to Old Town's tree lighting ceremony. Tickets are \$10 for children under 12 and \$20 for adult or child 12 and older. Visit [www.unionstreetpublichouse.com](http://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com).

#### City of Alexandria Tree Lighting

**Ceremony.** 6-8 p.m. at Market Square in front of City Hall, 301 King St. The mayor and Santa Claus will be the city tree. Mr. and Mrs. Claus visit, and more. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov) for more.

### NOV. 27-JAN. 6

#### Christmas at Mount Vernon.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Visit George

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

### NOV. 27-28, DEC. 4-5, DEC. 20

**Mount Vernon by Candlelight.** 5-8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Take character-guided tours, listen to caroling, watch 18th-century dancing, and see a reproduction of Martha Washington's "Great Cake" recipe. "Mrs. Washington" and Aladdin the Christmas camel will also be on site. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$15 for youth. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/christmas](http://www.mountvernon.org/christmas) for more.

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 4-6

**Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend & Parade.** Various times throughout

Old Town. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. The weekend celebrates Alexandria's heritage with a parade, a taste of Scotland event, holiday marketplace and more. Visit [www.campaigncenter.org/scottishwalkweekend](http://www.campaigncenter.org/scottishwalkweekend).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 5

**Photos with Santa.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at @home Real Estate, 111 S. Alfred St. Families are invited for photos with Santa and hot cocoa. Free. Visit [www.athomedcmetro.com](http://www.athomedcmetro.com) for more.

**A Soldiers' Christmas at Carlyle House.** 1-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. The "Soldiers' Christmas" event will feature re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment, who will highlight colonial life in Alexandria during the holidays at the time of the American Revolution. Free, \$1 suggested donations. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org).

**16th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.** 5:30 p.m. at Alexandria's waterfront at the foot of Cameron Street near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Dozens of illuminated boats cruise the Potomac River at the historic waterfront, led by Alexandria's fireboat The Vigilant and Washington, D.C.'s fireboat John Glenn. DC media personality Tommy McFly of 94.7 Fresh FM will be the



**Each year The Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. hosts a "Soldiers' Christmas" program featuring re-enactors. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org).**



## HOLIDAY GUIDE

### DON'T MISS IT!

#### The 53rd Holiday Shop

Saturday, Nov. 21  
9:30 am – 4 pm

Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church • 1909 Windmill Ln., Alexandria

Buy unique gifts from 50 artisans; homemade chutneys, jellies, sauces, breads, cookies; estate jewelry; colorful church-made quilt raffle; homemade lunch



Private tasting events with Sonoma Cellar owners Elizabeth and Rick Myllenbeck, second and third from left, makes for a fun gift for wine-loving friends during the holidays.

parade announcer. At the marina before and after the parade, visit the "Holiday Festival: Take a Walk in the Woods" at the Torpedo Factory Art Center to find live music and holiday shopping at open studios. Free. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com/holidays](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/holidays). **Holiday on the Avenue.** 6 p.m. at Del Ray Farmers Market. Take a stroll down Mount Vernon Avenue and see the "luminarias." Free. Visit [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com).

[www.facebook.com/MVHSClassof2019](http://www.facebook.com/MVHSClassof2019).

**Civil War Christmas in Camp at Fort Ward.** 12-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Visitors meet a Civil War-era Santa at this holiday event exploring how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. The program features living-history interpreters, a Victorian Christmas tree, refreshments, readings of The Night Before Christmas and a patriotic Santa Claus inspired by a Thomas Nast illustration for Harper's Weekly newspaper. Suggested donation is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children. Call 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

**Christmas Candlelight Service.** 5:45-8 p.m. at Alexandria Presbyterian Church, 2405 Russell Road. This service of lessons and carols will feature APC choirs, brass quintet and carol singing. Reception to follow. Free. Visit [www.alexandriapres.org](http://www.alexandriapres.org) for more. **"A Christmas Carol."** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. NYC actor / playwright, Greg Oliver Bodine performs "A Christmas Carol." This one-man play is based on the condensed version Dickens himself used on his historic reading tours of the United States. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for children. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

#### SUNDAY/DEC. 6

**Breakfast With Santa.** 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Hotel Monaco, 480 King St. Breakfast with Santa features the Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria and Lorton's Frosty Follies show. Watch a Broadway-style revue, get pictures with the cast, and eat brunch with Santa. Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$35 for ages 9 and younger. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

**Lessons and Carols.** 4:30 p.m. at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. The public is invited to the annual Lessons and Carols with the Awarding of the Dean's Cross for Servant Leadership in Church and Society. Free. Visit [www.vts.edu/chapel](http://www.vts.edu/chapel).

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 12

**Breakfast with Santa.** 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Eat a pancake breakfast, make crafts, and play games. \$5 per person, families of 5 or more pay a flat \$25 family rate. Visit

#### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 12-13

**Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours.** 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, 3-6 p.m. on Sunday at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St; Carlyle

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# HOLIDAY GUIDE

House, 121 N. Fairfax St.; Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St.; and The Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, The Lloyd House and Lee-Fendall House. Seasonal libations may be purchased along the tour. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for active military and seniors (65 and older), and \$5 for children (ages 6-17). Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) or call 703-746-4242.

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 18-19**  
**Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon.** 5:30-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Enjoy choir performances, fireworks, visit with re-enactors, learn 18th-century dance moves, learn how chocolate was made in the 18th century, and more. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for youth. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/christmas](http://www.mountvernon.org/christmas) for more.

**TUESDAY-THURSDAY/DEC. 22-24**  
**Meet Santa.** 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Children get approximately five minutes to meet and take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. A \$20 fee reserves a time slot, professional photos with be available for purchase. Visit [www.unionstreetpublichouse.com](http://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com) for more.

**THURSDAY/DEC. 31**  
**First Night Alexandria.** 2 p.m.-12 a.m. at venues throughout Old Town and Alexandria. This 21st annual

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

## Fine Arts

**NOV. 18-JAN. 3**  
**Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery:** "Winter Wonderland." Gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory Art Center-Studio 18, 105 N. Union St. Artists working in textile focus on "sparkle and shine, clean and white." Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 4-6**  
**Artfête.** Various times at The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison St. The Art League hosts an annual art celebration and open house featuring exhibits, live music, artist demonstrations, and refreshments, as well as a weekend-long ceramics and jewelry sale of handmade wares by Art League students and associates. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

# Forget the Fruitcake. Give a gift that really matters this holiday season.



Enough with all the snowflake ties and reindeer sweaters, too. This year, there are lots of great ways to give *and give back at the same time*. Now you can donate to any of these Fairfax County nonprofits in honor of anyone on your gift list. It makes shopping easy and offers you a nice tax deduction. But best of all, it helps those organizations succeed in bringing goods and services to those who need them most at this special time of year. Learn more at [givefairfax.net](http://givefairfax.net)



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# HOLIDAY GUIDE



## Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend & Parade

The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend benefits the Campagna Center. Visit [www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend](http://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend) for more on the following events:

### FRIDAY/DEC. 4

**Taste of Scotland.** 6:30 p.m. at George Washington MAsonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. This event features a Scotch tasting menu, Scottish ale sampling, as well as beer, wine and food. Tickets start at \$110.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 4-5

**Heather & Greens Sale & Order.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday at The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St. Purchase a variety of wreaths, garlands, fresh heather bundles and more. Plants are priced \$7-65.

### SATURDAY/ DEC. 5

**Scottish Walk Parade.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Wolfe and Asaph streets. A concert will follow the parade at 1 p.m. at Market Square. Free.

**Holiday Designer Tour of Homes.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at various homes in Old Town. Tour homes decorated for the holidays by interior designers. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door.

**Holiday Marketplace.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St. Shop the goods of regional artists, crafters, and boutique businesses. Free.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 6

**Deck The Halls With Santa.** 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St. Children will have an afternoon of arts and crafts, music, and a visit from Santa. Tickets are \$20-35.

## Performing Arts

### NOV. 25-DEC. 27

#### “A Broadway Christmas Carol.”

Various times at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Created by Kathy Feininger and directed by Michael Sharp, this MetroStage holiday tradition is a cross between the classic Dickens' tale and Broadway parodies. Tickets are \$50. Visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org).

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 2

#### Holiday Children's Magic Show. 7-

8:15 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. Four children's magicians perform. Children and attending adults can bring a toy (preferred) or canned food item to be donated to the Alexandria Citadel of the Salvation Army. Free. Contact Danny Selnick at 703-347-5540 or [daniel.selnick@yahoo.com](mailto:daniel.selnick@yahoo.com).

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 3-5

#### “The Nutcracker.” 7 p.m. on Friday

and Thursday, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Metropolitan School of the Arts, of Alexandria and Lorton, presents a classic performance of Clara and her Nutcracker in a magical journey from her Victorian home through the Land of Snow and into the Land of Sweets. Tickets are \$27 for adults and \$21 for seniors and students. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

### DEC.3-5, DEC. 7-8

**“Snow Day.”** 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 3, 4, 7, and 8; 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 5 at The Lab Theatre at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Arts on the Horizon will present “Snow Day” about a young girl's first snow. This play is nonverbal and will feature live music. Tickets are \$9. Visit [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org).

### DEC. 4-19

#### “A Christmas Carol.” 8 p.m.

Thursday-Friday, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. The Little Theatre of Alexandria performs the classic Victorian tale of Ebenezer Scrooge who travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Tickets are \$15. Visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9

#### “A Christmas Carol.” 6:30 p.m.

reception, 8 p.m. performance at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Attend a fundraising performance of “A Christmas Carol” complete with a visit from Santa Claus. Proceeds benefit Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Tickets are \$25. Visit [www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us](http://www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us).

### THURSDAY/DEC. 10-13

**“A Stable Christmas.”** Various times at First Baptist Church Alexandria, 2932 King St. Join the cast, chorus, and orchestra of First Baptist Church of Alexandria's 2015 production of

the Living Christmas Tree, “A Stable Christmas.” The production features traditional and contemporary holiday music, a 25-foot Christmas tree filled with 110+ singers and 50,000+ synchronized lights and the story of Jim and Dot, as they begin their lives together. Tickets are \$7 each plus a \$1 service charge per transaction. Visit [www.fbcalexandria.org](http://www.fbcalexandria.org).

### SUNDAY/DEC. 13

#### “Nutcracker in a Nutshell.” 1 p.m.

at Nannie J. Lee Center-Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St. Metropolitan School of the Arts, of Alexandria and Lorton, presents a 30-minute Nutcracker performance for younger audiences, who are looking for an abbreviated version of the classic Nutcracker. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for ages 9 and younger. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

## Holiday Shopping

### THURSDAY/NOV. 19

**Pohick Church Christmas Mart.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Find arts and crafts, a consignment shop, and a pantry shelf. The Docent Guild will be leading tours of the church, and a luncheon will be served by women dressed in colonial costumes. Free to attend. Visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

### SATURDAY/NOV. 21

**Holiday Shop at MVUC.** 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Buy gifts from 50 artisans in fiber arts, photography, wood, paper, metal, glass, and clay. Also find orchids, estate jewelry, and more. Free. Visit [www.mvuc.org](http://www.mvuc.org).

**Handmade Holiday Craft Fair.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The 6th annual T.C. Williams Charity Craft Fair will host more than 45 local vendors selling handmade goods such as jewelry, soaps, fabric items and more. All profits from this event are donated to an organization that promotes economic and social improvements in Kenya and Tanzania. Visit [www.facebook.com/TcWilliamsHandmadeHolidayCraftFair?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/TcWilliamsHandmadeHolidayCraftFair?fref=ts)

### FRIDAY/NOV. 27

**BlackFriday Alexandria and Festivities.** 6 a.m. and all day at boutiques in Alexandria. More than 50 local boutiques will open early, offering once-a-year deals. Free. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com/blackfriday](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/blackfriday).

### DEC. 4-20

#### Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market.

Various times at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray's annual Holiday Market offers handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists (including pottery/ceramics, photography, jewelry, fiber,

paper crafts and glass). Find different artists each weekend. Free to attend. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org).

### DEC. 4-23

#### Alexandria's Holiday Market.

Various Times at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Visitors can enjoy live entertainment, traditional European food and sweets, wine and beer, while shopping for arts and crafts. Free. Visit [www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com](http://www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 5

#### Holiday Festival: “Take a Walk in the Woods.” 4-9 p.m. at the

Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. More than 140 artists will keep their studios open late for patrons to shop. The Alexandria Choral Society and the Braddock Brass Quintet will perform. Santa Claus will visit. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

## Arts & Crafts

### THURSDAY/NOV. 19

**“Holiday Cheer: Innovative Ideas and Tips for Decorating in the Garden Style.”** 10 a.m. at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church-Fellowship Hall, 8532 Fort Hunt Road. Laura Dowling, former White House floral designer, is presenting a program on home holiday decorations. Admission is free for members of the Garden Club of

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## HOLIDAY GUIDE



PHOTOS BY LAURA MANN

### Celebrate Christmas with Metropolitan School of the Arts

Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) will present three holiday performances in December:

#### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 3-5

**"The Nutcracker."** 7 p.m. on Friday and Thursday, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Metropolitan School of the Arts presents a classic performance of Clara and her Nutcracker in a magical journey from her Victorian home through the Land of Snow and into the Land of Sweets. Tickets are \$27 for adults and \$21 for seniors and students. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

#### SUNDAY/DEC. 13

**"Nutcracker in a Nutshell."** 1 p.m. at Nannie J. Lee Center-Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St. Metropolitan School of the Arts presents a 30-minute Nutcracker performance for younger audiences, who are looking for an abbreviated version of the classic Nutcracker. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for ages 9 and younger. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

#### SUNDAY/DEC. 6

**Breakfast With Santa.** 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Hotel Monaco, 480 King St. Breakfast with Santa features the Metropolitan School of the Arts Frosty Follies show. Watch a Broadway-style revue, get pictures with the cast, and eat brunch with Santa. Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$35 for ages 9 and younger. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).



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**Mount Vernon Gazette**

Waynewood, \$10 for nonmembers. Contact Dorothy Raduazo at [dmdraduazo@cox.net](mailto:dmdraduazo@cox.net) or 703-360-2316.

**Holiday Container Gardening.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Cynthia Brown of the Smithsonian Gardens will be presenting on how to use container gardens to decorate for the holidays. Free. Email [AlexandriaBeautification@gmail.com](mailto:AlexandriaBeautification@gmail.com).

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 21

**Workshop: Thanksgiving Table Arrangement.** 2-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Make a Thanksgiving centerpiece in a fresh pumpkin. Use seasonal flowers, dried materials and fresh fruit to create a table decoration to take home. The fee is

\$38 per person, plus tax and a \$25 supply fee. Reister at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) using code 290 484 6701 for the program and code 290 484 6702 for the supply fee.

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 5

**Ornament Decorating Workshop.** 1-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St. Decorate and take home artifact-shaped ornaments. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

#### TUESDAY/DEC. 8

**Handmade Holiday Card Making.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn card-making techniques. Free. Call 703-746-1754.

## Food & Drink

#### THURSDAY/DEC. 10

**All That Glows.** 7 p.m. at Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Highway. The Woodlawn Council invites the public to a holiday open house with a "reimagined" 19th century menu. Tickets are \$200. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/all-that-glows-tickets-19335619358](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/all-that-glows-tickets-19335619358).

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 19

**"Downton Abbey Christmas Tea."** 1 p.m. at The Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Discuss the show's final season over a traditional tea. Take a private tour of the house showing the connections between the people and places of Downton Abbey and those of the Lee-Fendall House. Tickets are \$50 per person. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) for more.

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# HOLIDAY GUIDE



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## Live Music

### SATURDAY/DEC. 12

**Chanukah Concert.** 7 p.m. at Congregation Etz Hayim, 2920 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. Ein Lanu Z'man is the official band of Agudas Achim Congregation, located in Alexandria. Ein Lanu Z'man's music comes from the Jewish tradition, with a diverse repertoire that features folk, classical, and rock influences, among others. Tickets are \$15 in advance for adults, \$18 at the door, \$10 for students, and \$5 for preschool-aged children. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) for more.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 13

**Music in the Gallery: The Mount Vernon Flutes.** 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Mount Vernon Flutes perform holiday classics. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).  
**Colonial Handbell Ringers.** 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Lyceum—Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. The Colonial English Handbell Ringers features performers clad in colonial attire, bringing a five-octave set of nearly 80 handbells. Free. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) for more.

## CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

**Mount Vernon in 3-D: Then & Now.** Through Nov. 20 during regular operating hours at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Visitors will have the chance to travel back in time, and in 3-D, to see how the estate appeared more than 100 years ago through a special photography exhibition. The exhibition is included in the regular admission fee of \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth and free for children younger than 5. To view the historic stereoview images as well as the modern 3-D anaglyphs, visit [www.mountvernon.org/3D](http://www.mountvernon.org/3D).

**Young at Art Juried Art Show.** Through Nov. 20, Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artists 55 and older can contribute their artwork for the exhibition. Visit [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org).

### NOV. 19-21

**"American Idiot."** 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. West Potomac High School's Beyond the Page Theater Company presents Green Day's "American Idiot." The rock opera includes music from the "American Idiot" album as well as songs from the band's follow-up album, "21st Century

Breakdown." The show follows the story of three disgruntled men trying to find meaning in a post 9/11 world. Tickets are \$12 plus a service fee. Visit [www.westpotomactheatre.org](http://www.westpotomactheatre.org).

### THURSDAY/NOV. 19

**AAUW Meeting.** 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. Guest speaker is Lisa Maatz, Vice President of Government Relations at American Association of University Women (AAUW), on AAUW public policy. Open to the public. Free. Call 703-360-8678 or visit [www.mtvernon-va.aauw.net](http://www.mtvernon-va.aauw.net).

**Holiday Container Gardening.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Cynthia Brown of the Smithsonian Gardens will be presenting on how to use container gardens to decorate for the holidays. Free. Email [AlexandriaBeautification@gmail.com](mailto:AlexandriaBeautification@gmail.com).

**Beaujolais Nouveaus Celebration.** 7-9 p.m. at DelRay Tower, 3110 Mount Vernon Ave. This semi-guided wine tour will showcase three wine flights by sommeliers, accompanied by light fare. This event is also a formal introduction to the Living Legends of Alexandria's newly elected board members. Tickets are \$50 in advance, and \$65 at the door. Visit [www.alexandrialegends.com](http://www.alexandrialegends.com).

### FRIDAY/NOV. 20

**"Drumming Through the Neighborhoods."** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Inspired by the diverse population of Alexandria, percussionist Tom Teasley will present a new work combining the rhythmic languages of Africa, The Middle East, The Far East,

India and South America with American jazz and funk. Tickets are \$10. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.  
**Third Friday Community Dance.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The Mount Vernon Swing Band performs live music conducted by Owen Hammett. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 20-21

**"The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe."** 3 p.m. on Saturday, 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. MVHS Theatre Arts presents C.S. Lewis' classic. Tickets are \$7 for students, \$8 for seniors, military, and MVHS staff, and \$10 for everyone else. Visit [www.mvhs-theatrearts.com](http://www.mvhs-theatrearts.com).

### SATURDAY/NOV. 21

**Fort Hunt Fox Trot.** 7:45 a.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Fort Hunt Elementary School holds annual fundraiser. Registration Fees: \$20 per person/stroller/dog or \$75 max per immediate family of 6 or less. Visit [www.forthuntpta.membershiptoolkit.com/foxtrot](http://www.forthuntpta.membershiptoolkit.com/foxtrot).

**Mount Vernon High School Turkey Trot.** 8 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School Cares is a non-profit organization that helps the neediest children of the Mount Vernon/Route 1 Corridor. The race has been established for the last five years and has raised over \$20,000. The registration fee is \$20. Visit [www.facebook.com/MVCaresTurkeyTrot/](http://www.facebook.com/MVCaresTurkeyTrot/).

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# WP Ground Game Dominant in Playoff Victory

Sophomore Cleveland rushes for 291 yards, 4 TDs against West Springfield.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**W**est Potomac's regular-season meeting with West Springfield resulted in the Wolverines producing season-lows for rushing yards (50) and points during a 28-9 loss to the Spartans on Oct. 9.

One month later, the Wolverines' first play from scrimmage in Friday's postseason rematch with the Spartans nearly doubled their rushing output and gave onlookers a glimpse of what would be a dominant performance on the ground.

With West Potomac facing first-and-15 at its own 10-yard line, running back Daiimon Cleveland took a handoff, headed to his left and turned up the field. After about 15 yards, the sophomore cut back to his right, dropped a West Springfield defender with a stiff arm, brushed off another Spartan and headed to the end zone for a 90-yard touchdown.

Cleveland would score three more touchdowns in the second half and No. 9 West Potomac defeated No. 8 West Springfield 40-19 in the opening round of the 6A North football playoffs on Nov. 13 at West Springfield High School.

The Wolverines rushed for 437 yards and five touchdowns Friday night and earned the program's first playoff victory since 2011. West Potomac will travel to face No. 1 South County in the quarterfinals at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20.

"Hats off to [the Spartans] the first time we played them," West Potomac head coach Jeremiah Ross said. "They out-coached us, they out-played us, but we really felt like that was not indicative of the type of team we were, so we had to come out and prove that tonight."

How did the Wolverines get improved rushing results against the Spartans?

"We made some adjustments," Ross said. "... We were able to game plan a little bit [for] some of the pressures they brought at



**West Potomac sophomore running back Daiimon Cleveland carried 25 times for 291 yards and four touchdowns during the Wolverines' 40-19 playoff victory over West Springfield on Nov. 13.**

us; I think we were a little bit more prepared for it. [We used] a couple different formations, a couple different packages, put a few more physical matchups in there that we felt were to our advantage."

Ross, a former three-year starter at right tackle for Fresno State University, praised the performance of the West Potomac offensive line, which is composed of left tackle Jordan Burgess, left guard John Leon, center John Holzworth, right guard Ozzie Opoku and right tackle Tay Diggs. Tight ends Grant Monson and Horace Johnson also contributed to West Potomac's success on the ground.

"I thought they played excellent," Ross said. "... The challenge for our guys is — they're a great group of kids, fundamentally sound, they play hard — but [they need to finish]. We want them to stay on blocks and finish and we felt like we did that a little bit better tonight."

"That's the key: staying on the blocks —

maintaining it, snap to whistle."

Running backs Cleveland and junior Justine Annan took advantage of the O-line's performance, combining for 380 yards and five touchdowns.

"Daiimon and Justine continue to get better," Ross said. "... Justine's a junior, Daiimon's a sophomore [and] they get better every game."

Cleveland carried 25 times for 291 yards and four touchdowns, highlighted by his 90-yard first-quarter scoring scamper.

"I saw them go to the right and the play was going to the left," Cleveland said. "I was just like, 'OK, I'm going to have to cut back.' As soon as I cut it back, I knew I was gone. I saw the first dude, threw him, I saw the second dude and threw him and I was like, 'Yeah, I'm in the end zone.'"

Cleveland on Friday surpassed 1,000 rushing yards for the season. He has 1,030 yards and 20 touchdowns on the ground and is averaging 6.4 yards per carry. He also has 12 receptions for 132 yards and a touchdown.

"He's a great player," Burgess said. "He's going to be an even better player. And the good part about it, he's only a sophomore."

Annan carried 15 times for 89 yards and a score on Friday. His 4-yard touchdown with 10:39 remaining in the second quarter gave West Potomac a 13-0 lead.

Senior running back Jarrod Denham had seven carries for 57 yards for the Wolverines.

After falling behind 13-0, West Springfield quarterback Peter Muskett threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to Jacob Estes and scored on a 13-yard run, leading to a 13-all tie at halftime. West Potomac controlled the second half, however, starting with a touchdown on the opening possession of the third quarter.

The Wolverines marched 63 yards in 11



PHOTOS BY RICHARD MAPLE

**West Potomac junior running back Justine Annan carried 15 times for 89 yards and a touchdown against West Springfield on Nov. 13.**

plays and took a 19-13 lead when Cleveland punched it in from 1 yard. West Potomac led for the remainder of the contest.

Cleveland also scored on runs of 6 and 45 yards in the third quarter. After Cleveland's fourth touchdown, West Springfield linebacker Marshall Wilson was taken off the field on a stretcher as a precaution after suffering a neck/back injury.

**A 33-YARD TOUCHDOWN** pass from quarterback Mark Ellis to Cory Jones gave West Potomac its largest lead of the night at 40-13 with 8:18 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Muskett threw a 19-yard touchdown pass to Najee Green with 5:36 left in the fourth quarter. Muskett completed 27 of 40 passes for 295 yards, with two touchdowns and one interception.

Muskett's interception came in the first quarter with the Spartans trailing 7-0. West Springfield faced second-and-6 at the West Potomac 11-yard line when Wolverine linebacker Johnson intercepted Muskett at the 2-yard line.

Ellis completed 8 of 12 passes for 85 yards and a touchdown for the Wolverines.

West Springfield, which won a share of the Conference 7 championship last year, finished the season with a 6-5 record, including losses in three of its final four games.

After earning its first playoff win since 2011, West Potomac (8-3) will travel to face South County (11-0) at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20 in the 6A North quarterfinals. The Stallions defeated the Wolverines 53-20 during the regular season on Oct. 30.

"It feels good to be able to bring that back to the school," Burgess said. "We know we've always had a good tradition here, but Coach Ross has really helped bring it back."



**West Potomac receiver Cory Jones catches a 33-yard touchdown pass from Mark Ellis during the Wolverines' 40-19 playoff win over West Springfield on Nov. 13.**



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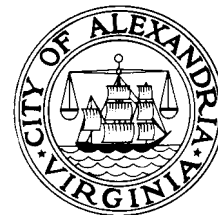
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Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the Office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: RFP No. 00000568, Development of a Fiscal Impact Analysis Model

RFP Closing Date and Time: December 16, 2015, 4 p.m., prevailing local time

A non-mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on December 2, 2015, 3 p.m., at 100 North Pitt Street, Suite 301, Alexandria VA 22314

For general inquiries contact Michel F. Hauer, CPPO, CPPB, Acting Purchasing Agent at 703.746.4295.

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



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### ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-11-01

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide professional development for teachers of second language learners.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-11-01 Professional Development for Teachers of Second Language Learners will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, December 2, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8343, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financialservices/purchasing/bids.php>

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

Sharon Lewis  
Director of Procurement

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### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot from Nov. 3 to Dec. 3, 2015 to elect the President-Elect, four seats on the Board of Directors, and three seats on the Nominating Committee for service beginning on June 6, 2016. Eligible ASCO members may also vote on a proposed ASCO Bylaws amendment by proxy ballot from Nov. 3 to Dec. 3, 2015. Information about proxy ballots is available at [www.asco.org/election](http://www.asco.org/election). Completed proxy ballots will be delivered to the ASCO President or her designee for casting at a meeting to be held on Dec. 8, 2015, 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22314. Members with questions can email [ascoelection@asco.org](mailto:ascoelection@asco.org) or call 571-483-1316.

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-11-04

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

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-11-04 Service/Recognition Awards will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, December 3, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8140, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

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

Francine Morris  
Buyer

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### Obituary



**Richard Lee Allen**, born in the Old Town Alexandria Hospital on February 26, 1940, passed away on October 31, 2015 after fighting a long valiant battle with cancer (He was celebrated as the Baby King of the City the year he was born). He spent all his life in Alexandria, attending Maury School, GW High School and the University of MD. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, local realtor Martha Allen and their daughter, Nancy Ramsey. He also leaves behind his two brothers Bob Allen and John Allen and many friends and family whom he cherished.

He was a true Virginia gentleman who embraced and respected people from all walks of life, was kind, loving, faithful, and loved by all who came to know him. He was a man of few words, but meant every word he said.

After his 50 year career with Litton Industries and Raytheon, he enjoyed his retirement restoring their 300 year old historic home, Ashland Croft in the Waterford area, where he loved exploring nature and history and making friends with similar interests in Loudoun County. He was extremely knowledgeable about antiques and historic houses.

The many people he touched with his wit and wisdom will miss his insights and friendship.

There will be a Celebration of Life Memorial Sun. Nov.22 at 1:00-3:00PM at Silverbrook Farm, 15286 Woodgrove Rd., Purcellville, VA. 20132. Under direction of Northern Virginia Burial & Cremation Society. [www.novacrema.com](http://www.novacrema.com)

**CLARIDGE HOUSE II**  
301 N. Ripley St., Alexandria VA 22304  
Tel: 703-823-5444

Claridge House Waiting List is now closed.

Claridge House is an Elderly subsidized Section 8 apartment for 62 years old and over and a limited number of apartments for persons with disabilities.



## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### OBITUARY

**Barbara Hall, 83**, of Alexandria died November 4, 2015 at Ft. Belvoir Community Hospital surrounded by her family. She was preceded in death by her husband Clayton J. Hall. She is survived by her children, Michelle Smith, Steven Keene, and Kathrine Small; grandchildren, Kerri Braswell, David Baldwin, and Jacob Baldwin; and great grandchildren, Christine Smith and Grace Card. Mrs. Hall was an avid participant of all art projects, especially ceramics. In lieu of flowers the family request donations are made to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011.

A Graveside service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

## 21 Announcements

## 28 Yard Sales

### ABC LICENSE

Burtons Grill of Alexandria, LLC trading as Burtons Grill, 6450 Old Beulah Street, Alexandria, VA 22315. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On & Mixed Beverage (seating capacity 151 seats or more) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Kevin P. Harron, President

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

## 21 Announcements

### ABC LICENSE

Walkers Grille, LLC trading as Walkers Grille, 6909 Metro Park Dr. Alexandria, VA 22310. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on and off premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Usama Mischeh, Member

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

## 21 Announcements

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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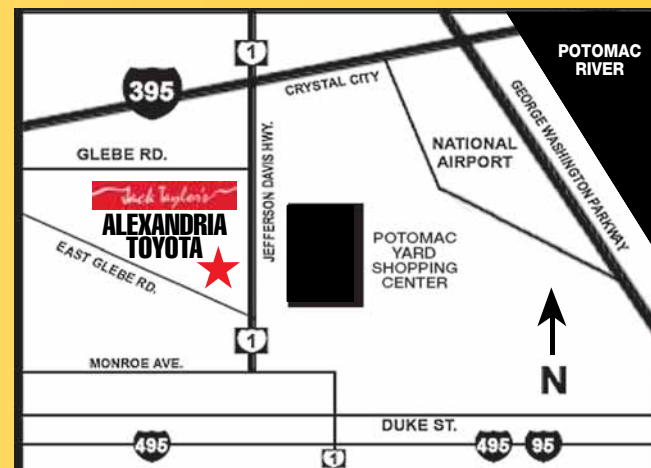
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front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and  
inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only.

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## ROTATE & BALANCE SPECIAL

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## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE

**\$159<sup>99</sup>**

Synthetic \$10 More

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tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad  
thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped),  
replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if  
applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

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## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL

**\$34<sup>95</sup>** **\$44<sup>95</sup>**

NON-SYNTHETIC SYNTHETIC  
Includes: Change oil (up to 5 qts.), install Genuine  
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Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause  
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## DETAIL SPECIAL

**\$249<sup>95</sup>**

Prepare your car's paint for the harsh  
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**9329 Mount Vernon Circle \$1,195,000**  
**One of Area's Most Admired Properties!**

Classic Georgian manor home crafted by legendary master builder, Eugene Cullinane to serve as model for homes in upscale Mt Vernon on the Potomac neighborhood. Special home contains builder's trademark features including custom brickwork, elaborate plaster moldings, estates size rooms, stately 10' ceilings & imposing 13' wide foyer. Private marina access in area's leading waterfront community. True one of a kind property! **OPEN SUN 11/22, 1:00—4:00. GW Pky S, L-Forest Haven; immediate R-Mount Vernon Circle.**



**4005 Mavis Ct \$698,900**  
**Stunning Open Floor Plan!**

Spacious & open-truly spectacular property with stunning family room addition. Expansive glass walls, soaring cathedral ceilings & open floor plan bring light to every corner of the home. Other features include custom, gourmet kitchen with huge 17x6 pantry. Updated baths and oversize 2 car garage. Huge deck capitalizes on private back yard. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in heart of Mt Vernon! **OPEN SUN 11/22, 1:00—4:00. GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Residential; L-Mavis.**



**9408 Brambly Lane \$1,140,000**  
**New Home Feel!**

Spacious Colonial by Wakefield Homes-the area's leading custom builder! Home has striking open floor plan accentuated by high ceilings and large windows which bring light to every corner of the home. Numerous fabulous features include: 3 luxurious finished levels, open kitchen-family room, spacious master suite and oversize 3 car garage. Deck overlooks private wooded yard. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac. Impossible to duplicate at close to this price! **OPEN SUN 11/22, 1:00—4:00. GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Brambly.**



**3719 Riverwood Rd \$709,000**  
**Fabulous Opportunity-Prestigious Riverwood!**

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



**8708 Plymouth Rd \$1,499,000**  
**Classic American Four Square Design—Special Pre-Construction Price!**

Best of both worlds-classic American Four Square exterior combined with stunning modern floor plan and amenities. Numerous features include open floor plan, high ceilings, top line kitchen and baths. Prime location on half acre level lot in popular Plymouth Haven. Pre-construction contract provides maximum opportunity to customize and discounted price!



**4204 Old Mill Rd \$489,000**  
**Best Value Under \$500,000 in Area!**

Amazing Value! Stunning price for fabulous home and custom two car garage on half acre lot just three mile from Mt. Vernon Estate. Home is in pristine condition with updated kitchen, open floor plan, gorgeous hardwood floors, gas heat and more! Gorgeous elevated half acre lot with private level back yard. Super Value!



**9429 Forest Haven Dr \$699,000**  
**Spectacular Contemporary!**



**4831 Stillwell Ave \$549,500**  
**Absolutely Adorable!**



**8824 Stratford Lane \$949,000**  
**Best New Home Value in Stratford**

**3232 Woodland Lane \$659,000**  
**Gorgeous Designer Kitchen!**



**9312 Heather Glen \$599,000**  
**Stunning Opportunity!**

**4008 Robertson Blvd \$649,900**  
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## A Visitor's View of Alexandria

Born and raised in a small town on the Hudson just above New York City, Private Robert Knox Sneden enlisted in the Union army with the 40th New York's topographical engineers and wound up posted to virtually every major scene of fighting during the Civil War, including Brandy Station, where his capture in 1863 by Mosby's irregulars led to a prison stint at Andersonville.

As artistically prolific as he was peripatetic, Sneden sketched and mapped everywhere he went. At his first posting, in Alexandria, he was assigned to Gen. Samuel Heintzelman's III Corps staff at Fort Lyon, now the elevated site of Metro's Huntington Station. From that hilltop aerie, Sneden busily sketched and mapped the city and its immediate surroundings as the defenses of Washington were taking shape.

The map above was drawn in September 1862 and found in Sneden's pocket sketchbook. It depicts an Old Town veined with stockades to

protect its dual railroad hubs and vital roundhouse. A major battery at over-scaled Jones Point covers the Potomac River. Forts Lyon and Ellsworth (on Shuter's Hill) monitor Duke Street, the city's main east-west thoroughfare. To the south, across the stone causeway built in 1810 where Richmond Highway now crosses Hunting Creek, lay *terra incognita*. Intelligence identified the marshland just below Hunting Creek as a den of swamp-dwelling secessionists; Sneden likely avoided it altogether. That may be why he made this particular map's several errors, misidentifying all of the major roads south of Old Town and mistaking Quaker-owned Walnut Tree Farm—later named Wellington Villa and now known as River Farm, just three miles below Alexandria—for George Mason's Gunston Hall, actually located another dozen miles downriver on Mason Neck.

This and other maps and drawings can be found in "Rare & Historic Maps & Views of Mount Vernon, 1760 to 1910," a special exhibit and sale at The Virginia Florist, through January 1, 2016.



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MONDAY IS

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PLEASE ASK YOUR SERVER FOR PASTA SELECTIONS.

TUESDAY IS

## Pizza Day!

### 11 am-10 pm

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BUY ONE LARGE PIZZA AND GET ANOTHER  
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### 5 pm to 10 pm

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## Serious Training for the Young Dancer!

Just Dance is in its twelfth year. Owner and Director Mrs. Sally Tierney began with just 37 students at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center to now the Belle View Shopping Center, where she has over 300 students. Mrs. Tierney equips her teachers with the knowledge needed to be an asset to the students, and the students are young, hard working, serious dancers. This past year students received ballet scholarships through the Cecchetti Council of America and were chosen to attend the following summer intensives: Ballet West, The Rock, American Ballet Theatre, and Dance Theatre of Harlem. This year the students are off to a great start with eight performing in the Kennedy Center's Nutcracker. The success of the studio continues to soar. Sally is looking forward to maintaining its welcoming atmosphere, where students can work hard, improve, gain confidence, and share a passion for dance with others.



At Just Dance we teach dancers between the ages of 3 and 12



We offer: Classical Ballet, Broadway Jazz, Broadway Tap



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Sunday - Thursday: 4:30pm - 9:30pm

Friday & Saturday: 4:30pm - 10:00pm



## Party Trays for the Holidays

Holiday Gift Certificates Available

### Holiday Hours

Thanksgiving Day: Closed for the Holiday

Christmas Day: Closed for the Holiday

New Year Day: Closed for Lunch,

Open for Dinner 4:00 to 9:00.

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SATURDAY 10 AM-6 PM & SUNDAY 12 PM-5 PM



RICHARD CARROLL RICHARD CARROLL RICHARD CARROLL RICHARD CARROLL

# RICHARD CARROLL

## A RETAIL GALLERY IN MOUNT VERNON

Carol and Richard, co-owners of the retail gallery "Richard Carroll", will be celebrating their 6th anniversary managing their business in the Belle View Shopping Center this coming spring. They sell a variety of women's designer clothes, handcrafted jewelry, necklaces, and a wide range of interesting and unique gift items.

The store is conveniently located at the corner of Belle View Boulevard and Fort Hunt Road, just a few blocks from the Mount Vernon Parkway. Store hours are:  
Monday-Wednesday 10 am - 7 pm, Saturday 10 am - 6 pm and Sunday 12 noon - 5 pm.



### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RETAIL ITEMS OFFERED AT RICHARD CARROLL:

**CLOTHING:**  
LADIES DRESSES, SWEATERS, JACKETS, SKIRTS, SLACKS, SCARVES, TUNICS, ENSEMBLES

**JEWELRY:**  
A VERY DIVERSE PRESENTATION RANGING FROM HANDCRAFTED STERLING SILVER EARRINGS, PENDANTS, RINGS, BEADED NECKLACES, CUSTOM DIAMOND BRIDAL RINGS AND 14K, 18K AND PLATINUM GEMSTONE JEWELRY.

**GIFT ITEMS:**  
CHESS SETS, WOMEN'S SLIPPERS, IMPORTED SOAPS FROM AUSTRALIA, WALL HANGINGS, MEN'S CUSTOM TIES, CUSTOM MADE DECORATIVE PILLOWS, PAINTINGS, MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WALLETS, ART GLASS, JOURNALS, OTTOMANS, LAMPS, HANDBAGS, CARRY-ON LUGGAGE AND MUCH MORE.

### What makes "Richard Carroll" different than other retail stores in the region?

Richard: "It is unlike any other neighborhood retail gallery store in the region. You can buy in the same store a one carat diamond, handcrafted jewelry, an ottoman, a ladies' dress , a chess set, a lamp, a man's tie, a lady's handbag, cuff links, ladies' slippers, etc. ... Furthermore, our approach to customer relations is definitely old school; a personal touch when you walk into our store that will make you feel right at home, whether you buy something or not. We are not a mall store or a big box store. I see us as a throwback to the small personal touch stores in past generations. Our customers trust us to provide them with unique items and a good value for the price they are paying."

Their special touch atmosphere that they cultivate includes their pet Rottweiler, Trooper, who is their constant companion at the store.

Richard: "Our customers leave the store with a smile, with or without something they purchase, but make no mistake, they will be back. The overwhelming majority of our customers are repeat ones; some coming from far away out of town." In celebrating their upcoming 6th anniversary at the Belle View Shopping Center, they have announced that a new website will be up and running in 2016.

Carol: "We are confident that our website will excite a new generation of customers to our store as well as better inform our longstanding customers with easily accessible information on new lines of clothing, jewelry and gifts."



**1600 BELLE VIEW BLVD**

**RICHARD CARROLL:  
A RETAIL GALLERY  
LIKE NO OTHER**

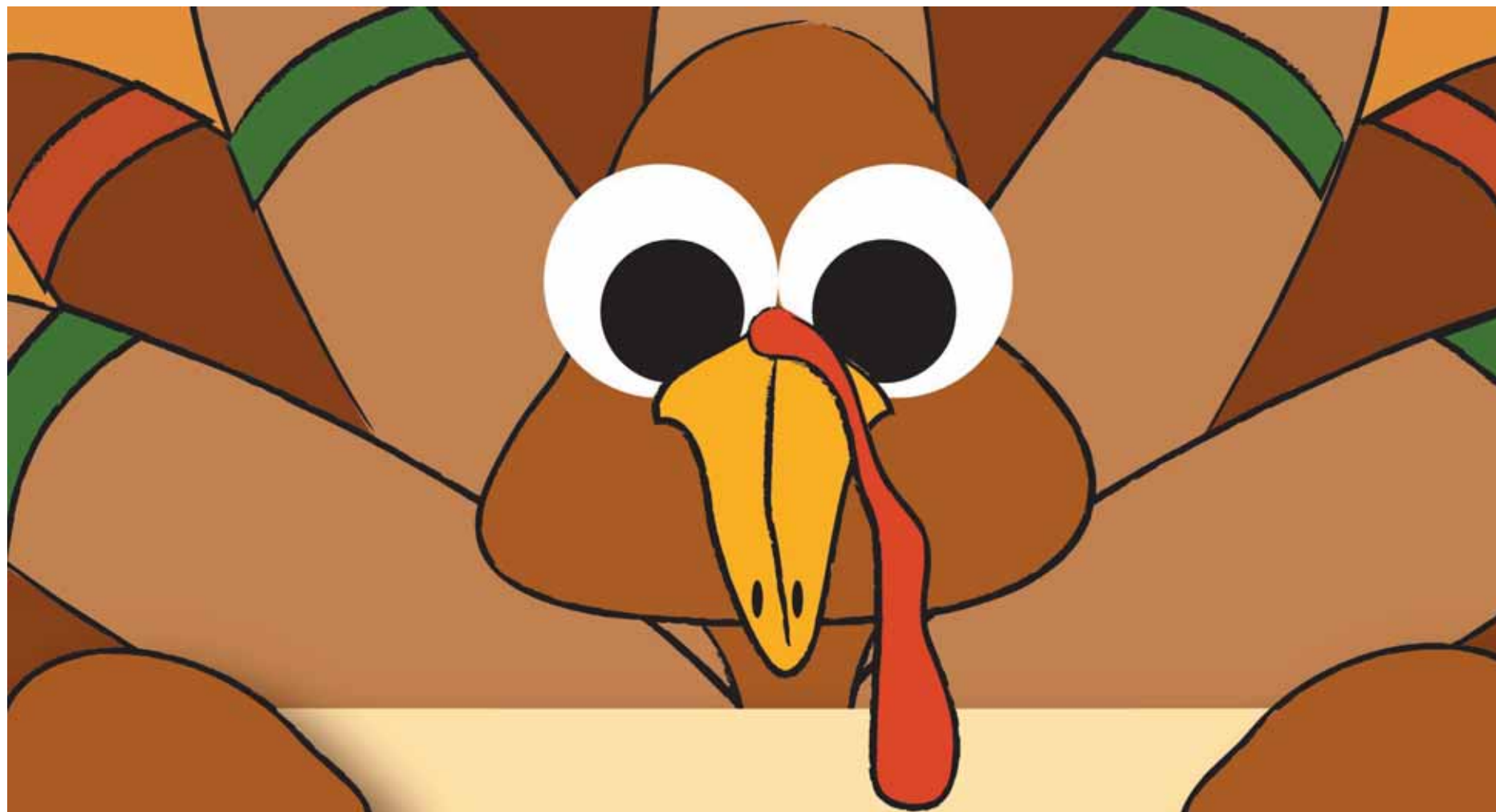




**703.412.6066**

RICHARD CARROLL RICHARD CARROLL RICHARD CARROLL RICHARD CARROLL





## AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE TURKEYS 🐔

Dear People, 🐔

PLEASE buy yummy wine this year for Tvgiving and Xmas. 🐔  
We deserve tasty Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, and 🐔  
dry Riesling. Serve dry Rosé if you are awesome! 🐔

The smart folks at UNWINED will help you. 🐔  
They have the most sought after wines at every price. 🐔



Don't let us down! 🐔

Gobble Gobble, 🐔

The Turkeys 🐔

Belle View Shopping Center 703.571.6880 [www.unwinedva.com](http://www.unwinedva.com)  
Mon.-Sat: 11am-7pm, Sun: 12pm-5pm



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703-820-3888

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**\$5.00 OFF YOUR NEXT PURCHASE OF  
\$20.00 OR MORE**

Must present this coupon at time of purchase. One time use only. Expires December 24<sup>th</sup> 2015

# Buck's Shoe Repair



SHOE  
REPAIR

**Belle View's Favorite Cobbler  
Season After Season**

Mention this ad and get

**\$5.00 off**  
**Any Shoe Repair**

Offer expires 12/31/15

**Tuesday to Friday**

8:00 am to 6:00 pm

**Saturday**

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

**(703) 768-2358**

1516 Belle View Blvd  
Alexandria, VA 22307



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to make your future a whole lot clearer.

**25% OFF**  
A purchase of eyeglasses

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Expires 12/31/15. Some restrictions apply.



## EYE CARE, EYEGLASSES & CONTACT LENSES

Northern Virginia Doctors of Optometry have been providing patients with professional eye care for more than 40 years.



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Alexandria, Virginia 22307

**Phone: 703-660-9494**  
**[www.novaeyedocs.com](http://www.novaeyedocs.com)**

### **Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri:**

9:00 am – 6:00 pm

### **Wednesday:**

9:00 am – 7:00 pm

### **Saturday:**

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Call our office today.**

**Time is running out, so hurry in to use your 2015 insurance and FSA benefits.**



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Instruction  
Repair**



Bring or Mention this Ad for

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1502 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria VA

**Hours:**  
**Mon-Fri 10am-9pm**  
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*Alexandria*  
**MUSIC COMPANY**



PAIR ANY 6-INCH SUB  
AND A BOWL OF SOUP  
FOR JUST \$6.

TURKEY BREAST



POBLANO CORN CHOWDER



LIMITED TIME ONLY.  
Additional charge for extras. Plus applicable tax.

with \$6 Soup Combo (any six inch sub plus a cup of soup \$6 only). Soup flavors include Broccoli Cheddar, Poblano Corn Chowder & Home Style Chicken Noodle. Limited Time Soup Combo Offer Until December 31, 2015



**FREE 6" Regular Sub**  
with purchase of  
**\$25 Subway Gift Card!**

*Order Online at*  
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and pick up in 15 minutes!

**Now Open  
Everyday At  
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Breakfast!**

**FREE**  
**21oz. drink**

With purchase of any  
Footlong sub.

VALID AT THESE SUBWAY® LOCATIONS ONLY:  
6678 Richmond Hwy, VA Phone 703-373-3404 and  
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Not valid with any other offer.  
One coupon per customer per visit. ( double meat,  
guacomole & bacon extra) Expires 12/31/15

**\$6.00**

**Any 6" Fresh Value Meal**

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1510 Belle View Blvd Alex, VA Phone 703-768-1734  
Not valid with any other offer.  
One coupon per customer per visit. ( double meat,  
guacomole & bacon extra) Expires 12/31/15

**FREE** Any  
Six inch or  
Footlong Sub

With purchase of Any six inch or  
footlong of equal or lesser value  
and 30oz drink.

VALID AT THESE SUBWAY® LOCATIONS ONLY:  
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1510 Belle View Blvd Alex, VA Phone 703-768-1734  
Not valid with any other offer.  
One coupon per customer per visit. ( double meat,  
guacomole & bacon extra) Expires 12/31/15

**\$6**

**Any Footlong**

VALID AT THESE SUBWAY® LOCATIONS ONLY:  
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1510 Belle View Blvd Alex, VA Phone 703-768-1734  
Not valid with any other offer.  
One coupon per customer per visit. ( double meat,  
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**FREE**  
**Coffee or Hashbrowns**  
With purchase of  
any breakfast sandwich.  
Valid everyday until 11am.

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guacomole & bacon extra) Expires 12/31/15

**\$1.00 OFF**

**Any Footlong,  
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Beacon Hill Subway  
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**15% OFF**  
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1510 Belle View Blvd Alex, VA Phone 703-768-1734  
Not valid with any other offer.  
One coupon per customer per visit. ( double meat,  
guacomole & bacon extra) Expires 12/31/15





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## **FITNESS** *24-7*

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(703) 348-8507**

**bellevueva@snapfitness.com**

**1st Month \$8.95**

**No Enrollment Fee**

**Available at Old Town and Belle View Locations**

Access cards, other fees and some restrictions apply.

Expires 12/31/15

**Complementary  
Fitness  
Assessment**

With New Membership.

Expires 12/31/15

**24/7 Access to Over 1,500 Locations**





PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 2015 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 10 AM TO 4 PM

**Annual Holiday Jewelry Event:**

Echo of the Dreamer, Mars & Valentine, Mabel Chong, Jill Schwartz Elements

**15% Off** All Christmas Ornaments & Decorations!

**Holiday Ribbon Extravaganza:** One Day Only, All Holiday Ribbon 40% Off!

**Extended Special Exhibit & Sale:** Rare Maps & Views of Mount Vernon, 1760 to 1910

1632 Belle View Boulevard  
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