

# Mount Vernon Gazette

25 CENTS

VOL. XX, No. 46

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION PAPER

NOVEMBER 19, 2009



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

**Fairfax Fire Department Captain Will Bailey organized the Mt. Vernon, Alexandria, Fairfax and D.C. event. Bailey directs the Progressive Firefighters on how to properly fill the request orders and mark the bags for pick-up.**

## 1,000 Coats Arrive For Children in Need

**P**aul Darby and his wife Cheryl have learned by action how to clothe children for the winter. The Darbys are "Coats for Kids." Living in Alexandria, they recognized the need and began a grassroots project. Paul Darby reached out to manufacturers across the country and initially used their home for collecting, storing and distributing.

The Coats for Kids (CFK)

Foundation was established in January 2004 as a public, charitable foundation by the Darbys. It received IRS recognition as a 501(c)(3) in March 2004. The Coats for Kids Foundation mission is "to ensure that every child who needs a winter coat receives a new one."

SEE 1,000 WINTER COATS, PAGE 6



**Supervisor Gerry Hyland thanks local resident and businessman Phil Rosenthal for his support in the project.**



**President of Coats For Kids Paul Darby and his wife Cheryl stand in the fire engine bay at Penn Daw Fire Station after 1000 coats have been marked and bagged for delivery last Thursday morning.**

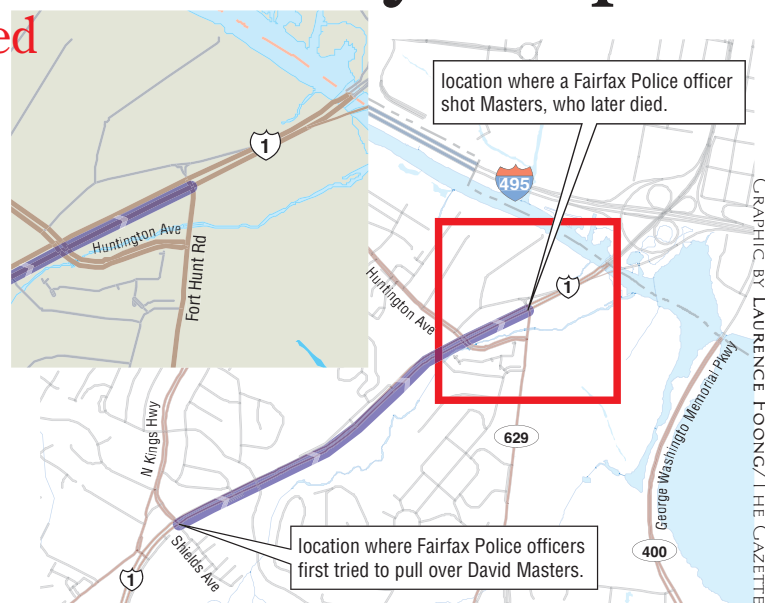
## Officer Kills Larceny Suspect

**Fatal shot happened near Richmond Highway and Fort Hunt Road.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

**A** Mount Vernon police officer fatally shot and killed a Fredericksburg man during a traffic stop last weekend, and police officials have now launched an investigation into how a dispatch call for larceny led to the shooting. Police officials later identified the man as David Alan Masters, 52. Three officers with direct involvement in the incident have been placed on administrative leave while investigators determine why deadly force was used, although the department has not released their names or made them available for comment.

"Don't mistake the fact that they are not talking as a tacit admission of guilt," warned Don Gotthardt, a spokesman for the



GRAPHIC BY LAURENCE FOONG/THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County Police Department. "They're simply exercising their rights as any other citizen would do."

Police say the call came shortly after 1 p.m. on Nov. 13, when an officer who has been with the force since 2003 was alerted to a larceny in progress in the 8800 block of Richmond Highway. By the time an officer responded to the call, the suspect fled toward the intersection of Richmond Highway at

Shields Avenue. When the officer attempted a traffic stop, the suspect did not comply until he encountered heavy traffic. That's when the police officer opened fire on Masters and shot him in the upper body, according to a press release issued the next day by the Fairfax County Police Department.

"Detectives are eager to make a determination as to why the shot

SEE POLICE, PAGE 18

## 'Sideways' Opens at West Potomac

**Cast becomes second graders.**

BY JEFFREY AARON  
THE GAZETTE

**A**t 15, Emily Woods has 15 stage credits to her name, but this week she's taking on a role she's played before: that of a second grader.

Woods, together with a dozen of her West Potomac High School classmates are returning to second grade in John Olive's adaptation of Louis Sachar's "Sideways Stories from Wayside School."

Nothing is as it seems at Wayside School. First, the school itself is 30 stories tall with each floor containing only one classroom. The builder misread the construction plans, which originally called for side-by-side classrooms. Second, there is no 19th floor. And third, everything in this play oc-

curs on the 30th floor.

The colors of the set alone make one want to wear sunglasses: checkered tiles each painted separately in bright blue, green, and orange; more orange and purple on walls set off the green door and window trim; and desks painted in pinks, purples and yellows.

Woods plays Bebe, a second grade student, who has exceptional artistic ability. She can draw a cat in five seconds, a dog in four

seconds, and a flower in three seconds.

"It's fun, but unpredictable because I never know what the drawings will look like. I had to practice that a lot. There are lots of different ways to draw cats or dogs or flowers, but only one way to draw them in five seconds or less," Woods said last week during the cast's dress rehearsal.

Drawing aside, how does a 10th grader prepare to play a second grader?

SEE 'SIDEWAYS,' PAGE 20



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Alexandria, South **\$359,000**

### UPDATED COLONIAL

Great house at a great price! Four BR, including a master suite, 2.5 BA and a large family room with a fireplace awaits you. New laminate floors on the main level; updated eat-in kitchen with moveable island; screened-in porch for your dining pleasure, and a large backyard are a few of the amenities this house offers. Entertainment and shopping are nearby. Directions: South on Rt. 1; turn right on Frye Rd.; left on Steadman St.; right on Grimsley to 7923.

Wanda Smith 571-216-3413

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OCTOBER TOP PRODUCING AGENTS!



Poole/Braun Team Brian Murphy Allan Price



Mary Siverson Walid Ashoor Pat Grant



Alexandria, South **\$415,000**

### BUCKNELL MANOR

Charming 3 BR 2 BA Cape Cod with full sized garage situated on a professionally landscaped yard. Energy efficient windows; upgraded electric panel and lighting; hardwood floors; tile floors in kitchen and foyer; granite counters and built-ins throughout the home. Call agent for more information.

Elfie Biankini 703-593-2634

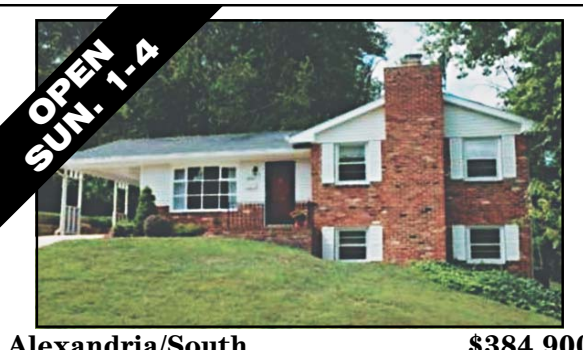


Alexandria **\$240,000**

### RESORT AMENITIES, DOWNTOWN LIVING

Panoramic views from the 15th floor. Stunning sunrises. 1309 sq. ft. of bright, sun-filled open floor plan condo with 2 Br and 2Ba. Living room and Dining room leads to a 14 ft long balcony perfect for entertaining. Gated resort-like community with 24 hr security plus amenities galore incl. indoor/outdoor pools, fitness center, & free shuttle to Metro.

Walid Ashoor 703-960-8900 x1225



Alexandria/South **\$384,900**

### CHARMING AND CONVENIENT

Lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath split level featuring wood floors throughout the main and upper levels, fresh paint throughout the interior. Beautiful landscaped mature lot with tiered garden. Two sheds and covered attached carport, all new exterior paint, and new roof. Convenient to schools, shopping, rec center, library and bus service to Belvoir and Metro. From Fort Hunt Rd. drive west on Belle View Blvd, right on Oak St., left on Fleming, left on Beddoe St. to 6608

Marcy Bates 703-606-7605



Alexandria South **\$219,000**

### MONTEBELLO'S FINEST

Tree top view from enclosed balcony. Plush carpeting, updated appliances, enclosed porch, and fabulous Montebello amenities. LR, DR and Foyer have crown moldings and the DR has chair rails. Amenities abound at Montebello including a shuttle bus to Huntington Metro but is also within walking distance. Owner will pay six months condo fee and can settle quickly.

Jeannie Hicks 703-403-5446



Alexandria **\$212,000**

### TEMPLETON

This lovely, sunny oversized one bedroom and 1.5 bath unit feels like home. Large living room has a huge balcony perfect for entertaining; kitchen is fully updated including ceramic flooring and backsplash; bedroom is large with room for a sitting area and the bathrooms are updated. Many amenities include tennis courts, outdoor pool and extra storage.

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Alexandria **\$85,000**

### SAXONY SQUARE

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Walid Ashoor 703-960-8900 x1225



Paul Petefish  
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# MVHS Presents 'You Can't Take It With You'

BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS  
THE GAZETTE

For those who are intrigued by snakes in the living room, illegal firework laboratories in the basement, and a family of lively, lovable misfits who put the heart back into what truly makes a home, they won't want to miss the final week of Mount Vernon High School's presentation of "You Can't Take It With You."

Set in the 1930's New York hustle and bustle of making it big, a colorful cast of characters choose to live a different way — by only doing what they love doing. Never mind talent or practicality, the goal is to do what makes them truly happy.

Director Elisabeth Becker, the theater arts teacher at Mount Vernon High School, is proud of her cast of 19 students who, in six weeks, came together to bring a laugh out loud, and heartwarming portrayal of the eccentric and endearing characters that inhabit the world of Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's "You Can't Take It With You."

Saturday, Nov. 14, marked a special evening for the Mount Vernon troupe. Forty-one student representatives from the regional high school theater critics and arts program, known as the Cappies, were on hand to critique the performance. At the end of each school year, the Cappies' representatives vote on which performances they deem the best in the region's high school drama performances. Those chosen get the opportunity to present a portion of their performance at the Kennedy Center.

Through the wisdom of the patriarch, Grandpa Vanderhoff, and his joyful and inventive brood, love and compassion win the day. Just stay clear of the fireworks. Oh, and the snakes, don't forget about the snakes.



PHOTOS BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS/THE GAZETTE

Front, left to right: Axhon Ruiz Gonzolas as Paul Sycamore, James Beveridge as Kolenkov, Alex Dodson as Grandpa Vanderhoff, Jenna Kraynak as Mrs. Kirby, Bryan Azucena as Mr. Kirby, Keegan MacDonald as Toby Kirby, and Clare Cahill as Penny Sycamore. Middle: Deborah Kamara as Alice Sycamore. Back: Carson Meadows as Ed Carmichael and Sarah Locke as Essie Carmichael.

## Details

**FINAL WEEK OF PERFORMANCES**  
Thursday, Nov. 19;  
Friday, Nov. 20;  
Saturday, Nov. 21

Play begins at 7p.m.  
Tickets: \$10 adults,  
\$7 children

For more information:  
call Mount Vernon High School at 703-619-3100.



Clare Cahill as the zany and lovable "hobbyist" Penny Sycamore.



Debra McKellips and Melissa Montgomery of the Mount Vernon High School drama boosters wear their fund raising T-shirts, "Got Drama?"

## 'Alice' in Burgundy

Burgundy Farm Country Day School's 7th grade students will perform "Alice," an adaptation of Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland," in the Loft on Nov. 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Drama teacher Deborah Ives chose to adapt Lewis Carroll's classic 1865 novel because "Alice is about coming of age, conquering the fears of childhood, and gaining knowledge and these ideas are certainly relevant today. 7th graders are ready to understand that good art, whether it's a novel, a play or a painting, never becomes dated, and will always merit serious study."



In Burgundy's interpretation, not one but six Alices fall into the rabbit hole and wind up in the wonderland of present-day London. "Multiple Alices allows us to emphasize Lewis Carroll heroine as an 'everychild,'" said Ives.

**Drama instructor Deborah Ives directs the performance.**



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

The cast of "Alice:" Lyndzi Aulton, Caroline Hirt, Priya Vohra, Ellen Chapman, Emma Cullen, Mikaela Fishman, Barbara Peisch, Dara Summey, Yasmine Zakot, Kent Jenkins III, Rebecca Clark Callender, Ben Arp, Perry Conner, Zoey Pellowitz, Sophie Holt, Jacob Bulir, Liz Piper, Brain Bailey, Ryan Widogsky, Chloe Borden, Vincent Tran, Jela Shiver, Liana Bernstein, Jon Morgan Barth, Ian Lloyd, Johnny Patterson, Liam Albrittain, Marguerite Chapman, Abby Drexler, Ella Ainsworth and Damien Jones.

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 Phil Cefaratti 703-371-7601



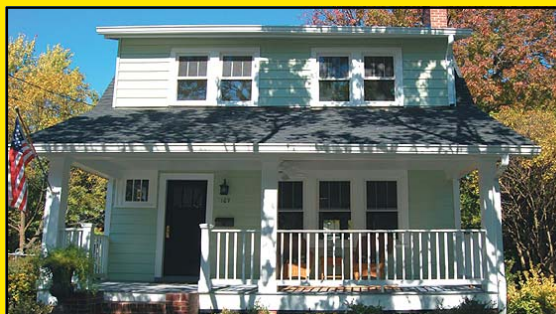
**Alexandria \$875,000**  
 Beautiful 4 level better than new TH. Located 3 blks from King St. Metro & 1.5 blks to Whole Foods, Upgraded kitchen w/ granite & cherry cabinets. Balcony, patio, roof garden, 3 or 4 bedrms & 3.5 baths.  
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 Julie Hall 703-786-3634



**Alex./Old Town \$749,000**  
 Walk to shops & cafés. Three levels of well-lit, large rooms. Move-in ready with 2 bedrooms and 2 baths + parking.  
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 Diann Hicks 703-628-2440



**Alex./Old Town \$749,000**  
 High-end fixtures & appliances dress this home in style. Two fireplaces, 3 levels + parking!  
 914 S. Fairfax Street  
 Diann Hicks 703-628-2440



**Alex./Rosemont \$869,000**  
 Extreme makeover! Master fully renovated 3 BR, 3.5 BA, 3 level home w/detached studio, deep fenced yard & off-street parking. Blocks to Metro, shops & restaurants in Old Town & Del Ray.  
 107 W. Luray Avenue  
 Christine Garner 703-587-4855



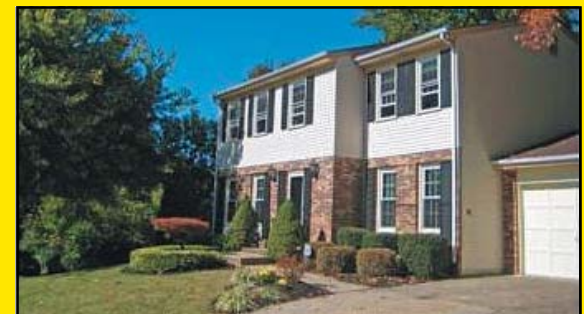
**Alex./Clover \$1,199,000**  
 Open, airy & bright 4/5 BR, 3.5 BA home w/in-ground pool & 2-car garage! Newer construction in an established neighborhood. The perfect home for casual living & entertaining!  
 317 Crown View  
 Christine Garner 703-587-4855



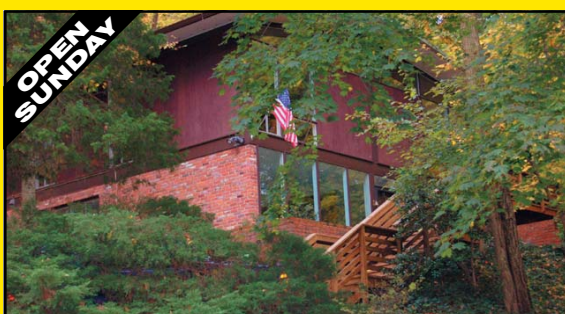
**Alexandria \$569,900**  
 Light-filled 2 BR, 2 BA model unit w/all the upgrades. Hdw flrs, granite counters, SS appliances, 9-ft. ceilings w/crown molding & much more. 2 reserved parking spaces & rooftop terrace.  
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 Dawn Gurganus 571-237-6151



**Alexandria \$614,900**  
 Light-filled 3-finished-level TH in private enclave of homes w/courtyard entry. 2 or 3 BR, 1.5 BA end unit w/wood-burning fireplace, patio, eat-in kitchen & 3rd lvl fam rm w/skylight.  
 913 Oronoco Street  
 Christine Garner 703-587-4855



**Alexandria \$550,000**  
 Gorgeous Colonial on corner lot w/4 BR, 3.5 BA & fabulous remodeled open gourmet kitchen/family rm. French doors to deck, updated baths & finished LL w/full bath.  
 3810 Kings Cross Road  
 Susan Fitzgerald 703-402-3298



**Alex./Hollin Hills \$624,900**  
 Nature lover's retreat! Nestled among the trees with 2 finished levels, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths & 2 fireplaces. Fabulous open floor plan.  
 7421 Rebecca Drive  
 Christine Garner 703-587-4855



**Alexandria \$524,425**  
 Move-in ready! Freshly painted large 5 BR, 3 BA brick home in Wilton Forest. Open flr plan w/sunlight-filled main level & deck overlooking large yard. LL has walk-out to nice patio.  
 6112 Redwood Lane  
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**Alex./Old Town \$299,800**  
 Parking conveys with this 1 bedrm, 1 bath unit w/hardwd flrs, granite counters, SS appliances & Cherry cabinets. Lots of storage. Convenient to everything in Old Town.  
 922 S. Washington Street #110  
 Barbara Rosen 703-407-6481

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# NEWS



PHOTO BY PAUL OBERLE

Cast members dance in Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre's upcoming production of "The Music Man."

## 'The Music Man' Comes to Town

There's "Trouble" on stage at Carl Sandburg Middle School. "Trouble with a capital 'T.'" Fast-talking salesman Harold Hill is turning River City, Iowa on its musical ear in Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre production "The Music Man." Convinced their youngsters will be doomed forever unless they adopt Hill's revolutionary music program, the good people of River City find themselves all a twitter. The bickering mayor's council is suddenly bursting into harmony;

the mayor's wife and her upstanding lady friends have taken to dancing; and the children of the town are learning to play instruments simply by thinking the music. Is River City really full of untapped musical talent? Or are they simply the latest victim of one of Harold Hill's schemes. The town's librarian thinks she knows.

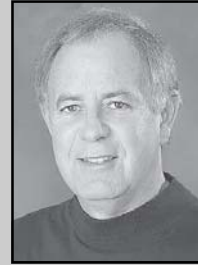
MVCCT performs "The Music Man" one final weekend at Carl Sandburg Middle School auditorium, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Nov. 20, 21, and 22. Friday and Sat-

urday curtain is 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinee 3 p.m. Tickets, \$10 adult and \$8 child/seniors, can be purchased at the door or online at [www.mvccct.org](http://www.mvccct.org). All seats are reserved. Group reservations can be made by calling 703-360-0686.

Kicking off its 2009-2010 season, MVCCT is featuring a cast of 47 actors from 17 area elementary, middle and high schools under the direction of Frank Pasqualino and music director Cathy Manley.



**Mutual Commitment** U.S. Rep. Jim Moran joined elected leaders, military officials and more than 300 students at Ft. Belvoir on Friday, Nov. 13, to take part in ceremonies reaffirming the base's commitment to the community and honoring the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces. The congressman joined Fort Belvoir Installation Commander Col. Jerry Blixt and other leaders at an early morning ceremony organized by the Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce to reaffirm the mutual bonds between the base and the greater Mt. Vernon community.



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**Alex/Mt. Vernon \$474,900**

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 Large, Lovely 4BR, 3BA Split w/1 Car Garage on a .35 Acre Lot. Beautiful hardwood floors on main level, freshly painted interior. French doors off Dining rm to a Sun rm with skylight, hot tub & wrap around deck. Beautifully landscaped yard w/electric powered shed. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 minutes to Huntington Metro & Old Town, 35 minutes to Pentagon/D.C.



**Alex/Stratford \$519,000**

**8716 Linton Lane**  
**HUGE PRICE REDUCTION-MOTIVATED SELLER** - Lovely 4BR, 2.5 BA Colonial w/brick front & carport. Very competitively priced in mid 500s. Not a short sale or bank owned. Family rm w/fireplace off the kitchen.

Hdwd floors on the main & upper lvls w/partial, unfinished basement which can be finished off or left as a workshop/storage area. Just down the street from Ft. Hunt Elem. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir & Huntington Metro.



**UNDER CONTRACT**

**Alex/Olde Mill \$187,500**

**5704 Olde Mill Court #142**  
 Condo in popular Olde Mill Community in Mt. Vernon, just a few minutes from Ft. Belvoir.

Lovely 2BR/2BA, vaulted ceiling & balcony provide lots of light and expansiveness. Wood burning fireplace adds to the ambience. Unit shows very nicely. Top floor allows attic access w/lots of storage. Well maintained complex in a lovely setting of trees. Building offers attractive architectural design. 18 minutes to Hunting Metro.



**SOLD**

**Alex/Mt. Vernon \$529,900**

**9326 Craig Avenue**  
 Large brick 5BR, 3BA split w/2 car garage on a .4 acre lot in lovely Mt. Vernon area w/lots of trees. 2 fireplaces, energy efficient replacement windows, beautiful refinished hdwd floors on main level, new carpeting,

landscaped fenced rear lot w/huge deck off sunroom addition, freshly painted interior & exterior. Superbly priced so renovate kitchen/baths to your desire. Easy commute to Ft. Belvoir, Alex, Old Town, DC/Pentagon.



**SOLD**

**Alex/Wessynton \$780,000**

**3406 Wessynton Way**  
 Large Beautiful 5BR, 3BA contemporary Col on a spectacular .6 acre wooded lot.3 finished lvls, numerous upgrades including-completely renovated kit & master bath. Bedroom & full bath on main lvl along a wall of windows

overlooking a large koi pond & beautiful in-ground pool. One of Wessynton's most unique & treasured properties. A boat launch allows easy access to the Potomac River.



**COMING SOON**

**Alex/Riverside Est. Under \$750,000**  
**8352 Orange Court**

**WATERFRONT PROPERTY WITH DOCK ON NAVIGABLE WATER.** <1.5 mile to the Potomac. 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial w/Carport conveys as well! Buy it now "AS IS" for <\$750,000 or pay higher in the spring after cosmetic

work has been done on home. Your Choice! 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 35 to Pentagon/D.C. Call Rex for Info - 703-409-4784-- P.S. Interest Rates are Low Now.

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For Thanksgiving, Grace will have pies and more pies. Apple, pecan, pumpkin, sweet potato, and some surprises will be at the Mount Vernon Farmer's Market. Also, pumpkin bread, cranberry orange apple bread and all the usual favorites.

Remember the market continues across the street in the parking lot of the Shell station at the corner on Sherwood and Schelhorn in the coming weeks.

Please call Grace's Pastries at 703.318.0286 for special orders, cakes, and catering.

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—Chinese proverb

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## NEWS



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE GAZETTE

The United States Air-Force Strings Band performs at the Mt. Vernon Estate's Robert H. and Clarice Smith Auditorium.

### On Veterans Day

Master Sergeant Mari Uehara completes a solo performance during the United States Air Force Strings concert at Mt. Vernon Estate on Nov. 11.



All guests stand up as the United States Strings Band play the "Star Spangled Banner" on Veteran's Day.

## 1,000 Winter Coats Arrive

FROM PAGE 1

CFK only distributes new winter coats, including a pair of new gloves and a new winter hat. It accepts requests for coats and delivers them all winter-long through the end of March.

This year Paul Darby says that everything has gone virtual. A warehouse in Pennsylvania receives the donations. They are sorted, sized and when requests are made, the orders are shipped. A fire truck bay at

the Richmond Highway Penn Daw Station was lined with tables filled with coats for area children.

The Progressive Firefighters of Fairfax County, the City of Alexandria and Washington D.C. volunteered to help prepare the orders from the local schools and social service agencies and non-profits that had clients in need. The program was organized at Penn Daw by Captain Will Bailey.

## NEWS

Frances and Ginger Park from Washington, D.C. visited with third and fourth graders to share historical fiction books about their Korean heritage. Their accounts of their grandfather's education as a poor boy in Korea and their mother's escape from North Korea as a child held the students spellbound. Students were also interested to find out the sisters own and operate "Chocolate Chocolate," a candy boutique in Washington, D.C.



## Authors Visit Hollin Meadows

Susan Stockdale, Maryland author and illustrator of nonfiction nature books for young children visited with kindergarten, first and second graders at Hollin Meadows Science/Math Focus School for "Authors Week 2009." She shared her award-winning "Fabulous Fishes."



Marfe Ferguson Delano of Alexandria writes nonfiction books for upper grades. She shared her award-winning photobiography "Helen's Eyes" the story of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's teacher. Delano showed many photographs of Annie and Helen used in her book. She also spoke about how she conducts research for her books, recounting her experience of rappelling down into a mountainous cave for "Exploring Caves, Journeys into the Earth."



## Suspect Arrested For Robbery

A 22-year-old man from Alexandria was arrested for robbing an employee of a 7-Eleven store on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Around 2:25 a.m., the suspect entered the store, located at 3100 Lockheed Blvd., allegedly produced a handgun and demanded money from a 41-year-old woman working behind the counter. The suspect grabbed an undisclosed amount of cash.

As police were responding, one officer noticed a suspicious vehicle in the area and initiated a traffic stop and arrested the suspect.

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## First Night ALEXANDRIA



Introducing the  
**Fun Hunt Kick-off Event**

**12.31.09**  
**3-4:30 PM**

Solve clues from Alexandria's waterfront Torpedo Factory to the Embassy Suites for a chance to win fabulous prizes, including dinner and a two-night stay at The Morrison House in Old Town Alexandria

To learn more about the new **Fun Hunt**, and for a full schedule of First Night Alexandria events, visit [FirstNightAlexandria.org](http://FirstNightAlexandria.org)

First Night Alexandria  
An Old Town New Year's Party

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**Wednesday, Dec. 9**  
**6:30 pm**

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ NOVEMBER 19-25, 2009 ♦ 7

## Children's Gazette

Every year, over the winter holidays, the Gazette turns the pages of one entire issue over to the contributions of local students.

We will feature artwork of many kinds, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories, reflections and more. Artwork can include paintings, drawings or any media; photos of sculpture, ceramics or other works too large to submit are also encouraged.

We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled. Past contributions have come from children from nursery schools through those preparing to graduate from high school.

You can see last year's Children's Gazette on our Web site. Go to [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com), click on "print Editions Online" in the red bar and scroll down to "Children's Connection."

We prefer digital submissions, delivered on CD or via email. Please send in submissions as soon as possible. Our address is 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail to [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com). Please be sure to include the name of the artist or author, and include age, grade, school attended and name of the home town, along with address and phone number to be used for verification purposes only.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Willow Oak Legacy?

To the Editor:

It's sad that the Sherwood Hall Lane Willow Oak can't be moved. In these unsettled economic times who has money to save a part of the history of Mount Vernon?

Everything living passes so this Willow Oak's passing would not be unexpected. It would be nice if we could remember the tree not just with a plaque but with offspring.

Why not gather the trees acorns and plant them in a nursery, or in Huntley Meadows, and grow them as special remembrances of the oak, Sherwood Hall Lane, and Mount Vernon.

Perhaps people would consider buying and owning one of the tree's offspring or someone could grow the offspring as a bonsai tree. Willow Oaks do very well as bonsai trees.

**Frank Tansey**

## Prudent Preparations

To the Editor:

Are we prepared for a major incident? The answer to this is an unequivocal "no." We base our lives on the belief that our critical infrastructures (electric power, natural gas, food, water, gasoline, pharmaceuticals) will always be there; that Giant will open in the morning and be fully stocked. At worst, the price of blueberries might be a bit high.

This is not intended to tell anyone what to do; we know what we should do. If not, the FEMA Web site, <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>, provides the right checklists. Further, there are many tips there that we might not think of such as protecting critical documents and having a family plan on how to make contact in a serious emergency.

The point here is to advocate

thinking about our individual vulnerabilities and what we should do to address them. If we were to take a long road trip, e.g., along the northern interstates in the winter, it is obvious that we should pack enough warm clothes and water to survive two days stuck in a snow bank.

It is healthy not to dwell on contingencies that could threaten our lives. Yet it is imprudent not to take some basic actions. We all should be connected to a system such as DC Alert for those contingencies such as tornadoes that require decisive action. Cell phone alerts are good and so are NOAA radios.

Our major concern locally is the potential loss of infrastructure. There are several ways this could happen: a cyber attack, conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction. There are enough nut cases in the U.S. that could do a lot of damage but likely cause will be groups like al Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Toiba. These terror-

ist groups have a visceral dislike of the U.S. and their goal is to bring down western values and establish Islamic states. It is extremely clear that they will do whatever they desire to secure their ends including the slaughter of innocent people.

If one of these groups decides to hurt us, they will likely succeed. The discipline demonstrated by the 9/11 plotters was awesome in comparison to other terrorist groups (e.g., the 1995 IRA London infrastructure attack).

It would be difficult but not impossible for them to acquire a nuclear weapon and target NYC, DC, LA or Chicago. While it is unlikely that any one of us would not be directly affected by the immediate blast or thermal effects, the majority of the U.S. population would face the secondary and tertiary effects. These would ripple through the economy and poten-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10



Guests arrive for a final viewing at the Huntley House before its restoration begins.



Pictures of the Huntley family are lined up over the fireplace inside the Huntley House.

## Before Its Restoration

An open house was held at Historic Huntley at 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, on Sunday, Oct. 18. The Federal-style unrestored home was built in 1825 for Thomas Francis Mason, a grandson of George Mason.

PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE GAZETTE

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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

Newspaper of Mount Vernon

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

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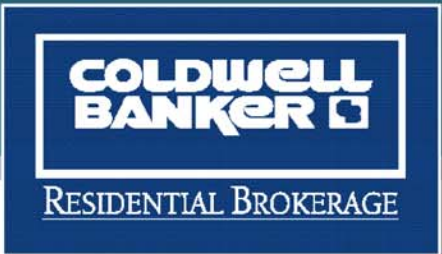
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**122 MADISON PLACE**  
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Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156

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**7804 ASHLEY GLEN**  
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Mary Cay Harris | 703.981.9976

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**2117 RAMPART DRIVE**  
\$759,000 | Alexandria / Fort Hunt  
Classic Colonial 4BR, 3.5 BA, 2-car garage, year round sunroom, large yard, cul de sac.

Mary Cay Harris | 703.981.9976

**NEW PRICE!**



**6621 WAKEFIELD DRIVE, #413**  
\$244,900 | River Towers  
Two bedroom, one bath condo w/ large windows, lots of closets and many upgrades. Ample free parking.

Denise Davis | 571.332.8531



**5631 RIDGE VIEW DRIVE**  
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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

tially devastate our infrastructures for days, weeks and possibly months.

So, what should we do? There is no one-size-fits-all answer to this. Each person needs to assess the personal impact of an infrastructure loss and whether it would be life threatening. If our health is dependent upon a particular pharmaceutical then we better get a revolving 30 day or greater supply. If we are dependent on electrical power, we better have an emergency generator plus an adequate supply of fuel.

There are other obvious actions that would be prudent such as emergency water bottles or a camp stove with propane canisters. The point here is to imagine oneself with no support systems in all conditions such as the coldest or hottest days of the year. The time to think about this is not after an event but now.

**Dr. John Powers**  
Alexandria

*John Powers served as a FEMA regional director from 1993 to 95; executive director of the 1996-98 Critical Infrastructure Protection Commission; and since 2007 the head of the Pathway Analysis for the DOD (DTRA) study to prevent nuclear smuggling.*

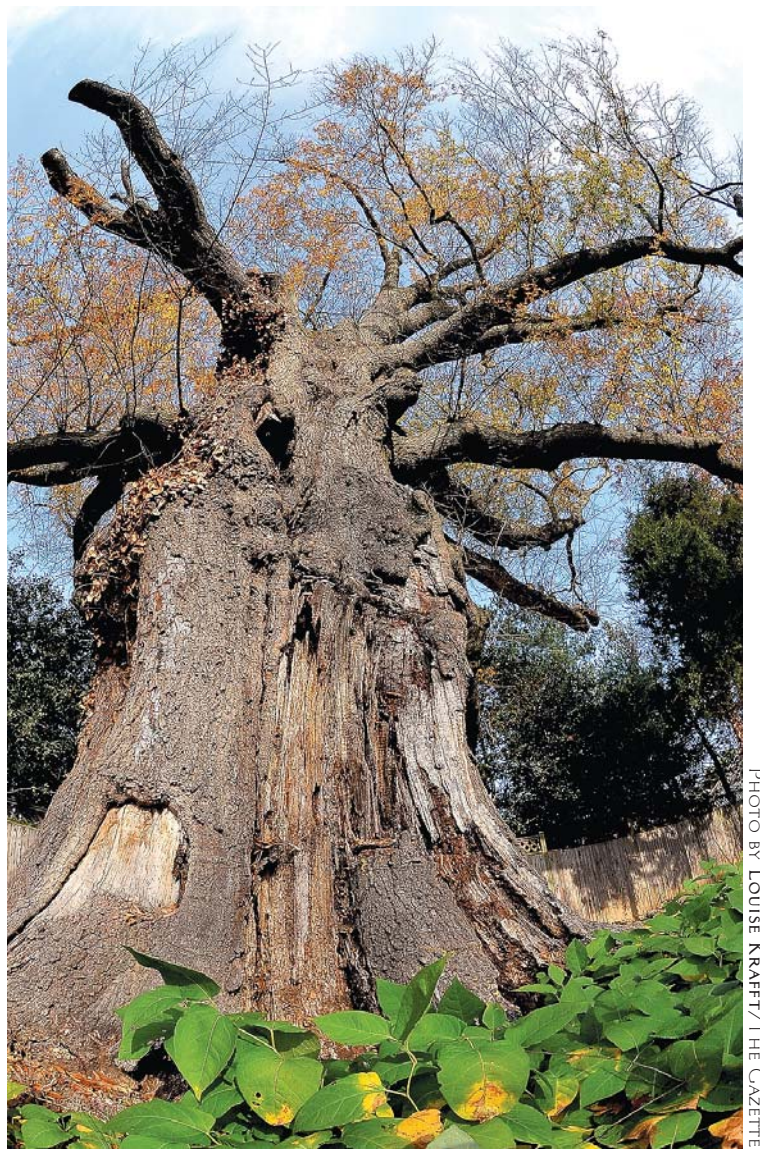


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

**The Willow Oak tree along Sherwood Lane.**

### Wrong Tree

To the Editor:

The photo of the tree pictured on the cover and on page 11 of the Nov. 12 issue is a Silver Maple tree adjacent to our lot and is not the large old tree that the Urban Forest Management Division of Fairfax County concluded a hazard. The tree in question is actu-

ally along Sherwood Hall Lane adjacent to the Kirkside Subdivision and directly across from the Evening Lane intersection. But thank you for the lovely photos of the tree on Middy anyway. I just hope the VDOT employees get it right and not cut

down the wrong tree!

**Kelly Starinchak**  
Sherwood Hall & Middy

*Editor's note: The letter writer is correct. The Willow Oak that is to be removed next month is pictured above.*

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# LETTERS

## Get Informed About Congress

To the Editor:

To help elected officials to be more responsive, we must let them know our views preferably before they vote on issues. It is easy to become informed on issues and related votes of our U.S. senators and congressmen. Just sign on to the web page [Congress.org](http://Congress.org) and follow directions to enroll to receive their votes and upcoming issues to be considered. Or, you can email [Megavote@mailmanager.net](mailto:Megavote@mailmanager.net) and request to receive Mega votes for your congressional district.

Since January 2009, I have received 20 two-page easy to read summary documents that list bills and votes and upcoming issues to be voted on. For example, for year 2009 Congressman Connolly of the 11th Congressional District has voted in favor of spending of \$3.4 plus trillion dollars and Senators Webb and Warner have voted in favor of \$1.9 plus trillion dollars of spending thus far. Congressman Connolly's total spending includes the \$1 trillion for the government run health care bill. Senator Warner voted against replenishing \$2 billion for the cash for clunkers program.

The difference in spending totals between the congressman and U.S. senators is largely due to timing of votes on spending bills that originate in the House. Some of the larger spending bills include \$787 billion stimulus, \$410 billion for FY 2009 government budget and \$106 billion supplement budget to fund the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

If you prefer to do the research on your own, go on line to web site <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and obtain information on congressional proceedings, votes, etc.

Our elected officials respond when enough of us speak up and make our views known to them. So don't hesitate to sign up now for the mega votes and keep current on how your congressman and U.S. senators are voting regarding issues important to you. Your voice can make a difference.

**Frank Medico**  
Mt. Vernon

## Rise in Child Deaths

To the Editor:

Last week, a new report by the advocacy group Every Child Mat

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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Download the entry form from our web site, or pick one up at any of Burke & Herbert Bank's 20+ banking offices. Artwork must be submitted in person at any of these locations. To download the entry form and rules, or for office locations, visit [burkeandherbert.com](http://burkeandherbert.com).

The winner will receive a \$100 U.S. Series EE Savings Bond and their artwork will be featured in Burke & Herbert Bank's holiday advertisement in community papers on Thursday, December 17, 2009. Works will be judged by Burke & Herbert Bank team members and a representative of The Art League.

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**OPEN SUN!**

**3706**  
Riverwood Court  
\$775,000  
*Riverwood Gem!*  
Fabulous home in highly sought after Riverwood! Truly spectacular property with exceptionally gorgeous pool and grounds! Three finished levels, four bedrooms, gourmet kitchen, two car garage and top quality new roof. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in the area's premier waterfront community. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Old Mt Vernon Rd, L Riverwood Rd, L Riverwood Ct.

**OPEN SUN!**

**3906**  
Rive Drive  
\$998,500  
*Stunning Property!*  
The most spectacular property you will ever find has been completely updated with breathtaking results! Bright & open floor plan, 3 fin lvls including full w/o LL, 4/5BR, 3.5BA, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning MBR suite and custom river view screened porch house with deck. Expansive glass window walls capture river views and natural beauty of almost full acre site. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Old Mt Vernon Rd, L Rive Dr.

**801 N PITT ST #417**  
Alexandria  
\$190,000  
*PIED-A-TERRRE.* If you need a place to stay in Old Town, this just listed updated studio apartment is probably cheaper than a hotel. If you need a primary residence or second home to lock up and leave w/ no worry, this could be it. Leave your car in the underground garage. Balcony has partial river view. AX719068-4

**Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343**

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**Mary Rice Prosser 703.625.4461**

**1208**  
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\$875,000  
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**4821**  
Stillwell Avenue  
\$499,000  
*Curb Appeal!*  
Character abounds in this fabulous Cape Cod, lovingly maintained and significantly updated by its caring owners. Four bedrooms, two full baths, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail, custom built-ins, updated kitchen and finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on magnificent half acre lot just steps to acres and acres of Fairfax County parkland!

**4816**  
Stillwell Avenue  
\$575,000  
*Renovated!*  
Unique opportunity! Exceptionally large 5/6 BR home is located in a gorgeous setting on a 1/2 acre lot bordering acres of county parkland. Renovated throughout, it features an updated kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, finished lower level, in-law suite and large deck. A recently remodeled home of this size in a premier setting creates a truly one of a kind value!

**7532**  
HOLLINDALE CT  
Alex / Hollindale  
\$599,000  
This 3BR/3BA rambler features gourmet kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counters & state of the art appliances

Other highlights include HW floors, remodeled baths, custom closets, 2 FPs, rear patio, landscaped yard & more!

**Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841**

**OPEN SUN 1-4**

**828 SLATERS LA**  
#104 Alexandria  
\$699,000  
*MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION!* Spectacular Condo! 1,890sqft! 3BR, 2.5BA, 2 Master suites, gourmet kit, 9' ceilings, Gas fireplace, Plantation shutters & hardwoods throughout, handicap accessible + 2 inside parking spaces. City views from rooftop. Shops & rests.

**Mary Bourke 703.906.5825**  
**Shane Canny 703.346.2067**

**504 E HOWELL AVE**  
Alex / Del Ray  
\$695,000  
Beautiful 3BR/2BA home just blocks from The Avenue. Highlights include spacious living & dining rooms, renovated kitchen with maple cabinets & granite, large office/den, HW flrs, crown molding, separate laundry rm, fenced yd w/new slate patio & more!

**Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252**

**NEW LISTING!**

**4413**  
Ferry Landing Road  
\$559,900  
*Yacht Haven Gem!*  
Fabulous home in Yacht Haven Estates, one of the area's leading waterfront communities! Recently installed top quality gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets and granite counters, hardwood floors, large deck and covered parking. Spacious floor plan overlooks gorgeous half acre grounds.

**1810**  
Hollindale Dr  
\$675,000  
*Gorgeous Setting!*  
Estate sale of spacious rambler on gorgeous 3/4 acre grounds in premier location just minutes from Old Town in prestigious Hollindale/ Mason Hill area! Home features five bedrooms, three full baths, large room sizes, open floor plan and oversized two car garage. Fabulous potential to remodel or build your dream home on this special site with rural ambiance in "close-in" location convenient to everything!

**NEW PRICE!**

**4401**  
Jackson Place  
\$475,000  
*Special Value!*  
Spacious brick home on gorgeous half acre lot with open floor plan, hardwood floors, family room with fireplace, covered parking and extra driveway space. Fabulous custom deck overlooks magnificent level grounds. Rare opportunity to find a well maintained Mount Vernon home for under \$500,000!

**116 ROBERTS LANE**  
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Alexandria  
\$330,000  
*ALEXANDRIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET!* The location and space you need, the updated kitchen you want.

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**Susan Haughton 703.470.4545**  
**Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913**

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Just reduced! Prime Mount Vernon location with the most breathtaking river views you have ever seen! Over 11,000 sq ft with five bedrooms including main level river view master suite with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River!

**WATERFRONT!**

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*Waterfront!*  
Waterfront homes rarely become available in Mount Vernon on the Potomac! This spacious custom Tudor was carefully crafted with the highest quality materials and planned with three levels of Pella window walls to maximize water views. Six bedrooms, five baths, full walk out lower level and many rooms with dramatic river views.

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\$2,395,000  
*Premier Property!*  
Custom Boucher built classic on magnificent full acre lot just 3 miles to Old Town! Spacious residence with elegant Colonial detail, custom brick exterior, 3 finished levels, handcrafted cabinetry and brick work, gourmet kitchen, 4.5 luxurious baths, high ceilings, 4 frpls and 3 car garage. Magnificent private setting on professionally landscaped grounds, convenient to everything!

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\$412,000  
*TAX CREDIT POTENTIAL!* Use your tax credit on this spacious 3 lvl TH in Berkshire East off Huntington Ave close to METRO. 3BR, 3.5 BA, new carpet, new windows, huge country kit with granite, private patio backs to trees. Convenient location. Call Today!

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\$899,900  
Must see this renovated and expanded home - you WILL be impressed. Over 2,300 sq ft of new living space with 3BR and 3.5BA. Master BR with balcony and gorgeous Bath, Gourmet Kitchen overlooking FamRm, Brazilian cherry hardwoods throughout. Deep landscaped backyard and with 2-car parking. All NEW in desirable Old Town!

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\$525,000  
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## OPINION

# 'You Can't Take it With You' at MVHS

**L**ove or money? Personal freedom or conformity? These are the questions tackled by the Pulitzer Prize-winning play "You Can't Take It With You!" performed at Mt. Vernon High School. It entails an eccentric family, led by patriarch Grandpa Vanderhoff, who strives to impress their daughter Alice's potential in-laws, the high-strung, wealthy Kirby family. Of course the families can do nothing else but push each other's buttons. Soon their outlandish practices and attitudes alarm not only the Kirby's, but also government agents investigating communist activity, and Alice's chances at true love are endangered. Mount Vernon made a good choice in choosing "You Can't Take It With You!" It comes with a witty script, vibrant characters, and delivers important lessons about how life should be lived — in the pursuit of love and friendship. But it also comes with a high reputation, and it can be difficult to live up to such a name in a high school production.

Some of the actors took full advantage of their colorful characters. James Beveridge portrayed Boris Kolenkhov, the outrageous Russian ballet teacher who was able to command the scene, changing the entire mood from tranquility to chaos with a few

lines. He quickly became an audience favorite due to his comical rants and sudden outbursts. Alex Dodson depicted Grandpa Vanderhoff a little more conservatively than is traditionally done, but could sufficiently keep the laughter going. The G-men, despite having brief stage time, stole the show with their imposing presence and their unconventional characters. With nearly seamless scene transitions and a well made set, the setting was right on the button.

This play is well known for its humorous script, but in some areas the comedy did not come across. Lines were said quickly and sometimes lost meaning. Other times actors lacked true emotion, and their lines fell flat. To one with no background of the play, the relationships among characters were confusing, and could have had more clarity. While the props were effectively handled by the cast, they did not completely correspond with the background of the play.

Mount Vernon put on a feel good show and brought their audiences into the topsy-turvy world of the Vanderhoff household. Although "You Can't Take It With You!" set the bar high, Mount Vernon was able to acceptably perform a satisfactory production.

*Cappies is a high school critics and awards program involving more than 50 schools in the Virginia, Maryland and D.C. areas.*

### CAPPIES REVIEW

### LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11  
ters focused on the disturbing rise of child deaths in the United States due to maltreatment. Local reports earlier in the year also pointed to

an increase in family violence across Northern Virginia as well.

What readers need to know is that the majority of children who die from maltreatment had no

prior contact with child protective services. We need to understand that each one of us is responsible for the children in our community — not just child protective services — and that we each have the power to prevent these tragedies.

Another grim statistic? Over 75 percent of the children who die from maltreatment are under the age of 4. We must provide new parents in our community with support, including parenting classes and support groups, early childhood home visitation and universal access to affordable health and mental health services.

The report (released on Capitol Hill) calls for more federal funding — which is certainly critical as governments on every level face tough budget cuts. But this report should also be a wake-up call to the individual community member. When we see a sign of abuse and neglect right here in our own neighborhood, are we pausing for that child long enough to report it to Child Protective Services? When we know a new parent struggling with the stress of young children, are we pausing long enough to offer support or suggest they contact one of the many organizations in Northern Virginia offering parenting resources?

Perhaps while the federal government figures out the funding for this issue affecting millions of children and parents across the country, we each could be having an impact on just one right here in our own community.

**Diane Charles**

Executive Director, SCAN of Northern Virginia



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE GAZETTE

**Honoring Veterans** The West Potomac ROTC Honor Guard are retiring the colors during the "We Salute Our Veterans" ceremony at Hybla Valley Elementary School on Nov. 12.



The second grade students at Hybla Valley Elementary School participate in the "We Salute Our Veterans" ceremony.



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NOVEMBER 27 - JANUARY 6, 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

A festive daytime program with themed trees, a gingerbread Mansion, dancing, and a Christmas camel!

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FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 5-8 P.M.,  
NOVEMBER 27-29; DECEMBER 4-6 & 11-13

A traditional candlelit evening with "Mrs. Washington," live music, and fireside caroling. Tickets on sale now at the estate and on MountVernon.org. \$18 adults, \$12 youth.



**FIND MORE SPECIAL EVENTS & VISITOR INFORMATION  
AT MOUNTVERNON.ORG OR 703-780-2000**



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PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

## Men in Kilts

The 39th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk will take place on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Earl Cook, Alexandria's Chief of Police, will serve as the Grand Marshal. Cook will lead more than 120 Scottish clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, canine marchers, local dignitaries and Santa Claus, through the streets of Old Town. From corner of Wilkes and South Saint Asaph Streets to King and Royal Streets. Presented by the Campagna Center, the St. Andrew's Society and the City of Alexandria. Visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

# A Very Scottish Christmas

## FRIDAY, DEC. 4

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Christmas Marketplace – One Day Only  
Heather and Greens Sale  
10 a.m. – 12 noon Children's Tea Party  
7 p.m. – 8 p.m. Taste of Scotland Patron Hour Only  
7 p.m. – 11 p.m. Christmas Marketplace (Taste of Scotland guests only)  
8 p.m. – 11 p.m. Taste of Scotland



The Taste of Scotland at the George Washington Masonic Memorial last year.

## A CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE

Vendors sell unique, holiday gift wares in a boutique setting. Location: George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria. Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 4 – One Day Only; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## TASTE OF SCOTLAND

A Tasting featuring hard-to-find, rare scotches direct from Scotland distilleries. Location: George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria; Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 4 from 7-8 p.m. Patron Hour Only; 8-11 p.m. Patron and Regular ticketholders. Cost: Advance tickets required. Go to [www.scottishchristmaswalk.com](http://www.scottishchristmaswalk.com) or call 703-549-0111, x107 for tickets. Patron: \$150/individual, \$250/couple. Individual tickets \$100.

## THE SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK PARADE

More than 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dog groups, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march through the streets of Old Town Alexandria.

Route: Beginning at the corner of Wilkes and South Pitt Streets in Old Town and ending at Market Square  
Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 5 at 11 a.m.

## HOLIDAY DESIGNER TOUR OF HOMES

Stroll through lovely properties in the historic district of Alexandria dressed up for the holidays by acclaimed interior designers and local florists.

Location: Select properties in Old Town, Alexandria  
Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Cost: Tickets required. Go to [www.scottishchristmaswalk.com](http://www.scottishchristmaswalk.com) or call 703-549-0111 or stop by The Campagna Center for tickets. Advance Purchase \$30. Day-Of Purchase \$35. Tickets may also be purchased at the homes.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 5

7 a.m. – 2 p.m. Heather and Greens Sale (West side of 100 block of N. Royal Street, behind reviewing stand)  
9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Business Leadership Council  
Dignitaries' Breakfast  
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Holiday Designer Tour of Homes  
11 a.m. Scottish Christmas Walk Parade



CHESTER SIMPSON

# Holiday Boat Parade

Discover the joy of holidays traditions in Alexandria with the 10th annual Burke & Herbert Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, from 6-7 p.m., Alexandria's harbor will sparkle when 50 brightly lit powerboats and sailboats led by the Vigilant, Alexandria's fireboat, will parade down the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., to Alexandria fully decked out in lights and holiday décor.

"Celebrating the holidays by bundling up and coming down docks for the Boat Parade of Lights is a great, must-do holiday tradition," said Stephanie Brown, Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association president and CEO.

Santa Claus will arrive by fireboat to kick off the evening festivities at 4 p.m. at the Alexandria Marina (One Cameron Street, Alexandria). Kids and dogs will be able to sit on Santa's lap and get their picture taken for free. The Braddock Brass Quintet and the Bells of Mount Vernon, a hand bell choir from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will headline the live music entertainment.

WTOP's Bob Madigan will be the emcee and celebrity host of the boat parade. Boaters will compete for prizes in categories such as "Best in Show," "Best Thinking Outside the Christmas Box" and "Hardest Souls."

# La Strada

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## Wine Dinner Monday, December 7th

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**50% off Bottle of Wine  
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**NEW Saturday and Sunday  
Breakfast Brunch  
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A family-owned Northern Italian restaurant in Del Ray neighborhood offering moderately priced dishes in single and famiglia (shared) portion sizes, and a communal table for group get-togethers, gives solo diners the chance to make new friends, or enjoy glass of wine and antipasti. Large Wine selection with over 50 offered by the glass.

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## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

### SATURDAY/NOV. 21

**Christmas Bazaar.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 60 exhibitors/vendors, Santa's Workshop Crafts, gingerbread houses, bake sale, Christmas café, children's games and prizes, visits with Santa/keepsake photo, Yesterday's Book Sale and holiday cinema. At St. Mary's School, 400 Green Street, Alexandria.

**TJ Gift/Craft Show.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Be vendor or customer. The Gift Show is for the shared benefit of the local arts/crafts community and TJ Crew Team. At the Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Rd, Alexandria. Visit [www.tjgiftshow.com](http://www.tjgiftshow.com).

**"Stir Up the Gifts."** 7 p.m. A night of fashion and inspirational entertainment. Fashions by Ellen's Boutique, Dress Barn and K&G Fashions. Inspirational entertainment by, inspirational rap artist, "Rimidy", Singer Kimberly Gordon and Shiloh's David's Dancers. Tickets are \$7 (Ages 6-17), \$15 (Ages 18 & up) and ages 5 and under free. At the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Call 703-927-2927.

**Holiday Shop.** 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some 50 artisans in fiber arts, wood, paper, metal, glass, clay, photography and orchids. Quilt raffle, Country Kitchen with handmade baked goods, chutneys and more, an attic/resale boutique, gently used jewelry shop, gingerbread house raffle and lunch. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-765-5950.

**Annual Gift Fair.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. TJ Crew is hosting the fair at the Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Rd., Alexandria. If you have a craft/art/music or any personal invention or service that you would like to sell at the Gift Fair, go to the web site: [www.tjgiftshow.com](http://www.tjgiftshow.com) or contact Rajni Goel at

[tjgiftshow@gmail.com](mailto:tjgiftshow@gmail.com) (703-288-5111).

### FRIDAY/NOV. 27

**City Tree Lighting Program.** 7 p.m. Entertainment features a message from the Mayor, a visit from Santa, a performance of Santa's Frosty's Follies by the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, and caroling with a community sing along. At Market Square, 301 King Street, Alexandria. Sponsored by the City of Alexandria. Call 703-883-4686 or the Special Events Office at 703-746-5418.

### NOV. 27-JAN. 6

**Christmas at Mount Vernon.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The halls are decked for Christmas at Mount Vernon. Exciting additions include a dozen themed Christmas trees, historical chocolate-making demonstrations, and 18th-century dancing! \$15/adults, \$7/children ages 6-11, free for children under 6. At Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Call 703-780-2000 or [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

### NOV. 27-29

**Mount Vernon by Candlelight.** 5-8 p.m. Mrs. Washington hosts 18th-century Christmas with candlelit walks, fireside caroling, and early American décor. Cost is \$18/adults, \$12/children under 11. At Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Call 703-780-2000 or [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

### THURSDAY/DEC. 3

**Torpedo Factory Holiday Open House.** 6 to 9 p.m. Shop for one-of-a-

kind gifts as live music and refreshments get you into the holiday spirit at this annual bash! Guests are also invited to give back with a food drive benefiting Carpenter's Shelter. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) or call 703-838-4565.

**Holiday Concert.** 7:30 p.m. NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, with the Alexandria Band. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6097.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 4

**Holiday Luminarias.** 6-9 p.m. Free viewing. Lit candles and Christmas trees line the streets, providing a holiday glow. In the Historic Del Ray District, Mount Vernon Avenue from Bellefonte to Hume Avenues.

**ArtFest 2009 Open House.** 6-9 p.m. Free. Exhibits, holiday sales and more. The event features 2D/3D exhibits, holiday ceramic sale, jewelry sale, wearable fiber art show and sale, music by Rew Smith Band, artist demos and food and drinks.

**The Ceramic and Pottery Show and Sale** will run through the weekend and will feature ceramic vessels and forms made by students and associates of The Art League that are perfect for holiday gift giving. Times are: Friday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 6, 12 noon-5 p.m.

**The Jewelry Show and Sale**, featured Friday and Saturday, will showcase a variety of jewelry to fit all tastes. Times are: Friday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. At the Madison Annex in Old Town Alexandria.

## COME HIKE AT MADEIRA

Sunday, November 22: 1-3pm

**Family Discovery Walk:** Explore our forests and trails at a pace even little legs can handle.

**Black Pond Hike:** Follow our trail system deep into the woods, then along the Potomac River, ultimately arriving at Black Pond. This natural treasure sits at the base of the Potomac River Gorge and is full of endangered and rare plant species some of which are found only in this area.

Both hikes begin with a short information session with Fairfax County wildlife Biologist, Victoria Monroe.

For more information and to register for the hikes please go to [www.madeira.org/hike](http://www.madeira.org/hike)

Immediately following the hikes we will have a Camp Greenway Open house at the Hurd Sports Center as well as an Open House at the Stables. If you are interested in learning more about summer camp at Madeira or just visiting some of our four legged friends please feel free to join us for either or both of these events.



**The Madeira School**  
8328 Georgetown Pike  
McLean, Virginia 22102  
703-556-8273  
[www.madeira.org](http://www.madeira.org)

# CALENDAR

## THURSDAY/NOV. 19

### 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Dance

**Classes.** At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Singles or couples are welcome. Cost is \$30 for the series of \$12/per class. Dance master Corky Palmer will lead this series of 18th-century English country dance classes in preparation for the Late Harvest Ball on Saturday, Nov. 21. Held at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 or go to [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

### An Evening With Bronze Sculptor Rick Weaver. 7

p.m. Mr. Weaver will explain the sculpture-making and foundry process, with examples of pencil and clay sketches, an armature, a finished clay, a rubber mold, a wax, a sprued wax, an investment mold, and a bronze. This event is free. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 20

### Bowling for the Homeless Fund-raiser. 9 p.m. to midnight.

Adults bowl unlimited for only \$20 and kids under the age of 16 for \$10. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to The Carpenters Shelter, a local homeless shelter. At the AMF Bowling Center, 6228-A North Kings Highway, Alexandria.

### Evening of Music for Brass Quintet. 8 p.m. Free.

Part of the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players Series. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call the U.S. Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil).

### Botanical Ornaments Workshop. 12:30-3 p.m.

Learn to decorate your home using natural materials. Cost is \$25; all materials will be provided. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

## NOV. 20, 21

### School Play. "Sideways Stories

From Wayside School." The play is an adaptation of the children's novel by Louis Sachar. Nov. 14 and 21 at 2:30 p.m. and Nov. 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. At West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$8.

### School Play. "Meet Me in St. Louis." 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$10. At Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock



## THURSDAY, NOV. 19

### The Reverie Jazz Trio. 7-9 p.m., Free.

The Reverie Jazz Trio will perform early jazz standards and forgotten favorites in a style reminiscent of a bygone era while bringing back the great melodies and emotion exemplified by the great jazz and blues music of the 1930s, 1940s and early 1950s. Part of the Thursday Nite Local Spotlight series. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

Road, Alexandria. Contact [TJ.TheatreBoosters@gmail.com](mailto:TJ.TheatreBoosters@gmail.com).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 21

### Breakfast Reach Out Meeting. 9:15

a.m. Speaker is Elizabeth Mulloy for Arlington Aglow. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3439 Payne Street, Bailey's Crossroads. To reserve a spot, call Betty Rose Forsell at 703-671-9264.

### Scottish Singer Jim Malcolm. 8 p.m.

Jim Malcolm, formerly the lead singer with the Scottish band Old Blind Dogs, gives a special solo performance celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$24 at the door. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Go to [www.sunspotpro.com](http://www.sunspotpro.com) or call 800 404-9049.

### Valentina Lisitsa, Piano Virtuoso. 7

p.m. Free. Classical piano concert featuring works of Beethoven, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria.

### Late Harvest Ball. 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Includes 18<sup>th</sup> century English country dancing, live music, cash bar and dessert. Costumes of the 1770s are welcome, and "after-five" attire is encouraged. Tickets are \$45/advance and \$50/door. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 to register. Go to [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 22

### Birding for Beginners. 8 a.m. to 11

a.m. Observe the transition of the bird community as the summer breeding population moves south and the winter residents arrive. At Huntley Meadows. \$6 per person. Call 703-768-2525. Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Boulevard and the Visitor Center is one-half mile on left at Harrison Lane.

### Violin Recital. 4 p.m. Free.

The Alexandria Performing Arts Association presents Nathan Wisniewski of the Air Force Chamber Players in a violin recital. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Alexandria. Call 703-505-0700.

### U.S. Army Orchestra. 3 p.m.

Beethoven's Triple Concerto and selections from Bizet's The Pearl Fishers and Chants d'Auvergne, with guest conductor Mark Gibson, of The University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NVCC Alexandria campus.

### Afternoon of Music for

Euphonium. 3 p.m. Free. Part of the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players Series. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call the U.S. Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-

767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil).

### Chamber Music Recital. 2

p.m. Free. By the U.S. Navy band. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-433-2525, or visit [www.navyband.navy.mil](http://www.navyband.navy.mil).

### Heroic Music for Organ

and Brass. 6 p.m. Free. With the King Street Brass Quintet and Thom Robertson, organist, playing the music of Strauss, Rheinberger and David Ashley White (Triptych) plus brass solo works. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1980.

### "New Mythology - Tracey

Clarke." 4-6 p.m., Opening Reception at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Free. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) or [traceyclarke.org](http://traceyclarke.org).

## THURSDAY/NOV. 26

### Alexandria Turkey Trot. 10 a.m.

At the Gora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 W. Reed Ave., intersection of West Reed and Commonwealth Avenues, in Alexandria's Del Ray community. The 5-mile race is cosponsored by the Del Ray Business Association (DRBA) and the DC Road Runners Club. The onsite entry fee — with two cans of food — is \$25 for adults 22 and over and \$20 for individuals aged 13-21 years. Children 12 and under can participate for \$10 at the door and two cans of food. Call Paul Coleus at 703-933-0520 ext. 203 or email [paul@waterfordinc.com](mailto:paul@waterfordinc.com). Visit <http://www.dcroadrunners.org/sign-up/turkey>.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 27

### Music for the Clarinet. 8 p.m. Free.

Presented by the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil).

## NOV. 27, 28, 29

### "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live

Radio Play." Six actors portray 43 voices in this visual recreation of a 1940's NYC radio station. Produced by ACCT. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Sunday at 2 p.m. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$9/adults, \$5/children 12 and below. Go to [acconline.org](http://acconline.org) or call 703-660-2611.

## MONDAY/NOV. 30

### St. Andrew's Day. 7:30 p.m.

Kirkin of the Tartan Service. The service will include a blessing of the tartans and a bagpiper and will be followed by a reception with Scottish foods and beverages. At St. Andrew and St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church, 402 E. Monroe Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-683-3343. Visit [www.standrewandstmargaret.org](http://www.standrewandstmargaret.org)

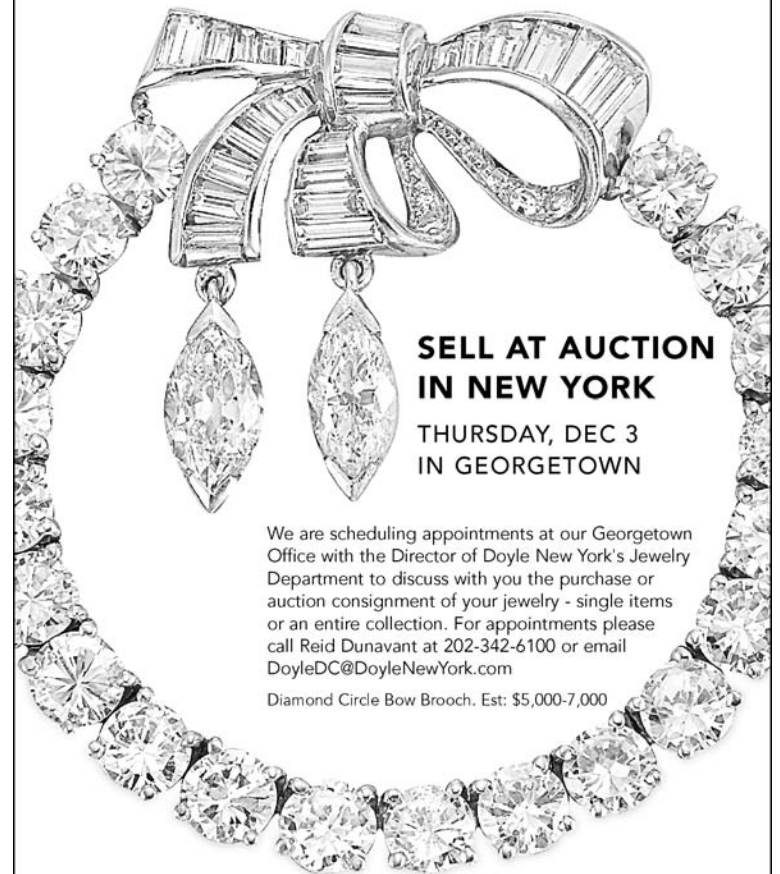
## TUESDAY/DEC. 1

### An Evening of Baroque Music:

Works by Telemann and Bach. 7:30 p.m. The National Chamber Players will perform Sonata No. 1 in A major and the Tafelmusik Quartet in D minor by Telemann, and Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4. Free. At Pendleton Hall, Ainslie Arts Center, Episcopal High School, 3900 W Braddock Road, Alexandria. There will be a gallery opening and reception for Wildfires: Photographs by Youngsuk Suh, in the Angie Newman Johnson Gallery at 6:30 p.m. Go to [www.episcopalhighschool.org](http://www.episcopalhighschool.org), email [arts@episcopalhighschool.org](mailto:arts@episcopalhighschool.org), or call 703-933-4135.

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# Police Officer Kills Suspect at Traffic Stop

FROM PAGE 1

was fired," said Gotthardt. "Obviously that's a pivotal issue in the investigation.

After Masters was shot, the car he was driving continued a short distance until it struck another vehicle near Richmond Highway and Fort Hunt Road. Police say that officers immediately attempted CPR on Masters, who was eventually taken to Mount Vernon Hospital, where he was pronounced dead a short time later. Crime-scene technicians and detectives from homicide and internal affairs were scouring the site well into Friday night to determine what happened.

"Traffic was horrible," said Katherine Ward, co-chairwoman of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations. "The whole area was blocked off."

**POLICE HAVE LAUNCHED** parallel criminal and administrative investigations, a standard procedure following shootings involving police officers. The process began with the Criminal Investigation Bureau scouring the scene of the incident for forensic evidence. Then the Internal Affairs Bureau launched its formal investigation, which is currently collecting information that will eventually be presented to

Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh. The county's chief prosecutor will ultimately make a determination as to whether or not the officer violated the criminal code of Virginia.

**"Don't mistake the fact that they are not talking as a tacit admission of guilt. They're simply exercising their rights as any other citizen would do."**

— Don Gotthardt, spokesman, Fairfax County Police Department

"The legal standard that applies to the officer is the same legal standard that applies to anyone else," said Jim Lay, who represented an Alexandria police officer who accidentally killed a teenager in 2006. "There has to be a reasonable apprehension of imminent danger of death or serious injury."

Under Virginia law, individuals can use deadly force in self-defense to repel an as-

sault when threatened by death or great bodily harm. That's a determination based on a reasonable belief of imminent harm, regardless of whether or not the potential threat of danger turns out to be erroneous. Law enforcement officers are not required to use all feasible alternatives to avoid a situation where deadly force may be required, and the law imposes no duty to attempt the use of lethal force in a less than lethal matter.

"The reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight," wrote the late William Rehnquist in a 1989 case. "The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgements — in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving — about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation."

**AFTER THE PROSECUTOR** makes a determination about whether or not the officer violated the Virginia criminal code, an administrative investigation will examine whether or not the officer acted in accordance within the rules of the Fairfax

County Police Department. Ultimately, Chief David Rohrer will make that determination. But that administrative review will have to wait until the Police Department's Internal Affairs Bureau has finished gathering information about the Nov. 13 incident.

"At this point, we are still waiting to hear from Internal Affairs to complete their investigation," said Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Ian Rodway. "When that happens, we'll review the evidence they've collected and take action accordingly."

Many neighborhood residents expressed support for the Fairfax County Police Department as an aggressive force against crime. Stratford on the Potomac resident Kahan Dillon says the county has a reputation as having a tough law-enforcement system for a county of similar demographics. He credited the police administration, community involvement and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for investing in public safety.

"Fairfax County has built a reputation that this is an extremely unfriendly place for criminals," said Dillon, a member of the State Board of Juvenile Justice. "I definitely believe that criminals realize the strength of the Fairfax County public safety system."

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### THURSDAY/NOV. 19

**Commonwealth Academy Open House.** 9-10 a.m. Learn about its award winning college-prep program for students with learning differences and AD/HD. Grades 4-12. Meet with faculty and staff and tour the school. At the Commonwealth Academy, 1321 Leslie Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6912 or go to [www.CommonwealthAcademy.com](http://www.CommonwealthAcademy.com)

**Alexandria Academy Admissions Information Meeting.** Alexandria Academy, endowed by George Washington in 1785, will be reopening in Old Town in Fall 2010. New independent school serving grades 5-8 in 2010-2011. Meeting held at the Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St 6:30-8 p.m.

### MONDAY/NOV. 23

**"Mental Health: Lifeline to Recovery."** At the Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue. Reception at 6:30, Dinner (\$22 members/\$27 nonmembers) at 6:45; Program (\$5 nonmembers) 7:15. Dinner reservations required. For information or reservations, contact Sherry Brown, 703-548-7089 or [agendaalexandria@aol.com](mailto:agendaalexandria@aol.com).

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 2

**Community Dialogue Session.** 7-9 p.m. The topic is the FY 2011 Budget. At Hayfield Secondary School, 7633 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Registration is required to attend and seating is limited to 70 participants. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/fy11communitydialogue.htm>.

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# Mount Vernon's Jones Signs with Niagara

Senior signs early, can focus on final season with Majors.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

Skylar Jones wasn't always a college-caliber athlete. In fact, he had trouble just staying on his feet. "When I was young, I was really clumsy," the Mount Vernon senior said. "I learned how to stay on my feet and get balanced. Once I learned how to stay balanced, the sky was the limit from there."

Jones might have taken his fair share of tumbles. But once he found his balance, he found a gift which will help him get a college education.

Jones, the 2009 National District Player of the Year, signed a letter of intent on Nov. 11 to play basketball at Niagara University. Coaches, teammates, friends and family celebrated the event with a signing party at Mount Vernon High School.

Niagara, located in New York, is a member of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. The Purple Eagles advanced to the NCAA Tournament in 2005 and 2007 by winning the conference tournament under head coach Joe Mihalich. Niagara was Jones' first visit. He enjoyed his time there so much he didn't bother visiting any other schools.

"It felt like home," Jones said. "I was comfortable with all the players and coaches and I just didn't want to leave — that's how comfortable it was."

Jones' mother, Sam, said she was hesitant when her son made such a quick decision, but he convinced her it was the right choice.

"I wanted him to see other schools before he made a decision," Sam said. "But



Mount Vernon's Skylar Jones was named National District Player of the Year last season.



Mount Vernon senior Skylar Jones, center, signs a letter of intent on Nov. 11 to play basketball at Niagara University while his father, Wayne, left, and his mother, Sam, look on.

ultimately, the decision was his. It had to be a good fit for him. Once he answered my ... basic questions, then I [supported

him] going to Niagara. ... I feel great. I'm very proud of him."

**MAKING A DECISION** early in the signing process allows Jones to focus on his senior season with the Majors, who are the defending district champions. Mount Vernon went undefeated during district play and won 19 consecutive games before losing to Hayfield in the regional semifinal.

"I've worked all my life just to get to this point. Now it's time to move on and get bigger goals and get ready for the season," Jones said. Signing quickly "was important to me. I wanted to make an early but decisive decision so I could just focus on the season. High school means a lot to me. I've been in the same school for four years and I've known these people all my life. I just want to go out with a bang."

The 6-foot-4 Jones was named National District Defensive Player of the Year and first-team all-Northern Region as a junior. This season, he is expected to play up to four different positions for a Majors team lacking in height.

"He's an all-around player," Mount Vernon head coach Alfonso Smith said. "We feed off his diverse abilities."

Jones brings joy to others with more than just his performance on the hardwood. His sense of humor brings smiles to the faces of friends and family.

"He's a joy to be around," Smith said. "He has a maturity beyond his years. His teachers comment all the time. ... He's not someone that's going to come in your class and just sit perfectly quiet, but he's a personable kid."

**HE ALSO** showed ability in the classroom, earning a place on the first quarter honor roll.

"For him to make the honor roll," Jones' dad, Wayne, said, "it shows that he's committed."

Wayne also said Jones doesn't allow his accomplishments to affect his attitude.

"He's a very humble kid, surprisingly," Wayne said. "I'll be the one on the Internet looking at stuff, [reading] the paper [and] I'll be talking to him and he'll be like, 'Oh, yeah dad.' You don't see him get excited or anything and he doesn't think he's above anybody else. He's very down to earth."

Jones is the third Mount Vernon player to sign with a Division I school during Smith's six-season tenure as head coach. E.J. Johnson, a 2006 graduate, signed with Longwood and 2008 graduate Marquel De Lancey signed with Old Dominion.

Smith said while producing Division I talent is a positive for the Mount Vernon program, it also reflects well on the National District and Northern Region.

"There's a lot of different private schools here in the area," Smith said. "But for the ones who stay [in public schools] and actually play, it's a testament to their hard work and the fact that, hey, if you can play, even in a public school, [colleges] will find you. ... We're very proud of him."

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### McConville, Bigler Honored at Sports Banquet

West Potomac football player Colin McConville and cross country runner Julianne Bigler each received a scholar athlete award at the school's sports banquet Tuesday.

### Mount Vernon Field Hockey Players Honored

Six members of the Mount Vernon field hockey team received all-National District accolades for the 2009 season. Senior midfielders Marcy Hoath and Katie Lucas and senior forward Leia Schantz led the way as first-team selections. Hoath was also an all-region selection.


Seniors Gabby Gadson (defender) and Sara Duncan (goalkeeper) were second-team selections, and sophomore forward Allie Schray garnered honorable mention.



PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

Colin McConville and Julianne Bigler each received a scholar athlete award at Tuesday's West Potomac sports banquet.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLEN WOODS

In West Potomac's production of "Sideways," Myron, played by Ryan Walker, is stuck to his chair with chewing gum. Emily Woods (left), Nell McKeown, and Toby Mananzan (right), try to pry him off his seat.

## 'Sideways' Opens at West Potomac

FROM PAGE 1

"To get into character as Bebe, I try to think in the mindset of a second grade student. I basically just react to the situations in the play the way I normally would except I put a lot more simplicity and naiveté into everything I do on stage."

It turns out most of the students have a technique for getting into their second grade characters. Sophomore Nell McKeown was spotted chasing imaginary butterflies and flying like an airplane in the halls of West Potomac before showtime. While freshman Maggie Solo has been channeling her inner second grader with a lot of arts and crafts and drinking from juice boxes.

**WHEN ROTC** senior Christian

Huley arrived for dress rehearsal, he did so in his military uniform. A few minutes later, he was transformed into Mrs. Gorf, wearing a skirt, blouse, wig, and hose.

"I need a lot of prosthetics," he said with a laugh. And he gets many laughs in the play as the mean teacher who turns misbehaving students into apples.

"What I like about the play is seeing older kids acting like little kids," said junior Ariel Villa, 16, who plays teacher Miss Zarves. "I remember when I was little and I looked up to older kids and wanted to be like them. Now we are in high school and we want to be like little kids."

West Potomac's theater teacher and "Sideways" director Melissa Christensen chose this play to produce because of the familiarity many have with Sachar's work.

"I wasn't sure how the high school students would react to this choice of play. When I announced it at the interest meeting in September, the room exploded. So many of the kids know the books," she said.


Senior Madeline Dahl, who plays Miss Valoosh the dance teacher, says she loved the books when she was in elementary school. "I reread the books when I found out I was going to be in the play. Now I like the stories in a different way. Revisiting them has made me feel nostalgic."

To prepare, Christensen told the cast to spend time observing younger children.

"There is an exchange in the play, [character] Rondi picks a purple crayon, and [character] Leslie says purple is her favorite color and Rondi responds that she picked it first, and Leslie says, 'Okay, I'll switch to yellow.' It was that fast that she moved on. So, like a second grader, they don't hold grudges."

Sachar is the author of 21 educational and fiction books for children. Most popular are the "Wayside School" and "Marvin Redpost" series. He also received the National Book Award for "Holes."

"Sideways," which opened Nov. 13, will be performed Friday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 21 at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Koogelman Theater, Springbank Arts Center at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$8 each purchased at the door only.



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## County Employees To Get More Holiday Leave

Fairfax County employees will get an additional day and a half of paid leave in December thanks to a Board of Supervisors decision Nov. 16.

The supervisors voted to give county employees one half day off on Dec. 24 and a full day off on Dec. 31 that were previously not included in Fairfax's work calendar.

The supervisors said they wanted to reward the county staff for "doing more with less," as a result of budget cuts. The extra paid leave, which Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D) and Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross (D) brought to the rest of the board, will cost the county approximately \$1 million.

At first, Bulova and Gross had suggested giving county employees two half days on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. But Sully District supervisor Michael Frey (R) convinced the supervisors to give county employees a full day off Dec. 31, saying that little would get accomplished during a half day of work on New Year's eve.

"A half day of work on Dec. 31 would not necessarily be a productive day," said Bulova, agreeing with Frey.

Several supervisors said the additional vacation days were also supposed to ease the pain of the one furlough day county employees had to take during the first week of January this year.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

## Fairfax Administrators 21,000 H1N1 Vaccines

The Fairfax County Health Department administered 21,000 H1N1 vaccines over two Saturday clinics held Oct. 24 and Nov. 7 at the Fairfax County Government Center, according to a written statement by Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D).

The county limited its vaccinations to people considered most at risk for developing complications if they contract the H1N1 strain of the influenza. These groups included children and pregnant women.

A few residents were so anxious to get the vaccine that they camped out before the Oct. 24 clinic to ensure a good place in line. By 9 a.m. on the day of the first clinic, the line of people for the vaccination stretched from the government center door almost to Fairfax Corner shopping center about two blocks away, said Bulova.

The second clinic, on Nov. 7, ran more smoothly, with a very short wait for people who came to be vaccinated after 3 p.m.

According to Bulova, the county medical corps put in 3,900 hours of service, which costs \$96,292 per clinic. The Health Department call center is currently averaging 250 per day from the public about the H1N1 flu.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

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