

# Mount Vernon Gazette



## HOLIDAY GIFT AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

**The Spirits of Christmas:**  
Past, Niko Velkoff; Present,  
Deborah Kamara, and Yet  
To Come, Jerry Halstead.  
Mount Vernon High School  
is presenting "A Christmas  
Carol" by Charles Dickens  
Dec. 9-12. See page 5.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

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**Sue Goodhart**

703.362.3221

www.suegoodhart.com

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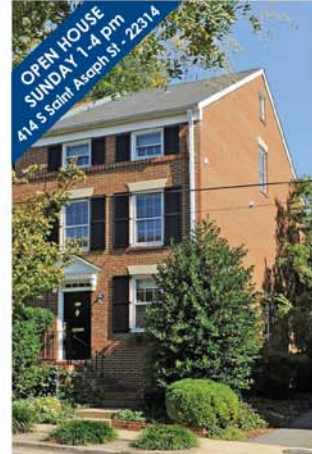
**Jeffery McGlothlin**

703.286.1269

9423MountVernonCircle@Alexandria-Homes.com

MLS ID# FX7404959

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$774,900



### Prime Location

Classic, Virginia red brick, three/four-bedroom townhouse on the Parade route of South Saint Asaph Street. Hardwood floors throughout, inviting living room with wood fireplace, a charming patio with covered arbor, plus an updated kitchen with granite and stainless appliances are some of its fine features. Walk to Lyles Crouch school, one block away. The Little Theatre, right around the corner, and countless fine restaurants and interesting shops within a few blocks of this special home.

**Babs Beckwith**

703.836.1297

www.Babsbeckwith.com

MLS ID# AX7455407



ALEXANDRIA/Del Ray \$589,000



### Del Ray Duplex

This large, three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath, Del Ray duplex has been updated and well-maintained. Recent updates include new HVAC, new water heater, new washer and dryer, all baths, electrical service and refinished floors. The home has an open floor plan that is great for today's lifestyles. Main level powder room. Spacious deck off kitchen leads to large, deep backyard. The fantastic location is just a short walk to the shops and restaurants of Del Ray and less than one mile to the Braddock Road Metro.

**Chris Hayes**

703.944.7737

www.HomesByHayes.com

MLS ID# AX7482971



ALEXANDRIA \$529,000



### Beautiful Home, Great Location!!!

Gorgeous and spacious, detached, four-bedroom home! Gourmet kitchen with upgraded stainless steel appliances, updated baths, rooms filled with sunlight, rec room with built-in bookcases, dining room with built-in corner cabinets, hardwood floors, private and fenced backyard, garage plus carport. Easy and quick access to GW Parkway, Route 1, and Old Town.

**Cecily Winchell**

703.851.9292

www.cecilywinchell.com

MLS ID# FX7476105



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$679,900



### Old Town Convenience

The whirl and bustle of city life lives outside and inside tranquility and history combine making this 1920 detached row home a peaceful retreat in the heart of it all. Perfect for the person who craves convenience and luxury with a historical sense, this fine residence is for you. Architectural features, steps to King Street, shopping and restaurants.

**Elizabeth Lucchesi**

703.868.5676

www.lizluke.com

MLS ID# AX7468774



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$274,900 & \$350,000



### Location and Panoramic Views!

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**Nada Seide**

703.350.3803

www.callnada.com

MLS ID# AX7408470 & AX7481047



ALEXANDRIA \$925,000



### Villamay

Custom-built brick rambler with over-sized two-car garage. Beautiful, private, 25,000+ square foot lot. Cul-de-sac location. Gourmet kitchen, breakfast room, walkout lower level. Family room with fireplace, brick patio. Great attic storage, his and hers office, separate dining room with pretty views from corner windows.

**Sarah King**

703.864.5050

www.mceneaney.com

MLS ID# FX7481699



ALEXANDRIA WEST \$449,000



### Totally Renovated Townhouse

2010 improvements include: kitchen with 42" cabinets, granite counters and stainless appliances; roof; HVAC; baths; complete lower level renovation; egress window for fourth bedroom; refinished floors; washer/dryer. 2,100 sq.ft. Master bedroom with walk-in closet and private bath. Easy access to 395, the Pentagon, Marc Center, DC, Old Town, and PTO.

**Chris Hayes**

703.944.7737

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# Look to Local Crafters for Gift Ideas

BY GALE CURCIO  
THE GAZETTE

**B**efore heading out to the mall this holiday season, take a few minutes to check out the local crafters. Shoppers may find that they can find that perfect present for Aunt Peggy, Grandma, mom and dad — or even some of the children right in their back yard. There are a plethora of highly qualified craft persons in this area. Here are a few that are worth checking out.

## neCCandi – Wearable Polymer Art

Carolyn Olsen, designer, and Cindy Spotswood, bead artist, design necklaces using hand crafted polymer beads. They mix these colorful beads with semi-precious stones, pearls, and crystal to create one-of-a-kind necklaces. These necklaces are lightweight and unusual. They also carry hand-crafted polymer flower pendants, rings, polymer pendants and brooches. Prices for items range from \$15 to \$85. They also welcome custom orders to match that special jacket or sweater.  
[www.neccandi.com](http://www.neccandi.com)

## Praha Jewelry Design

Praha Jewelry Design was founded in 1995 by Tracey Navratil. She uses the highest-quality semi-precious gemstones, 18K vermeil, 14K gold fill and sterling silver. Her designs are romantic and feminine —with an Old-World flair. Navratil is hosting a show at her home on Dec. 4.



**Aqua quartz, amethyst, citrine and pink topaz 18K vermeil (gold over sterling) and 14K gold fill necklace.**



**All-Swiss Blue Topaz and 18K vermeil and 14K gold fill necklace.**



**Large citrine rectangles and garnet in 18K vermeil and 14K gold fill earrings.**



**Carolyn Olsen, designer, and Cindy Spotswood, bead artist, design necklaces using hand-crafted polymer beads.**



**Some of the polymer beads used to make neCCandi products.**



**Sterling silver, Swarovski Crystal, and vintage (circa WWII) milk glass beads representing the birthstones of a family.**



**Sterling silver & Swarovski Crystal on stretch elastic — contains the prayer recipient's birthstone color and a verse on the card that corresponds to the charms.**



**Sterling silver and freshwater pearls. A bracelet with children's or grandchildren's names on it. Comes in many designs.**



**JJ Hogan displays one of her necklaces from Seahorse Designs.**



**A display of items from Seahorse Designs.**

COURTESY PHOTOS

Praha Jewelry Design items can also be found in the following stores:

### A Show of Hands

2301 Mt Vernon Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22301

### Artful Gift Shop

145B Church St. NW  
Vienna, VA 22180

### Brambles

307 Mill Street  
Occoquan, VA 22125

### Today's Cargo

1102 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

### Initial Impressions

7918 Ft. Hunt Rd.  
Alexandria, VA 22308

## Tracey Navratil Designer/Owner

2201 Whiteoaks Drive (Hollin Hills)  
Alexandria, VA 22306  
[www.prahajewelry.com](http://www.prahajewelry.com)  
[tracey@prahajewelry.com](mailto:tracey@prahajewelry.com)

## Hand painted and Personalized Gifts

**JJ Hogan**, artist, is a Wayneswood resident with an art business called Seahorse Designs. She creates hand-painted and personalized gifts inspired by antiques and art. All art is ready to frame in 8x10 and 11x14 sizes. Also available are classic and fun stationery or pad sets.

There are an abundance of designs to choose from — blending typestyles, monograms, motifs and hand-painting in watercolors, acrylics and metallics. Items are great for new baby, baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, retirement, new home and other events. Call and make an appointment or get a paper catalog delivered just in time for holiday orders.

Hogan will be selling her items at the Belle Haven Country Club, Christmas Luncheon, on Thursday, Dec. 2. She also does private parties and home shows.

## Seahorse Designs

[seahorsedesigns@cox.net](mailto:seahorsedesigns@cox.net)  
[www.seahorsedesigns.biz](http://www.seahorsedesigns.biz)  
703-965-2919

## Hand-painted Silk Scarves

**Laura Quilty** has been a vendor around this area for three years now. She is now a silk scarf artist and creates an array of beautifully designed scarves.

Quilty uses dyes from France and high-quality silk for her pieces. She likes for all her pieces to be different and one-of-a-kind. Customers either visit Quilty's shop to pick out their favorite pieces or Quilty will design custom pieces upon request.

She is doing several private home shows in December, but customers can also shop directly through her. Quilty has her scarves displayed in her house and she takes custom orders over the phone or in person.

[www.lauraquiltydesigns.net](http://www.lauraquiltydesigns.net)

## Handcrafted Jewelry and Mother's Bracelets

**Buckingham Style** is a line of exclusive handcrafted jewelry. The jewelry incorporates sterling silver, semi-precious stones, Swarovski crystals, freshwater pearls & vintage glass into keepsake gifts and fashion jewelry.

They have an extensive collection of prayer jewelry and custom personalized jewelry. Prayer pieces include the popular 23rd Psalm bracelet; The Lord's Prayer bracelet; birthstone rosaries and much more. Personalized jewelry includes mother's bracelets, family necklaces, sweet 16 necklaces, wedding bracelets, friendship bracelets and many others.

Buckingham Style also imports contemporary jewelry from Buenos Aires that is made of Argentinian components such as copper, leather, horn and sterling silver. And they have beautiful one of a kind sterling silver and beaded fashion jewelry.

## Beth Bottcher Buckingham Style

P.O. Box 149  
Mt. Vernon, VA 22121  
703-799-4844  
[www.buckinghamstyle.com](http://www.buckinghamstyle.com)

*Gale Curcio is an independent writer and public relations consultant in Mount Vernon.*

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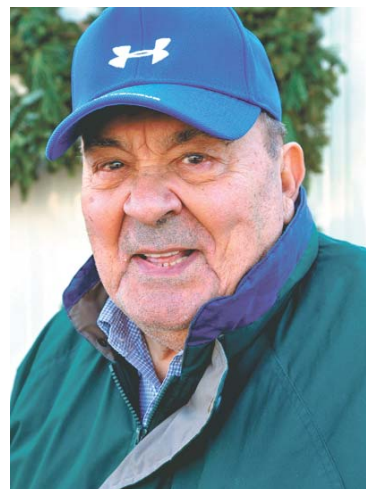
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## HOLIDAY GUIDE

# Kiwanis Christmas Tree Sale Opens in Belle View

Members of the Mt. Vernon Kiwanis spent hours ahead of Saturday's opening sale setting up trees in the Belle View Shopping Center. The annual tree sale benefits multiple local charities and non-profit organizations. The trees, Frazier Firs are cut from the Powers Tree Farm in southwestern Virginia. The sale goes on daily until Christmas.



Paul Mehler has been organizing and running the Kiwanis Christmas Tree Sale for the past 12 years.



The Burdick family chooses a tree.



Paul Mehler holds the tree in place as Richard Peterson cleans up the base.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

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- \$195 - New Year's Skinolution: Priori AHA Facial & Priori AHA Cleanser, Perfecting Gel & Barrier Cream
- \$525 - New Year, New You, Med Sampler: Vitalize Peel, Photofacial & 20 units of Botox
- \$49 - Obagi ELASTILash Eyelash Enhancer, Get Free Lash Tint w/ purchase
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\*offers valid through 12.31.10, restrictions may apply.

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# HOLIDAY GUIDE



**Young Scrooge (Austin Purkey) talks with Belle (Jenna Kraynak) as Scrooge (Axhon Ruiz Gonzalez) and the Spirit of Christmas Past (Niko Velkoff) look on.**



**The Cratchits: Logan Beveridge, Christina Hancock, Autumn Baker, Michele Werner and Aidan Ahearn.**

## 'A Christmas Carol'

Rehearsals are underway at Mount Vernon High School for a holiday performance of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. MVHS will perform the play at the school's little theatre from Dec. 9-12. The Dec. 9-10 performances will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday's performance will begin at 6 p.m. and Sunday's will begin at 4 p.m.

Tickets for the play are available by calling 703-619-3100 x3259 or via email to eademarco@fcps.edu

PHOTOS BY  
LOUISE KRAFFT/  
THE GAZETTE



**Oliver McKellips portrays Scrooge as a child as Scrooge himself, Axhon Ruiz Gonzalez, looks on from the stairwell.**



**Ebenezer Scrooge (Axhon Ruiz Gonzalez) is confronted by the ghost of his former partner Jacob Marley (Hayley Mixon).**



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Sunday, January 9  
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Admissions: 703.329.6968

[www.burgundyfarm.org](http://www.burgundyfarm.org)



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**703-768-7730**  
[rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com](mailto:rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com)



**Alex./Riverside Estates \$469,900**  
**3113 Battersea Lane**

Spectacular home on a spectacular lot backing to deep woods. Large Yorkshire model w/spacious 2-car garage. Numerous updates throughout to include: kit. w/bump-out, windows, roof, siding, furnace, gas fpl, etc. Finished basement plus lg hot tub overlooking a beaut & serene back yard. Priced well below market—This is a STEAL!



**Alex./Woodland \$619,000**  
**3232 Woodland Lane**

Lovely 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home on a spectacular .48 acre wooded lot in prestigious Woodland Park. Stunning sun-room addition in 2006. Cherry cabinets & Corian counters in large remodeled kitchen and updated baths, freshly painted interior and newer energy-efficient replacement windows. Spacious double carport with ample storage. Community boat ramp for water access. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Metro & Old Town, 25 to Natl. Airport & 30/35 to Pentagon/D.C.



**Alex./Riverside Estates \$559,900**  
**3112 Battersea Lane**

Beautiful remodeled 4 BR, 2.5 BA Colonial in popular Riverside Estates. Updates include: totally remodeled kit w/granite counters, baths, new carpet in family rm & basement. Interior freshly painted, refinished hdwd floors on main & upper levels. New HVAC & water heater, extensive landscaping. Great location! 6 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Huntington Metro and Old Town, 25 to National Airport & 35 to Pentagon/D.C.



**Westgate \$659,900**  
**9010 Volunteer Drive**

Beautiful traditional Colonial w/2-car side garage in fabulous Mount Vernon location. It is classy! Over .5 acre landscaped corner lot. Stunning sunroom addition. Hardwood floors main & upper levels. Family rm w/gas FP off kitchen. Wood FP in living room. Lovely kitchen w/Corian counters & large picture window facing scenic backyard. Sweet front porch. Large unfin bsmt: ample storage.



**Alex./Wessynton \$609,900**  
**3020 Cunningham Drive**

Priced Below Market for a Quick Sale! Lg 5 BR/2.5 BA Colonial w/2-car garage & full unfinished bsmt in Mt. Vernon's premiere contemporary subdivision of Wessynton. This home is priced to allow some updating. Lg covered screened porch off the family rm allows you to enjoy your beautiful private bkyd. Wessynton offers a pool, tennis court, & boat launch that allows quick access to the Potomac River - 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town Alex.



**Alex./Mt. Vernon \$464,900**  
**8424 Washington Avenue**

Absolute Cream Puff! Beautiful 3 BR, 2 BA Cape Cod /FPL, 3 finished levels & spectacular detached 2-car garage/workshop w/extra-wide asphalt driveway. Totally updated: kit, baths, HVAC, energy efficient dbl pane windows, refinished hdwd floors on main & upper levels, beautiful sunroom addition w/separate HVAC. Finished walk-out basement, interior painted, screened porch, spectacular .42 acre landscaped lot. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Huntington Metro/Old Town, 35 to D.C.



**Alex./Stratford Landing \$564,900**  
**8704 Waterford Rd.**

Spectacular, updated 2,500 sq ft, 4 BR, 3 BA, two-level Rambler in popular Stratford Landing. Turn-Key! Renovations since 2002 include: HVAC, hot water, roof, baths, kitchen (granite counters, maple cabinets), replacement windows, new deck, refinished lower level. Hdwd floors throughout main level. Newly landscaped yard. Scenic commute along Potomac River. Great location: 15 minutes to Ft. Belvoir or Old Town, 30 to Pentagon/D.C. Close to G.W. Parkway, Mount Vernon Bike Trail and beautiful park.

**For more information:**  
**www.RexReiley.com**



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# HOLIDAY GUIDE



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/GAZETTE PACKET

Guests walk by the gingerbread house made by Chef Roland Mesnier during the events at Christmas at Mount Vernon on Nov. 27.



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/GAZETTE PACKET

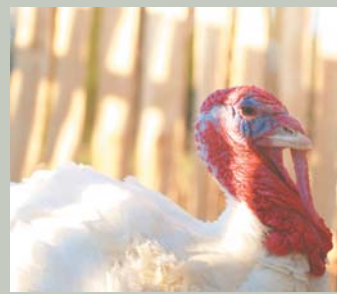
## Tasty Reproduction

**Chef Roland Mesnier and his staff members, Marlene Roudebush and Mark Ramsdell, present the Mount Vernon gingerbread house inside the gift shop area at Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens on Nov. 24.**



Children and guests play with George Washington's Christmas camel during Christmas at Mount Vernon on Nov. 27.

## Christmas at Mount Vernon



The National Thanksgiving Turkey is at Mount Vernon.



**Chef Roland Mesnier puts the finishing touches on the Mount Vernon gingerbread house.**



**'Mount Vernon by Candlelight'**  
Guests drink hot apple cider by the campfire during Mount Vernon by Candlelight on Nov. 26.

PHOTOS BY  
LASHAWN AVERY-SIMONS  
THE GAZETTE



**The Martin Family Band perform for guests as they enter Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens.**



**The West Potomac High School Colonial Singers perform.**

## NEWS

# In from The Cold

**Commendation for shelters open during last year's blizzard.**

**W**hile most in Northern Virginia prepare to celebrate the holidays in December, a coalition of churches and non-profit service agencies were scheduled to gather on Dec. 1 for a worship service to kick off the opening of the 2010-2011 Shelter Season at Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church.

Del. Scott Surovell was going to present Rising Hope Mission Church, New Hope Housing, and VIC-HOP with a General Assembly Resolution commending them for remaining open during the 2010 Blizzards and saving the lives of many individuals who may have otherwise been on the streets.

If someone is in need of overnight shelter, call the Fairfax county non emergency phone line at 703-691-2131, TTY 711. County emergency personnel will work with the caller to determine which shelter option is best. In addition to the county program, throughout the winter in the south county area along the Route One corridor from Dec. 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011, Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church provides the sheltering site while Ventures in Community (VIC-HOP), a consortium of faith-based communities in the south county area provides meals and overnight volunteers, supported by New Hope Housing, a non-profit organization that operates two county homeless shelters nearby. See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless)

United Community Ministries (UCM) assists homeless individuals and families with selected food as well as coats, hats, and gloves. Visit [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org)

To contact Rising Hope/VIC-HOP Hypothermia Shelter visit [www.risinghopeumc.org](http://www.risinghopeumc.org) or call 703-472-6100

— GERALD A. FILL

## Correction

In "Lesson Learned" [The Gazette, Nov. 25], "Keep in Touch" was identified as the West Potomac High School newsletter. It is a system for e-mail and phone communication of specific information to parents and other groups by schools and the school system's central office.

YOU'RE INVITED

# Tartan Party

December 2, 3 & 4  
All stores open at 9am Thur, Fri & Sat

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## Del Ray Artisans Fine Art & Craft

# Holiday Market

**Friday, December 3: 6 - 9pm**  
Reception includes hot food from Sapore D'Italia Ristorante

**Saturday, December 4: 10am - 6pm**  
**Sunday, December 5: Noon - 4pm**

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## NEWS

# Beware Medical Identity Theft

**Seminar educates senior citizens.**

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

**F**airfax County's Office of Cable Communications & Consumer Affairs representative Vee Johnson briefed seniors at the Hollin Hall Community Center recently on ways to protect against medical identity theft.

In her presentation, Johnson pointed out that criminals use both high- and low-tech methods to steal medical and other personal information. She said that there are very sophisticated thieves using a variety of identity theft techniques, but there are also uninsured persons who are interested in helping himself or herself, a friend, or a member of the family who lacks medical insurance and needs medical care that he or she can't afford. One has to be watchful for all types of criminal identity theft which, if it occurs, can affect one's credit rating, cause loss of money or serious legal and privacy rights problems, and even jeopardize one's health because of the insertion of someone else's medical records.

This seminar was co-sponsored by the Fairfax County Cable Communications and Consumer Affairs and Mount Vernon S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together).

Here are the five most common ways identity theft, including medical identity theft, happens, as described in a Federal Trade Commission document handed out and discussed at the Hollin Hall conference:

- ❖ **Dumpster Diving.** They rummage through trash looking for bills or other paper with your personal information on it.

- ❖ **Skimming.** They steal credit/debit card numbers by using a special storage device when processing your card.

- ❖ **Phishing.** They pretend to be financial institutions or companies and send spam or pop up messages to get you to reveal your personal information.

- ❖ **Changing your address.** They divert your billing statements to another location by completing a change of address form.

- ❖ **Old-fashioned stealing.** They steal wallets, purses, mail, including bank and credit card statements, pre-approved credit card offers, and new checks or tax information. They steal personnel records from their employers, or bribe employees who have access to personnel records.

In addition to the above, Johnson reviewed consumer protection documents which described the ways one can help identify if one has been a victim of medical identity theft:

- ❖ You get a bill for medical services you didn't receive.

- ❖ A debt collector contacts you about a medical

debt you don't owe.

- ❖ You order a copy of your credit report and see medical collection notices you don't recognize.

- ❖ You try and make a legitimate insurance claim and your health plan says you've reached your limit on benefits.

- ❖ You are denied insurance because your medical records show a condition you don't have.

If anyone experiences any of the above or a combination of these, he or she should report this information to the local consumer consumer affairs agency, the primary care doctor who has been treating him or her, one's medical institution, the financial crimes office of the police department, or the Federal Trade Commission.

### PREVENTING MEDICAL IDENTITY THEFT

What should you do to avoid medical identity theft? Johnson listed the following techniques to prevent medical identity theft:

- ❖ Don't give out personal or medical information on the phone or through the mail unless you have initiated the contact and you are certain you know whom you are dealing with.

- ❖ If you keep copies of your medical or insurance records make sure they are secure.

- ❖ Treat your trash carefully. Shred no longer necessary health insurance forms or medical or drug prescription and physician records.

- ❖ Make sure the claims paid match the care you received.

- ❖ Periodically order a copy of your credit reports. Why? Because if your credit report reflects debts you are unaware of, it may indicate identity theft has

occurred. The law requires each of three major credit reporting companies to provide you with a free credit report: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.

- ❖ Request a free annual credit report through: [www.annualCreditReport.com](http://www.annualCreditReport.com) or call: 1-877-322-8228. You can download the form at [www.ftc.gov/freereports](http://www.ftc.gov/freereports)

- ❖ Order a security freeze. Also known as a credit freeze, it locks down one's credit file and blocks access by potential creditors. It prevents someone from opening up new accounts without approval. Importantly, placing a credit freeze does not affect one's credit score, opening a

new account, or renting an apartment or buying insurance. A credit freeze will cost a nominal fee to place a freeze or lift it.

Here are the three national credit companies that you can order a freeze on your credit file if you suspect that you have been a victim of identity theft:

**Equifax Security Freeze**  
P.O. Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348

**Experian Security Freeze**  
P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013

**Trans Union Security Freeze**  
P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92834-6790



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Online resources to prevent, report, advise on medical identity theft:

[www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft) - to learn more about ID theft and how to prevent, detect, and defend against it. This site is managed by the Federal Trade Commission.

[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) - to obtain a free credit report. This is the only legitimate free reporting website. All others require a registration processing fee. Periodic review of your credit report may help you to identify if you are a victim of ID theft.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer) - to seek advice on your rights, and how to go about filing a consumer complaint.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police) - or call: 703-246-7800, If you suspect identity theft you can file a report with the financial crimes section of the Fairfax County Police Department.

<http://medicalrecordrights.georgetown.edu> - You have a right to review your medical records. Questions? Contact the Center on Medical Rights and Privacy

Virginia Department of Health Professions - to file a complaint about a health professional. [www.enfcomplaints@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:www.enfcomplaints@dhp.virginia.gov) or Telephone: 1-800-533-1560; fax: 804-527-4424

[www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacyhowtofile.htm](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacyhowtofile.htm) - or 1-800-368-1019- Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Health and Human Services if you believe your rights to get and amend your medical records have been violated. This office will help you file a complaint and advise you on your rights.

Highly informative and reliable online medical information websites: MedlinePlus; Healthfinder.gov; and Healthcare.gov



# Multiplex Blues Does Richmond Highway need another big box store?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

**D**el. Scott Surovell (D-44) remembers a time when the old drive-in movie theater on Richmond Highway was a neighborhood favorite, offering two screens facing opposite directions with a concession stand in the middle. The delegate admits that he would sometimes look in the wrong direction to sneak a peak at the R-rated movies playing on the other side of the field.

Those days are long gone, and the drive-in was replaced by a massive Multiplex in 1986. When it was new, the Multiplex offered one of the best video game selections in the area — everything from Galaga and Ms. Pac Man to Tron. The Multiplex became so popular that a handful of older movie theaters were forced to shut their doors.

Flash forward a decade and AMC began opening movie houses throughout the region with stadium seating. Slowly, the Multiplex became a relic of an earlier time. By the summer of 2007, what had once been the thriving hotspot of Richmond Highway was forced to shut its doors. Since then, the abandoned building has presided over a stretch of the corridor that's particularly clogged — a symbol of how failing transportation infrastructure and sluggish rede-

**The Multiplex has been closed since summer 2007.**



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE GAZETTE

velopment work hand in glove.

"Redevelopment hasn't happened because traffic is a disaster," said Surovell, a freshman member of the House of Delegates. "That's probably the reason for the limited interest in the site."

**NOW BIG BOX** retailer Costco is trying to get the necessary approval from the county to construct a massive new store at the site of the old Multiplex. Its first site plan was rejected by a subcommittee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, but

a reconfigured layout is expected in the coming months. Meanwhile, those who have advocated for redevelopment on Richmond Highway say adding traffic to the existing gridlock would be disastrous.

"If nothing is done to make this intersection better, it's going to be a nightmare," said Kahan Dhillon, chairman of the council's strategic planning committee. "What this area needs is a thorough transportation analysis and a reconfiguration."

Next week, pieces of the old Multiplex will be auctioned off at a liquidation sale —

deconstructing the building piece by piece. Items will include 3,100 theater seats, concession stands, office furniture and even the outside marquee. The move to get rid of existing assets is a recognition that the days of the Multiplex are officially over. But whatever is replacing them has yet to materialize, prompting a degree of soul searching about the corridor and its future. Some see Costco as a wonderful addition to the community. "They have been a good neighbor in other areas," said Mount Vernon Council co-chairman Al Bommann, adding that he was speaking for himself not the council. "So I would assume they would do the same thing here."

**OTHERS ARE** skeptical. Yet because there has been no community agreement about the future of Richmond Highway, a sense of uncertainty has created a need for short-term solutions. Until the road can be widened and transit options added to the corridor, Surovell says a Costco would be better than leaving the area vacant. But then there's the question of whether or not adding another big-box retailer is smart growth.

"My constituents keep telling me they are excited about the potential for a Costco here," said Surovell. "But I'm not sure everybody has thought through the traffic implications of what that means."

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**Mount Vernon Gazette**

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# OPINION

## Holiday Safety Net for Celebrating with Alcohol

Plan ahead, have a designated driver and carry the SoberRide number.

### Safely Home

Washington Regional Alcohol Program's 2010 Holiday SoberRide program will begin at 10 p.m., Friday, Dec. 17, 2010, and run through 6 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011. To receive a free cab ride home up to a \$30 fare, call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older. WRAP needs sponsors and contributions to continue to offer this service. See [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org) to contribute.

The season for holiday parties is upon us, and with it the increased incidence of driving under the influence. This year, with increased awareness about so-called "distracted driving," it's worth noting that both driving after drinking at a party and using your cell phone while you drive are behaviors you can control.

The possible consequences of driving drunk and underage drinking are often hard to comprehend, but the stories and grief of local families who have lost loved ones to such accidents provide a chilling reminder.

William Cameron Schlifke, born in Fairfax and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, less than three days after he was rear-ended in Newport News. He was 22. Schlifke was serving as designated driver for friends in his fraternity at Christopher Newport University. The driver who crashed into him, 20 at the time and also a student at CNU, was arrested at the scene and charged with DUI refusal, reckless driving and underage possession of alcohol, and was convicted of manslaughter.

Unfortunately, such tragedy is not rare. In

fall 2008, a different young man from Fairfax was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter because of a drunk-driving accident on Dec. 3, 2007 that resulted in the death of one of his friends in the car and permanent injury for another. One family lost a beloved daughter after she clung to life for five brutal days; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and "unresponsive" and living in a nursing home.

Such tragedies, if they do not touch us personally, often seem remote. Perhaps in these tough economic times, it's also worth adding up some the financial cost of an arrest for driving under the influence. In Fairfax County, there were more than 3,100 arrests for driving under the influence in 2008. In Arlington, 677 arrests. In Alexandria, 515 arrests. In the City of Fairfax, 181 arrests. Such an arrest is likely to cost as much as \$20,000 or more in legal fees. A conviction results in long term increases in insurances costs of \$1,500 a year or more. A conviction could result in losing a job. And once convicted you'll have to answer "yes" on any job application that asks if you have been convicted of a crime.

**DON'T TAKE THE RISK.** Plan ahead, leave your car at home, take public transportation, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home on your own this holiday season, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with you when you head out, and be sure any young adults (must be 21 or over) in your family are similarly armed.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. The program gave more than 500 people a safe ride home on Halloween weekend this year.

Parents are well advised to talk to their teens and let them know that if they find themselves without a safe ride home, that they can call their parents to be picked up. There are consequences of binge drinking for teens that go beyond driving under the influence. But it is also important for parents to let their teens know that whatever happens, it is not OK to drink and drive or to get into a car driven by someone who has been drinking.

WRAP's 2010 Holiday SoberRide program is available beginning from 10 p.m., Friday, Dec. 17 to 6 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older. (Callers are responsible for anything over \$30.)

pounds of cans, bottles, Styrofoam, and tires from Dyke Marsh tells me that Dyke Marsh has far greater problems than trace amounts of dog poop. Further, commonsense would suggest that the expansive watershed feeding Dyke Marsh, including homes, condominiums, yards, parking lots, roads, gas stations, and a golf course would have far bigger impact on the marsh than a few off leash dogs at Westgrove.

For those who seek to be friendly to Dyke Marsh, a focus on the real threats would be far more productive. The threat of off leash dogs is a red herring.

So is the concern about ground nesting birds at Westgrove. Surely the lawnmowers that have kept Westgrove's fields neatly trimmed for the past 50 years are a bigger problem for these birds.

Another red herring is the issue of E. coli contamination. Those that fear E. coli fail to recognize that this bacteria is a natural part of all of our digestive systems. Normal new born babies get E. coli within hours of birth. Yes, dogs have E. coli too, but then so do all the other mammals that frequent our homes, yards, parks, and marshes. It seems reasonable that dogs that benefit from extensive veterinary care are probably healthier than the wildlife depositing poop in the watershed 24/7.

Another red herring involves cost and parking. Dog owners need no improvements to make Westgrove viable as an off leash area. Somehow we have done just fine without such

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Red Herrings: New Invasive Species

To the Editor

Frankly, I am amazed with the exaggerated concerns surrounding the use of Westgrove Park as a temporary off leash dog area.

For example, some have expressed fear that

dog excrement could escape an owner's clean-up duties and, with a big enough rain, have decomposing traces eventually washed to Dyke Marsh.

My own experience cleaning up hundreds of



**Special Delivery** WPGC personalities and staff made a special delivery of Thanksgiving baskets to the Gum Springs Community Center. The baskets were complete with a turkey and all of the trimmings for a Thanksgiving feast. Lil' Mo, Anji Corley, Shack Nd Pack, Guy Lambert, DJ Flexx, Danella, Herkules and Gum Springs Community Center director Kenya Turner greet Gum Spring residents with Thanksgiving baskets at the Community Center on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 23. Diddy, formerly known as P Diddy or Puff Daddy, rapper/mogul, CEO of Bad Boy Entertainment and founder of Sean John clothing line and fragrance donated the 20 baskets.

## 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.  
1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

improvements for years until animal control started ticketing us. Nothing needs to be constructed in the protected areas, no superhighways, no new parking. There is ample parking at existing county facilities at the library and rec center, with a pre-existing trail leading to Westgrove.

I also hear stories of dogs that escaped Westgrove under the fence. The way these stories are told, you'd think grey wolves had escaped Yellowstone to ravage River Tower livestock.

Seriously, the family pets at Westgrove present no danger to the community. Why can the City of Alexandria have eight unfenced dog parks, whereas a resident of River Towers feels unprotected by a tower, moat (literally), fence, and thick woods screening the complex from the park? How much protection does River Towers need from wagging dogs chasing balls and sticks?

I've been to enough community meetings to realize there will always be exaggerated concerns about any local proposal. What concerns me most is the reaction from the Park Authority — a group of professionals that are surely not swayed by red herring arguments. Why do they oppose this commonsense, no cost proposal that would instantly address the highest unmet need in the park system? After all, all that is needed is for the Park Authority to approve one sentence on a piece of paper. The answer is that they are afraid it would set a precedent. Well folks, we're in trouble when

the government considers commonsense to be a bad precedent.

**Steve Nixon**

Mount Vernon Resident for 17 years.

## Unequal Opportunity

To the Editor:

We are pleased West Potomac High School administrators responded to our requests to roll back the recently instituted no-penalty cheating and incomplete grading policies.

Effective with Friday's message from the West Potomac principal, West Potomac High School has adopted Unified School Discipline Policy where students receive forfeiture of credit for incidents of cheating or plagiarism, thereby ending a period of policies which encouraged cheating and rewarded students for late or no completion of academic work.

We're glad to see that. Those morally-corrupt policies were adopted earlier this Fall to avoid having F grades awarded for cheating and late/incomplete work factored into student grades because inclusion of those failures works against efforts to meet rising federal standards of student / school achievement. The effect of no-penalty cheating and incomplete work was to have fewer F's awarded which is a way to raise student and school grade levels without raising achievement. No Fs for cheating and

incomplete work also — unfortunately — worked to encouraged both bad behaviors.

It was by these two misguided decisions, each with predictable outcomes, that West Potomac lost its way.

However, it remains to be seen whether the rollback of the misguided policies will endure the expected adoption of Mastery Learning, an instructional paradigm favored by the school principal, Mr. Hardison.

Mastery theory, much studied, traces its origin to the '60s. It works well in training environments where students need to achieve a specified level of proficiency in specific tasks and no more. The military services have employed it for years, with modification, in conducting intermediate and advanced training across a spectrum of physical tasks. Mastery assures the lowest common denominator and the brightest student each master the same material; the weakest student can be certified at the end of the course and the organization doesn't "waste" resources "over-training" at the high end.

Assuring all students learn at the same level — and no more — works well for skills such as aircraft and ship systems operations, maintenance and repair. It works less well in educational settings where high levels of learning are the desired outcome and where all students are encouraged to advance to the highest possible levels of learning, the faster the better.

In essence, Mastery works well in training situations; less well in educational set-

tings — both are learning environments but each has different goals.

It may be that West Potomac High School may be contemplating adopting a modified version of Mastery Learning more suitable to education settings; we'll have to see how that goes when the full scope of the program becomes available for review.

If Mastery theory is adopted without modification, however, West Potomac High School students may find themselves back in a situation where there's no-penalty cheating and no F's for late and incomplete work because, in Mastery, both are considered 'behaviors' that do not affect learning grades. Students are graded when they "learn to the standard" — when they have "Mastered" the work. In a hierarchical grading system (letter grades A through F), all students who meet the standard could qualify for an A.

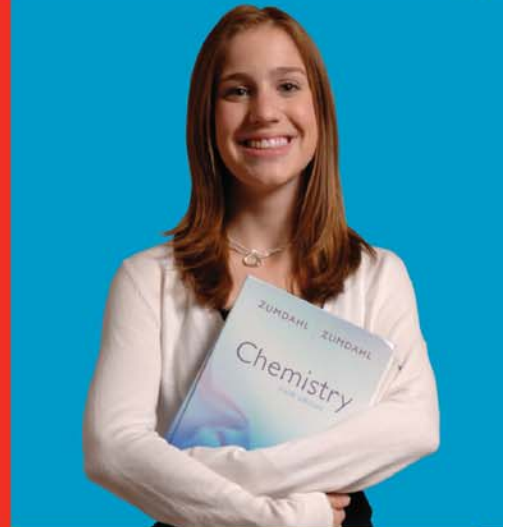
There will be "no" failures, no F's, and no zeros or F's for incomplete work since both failure to learn is not an option and time to learn or complete projects is not a factor. This will certainly have a positive impact on grades where ever it is adopted; the question is, once adopted, how high (or low) is the standard? Will we have to "dumb-down" the curriculum at West Potomac to get there? We hope not.

This situation bears close watching.

It's the planned elimination of Honors Programs that's the most immediate concern now. In its drive to eliminate F's and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

thereby report "higher" average grades to please number-crunchers at the County, State, and Federal level, Fairfax County has embarked on a methodical effort to raise marginal performers by improving their opportunities for learning (and thereby to get higher grades) while eliminating the same opportunity to raise levels of learning among the vast majority of students — those students functioning at a higher level of learning than General Ed course-work but below that of Advanced Placement classes (college credit courses). While hard numbers were not readily available for this paper, in conversation with administrators, it is believed the middle cohort numbers around 1,600 – 1,700 of the approximately 2,200 students at West Potomac or more than 70 percent.

That Fairfax County would adopt an unequal education policy, for any reason, is an insult to those who set the County on a course to establish some of the nation's best school and to those students and parents who rely on our County leadership to set high standards and stay the course.

But, for the County to implement these changes in policy without consultation and, as is suspected, in a naked attempt to raise student and school grades by eliminating consideration of aberrant behavior, shreds the fabric which once held together the County, its schools, teachers, students, and parents.

Why Fairfax County gives special attention and resources to the bottom and the top but not to the vast middle is the question teachers, students, and parents are asking. There is no rationale to provide unequal opportunity to three different groups of students; it's illogical, poor public policy, and a reason to question the fitness of administrators to hold appointed or elected office.

We will press this case and bring

this inequity to the attention of the highest levels; it's an assault on the legacy of those who worked so hard to develop Fairfax County schools to be the envy of the nation - and - it is as immoral as the policies we recently fought so hard and successfully overturned – no F's for cheating and incomplete course work.

This is another key issue facing Fairfax County teachers and parents we are following closely and hope to change.

**Barry Meuse**  
Alexandria

## Committed To Responding

To the Editor:

I am writing to correct some misreporting that took place in last week's article headlined "Lesson Learned." Fairfax County School Board policies on cheating have not changed; if a student cheats there will be behavioral and academic consequences proportionate to the dishonesty's severity. The School Board did adopt a new grading policy last year, with widespread community support, that brought our policies in line with most other school systems in the country. These policies continue to include "Fs" and "zeros" and time-limited use of incompletes. Information about these policies can be found at our website, [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu), or you may email me and I will send them to you.

It was reported that I had not returned phone calls from the reporter. No phone call was received by me from the reporter, who has my cell phone number. It was also reported that the recently organized parent group, "Real World, Real Grades," had not received a return phone call from me. In meeting with group members Tuesday evening, they confirmed that no calls to me had been unreturned and that I had been responsive in our email exchanges.

In my discussions with group members Tuesday, I strongly supported the recent corrective action by the principal to reaffirm School Board policies, as well as the West Potomac High School community reviewing grading, cheating and honors versus Advanced Placement classes issues and considering what is best for our students and community. I expect to be very involved in those discussions as well.

I remain deeply committed to responding promptly to the needs and concerns of our residents and ensuring that each of our schools provide a very challenging learning environment that enable each and every student to reach their full potential. Thank you.

**Dan Storck**

Mount Vernon  
District Representative  
Fairfax County School Board

## Wasteful Spending

To the Editor:

It won't be too long before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) will be preparing the county budget. Unfortunately, most politicians usually take the easy way out, as the first order of business, to raise taxes instead of doing their job of making real assessments of all programs and services to determine whether they are essential and, if so, that they are operated efficiently and cost effectively.

As an example of excess spending, the county purchased 672 apartments units for \$107.5 million for an average of \$159, 970 per unit. However, the assessed value at the time for those units was only \$73,621 or only 46.02 percent of what the BOS agreed to pay. The total payment over the assessed value was \$58 million. No small piece of change. Further, when you add the cost of making

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

## La Petite Hairstylists

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1703 Belle View Boulevard, Alexandria  
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## SHOP, DINE & CELEBRATE

On Alexandria's Historic Main Streets

Everything you love, is close to home — Alexandria's thriving art scene, critically acclaimed restaurants, and chic boutiques nestled in distinctive neighborhoods. For events, restaurant reservations, or to plan your getaway, go to [VisitAlexandriaVA.com](http://VisitAlexandriaVA.com).

- Dec. 3: **Del Ray Holiday Luminarias**
- Dec. 4: **40th Annual Campagna Center Scottish Christmas Walk Parade**
- Dec. 4: **Holiday Boat Parade of Lights**
- Dec. 4: **Christmas in Camp**
- Dec. 11&12: **Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours**
- Dec. 19: **Holiday Favorites with the Colonial Handbell Ringers**
- Dec. 31: **First Night Alexandria**

Virginia  
*Alexandria*

[VISITALEXANDRIA.COM](http://VISITALEXANDRIA.COM) Mobile Web Ready Site  
703.746.3301



Visit us online for a complete calendar of events and sign up for our free Access Alexandria e-newsletter.  
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## Shop Local

**For all your holiday wants and wishes!**



**Mount Vernon-Lee**  
**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Local businesses support the community by contributing to our schools, funding children's sports teams, donating to charities, and improving our quality of life.

Wishing you a Merry & Bright Holiday Season!

[www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org](http://www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org)  
Online Business Directory



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Managing Brokers  
Anne Rector & Bill Jourdan

## 3 HOMES FOR UNDER \$500,000! OPEN SUNDAY!



**9316 Allwood Dr**  
\$489,500  
Absolutely Impeccable! New Price! Stunning home features bright open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings on main level. This fabulous property has been substantially updated and is in absolutely impeccable condition. Gleaming hardwood floors, track lighting, finished lower level, garage and much more! Gorgeous setting on half acre tract fronting a quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon. OPEN SUN 12/5, 1-4. GW Pky S, past estate; L-Ferry Landing; L-Allwood.



**7106 Colgate Dr**  
\$499,500  
*Hollin Glen-Super Value!*  
WOW!!! MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION! OWNER WANTS IMMEDIATE SALE. Owners have priced to sell immediately! Spacious home in prime location just minutes from Old Town. Many special features include: updated kitchen, 4 large BRs, 3BAs, hardwood floors, fin LL, 2 fireplaces, fenced in rear yard with two level deck. Move fast nothing like it at this price in prime 'close-in' market! OPEN SUN 12/5, 1-4. GW Pky S, R-Belle Haven Rd; L-Fort Hunt; R-Rollins; L-Colgate.



**3427 Ramsgate Terr**  
\$499,500  
Like New by Wakefield! Total renovation by area's leading custom builder! This home was stripped to the shell and re-built to the highest standards. Many fabulous features typically found in builder's million dollar custom homes include: stunning gourmet kitchen, custom hardwood floors, thermal windows, main level master bedroom, 3 new baths and finished lower level. New home luxury at re-sale price. Unique opportunity! OPEN SUN 12/5, 1-4. S GW Pky; Sharp R on 235; R-Battersea; L-Wagon Wheel; L-Ramsgate.



**1702 Cool Spring Dr**  
\$569,000  
New Home Features- Re-Sale Price!  
Unique Opportunity! Total renovation in popular Ft. Hunt area. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home has been stripped to bare walls by leading custom builder. Everything is brand new: chef's kitchen with custom 42" cabinets, granite counters, luxury baths, gorgeous hardwood floors, upgraded trim detail. Feels like new home at half the price!



**7115 Colgate Dr**  
\$695,000



**9335 Brambly Ln**  
\$649,900



**3618 Old Vernon Court**  
\$859,900



**8709 Gateshead Rd**  
\$559,000



**First Open - Just Completed!**  
**8826 Camden St** \$874,900  
Unique opportunity-Brand new custom home by Wakefield on stunning large tract spanning both sides of creek in prestigious Stratford Landing. Fabulous floor plan loaded with upgrades! OPEN SUN 12/5, 1-4. S GW Pky; R-Stratford; L-Camden..



**9316 Heather Glen Dr** \$650,000  
**Price Slashed! Large Colonial!**  
The most house for the money in area! 3 level, 4BR, 2 car garage colonial with the most spectacular family room addition you will ever find! Curved all glass walls and screen porch overlook fabulous custom pool. Originally priced in the \$800's. Owner wants immediate sale and has slashed the price accordingly!



**6515 Princeton Dr**  
\$749,900  
*Classic Colonial - Near Old Town!*  
PRICE REDUCTION!  
Move in ready! Spacious home in Belle Haven area. Center hall colonial with up to date floor plan featuring kit with SS & granite, family room, 4BRs, 3.5BAs, fin LL & oversized 2 car gar. "Close In" location with 2 tiered deck & seasonal river views.



**4504 Neptune Dr**  
\$479,900  
Prestigious Yacht Haven Estates  
Great Potential! Large brick rambler on gorgeous 1/2 acre lot near river in Yacht Haven Est. Many features include: maintenance free exterior, 4BRs on main level, including master with private bath, large room sizes, 2 FPs, hardwood floors, huge lower level family room w/fireplace plus storage area! Exceptional price provides opportunity to create your own masterpiece!



**4408 Tarpon Ln**  
\$625,000  
*Yacht Haven-Near River!*  
Spacious four level home has been meticulously maintained. Absolutely gorgeous half acre lot within walking distance of clubhouse and river in this fabulous waterfront community. Both home and grounds are in exceptional condition. Significant upgrades include luxurious baths, hardwood floors and much updating throughout. Unique opportunity to be near water at reasonable price.



**6309 Barrister Pl**  
\$649,900  
*Elegant Townhome*  
*Olde Belle Haven Towne*  
Prestigious Belle Haven on the Green's large model. Prime location across from the grounds of Belle Haven C.C. Stately townhome abounds w/old world charm and modern efficiency. Special features include 3 finished levels and spacious walled garden, gourmet kit and more. Exceptionally attractive price for this gorgeous community. Just minutes to Old Town.



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**  
**2329 CREEK DR**  
Alexandria / South  
\$995,000  
WATERFRONT. Launch a boat from the 80' dock & cruise the Potomac in mins. HW, 2 fp, 3-4BR/3BA, updated kit/BAS, indoor pool, and sauna.  
[www.marylousage.com](http://www.marylousage.com)  
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441



**3701 COLONIAL AVE / Alexandria**  
\$874,900  
INVITING HOME YET STATELY with upgrades too numerous to mention. 3 fin levels, 4 BR/4.5BA, main level w/great flow, gourmet kitchen, stunning master suite, w-out lower level complete w/lg rec room and in-laws/au-pair suite plus much more!  
The Kohler Team  
Heidi 703.609.7367 or Elke 703.967.7633



**9324 OLD MANSION RD**  
\$2,249,990  
Captivating views! Exquisite residence to be built by Keswick Homes. Sited on the banks of the Potomac River, highlights include gourmet kitchen, 2-story great room, master suite, luxury baths, side-load garage & more.  
Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252



**5910 MAYFLOWER CT #5910**  
Alexandria  
\$200,000  
Fabulous 2 level, 2BR, 2.5BA Townhouse style condo w/completely renovated kitchen, updated baths, paint & carpet. Condo fees includes utilities. A must see!  
Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913



**"The Giving Tree"**  
20 years ago the Agents of the Long & Foster Old Town office began our annual "Giving Tree" as a way to give something back to our community. Each year the Alexandria Public Schools identify for us a number of Alexandria families truly in need, and a Holiday Wish List for each child. AGENT contributions of toys, games, children's clothes, monetary donations (for food vouchers), and your help give these CHILDREN and their FAMILIES A GREAT HOLIDAY.  
Your donations to this worthy cause will be greatly appreciated!  
Please stop by our office OR contact/mail to:  
Bill Jourdan OR Janice Allen (703.683.0400)  
400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Please make checks payable to: Long & Foster's Giving Tree



**14215 BISMARK AVE**  
Woodbridge  
\$194,500  
GREAT DEAL! Great Location! Renovated single family w/garage on huge fenced lot backing to woods. 3/4BR/2BA. Deck off of open kit w/ table space. Bi-level interior. Main level family room & bedrooms, great for in-law suite or office. Close to Potomac Mills and I-95.  
[www.WaynewoodRealtors.com](http://www.WaynewoodRealtors.com)  
Anita 202.460.1809 & Elke 703.967.7633



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**  
**4161 LEGATO RD**  
Fairfax / \$639,000  
JUST LISTED! Sophisticated 3BR/3.5BA townhome in Centerpointe. With 4 finished levels, this home features a gourmet kit, master suite, gas fireplace, finished loft w/full bath that opens to rooftop terrace and more!  
Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841



**5306 CHIEFTAIN CIR**  
Alexandria 22312  
\$439,900  
SUPER CONVENIENT! Garage townhouse w/3BR, 2.5BA - Inside Beltway - Super location for easy commuting - Shows beautifully & bathed in light - Open style kitchen w/access to deck - Large master bedroom w/luxury bath - Fireplace Great closets - Don't Miss It! For an appt. call...  
Annelise Smith 703.505.2533

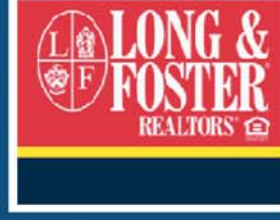


**7808 LEE AVENUE**  
Alexandria / Mt. Vernon  
\$799,000  
BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME! One acre level lot in 22308. Renovate and add on existing home or tear down and start over. Neighborhood of larger lots and custom built homes. Don't miss this opportunity! Waynewood Elementary School.  
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Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary  
Invites you to

## JOIN US FOR THE 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LIGHTS OF LOVE CEREMONY



LIVING TREES LIGHTED IN THE MEMORY OF LOVED ONES  
AND TO HONOR SPECIAL FRIENDS  
WILL BE LIT AT THE 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LIGHTS OF LOVE CEREMONY

**Saturday, December 4, at 5:00 p.m.**  
in the Hospital Main Lobby

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital  
2501 Parker's Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22306

**Admission is FREE**

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

Ceremony includes Festival of Music by Cleve Francis, MD.

Reception follows in the cafeteria.

To honor a family member or friend, call **703-664-7260** to make a \$5 donation or for more information about the 2010 Lights of Love ceremony.



Inova Health System is a not-for-profit healthcare system.

# HOLIDAY GUIDE



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

## The Nutcracker Is Dec. 2-4

The Alexandria Community Nutcracker will run for three nights the first week of December (2nd, 3rd, and 4th), with an additional matinee performance on Saturday, Dec. 4 all performed in the West Potomac High School Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at <http://www.alexandriadance.com/>. The Alexandria Community Nutcracker is an original full-length community Nutcracker choreographed by local dance teachers Gennifer Lisenby, Courtney Betzel, and Adrienne Magnuson and featuring the West Potomac Dance Academy and many young dancers from the community.

## Holiday Concert Series

Enjoy the festive sounds of the season in Alexandria as a break between shopping, on your way to dinner, or just to get into the holiday spirit. Come enjoy local performers with their rich talent as they entertain you during this festive time of year. Types of music featured include barbershop, folk, Hanukah favorites, hand bell ringers and good old fashioned caroling. All the performances are free and held outdoors. Concerts will be cancelled due to inclement weather. For up to date information, call the City's Special Events Hotline at 703-746-5592. These concerts are scheduled at Market Square, 301 King St.

### SUNDAY, DEC. 5

- 2 p.m. — Shir Tze'ir (Jewish a cappella);
- 3 p.m. — The Alexandria Singers (Choral);

### SATURDAY, DEC. 11

- 1 p.m. — Bell's Angels, St. John's Lutheran Church Handbell Choir (Handbells);
- 2 p.m. — Alexandria Harmonizers (Men's Barbershop);

### SUNDAY, DEC. 12

- 2 p.m. — St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Handbell Choir (Handbells);
- 3 p.m. — Blue Book Value Band (Swing Blues);

The public is encouraged to take public transit or walk to the event. Visitors to Old Town can take the Metrorail lines to the King Street Station, and then take the free King Street Trolley to the event. For DASH schedule information, call 703-370-DASH or visit [www.dashbus.com](http://www.dashbus.com).



Alexandria Harmonizers Holiday Concert at Market Square



PHOTOS/ARI MCSHERRY

T.C. Williams senior Maria Simpkins, right, plays the Ghost of Christmas Past in "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge," a special late night show at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. Steve Izant is Ebenezer Scrooge.

# 'A Christmas Carol'

The Charles Dickens classic, "The Christmas Carol," opens Dec. 3 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE GAZETTE

Even though she plans to major in dramatic arts when she heads off to college next year, the opening night jitters were still there for T.C. Williams senior Maria Simpkins when she made her debut in "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge," now playing at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

"It was slightly nerve-wracking to say the least," said Simpkins, who plays The Ghost in the off-beat twist on the traditional Charles Dickens holiday tale. "All I could think about was not stepping on my costumes or tripping on one of the little children on stage."

Simpkins has been a volunteer behind the scenes at LTA for the last year, working on wigs, make-up and costumes, but this was her first foray in front of the audience.

"We've been getting a great response," Simpkins said. "That's been very nice."

Simpkins is appearing in one of two shows being presented by LTA for the holidays: "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge" and the Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol." Both shows are companion pieces and suitable for the entire family.



'A Christmas Carol'

While "A Christmas Carol" is the familiar Dickens story with carols, ghosts and a timeless message, "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge" is an effort by LTA to step out of the familiar and bring a new flavor of holiday shows to Alexandria.

Cleverly written by Christopher Durang, the musical parody asks the question: "What if beloved Mrs. Cratchit wasn't such a goody-goody, but instead was an angry, stressed-out modern-day woman who wanted out of repressive Victorian London?" The show runs concurrently with "A Christmas Carol," with performances at 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings through Dec. 18.

For more traditional theatergoers, "A Christmas Carol" opens Dec. 3 as Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. The show runs through Dec. 12.

"It's very exciting to be on the LTA stage," said Simpkins, who has performed in several plays and will be directing the upcoming production of "Rent" at T.C. Williams. "But it still feels like every night is opening night."

For tickets or more information, call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).





## THE CAMPAGNA CENTER'S SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND & PARADE

*Continuing the Tradition...*

Friday, Dec. 3 – Saturday, Dec. 4

### *A Christmas Marketplace*

Friday, Dec. 3 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### *Taste of Scotland*

Friday, Dec. 3 from 8:00 pm – 11:00 pm

### *Scottish Walk Parade*

Saturday, Dec. 4th at 11:00 a.m.

### *Designer Tour of Homes*

Saturday, Dec. 4th 11:00 am-4:00 pm

### *More Activities*

Heather and Greens Sale • Children's Tea



Presented in Partnership  
with The Scottish Government

Brought to you by The Junior Friends of The Campagna Center,  
The Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., and the City of Alexandria.



Join Us Friday at  
The George Washington Masonic Memorial!



The entire Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend—including the Scottish Walk Parade—is hosted by The Campagna Center. All of the weekend proceeds benefit The Campagna Center's programs, helping children in Alexandria arrive at school ready to learn and ensuring their academic success. We rely on gifts from individuals and businesses to continue providing these outstanding services.

For more information on how you can contribute to The Campagna Center's efforts, please visit [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org) or call (703) 549-0111.

**For more information visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com) or phone (703) 549-0111.**

**Weekend events are Metro-accessible.**

## CALENDAR

### THURSDAY/DEC. 2

**Wine Tastings.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Lee-Fendall Wine Tastings at the Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco Street, Alexandria. This is led by Wilkinson Wine Cellar and features wines from Chile. Contact 703- 548-1789 or [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

### FRIDAY/DEC. 3

**"What Makes Me White?"** Film. 7 p.m. Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, will host a screening of "What Makes Me White?", a 15-minute DVD by filmmaker Aimee Sands. This is a new film about the role of race in the daily lives of white people. The film avoids blame, guilt, or "political correctness." Instead, it inspires white people to honest reflection about the invisible influence of whiteness on their personalities and life choices. Free with refreshments. Call 703-721-0595 or [gpourchot@yahoo.com](mailto:gpourchot@yahoo.com).

### DEC. 3 TO 5

**ArtFest 2010.** Free. Open House and Holiday Party on Friday from 6 to 9 p.m., featuring handmade ceramics and jewelry for sale, live music by Rew Smith band, exhibits, art demos and more. The Ceramic Sale will take place Friday, Dec. 3, from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 5 from noon to 5 p.m. The Jewelry Sale will take place Friday, Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 4

**Author Gerald A. Spence.** 1 to 3 p.m. Book signing and talk about The War: 361 days, 12 hours and 27 minutes in Vietnam. At Horray for Books, 1555 King Street, Alexandria.

**Book Signing Event.** 6 p.m. Author Maria McCarthy will sign her book, "High Heels Honey Lips and White Powder." At Books-a-Millions, 6230 N Kings Highway, Alexandria.

**Author and Bra Fitter.** 9:30 to 10 a.m. Reading and Kid's Activities. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Book Signing. Vicky Whipple presents her new book, "The Little Weed Flower." At The Full Cup European Bra Fitting Salon, 218 N. Lee St. #206, Alexandria. Call 703-836-9441.

**Chinquapin Park Rec Center 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Free admission. Noon to 5 p.m. Class demonstrations of aqua aerobics, yoga, water walking and folklore dancing; individual and family activities-preschool indoor activities, racquetball. At 3210 King Street, Alexandria. Contact Lou Williams, at [lm.williams@alexandriava.gov](mailto:lm.williams@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-5434.

**Kate Campbell Performs.** 7 p.m. Country/Folk singer. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. Presented by Focus Music in Mount Vernon. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria.

**Cocker Spaniel Adoption Show.** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come meet cockers of all ages available for adoption. All dogs are spayed or neutered. Visit [www.cockerspanielrescue.com](http://www.cockerspanielrescue.com). At Alexandria/ Hybla Valley Petsmart, 7690 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Call 703-533-2373.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 5

**Women's Artists Show.** 1 to 5 p.m. Free. More than 30 local women artists will offer pottery, scarves, jewelry, crafts, photography and more. Exciting items — including trips, restaurant certificates, household items and vendor items — will be raffled off. Sponsored by The Alexandria Commission for Women. At the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Contact Lisa Baker at 703-746-5030 or e-mail [lisa.baker@alexandriava.gov](mailto:lisa.baker@alexandriava.gov).

# FINE ARTS

## THURSDAY/DEC. 2

**Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Open House.** 6 to 9 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Studios and galleries are open for holiday shopping. There will be music, refreshments, and drawings for prizes at this annual party. Contact 703-838-4565 or [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).



## NOW THROUGH JAN. 3

### “Small Works.”

Fifteen members from the Multiple Exposures Gallery are exhibiting “Small Works.” Noting larger than 12x12-inches in film, digital, color and B&W will all be represented. Juror Lenny Campello is an artist, art critic and writer. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St., #312, Alexandria.

## NOW THROUGH DEC. 19

### Andrew Zimmerman’s Colorado Winter.

Featuring Andrew Zimmerman’s silver-gelatin photographic prints. Opening reception is Saturday, Dec. 4 from 4 to 6 p.m. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, NVCC, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.— 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and during performances.

## DEC. 1 TO 24

### Holiday Small Works and Silent Auction.

Gallery West fills the walls with an eclectic show of small works just in time for holiday gift giving. The display will feature original paintings, sculptures, ceramics, photographs, digital art and jewelry. Artist’s Reception is Saturday, Dec. 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street in Old Town, Alexandria. Visit [www.gallery-west.com](http://www.gallery-west.com) or call 703-549-6006.

## NOW THROUGH MAY 1, 2011

### Exhibition of Commemorative

**Wares.** Features ceramic wares that reflect the Alexandria community’s keen interest in current and historic events. At the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria. Open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$2 admission. Call 703-746-4994 or visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org).

Mount Vernon



*At Home* Enhancing Independence in Community

Life Just Got Easier!

With one phone call to our office, *Mount Vernon At Home* members can find a local, pre-screened roofer, plumber, or appliance repair expert.

Members save hundreds and gain enhanced peace of mind with our discounts on professional in-home companion care and world-class medical alert systems.

Members may request free rides to medical appointments and shopping, and get help with home maintenance and computers, all from our 80 vetted volunteers.

Call us today, or visit our website to learn more about our senior support solutions and enjoyable social programs.

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703-303-4060 [mountvernonathome.org](http://mountvernonathome.org)

# The Royal Restaurant

(now smoke free)

“What’s for Dinner?!”

You don’t have to think too hard, let us solve this classic question.

In addition to our award winning menu, we have added some popular specials that add variety for everybody taste.

**Real food, for real people at reasonable prices.**

### Monday - Kids Night

Burger Night (Kids eat 1/2 price) Each child must be accompanied by adult having entree.

### Tuesday - Greek Night

Lamb Marinated and Roasted for 3 hours, Athenian Roast Chicken, Moussaka!

### Wednesday - All American Night

Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham

### Thursday - Italian Night

Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

### Friday - Fish Night

Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce

### Saturday -Steak and Chop Night

Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka

### Sunday

Brunch served 7am - 2pm

Dine in or call ahead and your dinner will be ready for pick up.

**Dinner hours 2:30-9:30pm**  
**730 North Saint Asaph Street**  
**Alexandria, VA 22314**  
**(703) 548-1616**

Ample Free Parking

ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
 presents  
 the 2010 Holiday Concerts

Duke Ellington’s **The Nutcracker Suite** –  
 hear Tchaikovsky’s original updated to the jazz era in this big band  
 arrangement. Plus, seasonal favorites, and sing-a-long selections.

**Saturday, December 4 3:00pm**  
 Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre  
 1611 N. Kent St.,  
 Arlington, VA 22209  
**TICKETS:** \$5 youth;  
 \$10 student; \$15 Senior;  
 \$20 adult

**Sunday, December 12 2:30pm**  
 St. Paul’s Episcopal Church  
 228 S Pitt St  
 Alexandria, VA 22314  
**TICKETS:** \$25 General Admission  
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[www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) 703-548-0885

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## HOLIDAY GUIDE

**NOW THROUGH JAN. 6, 2011**

**Christmas at Mount Vernon.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees), a gingerbread Mount Vernon, historical chocolate-making demonstrations, and 18th-century dancing will be offered. Visit Aladdin, George Washington's Christmas Camel, take special Mansion tours, and make a Chocolate Toast to Christmas, with our 18th-century-style chocolate drink, a Washington family favorite. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon; call 703-780-2000 or visit [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org). Admission: \$15 for adults, \$7 for youth (6-11), and free for children 5 and younger.

**NOW THROUGH DEC. 19**

**Alexandria Jaycees' Christmas Tree Sales.** The tree lot features a variety of trees, including Canaan Firs, Douglas Firs, Fraser Firs, and Scotch Pines in heights from 4-10 feet, with prices from \$45-\$90. Proceeds to benefit the Holiday Shopping Tour for underprivileged children. Operating hours are Tuesday-Friday 6-9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. At the Safeway Parking Lot, 500 South Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-866-7171 or go to [www.alexjaycees.org](http://www.alexjaycees.org) or visit <http://www.alexjaycees.org/trees.php>.

**Mount Vernon by Candlelight.** 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Join "Mrs. Washington" for an evening of candlelit tours, fireside Christmas caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. Tour the first and second floors, hear characters from Washington's world as they guide visitors through the home, adding ambiance to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. Admission: Adults/\$20, Youth 11 and under/\$14. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon; call 703-780-2000 or visit [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org).

**THURSDAY/DEC. 2**

**Holiday Bash With Shopping.** 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Studios and galleries are open for holiday shopping as the art center is transformed into a glittering spectacle of holiday spirit. Shop for one-of-a-kind gifts as you enjoy live music and festive activities throughout the evening. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or visit [www.TorpedoFactory.org](http://www.TorpedoFactory.org).

**Holiday Open House.** 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Studios and galleries are open for holiday shopping as the art center is transformed into a glittering spectacle of holiday spirit! At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or visit [www.TorpedoFactory.org](http://www.TorpedoFactory.org).

**DEC. 2, 3, 4**

**"The Alexandria Community Nutcracker."** Dec. 2 at 5 p.m.; Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m.; Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The Alexandria Community Nutcracker is an original full-length community Nutcracker choreographed by local dance teachers Jennifer Lisenby, Courtney Betzel, and Adrienne Magnuson and featuring the West Potomac Dance



**Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend.**



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

### Candlelight tours at Gunston Hall

Academy and many young dancers from the community. Local schools represented in the production include St. Luke's Day School, Aldersgate Preschool, Hollin Meadows Math and Science, Fort Hunt ES, Waynewood ES, Belle View ES, Stratford Landing ES, Washington Mill ES, Burgundy Farm Country Day School, Browne Academy, St. Louis, St. Mary's, Carl Sandburg MS, and West Potomac HS. At West Potomac High School Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.alexandriadance.com>. Visit [alexandriadance.com](http://alexandriadance.com).

**FRIDAY/DEC. 3**

**Children's Tea.** 1-3 p.m. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Street, Alexandria. Children can enjoy tea and snacks and visit with Santa, and participate in fun arts and crafts. Cost is \$30 per adult and \$10 per child. Contact 703-549-0111 or [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org).

**ArtFest 2010.** 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Open House and Holiday Party featuring handmade ceramics and jewelry for sale, live music by Rew Smith band, exhibits, art demos and more. The Ceramic Sale will take place Friday, Dec. 3, from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 5 from noon to 5 p.m. The Jewelry Sale will take place Friday, Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

**A Christmas Marketplace.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sponsored by the Campagna Center. Special shopping hours for Taste of Scotland guests 7-11 p.m. Vendors include: Janice's Table; Discovery Toys; G's Glory Handbags; Janet Egan Design; The Dressed Up Nut; Celtic Landscapes in Pastel; Aurora Bath and Jewels; The Perfect Buddha; Scottish Gourmet USA LLC; Patricia Palermo Studio; Villa de Alpacas Farm; Southwestern Silver; The Scottish Trading Co.; Queen Bee Designs; Monday's Child; Thirty-One; Heather & Greens also available. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria.

**Holiday on the Avenue in Del Ray.** 5:45 to 9 p.m. Free. Annual Del Ray holiday tree lighting, visit with Santa and lighting of the luminaries; a holiday tradition in Alexandria. Carols begin at 5:45 p.m. and hot chocolate, hot cider and cookies will be provided. At 6 p.m. sing "Here Comes Santa Claus" when Santa arrives. Thousands of luminaries will be lit from Mt. Vernon and Commonwealth down to Luray Avenue. At Del Ray Farmer's Market at Mt. Vernon Ave. and E. Oxford Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-746-3301.

**Taste of Scotland.** 8 to 11 p.m. Exclusive Patron Pub from 7 to 11 p.m. Join in a tasting featuring rare scotches direct from Scotland distilleries. Part of The Campagna Center's 40th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Cost is patron-\$150, couple-\$250 and general admission ticket-\$100. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call Carlos at 703-549-0111 x146 or [cllano@campagnacenter.org](mailto:cllano@campagnacenter.org).

**DEC. 3 TO 4**

**Annual Christmas Celebration.** Friday, Dec. 3, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. At Pauline Books & Media, 1025 King Street, Alexandria. Bring your own camera, costumes provided.

**Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend.** Free for Parade and Marketplace; \$75 Taste of Scotland; \$35 Designer Tour of Homes. 40th Annual Campagna Center Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend —even the dogs wear tartans. On Saturday, Dec. 4, more than 100 Scottish clans dressed in tartans will parade through the streets of Old Town. They'll be joined by pipe and drum bands from around the region, as well as terriers and hounds of every description. This year's event is sponsored by the Scottish government. Other events of the weekend include A Christmas Marketplace and A Taste of Scotland on Dec. 3, and the Campagna Center's Holiday Designer Tour of Homes on Dec. 4. Call 703-549-0111 or visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

**DEC. 3 TO 5**

**Pet Photos With Santa.** The AWLA will hold its annual "Pet Photos with Santa" event. Drop-ins are welcome, but residents are encouraged to call 703-746-4774 to make

SEE HOLIDAY GUIDE, PAGE 21

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# HOLIDAY GUIDE

FROM PAGE 20

your appointment. At the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria.

**15<sup>th</sup> Holiday Market.** Free. Reception is Friday, Dec. 3 from 6-9 p.m. Hours Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Unique handmade fine arts and crafts from 20 exhibitors (including pottery/ceramics, photography, jewelry, cloth, paper crafts, and glass), beautiful poinsettias from West Landscapes LLC, and delicious Bake Sale items to benefit the local community. Del Ray Artisans Gallery, at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Check [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

## DEC. 3 TO 12

**“A Christmas Carol.”** Admission: \$15. The Little Theatre of Alexandria rings in the holidays with a return of a classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria; call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 4

**A Soldier’s Christmas.** Noon to 4 p.m. \$5 admission. The First Virginia Regiment will host a holiday-themed education and entertainment program focused on the soldier of the American Revolution. Activities include demonstrations of military drill, fife and drum music, gaming, cooking, and more. At The Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) or call 703-549-2997.

**Mount Vernon by Candlelight.** 5 to 8:30 p.m. A traditional candlelight evening with “Mrs. Washington,” live music, and fireside caroling. Tickets are \$20 adults and \$14 youth. At 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Tickets are \$20 adults and \$14 youth. Contact 703-780-2000 or [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

**Holiday Market.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 20 vendors with items including original paintings, handmade quilts, baby clothes, hand-made jewelry, painted wine glasses, jams and jellies, photography, soaps, lotions, make-up, skin care products, Christmas ornaments, purses, painted shells and antique ice skates, and more. In the Fellowship Hall (downstairs), Calvary Presbyterian Church, 6120 N. Kings Hwy., Alexandria. Call 703-768-8510.

**Burke & Herbert Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.** Free. Festivities at 4 p.m.; Boat Parade at 6 p.m. Alexandria’s harbor lights up when more than 50 illuminated boats cruise the Potomac River at the historic waterfront. Festivities at the Alexandria City Marina (One Cameron Street, Alexandria) with Santa arriving by fireboat at 4:15 p.m. Call 703-746-3301. Visit [AlexandriaVA.com](http://AlexandriaVA.com)

**Concert with Ars Choralis.** 7 p.m. The concert features a candlelight procession, Antonio Vivaldi’s Gloria, A Carol Suite by modern English composer Karl Jenkins, favorites including “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” and an audience sing-a-long. A reception will follow. At St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St., corner of Pitt and Duke Streets.

**Christmas Boutique.** 9 a.m. to noon. Handmade Christmas décor, ornaments, hand knitted items, baked goods, and unique gifts. Proceeds support Heritage Presbyterian Women’s outreach programs for children and women. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-360-9546.

**Holiday Open House.** Fair Trade, World Peace and Cats. Fair trade tea and chocolate, cider and treats. Toss your hand-colored wish for world peace into the World Peace Wishing Well and enter your name into a drawing to win valuable prizes. Also hosting the cats and kittens from Tails High, an Alexandria-based cat rescue group, in the kitty playpen. At Mindful Hands, 211 King Street. Visit [www.mindfulhands.com](http://www.mindfulhands.com) or 703-683-2074.

**Ornament Decorating Workshop.** 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Be inspired by the colors and patterns of pottery excavated in Alexandria and make a memorable holiday keepsake! Participants can decorate and take home dough ornaments which are shaped like artifacts from the museum’s own collection. At the Alexandria Archaeology Museum at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union Street #327, Alexandria; Call 703-746-4399 or visit [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org).

**Divas and Bards.** 7 p.m. Concert by the 7 Sopranos. At the Arts Center at Convergence. Guests will be invited to a party featuring a new exhibit by visual and performing artist, Eve Hennessa. Guests will enjoy hors d’oeuvres, wine and champagne from 8 to 9 p.m. During the reception, guests will enjoy marimba player Adam Garcia and appearance by performance artist, Deborah Lash modeling one of her “sculpture dresses.” From 9 to 10:30 p.m. the evening will continue with a D.J. and beer from Dogfish Head Alehouse. Tickets are \$35 at door or \$30 in advance at 703-998-6260 or online at <http://www.convergenceccf.net/site/>.

**Alexandria Harmonizers Holiday Dinner Theater.** 12:30 p.m. only. (Note: 6 p.m. sold out). Favorite seasonal songs leading up to the Number One Song of All Time, featuring the Alexandria Harmonizers Chorus, quartets, and ensembles. Singing waiters serve a family meal with Santa — lasagna, string beans, salad, rolls, beverage, and cookies. Plenty of caroling and audience participation. Admission: Adults - \$27; Senior & Group - \$22; Child 6-12 - \$13; 5 &



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

## Old Town Walled Garden Club Holiday Contest

**The annual OTWGC Holiday Decorating Contest judging will take place on Sunday, Dec. 12. Judges guidelines include the use of natural materials, scale in relationship to home façade, color, and originality. Also the decorations must be crafted by homeowners. Prizes will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners. Brabo, Helen Olivia and Buzz have donated prizes for this year’s winners.**

under - Free, ticket required. At First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-910-4600 or order online at [www.harmonizers.org](http://www.harmonizers.org).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 5

**Mount Vernon by Candlelight.** 5 to 8:30 p.m. A traditional candlelight evening with “Mrs. Washington,” live music, and fireside caroling. Tickets are \$20 adults and \$14 youth. At 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Tickets are \$20 adults and \$14 youth. Contact 703-780-2000 or [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

**Women’s Artists Show.** 1 to 5 p.m. Free. More than 30 local women artists will offer pottery, scarves, jewelry, crafts, photography and more. Exciting items — including trips, restaurant certificates, household items and vendor items — will be raffled off. Sponsored by The Alexandria Commission for Women. At the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Contact Lisa Baker at 703-746-5030 or e-mail [lisa.baker@alexandriava.gov](mailto:lisa.baker@alexandriava.gov).

**“Ode to Joy.”** 4 p.m. An All-Beethoven Concert with The New Dominion Chorale, Thomas Beveridge, artistic director. Tickets are \$30/general; \$25/seniors. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit [www.newdominion.org](http://www.newdominion.org) or call 703-442-9404.

**Toys for Tots Benefit Square Dance.** 1 to 5 p.m. With a special 3 p.m. performance by Capital Squares Demonstration Team. Recommended donation for each couple is a new, unopened toy or a \$10 minimum contribution (singles \$5). At the Lee Center Exhibit Hall, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Call the City’s Special Events Hotline at 703-746-5592 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation).

**Handel’s “Judas Maccabaeus.”** 3 p.m. Free. No tickets required; \$10/donation. Performed by NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark A. Whitmire, Director, and Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, Ulysses S. James, Music Director. Pre-concert lecture with Dr. Stephen Bertino at 2:15 p.m. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6097.

**Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar.** A fund-raiser for local charity. After the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. In the Fellowship Hall of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.wpc-alex.org](http://www.wpc-alex.org).



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More information and retail badge sites at [FirstNightAlexandria.org](http://FirstNightAlexandria.org)

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

them habitable, the county taxpayers really took it on the chin. In this case, if the assessment was correct, the county paid too much for the apartments. If the purchase price was correct, the county under collected real property tax revenue. In either case the taxpayers were the losers. Such excess demands that spending cuts be the first priority not raising taxes.

According to Fairfax County's FY 2009-2010 General Fund Revenue budget table, the county has 130 taxes and fees with real estate taxes deriving the most income for the county. Some of the taxes and fees include a fee for emergency ambulance (sick tax) and a going out of business tax. Also, included are bank franchise tax, cigarette tax, vehicle registration fee, sales tax, electric utility tax, gas utility tax, and electric and natural gas consumption tax. There are another 68 fees of various types for services for a grand total of 198. It appears based on this total that the BOS keeps looking for items to tax and tax. With our economy almost in the tank, now is not the time to be raising taxes. Instead, it is time to cut unnecessary wasteful spending. I provided one example, of a number that I have, to do that.

I encourage all of you to get involved. The more voices the more accountable the supervisors become to their constituents and the better our protection against more taxes and fees imposed on us.

To review the details of the county imposed taxes and fees, go to web page <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>

[fy2011/advertised/overview/32\\_General\\_Fund\\_Revenue\\_Schedule7.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2011/advertised/overview/32_General_Fund_Revenue_Schedule7.pdf).

**Frank Medico**  
Mt. Vernon

## Weak Arguments Against Dog Park

To the Editor:

In her letter of Nov. 24, Glenda Booth points out that "What happens around Dyke Marsh affects Dyke Marsh." Additionally, what happens in Dyke Marsh affects it. Ms. Booth may not be aware of another fact: I'm told that opposition to the proposed dog park, which has resulted in heavy patrolling of the Westgrove property by Fairfax Animal Control officers and their ticketing of dog owners, has resulted in dog owners walking their dogs within the confines of the George Washington Memorial Parkway in and near Dyke Marsh. Why? At that location, they are out of the jurisdiction of Fairfax Animal Control officers.

Responsible pet owners pick up after their pets whether on or off leash and whether at Westgrove or Dyke Marsh. Ms. Booth never mentions all the wild animals that live in and around Dyke Marsh. Are the Friends of Dyke Marsh collecting the feces generated by deer, foxes, raccoons, waterfowl, mice, rats, snakes and others? I daresay the feces left by the dogs of the occasional irresponsible dog owner is comparatively insignificant.

Ms. Booth seeks to complicate the issue by throwing a series of questions at dog park

proponents. She mentions numerous schools and other properties where she would prefer the dog park to go. If every one of them included a dog park, our district would still have only half the number Alexandria City has. She raises the specter of the Resource Protection Area (RPA) that forms a part of the Westgrove property. The dog area would not be located in the RPA.

I wonder if Ms. Booth has been posing a number of questions of the owners of River Towers concerning their vast expanse of impervious area closer to Dyke Marsh than Westgrove where parked cars drip oil and other fluids and concerning their vegetable garden adjacent the RPA? Are River Towers gardeners using fertilizer on their plants? Where does rainwater drain off that impervious area after it has washed those chemicals off the tarmac? The County's watershed management plan found at:

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/dogecreek\\_docs.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/dogecreek_docs.htm) identifies two stormwater projects for the River Towers property and none for Westgrove.

In an article published on the internet on Nov. 16, 2010, Ms. Booth quoted Chuck Fox, senior advisor on the Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: "Developed areas with large impervious surfaces like parking lots, roofs and highways are a "growing source" of pollution from stormwater runoff." How true, and how applicable to River Towers.

Ms. Booth brings up the Park Authority's non-credible price quotes for a fence, trail and improvements to Fort Hunt Road that I

addressed in an earlier letter. Just another attempted "roadblock."

Ms. Booth's questions were forwarded to Supervisor Hyland in advance of an October meeting he held with dog park proponents. I was told by two of the attendees that Supervisor Hyland indicated Ms. Booth's questions did not dissuade him from supporting the dog park at Westgrove. I'm also told by the same people that our Mount Vernon Park Authority representative said he wants an athletic field at Westgrove but the adjacent neighbors object so he won't encourage anything to be located there. Since he's missed 27 consecutive meetings of the Park Authority Board, there has been no opportunity to confront him on the record in a public forum concerning the issue since June, 2009 when he last attended a meeting.

The request to create an interim use of Westgrove as an off-leash dog walking park would not be unusual for the Park Authority to approve. As I reported in my letter of Nov. 18, on Nov. 3 the Park Authority Board voted on whether to provide a two-year extension of an interim use of Langley Fork Park in the Dranesville District as a school bus transfer site. One wonders how many dogs it would take to match the carbon footprint of a single school bus.

There is no credible reason to deny 500 petition signers the interim use of the Westgrove property as an off-leash dog walking park, pending the outcome of the master planning process.

**H. Jay Spiegel**, Mount Vernon

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# HOME SALES

OCTOBER 2010  
\$1,900,000 ~ \$315,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
3909 BELLE RIVE TER	6	5	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,900,000	Detached	0.88	BELLE RIVE		
8065 FAIRFAX RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$960,763	Detached	0.16	HOLLIN HALL		
5209 BURKE DR	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$950,000	Detached	0.66	MT VERNON TERRACE		
7820 RIDGECREST DR	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$945,000	Detached	0.60	WELLINGTON		
2328 LAKESHIRE DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$854,900	Detached	0.25	MANORS AT MOUNT VERNON		
2204 SHERWOOD HALL LN	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$743,000	Detached	1.08	SHERWOOD HALL		
8812 TERESA ANN CT	5	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$730,000	Detached	0.39	FORT HUNT ESTATES		
2102 LAKESHIRE DR	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$710,000	Detached	0.25	RIVERSIDE		
8500 CROWN PL	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$645,000	Detached	0.24	WAYNEWOOD		
5133 JAMES FRANKLIN CT	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$600,000	Detached	0.35	CECIL CASE ESTATES		
3099 SPRING DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$589,000	Detached	0.26	VALLEY VIEW		
3207 COLLARD ST	6	5	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$580,000	Detached	0.25	VALLEY VIEW		
1120 CAMERON RD	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$580,000	Detached	0.30	WELLINGTON ESTATES		
8402 MOREY LN	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$560,000	Detached	0.34	COLLINGWOOD ON POTOMAC		
3800 ELMWOOD TOWNE WAY	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$557,900	Townhouse	0.05	ELMWOOD		
3798 ELMWOOD TOWNE WAY	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$555,000	Townhouse	0.05	ELMWOOD		
5533 JANELLE ST	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$555,000	Detached	0.25	BURGUNDY MANOR		
7221 STAFFORD RD	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$555,000	Detached	0.51	HOLLIN HILLS		
4251 SONIA CT	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Detached	0.07	MOUNT ZEPHYR COMMONS		
9333 BRAMBLY LN	5	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Detached	0.34	MT VERNON GROVE		
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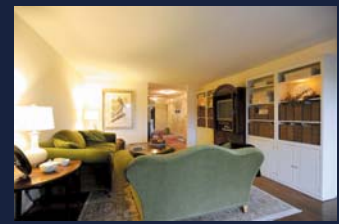
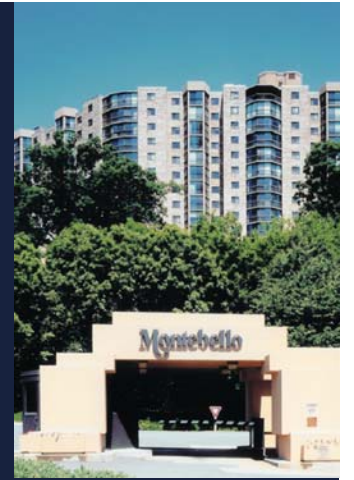


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# West Potomac Girls Looking for Stability

**Wolverines led by fourth head coach in four seasons.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**W**est Potomac senior Alex Jones remembers all the coaching changes, referring to the uncertainty as "tragic." Junior Sofie McMullen recalls a practice or two when the Wolverines didn't have a head coach in the gym.

Turnover has been commonplace for the West Potomac girls basketball program. Terry Newton, 39, enters the 2010-11 campaign as the fourth different West Potomac head coach in four seasons. Newton took over near the end of last season for Vincent Tate and said he hopes to bring some stability to the program. Newton won his first game as head coach, beating Lake Braddock, but West Potomac dropped its final three games to finish 2-15.

Newton's first step toward turning the program around would be to lay the foundation this season with a team composed of two seniors, three juniors and seven freshmen and sophomores.

"I feel as though in two seasons, we should be in the top four within [the Patriot] District," Newton said. "The good thing about having a young team, you can sculpt them and develop them into what you want. There's a lot of young talent."

Getting the chance to coach the Wolverines at the end of last year helped bring organization to the offseason and continuity headed into November practices. Newton said the program's numbers were up

during offseason conditioning and enough girls tried out that cuts were made.

"It was pretty difficult because ever since I came to West Potomac we've had a different coach every year," Jones said. "No matter if it was freshman or varsity, it's always been a different coach. It was kind of tragic, but we've got to work with [Newton] and now we're used to him. This year it's easier because we have the same coach."

Jones, a 5-foot-7 guard, and 5-foot-8 post Danuelle Doswell are the team's only seniors. McMullen, a 6-foot forward, 5-foot-10 post Caroline Kelly and 5-foot-6 point guard Melanie Boykin are the team's juniors.

"It's been really hard," McMullen said of the coaching changes. "We've had to go from learning different plays and different practice routines, switching halfway through [last season, to] getting used to not having a coach at some practices, so it's been really hard on all the players.

"[Newton has] been awesome. We love him so much. He saved us last year. He helped us finish our season off. He's been great this year. I think we've definitely improved. We've got a pretty good roster this year. I expect big things."

While the upperclassmen can provide leadership, the future of the program is its talented underclassmen. Newton said sophomores Tayla Dawson (5'3" point guard) and Blossom

Pierre (5'7" guard) and freshmen Resheika Gegory (5'8" forward) and Tajah Staton-Badson (5'6" guard) will be the team's top offensive threats. Sophomores Lindsey Sawczuk (5'5") and Anna Carney (6') and freshman Rosey Sheehan (5'10") will compete for playing time.

**"It was pretty difficult because ever since I came to West Potomac we've had a different coach every year. ... This year it's easier because we have the same coach."**

— West Potomac senior Alex Jones



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

**Members of the West Potomac girls basketball team prepare to play for head coach Terry Newton, the program's fourth coach in four seasons.**

SEE WEST POTOMAC, PAGE 25

## SPORT BRIEFS



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

**The West Potomac boys basketball team will host rival Mount Vernon at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 2.**

## Basketball Rivalry Matchups

The West Potomac boys basketball team will host Mount Vernon at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 2. The Wolverines are the defending Patriot District champion and the Majors are the defending National District champion.

The Mount Vernon girls will host West Potomac at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3. The Majors are led by first-year head coach Courtney Coffey, who took over for Terry Henderson, now the Edison boys head coach.

## Aces To Host Family And Volunteer Night

The Alexandria Aces of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League will hold a "Host Family and Volunteer Appreciation Night" from 6-8 p.m. on Dec. 2 at Union Street Public House in Old Town. Host families will

be recognized and fans will get to meet new Aces head coach Corey Haines. Admission is free to the public. There will be free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The first 50 fans in attendance will receive a free Alexandria Aces coffee cup.

## West Potomac Fall Awards

West Potomac High School held the Fall Sports Awards Banquet on Nov. 16 to honor our fall athletes and coaches.

The fall season scholar athletes were Mark Hanak, cross country, and Toni O'Boyle, field hockey. This award is given to a male and female senior athlete who each earn a varsity letter, a 3.5 or better GPA for the first quarter and contributes significantly to their sport and school. Nominations are submitted and voted on by head coaches.

Team MVP awards were given to: Ben Aleixo (boys cross country), Sarah Jane

Underwood (girls cross country), Lisa Kinston (cheerleading), O'Boyle (field hockey), Jalen Dawson (football), Alex Cheng (golf) and Angela Robinson (volleyball).

Coaches awards were given to: Brady Corum (boys cross country), Colleen Boyle (girls cross country), Caitlin Stewart (field hockey), Dan Carriker (football), Angela Longo (golf) and Cat Royka (volleyball).

## Running Club On Sundays

The Mount Vernon Milers running club meets at 8 a.m. on Sundays. The group usually meets along the Potomac River, but the exact location is listed in an e-mail sent every Wednesday for the coming week. Distances vary but runners can expect between four and eight miles.

To join the Mount Vernon Milers, send Lee Britton an e-mail at lbritton7@yahoo.com to be put on the e-mail list.

# SPORTS

## Development Year for West Potomac

FROM PAGE 24

What are Newton's expectations for a team so young?

"Development: that's all I expect," he said. "We're going to win some games, we're going to lose some games, but I really think we're going to shock teams. I don't think we're going to be that same pushover. [Teams can't] automatically chalk us up as a win on [their] schedules this year. I think we're going to give a lot of teams a surprise."

### SCHOOL NOTES

Send announcements to the Mount Vernon Gazette, by e-mail to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos are encouraged. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

Mount Vernon High School will host a Financial Aid and FAFSA Work-

shop in Room G-100 on Tuesday, Dec. 7 between 6:30 and 8 p.m. Seniors who are planning to attend college, university, trade or technical school next year are encouraged to come to this event with their parents or guardians. Anyone else who is interested in learning more about the financial aid process is also invited. Will review a variety of topics including: types of financial aid

that are available, the procedures for determining the student's level of financial need and information about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA.

Jeffrey Jamison Engle, a resident of Alexandria, has earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Excelsior College.



PHOTO BY JYLL TURNER

The Progressive Firefighters of Fairfax County Inc., of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department provided 12 turkeys for 12 families in the Gum Springs area of Fairfax County during Thanksgiving. The firefighters distributed the dinners at the Gum Springs Community Center on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 24. From left: Captain Chris Thompson, Persia Cook, Captain Charles Pullen, Gum Springs director Kenya Turner, and Captain Willie Bailey assemble Thanksgiving dinner baskets in the kitchen for delivery.

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