

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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DECEMBER 21, 2009

Don't Call It A Comeback

Former police chief continues years of public service in new role as private citizen.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

David Baker doesn't like talking about what happened that July night when he was arrested for drunk driving. Or the five days he spent in the Arlington jail. But the experience haunts every moment of his life.

"To this day, I have periods of sadness," Baker told a group of high school students last week. "I don't think I'll ever get over it."

His permit to carry a concealed weapon was denied. His insurance premium skyrocketed. His ability to drive in Virginia was revoked for a year. Every day, he says, he's

filled with embarrassment, humiliation and pain — so much so that when he leaves his house he's filled with anxiety about encountering people he hasn't seen since his drunk-driving arrest became national news.

"I want to be able to walk down the street in Alexandria and hold my head high."

— David Baker

"What happens is that you think people are thinking the same thing about you that you're thinking about yourself," said Baker. "And I don't feel very good about myself."

BAKER GOT HIS start in law enforcement as a 20-year-old patrol officer in Anacostia back in 1970. He retired from the Washington
SEE HERE FOR YEARS. PAGE 7



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Hammering Down Domestic Issues

President Obama speaks on energy efficiency and job creation during his visit to Home Depot in Alexandria on Tuesday, Dec. 15. He cited the importance of providing incentives to consumers who retrofit their homes, save money, reduce the pollution and create jobs.



Dispatching Taxi Rules

Six-month delay may allow city officials and taxicab drivers to strike a deal.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The phones at the dispatch office of Union Cab Company don't ring as much as they used to. With the slumping economy, taxi drivers say people are not calling for cabs as much as they did when times were flush. That means that taxicab drivers are having a hard time meeting the city's requirement that they respond to two dispatch calls each day — part of a series of city regulations created in 2005. As his charcoal-gray taxi idles on Mount Vernon Avenue outside Union's dispatch office, Union driver Chaudhry Ahmed says he fears the worst.

"I'm worried that the city is going to put us out of

business," said Ahmed, who owns a house in Springfield and has two children. "If that happens, we're going to be standing in line at the unemployment office."

Since the city created the two-dispatch-calls-per-day-per-driver rule, Columbus Cab Company has closed up shop because it wasn't able to meet the city's demands. City regulators have put VIP Cab Company on probation for not logging enough dispatch calls, and Union says his company has been given a "probation" status.

"It puts the city in the position of being company makers or breakers."

— Rick Vogel, general manager of Union Cab Company

"The next step is that the city forcibly takes cars

SEE HERE FOR YEARS. PAGE 7

Become a 'Snow Buddy'

The City of Alexandria and Volunteer Alexandria have teamed up on a program called "Snow Buddies," to provide snow removal assistance for low-income homeowners or occupants who are elderly or disabled. The City and Volunteer Alexandria will match eligible residents with volunteers who can shovel their snow.

Residents are encouraged to apply for this program in advance to ensure that their sidewalks can be cleared in enough time to avoid City fines and/or snow removal charges. To apply, call 703-838-4800.

To become a volunteer, contact Alexis Grant of Volunteer Alexandria at 703-836-2176 or agrant@volunteerallexandria.org.

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Signposts of the Times

New book features historical markers in Northern Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

What started out as a whim for Richard Harrison last spring has now blossomed into a series of picture books offering a glimpse into Virginia history. But that wasn't his original idea.

Harrison, a New Jersey native who moved to Virginia in 1983, was visiting the Northern Neck last March when he first started thinking about collecting images of historic markers. His first thought was that the images could be collected for wallpaper. When he shared the idea with his wife, she was skeptical.

"Who would want this wallpaper?" she asked. "You and about six other guys."

But the idea lingered in his head. Harrison, a retired businessman, knew that a collection of images from Virginia's estimated 2,200 history markers would make a fine collection. So he started on Plan B — collecting photographs of the markers in a multi-volume series of books. By October 2008, he started collecting images and organizing them by content. Now, he's traveled 22,000 miles and put together a stockpile of 1,800 out of the 2,200 markers.

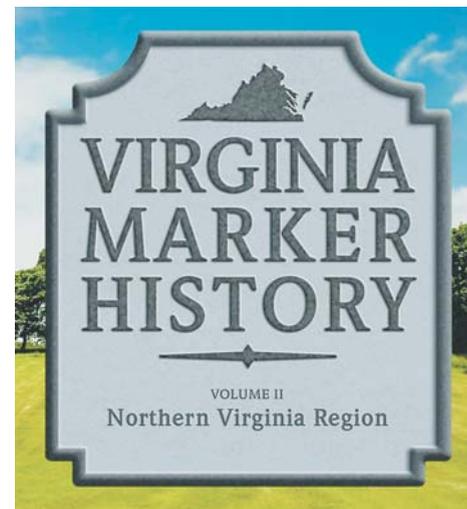
"It's a trick history book," said Harrison of volume two, which covers Northern Virginia. "How many picture books do you actually read?"

THE FIRST SIX volumes were released on Dec. 2 by Marker History, a limited-liability corporation Harrison created to publish the series. He plans on completing the set next year by publishing volumes seven through nine. Volume one began the series with Fredericksburg, where Harrison lives, along with Culpeper, Warrenton and Upper Piedmont. Volume two features Northern Virginia. Harrison also created a Web site for the project to document all of the commonwealth's plaques.

"At Markerhistory.com, we are dedicated to increasing the number of people exposed to the unique narrative provided by historical road markers," explained the introduction to volume two. "To do this, we have created Historical Marker Collection — a lavishly photographed series of pictorial guidebooks, posters and postcards."

For those who take the time to read them, Virginia historical markers indicate the location of everything from the place where Indians killed colonialists to the location of equipment controlling Nike missile sites. Although the text on the signs is approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the language originates from the group or individual that requests the installation of the historical marker.

"As a result of how the process works, the text is dependent on the kind of informa-



"Virginia Marker History Volume II," which covers Northern Virginia, was released earlier this month.

tion that the group requesting the marker wants to provide," said Alexandria Archaeologist Pamela Cressey. "Sometimes the information on the markers is wrong."

Case in point — sign number E-106: "Washington-Rochambeau Route, Alexandria Encampment." The marker explains that the intersection of North Washington Street and Oronoco Street is the location where American and French armies set up camp to march toward Yorktown in September 1781. But Cressey says that she has never seen any documentation of that — other than the historical marker, which was installed in 1998.

Then there's the language, which has evolved over time. The earlier signs tend to be a bit more romantic in their presentation of information. For example, sign E-91 marks the spot of "Lee's Boyhood Home." The text on the metallic signpost explains that the building on Oronoco Street was "the home he loved so well." Furthermore, according to the sign, he returned after graduating from West Point and climbed the garden wall to see "if the snowballs were in bloom."

"That's why we call it marker history and not history," said Harrison. "There are always disputes among historians."

MARKERS IN THE BOOK are arranged chronologically within each historic period.

SEE BOOK, PAGE 12

Historic Markers in Alexandria

- ❖ Virginia Theological Seminary, installed in 1950
- ❖ Lee's Boyhood Home, installed in 1968
- ❖ Beth El Hebrew Congregation, installed in 1984
- ❖ Lee-Fendall House, installed in 1989
- ❖ Historic Alexandria, installed in 1997
- ❖ Episcopal High School, installed in 1997
- ❖ Rouchambeau Route, installed in 1998
- ❖ Alexandria Academy, installed in 1999
- ❖ Freedman's Cemetery, installed in 2000
- ❖ Alfred Street Baptist Church, installed in 2003
- ❖ Franklin and Armfield Slave Office, installed in 2005



Terry McAuliffe talks with James Bird joining U.S. Sen. Mark Warner and his wife Lisa and Betsy Merritt at the reception before dinner.

Celebrating Woodlawn

More than 130 Friends of Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House gathered Dec. 3 at the historic mansion to ring in the holiday season and to honor Cynthia Conner, who is completing her third term as president of the Advisory Board and Woodlawn Foundation.

"This is a great night to celebrate with fellow Woodlawn board members and friends nine years of serving, with great pleasure, as Board President of this wonderful property," Conner said.

Candle-lit interiors were decorated with gold hydrangeas, white roses and greenery in arrangements designed by Beverly Stanley, who will begin a three-year term as president of the Woodlawn Advisory Board in January. Guests, including U.S. Senator and Mrs. Mark Warner and Terry and Dorothy McAuliffe, enjoyed music by jazz trio "The Wright Stuff" and dinner by Windows catering.

Under Conner's leadership, Woodlawn has added a variety of new programs and events, including the "Little Black Dress" spring fundraiser, to support nearly a million dollars in restoration projects, including the replacement of the mansion's historic slate roof in 2006 and the current restoration of the estate's original 1803 Smokehouse. "Woodlawn owes its preservation to three great women," said the site's director, Dr. Laurie Ossman: "Nelly Custis, who built and maintained it as a shrine to her grandfather, George Washington; Elizabeth Sharpe who restored it after a hurricane in 1896 and, now, to Cindy Conner, whose leadership has ensured its preservation for the 21st century."

Conner will continue to serve as an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Woodlawn Task Force and as a member of the Woodlawn board nominating committee. The evening's proceeds will support programs and on-going restoration at Woodlawn.

Outgoing president Cindy Conner is praised by director Laurie Ossman as being the third great woman of Woodlawn. "Woodlawn owes its preservation to three great women: Nelly Custis, who witnessed the first roof go on the original house in 1807; Elizabeth Sharpe, who put the roof back on the house a hundred years later, after it had blown off in a hurricane, and most recently to Cindy Conner, who — 100 years after Miss Sharpe — led the fundraising efforts to restore the roof whose services we are all enjoying here tonight. And so in celebration tonight perhaps we should all raise the roof — just a little — in honor of Cindy Conner and her leadership, which has set Woodlawn on the road to strong future for another century."





PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Martini & Mistletoe Contest

Fourteen restaurants and mixmasters prepared holiday libations Dec. 17 at the annual Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Christmas party at the Holiday Inn Suites on First Street. Vermillion bar manager Laura Secker and Courtney Fyfe offered “Silver Bells” and took away the evening first place award. Second and third place winners were Restaurant Eve with “Veritas” and Jackson 20 with “Mint Chocolate Chip Martini.” Above, Joseph Collum, Vermillion’s Courtney Fyfe and Laura Secker, Charles Collum and outgoing Chamber Chairman M. Katherine Puskar and Chamber President Tina Leone.

Silver Bells

Who makes the best martini in Alexandria? According to a vote conducted by the city’s captains of industry, the winner is Vermillion.

The King Street restaurant’s martini has Stoli vanilla vodka, ginger vanilla simple syrup and lime juice topped with Spanish sparking wine and a zest of lime. This combination was a hit with participants at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce’s second annual “Martinis and Mistletoe” last week. Restaurant Eve came in second place with its “Veritas,” and Jackson 20 was awarded third place with its “Mint Chocolate Chip Martini.”

“Bartending is not just about putting a drink in front of someone, it’s about providing them with an experience,” said Vermillion bar manager **Laura Secker**, adding that the cocktail was created three years ago by a former employee. “The sparkling wine gives it just the right amount of effervescence.”

Goodbye, River House

Empty storefronts remain a lingering presence up and down the King Street corridor. But for one waterfront property on Union Street, the sense of emptiness is still a bitter pill for booklovers.

For decades, Olsson’s Bookstore was a cherished spot in Old Town. The combination of new and used books was a novelty, and the building itself offered a sort of attraction. City records indicate the old warehouse was constructed in 1916 by a prominent local agricultural business. Because it’s one of the few remaining buildings from city’s seaport days, the structure is considered one of the most important buildings on the waterfront.

That’s why a proposal for a new restaurant called “River House” for 500 seats raised eyebrows. Five hundred seats? That’s a lot of chairs. How would they crowd into the building? According to lawyer **Duncan Blair**, the proposal was intended to be a smaller-scale Birchmere. The venue would offer live music upstairs along with a balcony extending into Wales Alley. But “contract issues,” Blair said, have scuttled the deal — for now.

“We are withdrawing the application,” said the land-use attorney.

Threading the Needle

For many, the thought of launching a new business in the current economic climate would be a matter of unending anxiety. Not for **Danielle Romanetti**.

She opened a knitting and crocheting shop called Fibre Space on North Fayette Street in June. According to the National Needle

SEE BUSINESS NOTES, PAGE 8

BUSINESS

Celebrating One Year in Old Town

Meltdown Day Spa offers international experience without boarding a plane.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
GAZETTE PACKET

Old Town Alexandria has its share of day spas. But after a year of being in business, Meltdown Day Spa has managed to carve an unusual niche.

“A multicultural oasis that treats the mind, body, and senses as one” is how founder and owner Blondell Daley, a native of the island of Montserrat, British West Indies, describes her spa.

“From the moment you walk into Meltdown,” said Daley, “you are surrounded by an international plethora of sights, sounds, and scents that melt away stress. Our goal is to transport our clients to a familiar hometown or exotic getaway without having to travel.”

Meltdown Day Spa

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Licensed therapists from Thailand, Bulgaria, Korea, Vietnam, Ethiopia and the United States perform a variety of services from Thai yoga massages to Moroccan Rossoul body wraps, facials such as the Luminous C and Sea, and selective facials just for men. A variety of hand and foot treatments include an Italian Mandarin foot soak, manicures with an Indian Frankincense hand massage, and the Islands-themed de-aging papaya-pineapple manicures and pedicures. Hydrotherapy treatments combine Turkish and Egyptian therapies using Swiss showers and ThermoMasseur tubs. The entire line of manicure and pedicure polishes, lotions and scrubs are 100 percent organic. Facial and body products are all natural from French company Pevonia.



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

International Practitioners: standing, from left: owner/massage therapist Blondell Daley of Fort Washington, Md.; Ethiopia-born Beth Habtemariam of Arlington; U.S.-born massage therapist Starr Foxx of Oxon Hill, Md. Front, from left: Thai-born massage therapist Wan O’shea of Dumfries and Bulgarian-born nail technician Yana Koleva of Arlington. Not pictured are U.S.-born esthetician Nancy Daniel of Silver Spring, Md. and Thai-born massage therapist Sara Hayes of Alexandria.

Daley says she’s priced all services “to be kind to today’s discerning budgets.” And, for those who might not care for Meltdown’s internationally themed relaxation music, each room is equipped with individual iPod docking stations that allow clients to “ahhhh” to their own tunes.

Anniversary Yields Funds for Charity

The Winery, Inc. located on S. Washington St. celebrated its 11th anniversary last month with a celebration and fundraiser for St. Ann’s Infant and Maternity Home (www.stanns.org). During the evening, \$24,985 was raised, exceeding last year’s total. In the past 11 years the Winery, Inc. has raised over \$160,000 for the D.C. home. This year during the party, Winery owner Jane Cahill announced an anonymous donor challenge pledge: “Between now and Dec. 24, this donor will match 10 percent of every dollar raised for St. Ann’s.”

The following individuals and businesses provided donations for the raffle: Spencer Graham of Elizabeth Spencer Wines, Keswick Hall, The Morrison House, Ristorante Geranio, Restaurant Kora, Bastille, Robert McFarlane, Jason Whiteside, Dennis and Motty Bradshaw, Richard M. Scaife, Peg and Jack Cahill, and Jane Pfeiffer.



PHOTO BY MARLA MOONEY

At the anniversary party are, left to right, Maureen Carita, Peg Cahill, Sr. Josephine Murphy (former administrator of St. Ann’s Infant and Maternity Home), Winery Inc. owner Jane Cahill, Sr. Mary Bader (the current administrator of St. Ann’s) and Libby Cahill.

Dispatching Taxi Rules

FROM PAGE 1

away from you," said Rick Vogel, general manager of Union Cab Company. "It puts the city in the position of being company makers or breakers."

THE DISPATCH requirement was created to prevent the drivers from hanging out at hotels or the airport instead of responding to calls. The theory was that forcing a viable dispatch service would prevent companies like Columbus from neglecting their dispatch operation in favor of picking up fares at popular destination points. But now that the sagging economy has sharply reduced the calls for service, all six taxicab companies have requested an "indefinite moratorium" on the rule.

"While staff does not support the requested moratorium, we are in the fifth year of operation under the revised taxicab ordinance, which went into effect July 1, 2005," wrote City Manager Jim Hartmann in a memo about the issue. "I believe that this is an appropriate time for a five-year review of the new ordinance."

Last weekend, City Council members unanimously approved an ordinance postponing the annual 2009 review of the taxicab industry for six months. In the



Syed Hussain, right, jots a note at the dispatch desk of Union Cab Company shortly after it opened its office on Mount Vernon Avenue in 2007.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

interim, city officials and taxicab managers say, stakeholders will meet in an effort to craft new regulations. The goal of the talks will be to ensure customer service by requiring a viable dispatch service by logging a set number of dispatch calls.

"Our objective is just to make sure that we have reasonable taxi service here," said Bob Garbacz, division chief for transportation. "Shutting companies down doesn't really serve that purpose."

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ❖ DECEMBER 21-28, 2009 ❖ 5

PEOPLE



NOVAM Commissioner Tom Suydam, Sue Rowland and Christine Jones, chair of the Alexandria HIV Commission.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Katherine Medina (Rebuilding Together Alexandria), Mayor William D. Euille and Daniel Abramson (Board member of Alexandria Housing and Development Corporation) join the Chrettri family in a key transfer ceremony on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 16.

Honoring Dedication

World Aids Excellence Awards presented.

BY SENITRA MCCOMBS
GAZETTE PACKET

Jane Beddoe, Sue Rowland and Roger Pollard were honored at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria on Nov. 30 as advocates on the front battle lines of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The World AIDS Day Service Excellence Awards honors the extraordinary efforts of peer nominated HIV/AIDS providers and advocates in Alexandria. It's sponsored by the Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS.

Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Sue Rowland said she felt proud and surprised and honored by it. She has worked with numerous organizations dedicated to fighting and advocating for HIV/AIDS in Northern Virginia since the early '90s.

Through her work as the director of Human Services of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, she administered the Ryan White Care Act Funds to nonprofits AIDS advocacy organizations and HOPWA, a federal program that provides housing opportunities to people with AIDS.

She believes that education and advocacy for people who are living with AIDS is lacking.

"HIV is a preventable disease, and basically every year there's 1,200 more people who acquire the virus. We've become complacent accepting that to have the same number every year. It's OK. Every new case of HIV is a lifetime of health care cost. Simply by investing more we can really more efforts to prevent the disease we



Jane Beddoe with her award.

can have an impact on people's lives."

IN 2001, she started a consulting firm called SR Consulting. She does some grant writing for nonprofits and legislative governmental affairs organizations, such as Fairfax county Human Services, Northern Virginia HIV Consortium and the Green Building Commission.

"When I formed my own company, one of my very first clients was VORA — Virginia Organizations Responding to AIDS. We work a lot with the legislative assemblies at the local level, state level in Virginia. We do a lot with prevention efforts in Virginia," Rowland said.

In response to what could be done to fight HIV/AIDS, Rowland said, "Our kids need to be educated; our adults need to be educated. We tend to think that everyone knows about AIDS. It's just as easy to find someone who has bad information about AIDS. By having all of us get HIV tests like

SEE DEDICATION, PAGE 25

Salvaging Homes

The City of Alexandria, Rebuilding Together Alexandria, and the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation marked the completion of the city's first Neighborhood Stabilization Program project. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program provides funding to localities and nonprofits to acquire foreclosed homes and to rehabilitate the units for re-sale to low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers.



Councilmember Frank Fannon joins the swell of volunteers and program sponsors and elected officials who attended Wednesday's ceremony at the Chrettri's new home.



Islamic Saudi Academy student Summer tells the students about Arabian history.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Burgundy Farm Students Visit Islamic Saudi Academy

The Islamic Saudi Academy's 11th graders prepared a cultural bazaar for Burgundy Farm students in their school's gymnasium. At the bazaar, the Burgundy Farm students

were introduced to Arabic as a written language, Arabic calligraphy in art, music, dress, customs, religion and food. They also viewed Arabic fables in cartoons.



David Baker speaks to a criminal justice class at T.C. Williams High School last week.

He's Been Here for Years

FROM PAGE 1

Metropolitan Police Department 1991, moving to Alexandria to become deputy chief — a title he held for 16 years until he was appointed chief of police in 2006. In his years as the city's top cop, Baker created a high-tech crime-fighting model known as the "Strategic Response System" based on New York City's "Compstat" program.

"His legacy is that he was a cop's cop," said Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, who worked with Baker in the Police Department before being elected sheriff in 2005. "He turned this city around by reducing crime and making this a safer city."

Now all of that is a matter of history. The new David Baker has no role with the police department, although he has retained close relationships with many of his former employees. Since the summer, he has been making appearances at Chamber of Commerce events and having lunch with city officials. He's spoken to inmates at the city jail and worked as a security consultant for Goodwin House. It would be unfair to say that David Baker is making a comeback because he's been here for years.

"I hope people will be able to forget about the one bad night and remember David's distinguished career in the city," said former City Manager Vola Lawson. "He still has so much to offer."

IN HIS NEW ROLE as private citizen, Baker has adopted the mantle of motivational speaker and all-

around advocate for personal responsibility. To make this point, Baker recalls a conversation with his lawyer — the city's preeminent criminal defense attorney, Jim Clark. Although Baker says he considered fighting the charges in court, he later backed down and admitted guilt even though he knew that meant he would face a mandatory five days in the Arlington Detention Center.

"What do you want out of this?" asked Clark, according to the former police chief.

"I want to be able to walk down the street in Alexandria and hold my head high," Baker responded. "If you don't stand up and take responsibility, you can't walk down any street."

Unlike others who have been convicted for drunk driving, Baker has not faded from the public sphere. He has lectured police recruits in Fredericksburg. He has recorded a public-service announcement about drunk driving that can be seen on YouTube. He appeared on a California radio show called "Ridin' Dirty." Later this month, he will manage the Masonic Temple site during the city's annual First Night celebration. Friends say they aren't surprised that Baker would retain a sense of duty to the community that he served for so many years at the Alexandria Police Department.

"Yes I was disappointed when I learned what happened, but we all make mistakes," said Janet Barnett, executive director of Senior Services of Alexandria. "But I admire his courage and humility for getting back on his feet again."

BULLETIN BOARD

To have a notice listed, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 6

Conservation Breakfast. 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$50; 2 for \$75. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. Sen. Patsy Ticer, Chair, Agriculture, Conservation & Natural Resources Committee, is the

keynote speaker. At the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Call 703-354-5093, ext. 22.

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Commonwealth Academy Open House. 1-4 p.m. Learn about its award winning college-prep program for students with learning differences and AD/HD. Grades 4-12. Meet with faculty and staff and tour the school.

At the Commonwealth Academy, 1321 Leslie Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6912 or go to www.CommonwealthAcademy.com

The **operating hours** for the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center have changed. The center's new operating hours will be Monday–Thursday 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Friday 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Saturday & Sunday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. For information, visit alexandriava.gov/recreation or call 703-519-2160.



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Collecting Toys

The Morgan Stanley Santa Brigade delivered nearly 300 toys and games on Dec. 11 to The Campagna Center. The toys and gifts will be distributed to children in The Campagna Center's programs. From left to right: Campagna Center Volunteer Coordinator JoAnn Kenyon, Gianni Giordano (standing), Morgan Stanley Senior Vice President and Christmas Gift Program coordinator Lee Corey (sitting), Morgan Stanley Senior Client Associate Kristin Rascona, Dail Turner, Campagna Center executive director Karen Hughes and Morgan Stanley Alexandria Branch manager Jeff Smith.



Morgan Stanley Alexandria Branch manager Jeff Smith carries a box of toys into the Campagna Center. Morgan Stanley has been donating toys to the Campagna Center children for a number of years.



PHOTO BY JAMES R. BRANTLEY

60th Anniversary Former Gov. George Allen spoke to the crowd at the American Heritage celebration of its 60th year. "Revitalizing American Heritage is something that is vitally important," he said. "It is so important that people read, and understand, and are inspired by our fascinating history. Look at the challenges that our country faced from its very beginning. Now more than ever, history is important. It gives you guidance, inspiration, and a sense of direction." The event was held at Gadsby's Tavern, on Monday, Dec. 14,

BUSINESS MATTERS

FROM PAGE 4

point Association, stores like Fibre Space are well positioned during a downturn in the economy. Because people tend to go back to the basics during a downturn, the theory goes, many would-be shoppers are turning to crafts this holiday season. Romanetti says her bottom line seems to bear that out.

"A lot of people are making handmade gifts this season," she said. "We've exceeded our revenue expectations, so business is great right now."

Expanding the Chamber

After years of sluggishness, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce is making a rebound. In the five months since **Tina Leone** was installed as the organization's new president and CEO, the chamber has added 140 new members.

"Success in business is all about building relationships, and that's what your membership in the chamber allows you to accomplish," said Leone at a Thursday night chamber event. "We are ending the year with a 25 percent increase in our membership."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



Recognition of Inova Expansion

Mayor William D. Euille joins CEO of Inova Alexandria Christine Candio, President & CEO of Inova Health System Know Singleton, Chair of the Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation Joe Viar, President of the medical staff Dr. Stephen Rosenfeld, Chair of the emergency department Dr. Martin Brown, Chair of laboratory medicine Dr. Russell Houk and Chair of surgery Dr. Yousef Salem in a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday, Dec. 7, at Inova Alexandria. Phase I included expanding the emergency department and same day surgery department and adding a new pathology lab with state-of-the-art computer automation. The expanded facility is scheduled to open for business on January 19, 2010.

Chamber Board Member of the Year

Andrew F. Palmieri, a partner in the Alexandria office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, has been named Board Member of the Year by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. Palmieri was named Committee Chair of the Year in 2008 and currently serves as the chair of the Chamber's Government Relations Committee.

Palmieri is a member of the firm's commercial and real estate practice group and counsels clients on complex commercial, corporate and real estate transactions, including the development and acquisition of multi-family residential and commercial real estate projects.

Palmieri is a member of the American Bar Association, the Virginia State Bar and the District of Columbia Bar. He is an officer of the American Bar Association's Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law, and a Fellow in



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Andrew Palmieri receives the 2009 Board Member of the Year Award.

the American College of Mortgage Attorneys.

PEOPLE

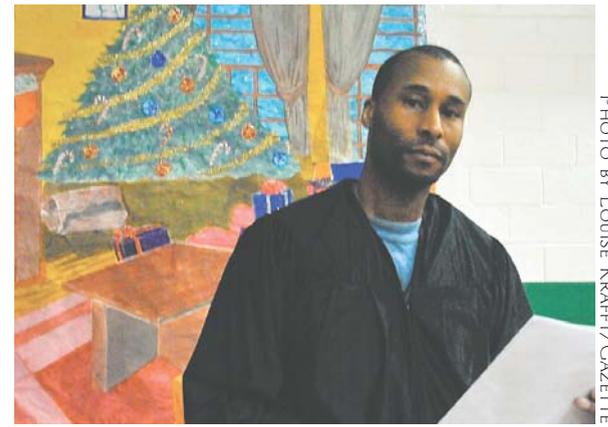
The Spirit Within



"The Voices of Change" a choir of inmate singers rehearse a few lines before the program on Thursday afternoon.



Soloist J. Jones performs an encore.



Inmate John Henderson worked with fellow inmate Timothy James in creating a holiday mural for Thursday's party.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE



Feeding the Hungry

Bishop Paul S. Loverde joins the serving team Nov. 26 for the Thanksgiving meal for the hungry at Catholic Charities' Christ House in Alexandria. Christmas dinner will be served Dec. 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. Food donations are always welcome. Information about hours for food drop-off is available at 703-549-8644 or www.ccca.net.



Rising Star Ellen Hamilton of Yellow Dot Designs is presented the 2009 Rising Star Award last month by Alexandria Chamber of Commerce President Tina Leone and Chamber Chairman Cathy Puskar.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE



From left, local volunteer Noah Schloss, and Jaycee Vice President Dan Anzanello strategize with a Shopping Tour guest as to the quickest way to get these gifts wrapped nicely so as to move on to the pizza portion of the party.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE SCHLOSS/GAZETTE PACKET



Film Director's Visit

Video Vault owners Jane and Jim McCabe, staff member Will Neer and a number of fans greeted film director Herschell Gordon Lewis to the S. Columbus Street shop in October.



Taste for Giving

2009 ALEX Award winners Ilona Savage and Marga Fripp at the Taste for Giving in October, hosted by the Alexandria Rotary Foundation and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

Jaycees Bring Holiday Joy

For over 20 years the Alexandria Jaycees' have been teaming up with local businesses to provide underprivileged children a Holiday Shopping Tour that allows them the opportunity to shop for their loved ones on Christmas. After the shopping tour, the children are driven back to the Campagna Center to a wrapping party where they are treated to pizza, fun and fellowship with their shopping buddies, and a visit from Santa Claus.

The Alexandria Jaycees would like to thank the generous donations of the following local businesses for making this tour a heartwarming success: Target, at Potomac yards, Prince Michel Tasting Room, DASH Bus for providing transportation for the children, Mango Mike's, Majestic Grill/Evening Star Cafe, Restaurant Depot, Greene Funeral Home, the Safeway Store on Royal Street for donating a portion of their lot to allow the Jaycees to sell Christmas trees as a fundraiser for the tour, and Long Fence for the tree enclosure.

For more information about becoming involved with the Alexandria Jaycees, visit their Web site at alexjaycees.org

OPINION

Happy Holidays

A time to reflect,
a time to share.

For the observant of any faith, and even for the more secular among us, the close of the year brings ritual, magic, reflection and hope.

In events around the area, a sense of community has infused holiday parades, Christmas tree lightings, menorah lightings, choral performances, singing of carols, and other traditional events with warmth and joy.

In Great Falls, it was the 19th lighting of the Christmas tree, with holiday songs by the Langley Madrigals. In Reston, Santa arrived by boat across Lake Anne in a snow squall. In Alexandria, the Scottish Christmas Walk announced the beginning of the season despite the wet snow. In Clifton, the Christmas spirit was celebrated in a candlelight homes tour, among other events. In Fairfax, one congregation built a 7-foot-tall menorah out of Legos. And in every community, volunteers have come together to provide food, clothing and some holiday cheer for the needy.

2009 has been a challenging year for many families, businesses, schools, charitable organizations.

As the year comes to an end, we can count our blessings. Here in the Washington suburbs most of us have been spared the intense difficulties of the economic downturn. We'll all likely to welcome 2010 with optimism and relief.

Next week between Christmas and New Years, look for our annual Children's Connection, when we turn our entire paper over to the contributions of area students — artwork of many kinds, poetry and other writing. Our next regular edition will come out the week of Jan. 4, 2010.

From the all the staff here, we wish you a merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah, joyful holidays and a wonderful beginning to the New Year.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Give Locally

Remember that more local families are in need right now than ever before; thankfully, most of us are in a position to help. It's not too late to brighten the holidays for a needy fam-

ily as many organizations are reporting record demand for holiday meals and help with providing children at least one present. The need will continue into the New Year as well.

Where to Donate

- ❖ ALIVE (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically) www.alive-inc.org
- ❖ The Campagna Center in Alexandria 703-549-0111
- ❖ United Community Ministries, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306. UCM's Food Pantry is open weekdays 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. the first Sunday of each month (except January, July and September, open on second Sunday). Enter through gates on right side of building, drive around to opposite side of building and ring bell at green door.
- ❖ Lorton Community Action Center, 9518 Richmond Highway, www.lortonaction.org. lcacvolunteer@msn.com, 703 339-5161,
- ❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia 703-541-3063, www.capitalareafoodbank.org Food donations accepted Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fully equipped with refrigeration and freezers, so can accept non-perishable food items, plus produce, any kind of meat or dairy products and frozen food.
- ❖ Good Shepherd in the Route 1 area, 703-768-9404
- ❖ Lorton Community Action Center, 703-339-5161

Snapshots

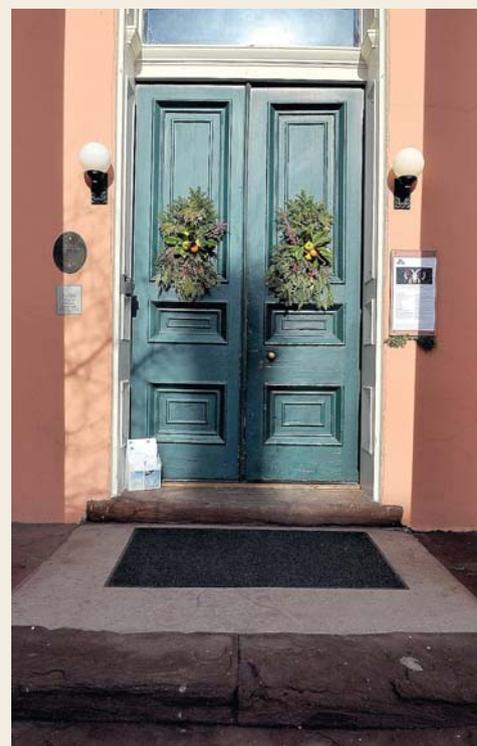
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



1:34 p.m., Dec. 14,
200 block of Prince Street



1:29 p.m., Dec. 14,
200 block of Prince Street



1:40 p.m., Dec. 14, The Athenaeum

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Music, Message Of Christmas

To the Editor:

On Dec. 13, I attended an event of inspiring music at the sing-along holiday concert at the Alfred Street Baptist Church. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performed music by Tchaikovsky and the Duke Ellington's Jazz Band. Conducted by Kim Allen Kluge, the

music consisted of different tunes we all could recognize along with a list of Christmas carols to sing along as families and friends.

It was a moment we all could relate to as one listened to the music of a Charlie Brown Christmas with my favorite Snoopy and Woodstock. The main event of the concert was "The Nutcracker," as creative as one could visualize.

That was followed by a Christmas festival on Dec. 19 held each

year by the Alfred Street Baptist Church. The music, drama and liturgical dance ministries offered an inspirational up-lifting performance reflecting the meaning of Christmas: Luke 2:10: "And the angel said unto them, fear not: behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Luke 2:11: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:14: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

May the spirit of Christmas rest within all our hearts throughout the New Year with the joy of peace and good will unto all.

Geri Baldwin
Alexandria

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 21

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter, 703-778-9437
alexandriagazette@yahoo.com

Steve Hibbard
Associate Editor, 703-778-9412
shibbard@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-224-3015
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com

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Publisher
Jerry Vernon

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren

Photography:
Louise Krafft, Robbie Hammer
Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,
John Heinly, Wayne Shipp,
John Smith

Production Manager:
Jean Card

Editor Emeritus:
Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver

**CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,
L.L.C.**
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Publisher/Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales, 703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

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Alexandria: America's Most Charitable City

BY GERRY HEBERT
FORMER PRESIDENT OF ALIVE!

I read a story in this morning's news and instantly swelled with pride. What a great and wonderful thing it is that Alexandria has been determined as the most giving community in the entire United States.

You see, the leading provider of software services to nonprofit organizations (which charity groups use to manage online charitable giving) looked at the amount of online giving per capita for cities over 100,000 between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31 of this year. Alexandria came in first. And Alexandria finished first last year as well. This year, the article reported, Alexandrians made "25,143 online donations, adding up to a whopping \$1.8 million." For every 1,000 people in our city, the amount of online giving was almost 13,000! As the news article rightfully concluded: "Talk about a town that understands the gift of giving!"

Who knew? I did.

You see I have long been active in a local charity here in Alexandria called ALIVE! — our city's nonprofit safety net for Alexandria's poor. Time and again over the years, the number of Alexandrians needing help with basic things like food and shelter swells. Imagine here in the shadows of the capital of the United States, we have people desperate for enough food to eat or a place to sleep.

When homeless people move from one of our shelters to public or subsidized housing, they often go with little else but the clothes on their back. Where will they sleep? What will they eat? How can they take a shower if they don't have towels? ALIVE! is there to help. We collect used furniture 52 Saturdays a year from generous Alexandrians and then deliver it that same day to people in need. Perhaps you've

seen one of our big box trucks on a Saturday and wondered what it's doing. Now you know. ALIVE! also delivers boxes of housewares to people in need 52 weeks a year so that they can put sheets on the bed and dishes and flatware on the table. And our food program provides food for those who don't have any.

I don't know about you but oftentimes I come SEE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 22



Supporting Heifer Project The St. Paul's Nursery and Day School four-year-olds class made its 4th annual visit to Burke and Herbert Bank with their jar of pennies. The children collected \$72.33 to buy several flocks of chicks from the Heifer Project to send to an impoverished family.

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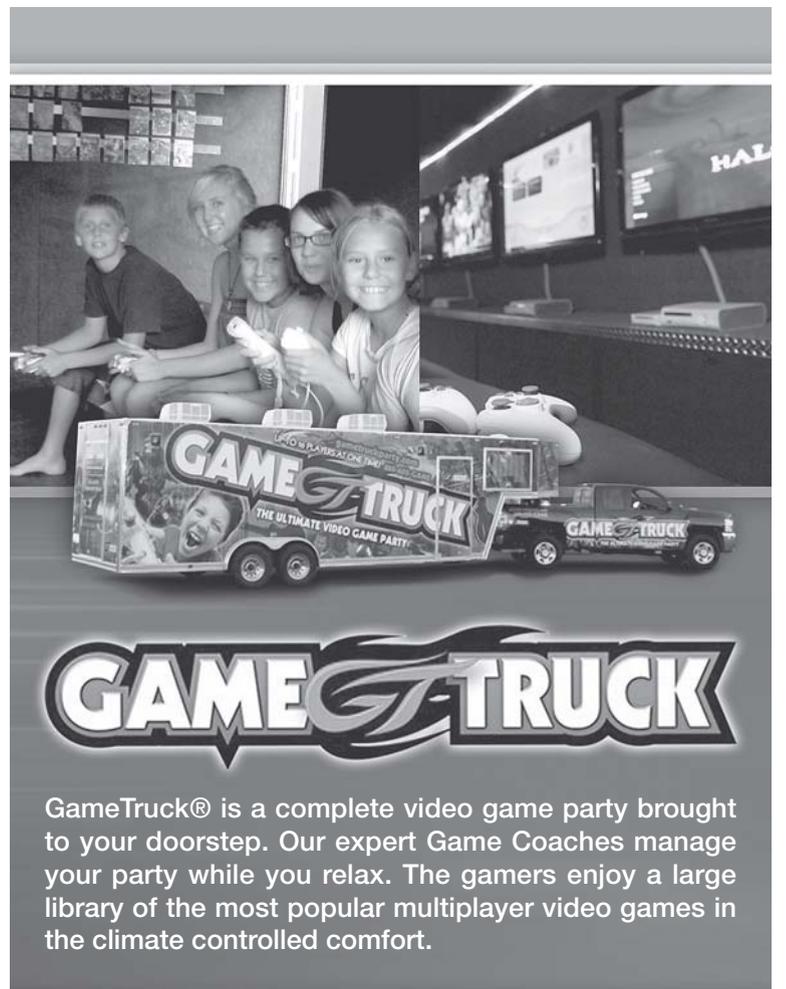
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PHOTO BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS/THE GAZETTE

After the musical celebration, Mound Vernon Woods Elementary band director Kristi Thomas, music director for Christ Church of Alexandria Jason Abel, Marie Lemmon, principal of Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School, and art teacher at Mount Vernon Woods Beth McConnell gather in the Christ church reception hall for food and fellowship.

Music Service Serves School

Christ Church of Alexandria's music celebration benefits Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School.

BY MECHELLE SCHLOSS
THE GAZETTE

For the second year in a row, Christ Church of Alexandria has chosen Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School's music department to receive the offering at the church's annual music celebration, A Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Jason Abel, music director for Christ Church, first heard of the need at Mount Vernon Woods when Christ Church congregates and former Virginia delegate, Kris Amundson, shared about the school's program needs and put him in touch with band director Kristi Thomas.

"They have a lot of needs, but the program at Mount Vernon Woods is going in the right direction, and they have a great principal and band director. The Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols is a music service, it seemed a logical fit for us at Christ Church to help other children pursue their musical education," Abel said.

Principal of Mount Vernon Woods Elementary Marie Lemmon expressed appreciation to Christ Church and its members for their involvement in the program, which provides lower income students the gift of learning to create and enjoy music, especially in this time of cutbacks in arts and music education. The school and church are also looking forward to working together to fund a band camp at Mount Vernon Woods this summer.



PHOTOS BY KRISTI THOMAS/MOUNT VERNON WOODS ELEMENTARY BAND DIRECTOR

Music Director for Christ Church of Alexandria Jason Abel leads the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.



Christ Church of Alexandria Cherub Choir members Georgia Mosteller and Kathryn Atkinson.

Book Features Historic Markers

FROM PAGE 3

Volume two, for example, includes separate chapters for Colonial Period, Revolutionary America, Civil War and 20th Century. An index at the back of the book includes GPS coordinates and a list of markers that have been approved but not yet installed. Each

full-color image includes the environment around the frame of the marker to indicate setting.

"If we cropped the images, it would be a book of plaques," said Harrison. "On the other hand, if we went too far out with the photograph you wouldn't be able to read the markers. So we struck a balance."



PHOTO BY JESSICA SILVERMAN

Small village in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Study Tour Inspires Teacher

BY JESSICA SILVERMAN
ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY
SCHOOL

This summer I received a Fulbright-Hays grant to participate in The Teach Ottoman Empire program. I was one of 12 full-time K-12 educators (from all over the United States) selected to participate in this curriculum-building study tour of western Turkey and the Balkans (Serbia, Bosnia, western Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, and northern Greece).

The program was organized by the University of Arizona's Center for Middle-Eastern Studies and funded by Fulbright-Hays. The program consisted of three pre-travel seminars last spring and one month travel in the region this summer.

The objectives of the Teach Ottoman Empire program were threefold. First, the seminars and study trip were designed to develop teachers' knowledge of the history, geography, cultures, and languages of the extremely significant, long-lasting Ottoman Empire (1299-1923), which served as a cultural bridge between Asia and Europe, between the Middle East and the Balkans.

The second goal of the program was to explore the rich cultural diversity found up to the present time in this important borderland between Eastern and Western civilizations. As program participants we explored issues of linguistic and cultural diversity and, conversely, of cultural diffusion, the sharing of ideas throughout the region. We also explored the relationship between past and present,

how institutions and concepts from Ottoman times have exerted a profound influence on contemporary events.

The third objective was to meet with educators and experts in the region, establishing an international dialogue about how to present these concepts within the classroom.

MY PERSONAL GOALS for the program were also threefold. I wanted to broaden my knowledge of the Ottoman Empire and the region, develop the 6th grade history curriculum at ACDS and professionally develop through interacting and sharing ideas with other educators.

In college I majored in Asian studies and then went on to receive a master's degree in Indian religions and Sanskrit from Oxford University. I loved studying religions so much, that I decided to pursue a second master's degree in religious studies at University of Virginia.

Religion has always been a fascinating topic to me, especially the interactions between different religious groups throughout history. The Ottoman Empire was extremely religiously diverse. Through this program, I gained firsthand experience of the lasting effects the Ottoman Empire made on religion in modern Turkey and the Balkans.

THE 6TH GRADE history and reading curriculum is an interdisciplinary program, focusing on world religions. While participating in the Teach Ottoman Empire program, I particularly focused on building the Islam unit of the 6th



Jessica Silverman in front of Atik Ali Pasha Mosque, Istanbul, Turkey.

grade world religions curriculum. I became fascinated by the decorative arts used in Ottoman mosques and, upon my return, I wrote a lesson plan on decorative arts used in Ottoman mosques. This lesson plan has been selected for publication by the University of Arizona and will be distributed to teachers throughout the country.

Through this program I met fascinating and inspirational teachers. As my students know, I have a deep passion for the subject I teach and I believe in using education as the primary tool to create a more tolerant and peaceful world. So often, history is viewed as one war to the next, violence to violence. The periods of violence in history are not the norm and even within those periods, there are examples of peace. This program reaffirmed my belief in teaching history from peace to peace.

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CHRIS WHITE

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7501 Park Terrace Drive \$1,150,000
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4401 Jackson Place \$475,000
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116 ROBERTS LANE #301 Alexandria \$330,000
ALEXANDRIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET! The location and space you need, the updated kitchen you want. 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, granite counter-tops, stainless steel appliances. Come check out this move-in ready unit.

2220 N FAIRFAX DR #308 North Arlington \$429,000
1BR / 1.5BA + Den in Park at Courthouse. Highlights: light-filled living/dining rms, kit w/SS & granite, ceramic tile in Baths, HW floors, crown molding, abundant closet space, w/d, & 1 gar prkg space. Located just blks from Courthouse Metro & Clarendon.

1208 Tatum Drive \$875,000
Villamay!
Magnificent Colonial in exceptional condition on one of prestigious Villamay's nicest streets! Three finished levels, large room sizes, updated kitchen and baths. MBR suite has private balcony which provides panoramic vistas of the area with seasonal river views. Elevated grounds afford the ultimate privacy with gorgeous custom pool.

8311 Mount Vernon Hwy \$779,000
Brand New Home!
Stunning opportunity! Leading builder's model home has been loaded with options and was planned to sell for over \$1,000,000! Fabulous special features include: bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, four levels, upgraded kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, custom trim detail, spacious screened porch and two car garage. Prime location convenient to everything!


Peace on Earth, Good Will to All
Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year
from the
Agents and Staff
of
Long & Foster Realtors

1638 MT EAGLE PL #972-16 Alexandria \$362,500
PARKFARFAX. Lovingly cared for and outstandingly renovated, this Madison end-unit has a bright treehouse setting on a quiet cul-de-sac. Move in ready for the New Year, all the work has been done. Close in historic neighborhood with great commuting options. AX7190532

945 POWHATAN ST Alex / Old Town \$699,000
NEW AT OLD TOWN GATEWAY.
Elegantly appointed Brand-built Madison model with 2BR, 2.5BA, media room, breakfast room, built-in wine bar, living room gas fireplace with French doors to private patio, parking. Top quality.

8108 East Boulevard Dr \$2,395,000
Premier Property!
Custom Boucher built classic on magnificent full acre lot just 3 miles to Old Town! Spacious residence with elegant Colonial detail, custom brick exterior, 3 finished levels, handcrafted cabinetry and brick work, gourmet kitchen, 4.5 luxurious baths, high ceilings, 4 frpls and 3 car garage. Magnificent private setting on professionally landscaped grounds, convenient to everything!

5205 Polk Avenue \$999,000
Brand New Home!
Top quality luxury home in prime west end Alexandria City location for under \$1,000,000! Bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, luxury baths, 4BRs upstairs including stunning master suite and oversize side load garage. Prime location on rare almost half acre 'in-town' lot. Pre-construction special allows maximum customization!

RENTALS
310 #7-310C Ashby St \$1,300
Auburn Village Garden 1BR/1BA
Steve Kendrick 703.683.0400
4900 South 29th Road #C-1 \$1,300
Fairlington Village Garden 1BR/1BA
Pat Wilson 703.598.7279
7802 Hyson Park Ct \$1,800
Jefferson Park Townhouse 4BR/2.55BA 2FP
Pat Garrity 703.298.2287
3826 King St #298 \$1,995
Fairlington Town Townhouse 2BR/2BA
Anya Macklin 703.501.6384

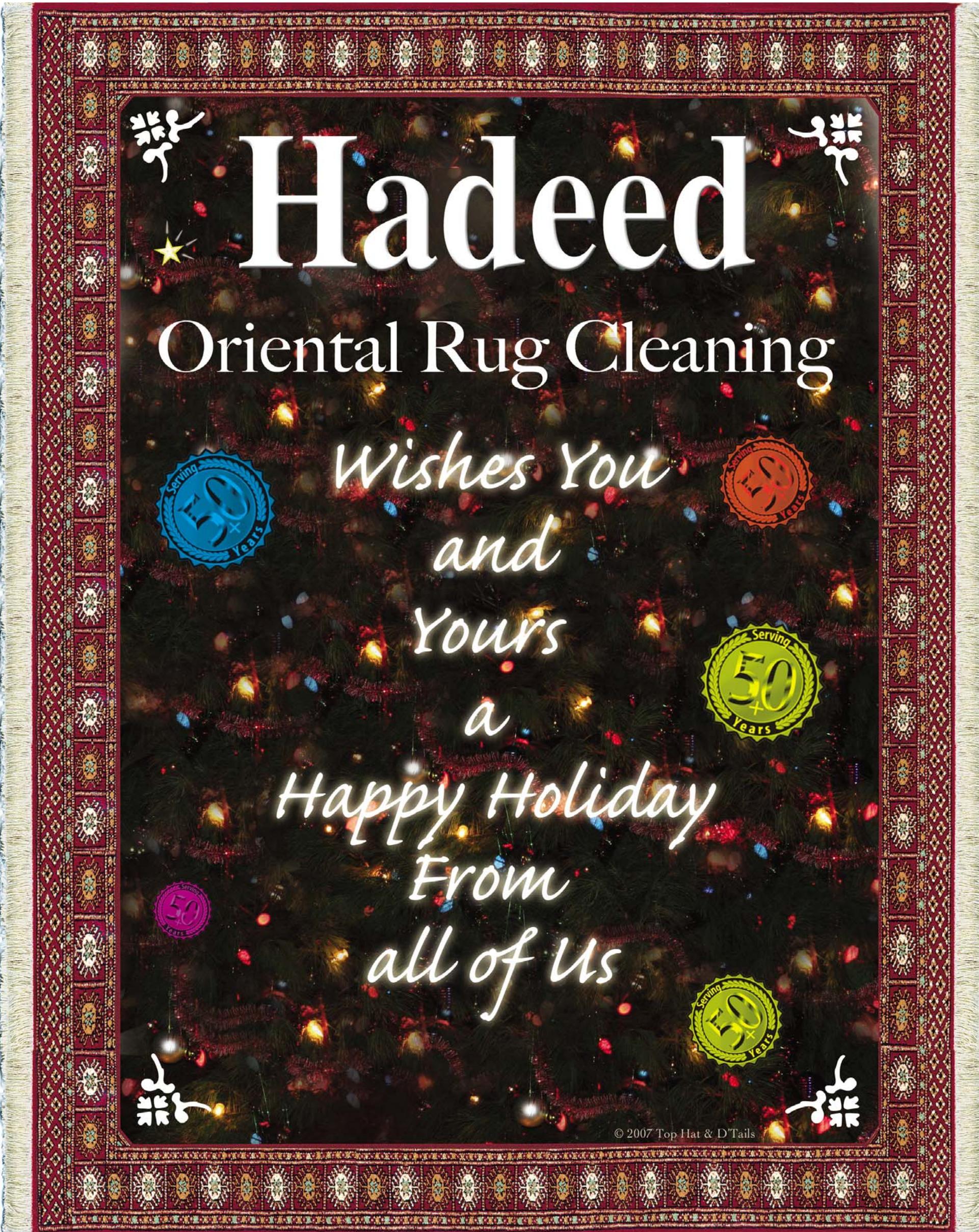
RENTALS
728 North Columbus St \$2,000
Old Town Townhouse 3BR/1BA
Connie McKeen 703.626.4417
1250 S Washington St
Porto Vecchio Mid-Rise
319 1BR/1.5 BA/Den 1 garage \$2,200
419 1BR/1.5/Den 1 garage \$2,275
615 1BR/1.5BA/Den PH 1 garage \$2,400
Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
888 Quincy St #1421 \$3,500
Residences at Liberty Center Hi-Rise
2BR/2BA 1 assigned garage space
Bob Skinner 703.585.6683



CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028
www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com

400 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA 22314
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www.OldTownAlexandria.com





Hadeed

Oriental Rug Cleaning

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and
Yours
a*

*Happy Holiday
From
all of Us*



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E

ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Christmas At Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon is again joyfully decking the halls for Christmas at Mount Vernon, a special daytime program offered from now through Jan. 6. Themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees), a gingerbread Mount Vernon by former White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier, historical chocolate-making demonstrations, and 18th-century dancing will be offered. Back by popular demand will be "Aladdin," who plays the role of a Christmas Camel! George Washington was fond of unusual animals and plants, and he paid 18 shillings in 1787 for a camel to live at Mount Vernon for his guests during Christmas.

Christmas at Mount Vernon is included in regular Estate admission: \$15 for adults, \$7 for children ages 6-11, and free for children under 6. Call 703-780-2000; 703-799-8697 (TDD); or go to Visit.MountVernon.org

Alexandria To Honor Its Living Legends

Twelve individuals or teams have been named this year's Living Legends of Alexandria. The Committee considered 32 nominations and will honor all nominees at a reception on Feb. 7, at the Lyceum, 201 North Washington Street.

Created in 2006, Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing, not-for-profit photo-journalism project, which identifies, honors, and chronicles Alexandria's citizens. Living Legends recognizes individuals who have contributed at least one tangible improvement to the quality of the City's life that would likely be missing without that person's vision and energy and those who have demonstrated long-term service to Alexandria, especially through work on commissions, committees and service organizations. The project is unique among recognition programs in that the records are donated to the Alexandria Library for future research and to inspire others.

The Legends of 2010 are: Chet Avery, Rosalind Bovey, Rodger Digilio, Nelson Greene, Sr., the team of Alice Merrill and Linda Odell, T. Michael Miller, John Porter, Joan and John Renner, David Speck, Pat Troy, Lois Walker and Betty Wright.

Fun Hunt To Kick Off the New Year's Eve

First Night Alexandria will kick off with an inaugural Fun Hunt on Thursday, Dec. 31. Teams of friends, family and colleagues are invited to participate in the unique event starting at 2:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

Fun Hunt participants will pick up clues at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria. Speed doesn't matter, but solving all of the clues does. The hunt will run until 4:45 p.m., when completed forms must be turned in at the Embassy Suites Hotel. During the First Night Alexandria official kick-off at 5 p.m., a Fun Hunt drawing will take place for first, second and third prizes. All teams that correctly finish the hunt by 4:45 p.m. and are present for the drawing will be eligible to win.

"There has already been a lot of buzz about this new event and we are fortunate to have generous sponsors providing some fabulous prizes," said Denny Auld, First Night Alexandria Board Member and Fun Hunt creator. "Our first prize winners will take home \$500, as well as a two-night stay at The Morrison House, with dinner one-night, and other great gifts. Similar prizes will be awarded to the second and third teams drawn."

THE FUN HUNT is open to the first 250 teams registering. There is no fee to participate, but each team must have one First Night Alexandria badge visible at all times.

First Night Alexandria badges can be purchased online through Dec. 23 for \$15. Badges are also available for \$20 at several retail locations throughout Alexandria, and will be sold starting at 12 noon on Dec. 31, at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Diagonal Road, First Night Alexandria Headquarters that day. At least one venue in each of the First Night Spotlight Areas will sell badges too, starting 15 minutes before performances on New Year's Eve.

Admission badges are required for entry



Alexandria City Mayor William Euille presents First Night Alexandria board chair Charlotte Hall and Vice Mayor Kerry Donley, First Night Alexandria's chair-elect, with a "Fair Weather Proclamation" at the Alexandria City Council Meeting on Dec. 8.

to First Night Alexandria venues and provide access to any and all of the performances throughout the night. Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult, and active military personnel will

receive complimentary badges.

For Fun Hunt details, a list of badge retail sites and a full schedule of the evening's venues and performers, visit www.FirstNightAlexandria.org.

Alexandria Restaurant Week

More than 40 dining establishments will be showcasing their culinary expertise during the second-annual Alexandria Restaurant Week, Jan. 15-24.

For 10 days throughout the City of Alexandria, diners can sample \$35 pre-fixe three-course dinners, or \$35 dinners for two, or \$3.50 sweet treats at participating restaurants.

This 10-day gourmet and gourmand event enables residents and visitors to enjoy tantalizing multi-course meals and distinctive treats prepared especially for the occasion showcasing the culinary diversity offered throughout the city.

For event details and online reservations, go to www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com or call 703-746-3301.

List of Participating Establishments

\$35 THREE-COURSE, PRIX FIXE DINNER

219 Restaurant
A La Lucia (+)
Bastille (+)
Bilbo Baggins
Cafe Salsa
Chart House
Columbia Firehouse
Del Merei Grille (+)
Finn & Porter (+)
Fish Market
Geranio (+)
Jackson 20
Joe Theismann's Restaurant
La Bergerie (+)
La Strada (+)
La Tasca (+)
Laporta's Restaurant (+)
O'Connell's Restaurant
Raw Silk, Indian Restaurant & Lounge
RT's Restaurant
Tempo Restaurant (+)
The Carlyle Club (+)
The Jamieson Grille
The Warehouse Bar & Grill
The Wharf
Union Street Public House

GRAPE + BEAN wine bar

\$35 DINNER FOR TWO

Bombay Curry Company
Chadwicks Old Town
Cheesetique
Dishes of India (+)
Duke's Bar & Grill
FireFlies
Fontaine Café & Creperie
King Street Blues (+)
Mango Mike's (+)
Monroe's, An American Trattoria
Murphy's Irish Pub
Overwood (+)
Ramparts (+)
Seagar's Restaurant (+)
Thailand on Royal Street
Villa Di'Este

\$3.50 SWEET TREAT

ACKK
Bittersweet Catering

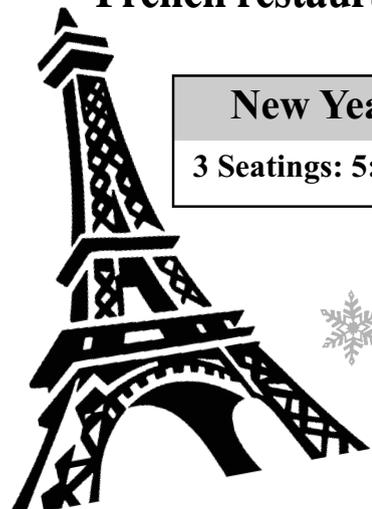
Price does not include tax and gratuity. All prices are subject to change.
(+) Indicates online reservations offered

CALENDAR

**OLD TOWN'S FAVORITE
COUNTRY FRENCH RESTAURANT**

Le Refuge

Old Town's most authentic country
French restaurant since 1983



New Year's Eve
3 Seatings: 5:30, 7:30, 9:45

*Please make
holiday
reservations
early*

127 N. Washington St., Old Town • 703-548-4661

Smoke Free Restaurant
www.lerefugealexandria.com

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

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

Tea Dances. 1-3:15 p.m. Group class from 1-1:30 p.m. Ballroom, Latin and Swing music. \$11/person. At the Dance Studio Lioudmila, 18 Roth Street, 2nd Floor (off Duke Street), Alexandria. Call 703-751-8868.

THURSDAY/DEC. 24

St. Paul's Old Town Music Offerings. 6 p.m. (Choral prelude begins at 5:30 p.m.) St. Cecilia Choir, St. Paul's Choir Women, Good Shepherd Ringers, and parish Instrumentalists; Douglas Beck, conductor. At St. Paul's Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-3312 or email: douglas@stpaulsalexandria.com.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 9:30 a.m. The Vocal Ensemble of Westminster Choir, with Carolyn Carmack (soprano), Molly Roden (soprano), Elizabeth Blakeslee (harp), Michelle Clover (flute), Heather Hyde (trumpet), Richard Stone (timpani), and Paul Stetsenko (organ). At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-4766.

St. Paul's Old Town Music Offerings: Christmas Holy Eucharist. 11 p.m. With St. Paul's Choir, Instrumentalists; Douglas Beck, conductor. (Choral prelude begins at 10:30 p.m.) At St. Paul's Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-3312 or email: douglas@stpaulsalexandria.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. New Year's Eve celebration with music, dance, performing arts for all ages with more than 100 performances in 25 indoor venues throughout Old Town. All ages are welcome and all venues are alcohol free. Noon to midnight. Fireworks at midnight. Entrance fee. Call 703-746-3301, www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com or www.FirstNightAlexandria.org.

SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

Storytelling Sessions. 2 p.m. Children enter a world of fantasy and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during Mount Vernon's storytelling session, "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon," at Historic Mount Vernon in the Hands-On History Room in the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15; youth ages 6-11, \$7; and children under 5 are free.

JAN. 1-4

MAGFest 8 — Music and Gaming Festival. Offers 24-hour console, arcade and PC game rooms, 10 live video game cover bands, a vendors area and guest speakers from the video game industry and fan scene. Live video game music cover bands and 24-hour gaming. In Alexandria. Go to <http://magfest.org>.

SUNDAY/JAN. 3

Bach Vespers at Westminster. 6 p.m. Organ works included: J.S. Bach, Prelude and Fugue in c-minor ("Big"). Chorale Preludes "Helft mir Gotts Güte preisen," "Das alte Jahre vergangen ist," "In dir ist Freude" and Fugue on "Magnificat." At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Go to www.wpc-alex.org



DEC, 27, 28, 29

"The Nutcracker." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Presented by The Virginia Ballet Company and School. At Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus in the Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater. Tickets are \$30/adults; \$20/children, students and seniors. Go to www.virginiaballetcompany.org or call 703-249-8227.

Twelfth Night. 6 p.m. A celebration of the Epiphany and the Winter Solstice. Armonia Nova, a Medieval and Renaissance ensemble of historical instruments and voices. At Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St., Old Town, Alexandria. Call 571-482-9052 or www.armonianova.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 4

Tavern Toddlers. \$7 admission. Weekly open playtime between 10:30 a.m. and noon every Monday. (For ages walkers through 36 months). At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

JAN. 4-5

Auditions for "Urinetown." 7-10 p.m. Presented by the Metropolitan Performing Arts Theatre. Sing up to 32 bars, bring sheet music (accompanist provided). Callbacks are Jan. 7. The performance dates are March 19-27. At 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.



BumpKin Pie with Michael Dunkley and Suzanne Ives of Alexandria.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

Hungry for Music Concert. 7 p.m. Four folk/Americana duos perform. Starring Siobhan Quinn and Michael Bowers; BumpKin Pie with Michael Dunkley and Suzanne Ives; Lisa Taylor and Dana Connor; and The Sweater Set. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$18/door; \$15/advance at FocusMusic.org. Contact Kay Coyte at kay@focusmusic.org or 703-501-6061

Email daniilo.stapula@gmail.com or visit www.metrotheater.org

SATURDAY/JAN. 9

Rockin' in a Winter Wonderland. 10-11 a.m. Featuring Rocknoceros and benefitting the St. Clement Episcopal Day School in Alexandria. Cost is \$10/advance; \$12/door. At Grace Episcopal Day School Auditorium, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. For tickets, go to <http://preschool.fufa.net>.

Women's Handyman Classes. 10 a.m. to noon. Basic electrical, plumbing and handyman classes for interested women hoping to learn about everything from hanging a ceiling fan, repairing a leaky faucet, installing a door knob or replacing ceramic tiles. At Michael and Son headquarters building, 5730 General Washington Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.michaelandson.com

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

All About Dogs. 7:30 p.m. Friends of Duncan Library are hosting Robin Bennett, author of All About Dog Daycare: A Blueprint for Success and Off-Leash Dog Play. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4566 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

JAN. 15-24

Alexandria Restaurant Week. More than 40 dining establishments participating in this second-annual event. Offering \$35 pre-fixe three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two, or \$3.50 sweet treats. Throughout the City of Alexandria. Menus, event details, and online reservations at: www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com. Call 703-746-3301

TUESDAY/JAN. 19

Winter Concert. Works by Philip Glass with Dana Tae Soon Burgess Dance Co. Schönberg "Verklärte Nacht". At Episcopal High School, in Pendleton Hall in the Ainslie Arts Center, 1200 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-933-4135.

SATURDAY/JAN. 23

Civil War Ball. 8-11 p.m. In Gadsby's Tavern ballroom. \$45/advance; \$50/door. Period attire, either civilian or military, is encouraged. In preparation for the Ball, dance classes will be offered at Gadsby's Tavern Museum from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21. Learn the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel and more. Cost is \$12/each of \$30 for the series. Call 703-838-4242. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

JAN. 23-24

"Mint Condition." Jan. 23 at 8 p.m.; Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. Jane Franklin Dance and Washington Saxophone Quartet perform in a shared evening. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$28 - \$16 can be purchased by phone 703-933-1111 or at www.janefranklin.com

SATURDAY/FEB. 13

Tamburitzans Perform. 7 p.m. Duquesne University Tamburitzans perform. Tickets are \$22, \$25 and \$30. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 1-877-826-6437.

George Washington Birthday Classic 10-K Race and 2-K Fun Run. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. rain or shine. Certified race course through Eisenhower Valley and Alexandria's parklands. Prizes, T-shirts and refreshments will be provided for runners, with the proceeds benefiting the Alexandria Police Youth Camp. Cost is \$25; after Feb. 10: \$30.

FINE ARTS



Flowering Bull

NOW THROUGH JAN. 3

New Mythology/Tracey Clarke

Tracey Clarke's otherworldly work pairs dramatic images with short narratives that both answer — and ask — questions. An artist's reception will be held Sunday, Nov. 22 at 4 p.m. On display at the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

Gallery West Presents: The 30th Anniversary Celebration/Small Works Show

Join the members of Gallery West in a month-long celebration of the gallery's 30th year. The gallery is located at 1213 King Street in Old Town Alexandria's Boutique District, between Payne and Fayette. Shopping and fine dining are nearby. The gallery is open from 11 – 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Images of work by the members are on view at the gallery's Web site: www.gallery-west.com. Call 703-549-6006.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 3

The Kiln Club Show. Runs Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. Scope Gallery is located at 101 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call the Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 3

Size Matters: Two Shows-Two Jurors. Juried by Peg Koetsch and Brett John Johnson. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except second Thursdays 2 to 9 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Street, #312, Alexandria. Call 703-683-2205.

JAN. 5 TO FEB. 20

"White Ice." At the Potomac Fiber Arts



NOW THROUGH JAN. 4

Pamela H. Viola, "The One Less Traveled."

Photographer Pamela Viola's solo artist exhibit at The Art League Gallery, "The One Less Traveled," features dreamlike, mysterious landscapes that challenge the viewer to see the world in a new and different way. Opening Reception: Thursday, Dec. 10, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Gallery Hours: Daily, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sundays, 12 noon – 6 p.m. Open Thursdays until 9 p.m. Exhibitions and events are free and open to the public. The Art League, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria.

Gallery. Artists interpret in fiber the cool, clear, sparkly, sheer, and smooth nature of Ice. Jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited. Located in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union Street in Old Town Alexandria. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except on Thursdays when it is open from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free admission.

Fridays, noon to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 6 p.m. Admission is free. At the Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4827 or www.thedelrayartisans.org.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 10

Pandora's Box Exhibition.

Pandora's Box is an exhibition that had artists create a visual interpretation of the Greek Myth and express how it relates to modern times. Reception Dec. 10 from 6-8 p.m. Juror talk with Landria Shack: Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. Pandora's Box Youth Outreach Art Project: Dec. 10-Jan. 10; with VIP reception on Dec. 10, 5:30-6:30 p.m. At The Torpedo Factory Art Center on the waterfront in Old Town Alexandria at 105 North Union Street; call 703-838-4565, ext. 4; Visit www.torpedofactory.org

TUESDAY/JAN. 5

"Morrison House Presents: From the Torpedo Factory to the Mount Vernon Trail." 6-8 p.m. Torpedo Factory artist Christopher Erney will discuss his creation of the George Washington Mural, the longest realistic mural in the United States. Part of a salon-style series celebrating culture through arts, literature and history discussion. At the Morrison House, 116 South Alfred Street, Alexandria. Visit www.morrisonhouse.com or call 703-838-8000.

JAN. 8 TO JAN. 24

New Work for a New Year. The Del Ray Artisans' (DRA) January show for 2010. This exhibit provides local artists a platform to show recent work that has not been previously exhibited. The show will open on with a reception on Friday, Jan. 8 from 7 – 9:30 p.m., and close Sunday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. Gallery hours are: Thursdays, noon to 4 p.m.;

FEB. 3-28

Gallery West Presents: The 13th Annual National Juried Show Gallery West invites the public to view works selected for the 13th Annual National Show, juried by Jack Rasmussen, Director and Curator of the American University Museum. Reception: Saturday, Feb. 6 from 5 – 8 p.m. Second Thursday Reception: Feb. 11, 6 – 9 p.m. Located at 1213 King Street in Old Town Alexandria's Boutique District. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

Jan. 14: Jars of Clay
Jan. 15: Eddie from Ohio w/ The Honey Dewdrops
Jan. 16: Eddie from Ohio w/ Jake Armerding
Jan. 17: Eddie from Ohio w/ Caravan of Thieves
Jan. 18: Carolina Chocolate Drops with Red Molly
Jan. 19: Judy Collins
Jan. 20: Laura Izibor
Jan. 22: Maura Kennedy
Jan. 24: Robert Klein
Jan. 25: Travis Tritt (solo)
Jan. 26: Allan Holdsworth Band feat. Allan Holdsworth, Jimmy Haslip, Alan Pasqua, Chad Wackerman
Jan. 27: The Ventures
Jan. 28: 1964: Tribute to the Beatles
Jan. 29: Shawn Mullins with Justin Trawick
Jan. 30: Suzanne Westenhoefer
Jan. 31: David Sanborn
Feb. 2: Josh Rouse

Feb. 4: Bobby "Blue" Bland
Feb. 5: Sonny Landreth with Tom Principato
Feb. 6: Walter Beasley
Feb. 9: The Neville Brothers
Feb. 10: Dr. John & The Lower 911
Feb. 11: Angie Stone
Feb. 12: 2 Skinnee J's Acoustic Tell-All
Feb. 13: The Association w/ Keegan Corbey
Feb. 14: Burlesque-a-Pades with the Pontani Sisters
Feb. 16: John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers
Feb. 17: Poco & Pure Prairie League
Feb. 18: Dave Alvin and A Couple Guilty Women
Feb. 19: Arlo Guthrie
Feb. 20: Hal Ketchum with Sonia Leigh and Levi Lowrey
Feb. 21: The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston and Blue Lovett
Feb. 26: Melissa Ferrick with Vandaveer
Feb. 27: Maura O'Connell

THE MUSIC LISTINGS

THE BIRCHMERE

3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.
Dec. 26: Pieces of a Dream
Dec. 28: Regina Belle
Dec. 29: Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes
Dec. 30: Hank Williams Tribute featuring Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Bill Kirchen, Robin & Linda Williams and Their Fine Group
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve with the Seldom Scene, Legends of the Potomac Feat, Darren Beachley, Mike Auldridge, Tom Gray and Dead Men's Hollow
Jan. 1: The Billy Price Band & The Nighthawks
Jan. 2: Elliott Yamin
Jan. 6: Edwin McCain w/ Seth Glier
Jan. 8-9: Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder
Jan. 12: War

La Strada

1905 ON THE AVENUE

New Year's Eve Prix Fixe Tasting Menu

Three Courses

*Antipasti or Insalata; Primi or Secondi; and Dolce \$45.00 plus tax & gratuity per person
With wine pairings above (Tasting Glasses)
\$60.00 tax & gratuity per person*

Five Course

*\$65.00 plus tax & gratuity per person
With wine pairings above (Tasting Glasses)
\$85.00 tax & gratuity per person*

BUON ANNO

Happy holidays from the Scott family and staff.

Please call 703-548-2542 or
www.lastrada-ontheave.com for menu or to make
reservations for 1 of 3 seatings; 6pm, 8pm or 10pm

La Strada
1905 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria (Del Ray)
703-548-2542
www.lastrada-ontheave.com

Enjoy New Year's Eve dinner in Old Town's Italian Trattoria complete with the romance of Italian Piano Music with Opera Performers

**Three-course Dinner
with Champagne or
House Wine
includes balloons,
noisemakers,
hats, etc.**

Open Christmas
Eve for dinner
ala carte menu

**Opera Nite
Dec 27th**

**Happy Holidays to
all our Patrons
- Franco Abbruzzetti**

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**305 S. Washington Street
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Daily Specials • Private Party Rooms •
Ample Free Parking After 5 pm
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First Night ALEXANDRIA



An Old Town New Year's Eve Party

Don't miss the area's largest, safest, family-friendly, budget-friendly New Year's Eve celebration!

One \$20 badge provides admission to all event venues — purchase yours today at any of these supporting businesses

12•31•09

- Alexandria Visitors Center at Ramsay House
- Burke & Herbert Bank
- Hooray for Books
- Imagine Artwear
- Mango Mike's
- Nickells & Scheffler
- Rick's Wine & Gourmet
- St. Elmo's Coffee Pub
- Unwined
- Virginia Commerce Bank

Children 12 and under, and active military, are FREE

FirstNightAlexandria.org

BUSINESS

Send announcements to the Gazette, by e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

The Inova Breast Care Institute at Inova Alexandria Hospital recently earned a three-year accreditation in breast care from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), part of the American College of Surgeons, which sets the standard for how breast cancer patients receive care. The Inova Breast Care Institute at Inova Alexandria Hospital earned accreditation by meeting or exceeding 27 standards of breast cancer care. The Institute was evaluated during an on-site review of its imaging, radiation oncology and medical oncology treatments, surgery, survivorship programs, leadership, research, genetic counseling and breast care navigator program, among other programs.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Greater Washington, D.C. is pleased to announce that the following new sales associates have joined its local offices:

- * **Heather Corey**, Alexandria office;
- * **Glenn Mikols**, Alexandria office;
- * **Lily Yoseph**, Alexandria office.

Blueberry Art Gallery will not be moving to 904 King St in Old Town. It will remain at 116 E. Del Ray Ave., and continue to host art-related events and provide services until a more accommodating location becomes available.



"Reconciling Purity and Nature: A Bathing Pool for Daingerfield Island" has won Alexandria resident Allison Thurmond (MLA '10) a National Student Honor Award in the General Design Category from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Thurmond's design, which reinterprets a swimming hole using ecological processes and ancient hydrologic techniques, emerged as a response to a studio program for an aquatic center, led by Associate Professor Paul Kelsch at the Virginia Tech Washington Alexandria Architecture Center (WAAC).

CommonWealth One Federal Credit Union, based in Alexandria, donated more than 300 pounds of food to local area food banks in the metropolitan area, Front Royal, and Harrisonburg. CommonWealth One donated food items to the Capital Area Food Bank which serves the Washington D.C. metro area and to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank which serves the Shenandoah Valley.

PCI Communications Inc. was among the winners of **The 2009 Davey Awards** announced in New York by the International Academy of the Visual Arts. PCI's winning entry — "Three Cornerstones," a video produced for the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation

— was among more than 4,000 entries submitted by advertising agencies, interactive agencies, production firms, inhouse creative professionals, graphic designers, design firms, public relations firms and others from across the United States.

TD Bank has named W. Stuart (Stu) Cameron manager of the store located at 119 South Washington St. in Old Town in Alexandria. Cameron is responsible for new business development, small business and consumer lending as well as managing personnel and day-to-day operations at the store.

Prior to joining TD Bank, Cameron was the President/CEO of the New Jersey Bankers Association in Princeton, N.J.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send announcements to the Alexandria Gazette Packet, by e-mail to 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.

On Dec. 4-5, the **T.C. Williams High School Titans Debate Team** competed in the 19th JMU Debate Tournament at James Madison University in Harrisonburg. The debate tournament brought teams from across Virginia to compete in Lincoln Douglas, Policy Debate, and Student Congress.

Titan debaters Yasmin Faruki and Saif Chames-Eddine competed in the Novice Policy division, qualifying to elimination rounds after four preliminary debates. In two elimination rounds the team won five of six ballots, earning them the Novice Policy Championship. This comes on the heels of qualifying for the Northern Virginia Forensic League Tor Johnson Championship earlier this year in both policy and Lincoln-Douglas debate.

In Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate, Senior Tiroune Oates won the Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate Championship. Earlier this year, Mr. Oates won first place in speaker points and qualified to semifinals at the Capitol Debate Classic hosted by Capitol Debate in Howard County, Maryland.

T.C. Williams brought eight debaters to the James Madison University Tournament, more debaters than it has ever brought to an invitational tournament. Novice Lincoln Douglas Debater Calvin Austin also qualified to semi-finals. Mr. Austin is a junior and first-year debater for the Titans.

The debate team is lead by Director of Debate Nick J. Sciuolo, who is also an Assistant Coach at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Mr. Sciuolo is a former Virginia High School League State Champion in policy debate and debated for the University of Richmond. Coach and Faculty Sponsor Laurel Taylor, who joined the team this year,

travelled with the team and helped coach the Titan's to victory. Ms. Taylor formerly debated in high school in Fort Smith, Arkansas and for Missouri State University in college.

Kerri Coon, Emily Echols and Katharine Napora pause before entering the John Paul Jones Center to accept Intermediate Honors at the University of Virginia. The award was given on Oct. 16 at Convocation. The recipients are third-year students in the College of Arts and Sciences."

Nine Alexandria residents graduated from Radford University at the end of the summer session. Earning bachelor of science degrees were Kerry Kristin Duffy, media studies; Oscar Mauricio Bermudez, Jr., biology; Andrew Stephen Gilmore, liberal arts; Vanessa Alejandra Munoz, political science; Neely Elaine Edwards, communication; Ivor Tafo, communication; Nicole Victoria Izes, English; and Thomas David Walker, geography.

Earning a master of science degree was Jennifer Ming Owens, education.

Kaitlin Rosen of Alexandria is attending Hampshire College, beginning the fall semester of 2009.

Brittanie LaFrance, daughter of Andrea and David LaFrance of Alexandria, began her first year at Saint Michael's College this semester. LaFrance graduated from Saratoga Springs High School before coming to Saint Michael's, which is located in Burlington, Vt.

Spencer C. Brooks of Alexandria, son of Ronald J. Brooks and Lauri Kempson, is among the 750 students who entered Colgate University with the Class of 2013 in late August.

The class, selected from an applicant pool of 7,800 students, is one of the most academically gifted and diverse to enroll at Colgate. Brooks is a graduate of Tho-

mas Jefferson High School.

Grace E. Goodwin of Alexandria, daughter of Michael D. Goodwin and Priscilla Z. Goodwin, is among the 750 students who entered Colgate University with the Class of 2013 in late August. The class, selected from an applicant pool of 7,800 students, is one of the most academically gifted and diverse to enroll at Colgate.

Goodwin is a graduate of T C Williams High School.

T.C. Williams High School student Jacobi B. Hines is one of more than 1,600 African-American high school seniors designated as a Semifinalist in the 46th annual National Achievement Scholarship Program conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. These scholastically talented young men and women now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 800 Achievement Scholarship awards, worth some \$2.6 million, to be offered next spring.

The Alexandria-Fairfax Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity is currently accepting applications for the Kappa Leadership Development League.

The Kappa League is an organization oriented toward helping young men of high school age cultivate and develop their leadership talents. Please contact Tony Harrison at 703-200-2092 or email antonio.harrison@afkapsi.com for application information.

T.C. Williams' Class of 1989 is holding its 20-year reunion on Oct. 17 at the Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town. Go to www.greatreunions.com. Or call 800-655-7971.

T.C. Williams' Class of 1999 is holding its 10-year reunion on Oct. 24 at the Embassy Suites Alexandria Old Town. Go to www.greatreunions.com. Or call 800-655-7971.

KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR



With the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce as we welcome our 2010 Chairman of the Board Charles Banta, General Manager of the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center.

Black-tie Western Winter Gala
Saturday, January 30th
Saloon Doors open - 6 pm

The roundup for the evening events include a silent auction, raffle, dinner, live auction and kickin' up your heels for some great dancing.

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center
5000 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22311

Pre-registration is required. Please visit the chamber's website to register. Sponsorships available for this event. For more information, please contact Janelle Schmidt, Director of Communication and Events at janelleschmidt@alexchamber.com.

LETTERS

Stand by The President

To the Editor:

Congressman Jim Moran's Dec. 10, 2009 piece opposing the surge in Afghanistan is not the right approach for a member of Congress to take. General McChrystal's request for 40,000 additional troops became public knowledge months ago. Between that time and the time of Obama's speech announcing the 30,000 troop increase, it would have been perfectly all right for Moran to argue his preference that no additional troops be sent to Afghanistan, but once the President makes the decision to send troops the best thing for Moran to do is support it.

Unlike domestic politics, foreign relations, particularly when it involves substantial armed conflict, should be conducted in a cohesive fashion. While it is one thing for the citizenry to disapprove of Obama's decision, it is another matter when a member of Congress does so. The first two branches of our government should be presenting a strong and united front to the rest of the world regarding this important matter.

Moran states that the increase in troops will only "harden and grow the number of insurgents." If we do not send additional troops, however, the region may harden and grow into one which promotes anti-American terrorism.

Moran states that in order for the insurgency to be successful we need a credible partner in the Afghan government, a government which "enjoys the loyalty and respect of its people when called upon to sacrifice for the common good." If Afghanistan had such a government we probably would

not have to have any military presence there at all.

If the tangential result of this is taking sides in what Moran depicts as a hopelessly protracted civil war, then that is the result. Our task is to stabilize the region, not just as he puts it to clear "the country of the terrorists responsible for 9/11." What we should not do after 9/11 is instigate a few years of military action in Afghanistan under a Republican administration and then allow those areas to again become terrorist havens under a Democrat.

John K. Cooper
Alexandria

Importance of Stimulus Funds

To The Editor:

Over the last year, President Obama and his administration have taken aggressive, and in many cases, unprecedented actions to revive our economy and restore prosperity to our nation. A key component of those efforts was the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 — the so-called "Stimulus" legislation.

While reasonable people can disagree as to whether this legislation was the most appropriate way to revive our economy, once it was adopted, it is prudent for each state to take full advantage of these funds to improve their communities.

We have seen Republican Governors from around the country

that have put politics ahead of their states' welfare, and rejected some of these Stimulus funds. Fortunately, in Alexandria, our planning has paid off, and we have been very successful at receiving millions of dollars of Stimulus funds to benefit our residents.

Yet during City Council's November Public Hearing, Republican Councilwoman Alicia Hughes was the only member of the City Council to vote to reject Alexandria's allocations of Stimulus funds.

As a teacher of over 33 years I know first hand the value of and need for early childhood education. Unfortunately, Councilwoman Hughes voted against accepting Stimulus funds to expand Head Start to cover an additional 57 children, to provide job training to displaced workers, to provide emergency rent relief to residents in immediate danger of becoming homeless, to provide meals to home-bound seniors through the Meals on Wheels program, and for critical equipment for our Police Department.

While Alexandria is fortunate that the other six members of the City Council did not share her extreme partisan views, it is disconcerting to see our leaders putting partisan politics ahead of the welfare of our community. If she had prevailed, those funds would have been utilized to benefit other cities and counties, not ours.

That's not what I expect out of Alexandria's elected officials.

Jane Stevens, M.Ed.
Alexandria

Legal Notices



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review
Old & Historic Alexandria District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

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A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2010 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2009-0176
Request for approval of demolition at 620 & 605 Jefferson Street, 724A & 724B S St. Asaph Street, 800A, 800B, 800C, & 800D S Washington Street, zoned RCX Residential Commercial Mixed Use.
APPLICANT: Scott Management Inc.

CASE BAR2009-0150
Request for approval of alterations at 620 & 605 Jefferson Street, 724A & 724B S St. Asaph Street, 800A, 800B, 800C, & 800D S Washington Street, zoned RCX Residential Commercial Mixed Use.
APPLICANT: Scott Management Inc.

CASE BAR2009-0241
Request for approval of signage at 118 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.
APPLICANT: Clamenzah, LLC D/B/A Pizzeria Paradiso By: M. Catherine Puskar

CASE BAR2009-0263
Request for approval of alterations at 102 Pommander Walk, zoned RM Residential.

Legal Notices

APPLICANT: Mada McGill

CASE BAR2009-0288
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 210 N Alfred St, zoneRB Residential.
APPLICANT: Stephanie Dimond for Alston McCall & Timothy Nelson

CASE BAR2009-0289
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 210 N Alfred St, zoned RB Residential.
APPLICANT: Stephanie Dimond for Alston McCall & Timothy Nelson

CASE BAR2009-0291
Request for approval of alterations at 1250 S Washington St (Unit 705), zoned RC Residential.
APPLICANT: Frederick Kroesen

CASE BAR2009-0292
Request for approval of alterations at 1250 S Washington St (Unit 420), zoned RC Residential.
APPLICANT: Sheri Bango Caveney

CASE BAR2009-0293
Request for approval of new construction at 634 S Pitt St, zoned RResidential.
APPLICANT: Stephanie Dimond for George & Maria Charuhas

CASE BAR2009-0295
Request for approval of alterations at 211 N Patrick St, zoned RB Residential.
APPLICANT: Duncan W. Blair, Esquire for Patrick Street Associates, LLC

CASE BAR2009-0296
Request for approval of after-the-fact alterations at 715 S Washington St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Mary Catherine Gibbs for Old Town Gardens Condominium

CASE BAR2009-0297
Request for approval of signage at 1314 King St, zoned KR King Street

Legal Notices

Retail.
APPLICANT: Fresia Rodriguez

CASE BAR2009-0298
Request for approval of signage at 1523 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.
APPLICANT: Edward Donohue for Theo, Inc.

CASE BAR2009-0299
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 803 Wolfe St, zoned RB Residential.
APPLICANT: Gaver Nichols for Joseph Clancy & Nancy Cefalo

CASE BAR2009-0300
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 803 Wolfe St, zoned RB Residential.
APPLICANT: Gaver Nichols for Joseph Clancy & Nancy Cefalo

CASE BAR2009-0301
Request for approval of alterations at 626 S Lee St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Warren L. Almqvist for S. Lee Parker and Debra Parker

Information about the above item(s) may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4666



ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION

JANUARY - 2010

The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the following dates. NOTICE: Some of the items listed below may be placed on a consent calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the consent calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the public hearing to a future date. For further information call the Department of Planning and Zoning on 703-746-4666.

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2010
7:30 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2010
9:30AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
THE PLANNING COMMISSION WILL HOLD A WORK SESSION TO DISCUSS TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN ON JANUARY 5, 2010 AT 6:30PM IN CITY HALL, WORK ROOM.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2009-0070

499 SOUTH PICKETT STREET

Public hearing and consideration of a request to amend the hours of operation of an existing automobile sales facility; zoned CSL/Commercial Service Low. Applicant:

AV Automotive Munich, LLC by Jerry H. Griffin

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2009-0069

115 & 119 SOUTH ROYAL STREET

Public hearing and consideration of a request for an expansion of a restaurant; zoned

CD/Commercial Downtown. Applicant: Fontaine, Inc. by Kyong Ri Yi

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2009-0067

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2009-0068

1900 JAMIESON AVENUE, 1920 AND 2050 BALLENGER AVENUE

CARLYLE - BLOCK G, J AND K

Public hearing and consideration of a request to amend the Carlyle SUP to allow above and below ground level uses to also be permitted on all ground floor retail designated

spaces, to designate additional uses for the second floor retail spaces, and to modify the parking requirement for Blocks J and K; zoned CDD-1/Coordinated Development District - 1. Applicant: Carlyle Lane CFRI Venture II, LLC (Block G) and 1920 Ballenger Ave. LLC, 2050 Ballenger Ave. LLC (Blocks J and K) by Kenneth Wire, attorney

TEXT AMENDMENT #2009-0004

SUBDIVISION VARIATIONS

Public hearing and consideration of an amendment to

Legal Notices

the City Zoning Ordinance regarding subdivision variations. Staff: Department of Planning and Zoning

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE HEARD BY PLANNING COMMISSION ONLY, (AND BY CITY COUNCIL ONLY UPON APPEAL.)

SUBDIVISION #2009-0004

427 NORTH WEST STREET

Public hearing and consideration of a request for a subdivision with a variation;

zoned RB/Residential. Applicant: Alabama Ave., LC by Stephen Kulinski

IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of
ANNIE PEARL MANUEL,
who passed away March 16, 1994
God bless you in Jesus' name.
I love you, but God loved you best.
Your son, Phillip

STILL I RISE

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may tread me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.
Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.
Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.
Do you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries.
Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own back yard.
You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.
Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise.
I rise.



NOTICE OF HEARING

CARLYLE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

The Carlyle Design Review Board will meet on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2010 at 3:00 PM in the City Council Workroom, City Hall, at 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. The following items are on the agenda for this month's meeting:

1.Blocks 11 & 12 (Hoffman Towers Concept), 2210 Eisenhower Avenue.

The public is invited to attend this meeting. Individuals with questions concerning the meeting should call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703-746-4666.

'A Christmas Poem'

A Christmas tree just right for our home

...
It's Christmas once again, the smell of winter snow ...

Like spring cleaning in the attic, a time of the season ...

All the Christmas decorations and that one favorite ornament ...

Set out for decoration full of Christmas lights wrapped in a box ...

Tree branches empty and plain ...
Until each fills with lights ...

That shine bright with the touch of love ...

As a child's eyes so bright for its Christmas ...

Throughout the city clear bright lights like stars far above ...

With a wish or two for its Christmas once again ...

Windows of display and decoration ...
Not just for giving a gift ...

But for hope of love, the real reason ...
The Spirit of Christmas and its reason for giving ...

Through the eyes of a child's love.

— GERALDINE BALDWIN

To all and City staff of Alexandria, military serving men and women, and all veterans: May God Bless All.

Christmas Eve at Aldersgate Church

3 p.m. & 5 p.m. Child-friendly Candlelight Service with Communion, *nursery provided*

7 p.m. Candlelight Service with Communion, *nursery provided*

9 p.m. & 11 p.m. Candlelight Services with Communion

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1301 Collingwood Road (corner Collingwood & Ft. Hunt Roads)
www.aldersgate.net for more information



Charitable Turkey The students of Grace Episcopal School helped feed the homeless of Alexandria by creating a gigantic, canned-food "Bountiful Tom Turkey" on Nov. 19. Measuring 28 feet by 32 feet, this turkey-shaped structure was entirely made of boxed and canned foods contributed by Grace Episcopal School families. This outreach project took four hours, with every child from Preschool through Grade Five helping with the construction. More than 350 cans, jars and boxes of food were used in the construction. All of the food was donated to the Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry, which works with the Alexandria Department of Human Services to feed families in need. For more information on Grace Episcopal School visit www.graceschoolalex.org.

Alexandria: America's Most Charitable City

FROM PAGE II

home and I tell my wife I am starving hungry. So I look in the refrigerator or pantry and make myself something to eat. Or I go out to eat at a local restaurant. What if you didn't have any money to eat out? Or when you went to the refrigerator or pantry to get some food for you and your hun-

gry child, there was nothing to eat? Fortunately, thanks to Alexandria's generosity, ALIVE! has food that volunteers can bring right to their door. We also work with the poor to make sure they receive the benefit of the city's social services, including food stamps and other resources.

As we come to this wonderful

time of the year, we see more joy and hope in people's faces than at any other time. But for those of us to provide services to the city's poor, we see more and more faces without hope. We see the numbers of people requesting food from ALIVE! soaring. People who previously gave to ALIVE! are now asking ALIVE! for food assistance, or help paying their heating bill or rent.

You may ask what can you do to help? A \$9 donation to ALIVE! buys a dozen eggs for five families in need. A \$50 donation provides enough gas for one of the furniture trucks to deliver furniture to 12 families who have no place to sleep or sit down and eat. Since ALIVE! buys food at 12¢ a pound from area food banks, a \$48 donation will provide 400 pounds of surplus meat and cheese — a much needed fresh protein to supplement canned food.

Which brings me back to online giving and Alexandria's honor as the most generous city in America. Before this tax year ends, won't you consider making an online donation to ALIVE! (www.alive-inc.org)? The need for your financial assistance has never been greater.

Many of us have way more than we need. But in these tough economic times, it can be hard to give. But in hard times, the situation is even worse for those in need, and the number in need of food and shelter is growing. Alexandria is again named top giving city in the nation. We are fortunate to live here. We donate our time and money to uplift our sisters and brothers in need. We give gifts of hope when we do. Now more than ever it is time now to live up to our well-earned reputation.



Alexandria
Gazette Packet
Another Community Partnership

Visit These Houses of Worship

Join A Club, Make New Friends, or Expand Your Horizons...

Christ the Saviour Anglican Church

"To Love & Serve the Lord with Gladness & Singleness of Heart"

Location - Washington Mill ES
9100 Cherrytree Drive

Christmas Eve Service - Dec 24th at 5:00 pm
Sunday Worship Service - 10am
Inter-generational Sunday School - after service
Vicar, The Rev. Huey J Sevier

www.christthesaviouranglican.org
703-953-2854

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST...703-960-8772

CHURCHES—BRETHREN

GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH...703-548-1808
ALEXANDRIA CHURCH OF GOD...703-548-5084

CHURCHES—AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION

ALLEYNE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH...703-548-3888

BUDDHISM

THE VAJRAYOGINI BUDDHIST CENTER...202-331-2122

CHURCHES—ANGLICAN

CHRIST THE SAVIOR...703-953-2854
ST. ANDREW & ST. MARGARET
OF SCOTLAND...703-683-3343

CHURCHES—ROMAN CATHOLIC

GOOD SHEPHERD
CATHOLIC CHURCH...703-780-4055
ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH...703-836-3725
ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH...703-765-4421
ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH...703-836-4100

CHURCHES—APOSTOLIC

LOVE OF CHRIST CHURCH...703-518-4404

CHURCHES—BAPTIST

ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH...703-683-2222
BAPTIST TEMPLE CHURCH...703-548-8000
DEL RAY BAPTIST CHURCH...703-549-8116
DOWNTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH...703-549-5544
FIRST AGAPE BAPTIST
COMMUNITY OF FAITH...703-519-9100
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA...703-684-3720
PROVIDENCE-ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH...703-683-2565
SHILOH BAPTIST...703-683-4573
MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH...703-256-1239
VICTORY TEMPLE...703-370-2233
PLYMOUTH HAVEN BAPTIST...703-360-4370

CHURCHES—CHRISTIAN

HIS KINGDOM MINISTRIES...703-313-5029
FIRST CHRISTIAN OF ALEXANDRIA
CHURCH...703-549-3911

CHURCHES—CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST
ALEXANDRIA...703-549-7973
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
MT. VERNON...703-768-2494

CHURCH OF CHRIST

ALEXANDRIA CHURCH OF CHRIST...703-836-3083

Word!

10 am Sunday Worship Service
Sunday School classes (child to adult)
and youth group (7th to 12th grade)
9 am to noon Monday through Friday Pre-School

Wesley United Methodist Church
8412 Richmond Ave, Alexandria, VA 22309
(just off Richmond Highway, near Fort Belvoir & Mount Vernon)
703-780-5019 • www.wesleyva.org

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening

5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

Sunday

7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon
2:00 pm (en Español)
6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 13)

Weekdays

(Mass or Communion Service)
9:00 am (followed by Rosary)
Children's Liturgy of the Word
Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am
Mass (English)
Sign Language Interpreter
Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309
Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 www.gs-cc.org

Loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves

CHURCHES—EPISCOPAL

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH...703-683-0798
ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH...703-360-4220
ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH...703-780-3081
ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH...703-765-4342
ST. MARK EPISCOPAL CHURCH...703-765-3949

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

CHURCH...703-765-5003
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN
CHURCH-ELCA...703-548-8608
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
MISSOURI SYNOD...703-549-0155
MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH, ELCA...703-765-5003
NATIVITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH, ELCA...703-768-1112

CHURCHES—LUTHERAN

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN
CHURCH-ELCA...703-780-5077
BETHANY LUTHERAN...703-765-8255

ORTHODOX

SAINT APHRAIM SYRIAC...201-312-7678
ALL SAINTS OF AMERICA...703-417-9665

CHURCHES—PRESBYTERIAN

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH...703-768-8510
ALEXANDRIA PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH...703-683-3348
OLD PRESBYTERIAN
MEETING HOUSE...703-549-6670
HERITAGE PRESBYTERIAN...703-360-9546
MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN...703-765-6118
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH...703-549-4766

CHURCHES—UNITED METHODIST

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST...703-765-6555
BEVERLY HILLS COMMUNITY
UNITED METHODIST...703-836-2406
DEL RAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH...703-549-2088
FAIRLINGTON UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH...703-671-8557
ROBERTS MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH...703-836-7332
ST. ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH...703-751-4666
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH...703-549-5500
WASHINGTON FARM UNITED
METHODIST...703-780-4696
WASHINGTON STREET UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH...703-836-4324

CHURCHES—UNITARIAN

MT. VERNON UNITARIAN...703-765-5950

CHURCHES—UNITY

UNITY IN ALEXANDRIA...703-931-8507

SYNAGOGUES

AGUDAS ACHIM CONGREGATION...703-998-6460

SYNAGOGUES—ORTHODOX

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Ireton Learns From Playing National Power DeMatha

Cardinals fall behind early, play better in second half.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE PACKET

It's only the first quarter and DeMatha junior Quinn Cook already has 11 points against Bishop Ireton. He's made two 3-pointers and will end up knocking down a third before the period is over. But for this possession, Cook is going to pass the spotlight to one of his teammates.

Cook, ranked the nation's sixth-best point guard recruit in the class of 2011 by ESPN.com, lobs the ball junior Mikael Hopkins, who finishes the alley-oop pass with a dunk. Hopkins, by the way, stands 6-feet-8, weighs 210 pounds and is the country's eighth-best power forward recruit in the class of 2011.

The scoreboard reads 22-4, DeMatha, after Hopkins' dunk. Just below are the words "Morgan Wootten Gymnasium," reminding onlookers of the great Stags coach who retired in 2002 as the nation's all-time wins leader in high school basketball. (He's currently second on the list.)

Welcome to the DeMatha Catholic basketball experience. The Stags are ranked among the top 25 teams nationally by various media outlets and have long been a top-shelf program. This year's team has nine players that stand at least 6-4, five who are 6-7 or taller and a seemingly endless supply of athleticism coming off the bench. Eighth-year head coach Mike Jones said this year's team has a chance to be something special.

ON THIS PARTICULAR night, Dec. 15, DeMatha jumped out to a 35-9 lead, led by as many as 43 points and won, 84-50. The team on the losing end of that lopsided score, Bishop Ireton, doesn't have tradition on its side. The Cardinals won a combined 14 games in the previous three seasons. It doesn't have a bench full of Division I pros-



The DeMatha gymnasium is named after former head basketball coach Morgan Wootten, who retired in 2002 with 1,274 wins — No. 1 all time. He was later passed by Robert Hughes, who was coaching for Dunbar in Forth Worth at the time.

First-year Bishop Ireton boys basketball head coach Neil Berkman said the Cardinals improved after taking on national power DeMatha on Dec. 15.



pects. The Cardinals rely on two or three players for most of their scoring. It doesn't have a gym named after a famous coach. What the Cardinals do have is a fiery head coach in his first year with the program and a group of players who want to turn the

Ireton program into a winner.

While Bishop Ireton is unlikely to reach DeMatha's level, the Cardinals took another small step toward becoming a team capable of competing in the uber-tough Washington Catholic Athletic Conference. Bishop

"They didn't sit back on their heels. They didn't say, 'Oh, we're going to lose anyway, so let's try not to let it get out of hand.' They came at us and played."

— Head DeMatha basketball coach Mike Jones about Bishop Ireton

Ireton didn't back down from the Stags, putting forth an aggressive effort for four quarters. The Cardinals were outscored by only five points (39-34) in the second half and closed the game on a 10-1 run.

Was it a win? No. But sometimes moral victories count for something during the early stages of a program revival.

"You look at segments and increments," Cardinals coach Neil Berkman said of how to evaluate a team's effort when facing a powerhouse like DeMatha. "In the second half we lost by five, for example. Granted, a lot of their second and third stringers were in the game, but they started with their starters. I'm proud of my guys because they never quit. They played for 32 minutes. We were taking charges late in the fourth quarter and we just kept playing and kept playing."

"You've got to put your head down and evaluate yourself against yourself. Obviously that's a huge yardstick. DeMatha's one of the best programs in the country, they deserve all their success."

Bishop Ireton's best quarter was the fourth, when the Cardinals outscored the Stags, 25-17. Bishop Ireton trailed

SEE PLAYING BETTER, PAGE 24

SPORTS BRIEFS

T.C. Boys To Play At McNamara

The T.C. Williams boys basketball team will play in a two-day holiday event at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md., on Dec. 29-30. The Titans will take on Princeton Day Academy (Lanham, Md.) on Dec. 29 and Friendship Collegiate Academy (Washington D.C.) on Dec. 30.

T.C. Williams' first game of 2010 will be at 8 p.m. Jan. 5 against Riverdale Baptist at The Garden.

The Titans were scheduled to face Annandale on Dec. 18, Kecoughtan on

Dec. 19 and Woodson on Dec. 22. Results were not available before the Gazette Packet deadline.

T.C. Girls Will Stay Local

Last year, the T.C. Williams girls basketball team traveled to Myrtle Beach, S.C., for a holiday tournament. This season, the Titans will be closer to home.

T.C. Williams will participate in the Waldorf Holiday Hoops Classic on Dec. 26 and 28-29 in Waldorf, Md. Games will be held at Westlake High School and North Point High School. The Titans' first game is

6 p.m. Dec. 26 against North Point at Westlake High School.

T.C. Williams head coach Cavanaugh Haven said she expects good competition at the tournament. The Titans are the only team not from Maryland among the eight girls participants listed on the tournament Web site. The other girls teams are: Bowie, Eleanor Roosevelt, Good Counsel, North Point, Old Mill, Urbana and Westlake.

If T.C. Williams defeats North Point, the Titans on Dec. 28 will face the winner of Good Counsel and Bowie. If T.C. Williams loses to North Point, the Titans on Dec. 28 will take on the loser of Good Counsel and Bowie.

Hagen said the tournament will provide the Titans a chance to work on playing well consistently. T.C. Williams lost at West Springfield, 79-45, on Dec. 11, a defeat Hagen referred to as an "eye opener."

"We were outplayed, outworked and outthustled," Hagen said. "... With those three things you rarely come away with a win."

Jasmine Norman led T.C. Williams with 14 points and Rainie Summa added 11.

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Playing Better in Second-Half

FROM PAGE 23

67-25 entering the final period, but Cardinal juniors Patrick Hanafin and Antonio Rouse combined for 16 points in the quarter to help chip away at the DeMatha lead. Both players finished with 17 points.

Both players were aggressive in the second half and got to the free throw line. Hanafin made 8 of 9 second-half free-throw attempts. Rouse was 4-of-4 in the second half and 6-of-6 for the game.

"It's tough. We knew we were the underdog going in so we just wanted to play hard," Hanafin said. "There's nothing you can do but get better, as long as you try hard. It's a learning experience."

DEMATHA'S superior talent took control early. Cook buried 3-pointers, Hopkins dunked and blocked shots, and the Stags led 15-0 midway through the first quarter. DeMatha's aggressive defense led to contact at times, and the vocal Berkman tried to protect his players by voicing his displeasure to officials over non-calls. Hanafin said it feels good to know one's head coach is watching out for him.

"All the kids read the papers, all the referees read the papers and everybody knows how good DeMatha is," the coach said. "People are talking about them going undefeated, which I think will be difficult to do in this unbelievable league. But I think it's good [to face a team like DeMatha] because we're trying to emulate that success at a level that is possibly unreachable, but we're trying to get there. It's like ... the light at the end of the tunnel. This is where we want to get to down the road and play that high level."

Rouse said the Cardinals settled down as the game progressed.

"Maybe the first minute of the game we were shook a little bit," he said. "But in the second half we just went out there and played. ... We came out a little timid, but I don't think we were scared or intimidated."

Berkman pointed to junior Matt Barnwell taking a charge in the fourth quarter as another positive. Berkman said the team keep track of how many charges the Cardinals attempt to take, adding that taking a charge is the consummate team play.

The loss dropped the Cardinals to 3-3, 0-1 in the WCAC. Bishop Ireton won three conference games in the three seasons prior to Berkman's arrival.

"It's one game out of 18 ... they have to come back to our place," Berkman said. The league is unbelievable and we're trying to win league games, we're trying to win games, we're trying to play together and we're trying to really teach guys how to play much harder than they're used to. ... We're changing a culture and slowly but surely we're going to do it."

After the game, as coaches from Kansas and Notre Dame walked the halls of DeMatha, Stags coach Jones said the Cardinals are on the right track.

"First of all, Coach Berkman is very well respected," Jones said. "I've known of him for years, I've never had much interaction with him. He's a very good coach. I do believe that one of the things he's doing that's very smart is he's changing the whole mindset of the kids at Ireton. If you look at the freshmen, the JV and the varsity, just the way they played us, they came at us. They didn't sit back on their heels. They didn't say, 'Oh, we're going to lose anyway, so let's try not to let it get out of hand.' They came at us and played."

"Just that mentality I think is going to be something that before too long you're going to see [results from]." Bishop Ireton will host St. Paul's on Dec. 30.

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 23

Hagen said the team needs a group effort to succeed.

"Everyone involved in girls basketball [in the Alexandria area] has to stay positive and give us time to get used to playing with each other," Hagen said.

T.C. Williams faced Annandale on Dec. 18 and Woodson on Dec. 22. Results were not available before the Gazette Packet deadline.

SSSA Boys To Play In Maryland

The St. Stephen's/St. Agnes boys basketball game will participate in a holiday tournament starting Dec. 28 at Springbrook High School in Silver Spring, Md. The Saints improved to 3-2 with a 68-54 win over St. John's on Dec. 12.

St. Stephen's/St. Agnes faced Flint Hill on Dec. 19. Results were not available before the Gazette Packet deadline.

Wrestling League

A wrestling club for second-eighth-grade boys and girls will be available from 7-8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Jan. 12 in the West Potomac High School wrestling room. The club is non-competitive and runs through March. Cost is \$85 and the first two practices are free. Contact Chuck Africano at africano5@cox.net or 703-655-3995 for more details.

Avengers To Host Hawks

The Alexandria Avengers, a professional basketball team and member of the Eastern Basketball Alliance, will host the Nova Hawks at 7 p.m. Jan. 10 at Mount Vernon High School.

PEOPLE

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PHOTO BY MIKE POLLACK

Eagle Scout Bishop Ireton High School senior Andrew Kicinski, 17, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank offered in Boy Scouts. He accepts congratulations and a framed certificate recognizing his achievement from Linda Hill, area commissioner for the Colonial District, at an Eagle Court of Honor on Sept. 20, at Bishop Ireton High School.

As a member of Troop 135, he participated in many high-adventure treks and served as Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader and Troop Scribe. For his Eagle project he led a troop effort to rehabilitate a trail at the Dora Kelley Nature Center, replacing a fence, putting down several hundred yards of mulch and lining the path with rocks. He is a senior at Bishop Ireton and resides in the Beverly Hills section of Alexandria with his parents, Gary Kicinski and Kate Kennedy.



Alexandria Washington DeMolay's Teachers of Excellence and nominators. From left to right: Brandon Schimmel, Linda Oliva, Sally Schimmel, Robert Cockerham, Carly Haskel, Amy Kraut.

DeMolay Honors Teachers of Excellence

Alexandria-Washington DeMolay held an awards dinner at the George Washington Masonic Memorial on Nov. 21. Three teachers from public schools in Alexandria were honored for their excellence in teaching and student development. Amy Kraut, Linda Oliva, and Sally Schimmel of Alexandria schools were nominated and selected to receive the honor by members of the DeMolay group.

Speeches highlighting the importance DeMolay places on education were given by PJay Shuey, Deputy State Master Councilor of the Virginia DeMolay Association, and Robert Cockerham, Grand Master of DeMolay International. The teachers were presented with certificates by Jeremy Schimmel, Chapter Master Councilor, and Carly Haskel, Chapter Sweetheart, both of Alexandria.

General DeMolay information can be found at www.demolay.org.

PEOPLE

Dedication

FROM PAGE 6

we do with our blood pressure at health fairs and in our doctors offices ... we can have a real impact."

Besides increasing testing and education about HIV/AIDS, Rowland believes that the other key in fighting AIDS is treatment.

"People who have the virus who are able to be under the care of a doctor and take the medications that are available can effectively drop the viral loads in their body. Scientists now agree that when you drop the viral loads in someone's body you can decrease the transfer of the virus to others. So, treatment is now prevention," she said.

Rowland is also working with the Virginia State Assembly's joint commission to do a study on HIV/AIDS.

"Individuals from across the state come to the general assembly in Richmond for a World AIDS Day on Feb. 3 to talk about issues surrounding HIV/AIDS." She said.

Although she's lived in Virginia since she was six, Rowland came to Northern Virginia in 1994 to work with the Northern Virginia HIV Consortium.

HIV/AIDS often affect another rarely mentioned population: children. This year's recipient of the Client Service Award, Jane Beddoe, has dedicated her life's work to serving this population along with their families.

Beddoe is the director of Client Services at the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (NOVAM).

She manages programs that support the organizations that service HIV positive clients including their families and children.

These programs include the Health Education Alternatives for Teens or HEAT — the only program in Northern Virginia that provides intensive case management to youth (ages 14—24) who are living with HIV/AIDS.

ANOTHER PROGRAM, Access Advocacy for Children, provides short-term case management services to affected children by giving them and their families access to human services programs.

In addition, Beddoe said, "Access Advocacy also raises funds to send children to residential summer camp, arranges for counseling, tutoring and educational testing, and provides clothing and school supplies, and refurbished computers. Kids Klostet provides support for new mothers in need of infant items including cribs, strollers, clothing, and diapers."

Like her fellow honoree, Beddoe was also honored to receive the award from the City of Alexandria's Commission on HIV/AIDS.

Beddoe came to NOVAM in 2005 as the Children's Services program manager for the PALS Mentoring program and seasonal Supportive Services for children with HIV/AIDS.

Beddoe has a bachelor's of science degree in human development from the University of Massachusetts.



PHOTO BY ELYN SIMONS

'PJ Day'

Oct. 12, Monday of Titan Spirit Week, was "Don't Wake Tony Day" (PJ Day). Executive associate principal Steve Colantuoni, TC Class of '74, arrives in his office dressed for the day.



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE GAZETTE

Union Blue

Kevin Moriarty is a Union Civil War soldier during a tour of Fort Ward Historic Site Nov. 7.



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE GAZETTE

Artful Reception

Tamara Wilkerson helps arriving guests as they view her silver wire jewelry stand during the Del Ray Artisans' reception on Dec. 4.



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY/GAZETTE PACKET

'Dig It'

Anna and Alexandra Cook are coloring in the archaeological museum inside Torpedo Factory during "Second Thursday Art Night: Dig It!" on Oct. 8.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Theatre Workshop

Program director McKenya Dilworth-Abdalla with Tony award-winning actress Tonya Pinkins at the William Ramsay Recreation Center in October. Pinkins led the youth in activities that encouraged their creativity and helped them to understand the importance of following their dreams.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

New CD

St. Paul's Church Rev. Oran Warden, Douglas A. Beck and Ross Kaine sing a short medley to introduce the new CD created from the music of the church choir under the direction of organist-choirmaster Douglas A. Beck. The CD is available for sale at the church.

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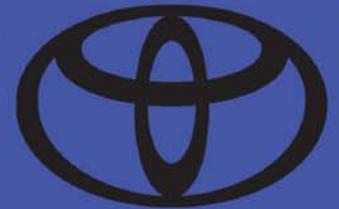
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Margo Heegeman
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Suzanne Kovalsky
Susan McVety
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Kat Ochs
Ania Szczepanska
Katie Wagner
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703.549.9292

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