

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

Holiday
Entertainment
& Gift Guide

'Tis the
Season

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

'Tis the Season

Giving can take many forms.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It's supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year, but searching for the perfect holiday gift in a deluge of Black Friday, Cyber Monday and even Thanksgiving Thursday deals can turn even the most jovial Santa into a Scrooge before the holidays even arrive.

“If someone is thinking about giving but not sure where to give, I'd love for them to give me a call.”

— John Porter,
ACT executive director

“Instead of exchanging gifts, my girlfriends and I decided years ago to set aside a day during the holidays to volunteer our time together for a local cause,” said Joanne Nick, a local travel consultant. “We choose something different each year and then end the day enjoying a casual meal together and getting caught up with each other's lives. It's the best gift we give each year — our time to a good cause and time with each other that we might not spend if we simply dropped off another token gift dur-

More

Resource guide for charitable giving:
www.actforalexandria.org
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www.1800volunteer.org

ing the holiday rush.”

There will always be a place for traditional gifts on anyone's holiday shopping list, but thinking outside the “big box” can benefit more than just the intended recipient.

“At one time or another, we are all faced with the ‘What do you get the person who has everything?’ question,” Nick said. “I finally realized that you don't. Instead, I try to find a creative way to give to someone who does not have everything in honor of someone I know who does.”

FOR MOST CHARITIES, 50 percent of donations are made between Thanksgiving and Christmas but not every household always has funds to contribute. In lieu of a financial donation, the gift of time and service is just as valuable.

“Most of our Meals on Wheels volunteers are individuals looking for a way to give back,” said Janet Barnett, executive director of Senior Services of Alexandria. “We can always use help there but we also have administrative needs, especially as we implement the new Senior Services Resource Center.”

There are numerous ways to volunteer locally during the upcoming holidays.

“Neighborhood churches and religious organizations give out turkeys or serve

SEE DIFFERENT WAYS, PAGE 15



Alexandria and Fairfax County firefighters help sort gifts during the annual toy drive, which helps children and families in over 50 local schools, shelters and churches.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN /GAZETTE PACKET



Alexandria Sheriff's Department deputies assist with local food drives during the holidays.

Lining Up for Turkey Trot

More than 3,500 runners line up for the start of last year's Turkey Trot. Race organizers are seeking volunteers for this year's race. For information, visit www.AlexandriaTurkeyTrot.com. Bring two nonperishable food items on race day, Thursday, Nov. 25. Food donations — and optional cash donations — support ALIVE! Doors at Cora Kelly open for registration and packet pickup at 8:30 a.m.



BRAC Attack

The massive building looms over the West End like a horror movie. It's officially known as the Washington Headquarters Service, but most people call it BRAC — the acronym for a Washington process known as Base Realignment and Closure. Here in Alexandria, BRAC-133 means more than 6,000 new employees will be headed to the intersection of Seminary Road and Beauregard Street at Mark Center. U.S. Rep. **Jim Moran** (D-8) has long criticized the 2008 decision to locate the Pentagon annex here rather than a site that had access to Metro.

"What created this problem was **Don Rumsfeld**," Moran explained back in April. "In typical form, he made a unilateral decision without consulting the community, without considering the transportation problems that his decision-making would cause. Now other people are trying to mop up the mess."

For Moran, mopping up the mess includes finding out what went wrong with the process. That's one of the reasons he authored legislation mandating the inspector general to review the analysis that enabled the Defense Department to skip an environmental impact study. This week, Moran announced a new investigation by the Department of Defense Inspector General's Office — known in Washington by the acronym DoDIG.

"The decision was based on flawed analysis and it's my hope the IG will get to the bottom of this mess," Moran said in a written statement. "The conclusion that relocating thousands of Defense Department employees to the Mark Center would have no repercussions for area commuters or for the employees themselves is flat wrong."

One potential outcome of the investigation could be a delay in the move-in date, currently scheduled for autumn 2011.

Moran Denied

Speaking of Moran, the congressman doesn't always get what he wants. Take police records.

When a tour bus used by Republican candidate **Patrick Murray** was involved in a fender-bender shortly before the election, Moran's campaign went into high gear pitching the story in the waning days of the campaign. One of the items the campaign tried to get was the incident report detailing the event. But they ran into a brick wall at the Alexandria Police Department, which has a policy of never releasing incident reports regardless of what the case is about.

Unlike other states, Virginia law allows police departments to shield incident reports from the public. When asked about the Moran campaign's desire to get a copy of the incident report detailing the accident involving Murray's tour bus, police spokeswoman **Ashley Hildebrandt** explained that the blanket policy even extended to the congressman's campaign office.

"They're not going to get it," she said.

Walking Away

For years, Alexandria City Council members have lobbied for legislation protecting pedestrians. But this year is different, and the legislation does not appear in the legislative agenda approved by City Council members this week. During a public hearing on the city's legislative packet last weekend, one resident testified in favor of pursuing the legislation, which would require vehicles to stop rather than yield when pedestrians are present.

"This clarification of expectations can save lives," said Queen Street resident **David Kaplan**. "Yield can be open to interpretation. Stop is much more explicit."

Councilman **Rob Krupicka** traveled to Richmond to lobby for the bill in previous years, and he was the one who requested it be added to the legislative packet in recent years. The councilman explained that he is working in coordination with other urban localities across the commonwealth for a strategy that might be successful in the future.

"We thought taking a break for a year on aggressively pushing this issue would give it time to settle a little bit and coming back to it after the General Assembly elections next fall," said Krupicka, who is expected to launch a campaign for the Virginia Senate next year. "We've made a tactical decision this year that doing the same thing year after year after year is not gaining us the outcome we want."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

School Board members and City Council members meet in a room that was once the library of George Washington High School, now used as a middle-school training center.

Setting the Target

City Council members prepare to offer budget guidance to city government and schools.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Opening bids in negotiations for fiscal year 2012 began this week, with City Council members ready to vote on a document next week that will provide guidance to City Manager Jim Hartmann and school Superintendent Morton Sherman. The annual exercise inaugurating the budget cycle comes at a time when the residential real-estate market is expected to be flat or increase slightly, creating a dilemma for council members.

Do they increase taxes again, risking increased resentment among homeowners who feel they are taxed enough already? Or do they find some way of holding the line, crafting a budget that retains funding levels while adjusting for inflation? The vote on budget guidance scheduled for Tuesday will provide a first blush at where the debate is headed.

Until then, council members have already outlined some broad strokes of what to expect. The theme

this year is certain to be status quo, especially when it comes to the tax burden for residential property taxpayers. After seeing dramatic increases in the tax burden during good times, many homeowners have called for restraint. That means keeping staffing levels constant, avoiding new financial commitments and capping the increase of spending for the schools.

"I look forward to having a successful budget season," said Republican Frank Fannon, who was one of two votes against the budget last year. "We're not voting on this budget for six more months, so we'll have a lot of good discussions."

At the center of any discussion about budgets is the issue of residential property assessments. The city government gets about a third of its revenue from homeowners, more than any other moneymaker. So property values are king at City Hall, where budget officials say the residential real estate market is expected to be flat or increase slightly. Average sales prices are up 2.7 per

"This is not a time to slow our progress."

— School Superintendent
Morton Sherman

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 12

Budget Targets

❖ **The Bottom Line:** The big picture this budget cycle is status quo. Same spending levels. Same tax burden. Same staffing levels. Council members have repeatedly expressed a desire to avoid raising taxes, especially in a down economy. Residential property assessments are expected to be flat or increase slightly, with the average sales price up 2.7 percent compared to last year. So that could potentially mean the tax rate could increase without raising the average tax burden.

❖ **Cap on Schools:** City Council members are considering a 2-percent increase in the appropriation to Alexandria City Public Schools. Yet at a work session this week, Superintendent Morton Sherman asked for a 5-percent increase. School Board members made the case that transformation is expensive.

❖ **Explaining the Consultants:** School officials defend their use of consultants, and the Office of Management and Budget is preparing a database of

contracted services. When asked for details of consultant services last year, budget officials provided a list of spending totals for general categories, but said a list of specific contracted services was unavailable.

❖ **Add-On Tax:** Several council members favor moving forward with a new add-on tax, which would charge more for commercial property than residential property. The extra money would go to transportation projects, but the business community is ready for a fight.

NEWS

Cleaning House

School system's transformation yields change in staff.

This is the third in a three-part series about decisions made by Alexandria Public Schools Superintendent Morton Sherman during his first two years as superintendent. Two months, dozens of interviews and 774 pages of documents acquired via Freedom of Information requests revealed details about upheaval in the central office and Sherman's long-time use of outside consultants.

BY PAIGE WINFIELD
CUNNINGHAM
GAZETTE VIA OLD DOMINION
WATCHDOG

Alexandria employees announcing their retirement have multiplied in the last 18 months as Superintendent Morton Sherman tries to reconfigure a district that has consistently failed state and federal standards.

Half of the upper-level directors at the central office of the Alexandria City Public Schools have taken their leave — some voluntarily, some not — from the central office since early last year. Of the 28 central office directors listed on a Jan. 2009 flow chart, 13 have left permanently, 1 is on “extended” leave and one plans to retire in February.

The finance director and half of his staff are gone. The communications director is gone. The director of student services is gone. Two of the four assistant superintendents are gone.

“The superintendent’s tactics are kind of strange,” said Georgia Brown, a 36-year ACPS employee who retired a few years ago but says she stays in touch with former co-workers. “There have been instances when directors, (assistant) superintendents were told they needed to leave and on the outside it looked like they left of their own free will.”

Margaret Byess — one of the two remaining assistant superintendents who now oversee the entire operations side for the district — attributes the mass exodus to employees who weren’t ready to work harder.

“There was a lot of work to be done on the financial services side,” Byess said. “You will find us here at 10, 11 at night. We put in 10-, 12-hour days because there’s so much to do and not everybody’s cut out for that.”

But former employees say the environment had become toxic. Betty Shanklin, one of five employees who left the nine-staff finance office between May 2009 and June

2010, says she decided to end her 20-year ACPS career early when the firings first began.

“In my opinion, between Margaret and Mort we have just gone downhill,” Shanklin said. “The morale everywhere is bad. People don’t have confidence in the fact that they have a job.”

THE TREND has extended to teachers as well, more of whom hired this year than normal. In 2009, 36 professional staff retired, according to Delbert Wilson, president of the Alexandria Retired Teachers’ Association. This year, that number jumped to 54 — an increase Wilson says is significant.

“There are so many changes going on, people said I don’t want to deal with it, this is a good time to leave,” Wilson said. “A lot of people have been fired and let go (at the central office). People are being overworked in some ways and some of the upper level people are saying this isn’t worth the effort.”

Sherman has sent significant changes down the pipeline since he left his superintendent position in Tenafly, New Jersey to oversee Alexandria City Public Schools in 2008. He eliminated two of the original four assistant superintendent positions. He hired a new director of strategic initiatives. He expanded the district’s two middle schools into five middle schools.

But perhaps the most telling indication of Sherman’s priorities lies in two new directors he’s hired: one to oversee a curriculum redesign and one to manage the influx of new outside consultants.

John Brown joined ACPS last November to manage the creation of a new curriculum school officials say will, for the first time, take lesson plans beyond expectations laid out by the state’s Standard of Learning tests.

Sherman also recruited Betsi Shays, wife of former Connecticut Congressman Chris Shays, to lead a new “Alliance for Learning and Leading” that’s housed in the top floor of George Washington Middle School. Shays signs off on contracts with dozens of other new consultants hired last year. She’s working closely with Fran Prolman — another consultant who took nearly \$109,000 to hold teacher trainings using the materials “Skillful Teacher” and “Skillful

SEE STAFF CHANGES, PAGE 39



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BUSINESS MATTERS

Puff, Puff, Tax

Cigarette smokers have become an easy target for taxes, even in a commonwealth that once dominated the global trade in tobacco. The state cigarette tax is currently set at 30 cents a pack. That's not enough, according to some who would like to see a significant increase. Groups calling for higher cigarette taxes include the Public Health Advisory Commission, the Partnership for Healthier Alexandria and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

"We believe it is time for the commonwealth of Virginia to bring that rate to a level that is more commensurate with the seriousness of the health problems that are caused by smoking," said **Richard Merritt**, chairman of the respiratory committee of the Partnership for Healthier Alexandria.

The tobacco lobby remains a powerful force in Virginia politics. But advocates of raising the tax point to Alexandria, which instituted a city tax of 20 cents a pack back in 1992. Over the last 18 years, City Council members have increased that tax five times. Alexandria now gets 80 cents for each pack of cigarettes sold in the city limits.

"That's about 170 percent greater than the state tax," said Merritt. "All the literature and research that we have looked at keeps taking us back to one approach above all others in terms of successfully reducing smoking. That is to significantly increase the tax on cigarettes."

Two New Restaurants

Hungry for new dining options? Soups on because City Council members approved special-use permits for two restaurants in Del Ray last weekend.

The first is an existing business that's moving. Because the retail section of the Calvert building is slated for demolition, Café Pizzaiolo began looking for a new location. The owners didn't have far to look, eventually setting their sights at a retail property in the new Del Ray Central building at the intersection of Mount Vernon Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue. The new Café Pizzaiolo will have 82 indoor seats and 66 outdoor seats.

"Price points and offerings will be neighborhood and family friendly," the owners explained in the application.

The second is an Italian market next to St. Elmo's Coffeehouse, a site that has been everything from a chocolate shop to an art gallery. According to the application, the new market will sell sandwiches, cheeses, deli meats, gourmet olive oils, spices and pasta. The market will have four seats inside and six seats outside.

"We anticipate that this establishment will be ideal for those 'on the go' families and individuals looking to simplify their busy lifestyle," according to the application.

Seven Quarters an Hour

City Council members don't often admit they were wrong. But that's what happened last weekend, when the elected officials cast a unanimous vote to undo an increase of parking meter fees they approved earlier this year.

When the meters were changed this summer, council members began hearing from upset business leaders who castigated the new rate as bad for business. That's seven quarters an hour. Now the elected leaders have postponed the fee hike until new multi-space meters allow drivers to use credit cards to pay the higher rate. By Thanksgiving, drivers will need five quarters an hour.

"What I think you should look at is making the cut indefinite," said West Street homeowner **Dino Drudi** during a public hearing last weekend. "When we get out of this economic mess and tourists start coming back, then you can look at maybe ratcheting it up to \$1.50."

Instead, City Council members unanimously approved an ordinance to re-raise the rate to \$1.75 just as soon as the new credit-card terminals are installed. Part of the reason is the city's desperate need for new revenue, which prompted the rate hike in the first place. Budget officials estimate the temporarily lowered fee will reduce anticipated revenues by about \$324,000.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

BUSINESS

Launching 'The Cheese Course'

Del Ray's Cheesetique, one of the Washington region's premier cheese shops, held a wine and cheese tasting event Nov. 8 to launch The Cheese Course, an events consulting business pioneered by former Cheesetique wholesale manager Carolyn Stromberg.

"I have been doing this informally for years and decided that there is a bigger need for it," said Stromberg, who specializes in pairing wine and artisanal cheeses. "They don't teach about cheese in culinary school so I decided to share my passion for it on my own."

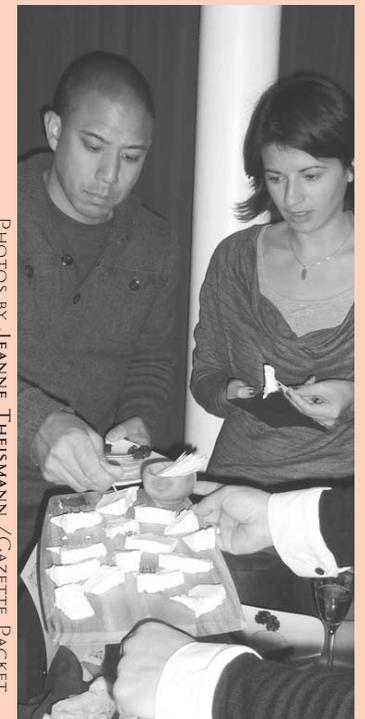
Through private events, classes and retail and wholesale consulting, Stromberg hopes to demystify the intricacies of pairing wine and cheese.

"I hate snobiness in food," Stromberg said. "I want to teach people to understand and have fun with it."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Fromager Carolyn Stromberg displays one of the featured wines at the launch of The Cheese Course.



Michael Navarra and Jamie Carrier sample wine and cheese at Cheesetique in Del Ray.

Imagine Alexandria Continues To Move Forward

BY GALE CURCIO
GAZETTE PACKET

With another Imagine Alexandria meet-up last month, the members continue to pursue their dream of building a 50,000-square-foot creative hub that will brand the City of Alexandria as an anchor to organizations specializing in the field of creativity.

They envision this center as a place "that will encompass and promote the entire life-cycle of the creative process: education, idea generation, collaboration, implementation, and appreciation."

The Halloween Meet-Up that was held in the courtyard behind the office of WilliamsWhittle is a series of ongoing meetings to bring exposure to Imagine Alexandria.

A fire was blazing and grilled hot dogs were served. Nancy Belmont, CEO of Belmont, Inc., welcomed guests and encouraged them to form teams to join the pumpkin-carving contest.

However, as with most major projects, Imagine Alexandria needs more than monthly get-togethers; they need a major cash infusion. Belmont said that she is working with the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP) to try to get something going.

Currently all of the board members own their own businesses and have limited time to invest in Imagine Alexandria. They are hoping that they can bring somebody on board to help mobilize the volunteers and do some fundraising. They are also hoping to get space donated by the City of Alexandria or find an empty space.



Nancy Belmont welcomes guests to the Imagine Alexandria Meet-Up.

For more information visit info@imaginealexandria.org.

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

'All Must Pay'

Council members to consider ditching free parking for drivers with disabilities.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

It's a phrase that lingers on the streets of Arlington: "All May Park, All Must Pay." Essentially it means that drivers with handicapped placards will no longer be able to park for free at metered spaces. Arlington County Board members approved the policy change in 1998, and county officials coined the motto as a memorable phrase to work into promotional materials. Now the sentiment has driven south and found a parking space in Old Town.

"We've got a good reputation of being an open community. This would fly in the face of that reputation."

— Charles Benagh, chairman, Commission on Persons with Disabilities

For a fee. Alexandria City Council members have already agreed in principal to the idea of "All May Park, All Must Pay." Back in February, a party-line vote for the budget ap-

proved abandoning the longtime practice of allowing drivers with handicapped placards to park for free at metered spaces. The blowback was so intense, council members were forced to back down and rescind the policy change.

Now the new multi-space meters are being installed throughout Old Town, and elected officials must consider the options again. This time, the consideration includes the possibility that drivers might cheat, telling the machine they don't have to pay because they are disabled when in fact they are not. But it's an approach that's strongly opposed by those who would lose their free parking spaces.

"It's a faulty approach," said Chet Avery, longtime champion for people with disabilities in Alexandria. "It's punishing people

with disabilities for something they did not do."

MOMENTUM TO CHANGE

Alexandria's longstanding policy of free parking for drivers with disabilities dates back to April. That's when the Old Town Area Parking Study issued a report recommending that Alexandria adopt Arlington's approach. City officials said the change would be part of a broader strategy to reduce the potential for abuse by holders of handicapped permits. One potential compromise currently under discussion would increase the number of designated handicapped spaces where parking is always free in exchange for doing away with the free parking at general metered spaces.

"There would be a four-hour parking restriction in those spaces," said transportation director Rich Baier. "So the people with handicapped placards would have to pay



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities have unanimously rejected efforts to adopt Arlington's "All May Park, All Must Pay" philosophy. One compromise plan being floated would increase the number of parking spaces set aside for drivers with disabilities by 4 percent in exchange for doing away with free parking at metered spaces for those with disabled parking placards.

in the general use spaces just like everybody else."

Haunting the discussion are two recent parking scandals that rocked City Hall. The first was the city repairman who was found

SEE 'ALL MUST PAY,' PAGE 11

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PEOPLE



Community Lodgings executive director Bonnie Baxley, standing, with Kristin Langlykke and Steve Wallace.



Bonnie Baxley, center, with long-time supporters Greg and Cindy Golubin.



ABC 7 anchor Courtney Robinson, left, and WUSA anchor Lauren Corbut learn about wines from Brennan Downey of Downey Selections Importers. Robinson and Corbut are Community Lodgings volunteers.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN / GAZETTE PACKET

Savory Success for Community Lodgings

More than 95 people raised a glass in support of Community Lodgings at the annual Wine Tasting event Nov. 7 at Christ Church in Old Town.

"It was a great evening," said Community Lodgings Director of Development Jim Dempsey. "After expenses, we raised over \$9,000 to support our Transitional Housing Program for Alexandria's homeless families."

Downey Selections Importers provided the wines for the evening and vintner Brennan Downey explained the various selections.

"We received considerable support from local businesses to make the Wine Tasting a success," Dempsey said. "Manhattan International Transportation donated limousine service for an all-day winery tour and

Quattro Goombas Winery, Barrel Oak Winery and Three Fox Vineyard donated wine tasting tours."

Community Lodgings, named one of the best small charities in the Washington region by the Catalogue of Philanthropy, serves more than 90 children per day in its after school and summer programs and provides transitional housing and support services to an average of 25 families per year.

"It costs \$2,000 per month to support a family in our program," Dempsey said. "We provide them with housing and round-the-clock access to our caseworker, job counselor, child services coordinator and budget mentors. Our Wine Tasting proceeds will make a difference to the families that we serve."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Seated: John Tyler, Cathy Sterling and Ann McMurray. Standing: Karen Richardson, Bonnie Baxley and Chris McMurray.

Senior Services Announces New Resource Center

The home of Arthur Peabody and Lucy Thomson was the setting Nov. 14 for the kick off reception for a new Senior Services Resource Center.

"After three years of studies and planning, we are finally ready to implement the new Resource Center," said Senior Services board president Mark Roth. "We will be a one-stop shop and one-call center not only to serve seniors, but to serve the adult children who don't know where to turn in caring for their parents."

The Resource Center will operate as a clearinghouse for services, support and information for senior citizens.

"This is not being done anywhere else in the city," said Carl Behnke, the director of development for Senior Services. "You can't

put a value on what a center like this will be worth to our seniors."

The center will cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000 to operate annually, including staffing, administration and technical support needs.

"It's clear there is a need for this," Roth said. "The calls just keep coming in and people are panicked. Every family will face the issues that affect aging parents and tonight begins the first phase of expanding our services to help our seniors and their families."

For more information or to make a donation to the new Senior Services Resource Center, call 703-836-4414 or visit www.seniorservicesalex.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Director of Development Carl Behnke discusses the financial needs of the new resource center.



Host Arthur Peabody, Barbara Allen, Mark Roth and Carl Behnke.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN / GAZETTE PACKET

NEWS

Spice Sting

Adam Ebbin purchases synthetic marijuana in his district preparing for upcoming session.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Standing outside Mia's Market on Mount Vernon Avenue, Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49) was ready to make the buy. So he walked into the convenience store, asked to see the synthetic marijuana and handed over a credit card. The four-term member of the House of Delegates wanted to make clear that he was gathering evidence for an upcoming committee hearing, not trying to score what's known on the street as "K2" or "spice."

"I'm going to show this to my colleagues," he said to market owner Mia Kim. "I promise I'm not going to smoke it."

"After you buy it," Kim replied, "I don't care what you do with it."

Kim might not care, but Ebbin does. When the General Assembly session gavel into session in January, Ebbin will be one of a handful of members with legislation banning synthetic marijuana. Along with the other members from the House and Senate, Ebbin says the product is completely unregulated — lead-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49) shows one of the packages of synthetic marijuana he purchased at a convenience store in his district last week.

ton and Alexandria have begun to carry products like the ones on display near the checkout counter at Mia's Market. Kim said that she received the product from a distributor in Utah free of charge, so all sales are profitable to her. Sales are good, and so Kim said she might consider placing an order. But her market at the Calvert Building on Mount Vernon Avenue is slated for demolition, and the future of her business is uncertain.

"I sold two packages yesterday," said Kim, examining the colorful packages. "They sell mostly to

ing vulnerable consumers to smoke it and inhale unknown chemicals as a result.

"I think it's marketed to anyone who would like to smoke marijuana," said Ebbin, "probably kids who don't have a connection to finding marijuana on their own."

OVER THE LAST few years,

stores in Arlington and Alexandria have begun to carry products like the ones on display near the checkout counter at Mia's Market. Kim said that she received the product from a distributor in Utah free of charge, so all sales are profitable to her. Sales are good, and so Kim said she might consider placing an order. But her market at the Calvert Building on Mount Vernon Avenue is slated for demolition, and the future of her business is uncertain.

SEE MARIJUANA, PAGE 13

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* By readers of the *Virginia Gazette* 2007-2009



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OBITUARIES

Patricia Rhodes Mayes Hines

Please join the family, friends and colleagues of Patricia Rhodes Mayes Hines for a memorial service and reception Saturday, Nov. 20, 2010 at noon at The Church of Saint Andrew and Saint Margaret of Scotland on 402 East Monroe Ave., Alexandria. There will be a luncheon reception at the church following the service.



Patricia Mayes Hines was one of the most accomplished conservative ladies of her generation. Her crowning achievement was perhaps her service in the White House West Wing under President Ronald Reagan in the critical positions of Executive Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and Deputy Director of the Office of Policy Development.

She also served President Reagan as special assistant in the office of the Under Secretary of Education, and Executive Director of the National Council on Educational Research. In 1988-89 she served as Assistant Secretary of Education for Research and Information.

Under President George H. W. Bush, she was also named Deputy Assistant Secretary of the United States Army for Training Schools and Family Support. Under George W. Bush, she was appointed as Commissioner for the President's National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS). Mrs. Hines was confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate on three occasions for these Presidential appointments.

In these positions she assisted countless younger conservatives in their careers. Her titles reflected

not only a brilliant mind, but a commitment to the land of her birth, its people and its values.

Patricia Hines was born to James Edgar Mayes and Katie Beaty Mayes, in the town of Mayesville, S.C. Her father was the patriarch of Mayesville, S.C., a cotton town.

She is mourned by her beloved husband, Richard, and two children, James Williams Hines, who attends the University of Chicago and Kathleen Mayes Hines who attends Conyers College in South Carolina.

Richard Hines is a former member of the South Carolina House of Representatives and is currently president of RTH Consulting, Inc. in Alexandria. He maintains homes in Alexandria, Va. and Mayesville, S.C.

Lucy M. Hunnicutt

Born May 28, 1914, Lucy M. Hunnicutt, a beloved teacher/bus driver at St. Paul's Nursery School for 50 years, died Oct. 28, 2010 at the age of 96 in North Carolina where she had been living with her son. She was a long time resident of Alexandria.



She was "Nana" to four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

She was a graduate of the University of Tennessee and was buried in her hometown of Maryville, Tenn. on Friday, Nov. 5, 2010 at Grandview Cemetery.

A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Dec. 18, 2010 details to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests, send donations to the American Cancer Society, a charity near and dear to her heart.

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NEWS

'All Must Pay'

FROM PAGE 7

with buckets of quarters he stole from broken meters. Then police uncovered a black market of forged handicapped placards, including one used by an Alexandria parking officer. Last summer, police officials began a crackdown that prompted surprising results.

"Police stated that approximately 90 percent of the placards and license plates checked were being used illegally," wrote City Manager Jim Hartmann in his recommendation for adopting Arlington's policy. "This is a very labor intensive enforcement process."

Removing the ability of handicapped drivers to park for free would reduce the opportunity for fraud. But it would also eliminate a privilege enjoyed by many drivers who use the exemption legitimately. City officials say the opportunities for fraud must be part of the discussion. And opening up the new multi-space meters for drivers misidentifying themselves to get free parking could complicate enforcement efforts.

"I think we have the potential of actually making the problem even worse," said Councilman Paul Smedberg.

MANY DRIVERS WITH disabilities oppose changing the policy. For many of these people, who must navigate uneven brick sidewalks with wheelchairs and walkers, being able to park for free in metered spaces is a ticket to freedom from worrying about parking tickets. And the idea that the change would be prompted in part by abuse from drivers without disabilities is adding insult to injury.

"It's so hard to negotiate the world when you are disabled," said Mollie Danforth, former School Board chairman who suffered a stroke in 2007. "It's not the cost but the added difficulty of meters and parking space sizes that impedes disabled drivers."

Members of the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities are unanimous in their opposition to the city manager's proposal, voting twice against it. Chairman Charles Benagh described the proposal as misguided, adding that adopting Arlington's policy would undercut years of progress in Alexandria.

"We've got a good reputation of being an open community," said Benagh. "This would fly in the face of that reputation."

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NEWS

City, Schools Discuss Next Budget

FROM PAGE 4

cent compared to last year, although sales volume over the last three months has decreased by 18 percent.

"Not all of us are on the same page yet," said Mayor Bill Euille. "But by the time we adopt the budget, we will be."

SCHOOL SPENDING accounts for the largest appropriation — roughly a third of the money spent by the city government. All taxpayers in Alexandria contribute to Alexandria City Public Schools, regardless of whether they have a child in public schools or not. During a presentation to City Council members Tuesday night at George Washington Middle School, Sherman made the case that the system is in the midst of transformation and needs a 5 percent increase.

"I must admit I got a little worried when I heard about a 2 percent increase for the schools," said Sherman. "We are running out of room."

Sherman delivered the PowerPoint presentation in a room that was once the third-floor library of the old George Washington High School, an Art Deco building on Mount Vernon Avenue. Its transformed

use served to underscore the rapid changes at Alexandria City Public Schools. The room is now used for training exercises, although school officials say it won't be long before the stately old columns in the library will overlook classrooms. Enrollment has spiked 14 percent in the last three years, sending school officials scrambling to find increased capacity.

"This is not a time to slow our progress," said Sherman, adding that T.C. Williams High School has made progress since being labeled a persistently lowest achieving school. "We must plan now for the future because we can't afford to wait to see if enrollment trends continue."

When asked about the increased spending on consultants, former School Board Chairman Author

Peabody defended practice. By attracting "the best minds" to Alexandria, Peabody said, the use of consultants have contributed to what school officials call a "transformation" of the public-school system in Alexandria. He also suggested City Council members assess the needs of the students and then decide on a funding level rather than declare taxes remain constant and leave schools to cope.

"We've taken some lumps for consultants," said Peabody. "But we are putting together something new and different."

"Not all of us are on the same page yet. But by the time we adopt the budget, we will be."

— Mayor Bill Euille

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NEWS

Synthetic Marijuana

FROM PAGE 9

women.”

Ebbin is one of three potential candidates expected to be candidates in a Democratic primary for the Senate seat currently held by state Sen. Patsy Ticer (D-30). So a victory on banning synthetic marijuana could be the kind of thing mentioned as legislative accom-

plishment during a primary fight. But Isaac Wood, communication director at the University of Virginia Center for Politics, says the effect would be muted because the issue is obscure to most voters.

“It would be a resume-builder,” said Wood. “But the drawback is that most people have never heard of this, so he would have to pair it with other accomplishments.”



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HOLIDAY GUIDE

Linda Newman, volunteer for Joint Council on International Children's Services, purchases a purse from Julie Becker, Ten Thousand Villages volunteer, during the holiday shopping event on Nov. 13.



PHOTOS BY NICOLE MACON/GAZETTE PACKET

Benefiting Local Charities

Community-shopping nights at Ten Thousand Villages.

BY NICOLE MACON
GAZETTE PACKET

Rebecca Harris, director of programs and services at Joint Council on International Children's Services (JCICS), stood outside the Ten Thousand Villages store in Old Town, drawing in customers with not only free Teasim tea and cookies, but also the chance to give back to a local charity. Twenty percent of the proceeds from purchases made between 6 – 8 p.m. on Nov. 13 were donated to JCICS.

Ten Thousand Villages sells fair-trade products made from recycled or renewable materials from more than 130 artisan groups in 38 countries, according to its website.

These community-shopping nights started about seven years ago with one event, expanding to four events this year. Ten Thousand Villages volunteers and board members choose which local non-profits will participate. Julie Becker, a 12-year volunteer, said that volunteers and board members usually have connections to the non-profits they host.

JCICS's mission is to help provide orphaned and at-risk children abroad with a safe environment and is part of a coalition that provides these services to children in 42 countries.

Patty Rabinowitz, 22, a graduate student at George Washington University's Art Therapy program based in Alexandria, was going to stop by the store after dinner with friends, but she was drawn into the store early by free Teasim tea samples.

Rabinowitz became familiar with Ten Thousand Villages at a yearly fair at Muhlenberg College, where she studied as an undergraduate. Before she moved to Alexandria, she didn't know there was a



Jacqueline Snee shops for ornaments and sentimental gifts at Ten Thousand Villages on Nov. 13 .

physical store for Ten Thousand Villages.

Rabinowitz likes to buy gifts for birthdays and holidays at Ten Thousand Villages as an "alternative to a mass-produced gift that I can tell my friends where it came from."

Knowing that part of her purchase will be donated to JCICS, "makes me want to get something," Rabinowitz said.

Bonnie Gardner, 47, of Vienna, came to Ten Thousand Villages to support JCICS. She worked with an Alexandria agency to adopt her son, Owen, 4, from Vietnam one month before adoptions closed there in September 2008.

Gardner was searching for Christmas gifts and found something for herself — a measuring tape shaped like a sheep. She always looks at the products from Vietnam while at Ten Thousand Villages.

Linda Newman, 45, a volunteer with JCICS, wanted to adopt internationally and was searching for a reliable organization. She found JCICS a resource "to help find a trustworthy adoption agency." She also adopted her daughter from Vietnam just be-

fore the country ceased international adoptions.

Newman first became a donor to JCICS and now has established a strong relationship with the organization. As a co-

owner of Teasim, Newman donated the cookies and tea in support of the event, and offered a 10 percent discount to all customers on that day.

This is the third year JCICS has participated in Ten Thousand Villages's community-shopping nights.

HOLIDAY GUIDE

Different Ways To Give

FROM PAGE 3

meals on Thanksgiving,” said Donna Walker James of Volunteer Alexandria. “Christ House, Christ Church and Meade Memorial all provide meal programs and can use volunteers this time of year.”

While there are specific holiday needs, according to James, there are always ongoing year-round needs.

“The best place for people looking to volunteer is to visit 1800volunteer.org,” James said. “An individual can put in their own information and will be matched with something that suits their interests.”

FOR MORE TRADITIONAL giving, the United Way of the National Capital Area acts as an umbrella organization for more than 100 Alexandria agencies and ACT for Alexandria is a community philanthropic foundation.

“If someone is thinking about giving but not sure where to give, I’d love for them to give me a call,” said ACT executive director John Porter. “Part of what we do is connect people to causes which are of interest to them but they may not have the knowledge to understand where the need is in the community.”

In addition to supporting immediate causes, ACT established the ACT NOW Fund for future needs or



BY JEANNE THEISMANN /GAZETTE PACKET

ACT Executive Director John Porter, right, volunteers his time with Capt. Willie Bailey’s annual toy drive. Former Washington Redskin great Brian Mitchell, left, also lends his support to Bailey’s efforts.

when a crisis develops during the year.

“Individuals interested in charitable giving sometimes donate to a national organization when they can give to that same cause locally,” Porter said. “But when they give back to the community they directly see the benefit of their involvement.”

So whether you celebrate Christmas or Kwanza, consider making a gift of your time, talents or resources this holiday season.

“Altering the way my friends and I think about gifts has changed all of us,” said Nick. “We now try to volunteer as a group for birthdays or to commemorate special occasions. It’s the best gift we could ever give each other.”

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PEOPLE



Chuck Aldrich and Janice Ryan as the ghost of the Female Stranger admire a dress during the silent auction.



Pat Sowers as a Gypsy, Rick Sowers as John Gadsby, Peggy Harlow as Sacajawea and Laura Trieschman as Amelia Earhart.



Rick Sowers as John Gadsby and Peter Ryan as Teddy Roosevelt browse the silent auction items.



Gretchen Bulova, executive director of Gadsby's Tavern Museum, and her husband, Del. David Bulova (D-37) as the Night Watchman.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/
GAZETTE PACKET

A Night at the Museum

Ben Stiller sent his regrets but the rest of his "Night at the Museum" friends arrived in full force at Gadsby's Tavern Oct. 16 for a ball that brought the movie cast of characters to life.

Sponsored by the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society Friends as a fundraiser for the restoration of the historic ice well, the gala featured dinner and a silent auction to raise money for the project.

"We have completed the Board of Architectural Review process and design work," said Bruce Queen, president of the Museum Society Friends. "Now we are completing

the construction documents and continuing our fundraising."

The estimated cost of the restoration is \$300,000. Just over \$130,000 has been raised and additional grants are being sought for the balance.

Characters enjoying the evening included the Marquis de Lafayette, Sacajawea, Col. Teddy Roosevelt, Gen. George Custer, Amelia Earhart, the Night Watchman, John Gadsby and the Ghost of the Female Stranger.

"I'm just a middling townsperon," laughed Cathy Zaret, who dressed in late 1780s attire. "Everyone here is above my station."



Cathy Zaret checks out a period wig during the silent auction.

Union Street Public House Holds Golf Tournament

BY GALE CURCIO
GAZETTE PACKET

When Union Street Public House decided to host its first annual golf tournament, it didn't have to look far for sponsors. It turned to its vendors and many of them came through with flying colors.

Guiffre Distributing donated goodie bags, prizes, and plenty of beer. It also sponsored a team and a hole on the golf course. Other sponsors include American Advertising, Clarke & Sampson, Inc., Coastal Brewing Company, Congressional Seafood, Flying Dog Brewing, Keany Produce, M.E. Swings Roasters, Photo Trend, Red Bull, Southern Wine & Spirits, Terrapin Financial, Union Street Public House and US Foods.

Donations were made by Union Street Public House, Curcio Law, Curcio Communications, Murphy's Irish Pub, Chadwick's Restaurant and Five Guys.



Tom Picarelli and Antonio Tizol from Southern Wine & Spirits take first place with a score of 59.

Tony Picarelli and Antonio Tizol from Southern Wine & Spirits take first place with a score of 59. Union Street Public House's team, consisting of Pat Condon, Kyle



Union Street Public House's team, consisting of Pat Condon, Kyle Schmalz, John Vanderhyde and Bob Harvey (not pictured) placed second.

Schmalz, John Vanderhyde and Bob Harvey placed second.

The 1st Captain Harper Open was held at Laurel Hill Golf Club in Lorton, Va. Pro-

ceeds will benefit the American Red Cross.

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

PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/GAZETTE PACKET

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Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080

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Holiday Inn

Thanksgiving Day "Champagne" Brunch

Thursday, November 25, 2010
11:00 am ~ 3:00 pm



salads & starters

Caesar Salad
Chilled Pasta Salad
Seasonal Fresh Fruit
Spiced Shrimp
Cucumber and Tomato Vinaigrette
International Cheese and Cracker Display



entrées

Oven Roasted Turkey & Stuffing
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Tenderloin of Beef with Madeira Wine Sauce
Chicken Marsala
Seafood Scampi
Broiled Flounder
Eggs Benedict, Pancakes, Belgian
Waffles and Omelettes

accompaniments

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NEWS

Spotlighting Local Artists

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

Last month, DigiLink, Inc. hosted its second Celebrating Art program to recognize the contributions of art and artists to the fabric of life. Artwork by professional fine artist Daniel Wise and six other artists were hung on the walls of DigiLink's corporate office.

They held an open house on Oct. 28 to spotlight these works as well as to showcase the ways that new digital and offset printing technologies integrate art into award-winning printed materials.

Wise works in soft (dry) pastel and oil and is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America and a charter member of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters. The participating artists displayed pieces in a variety of mediums, including oil on canvas, acrylic, acrylic mixed media, collage acrylic and pastels.

"Art and creativity unlock our imagination and compel us to think, reflect and innovate in new ways, whether we're in artistic fields or in business, government or non-profit organizations," said Michael

Wight, president & CEO of DigiLink. "With this in mind, DigiLink is honored to feature the works of Washington area artists in our second Celebrating Art exhibit."

According to Wight, Celebrating Art is the company's principal corporate social responsibility program. It was conceived around DigiLink's prepress and printing services for artists in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region and marks the company's 10th year of business in Alexandria.

"We produce a wide range of creative printed materials, including posters, brochures, catalogues, art cards and other art gifts for local artists and also provide wide format, mailing and fulfillment services" said Wight. "Celebrating Art is our way of thanking the artists in Washington for sharing their creative talents and encouraging them to continue expressing their artistic

voices. Celebrating Art is also a way to thank customers for their loyalty and business.

"In our 10 years of business, we've learned that developing strong customer partnerships through providing a custom approach has helped us exceed quality, pricing and deliver expectations," Wight shared. "We've also learned to never take customers for granted and to give them experiences that transcend their day to day work schedules. We hope that Celebrating Art provides the type of occasion that lifts spirits through the beauty of art and expresses our appreciation to our customers."

Visit www.digilink-inc.com. DigiLink Corporate Office is located at 840 South Pickett Street, Alexandria.

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Photos by local artists were spotlighted at DigiLink, Inc.

Helping Non-Profits

The National Hospice and Palliative Care organization (NHPCO) recently was able to purchase the property they had been leasing for 14 years in Old Town Alexandria with the help of bond financing.

Cathy Gibney, senior vice president, described the process as "great" and would recommend bond financing to an organization of their size.

Bates and Leona Rosario, controller at NHPCO, were one of the non-profit organizations in attendance at Alexandria Economic Partnership's Nov. 3 Bond Financing Breakfast Meeting at the Hilton in Old Town to discuss bond financing for medium to large-sized non-profit organizations.

Non-profit organizations such as NHPCO are eligible to fund a change in headquarters with bond financing through the Industrial Development Authority of Alexandria.

Mayor William D. Euille began the meeting by emphasizing Alexandria as a competitive region for non-profits, as Alexandria is home to the fourth largest number of non-profits in the country.

Mike Graff, of law firm McGuire Woods, said that bond financing was ideal for non-profits looking for building financing for a new headquarters, such as NHPCO.

Some of the advantages include a lower interest rate, more flexibility, and longer maturity than a traditional mortgage, said Graff.

Real Estate broker David Millard of Cushman & Wakefield said that bond financing is "not for the faint of heart," because the ground-up development plans will require someone on-staff to handle the process full-time.

— NICOLE MACON

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MERRY MEMBERSHIP HOLIDAY RECEPTION

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DECEMBER 9, 2010

FROM 5:30-7:30 P.M.

OPINION

Give Locally

Local charities report record numbers of Northern Virginia families seeking emergency help.

The number of people applying for food stamps and seeking help from food banks has more than doubled in the last few years in Northern Virginia.

This year, 800 families registered for the LINK Thanksgiving food and used coat distribution. That includes 1,774 adults and 2,130 children, an increase from 2009 of almost 400 individuals.

This incredible need is repeated in small and large organizations around Northern Virginia.

Food For Others served 11,900 households and 42,000 individuals in the last year, and despite many donations, the organization is having trouble keeping food on the shelves for the needy. A few weeks ago, Washington Irving Middle School collected 3,000 pounds of

food for the organization, Peter Spain, an organizer at Food for Others, told reporter Julia O'Donoghue.

"But most of that food is gone now. ... We had 132 families come in on Friday," he said.

Much of the burden of helping these families has fallen on small organizations with no paid staff, interfaith groups, churches, volunteers. Organizations like SHARE of McLean and LINK depend on volunteers and contributions to try to meet the expanding need for food and warm clothes on a daily basis.

Beyond that, organizations stretch to provide the basics for a holiday meal for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and the hope of presents for many children who might otherwise not receive a single holiday gift.

Where to Give

◆ **The Campagna Center** in Alexandria
703-549-0111

◆ **ALIVE** (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically)
www.alive-inc.org

There are many ways to give, with some local charities connecting the donor to a specific family to provide a holiday food basket and fulfill some wishes for gifts. Many organizations encourage the donation of gift cards. Every local group seeking to help the needy right now is facing extra demand and needs both volunteer and financial help.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

SSA Helps Elders Manage Money Issues

BY MARY LEE
ANDERSON
DAILY MONEY MANAGER
FOR SENIOR SERVICES OF
ALEXANDRIA



COMMENTARY

Late payment notices, creditor calls, confusing health care options — lately lots of people are facing these problems. For some in the elderly community, money management issues can be just overwhelming. Without support from a trusted family member or friend, relatively minor questions about bills or taxes can create situations with disastrous consequences.

Everyone wants to remain independent as we age. Senior Services of Alexandria helps older citizens

continue to live at home by providing support in many different ways: healthy food from Meals on Wheels, transportation to appointments by Senior Taxi, referrals to reliable home repair workers and personal service providers, and help with ongoing financial needs through Daily Money Management Services.

Keeping up with bill payments, balancing a checkbook and getting ready for tax season may seem to be simple tasks. For many seniors the loss of a spouse, memory problems or even physical disabilities can make such daily challenges

daunting. They may also need to find their way through the maze of government benefits, health care and insurance options.

Family members often provide this type of help, but when that is not an option SSA will help clients maintain their financial health. SSA will review eligibility for government benefits, reconcile insurance/Medicare statements and even help pay bills each month. Seniors have the comfort of knowing they can trust the help they receive. As a professional Daily Money Manager and SSA volunteer, I've seen firsthand what a difference Senior Services of Alexandria can make in the lives of some of Alexandria's most vulnerable citizens.

Senior citizens who are inter-

ested in finding out more about how SSA can help them with daily money management issues should call Lindsay Hemphill at 703-836-4414, extension 10 to arrange an office appointment. Home visits are also available as needed. Senior Services of Alexandria provides Daily Money Management Services on a sliding scale fee basis, but no one in need is turned away. Senior Services does not provide investment advice, but can provide resources for such assistance.

Mary Lee Anderson is president of Senior Management LLC providing Daily Money Management Services in the Northern Virginia area, and is a regular volunteer at Senior Services of Alexandria.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dismissive Attitude

To the Editor:

I have read with interest the recent articles on ACPS Superintendent Sherman's use of scarce resources for consultants. One fact that seems clear is that Dr. Sherman is gifted at convincing school board members that he has all the answers for faltering school systems.

An observation I've made that is not clarified in the articles is Dr. Sherman's disdain for the teachers and staff who work in our school system. From his "my way or the highway" introduction where he pulled a quarter out of his pocket and told staff members

that if they didn't like what he did he would give them "bus fare to Fairfax County" to his one-size-fits-all "solutions" to the needs of the diverse ACPS student body — Calkins' writing program, lesson plan templates, block scheduling for kindergartners — he has ignored the strengths of existing ACPS staff and students while imposing his theories of educational "reform" with the myriad of consultants he's paid with funds that used to pay for reading teachers, tech support, and support staff.

Shortly before I retired from ACPS, a student asked me what I liked best about teaching. It was a difficult question to answer. Students who ask thoughtful ques-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 21



Gadsby's Yard Sale

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN /
GAZETTE PACKET

Pat Sowers, left, shows Donna McIntyre some estate jewelry at the Gadsby's Tavern yard sale Nov. 6. Sponsored by the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society, the sale was held at the old icehouse at 200 Commerce St. as a fundraiser to restore the historic Gadsby's Tavern Ice Well. Together with the Night at the Museum Ball, the two events raised more than \$21,000 for the restoration project.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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OPINION

Government Reform Commission Still Busy At Work

BY ALICIA HUGHES
COUNCILWOMAN, CITY OF
ALEXANDRIA



The Governor's Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring is still working to make the Commonwealth more efficient and customer-friendly. Our next report will be released on Dec. 1.

Current considerations include: reviewing state agency maximum employment levels and associated spans of control; endorsement of a comprehensive study of VRS that moves away from a defined benefit system towards a defined contribution plan; potentially eliminating and consolidating some existing state boards and commissions;

transitioning to a state e-document management system; streamlining the paper report filings to the General Assembly; properly structuring gain sharing initiatives; where appropriate, considering uniform approaches to planning districts and a host of other recommendations from local governments and their organizations, including the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League.

Two recommendations already materialized that I want to highlight are the consolidated Virginia Department of Transportation ["VDOT"] Call Center and the Going Green with Virginia Transportation Initiative.

The Commission has recommended that

VDOT consolidate local toll-free numbers into one centralized call center. Now VDOT has opened a statewide customer service call center near Salem. It receives reports of road obstructions such as potholes, dead animals and tree limbs, maintenance requests and other routinely handled business. You can call 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623), and VDOT will answer 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Consistent with another recommendation, Governor McDonnell recently announced the "Going Green with Virginia Transportation" Initiative. The initiative is designed to increase the environmental focus of the Commonwealth's transportation agencies, as well as achieve cost-savings through reduction in spending and fuel consumption by increasing telecommuting. As a result of the initiative, the Virginia Transportation Secretariat will:

actively seek to reduce waste and recycle; increase the use of renewable materials; pursue a goal of not less than 20 percent of its eligible workforce telecommuting; purchase or lease only Energy Star rated appliances and equipment for all classifications for which an Energy Star designation is available; procure only diesel fuel that contains, at a minimum, 2 percent, by volume, biodiesel or green diesel fuel, taking into consideration availability and cost as it relates to unblended diesel fuel; and decrease energy consumption by at least five percent for FY 2012 (as compared to FY 2010).

Thanks for tuning in to what we're doing. If you have suggestions or ideas, e-mail me at alicia.hughes@alexandriava.gov. You can also visit the Commission's website at www.reform.virginia.gov.

'Keeping Our Eyes on the Prize: Our Customers'

BY JACKIE PERSON
CUSTOMER CARE CHAIR

The City of Alexandria, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities kicked off the first initiative of taking Customer Care Service in the City to the next level for our Internal and External customers. Our ultimate goal is to create customer loyalty for life and exceed our customer's expectations every chance that we can.

We are looking to earn customers' loyalty one step and one day at a time. We want our customer service to set us apart from the rest. By making the process of satisfying customers a part of our daily routine, we can virtually guarantee our professional success, as simple as putting a customer on

hold, to direct interaction.

We want to provide "One Stop Shopping" throughout the City. We want to reconnect with families, schools, civic organizations, local businesses and the community as a whole. Our main priority will be to make sure our customers have a great and quality experience every time they enter our facilities.

Look out for the Red Hot Boxes in the Recreation Department facilities. We want to know how we are measuring up and if your experience is not the best it can be, please request immediate assistance from the Manager on Duty. Customer feedback will help our team better service you and the City. It is always our pleasure to serve you and the families in the City of Alexandria.



The Customer Council and Ambassadors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 20

tions; students who broaden my perspective with ideas I've never thought of; students who work incredibly hard to learn material; and students who come from all countries imaginable are part of the wonder of teaching in Alexandria. Equally important in my love of teaching were my colleagues who were unfailingly supportive on very difficult days; who critiqued my lessons with eyes always on what was best for students; and who spent hours of their own time making sure that their students understood the importance of learning.

Dr. Sherman seems to have taken no notice of the strengths of students and staff of ACPS before he arrived. He denigrates and demeans teachers with his actions. He seems to ignore the successful students and teachers in the system. He subjects everyone to poorly planned changes (elementary school schedules; middle school reorgani-

zations) that he somehow convinces the school board members are the solution to all the problems.

Dr. Sherman appears to have convinced School Board members that he has the answers to Alexandria City Public School's problems with underachieving students and underperforming teachers. School Board members would do well to ask administrators, teachers, and staff how Dr. Sherman contributes to the improvement of our schools. (The one caveat I would mention should such a question be asked is that the Board should ask for comments on his tenure with a guarantee of anonymity as current staff may perceive that there would be retribution if they honestly criticized the current superintendent.)

I'm sure Dr. Sherman means well and that some of his initiatives will be good for our school system. What I fear is that the very positive aspects of our system that existed before he was hired will be destroyed by

his ignorance of and dismissive attitude toward everything that was pre-Sherman ACPS.

Pat Brown
Alexandria

Research War's Causes

To the Editor:

In "Propaganda or History," Tuesday, Nov. 4, the letter writer expresses a concern the "true history" of the Civil War is not being told because of the "long-standing Northern propaganda claim that the war was fought to end slavery." These arguments are part of a long tradition of southern historians to develop their own distinctive history, downplaying slavery as a cause for the Civil War, and overlooking the need to justify the morality of slavery.

The causes of the Civil War have been the source of academic and public debate for the last 150 years. The election of Abraham Lincoln and the sequence of events that followed sparked the passions and combustible political material that led to war. The unwillingness of non-slave holding states to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act, the prospect of limitations on the expansion of slavery in the west, increased resistance of slaves, and the feared loss of slaves as personal property were central to those favoring secession.

The 150th Anniversary of the Civil War is another opportunity to explore and discover a richer meaning of the history of that period. This is opportunity to explore attitudes, moral and personal connections of people during that period regarding slavery and the aftermath of race relations in America.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24



CHRIS WHITE

#1 Long and Foster Agent in Virginia - 2009!



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Ruth Gulrard 703.609.3343

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Absolutely Impeccable! New Price! Stunning home features bright open floor plan with soaring cathedral ceilings on main level. This fabulous property has been substantially updated and is in absolutely impeccable condition. Gleaming hardwood floors, track lighting, finished lower level, garage and much more! Gorgeous setting on half acre tract fronting a quiet street in the heart of Mt. Vernon.

JUST LISTED!



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

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Margaret Miller 703.906.7920

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NEW LISTING!



505 BRADDOCK RD #803
Old Town / \$ 610,000

2BR, 2.5BA w/barrel vaulted ceiling, hdwds, frpl, updated kit, garage pkg, Metro.

NEW LISTING!



1105 N PITT ST #3A
Old Town / \$ 315,000

Bright top fl corner condo: updated kit, new BA, w/d, frpl, new flrs, Metro & ...

Norma Stratton 703.966.0756



9316 Heather Glen Dr
\$650,000

Price Slashed! Large Colonial!

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



1702 Cool Spring Dr
\$569,000

New Home Features - Re-Sale Price!

Unique Opportunity! Total renovation in popular Ft. Hunt area. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home has been stripped to bare walls by leading custom builder. Everything is brand new: chef's kitchen with custom 42" cabinets, granite counters, luxury baths, gorgeous hardwood floors, upgraded trim detail. Feels like new home at half the price!

JUST LISTED!



4408 Tarpon Ln
\$625,000

Yacht Haven-Near River!

Spacious four level home has been meticulously maintained. Absolutely gorgeous half acre lot within walking distance of clubhouse and river in this fabulous waterfront community. Both home and grounds are in exceptional condition. Significant upgrades include luxurious baths, hardwood floors and much updating throughout. Unique opportunity to be near water at reasonable price.

NEW LISTING!



2302 VICTORY DR
Huntington / Alex
\$ 285,000

1 blk to METRO RAIL! Enjoy the convenience of this well cared for 3-lvl duplex - 2BR, 2BA - hdwds on 2 lvl - completely redone kit - bright LL. Nice deck & sizeable backyard. Many updates - Don't delay!

Louise Devers 703.795.9944
Julia Lutz 703.795.0789

PRICE REDUCED!



6371 ALDERMAN DR
Alexandria
\$ 675,000

Kingstowne living at its finest. Landmark colonial style 4BR, 3.5BA home privately nestled behind mature trees & shrubs. Upgrades included: enclosed sunroom, large UL family room/bedroom, moldings, warm wood flrs, gas fireplace, brick driveway, 2-car garage & so much more. Many community amenities & EZ commuting.

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

PRICE REDUCED!



701 PRINCE ST #5
Old Town / Alex
\$ 469,000

Renovated ground flr unit in rarely available Swann Daingerfield. Brand new appl in eat-in kit w/ silestone ctrs & ceramic flrs. New beige Karastan thru-out the 1,100sqft, 2BR, 1.5BA space. Frpl. Storage. Parking. Seller has paid assessment.

Virginia Jacob 703.683.0400
Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594

JUST LISTED!



9335 Brambly Ln
\$649,900

Totally Remodeled - Gorgeous Setting!

Renovated throughout! Spacious home featuring large room sizes and bright, open floor plan. Upscale new kit w/granite, SS, gas cooktop and light wood cabinets. Other updates include: baths, gleaming hdwd flrs, replacement windows, elegant trim detail and extensive recessed lighting. Expansive windows capitalize on beauty of fabulous setting.

CONTRACT!



7115 Colgate Dr
\$695,000

Updated and Expanded!

\$60,000 PRICE REDUCTION! Expanded colonial in prime location just minutes from Old Town. Many fabulous features include: exceptionally large room sizes, first floor family room, updated custom kitchen and baths, finished lower level and expanded master suite with luxury bath and cavernous walk-in closets. Stunning custom sunroom overlooks gorgeous pool and grounds. Uniquely fabulous home.

CONTRACT!



3618 Old Vernon Court
\$859,900

CONTRACT!



8709 Gateshead Rd
\$559,000



8063 FAIRFAX RD
Alexandria
\$ 874,900

LAST ONE AVAILABLE! To be built by Reade Hanson Homebuilders w/3,400+ sq ft, 2-car garage, gourmet kitchen, 9' ceilings, luxury master suite, HW floors on main, finished basement and more.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252

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426 ALFRED ST
Old Town

Gorgeous renovation of historic detached home. 2,300+ sqft, 9 ft ceilings, 3BR/3.5BA. Gourmet kit overlooking family rm w/gas frpl. Spectacular masterBR w/luxury spaBA & private balcony. HW flrs thru-out. Deep bkdy w/2-car off-st prkg. Walk to 2 Metros & shops.

Mary Taylor 703.785.5619



1209 PORTNER RD
\$ 565,000

2BR, 2.5BA "Rare" Mason



1111 MICHIGAN COURT
\$ 625,000

2BR, 3BA - Cameron

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Renee Reymond 703.507.5330



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www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com

400 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA 22314
703.683.0400 ~ FAX 703.683.1303
www.OldTownAlexandria.com



Diabetes Education: Take Control of Your Life

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO
INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



One local woman recently discussed her struggle with diabetes for nearly seven years, which caused her to have little energy for the activities she loved and be frustrated by the frequent set backs.

For many people who suffer from diabetes this isn't uncommon. Often, this time of year presents even more of a challenge because of the foods that many choose while spending time with their family and friends during the holiday season. But diabetes doesn't have to present a major health challenge when it is managed properly.

Diabetes, a disease in which the body doesn't produce or properly use insulin, affects nearly 25 million Americans according to the American Diabetes Association (ADA). The cause of diabetes is still unknown, but physicians and researchers believe genetics, family history, diet, environmental factors and a lack of exercise play important roles in its development.

The Inova Health System Diabetes Centers offers classes to meet every diabetes educational need through group classes and

one-on-one sessions. Our Center is accredited by the ADA and is staffed by registered dietitians and nurses, many of whom are Certified Diabetes Educators. Each year we see more than 500 people who want to learn how to manage their diabetes properly.

There are several types of diabetes: Type 1 diabetes results from the body's inability to produce insulin. Nearly 10 percent of all Americans with diabetes are diagnosed with this type. Type 2 diabetes is a condition in which the body fails to properly use insulin. Most Americans who are diagnosed with diabetes have this form of the disease. Gestational diabetes occurs during pregnancy can usually lead to type 2 diabetes. Pre-diabetes is a condition that occurs when a person's blood glucose levels are higher than normal but not high enough for a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes. Anyone with pre-diabetes should make the effort to educate themselves about taking preventative measures to avoid developing diabetes.

Diabetes can be treated and managed throughout life but unfortunately it cannot be cured. It's necessary to make an effort to maintain good control of the disease, not keeping your health in mind can result in

serious complications such as high blood pressure, increased risk for heart disease and stroke, blindness, kidney disease, amputations and even death. The key to preventing these serious and sometimes fatal complications is monitoring blood glucose levels, living an active lifestyle and eating a balanced diet.

Since 1991, the Inova Alexandria Hospital Diabetes Center has helped thousands of people appropriately manage blood glucose levels and live a lifestyle that is more likely to prevent serious complications. The woman mentioned earlier was able to manage her diabetes and regain control of

her life after attending four classes about Type 2 Diabetes. Now, she fully understands the importance of meal planning, exercise, medication, and monitoring. After a seven year struggle, she feels in complete control and full of energy.^o

November is American Diabetes Awareness month. If you or someone you love has diabetes make sure you take the necessary steps to manage the disease so you can live a long and healthy life.

For more information about the Diabetes Center at Inova Alexandria Hospital call 703-504-3678 or for more information about diabetes education visit www.inova.org/diabetes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 21

There are many scholarly books and wonderful web sites with digital copies or transcripts of primary source materials. African American organizations and groups have been actively involved at state and county levels documenting the valuation and sale of slaves, reports of missing slaves, ads offering bounties for their return, and wills that divided slave families among heirs. Other documents that provide context include Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, a last minute plea to avert secession and likely

war, the South Carolina Declaration of Causes justifying secession, the Constitution of the Confederacy dated March 11, 1861 ensuring the rights to own slaves shall not be impaired, and the western region split over slavery and the issue of secession resulting in the creation of West Virginia

Inviting visitors to be historians can demystify older versions of Civil War history and enrich our personal understanding. The Civil War's ultimate meaning is that it transformed the United States and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 25



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Alexandria, Virginia

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 24

ever so slowly, America began to uncover and embrace the contribution, achievements and struggle of African Americans.

Dave Cavanaugh

More Tourists; Not More Houses

To the Editor:

I read with bafflement then concern the article in last week's Gazette Packet explaining GMU Professor Stephen Fuller's solution to create additional economic activity in Alexandria.

For a geographically small city with a rich history that lends itself well to a tourism based economy — which attracts visitors to spend money by staying in our hotels, eating in our restaurants and purchasing items in our stores before leaving — real estate specialist Dr. Fuller predictably insists we need more permanent residents living in houses not yet built.

I was absolutely astounded this educated man used only these two dominos to regale his audience. Prominent among the missing ones were those with the following labels:

- ❖ More is Not Better,
- ❖ Impact on Quality of Life of Existing Residents,
- ❖ Lack of Space in Alexandria for Many More Houses,
- ❖ Additional Expensive City Services for Additional Residents,
- ❖ Inability to Build More Roads,
- ❖ At What Cost to Current Taxpayers, and
- ❖ When Does Human Density Convert Attraction into Detraction?

If I ever play dominos with Professor Fuller, I will place a glass of water near him. At some point, I'll observe that the glass, like the city of Alexandria, has a fixed capacity beyond which there is no more room. Of course, the city is not a fragile glass with rigid physical limitations, but the ramifications of the Fuller Solution, whereby the still pleasant and livable Alexandria emulates hideously crowded Calcutta with more people, dwellings, congestion and chaos, are better understood by treating it as one.

Jim Roberts
Alexandria

Simple Message

To the Editor:

Paul Smedberg, former Alexandria Democratic Party Chairman, carps that the Democrats got shellacked because they let the Tea Party define the message. But the Tea Party was "defining the message" almost before there was much of a Tea Party with their irascible objections at Obama's health care town meetings in the summer of 2009 with the simplest message of all, "No."

And if the Democrat establishment thinks it got steamrollered by the Tea Party because it didn't get its message out, it isn't exactly in bad company. Before the Tea Party

steamrollered the Democrat establishment, it steamrollered the Republican establishment (Castle, Crist, Murkowski, Grayson, etc.)

As an independent who brings his barf bag into the polls with him, I can assure you them Dems are slick, but there was no way they could spin Obamacare etc. that would pass the laugh test, so of course, they couldn't define the message.

Now the Republicans are stupid, which is why their legacy is a whopper recession, whopper deficit the Democrats have made worse, and two wars we're losing. But based on the Tea Party's "keep it simple, stupid" one-word message, they pulled off a 1994 redux, at least in the House.

The Republicans now dancing to the Tea Party's fiddle makes that guy for whom the main drag through town was named where your office is located look good, doesn't it?

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Consult Community

To the Editor:

The City's planning department will hold a final public meeting on the draft waterfront concept plan on Dec. 13, before releasing a draft small area plan sometime in January 2011. Why should you care?

I think it is fair to say that the revitalization of the waterfront — which coincided with the cleanup of the Potomac — benefits the entire town. Even if you don't live in Old Town, you have probably walked, run and biked along the river. Maybe you've visited the Torpedo Factory Arts Center, attended the Alexandria Birthday Celebration in Oronoco Bay Park, or enjoyed the Irish festival in the (unimaginatively named) Waterfront Park. You might have played volleyball in Founder's Park, or tossed a ball to your dog in the dog-park at the foot of Gibbon Street. And you haven't yet had opportunity to kayak along the entire 2-mile length of our Potomac shoreline between Jones Point and Daingerfield Island that's something worth doing too.

The waterfront is a wonderful community resource, but one that is again at a crossroads. One group of Alexandrian's believes we should try to commercialize the shoreline more, to attract more tourists, to help balance the budget, and sustain (one hopes) small business owners up and down King and Union Streets and on the waterfront too. Residents, however, tend to think that the waterfront cannot handle too many more tourists, that parks are more important than new hotels and restaurants, and that we should be looking at more innovative ways to blend commerce and our quality of life together in a concept plan that considers more than tax revenue.

Unfortunately, the so-called "draft concepts" often sounds generic and the language boilerplate, especially when the planners present topics that most concern the residential community — historic buildings, the arts, history, parking, parks, and flooding. The only time the plan is really specific is when it talks about how to add new com-



Makeovers for Merit Ellen Vlasak, owner of Circe of Alexandria Salon & Day Spa, provided complimentary makeovers to an Alexandria Girl Scout troop on Sept. 27 as part of its Teen Makeover Event. The teens, recognized for their years of community service, received haircuts, makeup applications and styling lessons from the salon's staff. For more information on Circe of Alexandria visit: www.circedayspa.com.

mercial and retail activity. This document will form the foundation of a legal zoning plan that will enable developers to build hotels and restaurant. We should all be asking why it is on fast track to approval over the holidays.

A number of groups, including the Arts Commission, Archeology Commission, the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission have offered more concrete suggestions about how we might use public art and our town's history to help tie the waterfront parks together even more and maybe even help make it a "more sustainable" tourist destination, without killing this precious public resource in the process.

Here's just few "concepts" I think we should consider:

- ❖ The City should purchase any remaining development rights along the waterfront, including those claimed by the Washington Post at the two Robinson Terminal sites. It's an investment in our bond rating and our future.
- ❖ The North terminal warehouse might make a great maritime museum.
- ❖ Tear the south warehouse down to make more parkland.
- ❖ The most historic buildings should be preserved (by name) and made part of a special waterfront zone: focusing on the arts, and special water-dependent uses.
- ❖ There should be no new hotels, homes and restaurants built on the waterfront east of Union Street.
- ❖ Convert the old Richard's family gun shop into waterfront offices for our two main tour boat operators.
- ❖ Come up with a real plan for the City-owned Strand waterfront focuses on water-dependent uses and open space. (The National Park Service must approve the plan.)
- ❖ Work with preservation and arts and citizens to develop a tourism plan that does not rely on the waterfront alone
- ❖ Put together a city-wide parking plan
- ❖ Protect the floodplain — and reduce costs — by limiting new development here to the reuse of existing structures. (Sea level

is rising very quickly as glaciers melt).

❖ Curb the pollution that goes into the Potomac by adding very little if any new demand to Old Town's combined sewer and storm water system. Hotels on the waterfront are not an acceptable use.

We are an historic town, not a retail theme park with a dock, like National Harbor. Our waterfront should be very different and reflect our history and park-like nature. Stop spending so much money on consultants who don't live here, and try really consulting the community instead.

Andrew Macdonald

How To Retire Jim Moran

To the Editor:

Regarding your Nov. 4 front page election articles, "Democrats Defiant" and "Bittersweet Night", I think I have a way that 8th District Republicans can at long last www.RetireJimMoran.com.

My way is to get Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli to remove Alexandria and Arlington from Virginia. (We voted in 1846 to take 'em back from the original District of Columbia. The non-Alexandria and Arlington voters of the Commonwealth are none too fond of us and would send us packing.)

Next, Governor Cuccinelli — I mean Attorney General Cuccinelli — could redesign (anyone remember Elbridge Gerry?) Jim's remaining 8th District to extend from Falls Church along the Washington & Old Dominion Trail to the Appalachian Trail, to U.S. 52 East to the Chesapeake Bridge-Tunnel, up the Delmarva to the Maryland state line. Jim's 61 percent majority would soon (2030, perhaps) shrink to below 50 percent, thereby enabling the 8th District Republicans to claim his seat.

Mike Oliver
Alexandria

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December 7
January 13



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more info at acdsnet.org

SCHOOLS



PHOTOS BY EUGENIA HALSEY

Bikes for the World

A group of Burgundy Farm School middle schoolers marked America Recycles Day with a special community service project on behalf of Bikes for the World on Saturday, Nov. 13. This annual project is sponsored jointly by the Sustainability and Community Service programs. Bikes for the World is an organization that collects used bikes of any size and in almost any condition and ships them abroad and to domestic organizations to help people meet their needs: getting to school or work, traveling to nearby villages for medical services or food, and other transportation needs that would not be possible without a bike.



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Saturday Evening 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)	Weekdays (Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)
Sunday 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon 2:00 pm (en Español) 6:30 pm Mass (starts Sept. 12)	Children's Liturgy of the Word Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English) Sign Language Interpreter Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

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Kent Jenkins, 8, and Shawn McManus, 6, take apart a bike. At the end of the day, about 30 bikes were collected and prepared.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Taylor Run

WISHFUL VOTING

People who call themselves pundits analyze elections after they are over; I thought maybe you readers would like to know about the people who wrote in suggestions.

"None of the above," "anyone else," and "no confidence" were written in by several voters.

Other voters wishing to support their favorite philosophy wrote in "single payer," "libertarian" and "right to life."

SPEAKING BLANKS

Five people actually went to the trouble to write the word "blank" in the space provided and then

vote for it. I'm sure that's very significant but I don't know what. Stephen Yelverton, an actual person, received 11 votes; "Yelzerton" received two. Matthew Perry received nine votes. Lisa Marie Cheney received three. There were several votes for past elected leaders; one for Franklin Roosevelt, one for Joyce Woodson, one for Mel Bergheim, three for Brian Moran, and one for Justin Wilson.

There were also votes for present elected officials serving in other capacities; two for our state representative David Englin, one for Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, and two for Mayor Bill Euille.

There was also one vote for Ralph Nader.

A great many people received

single votes, but I'm not going to print those. There were four votes for me, each one from a different precinct, so I guess that was four different people voting for themselves.

EMMANUEL BAZAAR

The ladies of Emmanuel Episcopal Church put on a successful bazaar with a chicken salad luncheon under the chairmanship of Mary Anne Frank and Marianne Bamberg with much help from Barbara Eckman, Ruth Bilodeau, Dotty Gibson, Dorothy Pitta, Nancy Dupree, Barbara Harslem, Chris Makris, Judy Davis, and Kathy Clatanoff.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT



ARTS ❖ ENTERTAINMENT ❖ LEISURE

The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade Dec. 3-4

Friday, Dec. 3

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. — Christmas Marketplace – One Day Only
Heather and Greens Sale
1 - 3 p.m. — Children's Tea
7 p.m. — Taste of Scotland Patron Pub Opens
7 - 10:30 p.m. — Christmas Marketplace (Taste of Scotland guests only)
8 – 11 p.m. — Taste of Scotland – Celebrating Scotland as a Land of Food and Drink

Saturday, Dec. 4

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. — Heather and Greens Sale (418 S. Washington St., in the Campagna Center parking lot)
9 – 10 a.m. — Dignitaries' Breakfast
11 – 4 p.m. — Holiday Designer Tour of Homes
11 a.m. — Scottish Christmas Walk Parade



Holiday Concert Series

The City of Alexandria Announces 2010 Holiday Concert Series. Enjoy the festive sounds of the season in Alexandria as a break between shopping, on your way to dinner, or just to get into the holiday spirit. Come enjoy local performers with their rich talent as they entertain you during this festive time of year. Types of music featured include barbershop, folk, Hanukah favorites, hand bell ringers and good old fashioned caroling.

All the performances are free and held outdoors. Concerts will be cancelled due to inclement weather. Call the City's Special Events Hotline at 703-746-5592. These concerts are scheduled at Market Square, 301 King St.

SATURDAY, NOV. 27

1 p.m. — Potomac Harmony Chorus (Women's Barbershop);
2 p.m. — Doris Justis (Acoustic Folk);

SUNDAY, NOV. 28

2 p.m. — Rich Follett (Folk);
3 p.m. — Barbara Martin (Jazz);

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

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

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

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

SUNDAY, DEC. 12

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

The public is encouraged to take public transit or walk to the event. Visitors to Old Town can take the Metrorail lines to the King Street Station, and then take the free King Street Trolley to the event. For DASH schedule information, call 703-370-DASH or visit www.dashbus.com. For Metrobus schedule, call 202-637-7000 or visit www.wmata.com. For a parking map, visit www.alexandriava.gov/12490.

A History

The Campagna Center is proud to ring in Alexandria's holiday season with the 40th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, presented in partnership with The Scottish Government. The city's rich Scottish heritage makes it the perfect destination for clans, pipe bands and dog groups alike to gather and participate in the Scottish Christmas Walk Parade — the weekend's largest event, sponsored in partnership with The Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., and The City of Alexandria.

The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend is The Campagna Center's largest fundraising event. All proceeds benefit The Campagna Center's programs, which include Early Head Start, Alexandria Head Start, Campagna Early Learning Center, Afternoon Adventures, Campagna Kids, Building Better Futures, and New Neighbors. Visit www.campagnacenter.org.

Consistently ranked by the Southeast Tourism Society as one of the top 20 events in the South, the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend draws nearly 30,000 individuals and families to the Parade. Tourists travel from throughout the mid-Atlantic region to participate in this celebrated community event.

Activities

❖ **A Christmas Marketplace** — One Day Only
Vendors sell unique, holiday gift wares in a boutique setting.
Location: George Washington Masonic Memorial
Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 3 — One Day Only 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
7 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. (Taste of Scotland guests only)

❖ **Heather and Greens Sales** — Try a touch of heather and greens to enhance your holiday decorations with a Scottish flair. Purchase fresh heather, handmade wreaths, garlands, and more. Pre-order forms are available at www.campagnacenter.org.

Location: Friday, Dec. 3 – George Washington Masonic Memorial;

Saturday, Dec. 4 – 418 S. Washington St., in the Campagna Center parking lot

Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
7 p.m. – 11 p.m. (Taste of Scotland guests only)
Saturday, Dec. 4 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

❖ **Children's Tea** — Children can enjoy tea and snacks as they visit with Santa and participate in fun arts and crafts.

Location: George Washington Masonic Memorial
Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 3 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Cost: \$30 per adult; \$10 per child

❖ **Taste of Scotland** — Celebrating Scotland as a Land of Food and Drink. A tasting featuring hard-to-find Scotches direct from Scotland distilleries. The Patron Pub features complete top-shelf tasting menu, including various rare Scotches. This complete Scotch selection will be available only in the Patron Pub.

The remainder of the evening will feature a limited Scotch selection and Scottish ales, as well as beer, wine, and unique Scottish fare. All Taste of Scotland guests enjoy a private shopping experience at the Christmas Marketplace and have the chance to peruse the fine selection of decorative greens.

Location: George Washington Masonic Memorial
Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. – Patron Pub Opens;

8 p.m. – 11 p.m. General admission welcome
Cost: Patron: \$150/individual, \$250/couple. General admission tickets \$100. Advance tickets required.

Go to www.campagnacenter.org or call 703-549-0111 x146 for tickets.

❖ **The Dignitaries' Breakfast** — A pre-parade breakfast for dignitaries, city and state officials, Friends of the Parade, corporate champions and partners.

Location: The Campagna Center
Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 – 10 a.m. (just before the parade)
Cost: By Invitation

❖ **The Holiday Designer Tour of Homes** — Stroll through properties in the historic district of Alexandria dressed up for the holidays by acclaimed interior designers and local florists. Presented by Christine Garner, Weichert, Realtors

Location: Select properties in Old Town, Alexandria
Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Cost: Tickets required. To purchase tickets, call 703-549-0111 or visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com. Also stop by The Campagna Center or Ramsay House Visitor's Center to purchase tickets. Advance purchase \$30; day-of purchase \$35. Tickets may also be purchased at the homes.

❖ **The Scottish Christmas Walk Parade** — Over 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottish dog groups, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march through the streets of Old Town Alexandria. As the Premier Sponsor, Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary Richard Lochhead will serve as the Grand Marshal of the 40th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade.

Route: Beginning at the corner of Wilkes and South St. Asaph Streets in Old Town and ending at Market Square

Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. In the event of severe weather, contact The Campagna Center at 703-549-0111.

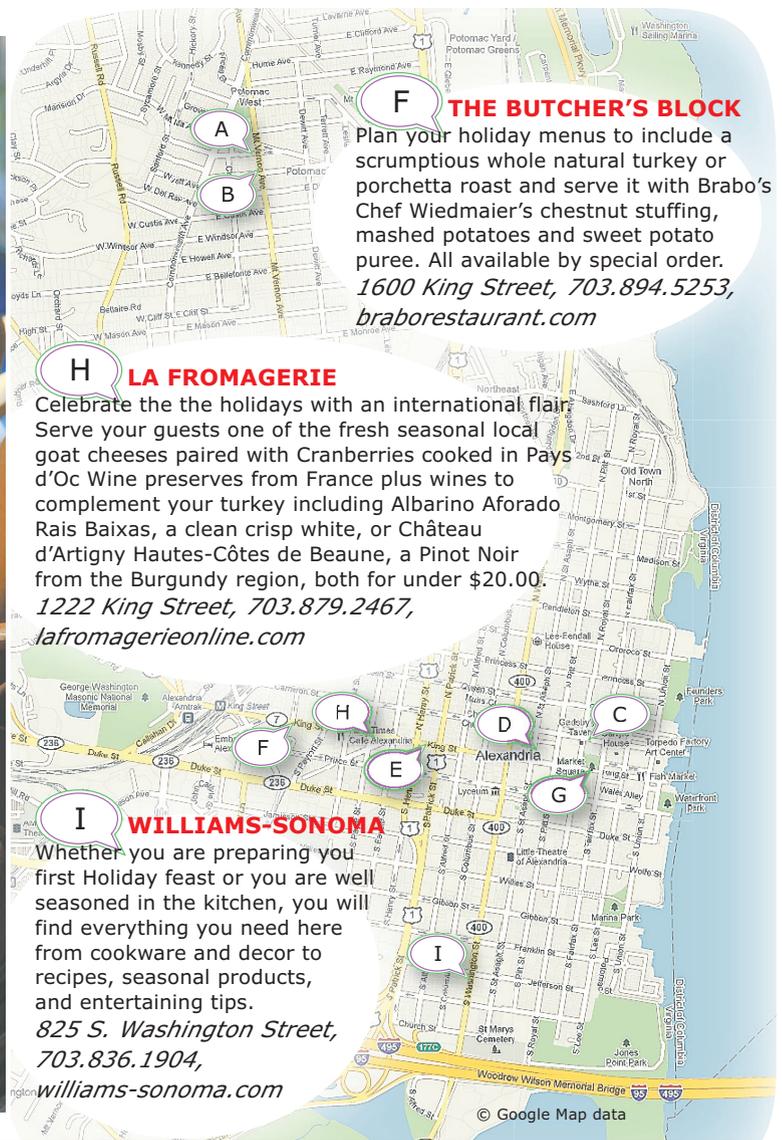
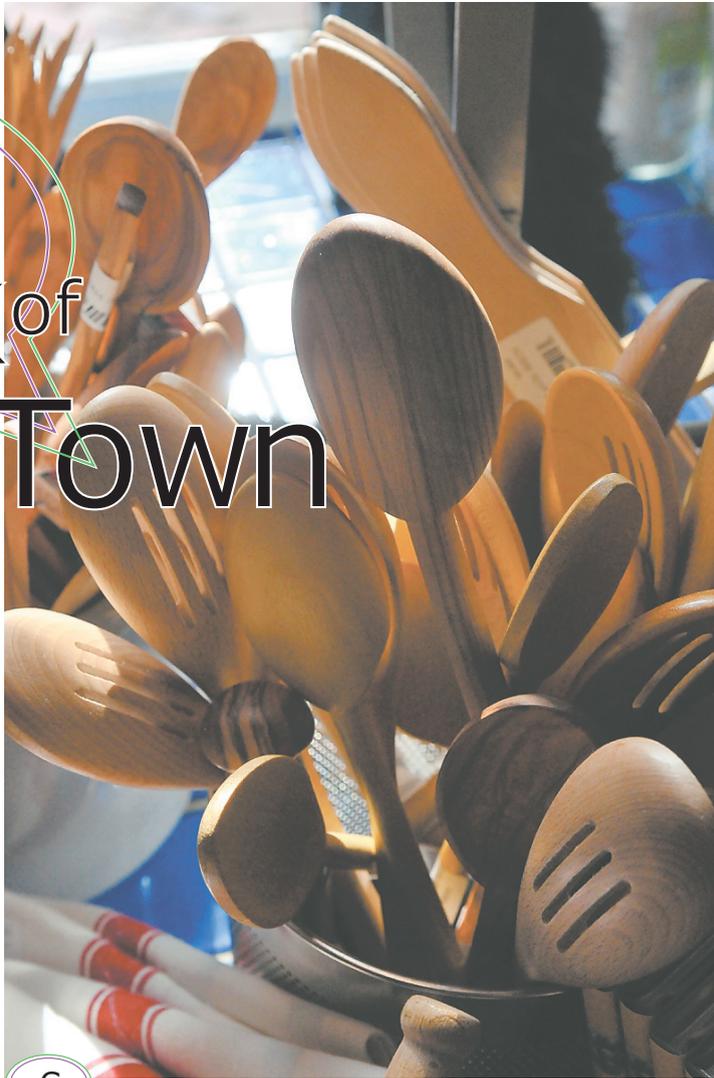
Visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

Talk of the Town is a new Alexandria Gazette Packet feature. Questions, comments, or suggestions can be e-mailed to thewanderer@connectionnewspapers.com.

Talk of the Town

Stirring the Pot

The Wanderer is sometimes The Black Pot and sometimes The Kettle, but he knows whom to call for either. Alexandrians are lucky to have wide resources for gourmands and home entertainers. Good thing, he cannot seem to locate his turkey baster.

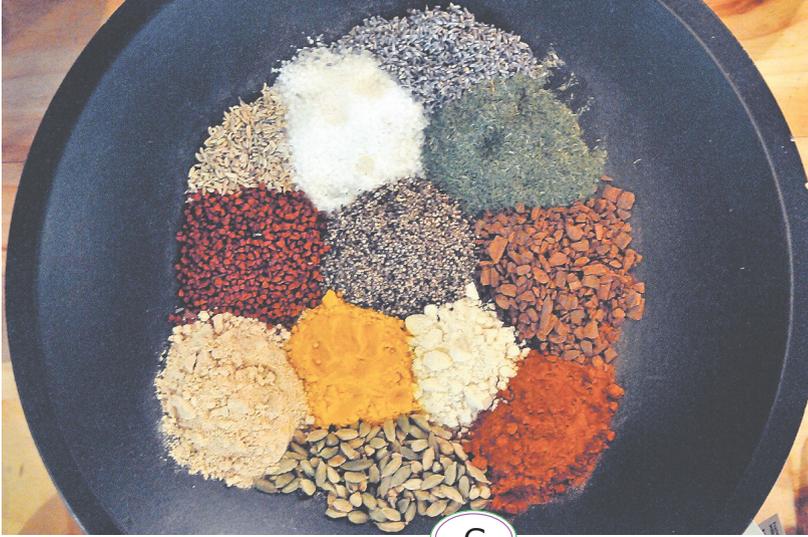


F THE BUTCHER'S BLOCK
Plan your holiday menus to include a scrumptious whole natural turkey or porchetta roast and serve it with Brabo's Chef Wiedmaier's chestnut stuffing, mashed potatoes and sweet potato puree. All available by special order.
1600 King Street, 703.894.5253, braborestaurant.com

H LA FROMAGERIE
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1222 King Street, 703.879.2467, lafromagerieonline.com

I WILLIAMS-SONOMA
Whether you are preparing your first Holiday feast or you are well seasoned in the kitchen, you will find everything you need here from cookware and decor to recipes, seasonal products, and entertaining tips.
825 S. Washington Street, 703.836.1904, williams-sonoma.com

C LA CUISINE - THE COOK'S RESOURCE
For over 40 years professional chefs and home chefs alike have counted on La Cuisine to feature the best products for inspiration and execution of their culinary dreams. The shop is the epitome of "a place for everything and everything in its place". Every inch is a cook's delight. Equipment, ingredients, cookbooks and generously sharing their knowlede make them THE Alexandria cook's resource.
323 Cameron Street, 703.836.4435, lacuisineus.com



G THE SPICE & TEA EXCHANGE
Just opened in Alexandria, The Spice & Tea Exchange is a wonderland of fine, savory, exotic spices and spice blends, gourmet teas, flavored sugars, salts, seasonings and accessories. Hand-selected and specially blended on site for customer's cooking pleasure, their gourmet products will delight the senses and tingle the soul.
320 King Street, 571.312.8505, spiceandtea.com

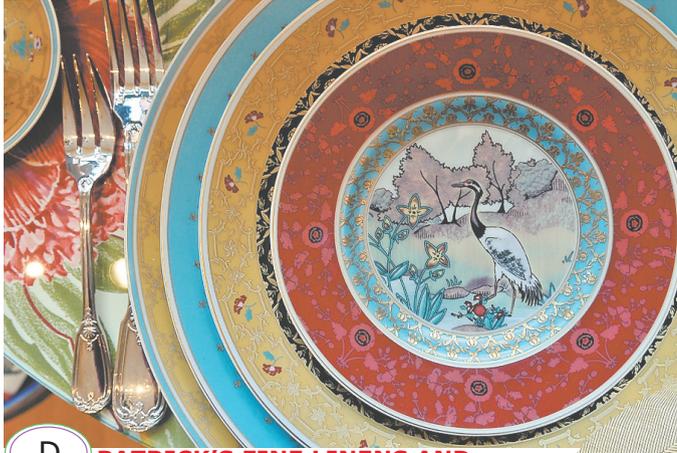


E THE HOUR
Glamorous bar ware a la Mad Men is all the rage. Find a gorgeous mix of new and vintage glassware, shakers, pitchers, jiggers, muddlers and stirrers for a well dressed bar. The stylish hostess can find charming cocktail jewelry for effortless elegance in the midst of the party rush.
1015 King Street, 703.224.4687, thehourshop.com

B LET'S MEAT ON THE AVENUE
The best meals begin with the best ingredients and Steve has something for every course! Pasture-fed, free range and hormone-free meats and poultry are ready for your gourmet touch. Specialty cuts and game are available with just a few days notice. Creamy sauces and delicious desserts begin with fresh eggs, milk and Amish butter - he's got it all.
2403 Mount Vernon Avenue, 703.836.6328, letsmeatontheaveue.com



A CHEESETIQUE
Set the mood with a tempting cheese selection that is a hint of the great dinner to come. Condiments, crackers, meats and breads make for an interesting spread. Ask the cheesemongers how to put it all together!
2411 Mount Vernon Avenue, 703.706.5300, cheesetique.com



D PATRICK'S FINE LINENS AND HOME DECOR
Create the mood to complement your perfect party. Visit the store or their marvelous website and find stunning dinnerware, flatware, linens, paper products, vases and candles. Everything for a memorable gathering.
106 North Saint Asaph Street, 571.970.6931, patrickdesigns.com



HOLIDAY GUIDE

NOW THROUGH NOV. 24

Gingerbread Creation. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Former White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier creates a five-foot gingerbread replica of George Washington's home. Visitors can watch as he constructs the masterpiece. In the Vaughan Lobby, near the Shops at Mount Vernon. Cost is \$15/adult; \$7/child to enter the estate. Visit MountVernon.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

Antiques Club Fund-raiser. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Timely Treasures" for sale — a benefit for the senior center. Sponsored by the Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenahdoah Road, Fort Hunt, Alexandria. Call 703-360-4979.

Annual Holiday Shop. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some 50 unique artisans will be selling their wares. Also, a raffle for a handmade quilt, an upscale/retail boutique, a jewelry shop and a warm lunch. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The church is south of Alexandria off of Fort Hunt Road. Follow the signs at the intersection of Mason Hill and Fort Hunt. Call 703-765-5950.

Victorian Christmas Bazaar. 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Books, baked goods, handmades, high class white elephant toys and games, pressed flower art, candy, jewelry, novelty bird houses and more. At St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 6800 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Call 703-256-2966.

Church Bazaar. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jewelry, baked goods, crafts, books and a cafe will be open for lunch. At All Saints Episcopal Church, 3421 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Call 703-960-4808.

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

Gift/Craft Fair. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have an art/craft/music/gifts or any personal invention or service that you would like to sell at the Gift Fair, check out website at www.tjgiftshow.com or contact tjgiftshow@gmail.com. Tables are \$75. At Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria.

FRIDAY/NOV. 26

Alexandria's Tree Lighting. 7 p.m. Free. Entertainment features a message from the Mayor, a visit from Santa, a performance of Santa's Frosty's Follies by the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, and caroling with a community sing

DEC. 2, 3, 4

"The Alexandria Community Nutcracker." Dec. 2 at 5 p.m.; Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m.; Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The Alexandria Community Nutcracker is an original full-length community Nutcracker choreographed by local dance teachers Jennifer Lisenby, Courtney Betzel, and Adrienne Magnuson and featuring the West Potomac Dance Academy and many young dancers from the community. Local schools represented in the production include St. Luke's Day School, Aldersgate Preschool, Hollin Meadows Math and Science, Fort Hunt ES, Waynewood ES, Belle View ES, Stratford Landing ES, Washington Mill ES, Burgundy Farm Country Day School, Browne Academy, St. Louis, St. Mary's, Carl Sandburg MS, and West Potomac HS. At West Potomac High School Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.alexandriadance.com>. Visit alexandriadance.com.



SATURDAY/DEC. 4

Burke & Herbert Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. 4 p.m. Festivities; 6 p.m. Boat Parade. Alexandria's harbor lights up when more than 50 illuminated boats cruise the Potomac River at the historic waterfront. Festivities at the Alexandria City Marina with Santa arriving by fireboat at 4:15 p.m. Call 703-746-3301. Visit AlexandriaVA.com

along. At Market Square, 301 King Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call the City's Special Events Hotline at 703-746-5592 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

NOV. 26 – JAN. 6, 2011

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

NOV. 27 TO DEC. 19

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



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

SATURDAY/NOV. 27

Craftermath. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A handmade exhibition and fair, where independent artists, designers and crafters sell handmade alternative arts and crafts, products and curiosities. Hosted by West Potomac Academy's Pro Graphic Studio. At West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Visit www.craftermath.moonfruit.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 2

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

FRIDAY/DEC. 3

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

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

SEE HOLIDAY GUIDE, PAGE 30

MOUNT VERNON

Discover the Real George Washington

Featuring 25 Galleries & Theaters!

OPEN EVERY DAY INCLUDING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

Featured Special Event:

Christmas at Mount Vernon

NOVEMBER 26 – JANUARY 6, 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

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

Mount Vernon by Candlelight

NOVEMBER 26-28; DECEMBER 4-5, 11-12, 18-19
5:00-8:30 P.M.

A traditional candlelit evening with "Mrs. Washington," live music, and fireside caroling. Tickets on sale now at the estate and on MountVernon.org. \$20 adults, \$14 youth.

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

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- Indoor Ice Skating
- Breakfast with the Grinch
- Brunch with Santa
- Nightly Indoor Snowfalls
- Dive-in Pool Movies
- Brightest Star Fountain Show
- Photos with the Grinch
- Northern Lights Show
- Gingerbread House Decorating and more!

Map showing location near Washington, D.C. and Old Town Alexandria.

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

FROM PAGE 29

Oxford Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-746-3301.

Taste of Scotland. 8 to 11 p.m.

Exclusive Patron Pub from 7 to 11 p.m. Join in a tasting featuring rare scotches direct from Scotland distilleries. Part of The Campagna Center's 40th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call Carlos at 703-549-0111 x146 or clano@campaganacenter.org.

DEC. 3 TO 4

Annual Christmas Celebration.

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

DEC. 3 TO 5

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

DEC. 3 TO 12

"A Christmas Carol." Admission: \$15. The Little Theatre of Alexandria rings in the holidays with a return of a classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria,



DEC. 3 TO 4

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

600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria; call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 4

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

St., corner of Pitt and Duke Streets. **Christmas Boutique.** 9 a.m. to noon. Handmade Christmas décor, ornaments, hand knitted items, baked goods, and unique gifts. Proceeds support Heritage Presbyterian Women's outreach programs for children and women. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-360-9546. **Ornament Making Workshop.** 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Be inspired by the colors and patterns of pottery excavated in Alexandria and make a memorable

holiday keepsake! Participants can decorate and take home dough ornaments which are shaped like artifacts from the museum's own collection. At the Alexandria Archaeology Museum at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union Street #327, Alexandria; Call 703-746-4399 or visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

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

SUNDAY/DEC. 5

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

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

p.m. Free. No tickets required; \$10/donation. Performed by NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark A. Whitmire, Director, and Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, Ulysses S. James, Music Direct/Conductor. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6097.

MONDAY/DEC. 6

Toastmasters International Area G1 Holiday Party. 7:30 p.m. At Primo Family Restaurant on Belle View Blvd in Alexandria. Visit mtvermontoast@gmail.com. Visit <http://mountvernon.freetoasthost.org/>

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

"The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration" Film Screening. Free. Also Kwanzaa Celebration Program. Educational program 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Film screening 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. At the Alexandria Black History Museum 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or Visit AlexandriaVA.com. **Gunston Hall Plantation Christmas and Yuletide Dinner.** Plantation Christmas: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.; Yuletide Dinner: 4:30, 6 and 8 p.m. Plantation Christmas: \$15 adults; \$8 ages 6-18; \$2 ages 2-5; Yuletide Dinner: \$49.95 adults and ages 11 and older; \$24.95 ages 6-10; \$9.95 ages 2-5. Ride in a horse-drawn carriage, sip warm cider by the fire, and sample period recipes prepared in the hearth kitchen. Costumed characters engaged in seasonal activities greet you in the house and throughout the grounds. At Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton; call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org. **Alexandria Harmonizers Holiday Concert.** 2 p.m. Free. Celebrate the holidays with this free concert of SEE HOLIDAY GUIDE, PAGE 31

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THANKSGIVING BUFFET DINNER
 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m.
 Carved Hot!! Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing &
 Giblet Gravy • Roast Beef au jus • Baked Virginia Ham
 with Raisin Sauce • Baked Yams • Oven Browned
 Potatoes • Mashed Potatoes • Green Beans • Fresh
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HOLIDAY GUIDE

FROM PAGE 30

seasonal favorites in the barbershop style by the Alexandria Harmonizers Chorus. At Market Square, 301 King Street, Alexandria; call 703-746-5592. Visit www.harmonizers.org

“Christmas in Camp.” Fort Ward Museum’s Christmas in Camp Open House. Noon to 4 p.m. Features a patriotic Santa Claus, living history presentations, Victorian decorations, refreshments, tours and crafts. At 4301 West Braddock Road in Alexandria. Call the Museum at 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

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

DEC. 11 TO 12

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. Four times are from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. At Carlyle House Historic Park (121 North Fairfax Street), Gadsby’s Tavern Museum (134 North Royal Street), Lee-Fendall House (614 Oronoco Street), and The Athenaeum (201 Prince Street). Enjoy seasonal decorations, entertainment and light refreshments. Admission: \$20 adults/\$15 seniors/\$5 kids. Reservations recommended. Call 703-746-4242 or VisitAlexandriaVA.com

DEC. 17-18

Alexandria Singers Holiday Show. “Yule School Reunion!” In three family-friendly performances, following a colorful and whimsical story line, The Alexandria Singers will take you through their favorite music of the holiday season both old and new. Premium seats \$20; General admission \$15; Discounted rate* \$10 (*Seniors 65+, Students, Groups of 10+, Active Military); Children (6 and under) \$5. Friday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Convergence, 1801 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.AlexandriaSingers.com or 703-941-SING (7464).

DEC. 17-18

“Yule School Reunion.” Alexandria Singers Holiday Show. In 3 family-friendly performances, following a colorful and whimsical story line, The Alexandria Singers will take you through their favorite music of the holiday season both old and new! Premium Seats \$20; General Admission \$15; Discounted Rate* \$10 (*Seniors 65+, Students, Groups of 10+, Active Military); Children (6 and under) \$5. Friday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; At Convergence, 1801 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.AlexandriaSingers.com (703)941-SING (7464).

SUNDAY/DEC. 19

Holiday Favorites with the Colonial Handbell Ringers. Free. 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Get into the holiday spirit as you listen – and sing along – with their performance of holiday classics using a long set of Whitechapel bells. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 100 live performances start at 7 p.m. at 17 venues in Old Town Alexandria; the Fun Hunt; Multimedia Fireworks Finale; lasers; video, music. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Admission: \$15 before Dec. 21; \$20 after. Children 12 and under are free. Note that the headquarters are at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-3301 or visit www.FirstNightAlexandria.org.

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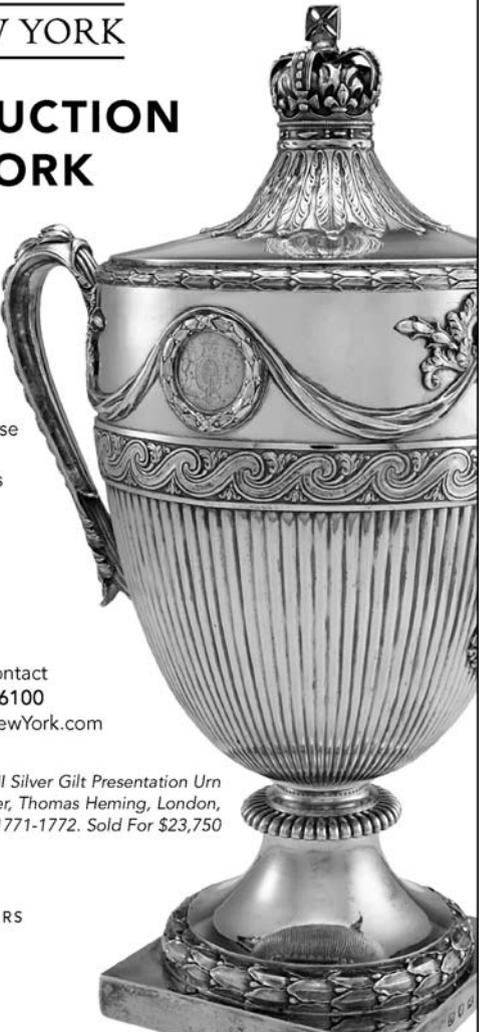
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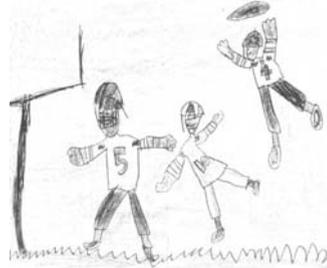


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Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') GAZETTE



Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Alexandria Gazette Packet turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 1, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

Alexandria Gazette Packet

FINE ARTS

THURSDAY/NOV. 18

Holiday Party Open House. 6 to 9 p.m. Paul McGehee's Old Town Gallery is celebrating its 32nd anniversary and the release of "Glen Echo Amusement Park — 1954." Meet the artist in person. At 109 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-7729 or paulmcgeheeart.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

Little Masterpieces. Small Works Group Exhibition. Featuring paintings smaller than 16" x 20" in a variety of media this is a great way to start - or wrap up - your holiday shopping! Opening reception on Saturday, Nov. 20, 6-9 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Vander Zee Foundation. The Vander Zee Gallery is at 105 South Lee Street in Alexandria, VA; gallery hours are 10-4 p.m. on Monday-Thursday and by appointment on Friday and Saturday. Call 703-683-1814.

NOW THROUGH NOV. 20

"On My Vacation — Places Traveled To." 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Springfield Art Guild Art Show. All paintings are for sale. At Goodwin House, 4800 Fillmore Ave. Alexandria. Contact Donnalynne Lefever at 703-644-6677.

NOW THROUGH NOV. 21

Blue: An Interpretation. Enter the raffle to win a "blue" basket of goodies from shops and artisans. Assign "Peoples' Choice" awards to your favorite works! Blue is a Del Ray Artisans all member show giving the artists an opportunity to test their creative genius in depicting what "blue" means to them. www.TheDelRayArtisans.com or interpretblue@gmail.com.

NOW THROUGH NOV. 28

"A Sense of Place." Pastel artist Richard Levine exhibits 25 of his major works. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. At the Oerth Gallery, 420 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Call 703-836-3784.

NOW THROUGH MAY 1, 2011

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



NOV. 24 TO 28

Artist Elizabeth Gaither Ochs' Work. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Celebrate the life of the late Elizabeth "Betty" Gaither Ochs, a founding member of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, where she established and maintained her studio, Studio 225, for 30 years. Her subject matter includes horses, etchings of flamenco and other types of dancers, and her Coffee Break series. A Memorial Reception is Sunday, Nov. 28 from 3 to 5 p.m. At Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center.

NOV. 19 THROUGH DEC. 19

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

NOV. 29 THROUGH JAN. 2

Ceramic Guild Show. Santa is coming to town and the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery has clay creations and stocking stuffers to jingle everyone's bells. Shopping is Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. At Scope Gallery, 101 North Union Street, ground floor, Studio 19,

SEE FINE ARTS, PAGE 33

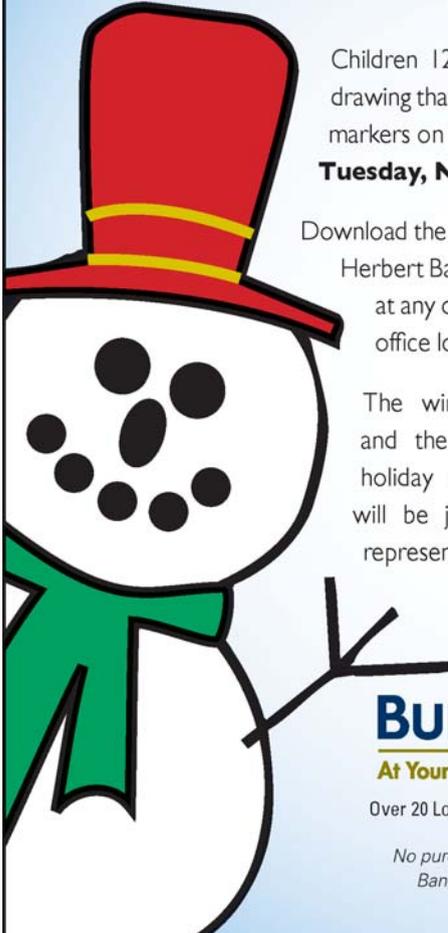
Announcing Burke & Herbert Bank's Fourth Annual 

Kids' Holiday Art Contest!

Children 12 years old and younger should submit an original illustrated drawing that shows "Holiday Fun" using crayons, colored pencils or colored markers on white 8½" x 11" paper. **Artwork submission deadline is Tuesday, November 30, 2010.**

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

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



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No purchase or transaction necessary. You need not be a Burke & Herbert Bank customer to enter. For details, visit burkeandherbertbank.com.  

Member FDIC

FINE ARTS

FROM PAGE 32

Alexandria. 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

NOV. 20 THROUGH JAN. 7

The Springfield Art Guild Art Show. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring: 40 works of art are displayed in this exhibition and sale. These works include oil, watercolor, photography, and mixed media. At Godwin House, 4800 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria. Call Donnalynne Lefever 703-644-6677.

TUESDAY, NOV. 30

Phyllia Yi: Works on Paper. 6:30 p.m. Free. Woodcut prints. Opening reception in the Angie Newman Johnson Gallery, Ainslie Arts Center, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.episcopalhighschool.org. Call 703-933-4135.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 5

La Lumiere DuBois Photography. DuBois is the staff photographer for the Theater Alliance and has been "playing around" with cameras for over 35 years. Reception is Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. in Alexandria. Call 703-768-2525.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 2, 2011

Molded from Complicated Mixtures. Drawing inspiration from the quirky characters and funky forms produced in plastic toys, Megan Marlatt renders in a classic style paintings that depict the many meanings behind toys. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 12

Faculty Exhibition. Marymount University's Barry Gallery will showcase the work of 11 Marymount faculty artists in the upcoming Fine Art and Graphic Design Faculty Exhibition. Marymount's Barry Gallery is located in the Reinsch Library on the University's Main Campus, 2807 North Glebe Road, Arlington. The Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Contact Judy Bass, the Barry Gallery curator, at 703-284-1561.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 23

Artist Jan. E. Moffatt. Featuring the 2010 Blue Door Collection and more. At Art in the Garden at the Historic Manor House, Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12 noon-4:30 p.m. Call 703-941-7987, 703-642-5173, www.GreenSpring.org.

NOV. 26 TO NOV. 28

Celebrating Movement. Del Ray Artisans hosts an art-filled Thanksgiving weekend with three events. Jazzy Art view (Friday night, 7-9 p.m.) – featuring NVCC Alexandria Jazz Ensemble. Red Hot Salsa (Saturday night, 7-9 p.m.) – Salsa dance lessons and open floor dancing. Poetry Tea Party (Sunday afternoon, 2-4 p.m.) – original poetry reading and networking. Contact Tamara Wilkerson at 703-501-1732 or dawnoftheday@comcast.net. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for gallery hours and/or directions.

NOW THROUGH NOV. 28

"The Power of Color." A juried show of 2- and 3-dimensional fine art celebrating the qualities of hue and color in affordable, original artwork created by regional artists. At Gallery West, 1213 King Street in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-549-6006 or visit www.gallery-west.com.



THE CAMPAGNA CENTER'S SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND & PARADE

Continuing the Tradition...

Friday, Dec. 3 – Saturday, Dec. 4

A Christmas Marketplace

Friday, Dec. 3 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Taste of Scotland

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

Scottish Walk Parade

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

Designer Tour of Homes

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

More Activities

Heather and Greens Sale • Children's Tea



Presented in Partnership
with The Scottish Government

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



Join Us Friday at
The George Washington Masonic Memorial!



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

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

For more information visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com or phone (703) 549-0111.

Weekend events are Metro-accessible.

Notes From Producer of 'A Broadway Christmas Carol'

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
METROSTAGE

A legendary Washington tradition is returning. "A Broadway Christmas Carol," the classic Dickens' tale told using uproarious parodies of favorite Broadway show tunes, is returning to the area this month. And this time it will be in Alexandria. After seven years of sold-out performances in Silver Spring, Md., ending in 2004, "A Broadway Christmas Carol" is returning to the area to be performed at MetroStage beginning Nov. 18 and running through the holidays.

MetroStage is delighted to be bringing it back to its loyal audience and introducing it to a new wave of theatregoers who are looking for holiday entertainment and who also just happen to love Broadway musicals and anything that parodies the most beloved songs of that great Broadway tradition. (The MetroStage production of "Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)," which was a parody of five renowned Broadway composers, broke all box office records not once but twice!)

In this production three actors play many characters to tell the story of Scrooge's redemption: Scrooge himself, the Man Who Isn't Scrooge (playing mul-



"A Broadway Christmas Carol" is coming to MetroStage Nov. 18.

tiples roles that include Tiny Tim and Cratchit), and The Woman Who Also Isn't Scrooge (but is Mrs. Cratchit, Marley, Christmas Present, Belle, and others). Scrooge will be played by Peter Boyer, well-known in Baltimore and a newcomer to our stage. The other two actors are fa-

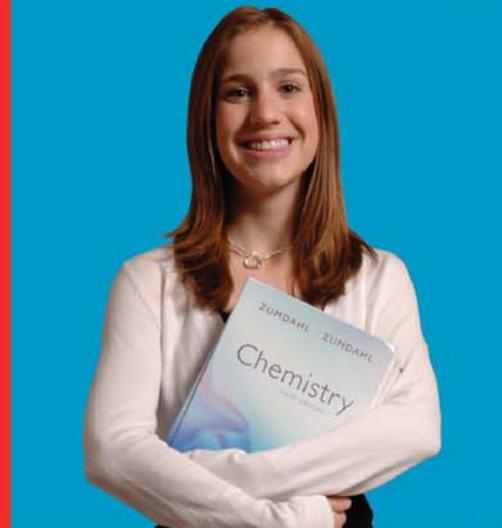
vorites here at MetroStage, having both been seen in "Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)." Donna Migliaccio is an award-winning, acclaimed actor in the world of D.C. theatre who actually landed on Broadway last season playing the role of Emma Goldman in "Ragtime." Matt

Anderson, also of "Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)" fame was just seen in the last production on our stage, "Glimpses of the Moon," where he was the playboy Winthrop "Streffy" Strefford. Director Larry Kaye and choreographer Nancy Harry are the dynamite team who gave us the remarkable "Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)." Aaron Broderick (music director of the acclaimed award-winning production of "Rent" at the Keegan Theatre last season) is musical director and piano accompanist.

MORE THAN 40 Broadway show tunes are parodied as the story unfolds. "The Tale of Sweeney Todd" is now "The Tale of Ebenezer Scrooge" and "Who Will Buy" from "Oliver" becomes "Go and buy that wonderful turkey." "Memory" from "Cats" begins "Touch me, It's not easy to be me" for The Ghost of Christmas Present. And on and on.

The story, the song parodies, the lightening-fast costume/character changes, and the zaniness of it all make this a wonderful experience to share with family and friends this holiday season. And be sure to let us know if you can name all 40-plus shows and the beloved songs now telling the story of Ebenezer, Tiny Tim and the rest of the Dickens gang.

Speak. Declare. Debate. Share.



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If your daughter is looking for an academic environment where she can develop her sense of self and her unique abilities, we encourage your family to attend one of our upcoming Open Houses on:

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- Tuesday, November 2 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December 5 1:00 p.m.

Please contact the Admissions Office at 703.556.8273 for program details or to arrange an alternate time to visit.

We look forward to seeing you.

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

Holiday Designer Tour Of Homes Is Dec. 4

When: Dec. 4, 2010 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stroll through lovely properties in the historic district of Alexandria dressed up for the holidays by acclaimed interior designers and local florists. Presented by Christine Garner, Weichert, Realtors. Tickets are required. Advance tickets are \$30; day-of purchase tickets are \$35. To purchase tickets, call 703-549-0111 or visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com. You may also stop by The Campagna Center or Ramsay House Visitor's Center to purchase tickets. Tickets may also be purchased at the homes on the day of the tour. Transportation will be offered during the tour.

808 Prince Street

The "Liza Washington House" at 808 Prince Street is a lovely Federal-era townhouse dating back to 1795. The home is distinguished by the quality of its restoration, and the history it contains. Throughout the years many distinguished owners have resided in the house. Among them was Eliza Washington Hunter, the great great niece of President George Washington, who inherited the building from her father after the Civil War and entertained such notable guests as General Fitzhugh Lee, nephew of Robert E. Lee and Governor of Virginia, and Col. John S. Mosby, the "Gray Ghost."

The home has been lovingly restored to its original condition and contains the original Venetian windows, heart pine floors, and woodworks that have been repainted in the original colors with recreation of the original decorative grain-painting on the interior doors. A brick walled garden and water fixture is located behind the house, designed by the current owner. The house has appeared in *Country Living* and the *Washington Post Sunday* magazine. It was also featured on the *House and Garden* TV network. The home is currently decorated for the holidays with a festive vintage flair, showcasing barware and home goods from The Hour Shop, the homeowner's exclusive shop in Old Town.



808 Prince Street, Old Town

905 Prince Street

The home at 905 Prince Street was built in 1815-1816 by Charles Mankin, a successful cooper, for his growing family. At that time, Alexandria was a major seaport city, and Mankin supplied barrels and casks for ships going to all parts of the world. Records indicate that his business was originally located behind the house and that he obtained the 18th water permit in the City. The Mankin family owned the house until 1882, when it was purchased by the Field family, who owned it until 1947.

In the aftermath of World War II, it was converted into apartments as well as a day nursery called "Babyland". In 1972, the house was listed as "must be retained" in the City's Map of Histori-



905 Prince Street, Old Town

cal Significance. The current owner purchased the house in 2004, undertook extensive renovations, and converted it back to a single family home. The Federal style brick house retains many of its original leaded glass windows, wide plank floors and other interior details.

Lochhead to Serve as Scottish Christmas Walk Grand Marshal

Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary Richard Lochhead will serve as the Grand Marshal for The Campagna Center's 40th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. The Parade — presented by The Campagna Center, the St. Andrew's Society, and the City of Alexandria, in Partnership with The Scottish Government — will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4, in Old Town Alexandria.



Lochhead

"It is a huge privilege to be invited to act as Grand Marshal at the 40th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade," said Lochhead. "American Scots act as wonderful ambassadors for our country, and I'm thrilled to be able to join so many of them to celebrate Alexandria's rich Scottish heritage."



415 Wolfe Street, Old Town

415 Wolfe Street

The beautiful and historic Holland House at 415 Wolfe Street was originally built by a British sea captain in the 1760s as a two-story farmhouse. The house was expanded in 1820, when the north parlor, the dining room and the kitchen were added.

The house underwent a major renovation in 1930, when the Holland family added the wing that includes the living room and gave the house its name, Holland House. The property also includes a carriage house that dates from the 19th century, and now serves as a guesthouse and an office.

The current homeowners undertook an extensive, three-year renovation and restoration of the house in 2004, and the home is furnished with antiques, rugs and original art.



607 Cameron Street, Old Town

607 Cameron Street

The Yeaton-Fairfax House is considered the finest federal house in Alexandria. Completed in 1802, it was designed and built by William Yeaton, who also designed George Washington's tomb at Mt. Vernon. The house was sold in 1830 to Thomas Ninth Lord Fairfax and remained in the Fairfax family until well after the Civil War.

The Façade is one of particular note, especially the stuccoed blind arch, which rises above the central doorway. Attached fluted columns, curving walls, a magnificent fanlight and King Prussia marble flooring complete the entryway. The interior contains a spectacular three-story spiral staircase and mantels, trim and cornices of composition work of the greatest refinement. The "Town House" is a three story rectangular plan with a two-story ell extending to the rear and a large garden at the side.



430 South Lee Street, Old Town

430 South Lee Street

In 1840, the lots at 428 and 430 South Lee Street were purchased by Hugh Smith, one of Alexandria's few wealthy merchants that resided in town during that time. The four-story house was constructed in 1846 for Mr. Smith and his family. It was then sold in 1878 to Elvira Hill, the wife of the city tax collector. The house has

changed hands many times over the years, but has always been used as a residence.

The house stands next to an abandoned train tunnel which was built in May of 1851 to run the Orange and Alexandria railroad cars (O&A) from the Potomac River to the western edge of Alexandria and then to Lynchburg. The tunnel was used by trains to bring coal to the power plant at the end of Union Street where the new development Ford's Landing now stands until the late 1950s. Today it is used by bikers and joggers to travel through Old Town.

Similar to many houses built in the 1800s, the kitchen for the house is in the basement where the meals were prepared by the homeowner's staff and brought to the main level for consumption by the family. Today the main level is used by the residents as a living room.

The basement kitchen contains a coal chute that has now been converted into a wine cellar. In the 1800s and early 1900s, coal would be delivered from the street into the kitchen using the coal chute.

The previous owners were Scottish and hosted many Scottish bagpipers at the house before the Scottish Christmas Walk for a warm up session. It was locally known that a private bag pipe concert was to be had at 430 South Lee Street the first Saturday of each December early in the morning.

Skip Malls on Black Friday — Get Deals in Old Town

Skip the craziness of crowded malls and frenzied national discount stores and get "Door Buster" Black Friday (Nov. 26) discounts from local merchants in Old Town Alexandria this year.

Shop Local Alexandria, an initiative of the Old Town Boutique District, is organizing merchants across Old Town to open early. So far 24 locally-owned stores have signed on and more are joining up every day.

Studies have shown that when shoppers buy from local independent merchants, more money stays in the local community. That means more jobs, more tax revenues for local services and more support for local charities. It also means finding products and gifts that are more unique and diverse than what

shoppers find at national chains. And in today's big box, self-service world, local merchants offer genuine one-on-one customer service.

"We may not be able to offer the most outrageous discounts," said Amy Rutherford, owner of Red Barn Mercantile, "but we have major retailers beat when it comes to quality, service and the overall retail experience."

In addition to special Black Friday hours, and individual in-store discounts, a collection of Old Town retailers are teaming up to provide extra savings. If you buy from one of the participating stores on Black Friday, your receipt becomes an instant 10 percent off coupon redeemable at any of the other participating stores.

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UP TO 60 MONTHS



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FINANCING FOR
UP TO 60 MONTHS



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ENTERTAINMENT

NOV. 18-20

“Shakespeare’s Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Performed by West Potomac High School in The Kogelman Theatre on Nov. 18, 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m. with an additional show at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 20. Directed by Colin O’Grady; tickets are \$8. Call 703-718-2500. West Potomac High School is at 6500 Quander Rd. Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH NOV. 21

“Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka.” Presented by the Mount Vernon Community Children’s Theatre. Show times are Nov. 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 21 at 3 p.m. Forty-eight teens and children have been rehearsing with a seasoned team of directors, led by Elena Velasco and Catherine Manley. Scout Night is Saturday, Nov. 13. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$8/students and seniors. Tickets at www.MVCCT.org. Call 703-360-0686.

NOW THROUGH NOV. 21

“Rashomon.” Port City Playhouse presents an adaptation of the Japanese drama about a crime told from the different perspectives of the people involved. Fri.-Sat., Nov. 19 and 20; Sun., Nov. 21. Friday, Saturday and Tuesday shows at 8 p.m.; Sunday shows at 3 p.m. The LAB Studio Theatre at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Call 703-838-2880 or www.portcityplayhouse.com. \$18 general admission, \$16 seniors & students, \$14 groups of 10+.

FRIDAY/NOV. 19

Evening of Music for Violin. 8 p.m. Free. Presented by the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players Series. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

Four Course Historic Beer Dinner. 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Savor a four-course period dinner and history-inspired beers from Philadelphia’s Yards Brewery. Tickets are \$85 per person inclusive, and reservations are required. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or call 703-746-4242. At Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria.

Steven Gellman in Concert. 8 p.m. At St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. Call 703-739-9268.

Swing Dance. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. All are welcome. “Third Friday with the Mount Vernon Swing Band.” Cost is \$4/door. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road in the Mount Vernon/Fort Hunt area. Call 703-765-4573

NOV. 19-20

Jewelry Designer Trunk Show. Noon to 8 p.m. Gold Works will host designer Mia Katrin, creator of Jewel Couture LLC, who will present her pieces, all under \$1,000. At Gold Works, 1400 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-683-0333 or visit www.goldworksusa.com or email david@goldworksusa.com.

Free Week of Trainings. Fitness Together is giving away a free week of training worth \$250. Friday, Nov. 19 from 4-7; Saturday, Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At 300 N. Washington Street, Suite 106, Alexandria; call 877.345.FTFT.

“Junie Moon.” 7:30 p.m. Dates are Nov. 19, 20. Presented by the Drama Department at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King Street in Alexandria. Tickets are \$8/adults and \$6/students, staff, and seniors. The play is directed by Jessica Muse and Samuel Jones is the production’s Student Stage manager. Cast members include Elaine Bledsoe as Junie Moon; Zachary Frank, Ben Ribler, Guiliana Mortimer, Alexander Eichner, Roger Yawson, Sarah Paez, Kirby Porterfield, Henry Knotts, Lily Carlisle-Reske, George

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

Annual Holiday Shop. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some 50 unique artisans will be selling their wares. Also, a raffle for a handmade quilt, an upscale/retail boutique, a jewelry shop and a warm lunch. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The church is south of Alexandria off of Fort Hunt Road. Follow the signs at the intersection of Mason Hill and Fort Hunt. Call 703-765-5950.

Mermaid Cat Fountain by Mount Vernon’s Solveig Cox.



Alberts, Alexander Eichner, Avi Littky, Lil Wyner, Jackie Tilley, Andrew Dewhurst and Leia Moran.

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

MVHS 5K Turkey Trot and Wellness Walk. 7:30 a.m. registration; 8:30 a.m. race starts. \$30/general; \$20/18 years and under. At Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria. To register, visit www.runpacers.com, packet pick-up @ MVHS. Contact Jay Ruelas 703-619-3300 ext. 8212 email: NRRuelas@fcps.edu

Story Time Tea. 2 p.m. “A Plump and Perky Turkey” by Teresa Bateman. Personalized readings, arts and crafts activities and house-made treats. Reservations are required. Cost is \$38/adults; \$28/children. Call 703-838-8000 or email storytime@morrisonhouse.com. At the Grille at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria. Visit www.thegrillealexandria.com.

Preparing for a Ball. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$6/person. In the 18th century, balls were a girl’s favorite thing to do, so girls and Girl Scouts ages 5 and up will especially enjoy Preparing for a Ball. At Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Walking in Unity. 7 p.m. A night of fashion and inspirational entertainment. Fashions by K&G Fashions (Bailey’s Crossroads) and Dress Barn (Springfield), modeled by Modeling Troupe, Kalaj! Tickets: Ages 5 and under free, ages 6-17, \$7 and ages 18 and up \$15. At the Lee Center Kaufman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Call 703-927-2927.

SUNDAY/NOV. 21

Evening of Jazz. 7 p.m. With Denyse Pearson and The Bill Clark Jazz Ensemble. Tickets are \$20. At The Lyceum Museum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. To purchase tickets go to www.thatsentertainmentproductions.com

Beaucoup Blues. 7 p.m. Blues/Americana roots father-and-son duo David and Adrian Mowry. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.FocusMusic.org.

Men’s Day. 11 a.m. Guest speaker: United Methodist Minister Mark O. Wilkoff. A hospitality luncheon will follow the service. At Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, 606A South Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria.

MONDAY/NOV. 22

Free Group Vocal Lessons. Potomac Harmony Chorus, Sweet Adelines International, invites you to attend four free group vocal lessons conducted by Ozzy Mask, Master Director of Potomac Harmony. Lessons will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 22 and Dec. 1. At the Hermitage in

Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-764-3896. Visit www.potomacharmony.org

THURSDAY/NOV. 25

Alexandria Turkey Trot. 4,000 runners are expected to run through the Del Ray neighborhoods in Alexandria. The Del Ray Business Association as well as the DC Road Runners Club sponsors the event and proceeds will benefit the A.L.I.V.E foundation. Visit <http://www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com>.

FRIDAY/NOV. 26

Hooray For Books! Children’s Bookstore Black Friday Sale. Hooray For Books will be giving 20 percent off all merchandise purchased between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. At 1555 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092.

SATURDAY/NOV. 27

Craftermath. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A handmade exhibition and fair, where independent artists, designers and crafters sell handmade alternative arts and crafts, products and curiosities. Hosted by West Potomac Academy’s Pro Graphic Studio. At West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Visit www.craftermath.moonfruit.com.

SUNDAY/NOV. 28

Bach Vespers at Westminster. 6 p.m. These Vesper services incorporate the complete organ works of J. S. Bach in their proper religious content, played by Paul Stetsenko, organist. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Visit www.wpc-alex.org

TUESDAY/NOV. 30

Vivaldi Concert. 7:30 p.m. Free. Presented by the National Chamber Players; members of the National Symphony Orchestra, including guest soloists Nurit Bar-Josef, David Hardy and Nicholas Stovall, with Kenneth Slovik of the Smithsonian Chamber Music Society and the Episcopal High School Choirs. At Episcopal High School, Pendleton Hall, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Visit www.episcopalhighschool.org. Call 703-933-4135.

The Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans. 7 p.m. The service commemorates the Feast of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. At St. Andrew & St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Catholic Church, 402 E. Monroe Ave. Visit www.standrewandstmargaret.org or 703-683-3343.

NOV. 30 AND DEC. 1

DRA Holiday Mosaic Art Workshop. 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$35/DRA members; \$45/nonmembers. Pre-registration at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org must be completed by Tuesday, Nov. 23. For a list of supplies or to purchase a 12x12” frame and mirror, email instructor Sally Coler at sallycoler@hotmail.com.

Legal Notices

OBITUARY



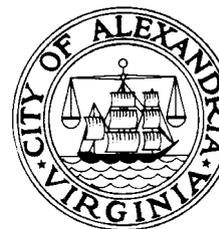
Please join the family, friends and colleagues of **Patricia Rhodes Mayes Hines** for a memorial service and reception Saturday, November 20, 2010 at 12 noon at The Church of Saint Andrew and Saint Margaret of Scotland on 402 East Monroe Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia. There will be a luncheon reception at the church following the service.

Patricia Mayes Hines was one of the most accomplished conservative ladies of her generation. Her crowning achievement was perhaps her service in the White House West Wing under President Ronald Reagan in the critical positions of Executive Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and Deputy Director of the Office of Policy Development. She also served President Reagan as special assistant in the office of the Under Secretary of Education, and Executive Director of the National Council on Educational Research. In 1988-89 she served as Assistant Secretary of Education for Research and Information. Under President George H. W. Bush, she was also named Deputy Assistant Secretary of the United States Army for Training Schools and Family Support. Under George W. Bush, she was appointed as Commissioner for the President’s National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS). Mrs. Hines was confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate on three occasions for these Presidential appointments.

In these positions she assisted countless younger conservatives in their careers. Her titles reflected not only a brilliant mind, but a commitment to the land of her birth, its people and its values.

Patricia Hines was born to James Edgar Mayes and Katie Beaty Mayes, in the town of Mayesville, South Carolina. Her father was the patriarch of Mayesville, SC, a cotton town.

She is mourned by her beloved husband, Richard, and two children, James Williams Hines, who attends the University of Chicago and Kathleen Mayes Hines who attends Conyers College in South Carolina. Richard Hines is a former Member of the South Carolina House of Representatives and is currently President of RTH Consulting, Inc. in Alexandria, VA. He maintains homes in Alexandria, VA and Mayesville, SC.



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review Old & Historic Alexandria District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2010 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

Legal Notices

CASE BAR2010-0217

Request for HVAC screening at **600 S. Washington St.**, zoned CL Commercial
APPLICANT: Soonja Purdy

CASE BAR2010-0293

Request for signage at **500 S. Washington St.**, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: Capital One Bank

CASE BAR2010-0316

Request for door replacement at **111 Pomander Walk St.**, zoned RM Residential
APPLICANT: Mimi Volberg

CASE BAR2010-0317

Request for light installation at **212 Wolfe St.**, zoned RM Residential
APPLICANT: C. Horne

CASE BAR2010-0318

Request for light installation at **201 N. Washington St.**, zoned OCM (50) Office Commercial Medium.
APPLICANT: Military Officers Association of America

CASE BAR2010-0322

Request for signage at **114 S. Patrick St.**, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: Izalia by Old Town Sign Company

CASE BAR2010-0321

Request for light and canopy installation at **123 N. Washington St.**, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: Circe Salon and Day Spa by Maginnis/DelNinno Architects

CASE BAR2010-0320

Request for door replacement at **708 Duke St.**, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Jan Scott

CASE BAR2010-0319

Request for signage at **601 N. Washington St.**, zoned CRMU/X Commercial.
APPLICANT: Talbots by H & M Signs

CASE BAR2010-0324

Request for HVAC screening at **120 S Fairfax St.**, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: Burke & Herbert

CASE BAR2010-0325

Request for signage at **1 Cameron St.**, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: CHLN, Inc. (Chart House Restaurant)

CASE BAR2010-0327

Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at **113 S Lee St.**, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Rich & Lois Rawson

CASE BAR2010-0328

Request for new front stoop and waiver of HVAC screening requirement at **113 S Lee St.**, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Rich & Lois Rawson

CASE BAR2010-0331

Request for a Permit to Demolish exterior walls for new front and rear dormers at **910 S. Fairfax St.**, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Ted & Sandra Sullivan by Adams Architects

CASE BAR2010-0339

Request for new side egress window and construction of new front and rear dormers at **910 S. Fairfax St.**, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Ted & Sandra Sullivan by Adams Architects

CASE BAR2009-0301

Request for alterations at **626 S. Lee St.**, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: S. Lee & Debra Parker by Lewis & Associates LTD

CASE BAR2010-0011

Request for Permit to Demolish for construction of new dormers and renovations at **626 S. Lee St.**, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: S. Lee & Debra Parker by Lewis & Associates LTD

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

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Staff Changes

FROM PAGE 5

Leader.”

Shays acts as an umbrella over the new emphasis on professional development that's based on a five-year strategic plan approved in March 2009, says Cathy David, deputy superintendent for curriculum and instruction support.

“We are really trying to raise the level of professional learning and align the professional learning with the goals of the strategic plan,” David said.

WHILE TOP OFFICIALS say the changes are bringing Alexandria into the 21st Century for the first time, employees who were let go or forced to reapply for their jobs tell a different story.

Late last spring, all middle school secretaries and administrators, along with some central office employees were told they had to reapply for their jobs, said Gina Miller, president of the Education Association of Alexandria, which is a labor union representing teachers. On June 23 — seven days before the end of the fiscal year — 12 employees were told they wouldn't have a permanent job after June 30 and offered a temporary contract.

Five of these employees have filed complaints with the United States Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, according to a September report by the Alexandria Gazette Packet.

Former ACPS accountant Wayne Kee chose not to reapply after he learned his job would be expanded to include many more responsibilities. He'd worked for the district for 10 years and believed the upgraded position would include more responsibilities than one person could handle.

“I'd be doing the textbook inventory, the student activity funds and the CIP and no one person could do that,” Kee said. “(Before) you had one person doing textbooks by themselves.”

Other employees who did want to stay at ACPS accepted the district's offer of a 60-day contract to earn their same salary. Louis Johnson, another accountant, took the temporary offer after he learned he'd have to reapply in late May, interviewed the third week of June and was told he was out of a permanent job.

But when the 60-day contract was up in September, the employees were offered a 90-day contract to earn \$13 an hour — about half of what Johnson had been earning. Because he would also have lost his health insurance coverage, Johnson decided to retire from ACPS and is currently searching for another job.

As the central office was restructured and oversight became more centralized under two assistant superintendents — Margaret Byess and Cathy David — instead of four, Johnson felt as though things became more secretive and controlled.

“Between (Margaret Byess) and (Morton Sherman) they started doing whatever they wanted to do,” Johnson said. “Certain things became hush hush. We were kind of shut out ... everything had to go back through Margaret Byess' office before it was sent out.”

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Veterans, Youngsters Try Out for TC Basketball

Athletes attempt to earn spot on Titans varsity team.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Winston Duncan's gray Virginia Tech T-shirt is saturated with sweat, his hand shake wet to the touch. The sophomore is hard at work trying to earn a spot on the T.C. Williams varsity basketball team. A transfer from an Arlington high school, Duncan is eager to become part of a program that won three consecutive region championships from 2007-2009 and a state championship in 2008.

"There's a lot more kids here, there's a lot more people in the program that are more involved," said Duncan, a 5-foot-11 guard. "It's got a better reputation than a lot of the programs I've been in, so there's a little bit more pressure. You want to prove yourself."

Basketball season is here. Before practices get underway, a four-day tryout session is held from Monday through Thursday. The varsity roster will be announced on Nov. 18.

Roughly 25 athletes were present for Tuesday's tryout session from 7-9 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School. There were younger players like Duncan and veteran Titans like Tyrell Sitton. A senior who also played receiver for the school's football



T.C. Williams sophomore Winston Duncan competes during tryouts for the Titans basketball team.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

team, Sitton is one of the top players remaining from last year's team that was bounced in the first round of the district tournament after suffering through forfeits and eligibility problems.

Sitton said he worked on his jump shot during the fall, but the transition from football to basketball had his right calf cramping Tuesday.

"It's been intense," Sitton said of the first two days of tryouts. "We've been running a

lot. I'm kind of tired coming from football. I keep catching cramps."

Head coach Julian King said raw talent can help an athlete make the team, but he is also looking for players with a strong work ethic.

"You just want to see who jumps out at you first — who does some of the little things that you like as a coach," King said. You want someone who will "play hard, pay attention — that's the biggest thing — and

attempt to try to do the things that we ask without any complaining or any excuses. Someone who's appreciative of the chance to be on this team. I don't need anybody that's coming thinking that they're better than anybody that's already on the team or thinking somebody should roll out the red carpet for them. This is a good program and this is a privilege."

"It's got a better reputation than a lot of the programs I've been in, so there's a little bit more pressure. You want to prove yourself."

— T.C. Williams sophomore
Winston Duncan

King said the amount of kids who came out for the team is down from previous years, due in part, he said, to athletes feeling they can't keep up after not participating in offseason conditioning.

T.C. Williams opens the season at home against Wakefield at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 4.

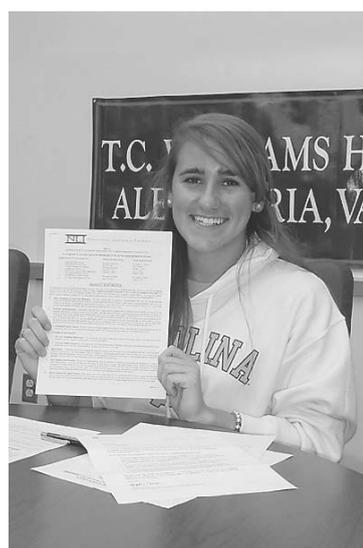
TC's Leidolf Signs with UNC

T.C. Williams crew standout Emily Leidolf officially signed a letter of intent Monday to row for the University of North Carolina.

"It was a tough decision between Stanford, the University of Pennsylvania and UNC," Leidolf said during a ceremony attended by family, teammates and friends. "Stanford was pretty intense and I decided that I could get a better college experience at UNC and be closer to home."

The 17-year-old port rower was offered a partial scholarship for her athletic and scholastic accomplishments, which includes 10 varsity letters in four different sports while maintaining a 4.2 GPA during her years at T.C.

"Emily is the hardest working athlete I have coached in my 14 seasons at T.C. Wil-



T.C. Williams senior Emily Leidolf shows off her acceptance letter and scholarship offer from UNC. Leidolf signed a letter of intent Monday to row for the school.

years of rowing."

liams," said former head crew coach Jon Schildknecht. "Her internal drive and desire to be the best is unmatched."

Leidolf, a Key Club officer and member of the National Honor Society, plans to major in either business or environmental design. A co-captain of the Varsity Eight during her junior year, Leidolf earned a gold medal at the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Championships last spring.

"Coaches want athletes like her — a crew with eight Emilys would be perfect," Schildknecht said. "Her signing with UNC is a great reward for all of the hard work and determination that she has shown in her four

— JEANNE THEISMANN

SPORTS BRIEFS

SSSAS Boys Lose

After snapping Episcopal's 63-game winning streak, the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys soccer team lost to Paul VI 3-0 on Nov. 10 in the VISAA tournament.

Coaches Needed

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities is currently seeking volunteers to coach youth basketball, cheerleading, baseball and softball. Criminal history background checks are required. Interested persons should call the Youth Sports Office at 703-746-5402 or e-mail mac.slover@alexandriava.gov or tamika.coleman@alexandriava.gov.

MVHS 5K Moved

The Mount Vernon High School 5K Turkey Trot and Wellness Walk will take place on Nov. 20 rain or shine. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. and the race starts at 8:30 a.m. General registration fee is \$35. Teachers or students with a valid ID, \$25. The race begins at the Rock entrance of MVHS. The race benefits the MVHS Cares Emergency Fun, to help MVHS students.



Athlete of the Month

Cross country runner Louis Colson, center, accepts the Athlete of the Month award at the Alexandria Sportsman's Club meeting Nov. 16. A freshman at Edison High School, the varsity athlete carries a 4.42 GPA. With him are his coach Berni Flynn, left, and Marc Leon, ASC president. Also honored at the meeting were Lallie Lukens (Field Hockey) of Episcopal High School, Peter Voth (Soccer) of Stephen's & St. Agnes, and four of the Alexandria Titans Youth Football teams.

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

PEOPLE



PHOTO BY PENELOPE MORMAN

Hot Topic Super Stars ages 18 and under.



PHOTOS BY TUTU KARGBO

The Hot Topic coaching staff and board of directors.

Hot Topic Celebrates Five Years

Alexandria's Hot Topic All Stars celebrated its five year anniversary Nov. 13 with a pep rally at the Charles Houston Rec Center on the eve of the first competition of the season.

"The pep rally gives our family and friends an opportunity to see the girls perform for the first time without it being a competition," said Hot Topic founder and director Brenda Holloway.

The mentoring program, a 501(c)3 non-profit, currently has 57 girls enrolled in the organization.

"Our highest honor was given to four

cheerleaders who have been with us since the beginning — Kiauna Ferguson, Asia Goodwin, Mya Kargbo and Stacia Overton," Holloway said. "They were recognized for their dedication and commitment to the program."

Holloway, the assistant director of the city's therapeutic rec program, was honored as the organization's founder.

"I honestly love what I am doing with the girls in our program," Holloway said. "In this journey I'm traveling on, I only hope to make a lasting and positive impact on the lives of the girls I come in contact with."



Board member Penelope Morman, center, with members of the Hot Topic Twinkle Stars.

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PEOPLE



TC Homecoming

At left, 2009 TC Homecoming Queen Hiwotie Demiss, Miss Virginia Princess Maya Wood and the 2009 court Sophie Siegel, Gifty Boakye and Kayla Lewis.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
GAZETTE PACKET

At right, 2010 Homecoming King and Queen Hashim Taylor and Dominique Sellers.

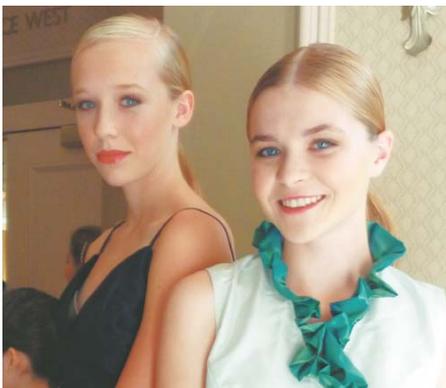


PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

Catwalk Couture

Models Sasha Kirchnopf, 12, and Emily Gunberg, 15, await their turn to walk the runway at the finale of Northern Virginia Fashion Week. Held Oct. 24 at the Mark Center Hilton, the event featured clothing by nine designers, including Project Runway's Ra'mon-Lawrence Coleman, and raised funds for the Lupus Foundation of America and the Susan G. Komen for the Cure.



Gadsby's Tea

Girl Scout Troop 4012, along with troop leaders and mothers, joined Bonnie Fairbank as Martha Washington Nov. 13 at Gadsby's Tavern to learn about the ritual of serving tea in the 18th century. The Scouts practiced the manners used in Colonial times for receiving guests and drinking tea.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

At St. Stephen St. Agnes School

2010 Homecoming King and Queen Lauren Caccano and Mathias Heller last month.

Brownies Donate Locks to Beautiful Lengths

Four Brownies from Maury School Troop 604, Eliza Medearis, Alison Bingman and Savannah Keough, a Brownie from Douglas MacArthur School Natalie Keough and Casey Dugan and Jena Johanson had their ponytails cut at Lords and Ladies Salon and Spa on Sunday, Oct. 24. The eight-inch-plus ponytails are being donated to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, to make wigs for children undergoing chemotherapy.

Salon stylist Susie Johanson volunteered her services for the cutting and restyling. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. To show support for all those affected by cancer and especially the principal at Maury, Lucretia Jackson, Brownie Troop 604 hosted the hair donation ceremony on Sunday.



Before: Top left is Casey Dugan, Alison Bingman. Bottom left is Savannah Keough and Natalie Keough, Eliza Medearis and Jena Johanson.



After: Top left is Casey Dugan, Alison Bingman. Bottom left is Savannah Keough and Natalie Keough, Eliza Medearis and Jena Johanson.

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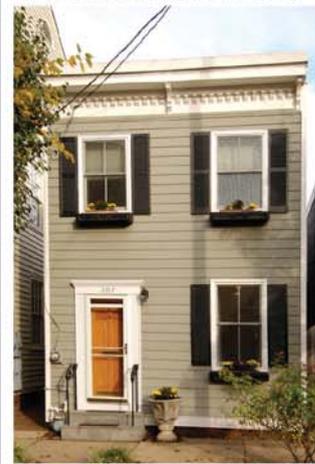
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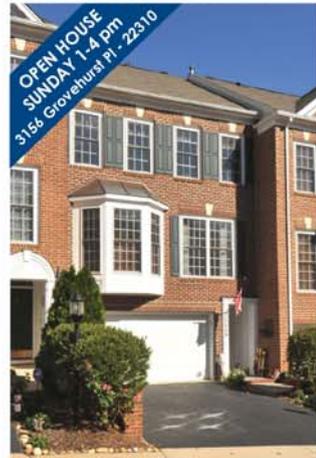


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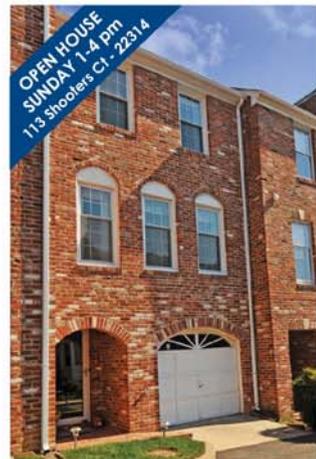


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