

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

The Scheller family of Woodbridge, Va. donated a 40-foot Norway Spruce for the city holiday tree.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CAZETTE PACKET

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**Sue Goodhart**

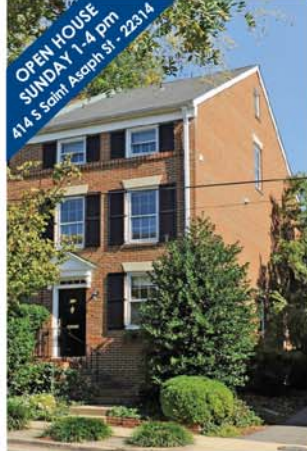
703.362.3221

www.suegoodhart.com

MLS ID# AX7483766



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$774,900



### Prime Location

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

**Babs Beckwith**

703.836.1297

www.Babsbeckwith.com

MLS ID# AX7455407



ALEXANDRIA/Del Ray \$589,000



### Del Ray Duplex

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

**Chris Hayes**

703.944.7737

www.HomesByHayes.com

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ALEXANDRIA \$529,000



### Beautiful Home, Great Location!!!

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

**Cecily Winchell**

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MLS ID# FX7476105



ALEXANDRIA \$925,000



### Villamay

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

**Sarah King**

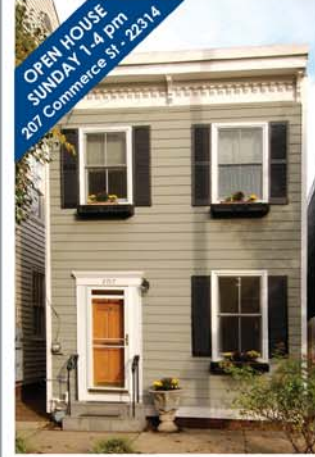
703.864.5050

www.mceneaney.com

MLS ID# FX7481699



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$679,900



### Old Town Convenience

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

**Elizabeth Lucchesi**

703.868.5676

www.lizluke.com

MLS ID# AX7468774



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$895,000



### Ring in the Holidays

in this handsome three-bedroom, two-bath, brick and sided residence in sought-after Fords Landing. Teeming with light and architectural intrigue, its formal rooms are welcoming and private spaces are serene. Two wet bars and two fireplaces contribute to the delights while a deck, one-car garage and an additional parking space provide the perfect complement.

**Carol Cleary**

703.625.6829

www.carolcleary.com

MLS ID# AX7431903



ALEXANDRIA \$185,000



### Top Floor Auburn Village

Walk to Mount Vernon Avenue from this top-floor, one-bedroom, one-bath condo in Auburn Village. Hardwood floors in living room and bedroom, ceramic tile in kitchen. Secure building and low condo fees with this close in location.

**Tamara Inzunza**

703.623.8759

www.MovingToNova.com

MLS ID# AX7482283



ALEXANDRIA \$263,900



### Condo at the Lofts

Splendid two-level contemporary condo with two bedrooms, two baths, nine-foot ceilings and tall windows throughout! Balcony with panoramic view of trees and the City. Gorgeous cork floors in foyer and kitchen, Berber carpet throughout. Pass-through breakfast bar and Euro-style kitchen cabinets. Master bedroom with two large closets. Exercise facility on site! One assigned covered parking space. Easy access to Old Town, I-495, I-395, and just blocks to Van Dorn Metro!

**Susan Anthony**

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# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

## And They're Off ... Black Friday kicks off local holiday shopping.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

It's official. The holiday shopping season is here and local retailers are making it easy to find something special for the naughty and nice on everyone's gift list.

"Black Friday was busy this year," said Diana Bridges, assistant manager of The Christmas Attic in Old Town. "And we expect an even busier weekend during the Scottish Walk events."

From beads to boots and food and art, there's no place like home when it comes to shopping for gifts and no better place to begin than at The Christmas Attic.

"Many people don't realize that our first floor features a wide variety of gift items," Bridges said. "The second floor is still devoted to Christmas but we have added a great selection of items for year-round as well."

According to Bridges, popular items this year include ginger cottages (\$15-\$20) by Virginia artist Glenn Crider and Hot Skwash products (\$5-\$30) from Oregon.

"We can barely keep those in stock," said Bridges, who also noted that the Old World Scottish

Santa ornaments (\$15) are especially popular at this time of year.

For the whimsical and unique, head over to Eclectic Nature on Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray where several new vendors have recently been added.

Curcio Classics sells an eclectic mix of vintage toys, doll house furniture, tablecloths and quilts. There is also a nice selection of



Holiday bath balls at The Market Square Shop.



A gift certificate for a hands-on sailing experience on the Skipjack Minnie V. is available from the Potomac Riverboat Company.

holiday ornaments.

At The Vintage Cookie, Becky Menes stocks an extensive collection of unique glassware, stylish tea sets and vintage kitchen and cooking equipment. For the holidays, Menes is offering an exclusive line of stationery, holiday cards and fine art prints by Scottish artists Thomas Sandilands and Angela Pengelly Sandilands.

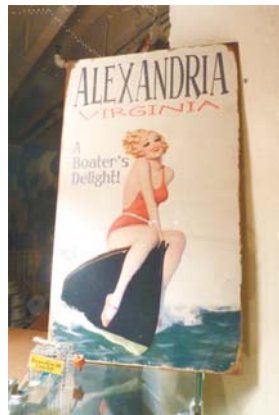
Also at Eclectic Nature is A Yard of Pearls where designer Cuddy Eyre carries vintage one-of-a-kind jewelry items and new items that marry the old with the new.

Alexandria is a smorgasbord of ideas for the foodie on your gift list. Specialty shops like Chesetique and ACKC Cocoa Bar in Del Ray can help design personalized gift selections and The British Pantry in Old Town has an extensive selection of fine British foods and gifts.

For the wine lover on your list, Unwined SEE HOLIDAY SHOPPING, PAGE 4



Firestarters at The Market Square Shop.



A vintage Alexandria poster at The Virginia Shop.

JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Diana Bridges showcases Hot Skwash products at The Christmas Attic.



A selection of gifts at A Yard of Pearls in Del Ray's Eclectic Nature.



Just Ducky: For an affordable collectible that makes a great gift, visit Micheline's Antiques new storefront at 110 South West Street. Each of the five handcrafted yellow duckies offers a clever shape and charming personality.

SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

## GIFT GUIDE

# Holiday Shopping Begins

FROM PAGE 3

has two locations serving Alexandria — Bradlee Shopping Center and Belle View Plaza — and owner Vanessa Warner can help select the best choices in a variety of price ranges.

“Experience” gifts can work for just about anyone on your gift list and can be used at a time that is convenient for the recipient. Top Golf, SportRock and Shadowland Laser Tag are especially popular with teens, tweens and college students home on break.

A gift certificate to one of the many Potomac Riverboat cruises is a gift that can also suit a variety of ages.

“We have gift certificates for our Canine or Pirate cruises,” said Charlotte Hall, vice president of the Potomac Riverboat Company. “And a cruise down to Mount Vernon would be great for grandparents and children.”

Hall also noted that gift certificates are available for the Skipjack Minnie V, which provides a hands-on sailing experience. And baseball lovers will appreciate a trip on one of the Washington Nationals baseball cruises next season.

“Both of these are new so many people have not had a chance to experience them yet,” Hall said.

If there is a DIY lover or gardener on your list, head over to Ace Hardware on South Washington Street where you can pick up everything from power tools to gardening trowels. For more practical gift givers, snow shovels and winter emergency items are available.

Traditional gifts like jewelry don't have to be boring. Unique selections can be found at Today's Cargo or Goldworks, where David Martin can design a one-of-a-kind



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Old World Scottish Santa at The Christmas Attic.**

item or reset a family heirloom.

The Virginia Shop and The Market Square Shop have a wide selection of gift items, and Gallery Lafayette carries numerous items with the images of Old Town artist Todd Healy.

Personal “coupon” gifts — a handmade gift certificate for a day at a spa or a picnic in the park — can be made more special by purchasing one of Healy's 2011 calendars (\$20) and marking a date in each month for a special event

to be shared with the recipient — like an opening night show at MetroStage or the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Last but certainly not least are gifts for pet owners. Gift certificates from Barkley Square in Del Ray or Old Town School for Dogs are always welcome, as would be a donation in the recipient's name to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria or any other charity of your choice.

### Details

In Old Town, city parking garages cost just \$2 all day Saturday and after 5 p.m. on weeknights.



**A jewelry display at The Silver Parrot.**



**Byer's Choice collectibles are available at The Christmas Attic.**

# Selecting Wine Gifts

BY MIKE POTASHNIK AND DON WINKLER  
INTERNATIONAL WINE REVIEW



**Mike Patashnik and Don Winkler of International Wine Review offer tips for the gift of wine this holiday season.**

**W**hy not give wine for the holidays? Wine makes a great gift. Both the casual wine drinker and the seasoned wine enthusiast will be excited to receive a gift of wine.

Local wine shops are a great place to browse for that special wine gift. One of the many benefits of living in Northern Virginia and Maryland is the abundance of choices of wines from all over the world and at every price level.

Make your gifts exotic by choosing wines from lesser known countries and producers. Some countries like Argentina and Chile are well known for their wines, whereas Austria and Portugal are relatively new international producers.

Of course, which wine you buy as a gift depends on both your pocketbook and the person you're giving to. We usually think of wine-drinkers as falling into three categories: The Casual Wine Drinker, who may not know the difference between Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio. Serious Wine Drinkers, who know what they like but pretty much limit themselves to the popular brands. And the Semi-Pro who knows wine and probably has more than a few bottles stashed in a wine cooler, closet or cellar.

Let's consider which wines each of these might like to receive for the holidays. We've limited our choices to wines that should be available in most good wine stores. All prices are retail prices recommended by the winery or importer; the shelf price is often lower.

**The Casual Wine Drinker.** While you might not be spending lots of money on the casual wine drinker, you can still give a bottle that will give a lot of pleasure. Stick with the well-known varietals, but find a new producer or new region. Argentine Malbec would fit the bill. Ask your purveyor for a mid-priced Malbec from a producer like Andeluna, Salentein, or Doña Paula. We recently tasted the 2009 Doña Paula Los Cardos Malbec and especially like it. Best of all, it costs just \$10 a bottle.

Everyone these days loves Pinot Noir, and a good one for the casual drinker has been produced by Careros winemaker, Sean Minor. His 2009 4 Bears Pinot Noir (\$17) is ripe, flavorful and fleshy and is unbeatable for the price.

A good, sparkling wine is another option. One that all casual wine drinkers would love is the Roederer Estate (\$18) from California's Anderson Valley.

If your friend prefers white wines, try a cool coastal Chardonnay from California. When we visited the Santa Lucia Highlands last year we enjoyed the 2008 Mer Soleil Barrel Fermented Chardonnay (\$19). While a little more pricey than the other wines recommended here, it's a sure thing.

**The Serious Wine Drinker.** The Serious Wine Drinker is likely to be a little more open than the Casual Wine Drinker to trying something new. Here we recommend you find something that will

SEE WINE GIFTS, PAGE 5

## Where to Shop

- Bostetter's Wine & Gourmet**  
3690 King Street # J, Alexandria  
703-820-8600
- Fern Street Gourmet**  
1708 Fern Street, Alexandria  
703-931-1234
- Grape and Bean**  
118 South Royal St # 1  
Alexandria  
703-664-0214
- Brabo Butcher Block by RW**  
1600 King Street, Alexandria  
703-894-5253
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703-683-4838
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703-823-4600  
www.rickswine.com
- Unwined Gourmet**  
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703-820-8600
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1600A Belle View Boulevard,  
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571-384-6880  
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## GIFT GUIDE

# Wine Gifts for the Holidays

FROM PAGE 4

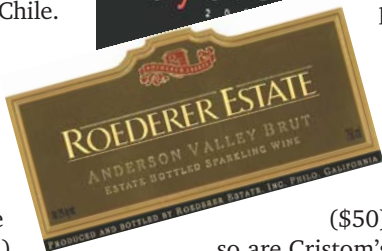
stretch his or her wine knowledge just a bit. Our first choice might be a different varietal from a reliable producer. One such bottle we tasted this past year is Montes Alpha Carmenere (\$19) from Chile.

It's a reasonably priced, delicious, full-bodied red wine from a very good Chilean winery. (We also offer many suggestions on pairing Carmenere and food on our website [www.i-winereview.com](http://www.i-winereview.com).)

Among white wines, we'd recommend an Austrian Grüner Veltliner such as Anton Bauer's 2009 Rosenberg Reserve (\$24) or other Anton Bauer cuvees. They combine flavor, acidity, and minerality that is hard to find in one bottle.

Red table wine from Portugal would also be different. We recommend the 2008 Quinta Vale Meão Meandro (\$20), the 2008 Quinta do Vallado Tinto (\$29), or the Herdade do Esporão Reserva (\$21) all wines which have abundant red and black fruit, spice, and complex flavors.

**The Semi-Pro.** The Semi-Pro is the most difficult to buy for. If you have lots to spend, you can pick a top end wine that is certain not to disappoint. The 2008 Phelps Insig-



nia (\$185) is one such wine — expensive but worth it, and the person receiving it will recognize both its quality and value. If your pocketbook is looking for something a little lower in price, there are many options. Everyone loves a good Oregon Pinot Noir, and Cristom produces some of the best. The 2007 Cristom Marjorie Vineyard Pinot Noir

(\$50) is exceptionally good, but so are Cristom's other bottlings, (reviews at [www.iwinereview.com](http://www.iwinereview.com)).

Another option is a rich, full-bodied Ribera del Duero wine like the 2006 Bodegas Condado de Haza Crianza (\$30) or the 2006 Cyclo (\$51). If these specific bottlings are not available in your local store, ask for something similar from Ribera del Duero.

Another terrific wine gift is an introductory subscription to the International Wine Review, just \$25 for six months. Purchase on-line at [www.iwinereview.com](http://www.iwinereview.com).

*Mike Potashnik and Don Winkler have for the past 20 years traveled the globe and tasted thousands of wines in search of the best wines and innovative winemakers to recommend to consumers and wine professionals. They have published the International Wine Review, based in McLean, since 2005.*

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# Brenda Stone, CRS, GRI, ABR

**Happy Holidays!**



*During this season of celebration, I wish you and your family joy, peace and comfort. Gather your friends and family close to celebrate the holidays and give thanks for the gifts of life and togetherness. I wish you a happy, healthy, prosperous 2011. As always, if I can ever be of service to you or someone you know, please contact me. Best Wishes for a fantastic holiday celebration, Brenda Stone*



Fantastic opportunity to become a member of the Carlyle community. Spacious 3 Bedroom (or 2 BR and Den) home features an enormous enclosed balcony which brings the total square feet close to 2,000. Lavish master bedroom suite includes a floor to ceiling glass window sitting room, dual walk-in closets and sumptuous master bathroom with a glass enclosed shower, dual sink vanity and jetted soaking tub.

The value in this home is incomparable at Carlyle. Two garage and two storage spaces are included in the list price. Offered for \$675,000.



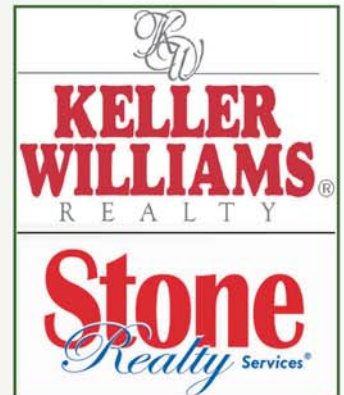
This special Carlyle home is the largest 3 Bedroom unit on the market. The main focus of this home is the astounding Washington DC skyline and Masonic Temple view. Enjoy First Night Alexandria's New Year's Eve fireworks display right outside the window. The 2,183 square feet does not include the two enclosed balconies, which brings the total close to 2,400 square feet. This home features neutral décor, wood floors, crown molding, huge sitting room in Master bedroom and much more. The price includes two garage and two storage spaces. Offered for \$800,000.

**Carlyle Towers provides 24-hour security, outdoor pools, concierge, two gyms, tennis courts, swim spa and much more. The condo fee includes all utilities, except electricity, phone and cable.**



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PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/CAZETTE PACKET



**Grass Roots Station owner Makda Kibour and Gail Garvin Jackson celebrate at the grand opening of the café Nov. 20. Kibour's works as an artist adorn the walls of the restaurant.**

## Grass Roots Station Opens at Braddock Metro

**L**ongtime Alexandria business owner Makda Kibour officially welcomed customers to her newest venture Nov. 20 with the grand opening celebration of Grass Roots Station Café.

Located across from the Braddock Road Metro Station, Grass Roots Station serves an organic menu made with locally sourced ingredients.

"The time was right," said Kibour of her decision to open another business in Alexandria. "A coffee bar and gallery with healthy cuisine has been a dream of mine."

Kibour is also an artist and her works adorn the walls of the new restaurant as well as Mak's Place Salon, her original business lo-

ated in the same retail block on Braddock Road.

"Mak is a phenomenon to me," said Gail Garvin Jackson, who has known Kibour for 20 years and worked for her at the salon — now in its 16th year — for seven years. "She always manages to do the impossible and is a great asset to the business community."

Grass Roots Station, located at 535 E. Braddock Road, is open for lunch and dinner and features multicultural cuisine by Chef Santino Filippetto. In partnership with Adnan Hamidi and Kathy Taylor, sweet treats by Alexandria Cupcake are available at the restaurant.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



**Chef Santino Filippetto, Makda Kibour and Kibour Ayichew at the opening reception.**

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## Proximity and Profit

Paying for a new Metro station is no easy task. City officials estimate the price tag for the new Metro station at Potomac Yard will be about \$240 million. That's no chump change, and it won't be easy to scrape together that kind of dough.

Enter the special-district tax. It works this way: People who live closest to the Metro station will have to pay a higher tax bill. Those who live outside the special taxing district don't have to worry about higher taxes, even if they use the Metro station every day. During a community meeting on the proposal this week, Republican Councilman **Frank Fannon** and independent Councilwoman **Alicia Hughes** spoke out against the financing plan.

"It's just not equitable to ask for one neighborhood to carry that burden," said Fannon. "And the discussion of this issue has created a cloud over people who want to sell their home in Potomac Greens because they are not sure if they'll be in a special-tax district or not."

Last month, signs began sprouting up in Alexandria bearing the message "Just Say No To Any Special Taxes." The signs are the brainchild of a group known as Alexandria's Citizens for Common Cents, a group formed to oppose the creation of a special-tax district.

"This is an unfair way to conduct business or fund projects," said **Mark Anderson**, spokesman for the group. "If the public is going to use the Metro station, then the public should pay for it."

## Consultant Creep

How many consultants does the city need? As city leaders head into the next budget cycle, the question of consultants is expected to be a hot topic.

When asked for details of consultant services last year, budget officials said a list of specific contracted services was unavailable. This year, they are preparing a more comprehensive list. Meanwhile, City Council members have indicated they think the use of consultants should be curtailed.

"As we move these projects forward, let's refrain from using consultants," said Mayor **Bill Euille** during a work session with the Planning Department last week.

But City Manager **Jim Hartmann** said it would be impossible to eliminate the outside help. He said years of budget cuts at City Hall have contributed to an environment that calls for outside consultants to do jobs city officials are unqualified for or too busy to accomplish.

"I don't like paying for consultants," explained the city manager. "But we, frankly, have to hire the expertise out there."

## Budget Guidance

Unlike Arlington, where school funding is based on a percentage of the county's revenue, school funding in Alexandria is subject to the same whims as everything else. But this year, Alexandria City Council members approved a budget target that could change that. According to a resolution unanimously approved last week, the city's transfer to the school system will increase at the same percentage rate as the General Fund.

"Essentially, this is a revenue sharing model," said Councilman **Rob Krupicka** before voting in favor of the resolution.

## Fraud at Bradlee

Black market drugs continue to be a moneymaker in Alexandria. But a recent conviction in federal court shows — once again — crime doesn't pay.

This week, a federal jury convicted 46-year-old Washington, D.C. resident **Arthur Bernard Taper** of conspiracy to distribute oxycodone. According to court records, one of the pharmacies where Taper used fraudulent prescriptions to obtain OxyContin was the Rite Aid in the Bradlee Shopping Center. The case stemmed from an ongoing effort of the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force, which federal officials have dubbed "Operation Cotton Candy."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## NEWS

# Abandoning Alexandria

Artcrafters plans to move entire operation to National Harbor. Will others follow suit?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Say goodbye to Artcrafters, the funky retailer at the southeast corner of King and Lee streets. The colorful store has already opened a sister operation across the river at National Harbor, where the rent is significantly cheaper and retailers don't have to deal with red tape at City Hall. Now the owners have decided to shutter their Old Town store for good at the end of the year, creating yet another vacant space on the city's major business thoroughfare.

"I wouldn't say this is the beginning of a trend," said Jay Winer, who owns Artcrafters with his wife and son. "I would say this is the middle or perhaps the end of the trend."

Up and down King Street, empty retail locations offer a glimpse at Alexandria's precarious position. Some are being renovated into restaurants, like the old Olsson's Bookstore on Union Street. Others are being transformed into national chains, like the Subway sandwich shop that will replace the old Wilfred-Rodgers gift shop. A handful of storefronts remain vacant, such as the Embellishments boutique on Upper King Street.

"There's been a lot of competition in Alexandria



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Prominent retailers Artcrafters will be closing its doors at the end of this year.**

over the last 10 years," said Winer. "And Alexandria just hasn't kept pace."

**ALEXANDRIA'S BUSINESS** climate has been a source of concern for years. Many business owners have complained that navigating the permitting process in City Hall has become too cumbersome and time-consuming. Councilman Frank Fannon says he frequently hears from businesses that have had problems knowing what's expected of them. For example, Fannon said, one recent case involved a man who wanted to open a hot-dog stand on the waterfront. He had to go through five different city agencies before he was able to start selling hot dogs.

"That's a classic case of where we need to consolidate some of this," said Fannon. "Time is money in business, so we need to make the process of quick and efficient as possible."

Perhaps the best-known example of a business that

SEE IS CITY FRIENDLY, PAGE 33

## FOIA Panel Faces Elimination

Freedom of Information Advisory Council is on the chopping block.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Advocates of open government are fighting to prevent elimination of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council, one of the many groups that faces possible extinction under Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell's Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring. According to a proposal now under consideration, some of the panel's functions could be performed by other agencies while others would simply vanish in an effort to streamline the commonwealth's government.

"It's ripe for consideration as a cost-saving measure," said Alexandria City Councilwoman Alicia Hughes, adding that she does not yet have a position on the elimination proposal. "However, I would want to make sure we continue to provide the public benefit in some way."

Supporters of the council say that the attorney

general's office would not be able to provide the same kind of impartial opinions. For example, private citizens can request an opinion from the panel on a range of questions — including from people who are considering suing the government to get documents. Because the attorney general's office might end up representing the government in such a case, it would not be able to issue opinions on those kinds of cases.

"Many of these disputes would fester or end up in litigation," said Craig Fifer, member of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council. "Neither of those are in the public interest."

Another potential justification for eliminat

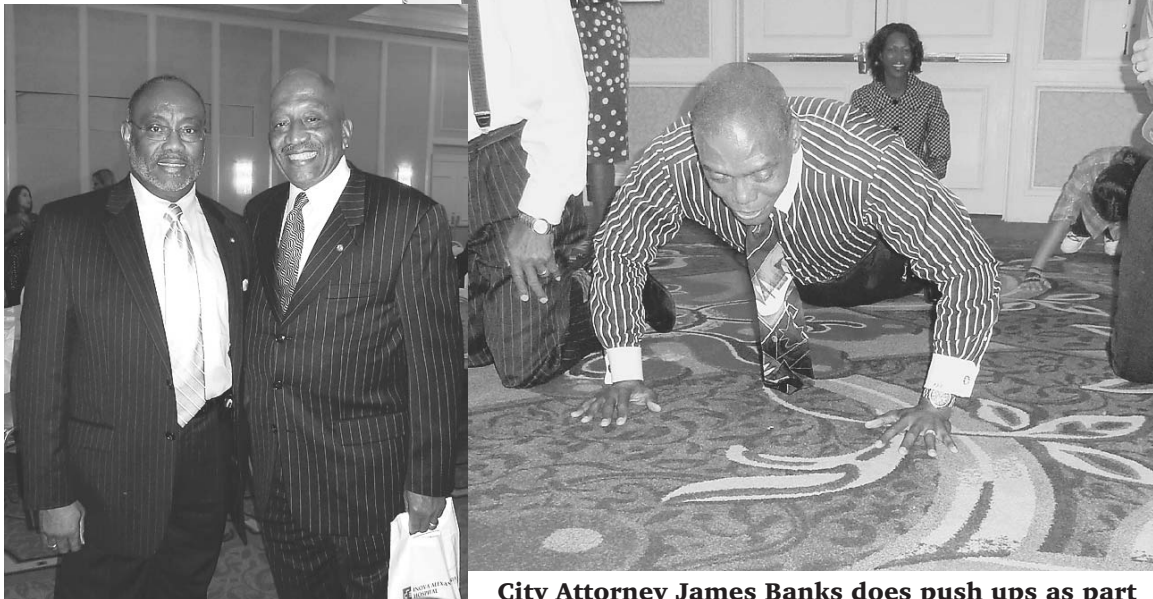
SEE FREEDOM, PAGE 33

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

**"I would hope that members of the commission and the governor would see that this is a bad idea."**

— **Craig Fifer, member, Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council**





**Mayor Bill Euille and Jim Henson**

**City Attorney James Banks does push ups as part of a fitness competition during the Mayor's Unity Breakfast Nov. 24.**

## Breakfast Focuses on Health

**W**ith a theme of "One Healthy Alexandria," Mayor Bill Euille held his seventh annual Mayor's Unity breakfast Nov. 24 at the Mark Center Hilton.

"Everyone can do something to get healthier," Euille said in addressing the crowd of more than 300 attendees.

Jerry Hill of Cross Fit in Old Town was the keynote speaker and challenged the crowd to a good-natured push up competition, which was unofficially won by a team from Dominion Power.

ACT for Alexandria Executive Director John Por-

ter gave the customary Charge to the City and expanded it into a Charge to the Community.

"Alexandria has one of the highest median incomes in the country," Porter said. "Yet nearly 60 percent of the children who attend our public schools are eligible for free and reduced lunch. I charge you to look beyond Thanksgiving and the upcoming winter holidays and give of your time and financial support in April and June and August. There are people with needs throughout the year."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



**David Baker, David Martin and Councilwoman Alicia Hughes**

**Councilwoman Del Pepper, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and Katharine Medina**

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/  
GAZETTE PACKET

### BULLETIN BOARD

To have a notice listed, e-mail [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

**The Alexandria Office on Women** organizes a Holiday Party for children and their mothers who have been recently served by the group's Domestic Violence Program. At the party, the families can reunite with past shelter friends and staff, eat, and take pictures with Santa Claus, among other events. Each mother and child also receives a bag of gifts to place under their tree. The Children's Holiday Party will be held Thursday, Dec. 16. Donations

will be accepted at 421 King Street, Suite 400, Alexandria. Bring donations Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The deadline for having unwrapped gifts delivered or picked up is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 14. Contact Shannon McGregor at 703-746-4911 or e-mail [shannon.mcgregor@alexandriava.gov](mailto:shannon.mcgregor@alexandriava.gov).

#### ONGOING

**Christmas Tree Sale.** The Annual Christmas Tree Sale to benefit the Alexandria Police Youth Camp is in progress. The sale will be ongoing,

weeknights from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and every weekend from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., until they are sold out. The sale is held by the Amtrak Station at 110 Callahan Dr., Alexandria.

#### THURSDAY/DEC. 2

**Talk on Medicare.** Noon to 2 p.m. "Is Your Medicare Part D Prescription Plan Right for You?" Come learn about the changes in Medicare Part D. At Duncan Library Meeting Room, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-228-1700.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 33

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December 7  
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# NEWS

The 35th annual Alexandria Turkey Trot 5-miler kicks off at 10 a.m. outside Cora Kelly Recreation Center on Thanksgiving Day.

Friends and family cheer as runners participate in the annual event.



Turkey Trot 2010

PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/GAZETTE PACKET



Pacers team runners, including 2008 Marine Corps Marathon champion Andrew Dumm, swept the top spots in the 35th annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot benefiting the ALIVE! food bank.

Under dreary skies, a record 4,100 runners took to the streets of Del Ray for the 5-mile race, won by 30-year-old Arlington resident Sean Graham in a time of 0:24:13.8. Alexandrians Frank Devar, 22, and Dumm, 25, finished in 0:24:16.9 and 0:24:21.8 respectively.

Desiree Ficker, 33, won the women's race in 0:29:03.6 followed by hometown favorite Lisa Thomas, 34, in 0:29:44.0 and Erin Swain, 28, in 0:29:49.8.

City Council was represented by Rob Krupicka, 0:34:14.6, Frank Fannon, 0:45:34.3, and Kerry Donley, 0:52:03.8, while ACT executive director John Porter finished in 0:53:52.1 and marathon-a-month runner Brooke Curran came in at 0:35:33.1.

"I feel a bit winded," Curran said moments after crossing the finish line. "It's a great turnout today and it was a great race."

Jason Campbell, 32, won the Doggy Dash in 0:37:19.6 while Steve Sarro, 42, came in at 0:32:35.8 to win the Stroller Dash.

According to ALIVE! representative Mike Oliver, more than 50 boxes of food was collected for the organization.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Councilman Rob Krupicka crosses the finish line in 0:34:14.6.



Councilman Frank Fannon finished in 0:45:34.3.



Brooke Curran and husband Chris and daughters Kate and Caroline.

Sean Graham cross the finish line to win this year's Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot in 0:24:13.8.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



Three front runners turn the corner from Commonwealth Avenue onto E. Linden Street near the half-way point of the race.



Race fans from the Rosemont neighborhood watch and cheer Turkey Trotters near the half-way point. Pictured enjoying his coffee is David Painter along with neighbors Kerry St. Clair, Betty Livingston, Judy Carter and Pam St. Clair.

PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

## LIVING LEGENDS

# Renner's: Committed To Making a Difference

Husband, wife serve community in leadership roles.

In 2008, John Renner proposed to his fellow Rotarians that they present a premiere fund-raising event to raise money for local charities. The event became the annual "Taste for Giving," led by John and Joan Renner and a team of very capable Rotarians, which raised more than \$69,000 over the past two years to help children and the needy in our community. "I told the Club we could do it, and we did," said John Renner. "It was great to see the whole Club come together and work for such a worthy cause."

Both active Rotarians, past Treasurer and past Secretary, they have supported a number of Club efforts. They enjoyed helping foreign visitors learn about Alexandria by opening their Seminary Ridge home to guests and hosting receptions for the Group Study Exchange and Open World programs that help participants from all over the world expand their professional skills and learn about the American people and culture.

The couple received the 2008-2009 Rotarian of the Year award from the Rotary

Club of Alexandria.

For a number of years, John and Joan Renner have epitomized that rare combination of community service and selfless leadership. As chair of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce in 2004, Joan Renner promoted the benefits of Alexandria business. As chair of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria in 2008-2009, she advocated to help qualified, needy T.C. Williams High School seniors receive money for higher education. She now serves on the Board of the Goodwin House Foundation where her parents live.

John Renner is the founder and managing shareholder of Renner and Company, CPA, P.C., one of the largest CPA firms in Alexandria. With a staff of 20, the firm serves a variety of local businesses, individuals, and nonprofit organizations providing tax, audit and accounting services. As CPAs, John and Joan Renner and their firm have provided vital support to a number of Alexandria charities. John Renner has worked to build consensus around important com-



John and Joan Renner

PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

munity issues as a member of the Board of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, KSMET, the Police Foundation, ACVA and First Night, as well as the City of Alexandria Waterfront Committee, the City Manager's Performance Audit Task Force and the City's Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, (BFAAC). They have also promoted the arts through their

service on the Boards of the Alexandria Symphony and the Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

The Renners "serve and have served in many areas in the community," said former delegate Marian Van Landingham. "If you look in charitable campaign literature of the Alexandria area like the Breast Cancer Walk or the Alexandria Symphony Board quite often you will find Joan, John or the Renner & Company logo. Their contacts and influence are wide spread and long standing in the community and region. They share their professional expertise as well with financial management and tax advice for vari-

## The Project

This the 11th in a series of 12 profiles that will appear this year. For more information or to nominate a Legend for next year's program, visit [www.alexandrialegends.com](http://www.alexandrialegends.com).

ous non-profit groups in Alexandria usually on a free or reduced fee basis. Their generosity in terms of time, talent and treasure is vast and brings credit to them and to Renner and Company." In 35 years in public accounting, Renner has helped countless small businesses grow and flourish. Renner and Company is known for its service to the community.

In 2008, Renner was named "Super CPA" by the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants. "I appreciate being recognized by the profession and I believe in the importance of giving back to your profession and your community," John Renner said.

"We love Alexandria and we enjoy doing our best to help our City," Joan Renner said.

"Their generosity in terms of time, talent and treasure is vast."

— Marian Van Landingham

### 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@connectionnews-papers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnews-papers.com), or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) 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

eye2eye  
OPTOMETRY CORNER

**Trunk Show**  
Thursday, Dec. 9 • 2-6 P.M.  
Place: eye2eye Optometry Corner

**Great holiday gifts!**

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## Blacker Friday

Alexandria retailers are closing the books on Black Friday, the traditional shopping blitz that inaugurates the holiday shopping season. So how black was it?

"Compared to last year, we had a tremendous increase," said Virginia Shop owner **Bob Lorenson**. "It was huge, actually."

According to a survey conducted by the National Retail Federation, 212 million shoppers visited store and websites over the Black Friday weekend. That's 17 million more than last year, when the federation's survey indicated about 195 million shoppers hit the stores. People also spent more, according to the survey, forking over an average of \$365 over the course of the weekend. That's up from last year's average of \$343.

"While Black Friday weekend is not always an indicator of holiday season performance, retailers should be encouraged that a focus on value and discretionary gifts has shoppers in the spirit to spend," said **Matthew Shaw**, president of the Washington-based federation. "As retailers look ahead to the first few weeks of December, it will be important for them to keep momentum going with savings and incentives that holiday shoppers simply can't pass up."

## Piggyback Momentum

Commercial property owners, prepare for a higher tax bill. Last week, members of the Alexandria City Council unanimously approved a resolution directing the city manager to prepare a budget that taxes commercial property at a higher rate than residential property. The additional revenue would be specifically earmarked for transportation projects, such as widening the platform at the Eisenhower Metro station and engineering studies for the Van Dorn transit corridor.

"There's a lot of momentum on the City Council for this," said Republican Councilman **Frank Fannon**. "And there's always a lot of give and take in the budget process."

Fannon said he would be willing to support the add-on tax if the tax rate were to remain constant and if spending levels were reduced in city agencies. The trade-off would be that Alexandria residents would see transportation improvements without increasing the burden on homeowners. But the business community is already spoiling for a fight.

"It's not fair to place the burden for transportation improvements on commercial property owners," said **Tina Leone**. "Everybody uses transportation, so why should commercial property owners be forced to pay the bill. It just doesn't make sense."

## Sponsoring the Walk

Since the global financial crisis reshaped the economic climate in Alexandria, many nonprofit leaders have been taking a look at their priorities. One of those is outgoing Campagna Center president **Karen Hughes**.

Why should the Campagna Center divert time and attention from children most in need, Hughes asked, to throw the annual Scottish Walk? That turned out to be a thorny question in a city that loves parades. Fortunately for Hughes, big-money backers were willing to sign up as sponsors. First there's the government of Scotland, which has also requested the first right of refusal to sponsor next year's parade. That handled most of the expenses. But Hughes didn't stop with Scotland. Just last week, she announced a new set of sponsors — the stars of the upcoming big-budget Warner Brothers flick, who are also expected to participate in the 40th annual Scottish Walk.

"Yogi paid his fee to be a sponsor," cracked Hughes last week. "**Bobo** is coming as well."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## BUSINESS

# Combining Strategies for Wellness

## Center offers chiropractic, acupuncture and massage therapy.

BY GALE CURCIO  
GAZETTE PACKET

Pass by the corner of Prince and South Alfred Street and one might notice a small sign for Back to Health Center. The spinal cord as part of the "B" in "Back" might be the first clue that this is a chiropractic office and that it will provide some relief to the body.

Step through those doors, however, and one will realize that this is much more than just another chiropractic office. Patients are greeted first by Winston, Dr. Shara Posner's Boston terrier and then with a big smile and hello from Susana Abello, the receptionist.

There is a cozy waiting area filled with brochures about the latest in treatments and a selection of herbal medicines. Don't expect to spend too much time there, though. Patients are greeted promptly by Posner, acupuncturist Joanie Stewart or one of the massage therapists.

The Back to Health Center is a trusted natural and alternative health center offering a full range of holistic health services. At the Back to Health Center, their mission is simple: "To alleviate pain, facilitate healing and improve our patients' quality of life using the best chiropractic, massage therapy, and acupuncture techniques available."

Their professional staff of highly trained and experienced practitioners are all licensed. They work with clients to address an array of health concerns ranging from muscular-skeletal issues to everyday stress to chronic digestive, respiratory, immune, hormonal and other conditions.

This place was the brainchild of Posner. After finishing her clinical practice, she worked for a brief time in another chiropractic office. After working long hours on hundreds of patients, she thought, "This is insane. If I'm going to work this hard, I'm going to have my own business."

And with that, she started searching for a practice for sale. She found one in Old Town, Alexandria and opened the doors of Back to Health Center.

"I wanted more of the boutique style and good patient rapport," said Posner. "No matter what you're coming in for, you will feel much more at ease."

**THE FIRST SPACE**, located at 1217 Prince Street, was so tiny that two people walking down the same hallway would have to turn sideways to pass each other.

Two years later, she found the larger space down the street and was able to implement her dream of opening a wellness center.

"This dream of mine was to open up to people who are adverse to chiropractic medicine and wouldn't normally



**Dr. Shara Posner and acupuncturist Joanie Stewart in front of Back to Health Center.**

come to a chiropractor," said Posner. "The reason that I got turned onto this [practice] is that you can have somebody come into the office bent over in pain and have them walking out of the office, high-fiving me. It's very rewarding."

Some of the most interesting patients that Posner worked with were at the free AIDS Clinic in New Haven, Conn.

"Many of them had lost so much weight and had muscular and skeletal pain," said Posner. "It was one of the more rewarding jobs."

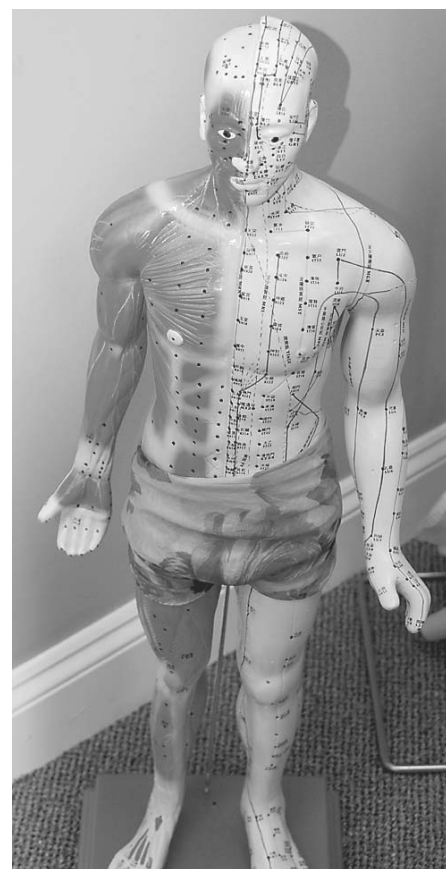
Posner entered the University of Maryland as a College Park Scholar and graduated with a bachelor's of science in kinesiology. While pursuing this degree she interned with a local chiropractor in Virginia and found her true calling. She was accepted at the University of Bridgeport, where she graduated Magna cum laude with her doctorate of chiropractic; she concurrently obtained her master's of science in nutrition.

Her postgraduate studies resulted in obtaining a certification in applied kinesiology. Posner is certified in veterinary osteopathic manipulation; board qualified in medical thermology for neuromuscular analysis; and was voted by her patients as The Best of Alexandria for 2007.

Posner has a way of putting people at ease: When a patient tenses up waiting for that infamous "crack," she distracts them by telling them to wiggle

their toes so that they don't even realize that they've been adjusted.

Tina Leone, Alexandria Chamber President and CEO,



**This model of the human body shows all the trigger points in the body.**

PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/GAZETTE PACKET

SEE COMBINING CHIROPRACTIC, PAGE 34



**Mayor Euille and "wish child" Shannon watch as the 10,000 bulbs on the holiday tree light up.**



**The Metropolitan Fine Arts Center performs "Santa Frosty Follies."**



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

# Tree-Lighting



**Santa and "wish child" Shannon wave at the audience.**

**M**arket Square was bursting with residents eagerly awaiting the annual Holiday Tree lighting on Friday, Nov. 26. Mayor Bill Euille gave thanks to The Christmas Attic and Make a Wish Foundation, TC Williams High School Key Club, vocalist Linda Hemphill and sign language interpreter Jayne Tubergen, the staff of the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities office of special events and the General Services staff, tree donors Bob and Gail Scheller of Woodbridge, Va. and the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center.

The Mayor was joined by Make a Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic "wish child" Shannon in the lighting of the holiday tree.



**Hundreds of children and their families line up to get a closer glimpse of the arrival of Santa Claus. This year Santa was reported to arrive at City Hall by trolley.**



**Members of the Potomac Harmony Chorus sing next to the fallen holiday tree in Market Square.**

## And the Show Goes on ...

**M**embers and fans of the Potomac Harmony Chorus are relieved that the 40-foot tall holiday tree that toppled over Saturday, Nov. 27, during high winds in Alexandria's Market Square spared the 33 performers who were singing next to it.

Invited to open Alexandria's 2010 Holiday Concert series, the group started singing from their songbooks shortly after 1 p.m.

Braving gusty winds in warm coats and festive holiday scarves, the singers temporarily scattered as the holiday tree made creaking noises, then fell onto the ground where — a few seconds prior — some of the singers had been standing.

"I heard a cracking sound and ran out of the way as the tree fell down where I was standing," said singer Gloria Hurdle.

The seasoned singers of the all-female chorus are used to performing in all kinds of venues: from show stages to shopping malls to seasonal gatherings such as Saturday's outdoor concert in Old Town .

"So first we confirmed that no one was seriously hurt, other than a few bumps and bruises," said Janell Tuttle, Potomac Harmony's president. "And then we finished singing for the audience — which at that point included paramedics and other emergency responders who were so wonderfully quick to arrive."

The 80-member chorus will entertain local audiences for the holidays during Light Up Rosslyn on Dec. 2, Ballston Shopping Center's concert series on Dec. 15 and a full-length concert and sing-along to benefit victims of domestic violence and homelessness on Dec. 19 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theater in Arlington.

The schedule and other information about the Potomac Harmony Chorus, including how women ages 13 and up can sing with the a cappella group, is available at [www.PotomacHarmony.org](http://www.PotomacHarmony.org) and on Facebook.

— HARRIET PEARSON, POTOMAC HARMONY CHORUS

## Holiday Safety Net for Celebrating with Alcohol

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

### Safely Home

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

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

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

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

Unfortunately, such tragedy is not rare. In

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Seminary Plaza Solution

To the Editor:

Often when I sit down to write my opinion pieces, if I get writer's block, I get up and look out of my two large picture windows which face the back of Seminary Plaza. Not a great view, but in this case, inspirational. As I pondered possible solutions to the BRAC 133/Mark Center dilemma, I found myself staring a potential one right in the face. An almost empty parking lot.

Not that many years ago, before I moved to my current home, when I came to the Alexandria Professional Center for my yearly mammogram, there were two rows of parking spaces in the most proximate part of the shopping center reserved for medical patrons. That is no more, but the Seminary Plaza lot is still for the most part vacant, particularly in the back, although vigilantly patrolled for towing violations.

But what if some of those empty spaces were rented out to the Army for use by their employees? It would ease the congestion of all the cars having to come off the 395 Seminary Road West exit, and perhaps even reduce the traffic handled at the interchange itself by allowing those approaching from the East and North a means to avoid it. There is a pedestrian bridge making the new buildings just a



**Special Delivery** Chief Deputy Lenny George delivers food to Stephanie Turner-Menson, assistant principal of the James L. and Juliet McNeil Pre-School Academy, Alexandria. On Monday, Nov. 22 and Tuesday, Nov. 23, staff from the Alexandria Sheriffs Office converted an SUV, normally used for transporting prisoners, into a delivery vehicle, making certain turkeys and grocery bags filled with a variety of Thanksgiving trimmings were delivered for those in need.

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

short walk away, and a shuttle could be instituted for the physically challenged and unmotivated.

I moved out of Mark Center earlier this year, partly because the reasons for my leasing there — bucolic setting, ease of ingress and egress — were fast ceasing to exist. For the most part, I have been able to avoid the construction bottlenecks from my location that is just on the other, eastern side of the fence that separates my complex from Seminary Plaza.

“Progress” on the buildings is too far along to make it anything other than delusional and unrealistic to think that they will be unoccupied or demolished, mistake that it was to initiate the project in the first place. I have offered one creative and constructive, pardon the pun, solution; hopefully the citizens of Alexandria, particularly those in the immediately affected area, will come forth with many more before this time next year.

**Karen Ann DeLuca**  
Alexandria

## Progress of Just Change?

To the Editor:

Mr. [Arthur] Peabody’s rationale that the school system’s “new and different” meth-

ods are cause to support a 5 percent increase in the schools system’s budget is absurd. [“Setting the Target,” Gazette Packet, Nov. 17]

There is hardly anything “new” or “different” taking place within ACPS. The programs put forth by the school board and the superintendent are regenerated ideas under new buzzword filled names. The differences, usually measured by unreliable standardized tests, will not be felt for some time to come. What is “new and different” is the approach the school board and the superintendent are taking when implementing changes within ACPS. Changes to the school system are being made rapidly with no oversight (when is the last time Mr. Peabody, or anyone at ACPS Central Office, has spent a full week in one of Alexandria’s schools). The school board and the superintendent make one change, after another, after another and to what effect? The end result seems to be nothing more than a laundry list of items that the school system and superintendent can point to and tell the people of Alexandria “this is what we have given you.” No regard as to whether these changes are good for the school system or not, they are simply “new and different.” So give them some more money they say. Ha! Cut the spending off and see if that creates fiscally sound decisions. I am not sure the school system would keep around nearly as many consultant friends of the superin-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 15

tendent if the City Council were to only allot a 2 percent increase to the school system's budget. The trough of other people's money would shrink and those horses would have to feed elsewhere. Regardless of what the superintendent claims, now is the time to slow down and look at how ACPS is spending taxpayer dollars. Mr. Donley, Mr. Fannon, and others need to take Mr. Peabody, the superintendent, and everyone running the show in ACPS to task over the "progress" they are insisting is taking place in Alexandria's schools. Change is one thing, progress is another.

**Tim Leary**  
Alexandria

### Coverage Appreciated

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Joint Council on International Children's Services, I thank Nicole Macon and the editors of the Gazette for her article "Benefiting Local Charities:

Ten Thousand Villages hosts community-shopping night" in the Nov. 18 edition of the Gazette Packet. As an international non-profit based in Alexandria, we appreciate the time Ms. Macon spent at the event, her interest in our cause and highlighting our service to children via the article.

**Tom DiFilipo**

### Beware of Scams

To The Editor:

Due to high unemployment and a sluggish economy, many people are simply trying to make ends meet. Some of these same people might unknowingly become victims of mail fraud. Many of these scams seem "too good to be true," but people still fall for them. I received a check from overseas winning lottery tickets with a request to send a portion of the money back to cover certain costs. I never played an overseas lottery and was immediately suspicious. I spoke with Sgt. Steve Carr of the Alexandria Police Department's Financial Crime Section concerning the check I received. He said there are many types of scams involving check/mail fraud and suggested that if anyone believes they have been a victim of check/mail fraud, they should call the Alexandria Police Department's non-emergency number 703-838-4444.

**Geri Baldwin**  
Alexandria

### Frankenstein School System?

To the Editor:

The Gazette Packet's recent series on spending and decision making by Alexandria's superintendent, Mort Sherman, outraged many within this city. Yet, emotions and ethics aside,

consultants are part of the Beltway culture. What is a few thousand dollars among friends? Consultants do provide services which may not be available within a department or division and are used in many areas of government. The superintendent himself stated that "it is generally agreed that consultants and use of professional services make countless contributions" to Alexandria's schools. Surely if it is "generally agreed upon," then everyone should tow the party line, focus on the next big initiative within ACPS, and not worry about these consultant costs or the many decisions being made within the city's schools.

Yet, there is a caveat to Mr. Sherman's belief about consultants: consultants only make contributions to education when their services demonstrate a measurable value within the schools. It is this very caveat which is ignored when broad statements like, "it is generally agreed upon," are made in order to support the potentially enormous waste of money on policies, programs, and decisions pushed by administrators like Mr. Sherman. What can be agreed upon in this matter is that the consultants receiving large sums of taxpayer dollars are being brought into Alexandria in order to push a vision. It is this vision, hurriedly and haphazardly generating one initiative after another, which warrants an increased level of scrutiny from our community.

Since being hired over two years ago, Mr. Sherman has implemented many policies, programs, and decisions within Alexandria under

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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**Eileen Marousek 703-507-2350**



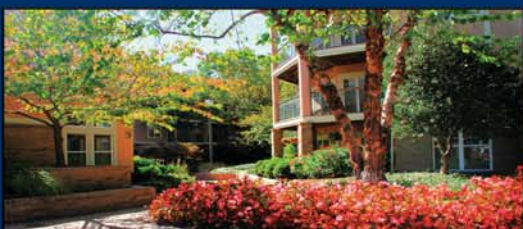
## The Plaza \$285,000

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 16

a system of almost no checks and balances. Programs, such as Habits of Mind and MindUp, run by Mr. Sherman's life-long consultant friends, have become an integral part of Alexandria school's core curriculum. These programs often contain vague goals and promote their ideas as being the magic method which will improve student achievement. Unfortunately these ideas are nothing more than repackaged teaching practices which have already been taking place for years in Alexandria's schools. The only difference now is that consultants are receiving high dollar for pushing their methods and Mr. Sherman is attaching his "brand name" to the "new programs" rushed into schools throughout ACPS.

Part of Mr. Sherman's new brand for Alexandria Schools involves seemingly constant changes to school schedules. Schedules have been changed at the last minute and have been reworked to include such things as "intervention and enrichment time." Good teaching incorporates intervention and enrichment into all subject areas and should not require a mandatory schedule time. Even the names of programs have been changed (apparently Mr. Sherman did not like subjects such as PE and Art being labeled as "specials" under previous schedules and instead they are now referred to as "Encore"). Like the consultant-led programs, these decisions have failed to demonstrate clear measurable value for ACPS

students. Many of the schedules handed down by Mr. Sherman have been rejected by schools and teachers as being ridiculously impractical as transition times between classes and breaks for students are not taken into account. Teachers and parents also complain about the incessant interruptions to the school day schedule due to teachers being out of the classroom for theoretical lectures masked as training. On any given day, walk into a school in ACPS and some percentage of the staff will be out of the building for planning or theory sessions (training). Administrators are not in schools to lead and teachers are not in classes to teach.

Another hallmark to Mr. Sherman's vision is the middle school reorganization. The district's two middle schools, which acted as the two high schools before the building of T.C. Williams, have been split into various campuses. G.W. Middle School has two campuses, while Francis Hammond Middle School has three campuses. A year after Mr. Sherman spent over \$400,000 of federal money to spruce up the landscaping for one of the campuses, and then more money to paint and repaint an entire middle school building, the district's middle schools failed to meet basic state standards for adequate yearly progress. Many parents and teachers at the district's middle schools insist that the same academic and behavior issues exist as before, just now the schools have a number after their name to signify Mr. Sherman's "academy model."

Schedules and the middle schools have not been the only areas to receive a makeover under Mr. Sherman. The district's math and literacy coaching program has been chopped and spliced to resemble something from a Mary Shelley novel. Under the direction of Mr. Sherman, math and literacy coaching positions have been cut, at a time when math and literacy needs continue to rise, in order to implement a new coaching model as envisioned by Mr. Sherman. Mr. Sherman's model spreads math and literacy coaches thinly around the system, in some cases two teachers for 13 schools, and as such is proving to be flawed from the start. Mr. Sherman's model goes directly against research examined by the National Council of Mathematics Specialists. The NCMS found that coaches working in one school are far more effective than coaches working in two or more schools. Alexandria is choosing to ignore these findings in order to create a coaching model where teachers bounce from one school to another, often without creating strong bonds between themselves and teachers and themselves and students, which is critical to ensuring that the coaching model improves student achievement.

Some decisions implemented by Mr. Sherman are so ridden with problems, they may be taking value away from Alexandria's schools. A shining example of this is STAR, the district-wide attendance and grading system. The consultant-controlled program, pushed by Mr. Sherman, has suffered one

major setback after another only two years after its unveiling. The system is fraught with errors and is often missing important information needed by educators and administrators. Recently, the system crashed during a teacher workday, leaving hundreds of teachers unable to enter grades on their assigned grading day, the federally recognized holiday, Veterans Day. The faulty system has also impacted the eligibility process of student athletes and may lead to another fiasco like the one suffered by T.C. Williams's basketball team last season.

Mr. Sherman has been given carte blanche to usher in massive amounts of initiatives, impacting every area of the school system, and no one seems to be asking the question "Are these changes demonstrating measurable value for student achievement?" Revamping the teacher salary and benefit scale, adding 45 minutes to the school day, and instituting an "Individual Achievement Plan" (IAP) for each of the district's projected 13,500 students are just some of the new items on Mr. Sherman's "to do" list. Before these grand ideas are rubber stamped into policy, the City Council, teachers, parents, and the taxpayers of Alexandria must thoroughly examine what is already happening within ACPS. Then the questions of "why" and "how" must be applied to all ideas on Mr. Sherman's list.

Why is an entirely new pay scale being created when minimal changes can be made

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OPINION

# Power of Good Samaritans

BY KATHARINE MEDINA, CAPS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA



Medina

It's a long way from a tiny bamboo cabin deep in the Brazilian jungle to a cozy frame house overlooking a tree-lined Alexandria street. But Laurita\*, 67, can still remember her childhood home, and the difficult path that has taken her from her native Brazil to a new home in a new land.

Now, thanks to some help from volunteers with Rebuilding Together Alexandria, a nonprofit that preserves affordable home ownership, Laurita's house — which now opens its doors to visiting foreign students and young people down on their luck — has a new roof, a safe porch, and other improvements that are helping her continue to live independently in warmth and safety.

COMMENTARY

"I learned there are still good Samaritans in this world," she says, recalling the days when volunteers from First Baptist Church turned her home of 28 years into a beehive of sawing, hammering, and plastering.

When Laurita arrived in the States 43 years ago to work as a nanny, she didn't intend to stay long. "My dream was to earn enough money to buy a home in Brazil," she said. One of 13 children, Laurita was born deep in the thick forests of southeastern Brazil and had a baby deer as a pet.

By age 12, Laurita was working for the town doctor, helping take care of his family. At 27, she decided to look north, saving money and taking English lessons for months to qualify for a job caring for a doctor's family on Long Island, N.Y.

At first, she couldn't imagine staying. "I was so homesick," she remembered. Arriving in the bleak dead of winter, she saw snow for the first time. "The sky was so low and dark all the time, with the blackbirds flying across it. I promised myself never to cry." But one night, after dinner with the family, the tears flowed. Only

the arrival of spring lifted her spirits. As the daffodils bloomed, "I became so happy," she recalled. "I said: 'This is where I want to spend the rest of my life.'"

She moved to New York City, where she rose through the ranks of a cleaning company. She gave up that job to move to Alexandria with her new husband. They ultimately divorced, but Laurita, her son and daughter stayed. "It was very difficult," she said, and it took all kinds of jobs — from being a housecleaner to nanny — to keep up with the mortgage and remain in her home.

Today, Laurita and Baby, a beloved mutt her son brought back from a stay in Brazil, sit on her porch, greeting neighbors. The dog, she says, reminds her a little of that pet baby deer — and the long road she's traveled to the house she can now continue to call home. Contact Rebuilding Together Alexandria if you know of homeowners in need, including elderly, disabled, military veterans and families. If you'd like to volunteer or donate, visit [www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org](http://www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org) or call 703-836-1021.

\* It is Rebuilding Together's policy to not disclose full names.



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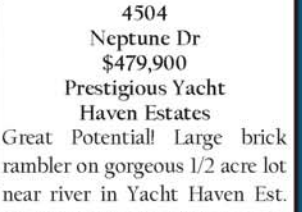
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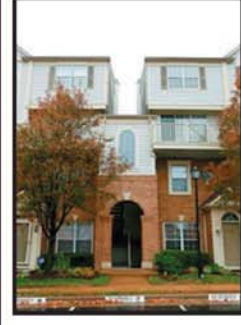
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Quaint bungalow w/ huge fenced back yard on quiet street. Freshly painted & features numerous updates: Energy star windows, refrig, microwave, new flooring thru-out, new granite in kit, new bath vanity & sink, and much more! Near King St Metro & I-395.

**The Kohler Team Heidi 703.609.7367 or Elke 703.967.7633**



**1735 W BRADDOCK PL #303 Alex / \$ 349,000**  
Enjoy a TH lifestyle w/the ease of condo ownership, in highly sought after Kingsgate. 2 lvl living boasting 2 master suites, 2.5BAs, spacious living area w/2-sided fp to dining rm. Open kit w/breakfast bar, private balc, assigned prkg, w/d in unit. All new carpet & paint. Close to Pentagon/DG; walk to Fairlington.

**Kim Muffler 703.282.7739**



**Pat Wilson 703.598.7279**

**YOUR TOY WILL BRING JOY TO A NEEDY TOT!**

Long & Foster® Real Estate, Inc. is an Official Sponsor and Drop-Off Point for New, Unwrapped Toys Going to...

**TOYS FOR TOTS**

Please drop-off NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS to our office at:  
**400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314**  
Toys may be dropped off 7 days a week, between the hours of:  
**9am - 6pm, Monday - Saturday**  
**10am - 5pm, Sunday**  
Long & Foster is proud to be an official sponsor of The Marine Corps Reserves' annual campaign. Please help, your donations will be greatly appreciated.



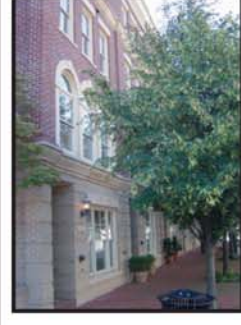
**21 W GLENDALE Rosemont / Alex \$ 1,175,000**  
Remodeled 4 lvl home offers formal LR/DR, wood-burn flpl, gourmet kit w/cherry cabs, center island, custom built-ins. HW flrs thru-out main/2nd lvls. Carpeting on 3rd fl. Wrap-around porch, landscaping & deck. 4BR/4.5BA. Braddock/King St Metro & more!

**Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460**



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

**Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841**



**PRICE REDUCED!**  
**420 JOHN CARLYLE Alex / \$764,900**  
WALK TO METRO from this 3BR/3.5BA end-unit garage TH. 1st floor guest room - 4th fl library, w/ roof-top deck. Hardwood floors on 2nd floor w/LR,DR,FP & gourmet kit w/balcony. King St Metro only 2 blocks.

**Pat Wilson 703.598.7279 Glenn Witucki 703.518.8708**



**306 N ST ASAPH ST Old Town / Alex \$ 535,000**  
3 level brick townhome. 2BR, den & 2 FULL baths. Patio, FP, hardwood, crown molding. Updated kit w/stainless & granite. Off street parking. 3 blocks from King St in the heart of Old Town. Brocketts Crossing.

**Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343**



**5902 MT EAGLE DR #706 Montebello \$ 365,000**  
Feel right at home in this stylish & sophisticated unit. HW floors. W/D in unit. French doors lead to enclosed glass balcony w/ great views. Leave your car in the garage or take community shuttle to Metro or local shopping.

**Virtual Tour: www.susanmovesyou.com Susan Haughton / Mandy Brubaker 571.242.9913**



**6133 MANCHESTER PARK CIR / Alex \$ 550,000**  
UPSCALE- LIGHT & BRIGHT! An immaculate end unit of approx. 2,600 sqft w/9' vaulted ceilings, sunny eat-in kit w/family rm, library/office on main lvl, formal living rm opens onto deck. Huge MstrBR has walk-in closet/soaking tub & double vanity. LL walk-out rec rm w/gas fireplace provides perfect get-away. 2 car garage. Fios access.

**Connie McKeen 703.626.4417**



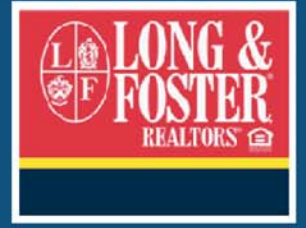
**CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028**

[www.chrisandpeggywhite.com](http://www.chrisandpeggywhite.com)  
[chris.white@longandfoster.com](mailto:chris.white@longandfoster.com)

**400 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA 22314**

**703.683.0400 ~ FAX 703.683.1303**

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



# Del Ray Artisans Fine Art & Craft Holiday Market

**Friday, December 3: 6 - 9pm**

Reception includes hot food  
from Sapore D'Italia Ristorante

**Saturday, December 4: 10am - 6pm**

**Sunday, December 5: Noon - 4pm**



Chester Simpson Photography

## SHOP, DINE & CELEBRATE On Alexandria's Historic Main Streets

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

Dec. 3: **Del Ray Holiday Luminarias**

Dec. 4: **40th Annual Campagna Center  
Scottish Christmas Walk Parade**

Dec. 4: **Holiday Boat Parade of Lights**

Dec. 4: **Christmas in Camp**

Dec. 11&12: **Historic Alexandria  
Candlelight Tours**

Dec. 19: **Holiday Favorites with the Colonial  
Handbell Ringers**

Dec. 31: **First Night Alexandria**



Virginia  
*Alexandria*

VISITALEXANDRIA.VA.COM Mobile Web Ready Site  
703.746.3301



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

New Online Restaurant Reservations Powered By OpenTable

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## OBITUARY

### Ridgely DuPont Kemp

**R**idgely DuPont Kemp, Colonel USAF (RET), died at home on Nov. 22, 2010. He was a resident of Patriots Colony at Williamsburg for the past 14 years.

Col. Kemp was born in Gulfport, Miss., on Dec. 10, 1916, and raised in Casper, Wyo., by his widowed mother. After graduating from Natrona County High School in 1935, he attended the University of Wyoming, graduating from the University of Maryland.

He entered the Army Air Corps as a private in January 1942. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, navigator in April 1943. During WWII he served with the 305th Bomb Group, Chelveston, England, completing 27 B-17 combat missions over occupied Europe. He returned to the US to serve as a navigational instructor in B-29's at Clovis AAF, N.M.

His immediate post war assignments included duty in occupied Germany, at March AFB, Calif. and Lowry AFB, Colo. He served as an intelligence officer in Louisiana, Puerto Rico, and in Kansas as the commander of the 815th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron. In 1955 he was assigned to Air Staff at the Pentagon with the U-2 project, then to the staff of Pacific Air Forces in Hawaii, returning in 1963 to the Pentagon with the Defense Intelligence Agency. In 1967 he served as Air Attaché at the embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark, returning in 1970 to the Defense Intelligence Agency as Assistant Deputy Director of Collections.

Col. Kemp received the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, six Air Medals, the Defense Commendation Medal, AF Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, the Danish Order of the Elephant, Knights Order and several lesser awards.

After serving 31 years he retired in 1972 and settled with his first wife, Elsa, in Novato, Calif. Here, he was active in Sons In Retirement as a charter mem-



**Ridgely DuPont Kemp**

ber of Branch 68 in Novato serving as Big Sir in 1979 and the Marin Area 6 Governor 1986-87. Col. Kemp was a life member of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society and Military Officers Association. He was a member of the Marvelous Marin Breakfast Club, serving as treasurer for 13 years. At his death he was a member of the James City

County Rotary. His most devoted service was to the 305th BG Memorial Association as its president in 1989-90 and annual reunion chairman for 15 years.

After moving to Patriots Colony in 1997, he served one year on the Residents' Council and was active in the publication of the Patriots Press and the residents' photo index. There, he also actively pursued his hobbies of stain glass art and photography.

His first wife, Else Cole Kemp, died in 2003.

In February 2006 he married Beverly Fenton Waitt of Hollis, N.H. He is survived by his wife and two daughters, Nancy Jo Kemp, of Alexandria, and Cynthia Sue Tymoff and her husband, John, of Norfolk, Va., two grandsons, Christopher and Michael Tymoff, great-grandson, Dylan, and great-granddaughters, Dahlia and Stella.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Williamsburg Branch Office, 213 McLaws Circle, Suite 2B, Williamsburg, VA 23185 or The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402.

A memorial service was held on Monday, Nov. 29, at Patriots Colony, Williamsburg, Va. Interment will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.nelsencares.com](http://www.nelsencares.com).



### Helping the Homeless

The students of Grace Episcopal School helped feed the homeless of Alexandria by creating a canned-food "Bountiful Tom Turkey" on Nov. 18. Measuring 28 feet by 32 feet, this turkey-shaped structure was made of boxed and canned foods contributed by Grace Episcopal School families. This outreach project took four hours, with every child from Preschool through Grade Five helping with the construction. More than 350 cans, jars and boxes of food were used in the construction. All of the food was donated to the Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry, which works in conjunction with the Alexandria Department of Human Services to feed Alexandria families in need. For more information on Grace Episcopal School visit [www.graceschoolalex.org](http://www.graceschoolalex.org) or call 703-549-5067.

# HOLIDAY GUIDE



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

## The Nutcracker Is Dec. 2-4

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

## Holiday Concert Series

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

### SUNDAY, DEC. 5

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

### SATURDAY, DEC. 11

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

### SUNDAY, DEC. 12

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

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



Alexandria Harmonizers Holiday Concert at Market Square



PHOTOS/ARI MCSHERRY

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

# 'A Christmas Carol'

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

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE GAZETTE

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

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

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

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

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



'A Christmas Carol'

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The Scottish Connection

The Wanderer looks forward to the Annual Scottish Walk. Since its inception in 1974, he has donned his kilt and marched with his clan proudly among the bagpipes and Scottie dogs. It is a time he is reminded of Alexandria's Scottish sister city, Dundee. The names of our Alexandria ancestors, Ramsey, Carlyle, and Dalton come to mind as he passes each historic corner of Old Town. But after all these years, his tartans are looking tatty. He is in search of new duds for Saturday's big Parade.

# Talk of the Town

Photos by Louise Krafft



### B THE IRISH WALK

Find lovely Celtic gifts, for everyone on your list, as well as a warm hand knit sweaters to ward off winter's chill during our famous holiday parade!  
415 King Street, 703.548.0118, [irishwalk.com](http://irishwalk.com)

### G DECORUM GIFT AND HOME

Become a bonnie hostess in a tartan apron this weekend. The perfect place to find just the right holiday gift, delightful party accessories and dazzling Christmas decorations for your home.  
116 King Street, 703.739.4662, [decoriumhome.com](http://decoriumhome.com)



### C THE DOG PARK

Every dog can deck out in a tartan plaid! Plaid dog collars, festive sweaters and Christmas cookies for your favorite pooch.  
705 King Street, 703.888.2818



### D THE KILTED NATION

Buy one for Saturday's parade, or order one custom fitted in your family's plaid. Their own line of modern style utility kilts were recently featured in the "Dressed to Kilt" fashion show in NYC hosted by none other than Sean Connery!  
115 S. Union Street, 703.330.7072, [kiltednation.com](http://kiltednation.com)

### H OLD TOWN PENDLETON SHOP

It is practically impossible not to say "Pendleton" and "plaid" in the same sentence. This sixth-generation, family owned business carries fine woven woolens for men and women made from fabrics woven in the Pacific Northwest for over 140 years.  
417 King Street, 703.739.2848, [pendleton-usa.com](http://pendleton-usa.com)

### E THE BRITISH PANTRY

Lisa Lasell, a Scottish lass herself, has recently opened the doors to this authentic Scottish market and has filled the shelves with the holidays in mind. Glengoyne single malt whiskey fudge, Edinburgh rock candies, and Walker's Shortbread in almost every shape imaginable imported directly from Scotland.  
110 S. Columbus Street, 793.548.1173, [thebritishpantry.us](http://thebritishpantry.us)



### F ENCHANTED FLORIST

"Heather Central" for 30 years. Lush heather wreaths, trees adorned with heather, gorgeous bunches for your favorite vase, or simple "pin-on" sprigs for men and women perfect to wear for The Walk.  
139 S. Fairfax Street, 703.549.0012, [enchantedfloristoldtown.com](http://enchantedfloristoldtown.com)

### A THE SCOTTISH MERCHANT

The most complete selection of fine Scottish regalia available. An abundance of tartan scarves, tartan ties, and clan crest plaques amidst a selection of kilts and formal wear that can be custom fitted and ordered in your clan's tartan. A great music selection that includes local artists, books on all matters of Scottish interest (including whiskey and golf of course).  
Where else can you buy bagpipes?  
215 King Street, 703.739.2302, [scottishmerchant.com](http://scottishmerchant.com)



# HOLIDAY GUIDE

## NOW THROUGH JAN. 6, 2011

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

## NOW THROUGH DEC. 19

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

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

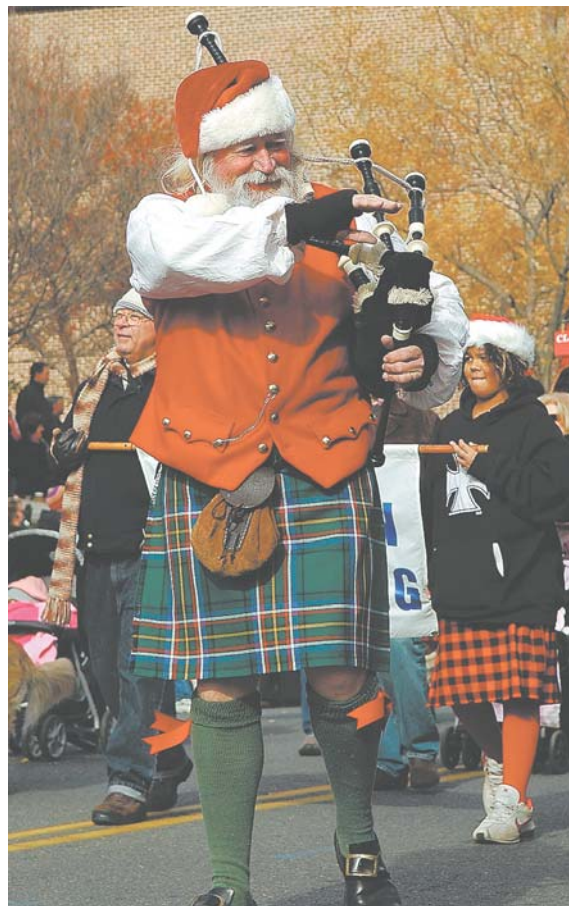
## THURSDAY/DEC. 2

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

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

## DEC. 2, 3, 4

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



**Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend.**



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

## Candlelight tours at Gunston Hall

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

## FRIDAY/DEC. 3

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

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

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

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

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

## DEC. 3 TO 4

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

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

## DEC. 3 TO 5

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

SEE HOLIDAY GUIDE, PAGE 26

Join  
**Spartans & Olympians**  
Family Restaurants  
along with the

**PAJAMA PROGRAM**

to help provide comfort  
& love to children-in-need  
We are collecting  
NEW pajamas of all sizes  
Drop off are at either of our locations

**Spartans**  
Family Restaurant  
9542 Burke Road  
Burke, VA 22015  
703-503-5800

**Olympians**  
Family Restaurant  
6430 Landsdowne Center  
Beulah Street  
Alexandria, VA 22315  
703-550-5003

SALE

WE HAVE RETURNED

Quality French Antiques and Art

Micheline's Antiques

- European Paintings
- Lithographs Posters
- Furniture, Chandeliers
- Barbotines, Lamps, etc.

OUR NEW LOCATION

110 South West Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 838-3699 • (703) 256-0950  
[www.micheline.com](http://www.micheline.com)

First Night  
ALEXANDRIA

An Old Town New Year's Eve Party

12•31•10

Second Annual  
Fun Hunt  
starts at  
1:00 pm

Four Spotlight Areas of Entertainment between the Masonic Memorial and the Waterfront featuring one hundred performances beginning at 7:00 pm

Admission badges are available online now through December 21 for just \$15. Children 12 and under, and active military are FREE (Dec. 31 pick-up only)

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

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

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ DECEMBER 2-8, 2010 ♦ 25





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

*Continuing the Tradition...*

Friday, Dec. 3 – Saturday, Dec. 4

*A Christmas Marketplace*

Friday, Dec. 3 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

*Taste of Scotland*

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

*Scottish Walk Parade*

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

*Designer Tour of Homes*

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

*More Activities*

Heather and Greens Sale • Children's Tea



Presented in Partnership  
with The Scottish Government

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



Join Us Friday at  
The George Washington Masonic Memorial!



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

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

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

**Weekend events are Metro-accessible.**

## HOLIDAY GUIDE

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

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

**DEC. 3 TO 12**

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

**SATURDAY/DEC. 4**

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

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

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

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

**Concert with Ars Choralis.** 7 p.m. The concert features a candlelight procession, Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria, A Carol Suite by modern English composer Karl Jenkins, favorites including "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and an audience sing-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

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# HOLIDAY GUIDE

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programs for children and women. At Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-360-9546.

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

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

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

**Alexandria Harmonizers Holiday Dinner Theater.** 12:30 p.m. only. (Note: 6 p.m. sold out). Favorite seasonal songs leading up to the Number One Song of All Time, featuring the Alexandria Harmonizers Chorus, quartets, and ensembles. Singing waiters serve a family meal with Santa — lasagna, string beans, salad, rolls, beverage, and cookies. Plenty of caroling and audience participation. Admission: Adults - \$27; Senior & Group - \$22; Child 6-12 - \$13; 5 & under - Free, ticket required. At First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King Street, Alexandria. Call 703-910-4600 or order online at [www.harmonizers.org](http://www.harmonizers.org).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MONDAY/DEC. 6

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

**Advent Benefit Concert.** 7:30 p.m. A benefit concert for the Daughters of St. Paul. A relaxing and prayerful evening of classical and sacred music with concert pianist Donna Stoering and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra violist, Erin Nolan, a postulant with the Daughters of St. Paul. Music by Chopin, Faure, Rachmaninov and Schubert. Free-will offering will be collected to support the mission of the Daughters of St. Paul. Call 703-549-3806. At St. Mary's Lyceum, 313 Duke Street, Old Town, Alexandria.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

## Old Town Walled Garden Club Holiday Contest

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

### DEC. 9-11

**"A Christmas Carol."** Admission is \$10/adults; \$7/students or seniors. Family rates of \$30 for 4 or more. Presented by the Mount Vernon High School drama department. Dec. 9, 10 and 11. At the Little Theater, Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria. For details, go to [eademarco@fcps.edu](mailto:eademarco@fcps.edu) or 703-619-3259. Group sales contact Jeanette Kraynak at 703-619-9069.

### 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](http://AlexandriaVA.com).

**Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser.** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Free. Hosted by Jefferson-Houston K-8 School. Come to relax, have fun. Donations are greatly appreciated. At 1501 Cameron St., Alexandria.

**Pre-Kwanzaa Program.** Free. Learn about the principles of Kwanzaa, a seven-day cultural celebration that begins Dec. 26 and ends Jan. 1, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Brian Sales, who studied with Kwanzaa founder Dr. Maulana Karenga, will instruct participants in the basic history of Kwanzaa, provide advice on celebrating Kwanzaa at home, and perform a traditional Libation Ceremony. Call 703-746-4356 or visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).

**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](http://www.gunstonhall.org).

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# Ars Choralis

Douglas A. Beck, Music Director

## Candlelight Christmas Concert

including Carols, sing-along  
& Vivaldi's *Gloria*

Saturday, December 4 at 7 p.m.

St. Paul's Old Town  
228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria

Info: 703-549-3312

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December 4 & 5  
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### GEORGETOWN DECEMBER 9

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# HOLIDAY GUIDE

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**Alexandria Harmonizers Holiday Concert.** 2 p.m. Free. Celebrate the holidays with this free concert of 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](http://www.harmonizers.org)

**“Christmas in Camp.”** Noon to 4 p.m. This family holiday event interprets how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. Features a patriotic Santa Claus, living history presentations, Victorian decorations, refreshments, tours and crafts. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road in Alexandria. Call the Museum at 703-746-4848 or visit [www.fortward.org](http://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.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 12

**Christmas Candlelight Service.** 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:40 p.m. for instrumental prelude. Entitled “Sing Noel,” this Christmas celebration will feature readers, the APC Adult and Children’s choirs, instrumentalists, and congregational carol singing by candlelight. Childcare will be provided, including special activities for kids through age six. A Christmas reception will follow immediately after the service. Alexandria Presbyterian Church is at 2405 Russell Road in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. Contact: 703-683-3348, [www.alexandriapres.org](http://www.alexandriapres.org).

**Interactive Nativity Pageant.** 2 to 4 p.m. The pageant will feature live animals, including sheep and a donkey. Christmas cookies and hot chocolate will be served in the church’s community room. Opportunities for worship, Bible study, youth activities, grief counseling and healing are offered throughout the week. At St. Andrew & St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Catholic Church, 402 E. Monroe Ave., in the Del Ray area of Alexandria. Visit [www.standrewandstmargaret.org](http://www.standrewandstmargaret.org) or call 703-683-3343.

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

**Air Force Brass Quintet.** 3 p.m. Free. Performs with the Seika Girls High School Wind Orchestra. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit our homepage: [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil)

**Children’s Holiday Concert.** 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25, includes post-concert candy reception. “The Nutcracker Suite” with conductor Kim Allen Kluge and the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. At St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0885 or visit <http://www.alexsym.org>.

### DEC. 12-14

**Journey to Bethlehem.** Free. 6 to 8 p.m. Guided tours through the “City of Bethlehem” on the front lawn of Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, at the corner of Collingwood and Fort Hunt roads in the Mt. Vernon area of Alexandria.

Call 703-765-6555 or visit [www.aldersgate.net](http://www.aldersgate.net).

### 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](http://www.AlexandriaSingers.com) or 703-941-SING (7464).

### SUNDAY/DEC. 19

**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](http://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](http://www.FirstNightAlexandria.org).

## The Royal Restaurant

(now smoke free)

“What’s for Dinner?!”

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

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

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

#### Monday - Kids Night

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

#### Tuesday - Greek Night

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

#### Wednesday - All American Night

Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham

#### Thursday - Italian Night

Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

#### Friday - Fish Night

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

#### Saturday -Steak and Chop Night

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

#### Sunday

Brunch served 7am - 2pm

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

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

Ample Free Parking

ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
presents  
the 2010 Holiday Concerts

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

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

**Sunday, December 12 2:30pm**  
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church  
228 S Pitt St  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
**TICKETS:** \$25 General Admission  
includes post-concert candy reception  
in the Parish Hall

[www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) 703-548-0885

# FINE ARTS

## THURSDAY/DEC. 2

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

## NOW THROUGH JAN. 3

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



## NOW THROUGH DEC. 19

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

## DEC. 1 TO 24

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

## NOW THROUGH MAY 1, 2011

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

## NOW 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, Alexandria. 703-548-6288 or visit [www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope](http://www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope).

## NOW 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.

## CALENDAR

### THURSDAY/DEC. 2

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

### FRIDAY/DEC. 3

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

### DEC. 3 TO 5

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

### SATURDAY/DEC. 4

**Author Gerald A. Spence.** 1 to 3 p.m. Book signing and talk

[www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## DEC. 2 THROUGH JAN. 2

**Metalwork 2010.** Free. Metalwork 2010 is the Washington Guild of Goldsmiths (WGG) biennial show and sale to exhibit their members' work. Holiday Open House on Dec. 2 from 6-9 p.m. Reception to meet the artists on Dec. 9 from 6-9 p.m. At the Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Old Town Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) or call 703-838-4565.

## 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.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 9

**Second Thursday Art Night.** 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Browse open studios, interact with artists, enjoy live music and refreshments. Meet the artists at Metalwork '10 in Target Gallery. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org); 703-838-4565.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 11

**Women of Courage.** 4 to 7 p.m. The Art and Stories of Entrepreneur Artists and Change Makers. A multicultural celebration of art, music and entrepreneurship. Meet Empowered Women International's 12 graduates from the 2010 Entrepreneur Training for Success program; learn about their new businesses, art and journeys, and celebrate EWI's empowering work in the community. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria.

## 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. 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](http://www.GreenSpring.org).

about The War: 361 days, 12 hours and 27 minutes in Vietnam. At Horray for Books, 1555 King Street, Alexandria.

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

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

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

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

**Mediation: The Better Way to Resolve Separation and Divorce Issues.** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Virginia Colin, Ph.D., will tell you how to reduce distress and save large amounts of time and money by using mediation, not litigation. At Kingstowne Library Meeting Room, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call 703-864-2101.

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

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Vicar, The Rev. Huey J Sevier

[www.christthesaviouranglican.org](http://www.christthesaviouranglican.org)  
**703-953-2854**

## Good Shepherd Catholic Church

### Mass Schedule

#### Saturday Evening

5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

#### Sunday

7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon

2:00 pm (en Español)

6:30 pm Mass (starts Sept. 12)

#### Weekdays

(Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English)

**Sign Language Interpreter**

Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

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Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 [www.gs-cc.org](http://www.gs-cc.org)

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# PEOPLE



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Masquerade Ball** Shelly and Jason Stoneman, Angie and Paul Pagnato, Juliette and James McNeil, Holly and David Karp and Maggie Shriver attend Hopkins House's second annual Venetian Masquerade Ball Oct. 30 at Belle Haven Country Club. The event raised \$56,000, according to Hopkins House president Glenn Hopkins.



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Shari Bolouri, Jim Alrige, Don Kellerman, T.J. Fannon and Rick Endres.**

## A Taste for Giving

**I**t was a feast for foodies as more than 350 people turned out Oct. 22 for the third annual Taste for Giving, raising a record \$45,000 for 30 different Alexandria charities.

"It's great to see the community rally around the local charities with one premiere event that benefits so many," said Mayor Bill Euille. "Hotels, restaurants and citizens are all working together to help the community."

Held at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, the event featured cuisine from 20 different restaurants and

wine provided by Delfosse Winery and Vineyards. Patrons shopped the extensive silent auction and auctioneer Gant Redmon (celebrating his birthday) entertained the crowd during the live auction portion of the evening.

"Thank you for coming out to support so many good causes," said Gayle Spurr, president of the Alexandria Rotary Club, the sponsor of the event. "All of tonight's proceeds will greatly benefit our neighbors here at home in Alexandria."

— JEANNE THEISMANN

## Community Day

Zumba dancers perform in front of the U.S. Patent and Trade Office during the Diverse Universe Community Day 2010, during the summer.



PHOTO BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS / GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/GAZETTE PACKET

## Hawaiian Luau

The children of Hope United Church of Christ dance on stage with the Halau Ho'omau I ka Wai Ola O Hawai'i Cultural School during a luau on Sept. 18.



**Mary and Steve Wharton and Rosanne Marion.**



PHOTO BY "MANGO" MIKE ANDERSON

**Tatiana Satorre-Tate, Eve Armstrong and Tara McMahon** serve coconut cakes from Majestic Restaurant.

## BUSINESS

# In Food, These Three Businesses Find Their Niche

New casual eateries settle in Old Town.

BY NICOLE MACON  
GAZETTE PACKET

Several casual eateries have opened in Old Town Alexandria, catering to tourists and locals alike with their particular cuisine of choice.

The Burger Joint opened its Alexandria branch on the corner of King Street and North Washington Street August of last year. Owner Mark Bucher decided to expand into Old Town because there were many tourists in the area, but not many burger restaurants to accommodate them, said Darwin Higdon, supervisor at Burger Joint since the restaurant's opening.

Entering The Burger Joint is like stepping into a time machine back to the 1980s — posters of Men at Work and the B-52s adorn the walls, while lunch boxes with G.I. Joe, Knight Rider, and the Dukes of Hazzard are displayed in the back. Higdon said that this era was chosen as the restaurant's theme due to the burger's popularity in the 1980s.

The Burger Joint features The 9 Pounder, a burger that actually weighs about 15 pounds including the bun and condiments. If one person is able to eat the burger meant for about 10 to 15 people, then the burger is free.

Andrew Saadeh, supervisor, recalls one customer ordered it for himself as a reward on Father's Day. He was only able to eat some of the burger, but said that the experience was worth it.

**RED ROCKS** — Pizza Napoletana opened its Alexandria branch in August of this year and specializes in Neapolitan-style pizza cooked in a wood-fired oven.

Waiter Bryan Penn, on staff since the restaurant's opening, said that part of Red Rock's success is its quality, fresh ingredi-



**Burger Joint opened its Alexandria branch August 2009 on the busy King Street and North Washington Street intersections.**

ents and seasonal products. "If you have a good product, your business will succeed," he said.

Penn, a finance major at George Washington University and Alexandria resident for two years, said that being part of the "Beltway bubble" has also helped new businesses such as Red Rocks succeed, as there is "still money in [the Washington] area."

Red Rocks not only serves brunch, lunch, and dinner, there is also a late night bar crowd. The full service bar offers wine by the glass and seasonal drinks. "We just switched over to Winter Ale," Penn said.

**ADNAN HAMIDI** and Kathy Taylor put a local spin on the cupcake trend when they opened Alexandria Cupcake in January of this year. The cozy bakery offers classic flavors like vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry, and a selection of gluten-free cupcakes.

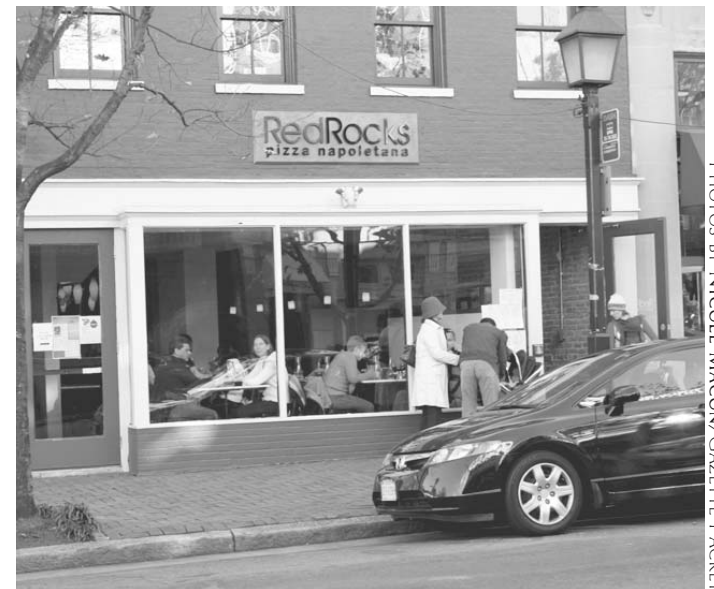
Alexandria Cupcake's success exceeded Hamidi's and Taylor's expectations. The bakery's location on King Street and near

Route 1 brings in tourists, residents, and commuters alike. "There are lots of regulars," Hamidi said.

"Business is primarily driven by foot traffic," Hamidi said. "On Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, there are lines out of the store." Hamidi encourages customers to call in with their orders during those times.

Hamidi gives back to the business community that has been so helpful to him by promoting a new business at Alexandria Cupcake once a month. "You want to become friends with the businesses next to you," Hamidi said. "In the end, it's helpful [to Alexandria Cupcake]."

Hamidi and Taylor plan to open two additional locations, with at least one in Alexandria. The new locations will have a sit-down area and an expanded menu with 22 different flavors of cupcakes, coffee, and chocolates.



**Red Rocks - Pizza Napoletana is a local chain restaurant that serves classic Neapolitan-inspired pizza, and also has late-night service.**



**Alexandria Cupcake opened in January of this year and has a contemporary, minimalist style to accompany its classic cupcakes.**

## Del Ray: A Neighborhood Haven for Creativity

BY NICOLE MACON  
GAZETTE PACKET

Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray is a place of quirky restaurants and cafes, small locally run stores and area chain stores. Internet firms have been drawn to this creative place and have set up shop on this main street in Del Ray.

Dr. Marilyn Finnemore, CEO and president of Mind and Media, Inc., a media strategy firm, relocated to the 2000 block of Mt. Vernon Avenue from Arlington 13 years ago not only to reduce her commute (her town home is only four blocks away), but because of the strong sense of place in the neighborhood.

Finnemore explains in her blog, <http://www.importanceofplace.com/> her philosophy on place and community and how important it is to live in a space that is both friendly and inviting.

Interactive design and development firm Bean Creative established themselves in Del Ray not only because of the neighborhood, but also because of its convenience to Washington and nearby metro station. "Del Ray is central to both our local and non-local clients," said Layla Masri, president of Bean Creative.

Bean Creative first moved to Del Ray as the neighborhood was establishing itself as a creative place. "We have seen the neighborhood grow and we are happy to be a part of that growth," Masri said.

Internet search engine marketing firm Silverback Strategies moved from a 4-story

complex in Old Town to the 2200 block of Mt. Vernon Avenue eight months ago because "it was difficult to capture an audience and create a local brand in an office setting," President and CEO Neil Welsh said.

Because residences are not far from Mt. Vernon Avenue, there is a lot of foot traffic on this street, which has increased Silverback Strategies's exposure. Moving to Del Ray has helped the company "transition from a strong online presence into a strong local and neighborhood one," Welsh said.

"There is a great support system [for businesses] in Del Ray," Welsh said. The neighborhood "supports creative aspects of new businesses and is more conducive [to new businesses] than other neighborhoods."

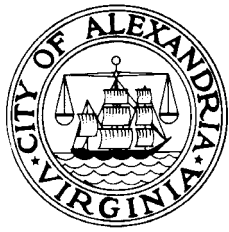
Del Ray's annual Arts on the Avenue has

brought in many creative people and has "helped re-brand Del Ray as a creative hub," Finnemore said. These media firms also give back to the community by supporting local businesses. Masri loves to take clients to local restaurants: "Clients are excited to visit us."

"Because most employees live in the area, they got to the local restaurants and also buy locally," Finnemore said.

Bean Creative and Silverback Strategies have both interacted with other media organizations in Del Ray to build partnerships. Neighbor Forum One Communications reached out to Welsh, and they are in talks about joint opportunities. Bean Creative has worked with local agency Bremmer & Goris Communications on projects.

Legal Notices



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 15, 2010 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2010-0326

Request for demolition of storefront at 719 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.  
APPLICANT: 719 King St LLC

CASE BAR2010-0329

Request for new storefront and awning and rear door alterations at 719 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.  
APPLICANT: 719 King St LLC

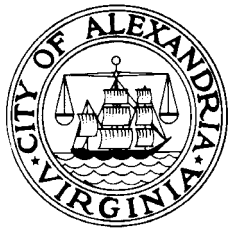
CASE BAR2010-0325

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

CASE BAR2010-0345

Request to enclose an attached shed at 819 Prince St, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Carol Corillon

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



ALEXANDRIA PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The following requests have been received for administrative review and approval.

The Director of Planning and Zoning may approve the permits unless a request that the application be forwarded to City Council is received by December 27, 2010.

For information about this application or to comment, visit the City's website at alexandriava.gov or call (703) 746-4666.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT # 2010-0080

ADDRESS: 2010 EISENHOWER AVENUE  
REQUEST TO OPERATE A RESTAURANT  
APPLICANT: JIAN LIU

SPECIAL USE PERMIT # 2010-0081

ADDRESS: 205 EAST HOWELL AVENUE  
REQUEST TO OPERATE A RESTAURANT  
APPLICANT: JANOW, LLC

Legal Notices

ANNOUNCEMENT TO

General Medical Patients of the Alexandria Health Department Casey Health Center

This public notice is being made in accordance with Code of Virginia, §54.1-2405, with regards to the transfer of medical records in conjunction with the closure of a medical practice.

Effective January 3, 2011, the Alexandria Health Department is transferring the provision of primary medical care services to Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. (ANHSI). ANHSI will continue to provide medical care at Casey Health Center at 1200 N. Howard Street (and at their other locations).

The Casey Health Center will remain open and Alexandria patients will still be able to obtain their medical care at Casey Health Center.

With this change, patients have three options:

- 1) Continue to receive care at the Casey Health Center from Dr. Truong.
- 2) Transfer medical care to another ANHSI physician at 2 East Glebe Road in Alexandria if that is more convenient. ANHSI will set up appointments; please call 703.535.5568.
- 3) Transfer medical care to another healthcare provider or medical clinic of the patient's choice.

For all of these options, patients will sign papers directing the Alexandria Health Department to send medical records to the healthcare provider/clinic of the patient's choice. Patients are asked to call Medical Records at 703.746.4880 or come to Casey Health Center to arrange the transfer of records.

There will be no charge to patients for copying and sending one copy of their medical records to the healthcare provider or medical clinic of their choice.

Patients may contact ANHSI (703.535.5568) to make an appointment at Casey Health Center or at another ANHSI site.

\* If you have questions concerning the transfer of medical records, please contact Soledad Araya, Alexandria Health Department Medical Records Supervisor, at 703.746.4880, or visit the Casey Health Center at 1200 N. Howard Street.

\* If you have questions concerning this transition of medical care, please contact Kristin Langlykke, ANHSI Executive Director, at 703.535. 5568, ext 1010, or Dr. Stephen A. Haering, MD, MPH, Director, Alexandria Health Department, at 703.746.4956.

ABC LICENSE

City of Alexandria trading as Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer off premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Liz Williams President

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3003 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Unit at (703) 838-4709.

PEOPLE

Forever Young at Art

Exhibit celebrates artists over age 55.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Artists from across the region gathered at the Durant Arts Center Oct. 14 for the opening reception and awards ceremony of Young At Art, a juried show for artists age 55 or older that is celebrating its 24th year of showcasing works of art created by older adults.

Young At Art is jointly sponsored by the Goodwin House Foundation and Senior Services of Alexandria.

"We are proud to be the organizers of this major art show in the greater Washington Area," noted Jeanne Jacob, Executive Director of the Goodwin House Foundation. "Yet, the Foundation and SSA couldn't do it without our major sponsor, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, and our other partners who provided in-kind organizational support," continued Jacob. Partners of GHF and SSA for the show were: The Art League; Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center; The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program; The Alexandria Commission on Aging; and The Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

Financial supporters for the 2010 Young At Art program and reception included: Busy Buddies; Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Simpson, Sr.; Fiske & Harvey; The Goodhart Group; Redmon, Peyton, & Braswell; Renner and Company; Thomas J. Fannon; Seniors Living Well; and Thomas West Financial Services.

"No juried art show could be undertaken without having an expert in the field to judge the entries," said Janet Barnett, Executive Director of Senior Services of Alexandria. "This year, Alexandria's own Carol Lukitsch served as the juror, selecting the 64 pieces of art for the exhibit."

Young At Art features works by teachers, professionals and amateurs and all mediums are represented: Oil, acrylic, water color, digital composition, photo print, silver gelatin print, enamel on steel, fiber, wood sculpture, paint on silk, pastels, color pencil and mix media.



John Renner, center, congratulates some of the participating artists at the Young at Art opening reception.

JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



Artist Wilda Gazik, right, discusses her technique with childhood friend Kay Sperrazzo. Gazik's painting was done in memory of Sperrazzo's husband.

JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

"It was such a pleasure to do this," Lukitsch said. "But actually awarding the prizes was daunting. It was a very difficult decision."

The Young At Art exhibit will remain at the Durant Arts Center through Jan. 20, 2011. Many pieces of art are for sale by the artists. For information regarding the Durant Center's hours of operation, call 703-519-3494.

Winners

- First Place: Olene Albertson, "Window Shopping in Old Town;"
  - Second Place: Nilo Santiago, "Catalina, My Mother;"
  - Third Place: Richard Wyvill, "Sunny Day Near Manassas."
- Honorable Mentions went to: Larissa Tung-Berry, Barbara Eisenstein, Phyllis G. Sidorsky, Ted Mackechnie and Nina Tisara.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 18

to the existing scale? How will teachers be professionally evaluated in order to advance within the school system? Why, when research shows that significantly increasing instruction time in schools (not simply a feel good additional 45 minutes) does not demonstrate clear measurable value to student achievement, is this time being added on to the school days of Alexandria's students? How would the extended school day impact after-school programs, clubs, sports, jobs, family time, the cost of paying teachers, and the development of young students (many of whom can not

physically last through a 7-hour school day)? Why would an IAP (formerly an intervention plan now under a new Sherman-created-name) be any more effective at increasing student achievement than what is already taking place in Alexandria's schools? How is a non-binding "individual" plan logistically and economically feasible for 13,500 students? After all, a Virginia Department of Education audit found ACPS to be out of compliance with their legally binding Individual Education Plans (IEP) for special education students.

Only a thorough examination and questioning of proposed and existing policies, programs, and

decisions within ACPS is going to appease those who are outraged at what is taking place. For the past two years the citizens of Alexandria have watched this celebrity studded, consultant billed, shameful song and dance routine unfold. It is now clear that the song is poorly composed, the dance has too many missteps, and the vision is not one for Alexandria. Just as the citizens around Jefferson Houston were quick to rebuke Mr. Sherman's vision for that school, all of Alexandria's citizens must step up to the podium to question his vision for the entire school system.

Al Whitehead  
Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA  
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# Is City Friendly or Hostile to Business?

FROM PAGE 8

found dealing with City Hall difficult is Michael Zarlenga, owner of the now defunct Trophy Room. To expand the space of his historic building, Zarlenga planned to conduct a partial demolition on the backside of his building. After spending time applying for all the necessary permits, his proposal was denied by the Board of Architectural Review. He later leased the building to a retailer that now sells pornography on King Street.

"These people can have several meetings with staff and sink a lot of money in hiring architects before they realize that their plans will never be approved," said Councilman Paul Smedberg, who was the only member of City Council to vote in favor of Zarlenga's appeal. "I think we often set up an expectation that isn't fair, and that's what happened with Zarlenga's proposal."

**THE MAZE** of bureaucracy at City Hall has long been a concern in the business community. When Mayor Bill Euille appointed a blue-ribbon panel to examine the city's economic climate three years ago, the permitting process became one of the items targeted for improvement. During a 2007

presentation at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, Capital One founder Nigel Morris used a photograph of spaghetti during a PowerPoint presentation as a metaphor for the disjointed nature of city government. Since that time, the city has created a multi-agency permitting center at City Hall that pulls together code enforcement, urban planners, environmental inspectors and financial officers in a fourth-floor office at City Hall.

"People would come here for something that should have taken a few hours but they ended up staying a day or more," said John Catlett, director of the city's Building and Fire Code Administration. "Opening the one-stop permitting center was a way of looking at how we could better align our services to get people in and out as quickly as possible."

**MORE NEEDS** to be done, according to business owners who remain frustrated with City Hall. Winer said his biggest frustration with the city was what he described as "an attitude" that Alexandria plays by its own rules and those who want to do business should either fall in line or leave town. For example, Winer said, Alexandria is the only

city he's ever done business in where his annual business license is tied to how much money he pulls in each year. Then there are the endless parade of consultants.

"In the decade we've been doing business here, we've seen the city spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on studies," he said. "But none of it ever gets implemented."

City officials bristle at that suggestion, citing the opening of National Harbor as an example of a situation where the Alexandria government recognized potential problems and took action to prevent disaster. To prepare for the opening of the 300-acre "waterfront destination," city leaders approved a new water taxi to ferry passengers back and forth and created a new rubber-tire trolley service that operates from the river to the rails.

"There's a near universal consensus that we've seen an overall benefit from the opening of National Harbor," said Deputy City

Manager Mark Jinks. "The King Street Trolley is the most significant development for tourism in Alexandria in the last decade."

**WINER SAYS** he expects other retailers to decide Alexandria just isn't worth the hassle, preferring other regional opportunities such as Pentagon Row in Arlington or National Harbor in Prince George's County.

And even though City Hall has the new one-stop permitting center, its reputation for being a difficult place to do business continues to fester. Yet the city's economic development leaders say the city remains economically viable even during the current downturn.

"Anytime we lose a store, we are concerned," said Val Hawkins, president of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. "But National Harbor has been trying to recruit our retailers for years and this is the first one to go, so we don't see it as a trend."

**"I wouldn't say this is the beginning of a trend. I would say this is the middle or perhaps the end of the trend."**

— Jay Winer, owner of Artcrafters

## Freedom of Information Advisory Council on Cut List

FROM PAGE 8

ing the panel is that citizens can recoup attorney's fees in FOIA litigation. Yet supporters of the council say that approach overlooks one of the central goals of the panel, which is to prevent lawsuits from being filed in the first place. In the absence of such an impartial arbiter, Virginians could end up with a process that's more expensive than the current model because of the increase in litigation costs. Members of the General Assembly would also approach legislation without having it vetted by the council first.

"We would end up with a hodgepodge of changes to FOIA, some good and others not so good," said Megan Rhyne, executive director of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government. "There would be no forum for discussion of those issues anymore."

**THE COUNCIL WAS** established by the 2000 session of the General Assembly as an advisory council in the legislative branch

of state government to encourage and facilitate compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Members of the council play a significant role in the legislative process, vetting potential legislation and making recommendations to lawmakers. They also conduct training seminars and educational programs on the requirements of open-records law in Virginia.

"Serving as an ombudsman, the council is a resource for the public, representatives of state and local governments, and members of the media," according to the panel's most recent annual report. "The council serves as a forum for the discussion, study and resolution of FOIA and related public access issues and is known for its application of sound public policy to resolves disputes and clarify ambiguities in the law."

The council has 12 members, including one member of the state Senate and one member of the House of Delegates. Other members include representatives of local governments, members of the media and

**Craig Fifer chats with Megan Rhyne before a meeting of the Virginia Freedom of Information Council subcommittee in October.**



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

the director of the Division of Legislative Services. Fifer said that eliminating the two-person staff of the council would not save much money, especially because one of the two members is already a full-time em-

ployee in her capacity as director of Legislative Services.

"I would hope that members of the commission and the governor would see that this is a bad idea," said Fifer.

### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

**Housing Master Plan Advisory Group Meeting.** From 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Jefferson Houston Elementary School, 1501 Cameron St., in the multipurpose room. The topic is "Design related tools for creating and preserving affordable housing." Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/housingplan](http://www.alexandriava.gov/housingplan) or call the Office of Housing at 703-746-4990.

#### MONDAY/DEC. 6

**Alexandria Democratic Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Meeting at T.C. Williams High School, Cafeteria, 3300 King Street. There will be food at this meeting. Call the Committee Clerk, Mary Lyman at 703-845-1510 or email [MSLyman@verizon.net](mailto:MSLyman@verizon.net).

#### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 8

**Jones Point Park Construction**

**"Pardon Our Dust" Meeting.** 7 to 9 p.m. The Virginia Department of Transportation and Potomac Crossing Consultants, with participation by the Contractor, Lane Construction, and the National Park Service, will host. At the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation).

**St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Open House.** Group tours for prospective Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten parents. This is an

opportunity to tour the Lower School campus, meet administrators and see the faculty in action. Call 703-212-2705. At 400 Fontaine Street, Alexandria.

**Priority Transportation Projects Funding Proposal.** 7 to 9 p.m. This proposal is being developed as part of the FY2012 budget process to identify projects that address Alexandria's most pressing transportation needs. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St.. Visit

[www.alexandriava.gov/TransportationAddOnTax](http://www.alexandriava.gov/TransportationAddOnTax) or call 703-746-4025.

**Virginia Tech Speaker Series.** Free. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Casey Dawkins, associate professor, urban affairs and planning, and director, Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech will present "Exploring the Spatial Distribution of Low Income Housing Tax Credits." At the Virginia Tech Alexandria Center, 1021 Prince Street, Room 305. Contact Ralph Buehler, 703-706-8104, or [ralphbu@vt.edu](mailto:ralphbu@vt.edu).



# Combining Chiropractic, Acupuncture and Massage Therapy

FROM PAGE 12

said, “I really like Shara for her no-nonsense approach to chiropractic care and the consideration she has for your time—appointments run on time and adjustments are methodical and swift. And you can see her on Saturdays.”

Posner treats individuals with all sorts of joint functions — joint pain; neck pain; low back pain; sciatica; osteoarthritis; spinal disk conditions; carpal tunnel syndrome; tendonitis; and sprains and strains. She also treats conditions such as headaches, allergies, asthma and digestive disorders and has worked on patients from two-weeks old to 87-years old. The baby that she worked on was misaligned coming out of the birth canal. Misalignments such as this can cause colic, ear infections and constipation, she said.

While some patients just come in for a few visits, she also has patients that have been with her since she opened. She has a large referral system with local orthopedic doctors and several of her patients also use the acupuncture and massage services that are offered.

**STEWART IS** the acupuncture physician and doctor of oriental medicine. Stewart most recently worked at the St. Joseph’s/Candler Hospital, Center for WellBeing in Savannah, Ga. Before that Stewart was in



**Dr. Shara Posner uses her fingers to adjust a patient.**



**Acupuncturist Joanie Stewart explains how points in the ear (which resemble an inverted fetus) reflect areas of the body.**

PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO/GAZETTE PACKET

private practice in Sarasota, Fla. where she graduated from the East West College of Natural Medicine. She has worked in both Eastern and Western medicine for more than 20 years and is also trained in cranio sacral therapy; body talk access; and acupuncture for facial rejuvenation.

Most people don’t realize that it requires a five-year post-graduate degree and 2900 hours of training to become board-certified. Stewart became interested in the profession after acupuncture successfully helped her to both quit smoking and relieve chronic neck pain.

“This is traditional Chinese medicine,” she said. “The aim of it is to balance the energy — physically, mentally and emotionally. Most of us are out of balance in some way.”

In addition to pain relief and smoking cessation, Stewart said, acupuncture can also help with many kinds of digestive disorders; respiratory disorders; and urinary, menstrual, and reproductive problems. Acupuncture is particularly useful in resolving physical problems related to tension, stress and emotional conditions, including post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), she added.

Stewart offers acupuncture for facial rejuvenation (sometimes called an “acupuncture facelift”) using the finest gauge needles available.

Stewart has worked on all ages, most recently working with a six-month old baby that had droopy-eye lids. Instead of using needles, she just used her hands to apply “acupressure.”

“I saw results with one visit — there was a slight opening of the eye,” said Stewart.

One of Stewart’s patients, Norman Smith, a firefighter who suffers from hypertension and PTSD, said, “I have never experienced anything like the acupuncture. I didn’t know what to expect but was willing to try anything to lower my blood pressure and deal with the PTSD. My blood pressure went from 170/120 down to 150/100, then down to 140/80. I feel like a new person.”

Stewart has also worked on a 30-year-old woman who is losing weight with acupuncture and herbs; and a 50-year-old who comes once a week for facial rejuvenation.

“It [facial rejuvenation] is not as dramatic as surgery, but it does stimulate the ‘chi’ and blood, to tighten the facial muscles and bring a refreshed look to the skin,” said Stewart.

While treatment will vary from person to person, one or two treatments a week for several weeks may be recommended for complex or long-standing conditions. For acute problems, fewer visits are usually required.

“It’s done in a quiet room with soft music, very relaxing,” said Stewart. “It’s not

for everybody, but it does help a lot of people.”

“Talking about the three practices, Stewart said that chiropractic works on the structural component; acupuncture on the energetic component; and massage therapy on the functional part of the body.”

**BACK TO HEALTH** has four therapists and massage therapy addresses a variety of health conditions, the most prevalent being stress-related tension, which contributes to many health problems.

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Several types of massage are offered at Back to Health Center including: pregnancy massage; deep tissue massage; Swedish massage; reflexology/ foot massage; and Thai Herbal massage.

Back to Health Center is located at 900 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. They can be reached at 703-683-7771 or by visiting [www.justadjustit.com](http://www.justadjustit.com).

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



**Acupuncturist Joanie Stewart works on a patient.**

## BUSINESS NOTES

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

**The Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity**, a national non-profit journalism organization in Alexandria, has created a new website dedicated to providing news

from the nation’s state capitols. StatehouseNewsOnline.com will network with dozens of state-based news organizations to provide in depth coverage of state legislation, government and special interests, state budgets and political/campaign news.

On Dec. 31, the **Durant Arts Center** will host the First Night Alexandria headquarters as well as a performance site. All admission tickets sold on line will be available for pick up beginning

at noon on Friday, Dec. 31 at the Durant Center. The Center will also be volunteer headquarters, the location of the kick-off at 5 p.m. and two bands will perform in the multi purpose room beginning at 7 p.m. The Durant Arts Center is located at 1605 Cameron Street. Visit [www.FirstNightAlexandria.org](http://www.FirstNightAlexandria.org).

**Veterans Green Jobs** of Alexandria, a non-profit organization dedicated to putting veterans back to

work in the green economy, hosted an open house with the Laborers’ International Union of North America on Sept. 16 at the Local 11 in Alexandria. Six turned out to the jointly-hosted event, which aimed to make finding a job a bit easier for veterans by introducing them to possible green-collar job and training opportunities, and connecting them with potential employers in the area.

Fairfax Northern Virginia Hematology Oncology, P.C., a 30-physician practice

that has contributed to the campaign against cancer and diseases of the blood for more than three decades, has changed its name to **Virginia Cancer Specialists, P.C.** It offers a full range of oncology and hematology services, including clinical research and the use of evidence-based medicine and proactive patient support services. Virginia Cancer Specialists, P.C. has nine locations in Alexandria, Arlington (two), Fair Oaks, Fairfax, Gainesville, Loudoun, Winchester and Woodbridge.

# First-Year Head Coach Walton Pushing Lady Titans

TC looks to bounce back under former assistant from 6-14 season.

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**K**esha Walton bends at the waist and places her hands on her knees as she watches members of the T.C. Williams girls basketball team work during Tuesday's practice. Suddenly, one of the Titans is out of position on defense. Walton stops the action in a stern, straight-forward fashion.

"Where should you be?" Walton asks the player, who answers correctly. "Then get there!"

Later, Walton passes out push-up punishments: 10 per mistake.

Walton was an assistant with T.C. Williams from 2004-08 before leaving to take an assistant coaching position at Hayfield last season. Now she's back as the Lady Titans' head coach, taking over for Cavanaugh Hagan, who is now an assistant at South County. Many athletes in the program are familiar with Walton, having worked with her at the junior varsity level. With Walton, the Lady Titans know they're going to work.

"It's been very difficult," said senior Jasmine Norman, dripping with sweat during Tuesday's practice. "It's refreshing, though. It feels like a whole new program and a new system. ... [Walton] definitely doesn't take any mess. Once you're on the court, you're on the court. Everything [that happened earlier], you might as well put that out the door. If you had a bad day, good day, sad day, it doesn't matter. Once you're on the floor, your mind better be fresh, ready to start because, if not, it's going to be a hell of a practice."

Walton takes over a program which two seasons ago won 24 games and reached the



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Junior guard Gaby Moss, who transferred to T.C. Williams from Kansas prior to the school year, is expected to start for the Lady Titans.**

state tournament, due primarily to the performance of senior All-American Tierra Ruffin-Pratt. Last season, however, TC finished 6-14 and lost in the opening round of the Patriot District tournament with a team composed primarily of athletes limited in varsity experience. Trying to replace the University of North Carolina-bound Ruffin-Pratt and the majority of the 2008-09 starting lineup proved too much for TC.

"I understand what they had last year: they went through a down period," Walton said. "I know what it was like when we were at the top. That's my goal: to get us back to the top. ... They know what I expect, already, so I don't have to change their mindset as far as my expectations. They know I'm a hard coach, but I'm fair."

What does Walton expect?



**First-year T.C. Williams head coach Kesha Walton, right, looks toward junior Sofie Schedler, left, and senior Jasmine Norman.**

"I expect them to come and get it in day in and day out," she said. "To work hard, give me 110 percent on the court and off the court."

Norman, a 5-foot-10 guard, is the team's top returner, averaging 12 points and 8 rebounds per contest last season. A Division I recruit, Norman will be one of the Titans' top offensive threats.

"Jasmine works extremely hard," Walton said. "She has leadership, she gets after it. You can't ask for a better player than that."

Junior guard Gaby Moss (5'8"), a transfer from Kansas, is one of the team's top perimeter threats and a projected starter. Moss said Walton is pushing her harder than she's been pushed in the past.

"I heard about Tierra and the tradition [TC] had," Moss said. "And I heard they had a new coach, too."

Junior guard Sofie Schedler (5'5") and junior forward John'e Lewis (5'11") are

also projected starters. Senior guard Sade' Barber (5'6") and sophomore guard Christian Roberts (5'10") also have a chance to crack the starting lineup. Senior guard Rainie Summa (5'8") is a perimeter sharpshooter who is getting looks from Division III schools.

Senior forward Demi Williams (5'11"), junior guard Cashmire Norfleet (5'7"), junior forward Brooke Ninman (5'9") and junior center Tiffani Gibson (6'1") will compete for playing time.

TC opens its season at 5:15 p.m. on Dec. 3 against Stone Ridge (Bethesda, Md.) as part of the Art Turner Tip-Off at Paul VI. The Lady Titans are eager to bounce back from last season's disappointing outcome.

"Everybody has a new mindset," Schedler said. "They're more positive than they were last year. Last it was like, 'Oh, Tierra's gone.' It seemed more negative. Now we're ready to start the new season."

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Parker-Gray Game

The T.C. Williams boys basketball team will open the season by hosting Wakefield at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 4. The Titans will wear Parker-Gray throwback uniforms and Wakefield will wear Hoffman-Boston uniforms to represent the historically black schools from Alexandria and Arlington. All the proceeds from the event go toward sponsoring a Parker-Gray scholarship for a Titan athlete. The TC athletic department would like to honor all former Parker-Gray coaches and players. Contact the athletic department at 703-824-6860 for more information.

### Cheerleading Invitational

The Alexandria Holiday Cheerleading Invitational begins at 11 a.m. on Dec. 11. Check out the fierce

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 36

**The U12 Alexandria Revolution White team on Nov. 21 won the Hunt Country Classic Tournament, U12 Premiere Division championship. Pictured are: (back row, from left) Kendall Discenza, Coach Carah McMullen, Katie Boehm, Anna Wolz, Allie Church, Abigail Dougherty, Julia Rocheleau, Megan Ansley, Coach Titou Fierro, (front row) Elizabeth Healy, Tipper Healy, Sophia Price, Sarah Vermillion, Paige Dow, Anne Macon Edwards, Abby Miller, Margaret Fergusson.**



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## SPORTS

FROM PAGE 35

competition among the region's best cheerleading teams at Alexandria's Holiday Cheerleading Invitational, held at T.C. Williams High School. It is sponsored by the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. Call 703.746.5407 or e-mail [mac.slover@alexandriava.gov](mailto:mac.slover@alexandriava.gov) for more information.

### SSSAS Basketball

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys basketball team will open its season at Germantown Academy on Dec. 3. The girls team will host Norfolk Academy at 7 p.m. on Dec. 3.

### Episcopal Basketball

The Episcopal boys basketball team will host Haverford (Pa.) at 8 p.m. on Dec. 3. The girls basketball team will open the season on the road against National Cathedral at 6 p.m. on Dec. 3.

### Bishop Ireton Basketball

The Bishop Ireton boys basketball team will face Archbishop Spalding at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 4 during the Baltimore-DC Shootout at Maret High School.

The girls basketball team will travel to face Coolidge at 7 p.m. on Dec. 2.

### Coaches Needed

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and

### SPORTS BRIEFS

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](mailto:mac.slover@alexandriava.gov) or [tamika.coleman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:tamika.coleman@alexandriava.gov).

### Aces To Host Family and Volunteer Night

The Alexandria Aces of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League will hold a 'Host Family and Volunteer Appreciation Night' from 6-8 p.m. on Dec. 2 at Union Street Public House in Old Town. Host families will be recognized and fans will get to meet new Aces head coach Corey Haines. Admission is free to the public. There will be free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The first 50 fans in attendance will receive a free Alexandria Aces coffee cup.

### Running Club Meeting Sundays

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

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



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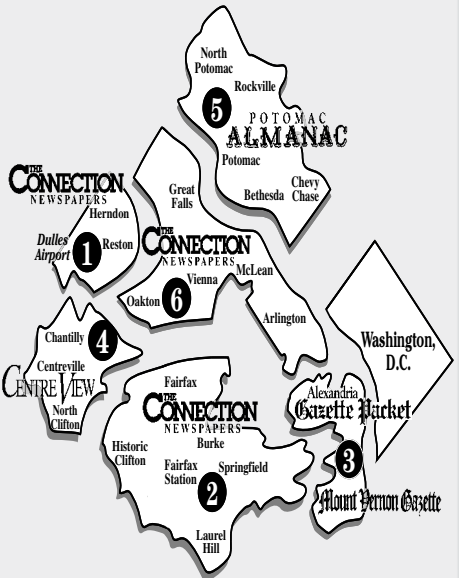
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### Smartly Updated

Convenient two-bedroom, two-bath townhouse. New windows and remodeled upper bath in 2009. New CAC and lower level full bath added in 2010. Hardwood floors adorn the two top levels. Large master bedroom found in much larger houses allows for sitting area or in-bedroom desk space. Large kitchen with pass-through to living room/dining room area. Close to shops and restaurants of Del Ray. Easy commute to DC, Pentagon, PTO, Old Town, and Mark Center.

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**ALEXANDRIA/Mount Vernon** \$387,000



### Easy Living

Lovely, updated, four-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath townhouse backs to parkland and Little Hunting Creek, with winter water views. Features charming patio garden, fireplace, community pool, tennis and tot lot. Conveniently located, minutes to shopping. Scenic commute along GW Parkway.

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