

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET

Dr. Stephen Versace and members of the West Point Class of 1959 and Friends of Rocky Versace salute a wreath in tribute to all of the veterans past and present.



Brigadier General (USA, ret.) JW Nicholson gave the keynote address by retelling the story of the life and imprisonment and death of U.S. Army Captain "Rocky" Versace.

Price of Freedom

The weather was blustery on Veterans Day last week. The ceremony, moved inside to the gym at the Mount Vernon Community Center, was sponsored by the "Friends of Rocky Versace" with the help of the staff from the community center. Miss Alexandria, Delesia A. Watson, opened the ceremony by singing the National Anthem. Veterans were recognized, past and present. Brigadier General (USA, ret.) JW Nicholson gave the keynote address. Major James N. Rowe's widow, Jane, also appeared and spoke. Rowe was in the same Vietnamese prison camp as Versace and wrote a book "Five Years to Freedom" about the experience. Fr. Edwin Perez, the parochial vicar at St. Rita's parish, gave the closing blessing.

— LOUISE KRAFFT



Councilmember Frank Fannon reads the names of a few of the 67 Vietnam soldiers from Alexandria who died in the war.

Extending the Line

Location of streetcar maintenance yard could radically change region's transit options.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Early next year, members of the Arlington County Board and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will make a decision that will have drastic consequences for the region's transit options. At stake is the shape of the region's high-capacity transit corridors and the ability of students at Northern Virginia Community College to take a streetcar to class.

The question that will be before

elected leaders in Arlington and Fairfax is where to locate a maintenance yard for the streetcar system. Current plans call for the facility to be located on a plot of land in Crystal City at a spot along the existing line. But leaders at Northern Virginia Community College have been in discussions with Arlington and Fairfax about potentially locating the maintenance yard at the Alexandria campus. Doing that would abandon existing plans for the initial line, al

SEE PROPOSAL, PAGE 30

Ensuring Happy Holidays

Volunteers at human services on a mission.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
GAZETTE PACKET

Every year the Alexandria Department of Community & Human Services devotes hundreds of hours to make the holidays special for some of the most disadvantaged residents of Alexandria.

Suzanne Kratzok has led the Holiday Sharing Program since 1999, and understands what it takes to provide one gift and one book to children in more than 800 families, as well as 150 elderly citizens who may not otherwise receive anything for the holidays.

The scale of the program is daunting. Operations begin as early as August, and continue throughout the fall. Cooperation between non-profits, the Salvation Army and churches is essential so the maximum number of families can receive gifts.

"Collaboration is huge, there are five Alexandria organizations that meet to discuss a time frame over the summer, and to make sure there is no duplication between families," said Kratzok. "We can't leave it 'til Dec. 24 like the big cities who wait till the last minute, for me that's too risky."

During mid-October, an average of eight volunteers contribute 320 hours of service simply registering families and identifying what children would like for the holidays.

In addition to identifying and

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 30

Making Black Friday Local

Merchants prepare shopping kick-off event.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

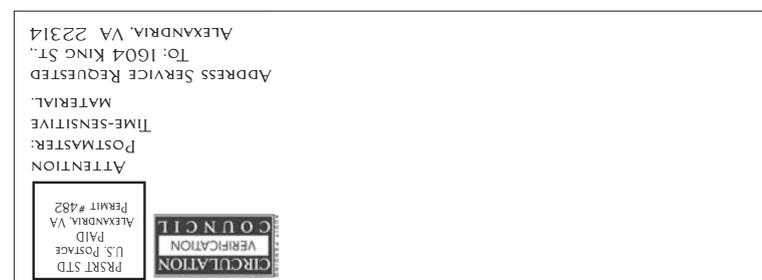
It's that time of year again — time to deck the halls, roast the chestnuts, dash through the snow and get up early for the shopping spectacle known as Black Friday.

"Our Black Friday effort this year has really been a

collective effort," said Elizabeth Todd, owner of the Shoe Hive and co-founder of the Old Town Boutique District. "Many shops have joined together to open at 6 a.m. and offer specials only available that one day of the year."

The City of Alexandria has joined in the effort by

SEE LOCAL, PAGE 8



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Who Let the Dogs Out?

Attention dog owners: Electric collars are not sufficient for restraining your dog in Alexandria. Put a physical restraint on **Fido** or face a \$100 penalty.

"We're not outlawing electronic collars," Mayor **Bill Euille** noted. "We're just saying that electronic collars don't meet the city's requirements for restraining your dog."

The new ordinance comes as the result of technological change in recent years. Electronic collars have become increasingly popular as owners use the devices as a way to restrain dogs roaming the city's streets and parks, especially Founders Park. But the increase in popularity has come with a concurrent rise in complaints. Many pedestrians say they feel unsafe with a dog that doesn't seem to be restrained by anything. And other dog walkers say they're concerned about their dogs' safety because there's no way to know that the electronic devices are on or off.

"It's sort of a no-brainer," said Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley**. "This is about animal safety but also public safety."

Several people testified in favor of requiring physical restraints, and nobody testified in favor of allowing electronic collars to meet the city's ordinance requiring dog owners to keep their pets under control. Del Ray resident **Amy Slack** suggested that the new ordinance might open the door to future action.

"I would like to see the city take this a step further," said Slack. "Why should I have to deal with cat urine and cat feces when I'm gardening?"

Thurman Alley

The late **Doug Thurman** spent years working behind the scenes to have the city name an alley near his house in honor of Alexandria police Sgt. **Elton Hummer**, the only Alexandria officer to die in the line of duty whose murder has never been solved. Now Alexandria is about to return the favor, naming the alley behind Thurman's house in his honor.

"I was stunned because the Hummer family lived next door to where I lived," said Thurman in a 2008 interview. "This is the type of thing people should remember because these guys are risking their lives every day of the year."

Back in September, City Council members unanimously approved a proposal to name the alley behind 804 Duke Street in honor of Thurman, a prominent civic activist and history enthusiast. Thurman was a very private individual, and many were unaware of his accomplishments until he died in January. He was so secretive that people who knew him for years knew nothing about his private life. After he died, the Old Town Civic Association requested that the city consider naming the alley in honor of Thurman to recognize his work to name Hummer Alley.

"He wouldn't want it," said restaurateur **Pat Troy**, whose political campaigns were managed by Thurman. "He would say, 'Pat, you mean to tell me that these people got together and named an alley after me? Will you check to see if their brains are all right?'"

The ceremony will take place Saturday morning at 9 a.m. in the alley behind Thurman's house at 804 Duke Street.

Murray To Run Again

Returns from last week's elections are still be analyzed, but the politics of 2012 are already moving forward. Two days after last week's election, Republican **Patrick Murray** announced a second campaign against longtime incumbent U.S. Rep. **Jim Moran** (D-8). Last year, Moran won with an overwhelming 61 percent of the vote. Next year, Murray hopes to build on the 37 percent of voters who supported his last campaign.

"Campaigns are a crucible," said Murray in a written statement announcing his candidacy two days after the election. "But just as with my military service, this is a matter of duty for me."

One of the arguments Moran used against Murray in the last campaign is that he had no ties to the community, one famously referring to him as a "stealth" candidate. Since that time Murray has been appearing at Alexandria Chamber of Commerce events and public hearings at City Hall. Now, Murray says, he's ready to unseat the man who has represented Alexandria in Congress since 1991.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



Pat Troy, left, leads the crowd in singing "God Bless America" at the Nov. 13 launch of his new book.

PHOTOS BY JENNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

An Irish Tale

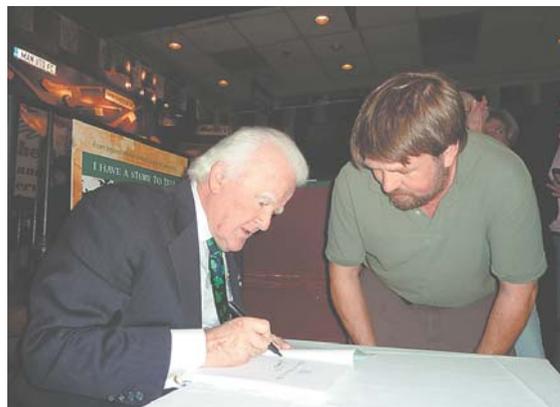
Legendary restaurateur **Pat Troy** launches memoir detailing business and politics in Alexandria.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

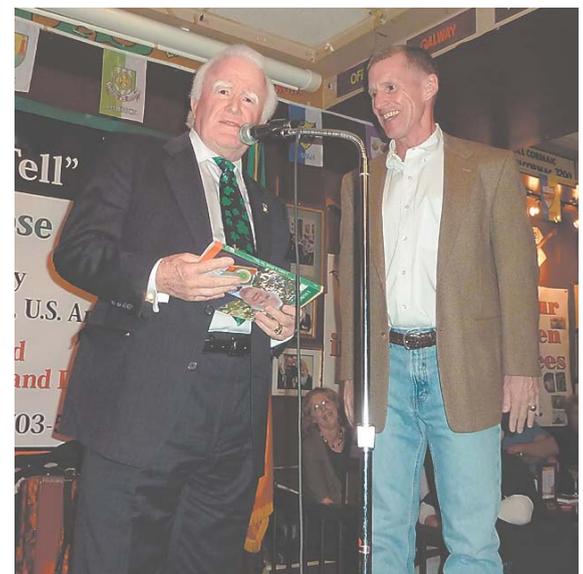
The lowest point in Pat Troy's new memoir, "I Have a Story to Tell," comes in the late 1990s. The outspoken Irishman wanted to move his restaurant from North Royal Street, where the voter registrar's office is now located, to North Lee Street, where's Hannelore's is now located. But there was opposition — serious opposition from nearby condominium owners who were concerned about excessive noise and public urination.

"Ireland's Own is not just a bar," wrote one woman in a tract opposing the permit. "It is an Irish bar."

Troy doesn't name the woman in his memoir, although he makes a point of identifying all the City Council members who voted for and against his special use permit. The ones opposing it were then Mayor Kerry Donley, Councilwoman Del Pepper, Councilman David Speck and Councilman Lonnie Rich. The ones voting in favor of the permit were Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland, Councilman Bill Euille and



Pat Troy, left, signs a copy of his book for Boyd Walker.



Pat Troy, left, welcomes Old Town resident Gen. Stanley McChrystal (ret.) to the launch of his book Nov. 13 at Ireland's Own Restaurant.

Councilwoman Lois Walker. The four-to-three vote remains a touchstone for the Irish restaurateur.

"It still rankles me the way the city treated me," Troy writes in his memoir. "Some of it may have to do with my politics, with my friendship with the Reagans, for instance. But I'm an independent person. Politics should have nothing to do with it."

Then things go from bad to worse. Troy's silent partner in the business, whom he also does not name in the book, filed a lawsuit the Irishman describes as "unmerciful." He was forced to buy all of the restaurant's equipment at auction. He eventually settled the lawsuit, although Troy says he still considers the unidentified amount "blood money."

"I'll never forget the bitterness over that," Troy admits. "It was a terrible time."

IT'S NOT QUITE a tell-all memoir, considering that he decided to leave out the names of key players who appear in an unfavorable light. Perhaps that's to be expected from Troy, a man who finds a way to subdue his temper with a sense of compassion and grace. Perhaps that's why one of Troy's favorite maxims is that "it's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice." It's also how the Irishman has carved out a spot for himself as a Living Legend in

SEE AN IRISH TALE, PAGE 3

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PEOPLE

A Champion for Heroes

Riddick Bowe thanks Alexandria veterans.

Two-time world heavyweight boxing champion Riddick Bowe made a surprise visit to American Legion Post 24 Nov. 11 to spend Veterans Day with the men and women from Alexandria who have served in the Armed Forces.

"You are truly America's heroes," Bowe said as he walked throughout the room greeting veterans and active duty service members. "It is an honor to be here with you tonight."

Bowe was in town to see the play "The Berg Diaries" at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center. Upon learning of the gathering of veterans at Post 24, he asked to visit and personally thank the men and women for their sacrifice to the nation.

"What an incredible night," said Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Ivy, an Alexandria resident and Iraq veteran who was celebrating his bachelor party at Post 24. "The champ was amazing to talk to and made this a weekend I won't ever forget."

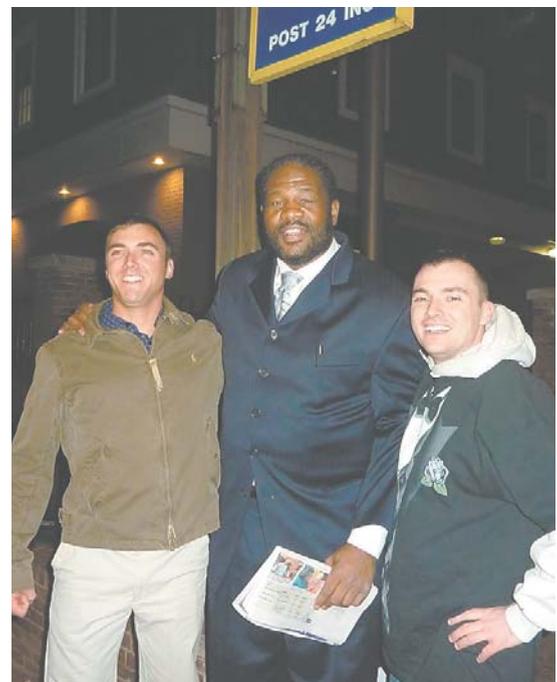


PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

USN Lt. Cmdr. and Iraq veteran Matthew Ivy, right, is congratulated by heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe as he celebrates at his bachelor party Nov. 11 at American Legion Post 24 in Old Town. With him is his brother Mark Ivy, an Army Special Forces Purple Heart recipient and Iraq and Afghanistan veteran.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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OBITUARY

Matthew Johnson

Matthew "Neil" Johnson, 88, of Sweetwater Golf & Country Club in Haines City, Fla., died Nov. 8, 2011 of heart failure.

Born June 29, 1923 in Town of Potomac, Arlington, Va. Neil served in the U.S. Army during WWII, and is a retired Alexandria Deputy Sheriff. Married Sept. 8, 1947, he is preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Holloway Johnson and survived by his sons, Matthew N. Johnson, Jr. of Woodbridge, Va., John E. Johnson of Haines City, Fla. and Martin H. Johnson of Clifton, Va. He leaves six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He attended Lake Alfred United Methodist Church in Fla. He will be laid to rest in beautiful Virginia countryside at

Marshall Cemetery.

Neil was a Life Member of Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department, Potomac Engine Co. 2. Also a 71-year member of Potomac Lodge #38. He was a Life Member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Charter Member of VFW Post 1503 Men's Auxiliary, and a member of the Del Ray Methodist Church.

The family will receive visitors on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2011 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Cunningham Funeral Home, 811 Cameron St. Alexandria. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011 at 10 a.m. at Marshall Cemetery in Marshall Virginia. Condolences may be sent via www.cunninghamfuneralhome.net.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Taylor Run

NEW NEIGHBORS

The dashing figure you see scooting around on top of Shuter's Hill on a red Vespa is Whitney Russell, who moved here with husband Toby Russell from Logan Circle.

"He's a good guy," says Whitney, explaining that her husband changed his name from Dougherty to Russell, because he has twin brothers and one sister, and Whitney is an only child. Whitney is an attorney specializing in large corporate litigation. Toby is vice-president of mobile technology for Capital One.

The Russells met at Middlebury in Vermont which is Whitney's home state. Whitney's undergraduate degree is from Middlebury and her law degree is from Columbia Law School. Toby, who is from Texas, has a doctorate in Russian. Toby's hobbies are running and boxing; Whitney's is yoga and she loves to read. Their two dogs are Cavalier King Charles spaniels.

CAN TRAFFIC PROBLEMS BE SOLVED?

Our neighbor Kevin Posey of Carlyle Terrace, chairman of the Alexandria Transportation Commission, has helped to write the criteria by which all transportation projects are to be ranked. The Commission, realizing that the passage of traffic through Alexandria is one of our main problems, has established theoretical transitways that go through Alexandria. Each will have a dedicated right-of-way. Sidewalks, speed bumps (of which Kevin says there ought to be no more) and other traffic-calming devices are being considered.

ALEXANDRIA NATIVE

Kevin was born right here in Alexandria. His wife, Lee Posey, works for the National Conference of State Legislatures, and serves as deacon at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

SCHOOL NOTES

Kateryna Savchyn of Alexandria, a Senior at Gettysburg College, is spending the Fall 2011 semester studying in England.

Alexandria resident Sadia Sayeed successfully completed Ross University School of Medicine's intensive academic program and received a Doctor of Medicine degree on June 10. Following graduation, Dr. Sayeed entered into the Clinical and Anatomic Pathology residency program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

D'Lontae Sewell from Alexandria was named to the dean's list at Norwich University for the Spring 2011 semester.

Vincent Aftanas, a resident of Alexandria, is among 667 students from

School of Visual Arts who received undergraduate degrees at the College's commencement exercises on Thursday, May 12, at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York City. Aftanas graduated with a BFA in Film and Video.

Collin M. Jenkins of Alexandria was one of 486 seniors who graduated from Colby College on May 22, receiving a bachelor of arts degree at the outdoor commencement in Waterville, Maine. Collin, the son of John Jenkins and Nancy Stiles of Alexandria, majored in international studies and middle eastern studies (independent). He is a graduate of John Dewey Academy.

Daniel A. Carman of Alexandria was named to the dean's list at Boston University for the Spring semester.

HISTORY

Hostile Takeover

Union loyalists take control of Alexandria from Confederate sympathizers.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Six months after the Union invasion of Alexandria, loyalists launched an effort to seize control of City Hall. The move culminated 150 years ago this month, pitting Alexandrians who were willing to take a loyalty oath against those who were not.

The hostile takeover started during a session of military court, held at the beginning of the month at City Hall. A lawyer for the Union Association pointed out that none of the city officials had taken the oath of allegiance required by the convention in Wheeling that established the government for occupied Virginia. Then a lawyer representing the city argued that the military court had no jurisdiction in Alexandria, adding that city officials had received no notice from the Wheeling authorities that any oath was required. The court ruled that all city officials should take the oath of allegiance within a week.

That opened the door for a conspiracy.

Before the week was out, members of the Union Association were already meeting at the Lyceum to plot their strategy for taking control of the city. A select group of members were appointed to a committee to confer with military authorities on how to oust the city government. The association also decided that its members would hold their own election for a variety of city offices, including mayor, auditor, tax collectors, measurers of lumber, wood and bark, superintendent of police and gas and clerk of the market.

Mayor William Price objected to the conspiracy, questioning the legality of the elections. He pointed to an act from May 7, 1852 that required the city to hold municipal elections annually on the first Tuesday in March. Because the Union Association's

election would obviously not conform to that schedule, the city attorney argued, the scheme was illegal. The occupied government in Wheeling disagreed, scheduling a city election in Alexandria on Nov. 20, 1861.

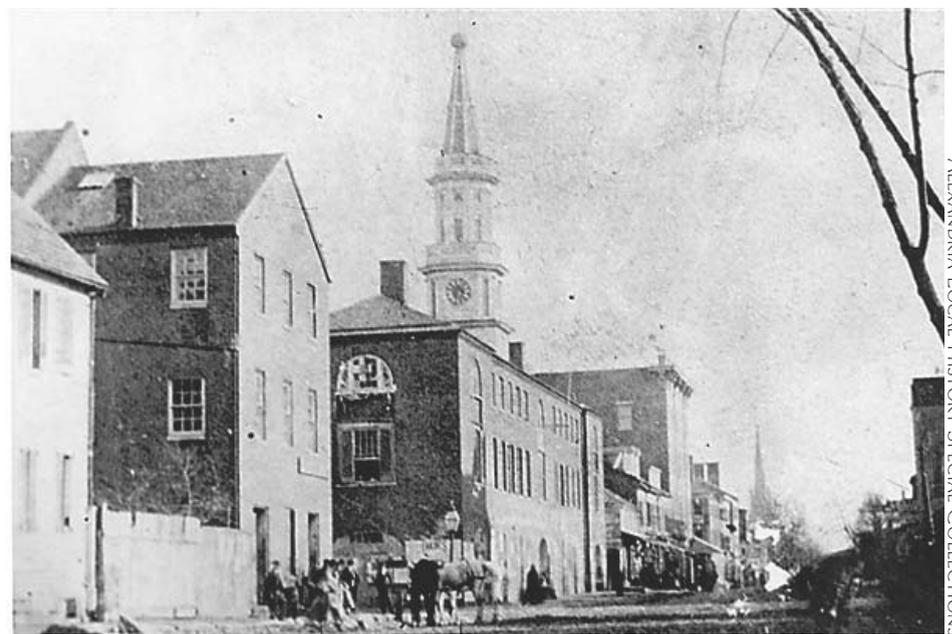
The Alexandria Common Council passed a protest against the election, adopting a resolution that described it as "utterly subversive of all law ... which, if persisted in, must result in serious damage to the peace and credit of the same." Fourth Ward Alderman Edgar Snowden, who was also the editor of the Alexandria Gazette, argued that the protest should be passed at once, especially considering the Board of Aldermen may not be able to meet again before the Union loyalists held their election.

"Delays in these times were dangerous," his newspaper reported. "A man could not tell tonight whether his head would be upon his shoulders tomorrow morning."

TENSIONS MOUNTED as Election Day approached. The day before the election, the provost marshal arrived at City Hall and took possession of the building. First he occupied the offices of the mayor and auditor, then moved to seize control of the chambers of the Board of Aldermen and Common Council. The auditor protested, but was forced to hand over the keys by the occupying military force. That afternoon's newspaper carried a written statement from the auditor making it clear that this was a hostile takeover of the Alexandria city government.

"I, James A. English, Auditor of the city of Alexandria, do hereby enter my protest against the forcible taking from me, by military authority, the keys of the Auditor's office, and the books and papers therein contained, and deny that the laws of the State of Virginia, either of Richmond or Wheeling, authorize any such proceedings."

Turnout for the election wasn't exactly what the Union Association expected. The Local News, a scaled-down wartime version of the Gazette, reported on a meeting of the association that night at the Lyceum in which the president of the association announced that "the Union men had not come out as they should have done." Even though the association boasted a membership of 460 members, many of them obviously



ALEXANDRIA LOCAL HISTORY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The old City Hall, where city officials who refused to take a loyalty oath to the United States government were ousted from office.

failed to show up when the polls were open. Secretary William White said that while he was acting as clerk of the First Ward when a man entered the precinct and insulted him and the commissioners, calling him a "scoundrel" and a "spy."

"Great curiosity was manifested to know the individual to whom allusion was made, and there were calls to name the man," the Local News reported. "But no name was given."

In keeping with the Victorian standards of the era, the group was then entertained by a song. Then Ferguson Beach spoke and said that the United States government was strong, had money and "all things that were necessary in these troublesome times." Another speaker took the floor to defend the hostile takeover as placing the hands of City Hall in "loyal hands," as authorized by the Wheeling convention. As if to underscore the point, members of the association then publicly took an oath of allegiance to the United States government and signed the constitution of the Union Association.

Federal Judge J.R. Freese, who was also serving assistant adjutant general and provost, congratulated the newly elected members of the occupied city government. He told the assembled group that the he thought the special election would be "the brightest page upon the history of Alexandria." He also said the low turnout could be explained by the fact that most members of the association were newcomers to Alexandria and, therefore, not entitled to vote. Although secessionists looked down on Unionists with scorn since the war broke out the tables had now turned.

"The Union women of the town could now carry their heads on one side, and tossed back like the secession women had been doing," the Local News reported. "When they passed each other on the street now, the secession women looked scornful."

NEWLY ELECTED Mayor Lewis McKenzie told the crowd assembled at the Lyceum that he had not sought the office of mayor. He said he was sorry that Mayor Price had to be turned out, although he also said he was sorry that the former mayor had not been "a good Union citizen." He complained that the Union men of Alexandria "had been treated very badly" by their secession brethren. He also announced that the salaries would be cut so that it was clear that Union



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Lewis McKenzie became mayor in the hostile takeover of the Alexandria city government that happened 150 years ago this month.

men were not after the offices for money. The chairman of the association then presented the judge with a bouquet from a 6-year-old child.

"He attributed the present war to wrong teaching of the youth in the Southern States," the Local News reported.

The band played "Home Sweet Home," and the meeting adjourned. The following day, the new government got down to business. Meeting at City Hall on Friday, Nov. 22, the newly elected Board of Aldermen assembled and once again took an oath of allegiance to the United States government. The Common Council was then called to order, and Mayor McKenzie addressed the assembled crowd.

"He regretted that a change in the municipal government had become necessary," the Local News reported. "But, under the circumstances, it could not be avoided."

Whether or not the hostile takeover of the Alexandria city government was conducted legally is an open question. Former City Historian Michael Miller's book "Alexandria City Officialdom" explains "the legally elected City Council of Alexandria was removed by occupational Federal troops in November 1861." The military gave the newly elected city elected officials the backing to restrict all newspapers not favorable to the Lincoln administration from entering the city, and they also required all merchants to purchase new licenses.

"Throughout the war," wrote historian James Barber, "residents not taking the oath risked numerous and sometime unforeseen consequences."

Jurors were forced to take the oath before sitting to hear cases in court, residents who wanted to leave town had to take the oath, and one man was even refused the ability to bury his child in the town cemetery unless he swore an allegiance to the United States.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Lyceum, where the plot was hatched to seize control of the city government.

BUSINESS MATTERS

Pavilion Oblivion

Anyone who has been to the waterfront Food Pavilion in recent months has seen an operation in freefall. The Ethiopian restaurant closed a year ago, and several of the vendors have closed up shop. The building is largely empty, with only two businesses remaining in what has become a moribund enterprise.

Now the business owner is ready to pull the plug. The pavilion will close before the end of the year.

"It's been struggling for quite some time," said **Barbara Ross**, deputy director of the Department of Planning and Zoning. "We would be very pleased to see an upgrade of the building."

The land is owned by the city, although the building and the business are privately owned. Several sources familiar with plans in circulation describe a concept known as Miller's Ale House, which would include a new balcony and outdoor seating. That's in stark contrast to what local residents called for in public meetings that led to the waterfront small area plan, which was a market hall similar to Eastern Market or Dean & DeLuca.

"No plan has been submitted yet," said Ross. "But we know there has been interest in doing something different with the property for some time."

Recommendation 3.51 of the waterfront small-area plan under consideration by the Alexandria City Council calls for the city to "work with the leaseholder of the Food Court to attract more successful uses that better meet resident and visitor needs, including options such as a market hall, cultural venue, restaurants or shops featuring locally made goods." The plan also calls for a design that would "address the use conflicts and other design problems in Thompson's Alley, and generally maintain a similar height and footprint as the current building."

Grand Marshal Ticer

In one of her last official acts as an elected official, state Sen. **Patsy Ticer** (D-30) will serve as grand marshal for the Campagna Center's 41 Annual Scottish Christmas Walk. The yearly event is the chief fundraiser for one of the city's leading nonprofit organizations, which serves more than 1,700 children each day.

"It's a special pleasure for me, as a longtime admirer and sometimes participant in an organization that has served Alexandria's families and children so well since the days when it was still the Alexandria Y, and I was a young mother," said Ticer. "It is a very important part of the fabric of our wonderful city."

Ticer was the first woman mayor of Alexandria, taking the city's top elected spot after former mayor U.S. Rep. **Jim Moran** (D-8) was elected to Congress in 1990. She was elected to the Virginia state Senate in 1995, and her term will end when **Adam Ebbin** is sworn in to replace her. Her late husband **Jack Ticer** attended elementary school in the building where the Campagna Center is now located.

"This is a wonderful way to honor all of those working to better our communities by coming together to participate in this celebrated Alexandria tradition," said **Tammy Mann**, president and CEO of the Campagna Center.

The First Pane

It's no surprise to anyone that Old Town is full of, well, old houses. Many are in need of some tender loving care. That's where the Public Broadcasting Service comes in. Next month, "This Old House" host **Kevin O'Connor** and general contractor **Tom Silva** will be in Alexandria to shoot a segment restoring an old window in a house built by **George Washington**.

"We've been at this for a decade now and have tackled hundreds of projects inside and outside the home," said senior series producer **Chris Wolfe**. "Our goal is not only to help the homeowners we visit, but also to show millions of viewers the tools and techniques that will allow them to complete all sorts of projects in their houses."

The 10th anniversary season will feature 26 new episodes, including ones taped in the District of Columbia and Annapolis.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



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

A Scottish Santa ornament at The Christmas Attic.

Making Black Friday Local

FROM PAGE 1

offering free Black Friday parking at meters throughout the city as well as at city garages.

"The city is helping the local retailers by opening city garages at 6 a.m. for Black Friday shoppers," Todd said. "There was a smaller effort last year but this is the first year we have been able to get the word out about the Black Friday events going on right in Old Town."

The Old Town Boutique District has taken the lead in promoting the "shop local" theme this year by offering discounts and shopping hours to rival those in larger retail areas.

"We have a great directory of participating stores and their Black Friday discounts on our website," Todd said. "Shoppers can download a comprehensive gift guide and get information about the hours and specials for specific stores that they may want to visit."

The Old Town Boutique District website -

www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com - lists the stores participating in the Black Friday promotion as well as parking information and shopping hours. Many stores will offer 30 percent discounts from 6 to 8 a.m., 20 percent off from 8 to 10 a.m. and 10 percent off all day.

"This is the only day of the year my entire store is on sale," Todd said. "Things that are never on sale at my shop and others will be discounted only for Black Friday."

In addition to The Shoe Hive, local shops participating in the promotion include Diva Boutique, Goldworks USA, BeautyFull Boutique, The Christmas Attic, fibre space, La Cuisine, Zoe Boutique, Pink and Brown, Pacers, Gossypia, Hysteria and Olio Tast-



The Shoe Hive will be participating in the Old Town Black Friday shopping event.

ing Room. A printed version of the online gift guide will also be available at participating shops and the Visitors Center beginning Black Friday.

"We're very excited about this year," Todd said. "Black Friday just keeps growing and getting bigger every year for us."

New to Old Town this year is a "pictures with Santa" opportunity at the Meals on Wheels meeting space at 210 S. Union St.

"Santa Claus will be available for photos every weekend beginning Nov. 26," said Todd, who saw the need when she realized that she had to go elsewhere to get pictures of her own

children taken with Santa. "We're doing everything we can to see that Old Town offers everything the bigger retail areas offer during the holidays."

Also on Black Friday, the City of Alexandria will hold the traditional Tree Lighting Ceremony at Market Square at 7 p.m. Entertainment includes a visit from Santa, a performance of Santa's Frosty Follies by the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, plus caroling and a community sing along.

"I'm very excited about Black Friday this year," Todd said. "I hope everyone comes out to join us. I know I'll be there. I don't want to miss out on all the fun!"

In addition to the free parking on Black Friday, city parking garages in Old Town cost just \$2 all day Saturday and after 5 p.m. on weeknights.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

SATURDAY/NOV. 19

Christmas Bazaar. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. With over 60 exhibitors/vendors, Santa's workshop crafts, gingerbread houses, bake sale and Christmas café, children's games and prizes, visit with Santa/keepsake photo, yesterday's book sale, and raffle with prizes. At St. Mary's School, 400 Green Street, Alexandria.

Flea Market. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Large selection of collectibles, trinkets, gadgets, books and attic treasures. There will be a corner dedicated to children's items, including toys and books, in addition to baked goods and lunch. At Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-5500.

Holiday Shop. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some 50 artisans in fiber arts, wood, paper, metal, glass, clay, photography and orchids. There will be a quilt raffle, Country Kitchen with handmade baked goods, chutneys and more, an attic/resale boutique, gently used jewelry shop, a gingerbread house raffle and a warm lunch. In celebration of the 50th Anniversary, there will be a show of many of the quilts made over the years and door prizes. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, off Fort Hunt Road, intersection of Mason Hill and Fort Hunt. Call 703-765-5950.

Handmade Holiday Craft Fair. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Advanced engineering students at T.C. Williams High School are hosting their second annual handmade holiday craft fair. Last year's fair raised \$1,600, which was donated to Joining Hearts and Hands, an organization that promotes educational and social promotion in Kenya and Tanzania. This money helped build a classroom in Tanzania for the Usumbara Girls High School (pictured). The students this year hope to raise even more money to contribute to the same cause. Contact Jennifer Moshier for information about how to become a vendor.

NOV. 25 TO DEC. 18

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. 5 to 8:30 p.m. recurring weekly on Sunday, Saturday. "Mrs. Washington" hosts an enchanting evening of candlelit tours, fireside Christmas caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. The Mount Vernon by Candlelight tour includes the first and second floors, featuring characters from the Washingtons' world guiding visitors through the home and adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Admission: Adults: \$20; Children 11 and under: \$14. Visit www.MountVernon.org or call 703-780-2000.

NOV. 25 TO JAN. 6

Christmas at Mount Vernon. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. recurring daily. Holiday visitors will enjoy themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees), a gingerbread replica of the Mansion created by former White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier, chocolate making demonstrations, and a rare opportunity to tour the third floor of the Mansion. In 1787, George Washington paid 18 shillings to bring a camel to Mount Vernon for his guests' enjoyment. During Christmas at Mount Vernon, visitors can meet Aladdin the camel. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Christmas at Mount Vernon admission is included in general admission: \$15/adults; \$7/youth. Call 703-780-2000.

THURSDAY/DEC. 1

NOVA Community Chorus. 7:30 p.m. Winter Concert. NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, will perform Sergie Rachmaninoff's The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, for mixed chorus a capella. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 North Beauregard Road, Alexandria. Contact Dr. Whitmire at mwhitmire@nvcc.edu or 703-845-6097.

FRIDAY/DEC. 2

ArtFest 2011. 6 to 9 p.m. Open house and holiday party. Check out where the most hands-on classes are taught while enjoying a variety of artist demos, 2D/3D exhibits, holiday ceramic and jewelry sales (held throughout the weekend), live music by Rew Smith Band, food and drinks. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.



St. Mary's School Elementary School Holiday Bazaar will be held this Saturday, Nov. 19, at the school.

Christmas Marketplace. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. A collection of unique vendors under one roof, including Haute Papier, Discovery Toys, Silver Star Collection, and more. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

Taste of Scotland. 7 to 11 p.m. Patron Pub opens at 7 p.m.; General Admission 8 to 11 p.m. A tasting featuring a vast number of scotches to entice each guest. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, ales, and wine also served. Patron tickets \$175/person; \$275/couple; \$100 general admission. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

DEC. 2 AND 3

Christmas Boutique. Heritage Presbyterian Church is hosting a "Made by the Bell" Christmas Boutique on Friday, Dec. 2 from 5 to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Handmade Christmas décor, ornaments, hand knitted items, baked goods, and unique gifts are among the items for sale. Heritage Presbyterian Church is at 8503 Fort Hunt Road. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to support Heritage Presbyterian Women's outreach programs for children and women. Call 703-360-9546.

Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Includes a parade through Old Town, holiday festivities, a marketplace, heather and green sales, Holiday Designer Tour of Homes, a scotch tasting — the Taste of Scotland. Patsy Ticer is the Grand Marshall. Sponsored by the Campagna Center, The St. Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., and the Scottish Government. Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

DEC. 2-4

ArtFest Weekend. Ceramic and Pottery Show and Sale; Jewelry Show and Sale; Retrospective show and sale of work by Nancy Reinke, featuring prints, drawings, paintings, rugs. Friday, Dec. 2 from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 from noon to 5 p.m. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

The Nutcracker. Presented by BalletNova (formerly The Center Dance Company/Arlington Center for Dance). Performances are Friday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Because of the limited availability of the theater, BalletNova presents a series of "Petite Performances" at both Bishop Ireton High School and the BalletNova Center for Dance Studios. These shorter 45-50-minute mini-

performances include a narrative of the story, and highlights from Act II - The Kingdom of the Sweets and are especially appropriate for the 3 - 5 year old crowd. To date the schedule is: Sunday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. at Bishop Ireton High School; Saturday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at BalletNova Center for Dance Studios, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. Tickets are \$13 to \$35. Petite Performances are \$5 to \$20. Visit www.BalletNova.org, or call 703-778-3008.

Holiday Market. Free admission. 16th annual Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market offers handmade work from 20 local artists and bake sale to benefit Rebuilding Together Alexandria. Dec. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. (reception); Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 4 from noon to 4 p.m. At the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

41st Annual Scottish Walk Parade. 11 a.m. Over 100 Scottish clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, Scottie dog groups, and, Santa will march through the streets of Old Town. Brought to you by the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center and the Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., with support from the City of Alexandria. The Parade Grand Marshal is the Hon. Patsy Ticer. Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

Ornament-Decorating Workshop. 1 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. On the third floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, #327, in Old Town Alexandria.

Call 703-746-4399 or visit

www.alexandriarchaeology.org.

Holiday Designer Tour of Homes. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$30/advance; \$35/day of tour. Stroll through seven historic properties in Alexandria, which are dressed up for the holidays. Featured properties: 206 Wolfe St.; 716 Wolfe St.; 408 Prince St.; 103 Prince St.; 430 S. St. Asaph St.; 228 S. Pitt St. (St. Paul's); 418 S. Washington St. (The Campagna Center).



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Taste of Scotland will be on Friday, Dec. 2, from 7-10 p.m. at the Masonic Temple.

Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

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 begin at the Alexandria City Marina behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 4 p.m. with live performances and Santa arriving by fireboat at 4:15 p.m. At the Alexandria City Marina, One Cameron St., Alexandria. Visit AlexandriaVA.com; 703-746-3301.

Trunk Show Extravaganza

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OPINION

Give Locally The need has never been greater.

As the holidays approach, many nonprofits that provide holiday meals, food support and other services for people in need are reporting that they are overwhelmed.

More than 45,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools are from families poor enough to qualify for free or reduced priced meals. That's more than 25 percent of students in the schools. In Arlington, 34 percent of students are poor enough to qualify for free or reduced meals. In the City of Alexandria, more than 54 percent of students are poor.

EDITORIAL

In Fairfax County, 46,000 live below the poverty line; more than 80,000 have no health insurance.

In Northern Virginia, thousands are unemployed and many more are underemployed. Among the homeless in Northern Virginia, many are working poor, families with at least one wage-earner who doesn't make enough to pay for housing for the family.

In this environment, more and more people are turning to food pantries for part of every month.

And it's not surprising that many, many families will have little to offer in holiday cheer and holiday gifts for children without the help of organizations and individuals. It's hard to imagine, but there are hundreds of children in the area who would not receive a single holiday present without the help of a charitable organization.

If you're reading this paper, chances are that you are among the people at the other end of the spectrum, trying to devise methods to keep the holidays more modest. One way to do this is to help your children understand how lucky they are with a glimpse at the needs of others right here.

There are many ways to give, with some local charities connecting the donor to a specific

family to provide a holiday food basket and fulfill some wishes for gifts. Many organizations encourage the donation of gift cards. Every local group seeking to help the needy

Where To Give

This is a partial list of charities helping those in need during the holidays and beyond. Let us know about other organizations not listed here.

Additional nonprofits can be found listed on the local Catalogue for Philanthropy website, <http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy-dc.org>. Click on "how to give."

- Action Alexandria** 703-7397778
- Arlingtonians Meeting Emergency Needs (AMEN)**, 703-558-0035
- Doorways for Women and Families**, Arlington 703-522-8858
- Arlington Food Assistance Center** 703-845-8486
- Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia**, Arlington, 703-521-9890
- Arlington Free Clinic**, 703-979-1400
- Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)**, CAUSE ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org
- Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic**, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577, jsfreeclinic.org Last year 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients.
- Alternative House** - Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703.506.9191, www.thealternativehouse.org
- Progreso Hispano**, 4100 Mohawk Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309, 703-799-8830,
- Reston Interfaith**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.restoninterfaith.org
- SHARE** of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards. Gift cards can be dropped off at SHARE, c/o McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road on Wednesdays and Saturdays (except Thanksgiving week) between 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. www.SHAREofMcLean.org
- LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys

right now is facing extra demand and needs both volunteer and financial help.

— MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

- for children, plus volunteers. Email Lisa Lombardozzi at LisaLombo@signaturecos.com. (703) 437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org
- Herndon-Reston FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-391-0105
- Northern Virginia Family Service**, Oakton, 703-385-3267
- Food for Others, 2938 Prosperity Avenue, Fairfax, 22031, 703-207-9173
- United Community Ministries**, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306
- Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO)**, 703-569-9160, www.echo-inc.org. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield
- Lorton Community Action Center** operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. While donations are welcome during store hours, visitors are asked to call first at 703-339-8611 before dropping off donations. www.lortonaction.org
- FACETS**, 703-352-5090
- National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063, www.capitalareafoodbank.org
- Good Shepherd** in the Route 1 area, 703-768-9404
- Western Fairfax Christian Ministries**, food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly. For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656
- Our Daily Bread**, 10777 Main Street #320, Fairfax, 703-273-8829
- Shelter House**, www.shelterhouse.org, operates two homeless shelters in Fairfax County, in Centreville and Seven Corners. 571-522-6800
- Committee for Helping Others (CHO)**, Vienna, 703-281-7614
- Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-222-0880
- Lamb Center**, www.thelambcenter.org, Fairfax 703-691-3178
- The Campagna Center** in Alexandria 703-549-0111
- ALIVE** (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically) www.alive-inc.org

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Snapshot

Fall harvest is plentiful at the year-round Del Ray Saturday's Farmer's Market. The market is located at the corner of Oxford and Mt. Vernon Avenues in Del Ray. Hours are 8 a.m. until noon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Waterfront: Start Over

To the Editor:

The good news about the Alexandria Waterfront plan is that our city officials recognize the need for a waterfront plan to guide future development. This is an idea that is long overdue. Our waterfront location, along with the rich past and historic architecture of the city make Alexandria a desirable place to live, work and visit. All of these influenced our decision to move here 20 years ago.

The unfortunate news, however, is that the city's Small Area Waterfront Plan is the wrong plan. Fifteen hundred citizens who oppose the plan have signed a petition against the current waterfront plan. Many have attended community meetings and meetings at City Hall to voice their opinions about

the plan. With so much opposition, our City Council members need to listen carefully and weigh the options before jumping into a decision that will change the character of our waterfront for years to come.

Alexandrians and our visitors are fortunate to be able to enjoy walking, running or bicycling along the Potomac River. Parts of the waterfront are very pleasant; but the waterfront is not cohesive. There are blighted and neglected buildings along the way, such as the Robinson North and South terminals as well some of the buildings at the Cummings-Turner site, which seem disconnected from the surrounding neighborhoods and are an obstacle to viewing and enjoying the waterfront. The sense of a continuous river walk is missing. Replacement of these buildings with hotels which are out of

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

OPINION



MICHAEL MCMORROW/GAZETTE PACKET

One of the First

Alexandria National Cemetery was one of the original 14 authorized under a law signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1862. The number of Washington area casualties from training camps and hospitals nearly filled it within a few years. Creation of nearby Arlington National Cemetery was a direct result of gravesite shortages. The last interment was in 1967. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs advises that cremated remains are accepted for burial.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

scale with the historic district and marinas which increase pollution of the river will not solve this problem.

Much has already been said about the shortcomings of the city's Small Area Waterfront plan. Rather than augmenting these criticisms, I would like to present what I think are the necessary actions for our City Council.

Waterfront Plan: Start over on the waterfront plan. Create a world class master plan for the waterfront which is appropriate to the historic town of Alexandria. The master plan should be a long-term plan which provides the framework for an incremental approach to revitalization of the water front as funding becomes available from government, non-profit, or private sources. Think big. The starting point for the master plan should not be generation of revenue.

Robinson Terminals North and South, Cummings-Turner Properties: Explore creative funding to purchase these properties now. The expedient path, allowing development of these properties at higher density, is not necessarily the best path. The unique opportunity exists for the city to acquire these properties at a time when property prices and interest rates are low and the owners want to sell. This is a rare opportunity. Transforming the waterfront can happen slowly; but the decision to acquire these properties needs to happen now so that the opportunity is not lost.

Cohesive Design of the Water-

front: Create a cohesive waterfront with a continuous walking trail that extends from the location of the GenOn power plant all the way down to Jones Point. Parks and cultural venues, along with appropriately located retail and restaurants, will draw visitors and citizens to the waterfront. Revenue and a well-designed waterfront are not mutually incompatible. But the zoning needs to be at an appropriate scale, building types need to be appropriate for their location, and flood mitigation and parking need to be realistically addressed.

Revenue: Take a broader approach to the issue of increasing revenue for the city of Alexandria. Explore all avenues for increasing revenue before concluding that we need hotels and marinas along the waterfront. Take advantage of the expertise of financial consultants who can assist with this.

Creating a world-class waterfront will be harder than taking the expedient course, but well worth the effort. You won't have any difficulty finding volunteers who want to be part of the process.

Catherine Moore, AIA, LEED AP

Join Walk on National Mall

To the Editor:

I am thrilled to see the photo spread celebrating the East End Congregations Nov. 6 Mini Walk to support our ALIVE! House shel-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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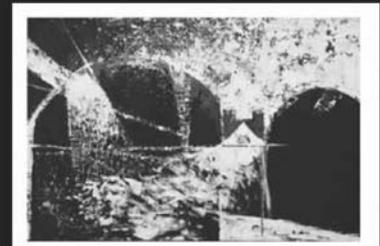
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ACT's Goal: To Strengthen City's Nonprofits

BY KERRY J. DONLEY

This week is the observance of Community Foundation Week (Nov. 12-18 for those of you marking your calendars), and one might ask — so what? Throughout the United States, community foundations exist to focus philanthropic giving and community engagement in cities and towns in order to improve the long-term strength of perhaps our greatest assets — the communities in which we live. All of us want strong communities in order to provide safety, security and a high quality of life, and community foundations are one vehicle for us to achieve these goals.

In Alexandria, we are fortunate to have ACT for Alexandria to serve this vital role. Founded in 2004, ACT for Alexandria was created through a generous gift from the Steurle family in memory of Norma Steurle, a community activist who died on Sept. 11 at the Pentagon.

ACT's mission is to increase the level and effectiveness of giving and engagement in Alexandria through philanthropy and collaboration by our citizens who have always displayed an extraordinary amount of civic pride. ACT serves as the agent to channel

that civic pride towards making Alexandria a stronger community.

ACT is not just another community nonprofit organization. It seeks to strengthen our existing non-profits through grants to improve fundraising, governance and efficiency in service delivery. To date, more than 20 non-profits have received more than \$500,000 in Capacity Building Grants enabling them to better assist in servicing the human service needs in Alexandria. ACT seeks to make our nonprofits stronger and more effective.

Together with the City of Alexandria, Volunteer Alexandria and the Alexandria Jaycees, ACT for Alexandria has spearheaded Spring for Alexandria, a three-day celebration held in May highlighting giving and service that has brought together over 2,000 citizens and volunteers. During Spring for Alexandria we focus on ways to contribute both time and treasure to improve our city. Volunteer service projects, donation centers for clothing and household items, recognition of significant philanthropy and corporate service are all highlighted throughout the three days known as Spring for Alexandria.

But ACT for Alexandria's commitment does not end there. ACT's list of activities

includes:

- ❖ Spring2Action, an on-line giving event which raised over \$100,000 for 47 non-profits this year;

- ❖ ACT is involved with the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, the City of Alexandria and Virginia Tech on a community indicators project;

- ❖ ACT is engaging the next generation of Alexandrians through Give Back Alexandria, a group of over 300 young adults engaged in social networking, volunteerism and philanthropy to benefit our City;

- ❖ Together with the City of Alexandria, ACT helped create the Center for Alexandria's Children which coordinates efforts to prevent, investigate and treat victims of child abuse;

- ❖ ACT and the City have created the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations in order to improve efficiency, advocacy and service delivery in the human service sector;

- ❖ ACT helped create giving circles like the Giving Circle of Alexandria which pools the intellectual and financial resources of over 300 women to facilitate the establishment of new programs that reach Alexandria children and families in need; and

- ❖ ACT's Impact: Innovation + Philan-

thropy, a program which has brought philanthropic leaders such as Senator Mark Warner, Ted Leonsis, Mario Morino and Bill Shore to Alexandria to discuss best practices in philanthropy and corporate giving.

Although relatively young as an organization, ACT for Alexandria is quickly making its mark here in the City. In keeping with its mission, ACT has brought more philanthropy focused on Alexandria and its human service needs. ACT has focused on making our existing non-profits stronger and more effective. ACT has sought to broaden not only philanthropy and giving, but has also emphasized service and volunteerism.

And ACT has sought to involve more of Alexandria in giving and service — younger citizens, our vibrant businesses and established Alexandrians in a common effort to identify human needs, how we might address those needs and ultimately strengthen our community.

As we celebrate Community Foundations Week, let us all be thankful for ACT and their efforts here in Alexandria, but let us also be grateful for the hundreds of community foundations at work throughout the country working to improve cities and towns both now and in the future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

ter [Alexandria Gazette Packet, Nov. 10-16].

But you missed an important part of the story.

Not only is the Mini Walk an excellent example of ecumenism in action, of ALIVE! in action, but it is one of over 700 mini walks and a huge Walkathon on the National Mall — all raising funds as part of the 23rd Fanny Mae Help the Homeless program. In 2010, the D.C. area raised \$6.5 million for 118 non-profit organizations serving over 400,000 clients. And, ALIVE! House earned over one third of our budget — the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless program is life's blood for us.

Missed the Mini? Register at helpthehomelessdc.org and join us on the National Mall, Nov. 19, 9 a.m.

Susanne Arnold

Co-Chair ALIVE! House Committee

Walk Friendly?

To the Editor:

Last week someone wrote about Alexandria being a "Walk friendly town." It was until the council permitted the restaurants to take over half the sidewalk.

Now we pedestrians have about two feet to use and that is blocked by trash cans, utility poles, planters, newspaper vending machines, etc. The council should have made lower King Street a walking mall at the same time. That would be a "Walk friendly" action.

William R. Phillippe
Alexandria

Thanksgiving First in Virginia

To the Editor:

We Virginians can rightly claim our forebears first celebrated and established the custom of celebrating Thanksgiving on these shores. Let's remember and teach our children about the 1619 Thanksgiving celebration at Berkeley Hundred, Va. It was the first Thanksgiving celebrated by the English colonists in our country, despite the many textbooks that give the Pilgrims' 1621 celebration at Plymouth, Mass. that honor. Also, Alexandria's own George Washington was the first President to set aside a special day for the nation to offer Thanksgiving to God.

On Dec. 4, 1619, when the Margaret, sailing from Bristol, England, reached her destination 20 miles upstream from Jamestown at Berkeley Hundred, now Berkeley Plantation, Captain John Woodliffe opened the sealed orders given him in London. They directed that the first act of those 38 settlers and eight crewmen aboard should be to have a service of thanksgiving to God for their safe arrival, and the settlers and crew did so. Indians, familiar with the settlers and religious services at Jamestown, probably watched and may have joined them for the feast that followed. Furthermore, Woodliffe's orders provided that the day of the ship's arrival was to be "yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God."

In 1622 the Indians massacred almost everyone at the Berkeley settlement. Thus the custom of thanksgiving was observed

there for only a few years. After the tragedy, the area was abandoned, and the settlers at Jamestown did not feel like celebrating. After many years colonists returned to the site, and the Harrison family built a beautiful home there, Berkeley Plantation. Benjamin Harrison IV signed the Declaration of Independence. His grandson, William Henry Harrison, was elected President, and two generations later, Benjamin Harrison, his grandson, also was elected President. Both wrote their Inaugural Addresses at Berkeley. Today Berkeley is open to the public, there is a marker at the site on the James River shore where the 1619 Thanksgiving was held, and there is an annual historical reenactment of the first thanksgiving at the original site.

For those who might have forgotten, the Pilgrims did not even land on the rocky coast up north until December 1620. They had intended to come to Virginia, but were blown off course by heavy winds. They starved for the first year, so they were most grateful for their bountiful harvest in 1621. According to the Pilgrim Hall website, "In ... 1621, the 53 surviving Pilgrims celebrated their successful harvest, as was the English custom The Pilgrims did not call this harvest festival a "Thanksgiving," although they did give thanks to God. To them, a Day of Thanksgiving was purely religious. Their first recorded religious Day of Thanksgiving was held in 1623 in response to a providential rainfall."

Virginians have another tie to our modern Thanksgiving celebration. Alexandria's famous son George Washington issued his first Presidential proclamation on Oct. 3, 1789, by calling for day of public thanks-

giving, fasting (not feasting) and prayer on Thursday, Nov. 2, for the many blessings God had bestowed on our country, asking pardon for our national transgressions, and seeking His aid in our future endeavors. Later governors and presidents continued this tradition of setting aside a day for thanksgiving.

It is appropriate for us to celebrate today, like our predecessors, with attendance at a thanksgiving service to God as well as feasting and fun with family and friends.

Let us Virginians tell our story and reclaim our heritage as the first English-speaking people to celebrate a public thanksgiving for our personal blessings as well as those to our community and nation.

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

Dysfunctional Family

To the E^ditor:

When the Beaugard Citizens Group was formed last November, as an unappointed citizens group, the original intent of the citizens members, myself included were valid. We wanted to discuss traffic/transportation issues as related to the development of the Beaugard Small Area Plan, possible zoning changes, retail, commercial and residential development, and agreed we wanted to work with city staff to help provide us with their data already collected related to the above issues, have the expertise of city staff as related to development issues already discussed about this plan three years ago along with the major developer in-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

PEOPLE

Sutherland and Rison Wed

The marriage of Miss Mallory Ann Rison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Townes Rison, IV of Ashland, Va., to Mr. Sean Edward Sutherland, son of Ms. Joyce Egger Sutherland and Mr. Charles Edward Sutherland of Alexandria, took place on Oct. 15, 2011, at St. James the Less Episcopal Church. The Rev. Charles Joy officiated.

The bride, escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents, is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Alan Kelley of Glen Allen, Va., and Mrs. Louise Sibold Rison of Richmond, Va., and the late Mr. George Townes Rison, III. The groom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Oskar Wilhelm Egger of Alexandria and the late Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Alfred Sutherland, formerly of Alexandria.

Miss Carter Maxey served as the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Jesi Pair, Jessica Woodworth, Laurel Pavia, and Nora Hetrick. Flower girl and ring bearer were Lauren and Jack Sutherland, brother and sister of the groom.

Mr. Casey Sutherland, brother of the groom, served as the best man. Groomsmen were Nick Ruesch, Jason Early, Anthony Pavia, and Chad Attiliis.

Readers were Alexandra Hijjawi and Joyce Sutherland

The rehearsal dinner, hosted by the groom's parents, was held at The Water Grill. The reception, hosted by the bride's parents, was held at The Dominion Club.

The bride is a graduate of Patrick Henry High School and Lynchburg College. She is employed by Alexandria City Public Schools.

The groom is a graduate of Commonwealth Acad-



Mallory Ann Rison and Sean Edward Sutherland were married Oct. 15.

emy and Lynchburg College. He is owner and operator of Rosemont Landscaping and Lawn Care.

Following a honeymoon in Jamaica, the couple will reside in Alexandria.

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For a tour of the hospital or to make your donation to *Envisioning the Future: Project 2010*, contact Mary Myers, Foundation Executive Director, 703-504-7770.



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

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

involved within the boundaries of this SAP, i.e. JBG. Unfortunately, this has not happened within this past year due to what I believe has been the lack of the elected leadership of the group. Our meetings over the past year have turned into a “dysfunctional family process” that has been “all over the map” with regard to process, specific topics to be addressed, clearly defined criteria, citizen input that has not been listened to by the elected leadership and of course, individual/group agendas that have made this group process very difficult. As a result, we have not taken major votes related to submission of “draft reports/recommendations” that have been submitted to Faroll Hamer, P&Z director along with important issues related to transportation that need further discussion with TES. It has only been within the past couple of months that dates have been given to the citizen members by the elected leadership to submit our suggestions/recommendations without having enough information to form an informative draft plan. All of this should have started a year ago when we got together, but it didn't happen.

Now the “draft recommendation” plan is in the hands of P&Z and TES without a vote of this citizens group to do so. Faroll Hamer, director of P&Z and her staff will review this “draft plan” and make their changes or whatever and then supposedly give it back to the “citizens group” for further review and hopefully incorporate necessary

changes. What an awful mess this group has become and didn't have to happen this way if the group's elected leadership had been more open and willing to allow for citizen input and more in-depth discussions.

Annabelle Fisher
Alexandria

Preserve History

To the Editor:

The building, located at 224 N. Fayette St., known as the American Legion building, is now being offered for sale. The building was originally built, with help from the Lanham Fund approved by the United States Congress, as the GW Carver Nursery School. It was named after George Washington Carver, who died the same year the building was built, 1943. The corner became known as the Carver Corner with the Carver Movie Theater and Carver Men's Store across the Street. But it was also known as the block, or the place where African Americans during the era of segregation were welcome, and could find all the services they needed.

For 57 years it was also the home to the William Thomas Post 129 of the American Legion, named after the first African American from Alexandria to die in WWI. This building could become a monument to all the African Americans in Alexandria who have served their country, and help preserve the legacy of an era that could soon be for

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

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OPINION

All Need To Protect Children

BY GISELLE L. PELAEZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE CENTER FOR ALEXANDRIA'S CHILDREN

The tragedy that has unfolded in recent days at Penn State University should make us all stop and question how so many adults failed to protect an innocent 10-year old boy and others about whom we have yet to hear. What has happened to our collective consciousness that we value the reputations of institutions at the cost of human suffering? It is time that we as a society wake up and take action against those who would harm our children.

The story is all too familiar. A child is abused. Witnesses don't take the action to rescue that child and ensure that the perpetrator no longer has any access to potential victims. Perhaps they are unsure how to react. Supervisors, coaches, clergy, and presidents of institutions seem to fear for their reputations more than for a child who has been devastated and forever traumatized. The sweeping of incidents like those at Penn State under the carpet is no anomaly. Sadly, what is said to have transpired in the locker rooms of a prominent university is no exception, child abuse happens across our country within our communities daily and the statistics are staggering. One in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused before their 18th birthdays. This means that in most any classroom or neighborhood, there are children who are silently bearing the burden of sexual abuse. One in five chil-

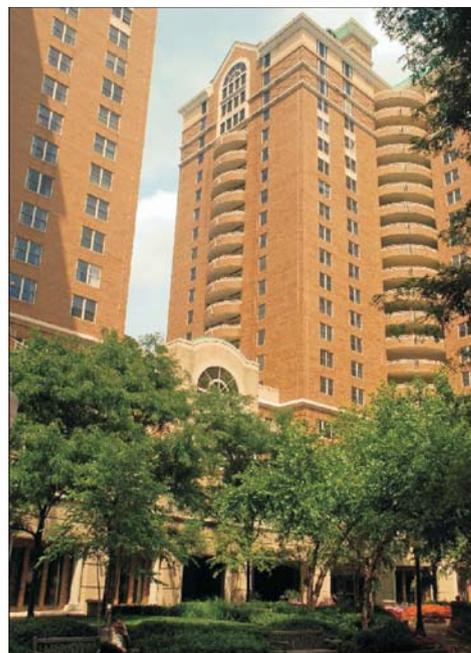
dren are sexually solicited while on the Internet. Close to 70 percent of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) occur to children ages 17 and under. The median age for reported sexual abuse is nine years old, 20 percent of the victims of sexual abuse are under age eight, and most child victims never report the abuse. Sexually abused children are at greater risk for psychological, emotional, social, and physical problems, often lasting into adulthood, or for a lifetime.

Each of us has a responsibility to protect our society's most vulnerable. We can and must learn the signs of abuse and be vigilant in protecting our children. The Center for Alexandria's Children, Inc. is dedicated not only to serving children who have suffered from child abuse, but also to the eradicating this devastation in our culture. How do we do that? Education.

Not coincidentally, the Center is implementing Darkness 2 Light's Stewards of Children training program in Alexandria to teach the core principles for preventing, recognizing, and reacting responsibly to child sexual abuse. Our goal is to raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse by educating adults about the steps they can take to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of child sexual abuse.

Those who sexually abuse children are drawn to settings where they can gain easy access to children, such as athletic leagues, faith centers, clubs, and schools. Sex offenders are clever in finding opportunities that provide access to children and groom

SEE ADULTS, PAGE 20



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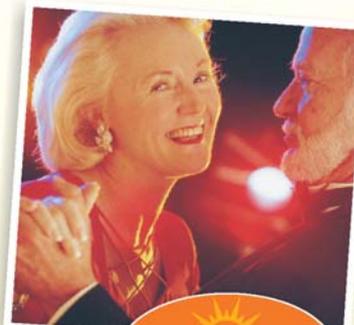
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Ho, Ho, Homemade Gifts

Less stress, more meaning, and full of love.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
GAZETTE PACKET

For a holiday season packed with memories of Christmas past, consider a boycott of big malls and online shopping sites this year and tap into your creative muse instead.

Whether your tool of choice is a crochet hook, paintbrush, or pair of scissors, there is an Old Town merchant ready and willing to help you whip up the perfect gift, often in less than a day.

On Sunday, four friends spent a couple of hours at The Potomac Bead Company on King Street trying their hands at creating double-strand beaded necklaces. Sarah Simpson organized the outing. She says she was looking for something new to try.

"Since it's starting to get cold out," Simpson said, "I need to find something to do inside."

Simpson's friends all live in Alexandria. Of the four friends, only Rebecca Foster had done any beading before, but this was her first class. "My mom still likes the handmade gifts from us, so it's a good possibility I'll make some jewelry for her."

"I think it's a good mom gift," added Heather Hellwig. "They appreciate that you put time into it."

Giving suggestions and encouragement was instructor Rebecca Kuo who feels that homemade gifts are all about love.

"When choosing the beads, they are thinking about someone special," Kuo explained. "They make their selections based on that person and how they feel about them. The gift is unique and specifically just for them."

Julia Martorana, the last of the quartet, wasn't ready to guarantee that her experiment would translate to Christmas gifts. "Maybe, I guess," she said with a laugh, "depending on how things go today."

The Potomac Bead Company offers classes almost every day, sometimes twice a day, from now until Christmas. And with all classes, participants leave with a finished project. That's about 48 gifts.

JUST A LITTLE MORE than a block away on North Fayette Street, several women were sharing Thanks-



PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Diana Link rolls a ball of yarn with friend Michael Inadomi looking on. In the foreground, a kit with everything to make a gift or give as a gift to the crafter on your list.

giving stories while working on various knitting projects at FibreSpace. A few were waiting for the start of a workshop on how to create felted wool Christmas stockings. Most of them were working on gifts for the holidays.

Fingerless gloves are a hot item this holiday season — especially for smart phone junkies. They keep hands warm while leaving fingers free to make phone calls, check e-mails and play online games.

That's what Trudy Gongora was making as she took her place at the informal knitting circle, leaning against a wall in the one of the store windows. The Alexandria resident says she's been knitting for about nine years. "After about a 30-year break," she smiled.

SEE COMBINING SKILLS, PAGE 17

"I picked up a book and a skein of yarn and taught myself."

— Diana Link



Beading necklaces for Christmas.

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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Alexandria resident Melinda Schwinh knits a skiing cowl for her daughter in Denver while Claire Kiehle of Maryland reaches for the gift she's knitting for her office Christmas donation to homeless shelters.



Trudy Gongora of Alexandria working on a fingerless glove and Robin "Queen of Baby Blankets" Rivkind of Old Town.

Combining Skill, Talent, Love

FROM PAGE 16

Old Town resident Robin Rivkind is among a growing group of knitters that learned as children and have picked the hobby up again as adults. She calls herself the queen of the baby blankets and was working on a deep evergreen creation on Sunday. "It's not really a Christmas gift," she admitted, "but the baby's due in January."

In the back of the store, Diana Link was using the wheel to make a ball from a skein of yarn. Helping her was her friend Michael Inadomi. Link lives in California now, but says that last year while she was still living in Alexandria, she had the urge to learn how to knit.

"I picked up a book and a skein of yarn and taught myself," Link said. "I knit Michael a scarf for Christmas."

IF YOU'RE MORE COMFORTABLE with a paint brush than knitting needles, visit Paint This!, which offers one of the widest variety of ready-to-paint ceramics in the area. Put a personal touch on something for the kitchen, or on a vase, keepsake box,

picture frames and more. You paint, they do the firing in their kiln. Not into painting? Paint This! also offers mosaics and glass fusion project possibilities to get creative gift-giving juices flowing.

E-cards can be helpful if you've left everything until the last minute. But for something a little more personal and almost just as easy, there are do-it-yourself options available at The Paper Source on lower King Street.

And it's not just about holiday cards. The Paper Source can show you how to make a wreath, blossoming amaryllis in a pot, ornaments, even a gingerbread house — all out of paper. There are in-store demonstrations every week, right up until Christmas. Children can even flex their creative

muscles at workshops and they might even end up with something just right for grandparents and teachers.

"A handmade gift is more heartwarming said Kim Lough, assistant manager at The Potomac Bead Company. "You can customize pieces to match different tastes, personalize it and make it on a budget for much less than it would cost in a department store."



A Do-It-Yourself knitting kit to make as a gift or give as a gift to the crafter on your list. Available at Fibre Space on King Street in Old Town.

"I'm making some jewelry, experimenting with this for myself. I plan to make some stuff for others for the holiday season if it all works out. But I have to like it to give it away."

— Kristen Mellinger



Beading multi-strand necklaces are Sarah Simpson, Rebecca Foster, Instructor Rebecca Kuo, Kristen Mellinger, Heather Hellwig and Julia Martorana.



Instructor Rebecca Kuo gives Sarah Simspson some tips with Rebecca Foster in the foreground.

Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild

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LONG & FOSTER

OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT OFFICE



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Managing Broker
Bill Jourdan

NEW PRICE 9387 Mount Vernon Cir \$950,000
Majestic Home-Mt. Vernon on the Potomac!
OPEN SUNDAY 11/20, 1-4!

Unique opportunity-bargain price on property with true estate potential in area's leading waterfront community. Private marina access. Home offers approx 6,000 sq ft living space, brick exterior, spacious rooms, open kitchen-fam room, high ceilings, library with custom built-ins, 3 finished levels, 4FPs and oversize garage. Half acre grounds, custom pool. GW Pkwy S, past estate; L-Ferry Landing, R-Mt Vernon Cir.

NEW PRICE 3805 Riverwood Rd \$629,000
Check this Price!
OPEN SUNDAY 11/20, 1-4!

Best value in prestigious Riverwood in years! Large home just substantially updated. Fabulous features include: 3 finished levels, 4 bedrooms, updated kitchen and baths. Home was just redecorated and is in "move in" condition. Owner wants immediate sale and has priced accordingly! GW Pkwy S, past estate; L-Old Mount Vernon Rd; L-Riverwood Rd, on corner.

OPEN SUN 2300 Candlewood \$585,000
Expanded Tri-Level!
Builder's own!
Exceptionally large well maintained home for the money! Fabulous property in prime location featuring 4 bedrooms, bright open floor plan, finished lower level and large breakfast kitchen area. Most major rooms have been substantially expanded. Private backyard features large pool and deck. Unique opportunity! OPEN SUN 11/20, 1-4! GW Parkway S, R-Collingwood; L-Candlewood.

NEW PRICE 8428 Old Mt Vernon Rd \$759,000
Unique Compound!
One of a kind compound consisting of a luxurious 5645 sq ft home and a totally remodeled and updated 2BR cottage. Ideal situation for home office or extended family. New home has everything including 6BR, 6BA, custom kit, stunning master suite, finished lower level and 3 car garage. Upgraded ceramic and trim detail throughout. Only two house compound in Mt Vernon for close to this price. OPEN SUN 11/20, 1-4! GW Parkway S, past estate; R-Old Mount Rd.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4! \$879,000
Kingstowne / 5323 TRUMPINGTON CT
An exceptional, stylish & spacious 4,700 sqft, 6BR/4BA home. Versatile floor plan inc: chef's kit, large family room w/fireplace + media rm that could easily convert to main lvl owner's suite. Gorgeous garden & deck backs to protected land. Superb location near Kingstowne Towne Ctr., 395/495 & 2 Metro stops.

www.brianandjery.com
Brian Hong & Jery Beamer 703.929.5764

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4! \$925,000
Alex / Yates Gardens
813 S ROYAL ST
Beautifully & completely renovated w/windows on 3-sides + bumped-out family rm are just a part of this semi-detached, brick end TH. 3BRs each with its own full bath (3.5BA). Warm wood flrs, SS appls, wood-burning frpl, landscaped brick & stone front, rear/side patios. 2-car parking in front. The best in Old Town living.

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

\$830,000
Parker Gray Historic District
"TWO FOR ONE"
Currently 1 parcel, combined from two former townhomes, City of Alexandria owned, anxiously awaiting a builder/investor for this "as is" cash deal. Offers will be reviewed (no later than noon 11/28) for the best offer to convert this diamond-in-the-rough back to two separate townhomes.

Elfie Blankini 703.593.2634

PREPARED! 1098 Sea View Ave \$975,000
River Front Opportunity!
Stunning Potomac riverfront home just 8 miles from Ft. Belvoir. 7,000 sq ft luxury home on gorgeous lot with sandy beach for less than half the price of just a riverfront lot in Alex/Mt. Vernon area. Home has everything! Highlights include: 3 finished levels, 6BR, 7.5BA, sumptuous master suite, gourmet kitchen and 3 car garage. Price just slashed for immediate sale!

NEW PRICE 8890 McNair Dr \$699,000
Pristine Custom Colonial!
Custom colonial in enclave of 17 homes on quiet cul-de-sac surrounded by grounds of Mt Vernon Country Club. Many fabulous features include: large room sizes, stained hardwood floors, updated kit & baths, open kitchen-family room, upgraded trim detail & custom built-ins. Spacious master suite and 2 car gar. Pristine condition on gorgeous professionally landscaped lot.

NEW HOME 516A E. Howell Ave \$679,000
Del Ray-Rare Opportunity!
Exceptionally spacious home by one of area's leading builders in prime location. Four stories of luxury featuring bright open floor plan, open kitchen-family room, stunning master suite and private rear yard and deck. Unique combination of close-in convenience with up to date floor plan and amenities. Buy during construction and customize to suit your taste. (Photo is rendition)

\$669,000
Alex / Liberty Row
"LUXURY"
Enter this 1st floor condo thru your own private entrance off First St. or from the lobby. 2BR/2.5BA including high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, granite, SS appliances, crown mouldings, hardwood floors, gas fireplace, 2 MstrBRs & BAs, plus 2 underground garage parking spaces.

Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460

\$675,000
New Alexandria
"STORY BOOK HOME"
An expanded Cape w/ mature landscaping - warm & rustic yet sophisticated décor - 2 stone wood-burning fps - built-in seating & cabs - 9' ceilings - family room add. & screened porch off kitchen. Great location off GW Pkwy.

Val Klotz 703.303.9744
Mary Siverson 703.209.6918

\$2,208,000 - \$2,638,000
Gunston
"NEW HOMES"
5 acre waterfront lots in the gated community, "The Reserve", offers security, private deep water marina & wonderful views of the Potomac River. Keswick Homes offers 3 wonderful floor plans.

RandyBenderRealEstateExpert.com
Randy Bender 703-906-1749

JUST LISTED 7929 Bayberry Dr \$549,000
Spacious Home-

CONTRACT!
Two Car Garage!
A large home in prime location with an oversize 2 car garage for under

1907 Rampart Dr \$587,000
Stunning Home

SOLD!
-Amazing Price!
Owner wants to miss opportunity to acquire a

4503 Ferry Landing Rd \$585,000
One

SOLD!
Level Luxury!
Rare opportunity Spacious one lvl home in premier

\$620,000
Alexandria
"WELL-PRICED"
A splendid townhome built in the best tradition of Van Metre. Extremely well-priced compared to other recent sales in the community. Highlights: hardwoods, plush carpets, stainless appliances, luxury master bath, deck, patio, fireplace & much more.

www.brianandjery.com
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\$759,000 - \$1,050,000
Porto Vecchio
1250 S WASHINGTON ST
Seldom available, all 3 units have breathtaking river views. #309 - 3BR, 2,160 sq ft, solarium, balc, 2 gar. #501 - 2BR, fully renovated kitchen, balc, 1 gar. #710 - 2BR/library w/walls of glass, frpl, solarium, 1 gar. Shown by appointment, call...

Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
Mary Taylor 703.785.5619

\$589,000
Alexandria
"POWHATAN PL"
Rarely Available sunlit 3BR/2.5BA w/many upgrades including: gas frpl, built-ins, wood floors & eat-in kitchen. Upper level deck & garage parking. Plus quick commutes, low maintenance, excellent Old Town location - a very smart buy.

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Adults Must Assume Responsibility To Protect Children

FROM PAGE 15

adults to lower their boundaries about contact with their children in the same way that they groom children for sexual contact. All parents should sense a "red flag" if any adult (friend, coach, minister, teacher, or family member) seeks to spend significant amounts of time alone with your child.

Children are not responsible for

their own protection. However, it is important to teach all children about safe and unsafe touches and who to go to for help if they are made uncomfortable by a touch.

The burden falls on all adults who have the moral and ethical obligation to report suspected child abuse, irrespective of whether or not they have a legal obligation to do so as a mandated

reporter. And, fulfilling one's legal obligation, which varies by state, is not a replacement for exercising one's moral responsibility to personally report suspected abuse. The law in Pennsylvania has some gaping holes. It currently does not require the person who witnesses or suspects child abuse to report to law enforcement or CPS. This points

to the need to continue to strengthen our laws to protect our children from predators.

Child sexual abuse is a complex problem, but awareness, education and support can provide parents and caregivers with the tools necessary to protect our children. Each of us plays an important role in putting a halt to child abuse by actively educating ourselves about the signs and

stepping up to report any suspicious incidents. Together, we can make a difference and help keep the children of our community safe.

I encourage you to visit D2L.org or Onewithcourage.org, as well as our own web site, www.centerforalexandriachildren.org for more in depth information on how you can learn the signs of child abuse and arm yourself with the tools to help protect the children of our community.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

gotten, when soldiers who fought side by side in Europe came home to learn that life was still separate and unequal. We have fought a long battle to save this building, even taking it to court on Civil Rights grounds, because so many other buildings have been lost in the Parker Gray neighborhood.

Now we have an opportunity as a community to save the building, and its legacy. The building is now being offered for sale, for \$675,000. Soon a sign will go up on the property, and it is on the website of Preservation Virginia: <http://preservationvirginia.org/PropertyForSale/>. The new owner of this building must preserve the look and appearance of the building, but it could have any one of several uses. It could be the second restaurant on the corner of Queen and Fayette, or an architect's office, or a very unique residence. It could also be a daycare as it was originally built for, next to a great playground. It could be an educational center or an art collective.

It is my great hope that someone will come forward who will want to preserve this building for future generations. We have discovered that it has an interesting and rich history, and we hope there will be someone who appreciates this history who will bring it to life. I know from the people in the community who I worked with to save this building from demolition, that it is a place where many great memories were made, and was a social hub that once was at the center of the African community in Alexandria. But if a buyer is not found by January of 2012, the developer can still demolish the building, replacing it with the condos he has designed in its place. It is an irreplaceable building, so let's work together to save it.

Boyd Walker

Chair, Greater Alexandria Preservation Alliance
www.connectionnewspapers.com

Shop Early & Save City-Wide!

Black Friday Sale

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

30% OFF 6-8 am

20% OFF 8-10 am

10% OFF All Day November 25
FREE CITY PARKING IN GARAGES AND METERS FROM 6 AM ONWARD!

PARTICIPATING STORES:

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Bellacara	The Dog Park	Hooray For Books!	Pink & Brown	
Bishop Boutique	Encore Consignment	Hysteria	Red Barn Mercantile	
Bloomers	Boutique	Imagine Artwear	The Shoe Hive	
The Christmas Attic	European Country Living	La Cuisine	The Spice & Tea Exchange of Alexandria	
		Monday's Child		

For full details on all discounts and participating stores, visit www.shoplocalalexandria.com/blackfriday

THIS PROGRAM WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE ALEXANDRIA MARKETING FUND.

Santa Claus is coming to OLD TOWN

Presented by OLD TOWN BOUTIQUE DISTRICT
In partnership with MEALS ON WHEELS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Come meet Santa every Saturday and Sunday between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve at 210 S. Union St. in Old Town, Alexandria
Nov. 26th-27th, Dec. 3rd-4th, 10th-11th and 17th-18th. \$15 — includes photo with Santa
For hours and more information visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com

Notes from the Producer

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Michael Sharp returns to MetroStage as Scrooge in the holiday show “A Broadway Christmas Carol.”

Imagine directing, choreographing, and playing a lead role, in addition to helping with props and costumes. That is what Michael Sharp is doing at MetroStage right now in “A Broadway Christmas Carol.” Michael, who now lives in Covington, Va., has returned to the Washington, D.C., theatre scene to a role that he has played many times before. Michael played Scrooge on the stage at Round House Theatre for three years in the early 2000s. He most recently directed the show and played Scrooge at the Greenbrier Valley Theatre in Lewisburg, WV, last Christmas.

Michael has a long-standing relationship with MetroStage. When the Duke Street theatre



Michael Sharp in “A Broadway Christmas Carol.”

was demolished in 1996, he joined the cast of “Side by Side by Sondheim” when a homeless MetroStage performed in the Marquis Lounge (remember “Mrs. Foggybottom?”) at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. He received a Helen Hayes nomination for his role. He then returned to MetroStage in 2001 to headline the opening production of the new theatre in its current location on Royal Street. Appropriately, it was a cabaret called “Starting Here, Starting Now!”

Other Washington credits are

“Grand Hotel” (Helen Hayes Award) and “Sweeney Todd” at Signature Theatre, and “Pippin” at Round House. He is also a cabaret singer and can be counted on to perform one of his signature songs, Sondheim’s “Being Alive,” at MetroStage cabarets. MetroStage welcomes an old friend back to our stage and is delighted that the old curmudgeon Scrooge finds redemption by the end of the show! “A Broadway Christmas Carol” will run through Dec. 18 at MetroStage.



Pastry chef Roland Mesnier.

LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

Former White House Pastry Chef To Create Gingerbread Masterpiece

Mount Vernon welcomes former White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier as he creates a gingerbread replica of George Washington’s home from Nov. 14 through Nov. 22. Visitors can watch as Mesnier constructs the masterpiece, which will include intricate details such as works of art on walls and several marzipan figures, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Vaughan Lobby, near the Shops at Mount Vernon. No admission is required to enter the Vaughan

Lobby and Shops at Mount Vernon. However, note that general admission (\$15/adult, \$7/child) is required to enter the estate.

The 5-foot-wide and 2-foot-tall gingerbread Mansion replica will be on display as part of the Christmas at Mount Vernon daytime event, (included in Estate admission) which begins on Nov. 25. Visit www.MountVernon.org. Call 703-780-2000; 703-799-8697 (TDD).

The Christmas Attic Transforms Building Into Holiday Advent

Old Town’s landmark, The Christmas Attic has partnered with area schools, churches, and community groups to help produce a temporary exhibition featuring illuminated canvases of art to be revealed in each of the store’s windows for The Christmas Attic’s Holiday Advent Calendar Event — part of the store’s 40th Anniversary Celebration.

From Dec. 1 through Dec. 24, each day at sundown, the store will reveal “advent art” featuring a variety of local holiday creations. All art will be placed either in the windows or on the brick of the building on the front side facing Union Street. Visitors can picture the entire building being transformed into an advent calendar.

In addition, each Friday in December at sundown, there will be holiday entertainment and activities inside the store for shoppers to enjoy.

At the closing of the Advent Calendar event, the canvases of advent art will be available for auction at a post-event celebration (to



The Christmas Attic is at 125 S. Union St., Old Town.

be scheduled in early January). Proceeds from the auction will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic.

Some area schools and organizations that are participating in making advent creations are: Old Presbyterian Meeting House Preschool, Meeting House Youth Group, Good Shepherd Catholic Church Youth Group, St. Anthony’s Day School, Christ United Meth-

odist Church Youth Group, Greentree Preschool, St. Raymond’s Catholic Church Youth Group, and Aquia Episcopal Church.

The store is located in an 18th century tobacco warehouse situated one block from the Potomac River at 125 S. Union Street in Old Town Alexandria; call 703-548-2829 or visit www.christmasattic.com

Thanksgiving Basket Give-Away

The Church of God and Saints of Christ Temple Beth El located at 634 N. Patrick Street in Old Town Alexandria, referred by many as the “little white church on the corner of Patrick and Wyeth” will hold its Annual Thanksgiving Basket distribution this Saturday, Nov. 19 from 3:30-5 p.m. Each year the congregation along with private donations provide registered Old Town households in-need with a complete traditional Thanksgiving meal.

❖ Contact: LaNette Jones, PR Coordinator 202-457-7193 or 301-793-7911

❖ Location: 634 N. Patrick Street, Alexandria

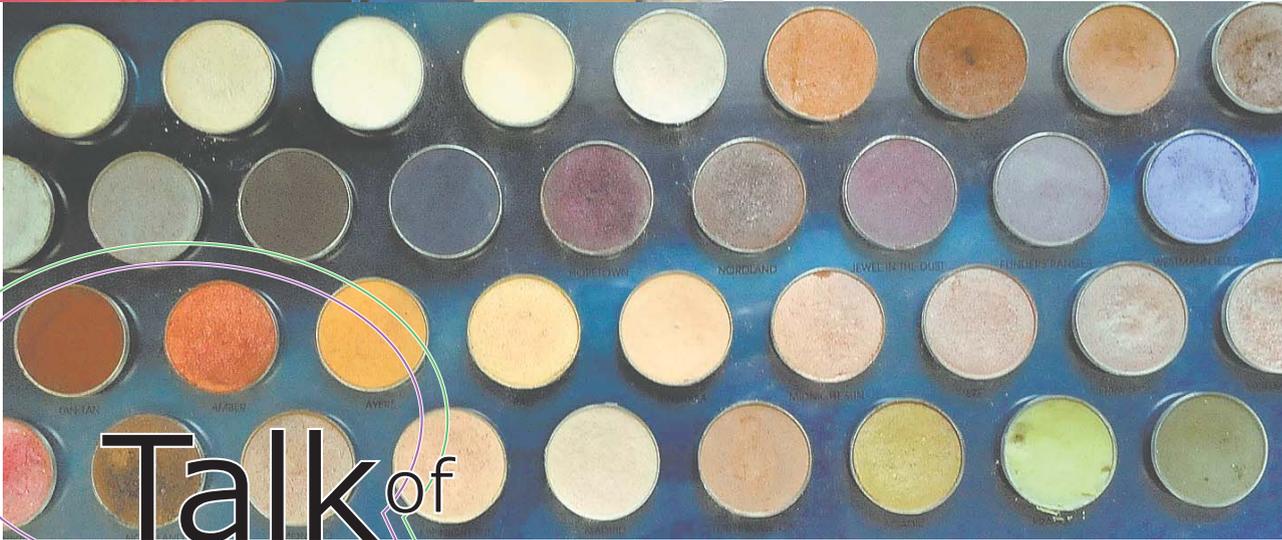
❖ Date and Time: Saturday, Nov. 19 from 3:30 - 5 p.m.



E BELLACARA
 Old Town's neighborhood boutique for all things beautiful. Carrie and the crew personally test every product they sell, so if they don't love it, you won't see it. They are always excited to assist customers with products and techniques to achieve a personalized look. Popular brands include Kiehl's, Dermalogica, SkinCeuticals, Smashbox, Molton Brown, Fresh and Tocca Beauty. Special event make-up applications for a small fee.
 1000 King Street, 703.299.9652, bellacara.com



C LORRAINE APRILE
 Angela Russell and Carmen Omiste offer consultations by appointment in the salon or on location for special events. Let them update your look and show you how to transform it from day to night. Although they both use their own make-up kits, bring yours in for advice on how to pare it down or supplement.
 112 South Fayette Street, 703.299.6100
 lorraineaprilesalon.com



Talk of the Town

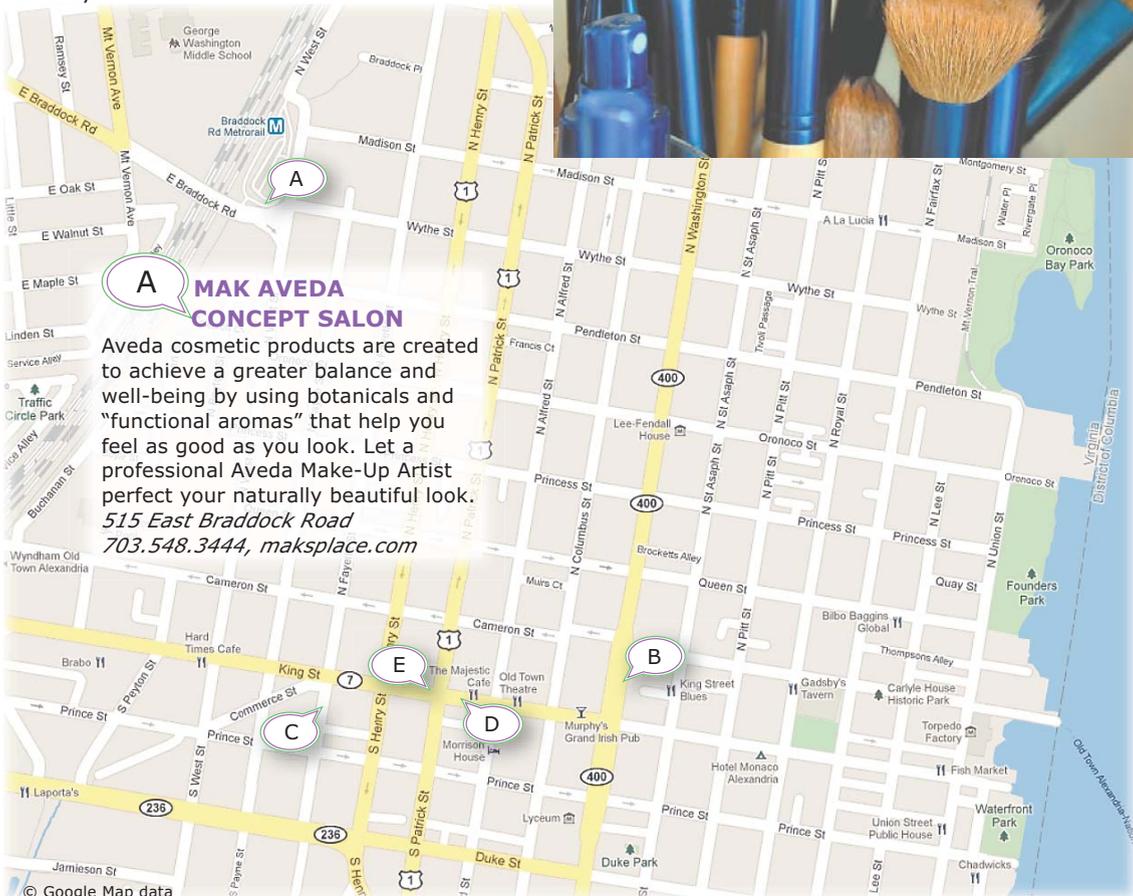
About Face

The intriguing art of make-up has been part of feminine allure since the time of Cleopatra. The Wanderer has noticed, however, that sometimes it can become less of an art and more of a horror show if not skillfully applied. On behalf of Alexandria women, he would like to direct them to some of our skilled centers. Okay, his motives may not be entirely unselfish!

Photos by Louise Krafft



B CIRCE OF ALEXANDRIA
 Carolina Vaccari, lead make-up artist, recommends their own Skin Pore-Perfecting Primer. It creates a flawless prepped canvas for any skin type and age. Circe recommends its HD Photo Touch Mineral Liquid-to-Powder Foundation. Finally, a brow product is a must! Defining your brows creates frame and shape for the face. Complimentary make-up touch ups to any guest booked for a service at the salon and spa.
 123 North Washington Street
 703.519.8528,
 circeofalexandria.com



A MAK AVEDA CONCEPT SALON
 Aveda cosmetic products are created to achieve a greater balance and well-being by using botanicals and "functional aromas" that help you feel as good as you look. Let a professional Aveda Make-Up Artist perfect your naturally beautiful look.
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 Proudly carrying Jane Iredale Mineral cosmetics because it is important for them to use a line that has no dyes or chemical preservatives, synthetic fragrances or fillers. All products have been clinically tested to be hypoallergenic and non-irritating on even the most sensitive skin. Make-up lessons as well as applications for special events.
 917 King Street, 703.299.6140, radianceoldtown.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Living Legend Portraits on View at Prudential Pen Fed

BY TRUDI VAN DYKE

A dynamic photographic art exhibition of portraits of the Living Legends of Alexandria is on view at the Prudential PenFed Realty offices at 300 North Washington St. in Old Town Alexandria.

Artist Nina Tisara is representative of the many historical photographers and painters who see beyond the subject of the “head shot” and present the soul and personality beyond the likeness.

Capturing the essence of each person is the key to making the black and white portraits of the legends come to life. The viewer of this exhibition is treated to meeting each of the legends in a way that brings their individuality to the forefront. The careful composition, lighting, and unpretentious appearance allows the viewer to virtually interact with the subject.

The success of the art is this exhibition can be attributed to the way the viewer is drawn into the portrait and can understand the passion these living legends have for their city and the contributions they have made to make it a better place.

Tisara notes that her style of photography is journalistic. In these portraits she has successfully stretched one photo to tell the subject’s story. Several of her Living Legends portraits and two taken by Steven Halperson have been exhibited in juried art shows in the Alexandria area.

Tisara shared, “Shooting in black and white traditional photography is my preferred medium. I feel it eliminates the distractions that using color can create.”

“I think like a sculptor,” she continues, “looking at shapes and forms in three dimensions and thinking of arranging my subjects and backgrounds as if they are flowers in a vase, each bloom is carefully placed to complete the composition.”

The work is carefully framed and matted by Halperson and hung in pleasing arrangements in well-lit hallways and conference rooms in a way that gives it presence as art work rather than just decoration. The unusual gallery site is well lit and welcoming and the Prudential PenFed Realty should be com-



2011 Living Legend H. Stewart Dunn, Jr. by Steven Halperson.



A Living Legends of Alexandria installation by Nina Tisara.

mended for valuing the art and artist and providing exhibition space.

I encourage citizens of Alexandria in particular to visit this outstanding art exhibition before it closes on Jan. 27 and get insight through art into the people who make Alexandria a great place to live and work. The Prudential PenFed Realty office is open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Trudi Van Dyke is an Independent Fine Art Consultant

Santa & Holiday Merriment Is Coming to Old Town

The holiday season in Old Town Alexandria is a truly magical time to experience a town beloved for its charming twist of historic ambience and contemporary flair. Old Town Alexandria has never been short on Holiday spirit but it has lacked one thing — a special visit from Old Saint Nick. But, the holiday activities for this upcoming season don’t stop there. The Old Town Boutique District (OTBD), a marketing cooperative of 30 small business retailers, has developed a holiday program that is sure to delight holiday lovers, shoppers and kids of all ages.

❖ **Black Friday** — Following in the tradition of Black Friday kicking off the holiday shopping season, OTBD member stores and other local retailers will open early on Black Friday offering door buster deals sure to lure shoppers to Old Town Alexandria. Participating stores will open at 6 a.m. offering initial discounts of up to 30 percent off. At 8 a.m., the discounts drop to 20 percent off and 10 percent off starting at 10 a.m. To make the shopping experience even easier, the City has waived all parking fees in City garages and parking meters for the day.

❖ **Santa Claus** — In partnership with Meals on Wheels and with the support of area businesses, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus are finally coming to Old Town. Children can get their picture taken with the holiday couple every Saturday (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Sunday (12 noon to 5 p.m.) between Saturday, Nov. 26 and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 210 South Union Street in Old Town. The cost for pictures is \$15 for a 5x7 print.

❖ **Window Wonderland** — Holiday spirit is most often expressed through decorations. Decorating the town with Holiday spirit is just what the OTBD wants retailers, restaurants, offices and commercial buildings to do. Window Wonderland is an effort to encourage window decorations up and down the commercial streets of Old Town. A contest will be held to identify the best window décor. Not only does the business with the best window win, but the voters can be winners too. Voters will be entered into a drawing to win four free tickets to Breakfast with Santa to be held Dec. 23. Voting on the OTBD’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/oldtownboutiquedistrict) will be from Nov. 24-Dec. 5, 2011. Winners will be announced by Dec. 10 and honored by a visit from the City of Alexandria’s Mayor Bill Euille.

❖ **Breakfast with Santa** — The OTBD will cap off the holiday season with a send-off Breakfast with Santa on Friday, Dec. 23. This will be the last opportunity for children to share their Christmas wishes with Santa before he heads back to the North Pole. Tickets for Breakfast with Santa can be purchased on the OTBD’s website. The breakfast will be held from 8:30-10:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 23 at the Union Street Public House. The cost is \$10/child, \$20/adult and includes a breakfast buffet, craft stations, cookie decorating. Guests are welcome to take their own photos with Santa.

More information on the holiday activities in Old Town can be found on the Old Town Boutique District’s web site, www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.



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November 19th-20th, 2011

Saturday: 10AM-5PM • Sunday: 10AM-1PM

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A Holiday Extravaganza for the Entire Family!

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- Enjoy Breakfast or Milk, Cookies, and a story with Santa
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Tickets are going fast—reserve your family’s tickets today

General admission: \$11

The weekend’s festivities are marked by a display of more than 100 themed-decorated holiday trees and handmade gingerbread homes.

To purchase ticket, please visit:
www.jlnv.org/theenchantedforest

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All proceeds benefit the mission of the Junior League of Northern Virginia, a nonprofit tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



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Continue the Tradition... and join us!

Friday, Dec. 2 – Saturday, Dec. 3

Scottish Walk Parade
A Taste of Scotland
Heather & Greens Sales

Holiday Designer Tour of Homes
Deck the Halls with Santa
A Christmas Marketplace

Parade: Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

For tickets and more information visit
www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com



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FINE ARTS

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Watercolor Exhibition and Sale. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 19th Annual Famous Artists of the 21st Century. Hollin Hall Senior Center Advisory Council partners with Artist Gwendolyn C. Bragg to exhibit Alexandria Torpedo Factory's students art work. Some students art work will be for sale, cash and checks only (unable to accept credit cards). At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

FRIDAY/DEC. 2

ArtFest 2011. 6 to 9 p.m. Open house and holiday party. Check out where the most hands-on classes are taught while enjoying a variety of artist demos, 2D/3D exhibits, holiday ceramic and jewelry sales (held throughout the weekend), live music by Rew Smith Band, food and drinks. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

DEC. 2 TO 4

ArtFest Weekend. Ceramic and Pottery Show and Sale; Jewelry Show and Sale; Retrospective show and sale of work by Nancy Reinke, featuring prints, drawings, paintings, rugs. Friday, Dec. 2 from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 from noon to 5 p.m. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

"The Art From Three Rivers." Presented by The von Braehler Ltd./Gallery, the work will be on display at the American Horticultural Society's River Farm headquarters. The exhibition will feature paintings by Nikolai Antyuchin of Russia's Moscow River, Yuri Kokoyanin's paintings of St. Petersburg's Neva River, and art by Robert Murray from the Potomac River. Call 703-798-8686 or vbpromo@aol.com.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 4

Artist Carol Reed. Carol Reed's abstract works on paper feature bold shapes, usually in



Stoneware tray by Linda Bernard

NOW THROUGH DEC. 4

"Artful Eating: Tablescapes." At the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery. Hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. The gallery is located at 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19, Alexandria. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

charcoal or ink on paper, that dance alone or with similar shapes. At the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Visit www.nvfaa.org

NOW THROUGH NOV. 27

Del Ray Dozenz Photography Show. Del Ray Artisans Gallery hosts an all-photography show that highlights the skills of DRA members. This builds on the success of the previous photography shows with an expanded cadre of participants. www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 4

FotoWeekDC 2011 Celebration + Small Works Show. Gallery West is celebrating FotoWeekDC 2011 by filling the walls with an eclectic show of photographs by gallery members. Visit www.gallery-west.com or call 703-549-6006.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 10

Back to Nature — Paintings From Life. Landscape and still life paintings by Christine Lashley and Trisha Cherrington Ratliff. At Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Dr., Alexandria.



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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THROUGH NOV. 20

The Sound of Music.

Show times are Nov. 11, 12, 18, 19 at 7:30 p.m.; matinees on Nov. 13, 20 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. Presented by the Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater. To be held at Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Visit www.mvcc.org or call 703-360-0686.

THURSDAY/NOV. 17

Colonial Republican

Women. 6:30 p.m. social time; 7 p.m. meeting. At the Virginia Hills Administration Center, Old Virginia Hills School, 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria. Call Debbie at 703-768-1934 or dbodlander@hotmail.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 18

"I'd Like to Buy an Enemy."

7:30 p.m. \$15 donation. Presented by Ted & Company Theaterworks (based on Harrisonburg). Following the show, Ted and Tim will lead the audience in a "talkback" session, allowing time to engage more fully with the issues addressed during the performance. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.convergenceccf.net/site.

Mount Vernon Swing Band. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Owen Hammitt will conduct the live band. Admission is \$4/door. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573. Call 703-765-4573.

NOV. 18, 19

"Angel: A Nightmare in Two Acts."

Tickets are \$18/adults; \$16/seniors and students; \$14/groups of 10. Performances Nov. 18-19 at 8 p.m.; matinee on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. Presented by Port City Playhouse, which performs at The LAB at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria.

"War at Home." 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10/door. The play was inspired by a peace ceremony at Roundout Valley High School in Central New York in the days following Sept. 11. At Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria.

SATURDAY/NOV. 19

Christmas Bazaar. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. With over 60 exhibitors/vendors, Santa's workshop crafts, gingerbread houses, bake sale and Christmas café, children's games and prizes, visit with Santa/keepsake photo, yesterday's book sale, and raffle with prizes. At St. Mary's School, 400 Green Street, Alexandria.

Flea Market. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Large selection of collectibles, trinkets, gadgets, books and attic treasures. There will be a corner dedicated to children's items, including toys and books, in addition to baked goods and lunch. At Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-5500.

Celebration Music Concert. 5 p.m. Nativity Lutheran Church is hosting contemporary folk musicians Cletus Kennelly and Lori Kelly. Tickets are \$10/person; \$5/children. At Fellowship Hall Nativity Lutheran Church, 1300 Collingwood Rd., Alexandria. Call Patrick Schneider, 703-767-2268.

Book Signing. 2 to 4 p.m. Author and historian John T. Phillips will sign copies of his book, *George Washington's Rules of Civility*. At Historic Alexandria History Center & Museum Store, 101 North Union Street, Alexandria. Visit www.historicalexandria.org or call 703-746-4760.

Holiday Shop. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some 50 artisans in fiber arts, wood, paper, metal, glass, clay, photography and orchids. There will be a quilt raffle, Country Kitchen with handmade baked goods, chutneys and more, an attic/resale boutique, gently used jewelry shop, a gingerbread house raffle and a warm lunch. In celebration of the 50th Anniversary, there will be a show of many of the quilts made over the years and door prizes. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, off Fort Hunt Road, intersection of Mason Hill and Fort Hunt. Call 703-765-5950.

Fashion Show. 7 p.m. Walk This Way Productions/Kalaj! Presents, "He Fashioned Us": A Night of Fashion and Inspirational Entertainment, Featuring Modeling Troupe, Kalaj! Fashions by Dress Barn, (Springfield) and K&G Fashions (Bailey's Crossroads). At the Lee Center Kauffman auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Call 703-927-2927.

Handmade Holiday Craft Fair. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Advanced engineering students at T.C. Williams High School are hosting their second annual handmade holiday craft fair. Last year's fair raised \$1,600, which was donated to Joining Hearts and Hands, an organization that promotes educational and social promotion in Kenya and Tanzania. This money helped build a classroom in Tanzania for the Usumbara Girls High School (pictured). The students this year hope to raise even more money to contribute to the same cause. Contact Jennifer Moshier for information about how to become a



SUNDAY/NOV. 20

United in the Spirit. 2 to 4 p.m. The Alexandria Black History Museum will host a special reception honoring the churches that participated in the photography exhibition "United in the Spirit, 1994-1995." The photographs by Nina Tisara explore worship in Alexandria's African American churches. The museum is located at 902 Wythe Street. Call to RSVP, 703-746-4356.

Hot Soup. 7 p.m. Featuring Christina Muir, Sue Trainor and Jennie Avila. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Visit www.focusmusic.org or call 703-501-6061.

Social Justice University. 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. A free, educational program about the call to advocacy, the legislative process and how you can advocate for a more just and compassionate Commonwealth during the 2012 General Assembly. Co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council. Free and open to the public. At Beth-El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

MONDAY/NOV. 21

Open House. 1 p.m. Tour Hollin Hall Senior Center, enjoy refreshments and peek in on some ongoing sessions. At 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

Free Group Vocal Lessons. 7 p.m. The lessons will be conducted by Ozzy Mask, master director of Potomac Harmony Chorus, Sweet Adelines International. Held at The Hermitage in Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. To reserve your spot, call 703-764-3896 or visit www.potomacharmony.org.

TUESDAY/NOV. 22

Life Line Screening. Get tested for strokes with five screenings that take 60 to 90 minutes to complete. Packages start at \$139. At Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.lifelinescreening.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 24

36th Annual Turkey Trot 5-Miler. 10 a.m. George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Flat, fast, USATF-certified course, starts and ends at George Washington Middle School. Conducted by the DC Road Runners Club. Chip Timing with Chronotrack. Prizes and awards in all age groups. \$5-\$25. www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com.

NOV. 25 TO DEC. 18

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. 5 to 8:30 p.m. recurring weekly on Sunday, Saturday. "Mrs. Washington" hosts an enchanting evening of candlelit tours, fireside Christmas caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. The Mount Vernon by Candlelight tour includes the first and second floors, featuring characters from the Washingtons' world guiding visitors through the home and adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Admission: Adults: \$20; Children 11 and under: \$14. Visit www.MountVernon.org or call 703-780-2000.

NOV. 25 TO JAN. 6

Christmas at Mount Vernon. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. recurring daily. Holiday visitors will enjoy themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees), a gingerbread replica of the Mansion created by former White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier, chocolate making demonstrations, and a rare opportunity to tour the third floor of the Mansion. In 1787, George Washington paid 18 shillings to bring a camel to Mount Vernon for his guests' enjoyment. During Christmas at Mount Vernon, visitors can meet Aladdin the camel. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Christmas at Mount Vernon admission is included in general admission: \$15/adults; \$7/youth. Call 703-780-2000.

TUESDAY/NOV. 29

Eat Smart, Stay Healthy. 11 a.m. Hollin Hall Senior Center Hosts "Eat Smart, Stay Healthy." With Jolanta Coleman, an avid health and nutrition advocate. At 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-4573.

vendor.

SUNDAY/NOV. 20

Capitol Steps. 5 to 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$35. The Capitol Steps will performing in a fund-raiser for the All-Night Grad Party. At Mount Vernon High School's Little Theatre. For tickets, contact dana.melvin@cox.net or 703-780-9381 or mail a check to 9385 Mount Vernon Circle, Alexandria, VA 22309. Checks should be made out to Mount Vernon Parent Advisory Committee.

Men's Day. 11 a.m. Men's Day will be celebrated at Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church. Guest Preacher will be Rev. Edward Coles. At 606 South Washington Street in Olde Town Alexandria. A luncheon will follow the service.

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SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 26

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 25

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30

DJ Dance Party. 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$6. With DJ Dabe Murphy. At Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St., Alexandria.

Kirkin' O' The Tartan. 7 p.m. Bagpiper and Scottish Music. 7 p.m. At St. Andrew & St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church, 402 E. Monroe Ave., in Alexandria. www.standrewandstmargaret.org or 703-683-3343.

Free Group Vocal Lessons. 7 p.m. The lessons will be conducted by Ozzi Mask, master director of Potomac Harmony Chorus, Sweet Adelines International. Held at The Hermitage in Northern Virginia, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. To reserve your spot, call 703-764-3896 or visit www.potomacharmony.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 1

Hawaiian-Themed Holiday Bash. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Wear your favorite Hawaiian outfit and enjoy refreshments and live music by the Aloha Boys as you shop for one-of-a-kind gifts in studios and galleries. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565

NOVA Community Chorus. 7:30 p.m. Winter Concert. NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, will perform Sergie Rachmaninoff's The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, for mixed chorus a capella. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 North Beauregard Road, Alexandria. Contact Dr. Whitmire at mwhitmire@nvcc.edu or 703-845-6097.

FRIDAY/DEC. 2

Del Ray Tree Lighting. 6 p.m. Come out and enjoy the luminaries along Mt. Vernon Avenue; sing holiday carols led by Kate Moran Band; enjoy hot cider or hot chocolate; have a photo taken with Santa. Events are at the Del Ray Farmers Market, corner of Mt. Vernon Ave. and East Oxford Ave. Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Avenue on Nov. 26 at 1 p.m. and Dec. 2 at 2 p.m.,



NOV. 18, 19

"The Laramie Project." 7:30 p.m. The Laramie Project is a play that tells the story of the brutal beating and death of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, in Laramie, Wyo. Presented by T.C. Williams High School. Tickets are \$5/students; \$10/adults.

to distribute the luminaries along Mt. Vernon Ave., 5 p.m. to light them, and at 10 p.m. to extinguish and pick them up. To help, contact Pat Miller at pmiller1806@comcast.net.

ArtFest 2011. 6 to 9 p.m. Open house and holiday party. Check out where the most hands-on classes are taught while enjoying a variety of artist demos, 2D/3D exhibits, holiday ceramic and jewelry sales (held throughout the weekend), live music by Rew Smith Band, food and drinks. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

Christmas Marketplace. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. A collection of unique vendors under one roof, including Haute Papier, Discovery Toys, Silver Star Collection, and more. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

Taste of Scotland. 7 to 11 p.m. Patron Pub opens at 7 p.m.; General Admission 8 to 11 p.m. A tasting featuring a vast number of scotches to entice each guest. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, ales, and

wine also served. Patron tickets \$175/person; \$275/couple; \$100 general admission. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

DEC. 2 AND 3

Christmas Boutique. Heritage Presbyterian Church is hosting a "Made by the Bell" Christmas Boutique on Friday, Dec. 2 from 5 to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Handmade Christmas décor, ornaments, hand knitted items, baked goods, and unique gifts are among the items for sale. Heritage Presbyterian Church is at 8503 Fort Hunt Road. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to support Heritage Presbyterian Women's outreach programs for children and women. Call 703-360-9546.

DEC. 2-4

ArtFest Weekend. Ceramic and Pottery Show and Sale; Jewelry Show and Sale; Retrospective show and sale of work by Nancy Reinke, featuring prints, drawings, paintings, rugs. Friday, Dec. 2 from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 from noon to 5 p.m. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street, Alexandria.

The Nutcracker. Presented by BalletNova (formerly The Center Dance Company/Arlington Center for Dance). Performances are Friday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m.; Sunday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Because of the limited availability of the theater, BalletNova presents a series of "Petite Performances" at both Bishop Ireton High School and the BalletNova Center for Dance Studios. These shorter 45-50-minute mini-performances include a narrative of the story, and highlights from Act II - The Kingdom of the Sweets and are especially appropriate for the 3 - 5 year old crowd. To date the schedule is: Sunday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. at Bishop Ireton High School; Saturday,

Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at BalletNova Center for Dance Studios, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. Tickets are \$13 to \$35. Petite Performances are \$5 to \$20. Visit www.BalletNova.org, or call 703-778-3008.

Holiday Market. Free admission. 16th annual Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market offers handmade work from 20 local artists and bake sale to benefit Rebuilding Together Alexandria. Dec. 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. (reception); Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 4 from noon to 4 p.m. At the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

41st Annual Scottish Walk Parade. 11 a.m. Over 100 Scottish clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, Scottie dog groups, and, Santa will march through the streets of Old Town. Brought to you by the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center and the Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., with support from the City of Alexandria. The Parade Grand Marshal is the Hon. Patsy Ticer. Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

Ornament-Decorating Workshop. 1 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. On the third floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, #327, in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4399 or visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

Holiday Designer Tour of Homes. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$30/advance; \$35/day of tour. Stroll through seven historic properties in Alexandria, which are dressed up for the holidays. Featured properties: 206 Wolfe St.; 716 Wolfe St.; 408 Prince St.; 103 Prince St.; 430 S. St. Asaph St.; 228 S. Pitt St. (St. Paul's); 418 S. Washington St. (The Campagna Center). Visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com.

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 begin at the Alexandria City Marina behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 4 p.m. with live performances and Santa arriving by fireboat at 4:15 p.m. At the Alexandria City Marina, One Cameron St., Alexandria. Visit AlexandriaVA.com; 703-746-3301.



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PHOTO BY ED SIMMONS, JR./GAZETTE PACKET

Jennifer Sustar models a Swiss waist with her hoopskirt as worn by teenagers and young ladies. Her hat was considered high fashion. "Redcoat" Kyle Dalton, from another era, narrates.

Hoopskirts Flounce at Carlyle House

Belles sashay in "Civil War Fashion Show."

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
GAZETTE PACKET

The star attractions at the Carlyle House "Civil War Fashion Show" in September were the gloriously voluminous hoopskirts modeled by volunteers Paige Gibbons, Jennifer Sustar and Teresa Martinez. The belles sewed their dresses by hand.

"It's really not difficult wearing these clothes except for sitting and getting through doors," said Gibbons, noting that the doorways of Carlyle House are "thankfully" wide. The historic mansion is located across from City Hall on N. Fairfax Street.

Historic Site Specialist Helen Wirka welcomed the audience of about 30 who were seated under tents on the back terrace. Narrating were Education and Outreach Assistant Lacey Villiva and volunteer Kyle Dalton, a history student at

Catholic University.

This was the third year for the show which has featured 18th century fashion but was expanded this year to feature Civil War-era dress in honor of the Sesquicentennial.

Besides narrating, Dalton made two appearances in military uniforms, the first as Revolutionary War-era "Redcoat" and the second as a Union army hospital steward who might have been seen walking the halls of the hotel turned hospital at Carlyle House during the war. Hoopskirts, incidentally, were not allowed on nurses in the U.S. Army Nurse's Corps to avoid knocking into patients.

A fifth volunteer was Nicole Foronda who modeled the costumes of a lady of the 1770s and early 1800s.

Then comes the Oct. 29 Ghost Tour and reenactment of Col. Carlyle House Historic Park is owned and administered by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. The mansion is open for tours, lectures and programs for school children, and its tented terrace can also be rented for weddings and other functions.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT

Helping Child's Fund

On Monday, Nov. 14, Bombay Curry Company owner Balraj Bhasin in honor of Children's Day donated 100 percent of the day's receipts to The Fund for Alexandria's Child in the Alexandria Department of Community & Human Services Center for Children and Families, Child Welfare Services. With Balraj is Suzanne S. Kratzok, MSW coordinator of community resources to the Fund for Alexandria's Child.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT

TC Telethon

Kerry Donley and David Speck prepare to accept a donation of over \$5,000 from T.C. Williams parents during the 17th Annual T.C. Williams Scholarship Fund Telethon on Sunday, Nov. 6, at the high school.

Why Every Day Is Veterans Day

BY HARRY COVERT

The closest I ever got to military service was as a Civil Air Patrol cadet back in the peaceful days of the 1950s.

On the other hand, my brother has always loved scouting. He enjoyed Lord Baden-Powell's creation. He became an expert Scout, lots of merit badges, lots of camping, walking in the woods and learning the art of campfire cooking and storytelling.

From boyhood days and throughout his adult years Norman has always loved Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, too. For him and his wife, scouting was a family affair at the national jamborees and international events. He had fun and is regarded as an outstanding leader. He knows his stuff.

Back in the fiery era of the 1960s, the draft board listed me 1-A. I was a special specimen, they said. However, I ended up with a wife and three children. I have never heard from the draft board from that day to this. I'm proud to say that one of my prized possessions is my draft card. I treasure it to this day.

Brother wasn't married in those radical times. Uncle Sam figured Norman was more needed than me for Army service. He finished a tour in Germany, then became a successful military writer. Later he ended up working for the government and distinguished himself with veterans groups, most notably American Legion and the 40 & Eight.

I loved my teenaged days as a CAP cadet. I learned to march. Learned a lot about flying and got to wear an air force-style uniform. That was an exciting thing for a 12- and 13- year old in the Air Force Auxiliary. Others in my group excelled. Fred Hayman became a private pilot and glider ace; Joe Madagan served in the Army and Marines where he became a major; and Russ Stephenson retired as an Air Force colonel, jet pilot and a base commander.

LOTS OF YEARS have slipped by since those bygone days. I remember them well. We learned to be efficient observers, flying with CAP senior members on weekends. They documented our flying in Piper Cubs and helicopters. When I decided to get a student pilots license a few years ago, I was allowed to use my childhood Log



Book.

Early on I knew I'd never be a jet pilot. I've long admired those who wear the military uni-

forms. All are heroes.

My family members have distinguished themselves in military service in addition to my brother. My oldest son retired from a 20-year Army career and served two tours in Iraq.

My father loved the military and bragged about its "two hots and a cot" comfort. He served two hitches, the first with the Army in Panama, then the Army Air Corps in Illinois and Langley Field, Va. He enlisted in 1940 and served a year with the Service Battery of the 111th Field Artillery, 29th Infantry Division, Maryland/Virginia National Guard. The 111th was in the first wave on Omaha Beach, Normandy, on D-day. It suffered massive loss of men and all its equipment. I'm glad they wouldn't let dad go.

TWO UNCLES were notable during World War II. Uncle Johnny served in the U.S. Merchant Marine. In 1942, he matured quickly when his ship was sunk twice in the icy North Atlantic by German U-boats, both in the middle of the night and in extremely cold weather.

What was it like to be sunk? "Well, you really don't want to do it once," he recalled.

Another uncle survived the Bataan Death March. He went on to be a newspaperman. Once in the late 50s, the literary editor of his newspaper paper received a book, "Knights of Bushido," and suggested Uncle Frank review it. Skimming through the book he saw his own picture with a basket tied around his neck, awaiting execution. For some unexplained reason, he escaped execution. I have a copy of the photo.

Heroes? Absolutely. During this Veterans Day week, the men and women deserve every honor possible. I believe everything should stop on Wednesday, the 11th month, the 11th day and 11th hour honoring the brave men and women.

If I could wear it, I'd put on my CAP uniform and salute them. But, I always stand at attention anyway at the exact moment. You should too.



Mayor Bill Euille and Gen. Stanley McChrystal (ret.) at the book launch for Pat Troy's 'I Have a Story to Tell' Nov. 13 at Ireland's Own restaurant.

An Irish Tale

FROM PAGE 3

Alexandria, a man who befriended Gen. Stanley McChrystal simply by introducing himself as the owner of Ireland's Own.

"Pat Troy has changed Alexandria," said McChrystal, who officially launched the book at a raucous party Sunday night. "If you look at it in terms of the social or the political or the business life of this city, he's woven through all of it."

Troy's memoir begins in Ireland, where he was born and raised. A significant part of the beginning of the memoir details his days as a butler at Birr Castle attending to Lord and Lady Rosse. This is where he picked up many of his ideas about hospitality, including the hard-and-fast rule that you never serve 13 at a table — a tradition that apparently stems from the 12 apostles at the Last Supper with Jesus. This is also where he learned to steel himself for anything, including winning a bet by asking a princess to dance. She accepted, and he won the bet.

"The book is sort of like 'Angela's Ashes,' but told from a different perspective," said Kathleen Molloy, Troy's daughter who hosted the launch event. "I really would have loved another hundred pages."

READERS OF THE BOOK will find many interesting tidbits of Alexandria history, including Troy's version of events in several recent political races. He details his independent bid for City Council in 2003 and his Republican campaign in 2006. After Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald unexpectedly resigned, Troy hoped to snag the Republican nomination for the special election. But a group of local Republicans — also unnamed — told Troy they wanted Cleveland instead.

"That was frustrating and disheartening," Troy acknowledges. "It took a while for me to get over that."

Time has obviously healed some of the wounds. For example, Vice Mayor Kerry Donley is called out for voting against Troy's special-use permit for North Lee Street. But he's also given credit for helping Troy get a lease for North Pitt Street. And Donley even made an appearance at the launch to help celebrate the release of the memoir.

"He's a real icon of the city," said Donley. "In many ways, he's put Alexandria on the map."

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Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2012 BUDGET

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$141.3 million budget for calendar year 2012¹. On Thursday, December 15, 2011, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2012 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Revenues are expected to be \$141.3 million in 2012. Water sales are expected to provide \$121.9 million. Approximately \$19.4 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2011	2012
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$44,812	\$46,934
Power and Utilities	10,813	11,802
Chemicals	5,958	7,463
Fuel	822	862
Postage	407	416
Insurance	1,211	1,175
Supplies and Materials	3,891	4,044
Contractual Services	8,569	8,480
Professional Services	1,112	1,151
Other	2,130	2,224
Sub-Total	79,725	84,551
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,391)	(9,559)
Total	70,334	74,992

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$40,798,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$13,629,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

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Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot from Oct. 13 to Nov. 21, 2011 to elect the President Elect, Treasurer, five seats on the Board of Directors, and two seats on the Nominating Committee for service beginning on June 4, 2012. Information about proxy ballots is available at www.asco.org. Completed proxy ballots will be delivered to the ASCO President or his designee for casting at a meeting held on Nov. 30, 2011, 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22318. Members with questions can email ASCOelection@asco.org or call 571-483-1316.

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Case No JJ031119-05-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
JAYDEN WARD
The object of this suit is to:
Terminate the residual parental rights and responsibilities of unknown father to Jayden Ward, born on 11/19/2010 to mother Sophie Ward, and to authorize the placement of the child for adoption.

It is ordered that the defendant unknown father, appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/02/2011 at 2:30pm

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No JJ031119-06-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
JAYDEN WARD
The object of this suit is to:
Terminate the residual parental rights and responsibilities of Adrian D. Williams, putative father to Jayden Ward, born on 11/19/2010 to mother Sophie Ward, and to authorize the placement of the child for adoption.
It is ordered that the defendant Adrian D. Williams (father), appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/11/2012 at 2:00pm

NEWS

Linking Streetcars to Community College?

FROM PAGE 1

though it would benefit students at the community college and connect the streetcar line with a high-capacity transit corridor Alexandria officials are planning to create along Beauregard Street.

“Everybody wins,” said Jimmy McClellan, dean of liberal arts at the college and a member of the Streetcar Coalition. “It makes no sense not to connect them.”

But persuading the Arlington County Board and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to extend the line beyond the current plans might be difficult. The jurisdictions are in the process of trying to pin down federal money for the project, and delaying the process could throw a wrench into the works. Furthermore, as federal resources continue to dwindle in the near future, local leaders across the region are wondering if the money will exist to bring the line to Skyline at all. And extending the line through Skyline into Alexandria would require using land that’s currently a public park, which is protected under the Environmental Protection Act.

“There are a number of quality of life issues that have been raised by neighbors of the campus,” said Rich Baier, director of the Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. “Alexandria is generally supportive of transit, but we need to see more of the concept here before we could take a

position.”

THE STREETCAR LINE is a dream years in the making, one that is on the verge of becoming a reality in Arlington and Fairfax County. But important details have yet to be worked out, including the location of the maintenance yard. The public-policy benefits include increasing public transit options for students and connecting the streetcar line to Alexandria’s bus-rapid

“It’s worth the time and money. This would be a major step forward for the region.”

— Tim Lovain

transit. Furthermore, the community college has offered access to the land for a maintenance yard at no cost whereas acquiring land in Crystal City would require a substantial expenditure.

“It sounds like a brilliant idea to me,” said Arlington County Board member Barbara Favola, who was recently elected to the Virginia state Senate. “If we can find a way to partner with the community college, I think this could be a win-win scenario.”

Not everyone views the scenario as a win, however. Alexandria neighborhoods near the campus and residents of a high-rise building in Skyline have raised objections. They’re con-

cerned about living next to what would essentially be an industrial use, potentially with unsightly streetcar storage and noisy streetcars clanging into each other at all hours of the evening. Some have suggested that locating the maintenance yard on the campus might even prompt a lawsuit, leading to more cost and more delay.

“We’ve definitely heard from people who are concerned about the quality of life,” said Baier. “Then there’s concerns about where the funding would come from, what kind of noise would be involved, what the aesthetics would be and where the railcars would be stored.”

ADVOCATES FOR BRINGING the line to the Alexandria campus say the decision should be considered in the context of building a regional system. Connecting Alexandria to the Fairfax and Arlington lines would maximize the system’s utility, they say. And the aesthetics of the building could be masked by placing a student union or classrooms on the top, essentially disguising it to look like any other building on campus. Furthermore, training a generation of students to work on public transportation system would benefit the country.

“It’s worth the time and money,” said former Alexandria City Councilman Tim Lovain, an organizer of the Northern Virginia Streetcar Coalition. “This would be a major step forward for the region.”

Volunteers at Human Services on a Mission

FROM PAGE 1

registering the families who receive services, Kratzok and her team must coordinate with 339 sponsors who contribute by matching gifts to those requested by the families.

Although not every family receives their requested gift, the remaining families have an opportunity to receive donated toys via the Toys for Tots program.

Community mom and pop stores also coordinate with the Holiday Sharing Program by acting as distribution points where individual citizens can donate toys.

By the first week in December all toys and donations are set aside, and letters are sent to families with information on how to pick up the gifts on Dec. 15.

The program raised nearly \$30,000 last year, with an additional \$20,000 worth of in-kind contributions from the 109 volunteers.

“It’s rewarding, it’s helping Alexandria, your hometown. In the end the toy does not matter, even something that just lights up puts a joy on a child’s face,” said Barbara Sherlock, who has volunteered with the Holiday Sharing Program for three years.

“We can’t leave it ‘til Dec. 24 like the big cities who wait till the last minute, for me that’s too risky.”

— Suzanne Kratzok, coordinator, Community Resources, Alexandria Department of Community & Human Services



Senior volunteers Sharon Crampton and Dianne Adams check in donations during last year’s Holiday Sharing Program.

To Help

The Holiday Sharing Program accepts gift cards, toys and donations into the first week of December, and volunteer opportunities are available for distribution days when families pick up gifts. For more information visit: alexandriava.gov/holidaysharing.



Barbie dolls, donated by Alexandria citizens, make perfect gifts for the Holiday Sharing Program.

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Where Science and Business Collide

New master's degree programs address employer demand for more science and math knowledge.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Some call it the new MBA. Others say it is one of the keys to employability in a difficult economic environment. Meet the professional science master's degree, a relatively new, two-year graduate degree that combines advanced training in science or math with business skills often desired by employers.

Professional science master's degrees are designed to address what forecasters say is a future of economic growth and job creation driven by advances in science, bringing a new emphasis in science, technology, engineering and mathematics [STEM] education at many levels.

"A master's degree in a STEM field often offers a clear pathway to professional employment and career success — even in a difficult job market," said Debra Stewart,

president of the Council of Graduate Schools. The Council of Graduate Schools conducted a study of graduates with professional science master's degrees and found that 82 percent were employed. More than 55 percent of those were earning \$50,000 or more.

Like many other professional master's degree programs, PSMs are structured to meet the needs of working adults.

"Most of our graduate students are part-time students," said Michelle Marks, associate provost of Graduate Education for George Mason University, and an Oakton resident. "There is a market of students who are interested in graduate school — and are working full time and don't want take a break in their careers to go to graduate school."

The concept of designing graduate degrees around needs of working professionals is not new. "The motivation for a lot of these programs is access," said Carol B. Lynch, senior project director, Professional Master's Programs Council of Graduate Schools. "When you look at the ads that you see on the Metro and in the newspapers, they are really targeting people who are working and want to advance but don't have the luxury to take time off to go to a more traditional program."

According to the National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA),

schools in the Washington, D.C., region offering PSM degrees are George Washington University, University of the District of Columbia, American University and University of Maryland University College. Georgetown University and Virginia Tech formed a partnership and created a PSM program in Biomedical Technology Development and Management.

"[George Mason] is currently developing programs that will likely be PSMs that combine science courses with management [and] workplace skills," said Marks.

PSM programs, which often include internships and training in workplace skills, are generally developed in coordination with employers, including nonprofit organizations, businesses and government agencies. Both George Mason University and George Washington University offer professional studies classes at their Arlington campuses.

"We do a lot of market research, and we also have advisory boards and professional groups that we talk to about what is actually needed [in the workplace]," said Kathleen Burke, Ph.D., dean of the College of Professional Studies at George Washington University.

Unlike traditional graduate science programs, PSM programs are generally terminal; they do not lead to a Ph.D.

"[Part-time] programs are really geared



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Students study at George Mason University's Arlington Campus. Many professional master's degree programs are structured to meet the needs of working adults.

towards people achieving a breadth of business knowledge and then moving into the workforce," said Marks, "as opposed to a more traditional master's program where people may very well move onto a Ph.D."

Are professional degrees like the PSM less rigorous than their traditional counterparts? Just because the courses are offered nights and weekends doesn't mean that the program is less strenuous, university officials said. "Our programs are very high quality. They are selective," said Burke. "They have admissions requirements and standards that are very comparable to other graduate programs. We don't admit very many students into our programs."

While the overall enrollment of new students at U.S. graduate schools fell 1.1 percent in 2010, according to the annual CGS Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees, the number of students entering science and engineering programs grew as much as 8.6 percent.

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Bishop Ireton's Hudson Sullivan (5) and Kevin Moreno wrap up a St. Christopher's ball carrier during the VISAA quarterfinals on Nov. 12 at Fannon Field.



Bishop Ireton junior Brandon Williams-Price rushed for more than 1,000 yards during the 2011 season.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Ireton Ends Season with Gut-Wrenching Loss

Cardinals will return QB Zingler, lose playmakers Webb, Westbrook.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Bishop Ireton football team's season began with a seven-game win streak. It ended with the Cardinals on the wrong end of an improbable play.

Ireton held a three-point lead late in its VISAA semifinal matchup with St.

Christopher's on Nov. 12 at Fannon Field and had the Saints facing fourth-and-16 from their own 1-yard line. Down to its final play, St. Christopher's pulled a rabbit out of its hat in the form of a 99-yard hook-and-ladder touchdown. Saints quarterback Giles Thompson completed a pass in the middle of the field to Blair Farinholt, who lateraled to teammate Cole Carns. Carns headed toward the left sideline, turned the corner and raced into the end zone. The Cardinals mounted a potential comeback drive in the final minute, but came up empty on fourth-and-1 at the St. Christopher's 16, giving the Saints a 38-34

victory.

Ireton head coach Tony Verducci said the

"We really want to work to maintain a level of excellence we achieved this year and I think for that to happen, the guys that are done playing have to remain as role models and have to remain [supportive]."

— Bishop Ireton head football coach Tony Verducci

vious play. The Cardinals sacked Thompson at the 1 right before the miracle touchdown and Verducci said the play should have resulted in a safety. The call did not go Ireton's way and the Cardinals' season had ended in gut-wrenching fashion.

Despite any frustration, Verducci said he's pleased with the Cardinals' performance this season, which included the program's first 7-0 start, an 8-3 overall record and a home playoff game.

"I thought it was a fantastic year," the fifth-year Bishop Ireton head coach said. "The boys played

for each other. Even the effort down to the

SEE IRETON, PAGE 34

SPORTS BRIEFS

TC's Smythe Pleased With Improved Finish

T.C. Williams senior Shannon Smythe realized the Nov. 12 VHSL state cross country meet represented her final opportunity to compete as a high school harrier. After an ankle injury forced her to miss states her junior year, she felt pressure to improve on her 38th-place finish as a sophomore in 2009.

"I was nervous," Smythe said, "because I wanted to finish on a good note my senior year."

Smythe took care of business on Saturday, finishing 26th with a time of 19 minutes, 9 seconds at Great Meadow. She was the 13th-best finisher from the Northern Region and seventh-best from the Patriot District.

"I think I ran well," Smythe said. "I kind of died with about 100 meters left to go

but I put everything out there. I thought it was a good race."

Smythe shaved 12 places and 40 seconds off her sophomore performance.

"My coach wanted me to go around 25, but he's always very optimistic with me," Smythe said. "I wanted to shoot for that. Last time I was here I got 38th in this race. I wanted to definitely get better than that. If I had gotten worse than that I would have been upset. ... It feels like I was able to get what I was cheated out of last year, which was nice."

Lake Braddock junior Sophie Chase won the individual state title with a time of 17:33. Midlothian won the team championship with a score of 87, followed by Ocean Lakes (100) and West Potomac (125).

— JON ROETMAN

SEE BRIEFS, PAGE 33



The U14 ASA Dolphins competed in the Suburban Friendship League tournament on Nov. 12-13 and finished their season 7-0-3. From left are: (front) Sarah Griswold, (first row) Ashleigh Cameron, Camilla Villas Boas, Calla Zane, Erin Paige, Haley Shea, Kaelyn Hoque, Alexis Browand, (second row) Claire Vermillion, Anna Pusey, Zoe Gage, Josie Brocato, Sarah Scroggs, Asha Zane and Isabel Shaw. Vermillion, Pusey, Gage, Brocato, Griswold, Scroggs and Browand have played together on the ASA Dolphins since they were 5.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

SPORTS

FROM PAGE 33

Episcopal Boys Beat SSSAS for State Soccer Title

The Episcopal boys soccer team defeated St. Stephen's & St. Agnes 3-1 in the VISAA state championship game on Nov. 11 at Sportsbackers Stadium in Richmond. The Saints defeated Episcopal twice during the regular season.

SSSAS finished the season with a 16-4 record. Episcopal was 12-6-4.

TC Girls Basketball To Host Scrimmage

The T.C. Williams girls basketball team will host a scrimmage against Paul VI at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19. The Titans will host a scrimmage against Bishop McNamara on Nov. 26 before opening the regular season at home against Wakefield on Dec. 3.

SSSAS Boys to Scrimmage W-L

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys basketball team will host a scrimmage against Washington-Lee at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19. The Saints will travel to scrimmage Cesar Chavez Public Charter on Nov. 26 and will open the regular season at home against



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior Shannon Smythe finished 26th at the VHSL state cross country meet on Nov. 12 at Great Meadow.

Bishop Ireton on Dec. 5.

Ireton to Host

Robinson for Scrimmage Bishop Ireton will host a scrimmage against Robinson at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 17. The Cardinals will also host scrimmages against Oakton (Nov. 22) and Westfield (Nov. 26). Ireton will participate in the Flint Hill Tip Off Tournament on Dec. 2.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alexandria Girls U14 Dynamite team won first place in the Suburban Friendship League tournament on Nov. 12-13 in Warrenton. The girls won their first game 7-0 on Saturday and finished the tournament with a 2-0 win Sunday against a Haymarket team. These eighth-grade girls represent George Washington Middle School, Hammond Middle School, Alexandria Country Day, Blessed Sacrament, St. Stephens & St. Agnes and Browne Academy. From left: (front) Holly Garrett, Madison White, Lucie Lytle, GioMarie Davilla, Olivia Olson, Lily Oliver, Sarah Wetherly, Guila Pastore, (back) Coach Bob Henshaw, Callie Doulis, Greer Bateman, Bryanna Smith, Katie Henshaw, Amanda Simmons, Cecilia Kane, Destine Hooker, Ann Bartlett, Maddie Kovach and Coach Tommy White.

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.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Nov. 30, 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.

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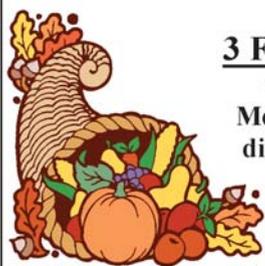
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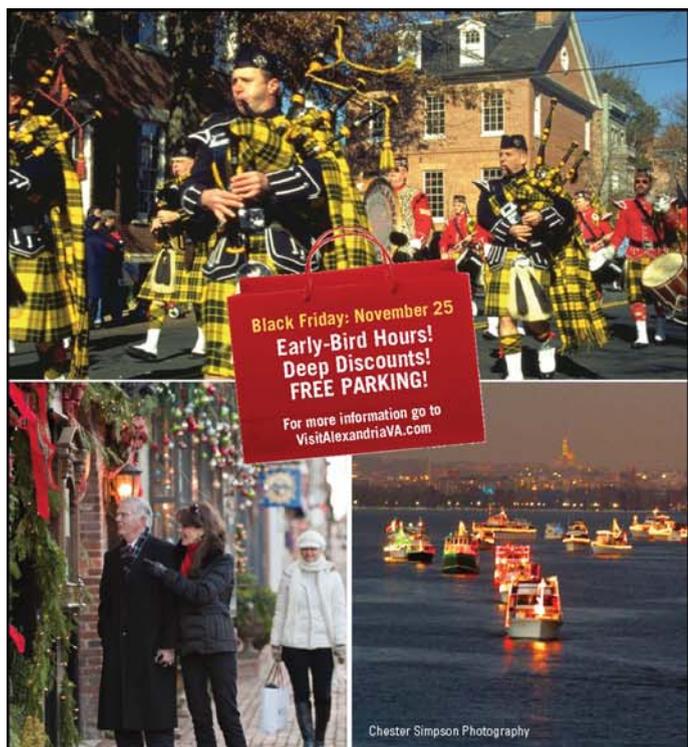
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SPORTS



Clean-up Day at Oronoco Bay Park

As part of the Ocean Conservancy's 26th Annual International Coastal Cleanup campaign and in conjunction with the City of Alexandria and the Clean Virginia Waterways initiative, Alexandria Crew Boosters participated in a waterfront clean-up day at Oronoco Bay Park on Saturday morning, Oct. 15. A group of about 60 student athletes, parents and Alexandria Crew supporters turned out for the effort, collecting styrofoam, water bottles, a gas can, a car tire, an old plastic trike, two empty barrels and other trash that was littering the Potomac Shoreline. "Alexandria Crew is used to cleaning up on the water," said ACB Co-President Karen Lemke. "This was an opportunity to clean-up on land."



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Ireton Ends Season with Loss

FROM PAGE 33

last play of the season is something that, as coaches and as a team, we can be incredibly proud of. Sometimes — and it sounds trite — you say if you give it everything you've got on the field it's easier to live with the result."

Ireton junior quarterback P.J. Zingler had a big day through the air against St. Christopher's, completing 18 of 34 passes for 298 yards and four touchdowns. Senior receiver Malcolm Westbrook had eight receptions for 171 yards and two touchdowns. Junior Brandon Williams-Price caught five passes for 72 yards and Matt McShea and Justin Paige each had a receiving touchdown.

Williams-Price also rushed 20 times for 104 yards. Ireton was without playmaking running back/receiver Moses Webb, who missed the final two games of the season with an ankle injury. He finished the season with 824 yards from scrimmage and 16 touchdowns in nine games. He also snagged three interceptions on defense.

Westbrook had 45 receptions for 840 yards and eight touchdowns in eight games.

One of Ireton's strengths this season was its senior leadership. Verducci said the Cardinals displayed leadership in three forms: unity, perseverance and work ethic. For the Ireton program to roll its successful ways into the 2012 season, Verducci said he wants the seniors to stay involved with the program

through their graduation, rather than disconnect now that their final high school season is over.

"We really want to work to maintain a level of excellence we achieved this year and I think for that to happen, the guys that are done playing have to remain as role models and have to remain [supportive]," Verducci said. "There's a natural tendency for seniors to think their contributions are over when the last game ends, but they have a lot to offer."

Zingler will be one of the Cardinals' top returning athletes in 2012. The junior completed nearly 60 percent of his passes for 2,091 yards and 20 touchdowns while throwing just four interceptions in his second season as a starter.

Williams-Price will return after rushing for 1,010 yards and six touchdowns in 11 games, including a 201-yard effort against Episcopal on Sept. 24.

Junior receiver/cornerback Paige and sophomore linebacker Hudson Sullivan should be impact players next year. The Cardinals will also return four offensive linemen and three defensive linemen. Junior left tackle Jim Keegan and junior right tackle Josh Reed, along with juniors Jacob Bisnett and Kieran Grogan will return along the O-line and juniors Jack Beer, Mike Sampson and Christian Frazier return along the D-line. "This was a really fun group of guys for us to coach," Verducci said. "They really bought in [and] played for each other."

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