

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



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25 CENTS

DECEMBER 1, 2011



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

## Official Start to the Season

Santa greets the children with candy canes and holiday cheer after the tree lighting ceremony at Market Square on Friday, Nov. 25.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 4.

## Fear Factor

Worries mount as January waterfront vote nears.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**C**ity Council members may be facing a two-front war when they move closer to a final vote on the controversial small-area plan for the waterfront, which would increase density and allow hotels at three parcels slated for redevelopment.

Opponents of the plan are now talking about bringing a lawsuit against the city, charging that the city has engaged in crafting special rules for the three parcels that don't apply in a comprehensive way to other similar properties. Meanwhile, the owner of two parcels has already filed a lawsuit now on hold charging that the city illegally reduced the allowable development of its properties back in 1992.

So council members are damned if they do and damned if they don't.

If they fail to increase density at the two Robinson Terminal sites, owned by the Washington Post, they will face a lawsuit charging they have illegally downzoned the waterfront by not increasing density. If they move forward with the plan currently on the table, they may face a lawsuit from Coalition for an Alternative Waterfront Plan charging they have engaged in illegal spot zoning by not making changes that are consistent with all properties that are zoned W-1.

"Zoning has to be comprehensive or it's spot zoning aimed at benefiting certain people at the expense of everybody else," said Boyd Walker, co-chairman of the coalition. "The current plan en-

SEE WORRIES, PAGE 26

## No Left Turns

Traffic and Parking Board bans left turns on Washington Street.

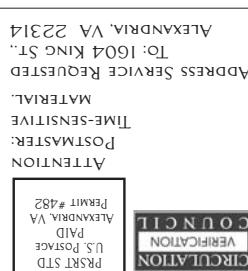
BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**hinking of turning left on Washington Street during rush hour? Think again. Starting in January, drivers will experience new restrictions at six intersections on the street that connects the George Washington Memorial Parkway through Old Town.

"This is about safety," said Rich Baier, director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Science. "These intersections are experiencing a very high crash rate, and we think these restrictions will help bring that number down."

This week, the Traffic and Parking Board cast a unanimous vote outlawing left-hand turns for sev-

SEE BOARD, PAGE 16



# *Homes for the Holidays in Beautiful Belle Haven!*



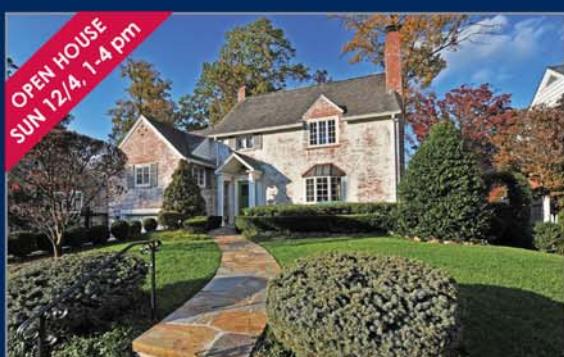
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## COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

### Eminent Divide

Members of the Alexandria City Council are divided about an amendment to the Virginia Constitution that will be considered in the upcoming session of the General Assembly. Democrats are opposed to the amendment, which would allow business owners to seek compensation when government actions cause them loss of business or loss of action. Republican **Frank Fannon** and independent **Alicia Hughes** voted against the will of the majority, which was to direct the city's legislative director to lobby against the amendment. The issue was a hot election issue during the late campaign, with Northern Virginia Democrats opposed and Republicans in solid support.

"I'm tired of folks who run for the General Assembly that take positions on local issues and run against local government because they don't have anything else to say," said Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley**.

Donley may have been referring to unsuccessful Republican candidate **Tim McGhee**, who supported the amendment during the campaign. He probably didn't have Sen. **George Barker** (D-39) in mind, although he also supported the amendment during his hotly contested race for a swing district that includes part of the West End. In fact, the bill has bipartisan support in Richmond and is expected to sail through with overwhelming support before being sent to voters next year.

"There is a train steaming ahead on this issue," said **Rob Krupicka**, who waged an unsuccessful primary bid for the Virginia Senate earlier this year. "That train is going to pull into a station one way or the other."

Krupicka suggested that instead of just opposing the amendment, the city lobby for a position in favor of codifying the current code regarding eminent domain into the Virginia Constitution rather than adding the bit about loss of profits and loss of access.

The problem with that, however, is that the amendment already passed last year. And legislators will be taking up the language that has already passed for an up-or-down vote.

"In order for this to pass, it must pass in the same form that it was presented last year," said Hughes. "The train is definitely on the track."

### School Misappropriation

After a financial audit uncovered budget transfers took place without approval, Superintendent **Morton Sherman** announced this week that he has suspended two employees from their duties until details can be hammered out. The misappropriations were discovered during a review of the school system's Financial Services and Educational Facilities records for fiscal year 2012 expenditures.

Other irregularities included holding invoices for more than 30 days and preparing payment vouchers with insufficient funds. A final report from an outside auditor is expected within the next two weeks.

"The city of Alexandria is cooperating with the external auditors and the school superintendent in its review and supports the comprehensive examination of this matter," Sherman said in a written statement issued Tuesday afternoon.

### Historic Property for Sale

The city is ready to make a deal, but is anyone willing to buy?

City officials are trying to sell a historic building at the northwest intersection of Cameron Street and North Royal Street, which has been the home of a not-for-profit shop known as ElderCrafters for several years. In July, the city advertised the property for sale on the city website and a newspaper (not this one). Nobody responded.

"I'm not in the real-estate business," said Mayor **Bill Euille**. "But wouldn't one think that we could do some other things like host a reception or host some event to attract prospects."

Word to the wise — the building is catty-corner to City Hall, a perfect spot for lobbying your elected officials.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## NEWS



### 36th Annual Turkey Trot

More than 4,600 runners registered for the 36th annual Turkey Trot on Thursday, Nov. 24; 4,100 runners completed the race.



Luis Orta of Lexington, Ky. finished first with a time of 24:44.3.

Emily Harrison of Flagstaff, Ariz. set a new women's record with a time of 27:13. Past record holder was Hirut Mandefro in 2008 with 27:20.



### Sharing with Those in Need

The Game 7 Riderz MC celebrates Thanksgiving Day by serving hot meals inside T.G.I. Friday's on King Street to those in need. The event was jointly sponsored by T.G.I. Friday's, Game 7 Riderz MC, The Untouchables and C.A.S.T. Social Club.

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## NEWS



Carolers join in song beneath the official city holiday tree at Market Square on Friday, Nov. 25.

### At Annual Holiday Tree Lighting

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Alexandria's Town Crier Ben Fiore-Walker welcomes all to the annual holiday tree lighting.

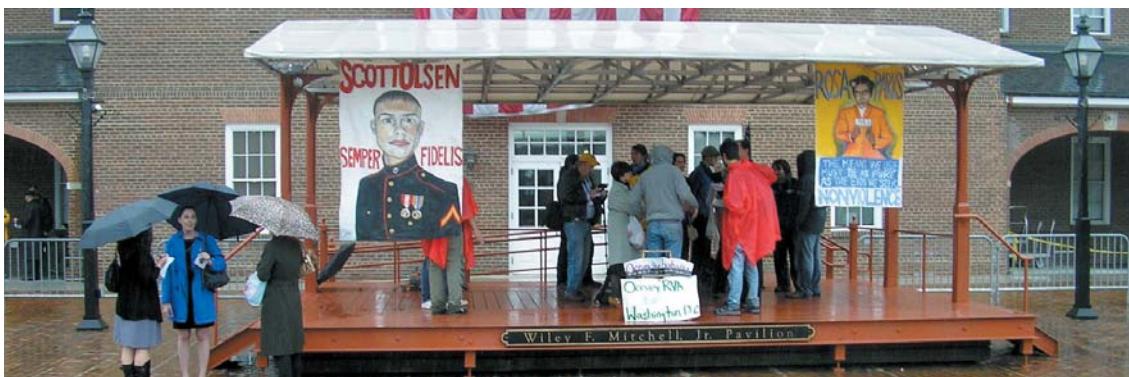


Santa and Mayor Bill Euille.



Frosty's Follies performs a holiday show.

## NEWS



A handful of protesters showed up for Occupy Alexandria.

# Occupy Alexandria

**On their way from Richmond, protesters stop in Market Square before heading into Washington.**

**I**t wasn't quite a rally, and the number of spectators outnumbered the number of protesters. But the occupy movement came through Old Town last week and set up briefly in Market Square. The group, which traveled from Richmond, was on its way to Washington, D.C., where they planned to meet up with displaced protesters from New York and Washington at McPhearson Square.

"We've been able to develop a great sense of community in the last few weeks," said 23-year-old Zach Lewis, who camped out in Richmond for two weeks before the police kicked the group out of Kanawha Plaza. "And we've been able to have a conversation about what's not right about the world."

Occupy protesters who spent time in Alexandria described the foundation of their message as pointing out the problems of income inequality, with a small handful of people controlling the money and power while the rest of the 99 percent had to cope with what was left. Protesters said they weren't yet ready to issue specific demands or even recommendations, although some acknowledged the time for that may be on the horizon.

"I'm not going to advocate a specific solution," said 29-year-old Brendan Beltz. "But I'd like to develop those organically with other people."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



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## Pat Troy's Tour of Ireland



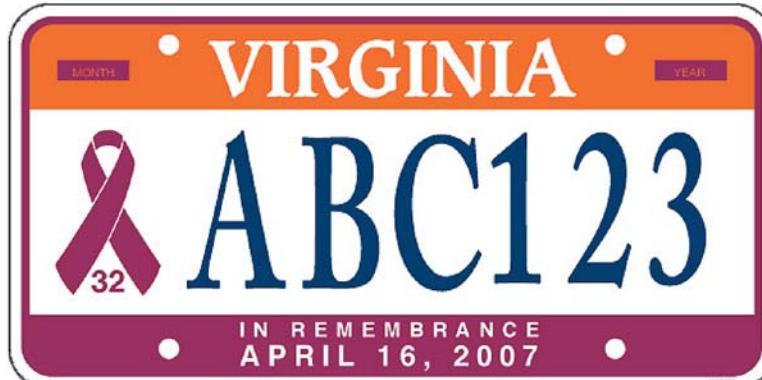
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To Honor Those Who Died and Survived



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Help those survivors and family members who formed the VTV Family Outreach Foundation assist other victims of campus tragedy, secure and make safe our universities and colleges and create a legacy for those who died by purchasing an "In Remembrance, April 16, 2007" license plate. A minimum of 450 prepaid applications are required for the General Assembly to approve the above-designed plate.

DMV collects \$25 for non-personalized plates and \$35 for personalized plates. These funds will help the Foundation in its mission to promote and advocate for the public safety and security of our universities and colleges and to provide assistance and services to victims of campus crimes and their families. Thank you for your generosity and support!

All questions can be directed to Marjorie Castro at [m.castro@vtvfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:m.castro@vtvfamilyfoundation.org) or 855-462-7432.



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## NEWS

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NAACP of Alexandria president John Chapman, right, presents Nina Tisara with the Heart of Alexandria Lifetime Achievement Award Nov. 10 at the Carlyle Club.



Brooke Curran receives the Volunteer Alexandria Heart of Alexandria award from Jane Hess Collins.

## Heart of Alexandria Awards Nina Tisara, Brooke Curran honored for service.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The 17th annual Heart of Alexandria Awards were held Nov. 10 at the Carlyle Club, honoring two Alexandria residents for their contributions to the community.

Sponsored by Volunteer Alexandria, Brooke Curran received the Joan White Grassroots Volunteer Award while Nina Tisara was hon-

ored with the Marian Van Landingham Lifetime Service Award.

"I didn't start running until I was in my 20s," said Curran, who has committed to running a marathon a month to raise money for local charities. "I had three young children and needed to find something to get out of the house."

Curran partnered with ACT in 2009 to form the Running Brooke SEE HONORED, PAGE 20

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## NEWS

### Alexandria Singers Prepare for Concert

The voices of the Alexandria Singers show choir filled the home of Fran and Gant Redmon Oct. 16 as part of a fundraising dinner for the locally-based premier pops chorus.

"I love being a part of this group," said Barbie Dunfer, who joined the group when it was first formed in 1975. "I have only missed one performance — the spring show in 1979, when my son was born. I have been an Alexandria singer longer than I have not been an Alexandria singer."

Under the direction of Bill Colosimo, the non-profit Alexandria Singers will perform the holiday concert "Miracle on King Street" Dec. 9 and 10 at Convergence.

"This is a wonderful way to introduce people to the Alexandria Singers," said Fran Redmon, a former singer with the group.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/CAZETTE PACKET

**Christina Anderson, Fran Redmon and Madaline Andre lead the singing of God Bless America at a fundraiser for the Alexandria Singers Oct. 16.**

"I'm glad Gant and I could host this event and hope we can be helpful in some way to all the arts organizations in the city."

For more information on the Alexandria Singers or to purchase concert tickets, visit [www.alexandriasingers.com](http://www.alexandriasingers.com).

— JEANNE THEISMANN



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Please join us for a Remembrance Memorial Service on Sunday, December 11, at 2:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. You will also have the chance to bring joy to a child this season as we are once again sponsoring Toys for Tots.



For more information, contact the funeral home at 703-998-9200

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# OBITUARIES

## John E. Kennahan



**John E.  
Kennahan**

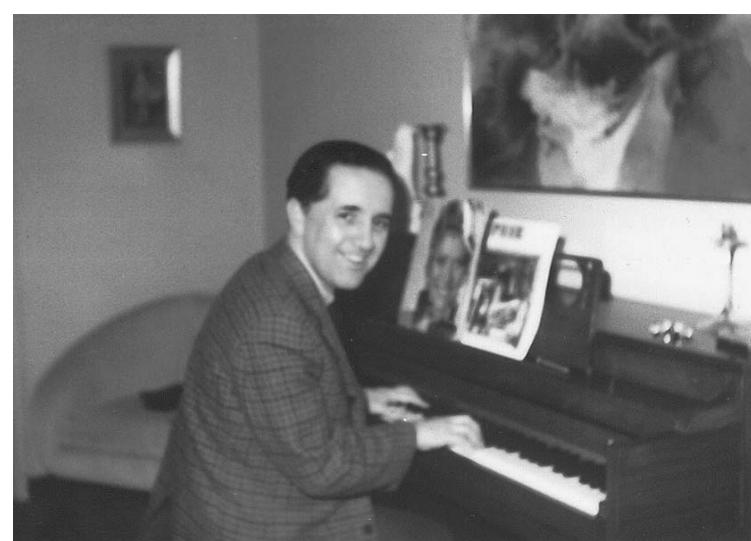
was born May 23, 1924 in New York City, N.Y. He came from modest means but distinguished himself early as a natural-born orator which served him throughout his life in a successful political career and successful law practice.

He was also a talented musician. He attended a high school for music and arts and went on to study music at the Juilliard School in New York City. He was an accomplished pianist.

He moved to D.C. around 1950 to study at Georgetown University on a full scholarship. He received his B.S. in foreign service and went on to study law where he graduated with summa cum laude honors.

He had a life-long interest in politics and was active in Alexandria politics from 1967-1976. In 1967, he made his first bid for of-

Best known for his conservative Republican politics, John E. Kennahan died Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011 after a long illness. He



**John E. Kennahan at piano.**

fice as a Republican candidate for the House of Delegates in Virginia. He succeeded in being elected as Commonwealth's Attorney in Alexandria — becoming the first Republican ever elected to that office. He was able to ouster the 16-year incumbent by campaigning on the need for a full-time Commonwealth's Attorney which he accomplished — setting up his office in city hall.

During the Watergate era, he served on the House Judiciary Committee as Republican staff counsel.

He spent the last part of his career in the Office of the Chief Counsel in the U.S. Department of Commerce from which he retired

over 10 years ago.

He stayed active on various political committees and musical organizations. He was able to maintain boyhood friendships throughout his life.

He is survived by his beloved wife Eva Kennahan, daughter Leslie Kennahan Mullany and son Harry Kennahan.

Friends may call on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 South Washington St.

A mass of Christian burial will be offered at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 310 South Royal St. on Friday, Dec. 2, at 10:30 a.m. Interment to follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.

day, Dec. 3. Interment occurred on Nov. 21, 2011 at Oakland Cemetery in Hutchinson, Minn.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the "Harrington Merrill House restoration" in Hutchinson, Minnesota at [www.historic-hutchinson.org](http://www.historic-hutchinson.org)

## Doris Merrill Laatsch

Doris Merrill Laatsch of Alexandria died in Burnsville, Minn., on Nov. 16, 2011. Born in Hutchinson, Minn., on March 5, 1923 and lived in the Harrington-Merrill house, the oldest house in Hutchinson. Daughter of Lewis and Genevieve (Wingen) Merrill, she is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Arthur Laatsch; and sister, Ruth Petersen.

She graduated with a journalism degree from the University of Missouri Journalism School in 1944 and was one of the first female reporters for the Kansas City Star where she worked from 1944 until 1947 when she returned to Minnesota as the editor of the Hutchinson Leader. Later, she taught 6th grade in Minneapolis, Minn. and at Hollin Meadows Elementary in Alexandria, until she retired in 1988. She was president

of the Phi Beta Pi Sorority at the University of Missouri and a former officer of the Washington PEO Chapter. She was an avid golfer, bowler, piano player, reader. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

Doris is survived by: daughters Heidi Shaw, Mary Sara (Charles); sons Arthur Laatsch (Rebecca), Edward Laatsch (Mary); grandchildren Nicholas and Christopher Shaw, Matthew and Samantha Laatsch, Annie Corbin, Jennifer Herskowitz, Allison Sara, Jamie and Thomas Laatsch; and great-grandchildren Matthew and William Shaw.

A Memorial Service will be held at Nativity Lutheran Church at 1300 Collingwood Road (corner of Collingwood and Fort Hunt Road) in Alexandria, at 2 p.m. on Saturday,

## Services for Judy Lowe

Judy Lowe, a longtime Alexandria community activist, resident of the Del Ray community for over 50 years, has died. Her viewing is at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 West Braddock Road on Friday, Dec. 2 from 6 until 8 p.m. Her funeral service is at Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave., on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Del Ray Citizens Association at P.O. Box 2233, Alexandria 22301 (reference "Judy Lowe Memorial" on the memo line of the check).



## School Hosts Blood Drive

In early November, Bishop O'Connell High School students came forward in record numbers to donate blood at school through INOVA Blood Donor Services. The student-run Health Service Club worked in conjunction with INOVA personnel to host this event that netted more than 70 pints of blood by day's end. The doctor in charge was Dr. Grace Banez Sese, whose daughter, Lauren Sese, is a senior and a member of the Health Services Club. Members of the club helped organize, advertise, schedule and run this event from beginning to end. Above, Student Council President Carolyn Hollis gives blood at the school drive.



## Gained Diplomas

Inmates Oscar Castro (second from left) and Vincent Kirkland received their GED diplomas Oct. 27 during ceremonies at the Alexandria Sheriff's Office William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center. At left is Sheriff Dana Lawhorne. Second from right is Krista Sofonia, Adult Education Coordinator, and Deputy E. Todd Stubblefield. Sheriff Lawhorne lauded the inmates for their achievement.

# NEWS



PHOTO BY PETER LARSON/AWLA

A line formed down the walkway outside the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter on Friday morning for the Black Friday sale.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT

## Black Friday At Animal Shelter

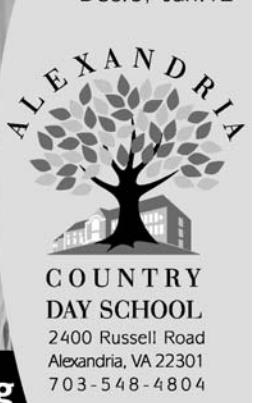
Opening early on Black Friday, a crowd of people waited in line outside the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter for a look at the animals up for adoption. All adoption fees were waived. A gift basket was presented to the first cat and dog adopted. The Vola Lawson Animal Shelter is located at 4101 Eisenhower Ave.

**AWLA volunteer Regina Evans talks with Henry the cat.**

## What makes ACDS special?



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# OPINION

## Shop Locally

Be sure to do some of your holiday shopping at locally owned stores.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Supporting small businesses, locally owned businesses, has to be more than **EDITORIAL**

The economic situation is daunting. Even families who feel financially secure will be more frugal in this holiday season than before the recession, but still, local families will shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending millions of dollars in a variety of

places.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their liveli-

hood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fund raising for local charities, for

fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face some of the toughest challenges imaginable right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers make the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping online. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores.

— MARY KIMM,  
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Staff Training Days Added?

To the Editor:

Earlier this month the Alexandria City Public Schools announced that they would be adding three staff training days, and therefore removing three days of classroom instruction for students. The quiet and abrupt nature of this announcement in the middle of the school year is surprising, given

the amount of attention that was given to Superintendent Sherman's controversial proposal early in the year to change the 2011-2012 school year to include additional days of instruction. That proposal got shot down by both parents and the Virginia state government.

A lot of parents are upset about the short notice regarding the additional days their kids won't be in school, particularly one coming

up on Dec. 12, just a couple of weeks away. Many parents are left scrambling for a way to keep their kids supervised since this is a regular work day.

There is something ACPS can do to mitigate this problem, and it would solve another problem at the same time. Apparently ACPS simply failed to realize that they have scheduled classes on the New Year's Day holiday, Jan. 2. No other school in the area is scheduled to be open on Jan. 2, and frankly this appears to be a mistake on ACPS's part. None of the school board members I talked to knew about it.

I suggest that the Dec. 12 staff training day be transferred to Jan. 2, and make that a student holiday (which it should be anyway). There will be no impact on staff, since they're planning on working both days anyway.

Matt Petersen  
Alexandria

## City Can Do Better

To the Editor:

My home is on the 600 hundred block of South Fairfax street in the heart of Old Town's historic district. If you walk from my block to King Street, you can't help but notice that at least every third home has posted a sign in opposition to the City's Proposed Waterfront Plan. Conversely, there are no signs visible along that same route in support of the City's Waterfront Plan — not a one. The same holds for the other residential streets that comprise this unique neighborhood.

I moved to Old Town more than 30 years ago. At that time, several homes posted signs urging that Old Town not become a new Georgetown. That was then. With

regard to the present debate, I rather suspect the City Council and Alexandria's planning officials would not welcome a polling of those of us who own and pay the property taxes within Old Town's historic core. The outcome is obvious. Yet, I can't help but fear that those warnings posted 30 years ago which seemed such a reach at the time, will soon become reality. I believe that commercial property owners have their rights but so do we.

Of all Alexandrians, Old Town homeowners, our neighborhood will be most affected. Those signs in our homes bear witness to our overwhelming sentiment. City Council, you can do better.

Shaun Sheehan

## Obnoxious Bicyclists

To the Editor:

In order to grasp how bicycling fits into Alexandria's transportation picture, we need to get our terminology straight. Michael Peck, who so incisively sizes up this bicycle bunch, is a bicyclist, but he cannot be considered a bicyclist because, by his own admission, he "peddles peacefully and lawfully." Our language has developed in such a way that "-er" means one who does something, whereas "-ist" implies much more. Contrast "-er" words, such as farmer, lover, boater, skater, carpenter, shopkeeper, with "-ist" words such as motorist, environmentalist, communist, fascist, fundamentalist. Piano player means someone who plays the piano, but pianist means someone who plays at a high level requiring discipline and constant practice. Drivers drive their cars, whereas motorists really love their

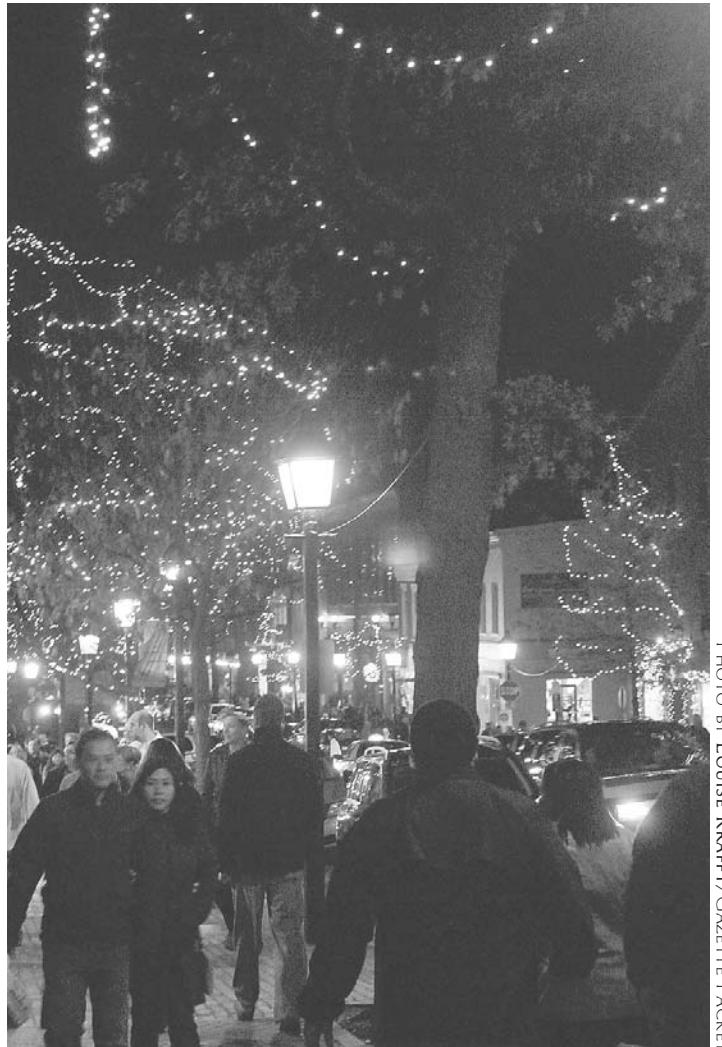


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

## Snapshot

200 block of King Street on Black Friday at 8:55 p.m.

## Alexandria Gazette Packet

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# Homebound Seniors Enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner

Made possible  
through the  
Ronald M. Bradley  
Foundation.

BY JANET BARNETT  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

**E**veryone has their own Thanksgiving traditions. Some spend the day cooking, others run in the annual Turkey Trot. This year, 14 Alexandrians spent Thanksgiving morning delivering meals to

50 homebound Alexandria seniors through the Meals on Wheels program operated by Senior Services of Alexandria.

The following team of volunteers, which included members of the Alexandria Democratic Committee and the SSA Board of Directors, was organized by SSA Board member and long-time Meals on Wheels volunteer Tom Irvin: Heidi and Phil Anderson, Ginger Arnold, Constance



Frogale, John Holmon, Cathy Kelly, Gordon Kromberg, John Lindloff, Cathy McNeely, Kathy Stencil and Roger Sullivan.

Holiday meals are made particularly wonderful

thanks to a gift from the Ronald M. Bradley Foundation who, in 2009, approached SSA and offered to provide funding above and beyond the basic amount necessary so that Alexandria's homebound seniors could receive specially prepared, holiday-themed meals.

This year, Meals on Wheels recipients received packages containing two delicious meals. The first was fresh rosemary roast turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, pie, and apple juice. The second meal was tender beef stew with vegetables, rice pilaf, vegetables, chocolate cake, and apple juice.

"Many of our recipients don't have significant personal contact with others. The delivery of these special meals not only pro-

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

cars (half of all car owners have given their cars names!).

Bicyclists often are these obnoxious twits Peck's letter describes in their skin-tight outfits who, with their benighted attitudes, believe by not driving they are saving the environment, thereby entitling them to flout traffic laws designed for cars and bombard city council with demands for BikeShare stations. As they have done in D.C., bicyclists might make alliances with developers and support overly dense development in exchange for bicycle lanes or developer-funded BikeShare stations. Soon we will need a new word for them, "bicyclism" (which has already come into use in the Spanish language), to set them apart from mere bicyclers.

Owners of large luxury cars can be forgiven for honestly believing they hit a pothole at night after later learning they ran down a bicyclist who might not even have had very adequate illumination or might have been dressed in a black skin-tight outfit. Bicyclists want the benefits of road access without the burdens.

They want full access to the road and even bicycle lanes (versus separate bicycle trails which make more sense), but not license plates, bright clothes at night, and headlights and taillights.

Although bicyclists don't make for very good hood ornaments, in a traffic confrontation with a car, all concerned are better off with the bicyclist on the hood than underneath the car. When bicyclists and motorists, who love their cars but don't love being stuck in traffic as bicyclists weave in and out of stopped traffic to get to the front of the queue, routinely run stop signs, at long stop lights park their posteriors on a

nearby car's hood to tie their shoe, and appear out of nowhere to unnerve drivers, have to share the road, woe to we pedestrians (referred to in the planning vernacular as "peds") caught in the resulting "road rage" as bicyclists and motorists share scarce roadway.

DINO DRUDI  
Alexandria

## Something's Seriously Amiss

To the Editor:

Something's seriously wrong when a handful of elected and appointed officials war with the citizens they ostensibly serve.

The feud over the waterfront between a handful of public servants, including the mayor, councilman Smedberg, once acting city manager Johnson and attorney Banks, with the public they serve is as inglorious as it is unnecessary.

The simple fact that so many caring residents have profound and genuine misgivings with the city plans for this distinguishing feature of Alexandria should be enough to have these plans tabled for further deliberative and dispassionate consideration.

Why is this cabal of city officials so intent on rushing to judgment such an important decision that will have enduring consequences for Alexandria? Better question: Why are the citizens tolerating their hubris and arrogance?

The disdain these public servants have for the citizens who are simply urging more consideration for the waterfront plans is beyond biting the hand that feeds them. It is insulting and inappropriate. They need

## Upcoming

Join Senior Services of Alexandria on Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012 at Christ Church, Alexandria for the next installment of its monthly speaker series: Employment and Volunteer Opportunities for Seniors. Visit [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) for more information or call 703-836-4414, ext 13.

vides clients with a friendly face, but a reminder that they are thought of during the holidays and something that allows them to celebrate with everyone else," said Nancy McCormick, manager of the Meals on Wheels program at SSA.

We'd also like to thank Grace Episcopal Church for letting us their facilities as a meeting place, Tasteful Affairs for creating the delicious meals delivered that day, and particularly the Ronald M. Bradley Foundation for making it all possible.

Holiday meal deliveries will also take place on Christmas Day. If you are interested in volunteering for Meals on Wheels on Christmas or any other morning, or if you know a homebound senior who needs meals, please contact Nancy McCormick at [mealsonwheels@seniorservicesalex.org](mailto:mealsonwheels@seniorservicesalex.org) or 703-836-4414, ext 12

to find another line of work

Jim Roberts  
Alexandria

## A Matter Of Trust

To the Editor:

In a recent Gazette front page story on the waterfront, acting city manager Bruce Johnson is quoted as saying "change is coming; it's just a matter of how you manage it." He is certainly right about that. There is the ample evidence that citizens in Alexandria do not trust their city government to manage change. Why should they?

As easy examples of how little trust citizens have in the ability of City Council and senior staff to manage change, I cite several letters to the editor printed in the same edition. First, there is letter from Jon Liss expressing concern about a proposed large new rental/commercial development in Arlandria. He thinks this project will diminish the quality of life for the many Latino families who are part of the Arlandria community today.

Higher allowable densities usually mean higher land values. This does not lend itself to providing housing for working families. In fact, it does just the opposite.

Next, there is a letter from Joe Demshar. His letter gives a specific list of 10 unresolved problems with the waterfront plan the Council expects to approve in January. I give my "amen" to that list. It could have been longer.

Finally, Don Buch, vice chair of the Beauregard Corridor stakeholders meetings,

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## Time for Council's Waterfront Vote

To the Editor:

Honestly, I have grown so weary of the debate that it is difficult to open the local newspapers or to run into neighbors who want to discuss the future of Alexandria's waterfront.

In June, 2009, I was among the hundred or more citizens who turned out for the first of over 100 waterfront charettes and meetings to plan the re-design of Alexandria's waterfront. Everyone at T. C. Williams High School that Saturday morning had an agenda: arts, economic development, historic preservation, recreational activities, transportation, and of course, status quo. These issues, and the people advocating them, were the same then as they are today.

Over a two-year period, the City Staff generated a consensus waterfront plan that reflects sensitivity for, and concessions to, each of these concerns. The Chamber of Commerce did not like everything about the City's proposed plan; but in the end, it decided that it was a fair compromise that reflected the views from a cross-section of the City's residents, businesses and interest groups. The Chamber decided to support the City's plan so that progress and improvement could proceed.

Many months have passed since that time. A special task force was appointed by Mayor Euille to review the City's plan. Despite the considerable volunteer time dedicated by the task force members, the hearings have been mostly divisive and have not been a positive, consensus-building process. Most recently, an alternate plan was proffered that has been found lacking by City Staff, as well as many residents and businesses, as not being economically feasible or legally defensible.

The unrelenting debate continues to be waged among interested parties — many of whom, along with their pet concern (myself included), attended that first meeting 29 months ago.

The City's waterfront plan fairly, though not entirely, addresses those concerns. That is what makes it a consensus plan, and that is why the plan is the best one that we can expect to produce as a community of divergent interests.

As citizens, we elected a City Council to lead and govern. Leadership and governance with respect to decisions on the waterfront are long overdue.

The City Council has heard the exhaustive debate, and there is little more that can be said. It is time for the City Council to take a vote on the City's proposed waterfront plan, and it is time to move on to other issues that are important to our City's success and to the quality of life of our fellow citizens.

Andrew F. Palmieri  
Chair-Elect

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

Robert Gasiewicz  
Government Relations  
Alexandria Chamber

# Dinner with Foxes And Confederate Money

BY HARRY COVERT

I always chuckled hearing the old line, "Save yore Confederate money boys, the South's gonna rise again." Andy Griffith made that famous.

For years as a gag, I had fun using \$100 confederate bills as a notepad, long before we had the joy of electronic mail. It felt good using first-class U.S. stamps especially to those Yankee carpetbaggers who invaded the Commonwealth for fame, fortune and good living.

So, now we are in the sesquicentennial commemoration of what many still refer to as the War of Northern Aggression or the War Between the States. A history buff can really get involved with all of the "celebrations" scheduled through 2015.

I wasn't giving much thought to the Civil War period until recently visiting Reigate, Surrey, the beautiful historic market town in England. My friends Margaret Edwards and Wendy Allen took me to a neighborhood weekend barbecue. The food was terrific and the people made me feel at home, even the three red foxes — mother, daddy and young foxes — who watched us eat, waiting for scraps, which they received.

These foxes had adopted the back yard of the hosts and were unbelievably tame, only afraid of a large white cat that kept them at bay. The fox family would frequently walk slowly around the beautiful flowers and shrubs, checking every now and then the availability of tasty morsels.

Across the table from me sat a delightful white-haired gentleman who introduced himself as Stephen Straker. "I heard you are a Yank?" he said and laughed. "No sir, I'm a Virginian." I corrected with a smile.

Mr. Straker informed me his family had had a long association with Virginia and the Confederate States of America, noting the 150th anniversary commemorations were underway. I was impressed.

He was right on the money. He mentioned his longtime friend, Phillip Melville, of Alexandria. It's a small world I said. And it is.



Mr. Straker explained that among his prized family possessions were the actual printing plates of Confederate States of America currency in denominations of \$1, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100.

His forebears' company had contracted to print CSA currency back in 1861. The family business was forced to use great care in providing the paper money and ship to the southern ports, through British Caribbean possessions.

Just how the Straker family firms were paid I didn't find out but I figured they traded for cotton and tobacco. They were enterprising businessmen in those days as well as today.

I could hardly wait to return to Alexandria and report my discovery to E. Hunt Burke, chairman of Burke & Herbert Bank. Burke and Herbert, established in 1852, held deposits of the CSA and the U.S. and for years maintained the Lee family's personal papers.

I've also discovered that the first CSA dollar was issued into circulation in April 1861 when the CSA was only two months old. According to experts, the currency was "not actually money, but bills of credit." The paper was not secured by hard assets.

My stock of \$100 CSA notepaper has been long depleted. Before running out, I did try to use one of the bills to secure membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I was refused unless I paid with some U.S. Federal Reserve Notes containing pictures of Washington, Jefferson or Lincoln and none with Jefferson Davis.

Similar to my notepads, the CSA currency is worthless. Any CSA currency existing today would be highly valuable. The most valuable though are those items that say, "this note is legal tender for all debts, public and private."



## OPINION



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/GAZETTE PACKET

### Black Friday

**Hundreds of people stand in line between King Street and Fayette Street to enter fibre space at 7 a.m. on Black Friday, Nov. 25. 2258-local shoppers look inside the window of fibre space as they wait patiently to enter the store on black friday morning nov.25.**

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE II

defends the way in which those stakeholder meetings are conducted. I have attended some of those meetings. I know from my personal observation that a number of attendees are not happy with them. I do not think Mr. Buch would not have felt the need to defend them if there were only the one dissatisfied person he mentions by name.

Three different letters about three distinct areas of the city undergoing change offer proof, in my opinion, that many Alexandrians distrust the city's management skills relating to new development.

**Katy Cannady**  
Alexandria

### Economically Feasible

To the Editor:

After a year of fevered debates over Alexandria's waterfront, it is time to embrace the basic framework approved by the planning commission. A recently released alternative proposal falls far short. The commission's approach is the most economically feasible way to proceed. It is also the plan most likely to actually produce the attractive waterfront we deserve.

The alternative requires the city to borrow more than a hundred million dollars to buy, through eminent domain or otherwise, private land to add more open space to those already provided in the commission's plan. The budget forecast recently delivered to the Council anticipates years of slow economic growth. The reality is that Alexandria can't afford such outlandish spending.

In addition to increasing park space and including a new museum, the proposal approved by the planning commission addresses flooding problems and allows for better pedestrian access — and does all of this within the current low-building heights

and architectural care that characterize Old Town. And it uses a public-private financing approach that takes much of the economic burden off of taxpayers.

There are ideas in the alternative concept that merit consideration. For example, Council should evaluate the appropriate number of hotels allowed along the waterfront, as well as work to prevent privatization of the remaining waterfront with more town homes. Encouraging adaptive re-use of historic spaces is important. And the idea of a waterfront not-for-profit that raises funds to improve and take care of the waterfront is a good one. But the sheer audacity of spending proposed in the alternative concept make this a budget issue.

In addition to land purchases, the alternative would use funds to build and operate a maritime museum, which would allegedly attract thousands of people a day paying up to \$5 per person. This idea fails any basic test of reasonableness as evidenced by the failed maritime museum in New York, our fiscally challenged Carlyle house and Torpedo Factory, and the reality that no City museum has been able to pay for itself with an admission charge. To speak nothing of the impact of thousands of daily visitors attempting to park around Union Street.

Proponents of the alternative say that their plan will attract people and tax dollars to Old Town. It likely would. But the Planning Commission proposal would as well. In fact, opponents once criticized the Commission recommendation by saying more visitors to Old Town was a bad idea, raising concerns about traffic. They also once professed concerns about costs in the Planning Commission plan. Now they want to spend millions more and need a higher number of visitors to make up lost tax revenues and pay for their enormous borrowing binge. Their proposal contradicts their

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## Old Town Alexandria

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## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

# Recycling at Its Best

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**rts Afire president Joseph Egerton says Bronwen Heilman, a glass artist from Tuscan, is one of the original recyclers in the handcrafted movement. She also happens to be in a rock band and hunts for glass bottles when she travels. Anything

from high-end perfume vials to everyday beer bottles can make its way into her sophisticated and whimsical jewelry.

"It's a trend that's helping to introduce a new generation of shoppers to fine American crafts," said Imagine Artwear's Mary Mills.

"In this modern age of mass production, with everything being the same and looking the same," she said, "some people are looking for

American crafters turn trash into works of art.

more distinctive and higher quality gifts."

Carol Supplee has owned and operated Imagine Artwear for 20 years. What's always attracted her to fine crafts, she says, is that they are something made by hand, from the heart. Hand and heart are even symbols for crafters.

Supplee thinks buying handcrafted items now is more important than ever. "In particu-

lar," she said, "you're supporting American artisans.

Not only the artisans themselves, but the handcrafting technique used by those artists.

Both Supplee and Mills are quick to say they don't mean to imply quality crafts have to be handcrafted in America. They both frequent the shops in Alexandria that sell handmade crafts from abroad — Gossypia, Bizim, Indus Imports, Ten Thousand Villages and others. In fact, Supplee couldn't say enough about the rugs she had

recently purchased from Indus Imports.

"What we're railing against is mass production," she said.

**ONE OF THE HANDWOVEN**  
fabric artists that Imagine carries is also featured at The Smithsonian.

"That's the quality and character of the items we carry," Mills said.

**"It's really like going to the studios of world-renowned artists, but they're all in one place."**

— Joe Egerton, Arts Afire

And browsers will find more than one-of-a-kind pieces of clothing at Imagine where they also features home furnishings like

SEE CRAFTS, PAGE 15

**And Make Holiday Planning a Pleasure!**

**Bradlee Center**

King Street, just west of Quaker Lane in Alexandria



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Mary Mills of Imagine Artwear says that hats, scarves and mittens made with recycled fabrics are making a new generation fans of handcrafted work.

**Ann Sandra**  
Fine China, Crystal & Giftware

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## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

**Joe Egerton of Arts Afire.**

## Supporting American Crafts

FROM PAGE 14

lamps, mirrors and tables as well as jewelry, bags and accessories.

Egerton has noticed that shoppers often think that art glass, or handcrafted jewelry and home furnishings might be out of their price range. But, he says, you can easily find a pair of one-of-a-kind earrings for \$20.

At Arts Afire, Egerton stocks items that start at a mere \$3.50. Yes, the store also features art glass that can run in the thousands of dollars. But Egerton always helps people find something special in their price range.

"There's something here to please everyone or at least someone in their life," he said with confidence. And, if buying American is what pleases, Arts Afire is one of Old Town's best places to shop.

Egerton's gallery features about 400 artists, almost all of whom live in America. The

two that aren't currently living stateside are Americans, but they live and work abroad.

Egerton notes that many of the artists he carries are available only in his gallery. "Part of the value in shopping handcraft boutiques like this one," he said, "is that it's really like going to the studios of world-renowned artists, but they're all in one place."

**TUCKED AWAY** from the bustle of King Street on the corner of Cameron and North Royal streets is Elder Crafters of Alexandria.

As its name implies, this store features the work of crafters who are age 55 years or older. And, when you shop there, you're not only buying American — for the most part you're buying Alexandrian.

According to Mary Ellen Feid, a crocheter  
SEE HANDCRAFTED, PAGE 17

**"Buying handcrafted items now is more important than ever. In particular, you're supporting American artisans."**

— Carol Supplee, Imagine Artwear



**Not just a clothing shop, Imagine Artwear carries handcrafted home furnishings. Lamps are a specialty.**

## BE A PART OF HISTORY



**At Inova Alexandria Hospital our priority is to meet the growing medical needs of the Alexandria community.**

Did you know that last year one out of four Alexandrians reached age 55 or more? An aging population meant that Inova Alexandria Hospital needed to expand its services.

*Envisioning the Future: Project 2010* is the most ambitious building expansion in the hospital's 139-year history.

### Expansion Highlights:

- Expanded Emergency Department, serving 60,000 patients annually
- New operating and procedure rooms for stroke and cardiac patients
- New 24-patient bed post-surgical center

Nearly one-third of this \$84 million construction project is coming from private donations from generous people in Alexandria. So far, we've raised \$24.5 million.

Help us raise the last \$500,000 and bring our fundraising campaign to a successful close.

Be a part of history – lend your financial support to *Envisioning the Future: Project 2010* by December 12 when we celebrate the Inova Alexandria Hospital's 139th Anniversary!

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.



Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services

## Morning Rush Hour

- New southbound left turn restrictions at six intersections:  
 ♦ Pendleton Street  
 ♦ Oronoco Street  
 ♦ Princess Street
- new protected left turn (left on green arrow only) at Queen Street



Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services

## Afternoon Rush Hour

- New northbound left turn restrictions at five intersections:  
 ♦ Pendleton Street  
 ♦ Oronoco Street
- new protected left turn (left on green arrow only) at Princess Street

# Board Bans Left Turns on Washington Street

FROM PAGE 1

eral intersections along Washington Street, a major thoroughfare cutting through Old Town that connects Fairfax County with Arlington County. Hours after Monday night's vote, a driver crashed on Washington Street trying to turn left onto Cameron — yet another in a growing list of crash statistics for the street. The move was opposed by several Old Town residents, who said the change was intended to benefit people cutting through Alexandria at the expense of those who live there.

"This is a thoroughfare mentality," said

Poul Hertel, former president of the Old Town Civic Association. "It's creating a suburban highway in the middle of the city."

The effort to ban left turns on Washington gained momentum after several crashes, which led to a study that revealed an accident rate for left turning vehicles that is significantly higher than left-turn crashes at similar intersections. Crash data from January 2008 to December 2010 show that 18 intersections had 17 crashes each with 3.3 left turn failure-to-yield crashes during the morning and afternoon rush hours. About 20 percent of the crashes were caused by a driver wanting to turn left who failed to

yield during hours that the outside lanes are dedicated to high-occupancy vehicles.

"This will make driving on Washington Street much safer," said Abi Learner, director of the transportation division. "That includes making it safer for people who live and work in Old Town."

Some intersections on Washington Street already prohibit left turns, so the new restrictions limit movement at seven remaining intersections. During the morning rush hours, protected left turns would be allowed from southbound lanes at Queen Street. During the afternoon rush hours, protected left turns would be allowed from north-

bound Princess Street. That creates nine consecutive intersections with no left turns during morning and afternoon rush hours while also providing one additional left turn movement in the off-peak direction.

"All this will do is make it easier for people to speed through town," said Rosemont resident Katy Cannady, who opposed the change.

"Whether we like it or not, Washington Street has become a thoroughfare," said Amy Slack, a member of the panel that approved the new restrictions this week. "That's just something we are going to have to accept."

## NEIGHBORHOOD

### Taylor Run UNUSUAL PARTY

Adam Ebbin treated all his supporters at a party; there was no money involved, there were no speeches, and the food was really good. La Tasca provided the food and the venue. La Tasca is, of course, the restaurant which Ebbin

saved from error by making legal their recipe for Sangria. Commissioner of Revenue Ingrid Morrey and her twin sister, with whom she sings so beautifully, were both there but alas, they did not sing. Former Councilmember Joyce Woodson of Alexandria was there with her husband Howard, former NAACP president. Eileen Cassidy Rivera, formerly on the Alexandria

School Board, was there. Susan and Ben Kellum, Mary Signer, Dorothea Peters, Mary Padden and Stephanie Clifford came to the party, as did Rose Chu, Boyd Walker, Charles Chambers, Hector Huezo and Paul and Lori Friedman. Also enjoying the delicious empanadas were Sally Kiefer, Steve Bunn, Craig Hines, Lynn Humphries, Laura Mandala and Allison Silberberg.

## ENGLISH VISIT

Katie Coan, daughter of Kelly Weissenborn and Gerry Coan, is in England at Cambridge University doing some special work which will help her achieve her master's degree from UVA. Her dog, a Portuguese water dog named Rivanna, is residing with Kelly and Gerry.

## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Mary Ellen Feid of Elder Crafters of Alexandria with a pair of Chicago Bears-colored slippers she crocheted.



Mimi Barnes with a "dammit doll," something she likes to give friends that are having a bad day.

## Appreciating Handcrafted Holidays

FROM PAGE 15

and one of about 10 volunteers who help run the shop, all participating crafters must first submit an application with samples. A selection committee meets monthly to review new crafts. A brochure notes that only the finest are chosen for consignment.

Special orders are welcome at Elder Crafters. Toy trains and blocks can spell out a child's name. An item of clothing might feature a fan's favorite team's colors.

"In fact," Feid said, "I just got a special order for Chicago Bears slippers."

Feid's share of the sale price, as with all the Elder

Crafters, is 60 percent. The other 40 percent goes to the shop's overhead and salary for store manager, the one paid employee. Participating crafters get to supplement their income while keeping their handmade traditions alive.

"Nobody had any money to go out and buy presents for Christmas when we were coming up," Mimi Barnes of Alexandria said. "We had to make our gifts by hand. That's why I come here all the time."

Barnes was stocking up for the holidays and a few other gifting opportunities.

"I've shopped here since the day it opened," she said. "Well, I'm elderly, too," she laughed. "What can I say?"

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1098 Sea View Ave  
\$895,900  
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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 MBR, gourmet kit & car garage. Price just slashed for immediate sale! OPEN SUN 12/4, 1-4! Rt 1 South; L-Featherstone Rd; bear Left & take first Right onto Sea View.

**OPEN SUN!**

9387 Mount Vernon Cir  
\$950,000  
*Majestic Home-Mt. Vernon on the Potomac!*

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-family room, high ceilings, library with custom built-ins, 3 finished levels, 4FPs and oversize garage. Half acre grounds, custom pool. OPEN SUN 12/4, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd; R-Mount Vernon Cir.

**OPEN SUN!**

8826 Cooper Rd  
\$395,000  
*Country Club Views!*

You won't believe this large updated rambler is available for under \$400K! Numerous features include: large 1/2 A+ lot, updated kitchen w/granite countertops & SS appli, fully updated baths, thermal windows, large family room w/high ceilings, spacious living and dining rooms, garage & oversize deck. Prime location minutes from Ft. Belvoir. OPEN SUN 12/4, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, R-Old Mill; R-Cooper.

**\$ 625,000**  
**Alexandria / Old Town "SKY BLUE"**

Look up as you enter this contemporary TH's open 2-story living room . . . Or . . . travel over a suspended bridge that connects the 2BRs. The kitchen is totally remodeled w/new SSA, granite & cabs plus brick flrs that lead to a private enclosed patio. 2BR/1.5BA. This is a treat . . . come & see!

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**Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764**

**OPEN SUN!**

2300 Candlewood  
\$569,000  
*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 12/4, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, R-Collingwood; L-Candlewood.

**NEW PRICE!**

3805 Riverwood Rd  
\$629,000  
*Check this Price!*

Best value in prestigious Riverwood in years! Large home just substantially updated. Fabulous features include: 3 finished levels, 4 bedrooms, updated kitchen and baths, 3 fireplaces. Home was just redecorated and is in "move in" condition. Owner wants immediate sale and has priced accordingly!

**NEW PRICE!**

4002 Belle Rive Terr  
\$849,000  
*Classic Colonial/River View!*

HUGE PRICE DROP! Classic brick colonial, custom built in prestigious Belle Rive. A neighborhood of many \$1 million properties. Truly special home with many features including large room sizes, elegant trim detail, updated "state of the art" kitchen, 5BR & finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on half acre grounds with view of river. Uniquely attractive home in premier location.

**\$ 385,000**  
**Fairlington Villages "REDUCED \$25K"**

Best value in Fairlington! Full-sized Clarendon model - 1,500sqft! Totally updated: refinished flrs, remodeled kit w/maple, max storage, GE Profile SSA, granite & ceramic. Fresh paint! Updated BA w/marble tile/jetted tub. Custom closet/MBR. Great amenities!

**Connie McKeen 703.626.4417**  
**Judy Pisciotta 703.405.4485**

**\$ 1,550,000**  
**Alexandria 555 S Washington St #101 "THE BEST IS LAST"**

For those who appreciate luxury & legend, live in history on 3 completely renovated lvs, 3,812sf, quality finishes & craftsmanship, 1 wood & 2 gas FP's & wood floors! Every amenity, 2-car detached gar, private patio & outdoor FP. 3BR/2.5BA.

**Michael Manuel 703.615.6317**

**\$ 225,000**  
**Alex / Midtown Alex. Sta. "GREAT PRICE"**

Bright & beautiful 1BR/1BA luxury condo across from Huntington Metro. 1 car garage space included. Amenities: concierge service, business center, exercise/party rooms, out-door pool. Short sale - bank approved price.

**Georgia McLaughlin/Patricia Landaeta 703.628.4663**

**NEW PRICE!**

1916 Shiver Rd  
\$549,000  
*Close In Location!*

Minutes to Old Town/  
NEW Better to

**CONTRACT!**

P R I C E !  
than new! Top bottom renovation of this fabulous 5BR, 3BA

**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)

**PRICE REDUCED & OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
\$ 379,999  
Alexandria  
1010 WOODS PL

Spacious 3BR/3BA brick home. Kitchen has table space. LL fully finished w/FBA & 2 extra rooms. Lg MBR could be altered into 2 rooms. Extra large enclosed patio goes full length of house. Private rear yard. Perfect location!

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**OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!**  
\$ 950,000  
Marlan Forest  
7122 MARINE DR

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*Spacious Home-*

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**Renovation!**  
Completely renovated-model

8723 Badger Dr  
\$439,000  
*Stunning*

shows like home! Prime location on huge lot

**CONTRACT!**

Level Luxury!  
Rare

opportunity  
Spacious one lvl home in premier

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Sleek, modern decor of this 4 lvl brick end TH w/1,700 sq ft of space. Features: 3 fp, gleaming wood flrs, Mstr suite lvl w/new rainforest shower/Ba, heated flrs, cascade faucets, sep guest suite w/bath, LL rec rm/3rd BR w/Ba, priv patio & nr DC tool!

**ReneeReymond 703.507.5330**

**\$ 589,900**  
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**THE CAREY TEAM Kendra Carey 703.887.2117**

**\$ 830,000**  
**Parker Gray Historic District "TWO FOR ONE"**

Currently 1 parcel, combined from formerly 2 townhomes. City of Alexandria owned, anxiously awaiting a builder/investor for this "as is" cash deal. Bids will be reviewed (no later than noon 12/8) for the best offer to convert this diamond-in-the-rough back to two separate townhomes.

**Elife Biankini 703.593.2634**



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## NEWS

# Tisara and Curran Honored for Service

FROM PAGE 6

Fund and has since raised more than \$80,000 for five local charities: ACTion Alexandria, Child and Family Network Centers, Girls on the Run, Community Lodgings and the Reading Connection.

Tisara was honored for establishing the Living legends Project, a photographic tribute to Alexandria residents who have contributed to the community in various industries over the years.

"It all started when I took a photography class at Northern Virginia Community College," Tisara said. "I brought some of my photographs over to the Port Packet and once I saw my first front page photo published, I was hooked."

The Living Legends Project was started in 2006 in collaboration with the Alexandria Gazette Packet to publish one story a month profiling people making a difference in the community.

"I wanted to do something to honor them while they were still alive," Tisara said. "I want this to be an ongoing artistic resource to tell their stories and to inspire others."

Former City Manager Vola Lawson served as event chairwoman and emcee for the evening.

"I do believe that we are one family of man," Tisara said. "The differences between us are very small compared to what binds us together in our community."



**Marian Van Landingham and Tim Lovain.**



Chester Simpson Photography

## SHOP, DINE & CELEBRATE

On Alexandria's Historic Main Streets

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

- Thru Dec. 18: **Mount Vernon by Candlelight**
- Thru Dec. 18: **Santa Claus is Coming to Old Town**
- Thru Jan. 6: **Christmas at Mount Vernon**
- Dec. 1: **Torpedo Factory Art Center's Holiday Open House**
- Dec. 2: **Holiday on the Avenue in Del Ray**
- Dec. 2-3: **41<sup>st</sup> Annual Campagna Center Scottish Christmas Walk Parade**
- Dec. 3: **Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights**
- Dec. 8-18: **"A Christmas Carol"**
- Dec. 10: **Christmas in Camp Open House**
- Dec. 10-11: **Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours**
- Dec. 18: **Holiday Favorites with The Colonial Handbell Ringers**
- Dec. 31: **First Night Alexandria**



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FDCommunityServices@alexandriava.gov



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FDCommunityServices@alexandriava.gov

The Alexandria Fire department is providing and installing smoke, combination smoke and carbon monoxide and special hearing impaired smoke alarms to the citizens of Alexandria free of charge as part of a Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). Alarms are available on first come, first service basis, while supplies last. Some restrictions apply.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Holiday Designer Tour of Homes is Dec. 3

BY MAYA HOROWITZ  
GAZETTE PACKET

**S**troll through five homes, the Campagna Center and St. Paul's Episcopal Church on this year's Holiday Designer Tour of Homes on Saturday, Dec. 3. Homes are selected based on individuality and historic significance. "Each year we look to homes in Old Town that represent something that's either an historic home or has something unique to offer," said Katherine Murphy, co-chair of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend.

The homes are decorated by local florists and designers. "Each house will be a little bit different but all of them will be dressed up for the holidays," said Shiloh Roehl, volunteer and co-chair of the Tour of Homes.

"It's a nice union of beautiful homes and talented florist and designers," said Murphy.

The designers and florists volunteer their time and items to the tour. "Some of the florists have done this year after year — such as Helen Olivia and the Virginia Florist, and they're just wonderful — and others are new such as Wisteria and Growing Wild," said Roehl. "We're really excited and appreciative that they've come on board. It's a tough economy so it's extra special. They feel that it's a good cause and a local cause."

The tour costs \$30-\$35 and all the proceeds will benefit the Campagna Center. Tours are given by docents from the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"It is just a really special opportunity for people in our area to get into the holiday spirit and be able to visit some of the wonderful homes in Alexandria and hear the deep history behind the walls," said Roehl. "You walk by these homes every day and you kind of wonder what happened 200 years ago or what this area looked like. It's a unique opportunity for visitors to step inside the front door. It's extra special to have these be decorated in the spirit of the holidays."

To purchase tickets, call 703-549-0111 or visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com). You may also stop by The Campagna Center or Ramsay House Visitor's Center to purchase tickets. Advance Purchase \$30; day of Purchase \$35.

Tickets may also be purchased at the homes on the day of the tour. Transportation will be offered during the tour.

## Scottish Christmas Walk Parade

Accompanying the Home Tour is the 41st Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade, which will take place at 11 a.m. in the heart of Old Town beginning at the corner of Wilkes and South St. Asaph, ending at Market Square. More than 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dog groups, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march through the streets of Old Town Alexandria.

For more information on the tour of homes, contact Shiloh Roehl at [shilohroehl@gmail.com](mailto:shilohroehl@gmail.com) or 703-835-3190, or Jeanne Barton at [Jeanne.m.barton@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanne.m.barton@gmail.com) or 703-472-8392.

## Campagna Center

Visit the Campagna Center, which has been decorated by volunteers, to get a chance to see the organization that the proceeds support and learn about what they do in the community for children.

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Murphy explained that St. Paul's will serve as a "hospitality way station" on the tour. St. Paul's has been chosen because it is home to a Head Start classroom. There will be some decoration outside of the church.

### 408 Prince Street

408 Prince Street is a townhouse dating back to the early 1800s. It is a marriage of what was once two structures. The front of the house was originally a Federal style that was later joined to a rear flounder structure. The home is distinguished by elements from late Federal as well as Italianate and Second Empire styles. Although the home in its "bricked" appearance dates to approximately 1885 as a two-story home, records indicate that a house at this site was originally built as a two-story frame dwelling by George Coleman, a ship's captain in approximately 1815. The present home sits on the original stone on stone foundation. The house was raised to three stories between 1896 and 1902 with the addition of a mansard roof, first- and second-story window hoods, dormer surrounds and cornice and door surround which are indicative of the Italianate and Second Empire styles. The current homeowners bought the house in 2001 and have restored the home to more accurately reflect the era in which it was built, including the replication of period mantles that were sadly removed during previous renovations. The home includes a lovely private garden with limestone patio. The home's interior boasts an expansive collection of original art and first edition books.



408 Prince Street

### 206 Wolfe Street

This 19th century Greek Revival townhouse is built on the foundations of an earlier house (1842) destroyed by fire. On Jan. 4, 1871 at 11 p.m., a fire broke out in Frederick Schwoop's bakery at 210 Wolfe Street. The fire destroyed the bakery and consumed the adjoining houses including 206 Wolfe. The owner was a seaport captain who it appears did not rebuild the house, but rather sold the property in 1873, and later another house was built. This structure has undergone several renovations, the most recent this year of a sunroom. Handsome curved arches on the living room walls are repeated in the dining room. The colorful and tasteful décor is accented by a wonderful collection of international art and artifacts, including the blue and white family porcelains in the kitchen. The beautiful garden has evolved throughout the past 12 years, which is the result of a gardening process favored by the owner who is a retired horticulturist from the U.S. Botanic Garden. The garden continues into the oyster shell lane and parking area beyond the brick walls. It is filled with pass-along plants from other gardeners. This gardener has left no spot of earth untouched by her talented green thumb.



206 Wolfe Street

### FEATURED DESIGNERS, FLORISTS

**Growing Wild Floral Co.**  
**Helen Olivia**  
**The Virginia Florist**  
**Wisteria**  
**Sarah Bohl Designs**  
**Virginia Norment Interiors**  
**Elizabeth Owens Designs**  
**Reunions**  
**Transportation provided by Fleet Transportation.**

### 716 Wolfe Street

Jonathan Butcher began construction of this historic residence in 1812. The home originally was used as a boardinghouse for unskilled laborers until after the Civil War. It was thought that it was then leased to an African American man who worked as a porter for the railroad. His son, the first African American teacher in the city, grew up here and as an adult purchased it for himself. The current owners bought the home in 2003 and have mixed contemporary and historic furnishings for an eclectic look that celebrates the old with the new. Their love of art, abstract and figurative, is proudly showcased throughout the home. The home boasts a gorgeous pool and garden. "It's one of those homes you walk by and you kind of don't know what goes on behind," said Roehl.



716 Wolfe Street

### 430 S. St. Asaph Street

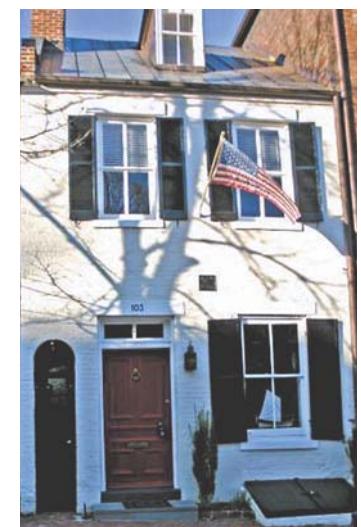
Built in 1978, the home at 430 S. Saint Asaph Street is rumored to have combined two existing houses and boasts almost 3,000 square feet of exceptional living space. The home was recently renovated by the current owner and has a contemporary flair including antique pine pickled flooring, burled olive and ash cabinetry, and suede and silk paper backed walls. A bathroom in the home has been showcased in This Old House Magazine. The home features custom Italian lighting, luxury baths, a gourmet kitchen, and original artwork by Alexandra Nechita and Thomas Arvid. An added perk of visiting this home is that it sits right at the corner where the Scottish Christmas Walk Parade begins.



430 St. Asaph Street

### 103 Prince Street

The 100 block of Prince Street, known as Captain's Row, is one of Old Town Alexandria's most picturesque and storied streets. One of the few cobblestone streets remaining in Old Town, it was originally paved by Hessian prisoners according to local folklore. Many local sea captains built Federal style homes brimming with charming architectural details on this block of Prince nearest the Potomac. Perhaps the most famous of these is Captain John Harper who by 1787 had constructed 15 buildings on the North side of the 100 block of Prince Street, probably including the Francis Harper House Row, also known as 103 Prince Street. In April of 1793, John Harper conveyed to daughter Frances Rush Harper two lots, one at Water and Prince, and the other embracing the sites of present houses at 103, 105 and 107. Alexandria tax assessor estimates 103 Prince Street was built in 1769, however, the land was under water until 1782 and was more likely to have been built between 1782 and 1793. The house itself still boasts several of its original features including original pine floors, original front door and built-ins. However, it has been renovated to preserve its historical significance while updating it to reflect modern life. Captain's Row remains part of Alexandria's storied past and is consistently noted in Old Town's many historical walking tours.



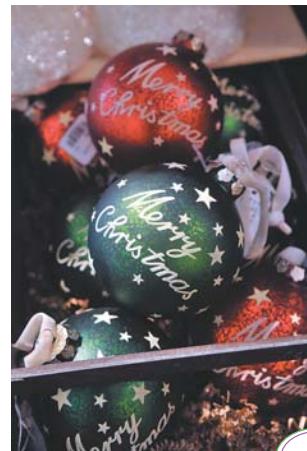
103 Prince Street

## Red, Green and Plaid All Over!

O'Wanderer's favorite Old Town event is about to take place ... the time he meanders through the parade crowd wearing a kilt and following the plaid of our city's Scottish heritage. It is the Scottish Walk, of course, which marks the beginning of a merry month of festivities fueled by the sound of bagpipes and a bit of Scottish whiskey!



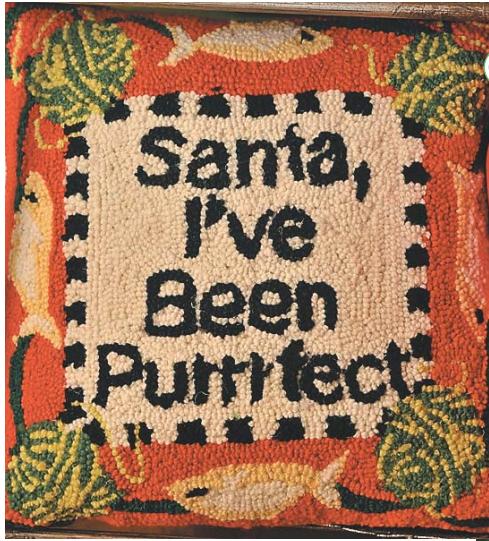
## the Town



**RED BARN MERCANTILE**  
113 South Columbus Street  
703 838.0355  
[redbarmercantile.com](http://redbarmercantile.com)  
Tree-in-a-Can, \$17.95.  
Red & Green Ornament, \$15.



**A EYE2EYE**  
1505 Mt Vernon Avenue  
703 548-0122  
[myeye2eye.com](http://myeye2eye.com)  
Fantastic, festive frames from \$150.



### D ECLECTIC NATURE

1503 Mount Vernon Avenue  
703 837-0500  
[engiftandgarden.com](http://engiftandgarden.com)  
Fresh cut Frasier Furs. 2'-3' tabletop trees with stand and 6'-7' & 7'-8' trees From \$35 - \$75.  
Fluffy's pillow, \$25.



**PENDLETON**  
417 King Street  
703 739-2848  
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Plaid Christmas Bear, \$50.



**REUNIONS**  
1709 Center Plaza  
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[reunionsva.com](http://reunionsva.com)

Snowmen and Santas from Woof & Poof.  
Starting at \$24



### F THE CAMPAGNA CENTER

418 South Washington Street  
703 549-0111  
[campagnacenter.org](http://campagnacenter.org)  
Visit The Campagna Center website to find custom made kilts, scarfs, ties and cummerbunds. The official Campagna Center Tartan commissioned and produced in Scotland. Kilts, scarfs, ties and cummerbunds from \$10 - \$750.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend Events

By MAYA HOROWITZ  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Campagna Center, along with the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., the Scottish Government and the City of Alexandria, is hosting the 41st annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend Dec. 2 and 3. The two-day celebration includes a parade, a Holiday Designer Tour of Homes, a Christmas Marketplace, a Heather and Greens Sale, a Children's Deck the Halls with Santa Event and the Taste of Scotland.

The Campagna Center's Christmas Walk Weekend has expanded over the years.

"The parade (and its associated events) has grown from a small local community walk to one where upwards of 30,000 people come out to enjoy the festivities," said Tammy Mann, president and CEO of the Campagna Center since August 2011.

"The Campagna Center began it to celebrate Alexandria's heritage and raise awareness and money for programs of the Campagna Center," said Katherine Murphy, co-chair of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. "It's put on by the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center."

Murphy said the event has a year-round planning process with dozens of committee chairs and 100-plus Junior Friend volunteers and members of the community who come out to help.

Murphy said the events support children and families and build communities. "To the extent that these events build community there's a linkage and it serves as a wonderful fund-raiser," said Murphy.

"People love it," said Murphy. "A lot of people identify with their Scottish heritage. They get together with their clans, don their kilts and come to the Taste of Scotland scotch-tasting part. It really kind of is the kick off to the holiday season in Alexandria."

"It's a great time for the community and visitors to come out and feel a part of this city and its rich Scottish heritage, while supporting a cause that is focused on providing services that help improve the lives of children and families we serve," said Mann.

With the exception of the parade and the tour of homes, all the events will take place the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

The Christmas Marketplace, occurring from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, offers unique holiday gifts from boutique vendors. "We have local vendors as well as those traveling from afar that will participate in this event," said Mann.

The Heather and Greens Sale, taking place both Friday and Saturday, gives patrons the chance to buy heather or a variety of wreaths, garlands, flatwoods, paperwhites and more.

Deck the Halls with Santa, occurring on Friday afternoon, is an event featuring Santa Claus, crafts and sweets geared towards children aged 2-5 years.

The Taste of Scotland, taking place on Friday night, lets guests enjoy Scottish fare and Scottish whiskey. This year, Fiona Hyslop, Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, will be visiting Alexandria and attending the Taste of Scotland and the Parade.

The Scottish Christmas Walk Parade begins at the corner of Wilkes and South Saint Asaph Streets at 11 a.m. on Saturday. The Honorable Patsy Ticer will serve as the parade Grand Marshall. Over 100 Scottish Clans, dancers, pipe and drum bands, re-enactment groups, dog groups, dignitaries and Mr. and Mrs. Claus will



## Calendar of Events

### Friday, Dec. 2

- 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Christmas Marketplace
- 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Heather and Greens Sale
- 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Campagna Center Open House
- 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Deck the Halls with Santa
- 7 p.m. Taste of Scotland Patron Pub
- 8 p.m. – 11 p.m. Taste of Scotland
- 7 – 10:30 p.m. Christmas Marketplace (Taste of Scotland guests only)
- 7 – 8 p.m. Heather and Greens Sale

### Saturday, Dec. 3

- 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Heather and Greens Sale
- 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Scottish Christmas Walk Parade
- 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. The Campagna Center Open House
- 1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Massed Band Concert
- 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Medieval Marketplace and Christmas Pudding Competition
- 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Holiday Designer Tour of Homes

march.

The Holiday Designer Tour of Homes, occurring from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, enables visitors to see the insides of five historic homes in Old Town, decorated for the holidays. "It's a nice union of beautiful homes and talented florist and designers," said Murphy.

The Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade is the largest fund-raising activity for the Campagna Center. The Campagna Center has been working since 1945 to ensure that children are prepared to enter school and are academically successful at each grade level.

Their programs, which include Early Head Start (prenatal to 3 years), Campagna Early Learning Center (3 and 4 years), Afternoon Adventures (3 and 4 years), Campagna Kids (K-5th grade), Building Better Futures (high school) and New Neighbors (family development), serve 1,700 children and families in Alexandria.

**'Tis the Season!**  
**Expecting company for the Holidays?**

**Convenience. Comfort.**

Visit your relatives and stay with us. Invite the family for the holidays dinner, and we will do the washing up.  
Park & Play – enjoy the sights and sounds of Washington, D.C.  
Shop in Old Town Alexandria, and we will do the parking.

To book, please call the hotel at **703-740-4215**

**Alexandria SW at Hoffman Town Center**  
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Not valid online or through general reservations • Not valid for groups of 10 or more rooms.

**Holiday Inn**

**Ring in the Holiday Season with this classic by Charles Dickens**

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

**December 8–18, 2011**

**Little Theatre of Alexandria**  
600 Wolfe Street • 703-683-0496  
[www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com)

## First Night ALEXANDRIA



An Old Town New Year's Eve Party

**12•31•11**

Four Spotlight Areas of Entertainment between the Masonic Memorial and the Waterfront featuring 107 performances beginning at 7:00 pm

Admission badges are available online now through December 18 for just \$15. Children 12 and under, and active military are FREE, sponsored by Spectre Group International (Dec. 31 pick-up only)

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



Third Annual Fun Hunt starts at 1:00 pm

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

# ENTERTAINMENT

## NOW THROUGH 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](http://www.MountVernon.org) or call 703-780-2000.

## NOW THROUGH 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

**The Other City" Film.** 7 to 9 p.m. Inova Alexandria Hospital, in cooperation with the City of Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS, is hosting a free public screening of the movie in commemoration of the 23rd World AIDS Day. RSVP at [www.inova.org/world-AIDS-day](http://www.inova.org/world-AIDS-day) or by calling 855-694-6682. Inova Alexandria Hospital is at 4320 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

**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. A Holiday Gift Guide will be available for visitors with unique gift ideas from Torpedo Factory artists and galleries for everyone on your list. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org); 703-838-4565

**NOVA Community Chorus.** 7:30 p.m. Winter Concert. NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, will perform Sergei 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](mailto:mwhitmire@nvcc.edu) or 703-845-6097.

**Dundee (Scotland) School Concert.** 8 p.m. Free. Dundee Schools' Music Theatre and the Lord Provost of Dundee. The performers are part of a 20-member delegation that has traveled from Dundee to participate in the 41st Annual Scottish Christmas Walk, including the Lord Provost of Dundee. At the Minnie Howard School Auditorium, 3801 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria.

## DEC. 1, 2, 3

**"The Nutcracker."** West Potomac Academy and Alexandria Community Dance are teaming up to present their third joint performance of "The Nutcracker." Four shows will be performed: Thursday, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 2, at 6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 3 at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At West Potomac Academy. Visit [www.Alexandriadance.com](http://www.Alexandriadance.com).

## DEC. 1 TO 11

**"Plaid Tidings, A Special Holiday Edition."** Dec. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$10/seniors and students; \$5/children. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-615-6626 or [ZemfiraStage@gmail.com](mailto:ZemfiraStage@gmail.com).

## 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., 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](mailto:pmiller1806@comcast.net).



## Holiday Door Decoration Contest Now Going On

**The Old Town Walled Garden Club will be judging holiday decorations in the Alexandria Old and Historic District the week of Dec. 12. Prizes will be awarded to the first-, second-, and third-place winners. Photographs of the winning doors will appear in The Gazette Packet before Christmas. Judging will be based on originality; the use of all-natural materials is strongly preferred. Other factors considered are scale, color, contrast, and visibility. The decorations also have to be done by the homeowners themselves (i.e., no purchased professional arrangements). For additional details, contact Pete Farnham, with the Old Town Walled Garden Club, at [pdfarnham@aol.com](mailto:pdfarnham@aol.com)**

**Heather and Greens Sale.** 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Shop a selection of Boxwoods, Balsams, Noble Fir, Eucalyptus, Magnolias, ribbons, ornaments and more. At the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria.

**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](http://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](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

## DEC. 2 AND 3

**Friends of the Library Book Sale.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hardcovers \$3 and paperbacks \$2. At the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-1703.

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket)

## SATURDAY/DEC. 3

**Library Open House.** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy music and other activities. At the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria; call 703-765-3645.

**Convergence Christmas.** 4 p.m. Concert of sacred Christmas music performed by the 7 Sopranos and Harpist, Mark Martin, with a dramatic reading of "The Gift o the Magi," by Convergence studio artist Rusty Lynn. Tickets are \$15. At the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker lane, Alexandria. Call 703-998-6260.

**Soldier's Christmas.** Noon to 4 p.m. Donation of \$5 suggested. Includes holiday-themed education and entertainment focused on the soldier of the American Revolution. At the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) or 703-549-2997.

**Virginia Grand Military Band.** 8 p.m. Adults \$20. Loras John Schissel, music director; Major Allen Crowell, guest conductor; Scott Shelsta, trombone soloist. Performing works by Grainger, Alford, Elgar and Wagner. At Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Rd., Alexandria. Call 703 426-4777 or visit [www.vgmb.com](http://www.vgmb.com).

**Alexandria Scottish Dancers.** 2 p.m.

Donation of \$3 requested. A benefit for the Campagna Center with special participation for spectators. At The Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria.

**Oldies But Goodies.** Cocker Spaniel Dog Adoption Show. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Dogma Bakery, 2445 N. Harrison St., Arlington.

**Book Signing Event.** 2 to 4 p.m. With author S.E. Simpson who will sign copies of her book, Ginger & the Bully. At Grounded Coffee Shop, 6919 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.

**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](http://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.alexandriacaerology.org](http://www.alexandriacaerology.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](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

**Heather and Greens Sale.** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shop a selection of Boxwoods, Balsams, Noble Fir, Eucalyptus, Magnolias, ribbons, ornaments and more. At the Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St., Alexandria.

## Craft and Vendor Fair.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Featuring 30 crafters/vendors. Proceeds benefit the children of Angelus Academy. At St. Lawrence Church Parish Center, 6222 Franconia Road, Alexandria.

**Virginia Grand Military Band.** 8 p.m. A Salute to Ernest S. Williams and Arthur Pryor with special guest conductor Major Allen C. Crowell. Admission is \$20. At the Rebecca S. Wilburn auditorium at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Call 703-426-4777 or visit [www.vgmb.com](http://www.vgmb.com).

**Country/Folk Singer Kate Campbell.** 7 p.m. With special guest Charles Williams. Tickets are \$18/general; \$15/advance. Presented by Focus Music in Mount Vernon. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road in Alexandria. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org).

**Holiday Children's Book Fair.** 1 to 5 p.m. The fair features Usborne Books, publisher of educational books for children, as well as a craft activity area for kids. Shoppers will also have the opportunity to donate a book to the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, dedicated to tutoring Alexandria's kindergarteners and first-graders in literacy skills. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-4994 or visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org).

## DEC. 3, 4, 10, 11

**St. Aidan's Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale.** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fresh-cut Fraser Fir Christmas trees and wreaths. All proceeds benefit the underserved in our community and day school education. At St. Aidan's, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Call 703-360-4220 or [www.staidansepiscopal.com](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 4

**Holiday Concert.** 2 p.m. Performance by the Alexandria Singers, featuring choral holiday music; 3 p.m. performance by Ein Lanu Z'man, a band featuring Hanukkah and other Jewish music. At Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-5592.

**Messiah Sing-Along.** 4 p.m. Tickets are \$8/door. With G.F. Handel, Messiah (Part I and Hallelujah Chorus). At Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.fairlingtonumc.org](http://www.fairlingtonumc.org) or call 703-671-4057.

**Tennis Workshop.** 2 to 5:30 p.m. This USTA QuickStart Workshop shows you how to teach tennis to juniors up to 18 years old, with an emphasis on kids 10 and Under tennis. Admission \$5. Learn to coach Kids Tennis. At the Mt. Vernon Athletic Club, 7950 Audubon Ave., Alexandria. Contact Lee Ellis, PlayTimeTennis.org. Call 203-433-2533.

**The Milk Carton Kids.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25. With Over the Rhine. At The Birchmere in Alexandria.

**Toys for Tots Square and Round Dance.** 1 to 5 p.m. A Square and Round Dance event which raises funds and collects toy donations for the U.S. Marine Toys for Tots. All toys and proceeds from the dance remain in the Washington area. Held at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria; call 703-746-5418.

**Women's Art and Shopping Holiday Show.** 1 to 5 p.m. More than 30 female artisans will sell their work at the 14th annual Women Artists' Show, sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for Women and the Friends of the Commission. Jewelry, pottery, hand-crafted clothing, scarves, purses, crafts and much more will be available. Proceeds will benefit the Alexandria Domestic

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

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 24

Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Programs. This is also a collection site for new, unwrapped toys and gift cards for the Battered Women's Shelter Holiday Party. At Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-3123 or <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofAlexWomen>.

**Civil War Sunday.** 1 to 5 p.m. Explore the Civil War in Alexandria with Civil War Sundays, a showcase of an original May 26, 1861, edition New York Tribune detailing Col. Elmer Ellsworth's death in Alexandria, a Peeps diorama illustrating Ellsworth's death, a Time Travelers Passport exhibit featuring the Civil War drummer boy, diorama of a heating system constructed in Alexandria, and more. At Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St.; call 703-746-4399.

## MONDAY/DEC. 5

**Christmas Dinner.** 6:30 to 9 p.m. The Samuel Cooper Chapter #105 of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars (MOS&B) and the R.E. Lee Camp #726, Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), and will hold a Christmas dinner and celebration catered by The Royal Restaurant at the American Legion Post 24 Hall at 400 Cameron Street at S. Royal St. behind Gadsby's Tavern. BYOB, and the cost to attend the dinner is \$25 per person. RSVP to Mr. J.J. Smith at 703 299-1725. Checks should be made out to R.E. Lee Camp #726 and mailed to 401 Wilkes St., Alexandria, VA 22314, and must be received by Dec. 2. Payment at the door is \$30/person. Visit [www.leecamp.org](http://www.leecamp.org).

## TUESDAY/DEC. 6

**Evening of J.S. Bach.** 7:30 p.m. Free. The National Chamber Players, with guest Kenneth Slowik, will perform Bach's Sonata No. 1 in C Major (BMV 1037), Concerto in C Minor for Two Harpsichords (BMV 1060) and Cantata No. 62, "Nunn komm, der Heiden Heiland" (with the Episcopal High School choir) in Pendleton Hall at Episcopal High School, 3800 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Before the concert, at 6:30 p.m., there will be an opening reception for the gallery exhibition "Ted Aub: Selected Works." Call 703-933-4135, email [vdp@episcopalhighschool.org](mailto:vdp@episcopalhighschool.org), or visit [www.episcopalhighschool.org/Arts/nch\\_ehs](http://www.episcopalhighschool.org/Arts/nch_ehs)

**Sisters in Crime.** 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Alexandria

Library sponsors "Sisters in Crime" for an evening with six local mystery writers: Donna Andrews, Ellen Crosby, G.M. Malliet, Katherine Neville, Alan Orloff, and Sandra Parshall. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-1702.

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 7

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

**Raul Malo.** 7:30 p.m. The Holiday Tour. Tickets are \$38.40. At The Birchmere in Alexandria.

**Children's Magic Show.** 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free.

Sponsored by the Ring 50 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Bring a canned good or toy that will be donated to the Salvation Army's Alexandria Citadel Corps. At the Holiday Inn, 2460 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-960-3400.

**Musician Raul Malo.** 8 p.m. Tickets are \$29.50. At The Birchmere, 3702 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria.

**Holiday Open House.** 2 to 4 p.m. Celebrate the holidays with Virginia's premier "Village," Mount Vernon At Home. Meet members and volunteers who help our community residents age in their community. Open to the public, light refreshments will be served. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-303-4060.

**Children's Holiday Magic Show** 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Sponsored by I.B.M. Ring 50 — featuring four of Washington's finest children's magicians. Free with donation of can of food or toy for local charity. At the Holiday Inn, 2460 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. For details: [president@ibmring50.org](mailto:president@ibmring50.org) or call Danny Selnick, call 704-347-5540.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 8

**Musician Jack Bond.** 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Part of Second Thursday Music. At The Athenaeum,

201 Prince St., Alexandria. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Decadent December.** 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Art Night. Browse open studios, interact with artists, enjoy refreshments. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org); or call 703-838-4565.

## DEC. 9 TO 17

**School House Rock - Live!** Presented by Mount Vernon High School. Friday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5/children; \$7/students; \$10/adults. At Mount Vernon Little Theater, located at Entrance 4. The ensemble cast includes Bryan Azucena, Kodie Badolato, Logan Beveridge, Vanessa Blake, Desha Brown, Lizzy Craine, Jerry Halstead, Courtney Kramer, Jonathan Leonard, Christopher Lisle, Jessica Merkman, David Parces, Aylana Randall, Chris Rohe, and Emily Whitworth. Call Trena Weiss-Null at Mount Vernon High School at 703-619-3100.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 9

**Seasonal Poetry Presentation.** 11 a.m. By "Tuesdays at Two" Writing Group. Join Peter Lattu

## SATURDAY/DEC. 3

### 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 [www.AlexandriaVA.com](http://www.AlexandriaVA.com); 703-746-3301.



as he leads a presentation by the "Tuesdays at Two" Writing Group at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Call 703-765-4573.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 10

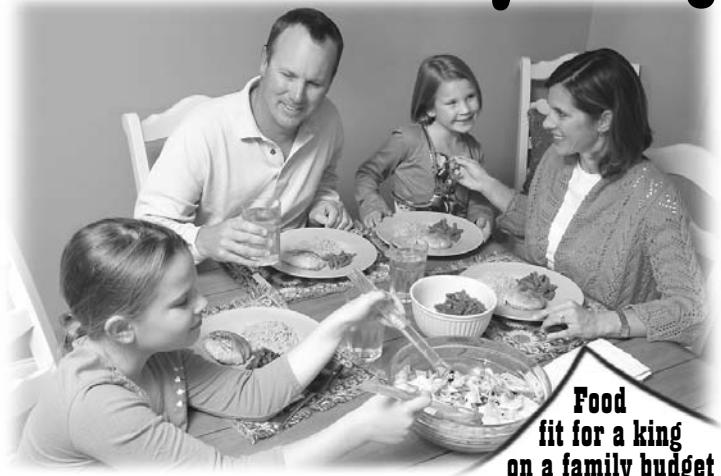
**Holiday Ice Skating Show.** 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. Skaters of all ages will show off their skating skills. At Mount Vernon RECenter's ice arena, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Contact Carl Kirtley at 703-768-3224.

### "The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration."

The Family Kwanzaa Celebration program from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. is ideal for children and their parents. Then, at 4:30 p.m., attend a free screening of "The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration." At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 or visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).

**Christmas in Camp.** Noon to 4 p.m. Learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War by attending Fort Ward Museum's "Christmas in Camp" Open House. Meet a patriotic Santa Claus with living history presentations, Victorian decorations, refreshments, tours and crafts. Donation is \$2/adults; \$1/children. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4848 or visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

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# Worries Mount as January Waterfront Vote Nears

FROM PAGE 1

gages in spot zoning to encourage development at certain sites."

"Illegal spot zoning is usually when a government downzones a property and reduces its value," responded City Attorney James Banks, adding that he wasn't sure the opponents would even have standing to bring a lawsuit. "What the city is attempting to do is upzone the properties, which would increase the value. So I'm not sure what their case would be."

**THE YEARLONG** debate about the small-area plan for the waterfront is finally heading into its final stages, with a work group expected to present its report to City Council members in December followed by a January work session then a final vote later that month. Recent weeks have seen a dramatic increase in the number of public meetings on the topic and press conferences by city officials and their opponents.

"The problem with this plan is that it downzones the public good," said Katy Cannady, co-chairwoman of the coalition, during a Tuesday afternoon press conference at City Hall. "This is one of the last chances to work for open space on the waterfront, and if this zoning goes through it's lost forever."

Members of the coalition have asked city officials to try to strike a deal to acquire some of the Robinson Terminal land along the waterfront for open space. They pointed to surplus properties currently owned by the city, including the old Health Department building and the Elder Crafters building adjacent to City Hall. In a press conference last week, Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks dismissed that idea, suggesting the city didn't own any properties valuable enough to cut a deal.

"We just don't have anything of the magnitude that would be needed for that," said Jinks during a press conference last week. "The alternative is giving up a large public city park, which would be indefensible from



## The Final Countdown

- ❖ **Dec. 8:** Members of the Waterfront Work Group to hold a final meeting, discussing a draft plan to be circulated in advance among members.
- ❖ **Dec. 12:** Panel members Bob Wood and Nate Macek to circulate a draft final report among members of the work group.
- ❖ **Dec. 14:** Final meeting of the work group in which members will hash out a final draft and put together a minority report for those who disagree with the majority.
- ❖ **Dec. 22:** The work group's final report to be released to the public in time for the public and City Council members to review it over the holidays.
- ❖ **Jan. 10:** Members of the Alexandria City Council to conduct a work session, considering the recommendations of the work group and crafting a final plan.
- ❖ **Jan. 21:** Members of the Alexandria City Council to hold a final public hearing on the waterfront plan and potentially cast a final vote.

**Waterfront Work Group members Bob Wood, left, and Nate Macek, right, will be drafting the panel's report, which is expected to be published before the holidays.**

a public policy standpoint."

**AS THE DEBATE** moves into its final stages, arguments have sharpened and emotions have heightened. During a Tuesday night meeting of the Waterfront Committee at City Hall, panel member Peter Pennington expressed the tension in terms of fear. Supporters of the plan fear that failing to take action will result in a loss of control over what happens while opponents fear that the plan will overdevelop some of the most historic parcels of the city.

"There is a fear that this will wreck the waterfront," said Pennington. "Then there is also the fear that this discussion will go on and on and lead to planning blight, and that can be more insidious."

City officials fear that failing to increase density at the two Robinson Terminal sites, the owner will bring a lawsuit and acquire the density increase that's already part of the existing plan. But that scenario would

abandon all of the amenities that city officials have negotiated as part of the plan, including making both piers open to the public and a restaurant policy that gives more control over the permitting process.

"If we don't do anything, Robinson Terminal will take us to court, and they will win," Planning Director Faroll Hamer told Waterfront Committee members. "And then we will have no amenities."

Opponents of the plan say those fears are overwrought, and that the more terrifying scenario would be adding density on the waterfront and allowing hotels. Their fear is that historic areas of the waterfront will be given to property owners and developers with little or no demand for recognizing the importance of West's Point, for example, where Robinson North is now located. As to the amenities negotiated by city planners, opponents of the plan are not impressed.

"I think the amenities are trash," said

former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald, co-chairman of the coalition. "We're giving the land owners everything they want in exchange for a sliver of land and controls and some permitting control over restaurants?"

**THE COMING WEEK** will see one of the most important developments in months. Two members of the work group are expected to circulate a draft of a final report among panel members. Nate Macek, one of the two charged with writing the document, said that 7,000 words have already been written. Panel members are scheduled to conduct a final meeting on Dec. 8, when they will discuss the most controversial aspect of the plan — increasing density at three sites and allowing hotels. Then they will meet one last time to hash out when they will review the draft and begin the process of adding a minority report from members who disagree with the direction of the majority.

"What's the rush?" asked Townsend Van Fleet, adding that the GenOn site should be included in the planning. "There's no reason we can't push this into February."

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

**For the 14th year in a row,** Westminster Presbyterian Church and McLean Bible Church donated more than 100 Thanksgiving dinners to families served by The Child and Family Network Centers (CFNC). On Saturday, Nov. 19, CFNC distributed the Thanksgiving dinner boxes, including a 15 lb. turkey, 5 lb. bag of potatoes, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls and brownies, at their Birchmere location on Mount Vernon Avenue in Alexandria. CFNC staff and dozens of community members volunteered their time to deliver, unload and distribute the meals, allowing CFNC families, some of Northern Virginia's neediest, to enjoy a turkey dinner this Thanksgiving.

**How you found out about your parents' divorce?** Family therapist Vikki Stark is conducting a study of the impact on children of

how they learned about their parents' divorce. If you are an adult who was a child/teen when your parents got divorced or are currently a child/teen of divorce - help kids in the future through your participation! Visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ChildDivorceStudy> to access the questionnaire online.

**Tutor! And Change Two Lives.** The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium needs volunteers to tutor kindergarteners and first-graders in literacy skills for 30 minutes once or twice a week through May in Alexandria public schools. Training and lesson plans provided. Call 703-549-6670, ext. 119, or visit [www.alexandriatutors.org](http://www.alexandriatutors.org).

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
**Five-Star Toastmasters, Club # 9623.** 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Pentagon Conference Center. Are you

ambitious? Do you have hidden talents that you would like to tap into? Toastmasters can help you on your journey to a new you. The club can help you sharpen your speaking skills, boost your confidence and energize your leadership skills in a team-oriented atmosphere. Visit <http://fivestar.freetoasthost.com> or contact Club Vice-President for Membership, Katharine Gagné at 202-521-2307 or e-mail of Club VP Mbrshp@fivestar.freetoasthost.com and Club President, Charlie DeWitt at 202-997-5087 or Club President@fivestar.freetoasthost.com.

**TUESDAY/DEC. 6**  
**"How Did the Middle East Conflict Begin?"** 6 to 8 p.m. Rosemarie M. Esber, author of *Under the Cover of War: The Zionist Expulsion of the Palestinians*, will discuss the beginning of the Middle East conflict from the early 19th century through

the last days of the British mandate over Palestine. She will also share her experiences conducting documentary research and oral history research of traumatic events. At Morrison House, 116 South Alfred St., Alexandria. Visit [www.morrisonhouse.com](http://www.morrisonhouse.com) or 703-838-8000.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 8

**Holiday Business Awards.** Hosted by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce. 6:30 p.m. Networking and Cocktails; 7:30 p.m. Dinner and Business Awards; followed by dancing to Close2Home. Tickets are \$45/person. At the Belle Haven Country Club.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 13

**Family Support Group.** 6:30 p.m. Megan O'Connor and Annaliese Sertorie talk about Mental Health

Adult Residential Services in Fairfax County. Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board provides a Family Support Group for families who have members experiencing symptoms of mental illness. Meets on the second (Speaker) and fourth (Open Discussion) Tuesdays of the month at 8119 Holland Road, Alexandria. Call Maureen H. McCracken at 703-799-2705.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

**Foster Parent Orientation.** 6 to 7:30 p.m. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-746-5858 or email [Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov).

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12  
own arguments.

After five years of budget cuts, with our nation's lackluster economy, the Council has to carefully manage city resources. The city manager recently asked departments to suggest up to 6 percent cuts in their budgets. Staff reductions and cuts over the years have already strained city services. New city open space funding was killed by the recession. Our combined sewer system in Old Town needs hundreds of millions to fix. Library services have been reduced. Parks like Ft. Ward, Windmill Hill, and Four Mile Run, city pools and other public infrastructure have unfunded maintenance needs. We must improve fire and emergency services so residents on the west-end are treated as quickly as those on the east. And our police department can't sustain more cuts without diminishing services.

"Just borrow the money," some say. But they fail to consider the significant new taxes required for the bond payments or the impact of borrowing on our city AAA credit rating. Or the risk that new borrowing undermines school and transportation needs.

We have a multi-year plan to add classrooms for our growing student population; it requires new funds each year. We will likely need even more to address continued crowding. And transportation and Metro costs continue to burden our city as state and federal funds vanish.

In short, we can't put basic needs on hold in exchange for a Quixotic quest for a few acres of land on the waterfront.

"Just get a grant," some say. There is no easy money from foundations and conservation organizations. I've talked to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Funds for land conservation are scarce, and existing funds are prioritized for less expensive and much larger swaths of land outside the Beltway. I'd welcome any private citizens or groups that want to raise or donate funds to buy waterfront land. Anybody interested can contribute to the city open space account or can buy land themselves.

By working with the planning commission framework, we can have a waterfront that is a pleasure to walk along and visit without an extravagant waterfront spending spree. Opponents are entitled to hold the view that their proposed spending is a higher priority than education, public safety or transportation. Or that the city should do it all by raising taxes to be among the highest in the region. Or that the city should abandon its AAA credit rating to make

the alternative work. But they should be clear about what they want to give up and who it will impact. There are no free lunches. Not even on the waterfront.

**Rob Krupicka**  
Alexandria City Councilman  
Virginia Board of Education Member

### Comments, Not Consensus

To the Editor:

The Beauregard Small Area Plan process and transportation planning in the West End has been contentious. An underlying issue is the misinformation that is perpetuated by City officials and citizen leaders and groups that blur the truth. Donald Bush in a letter to the editor (Gazette Packet, November 24-30) headlined "Not Constructive", contributes to this misinformation by referring to comments provided by the Beauregard Corridor Stakeholders' Group (BCSG) as being "recommendations."

The Beauregard Corridor Stakeholder's Group (BCSG) is an ad hoc group comprised of property owners, developers and citizens sharing an interest in proposed redevelopment of property near Beauregard and Seminary Road. The redrawn Beauregard Small Area plan area is part of an existing 1992 West End Small Area Plan created to accommodate plans for redevelopment. Draft redevelopment plans put forward by JBG Properties, Southern Towers, Hekemian, Duke Realty, Home Properties and WRIT are driven by investor interest in capitalizing on the anticipated growth near the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, BRAC facility at Mark Center.

The Beauregard Corridor Stakeholder's Group is not an official advisory committee governed by City officials. One of the intended purposes of having a citizens group was to avoid "running afoul of the provisions of 'sunshine laws' which [prohibit] more than two members of officially sanctioned City entities from discussing matters within their purview without first having to advertise such discussions as public meetings." (See web page at <http://sites.google.com/site/bcsgalex/home>.)

As described on its web site, it was formed so members could work directly with developers to review existing conditions within the plan area and update the zoning in anticipation of redevelopment. Membership was open to persons who are: (a) residents

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 28

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

### 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

Pawleys Island, SC

**Clifford Howard Rusch, Jr., age 80**  
of Hawthorn Drive died Monday, November 21, 2011 at Waccamaw Community Hospital.

Born in Bronxville, NY, he was the son of the late Clifford and Margaret Rusch. Mr. Rusch was a US Army veteran. He retired from the city of Alexandria, VA with over 25 years of service. Mr. Rusch attended All Saints Episcopal Church. He was a devoted tennis player and an avid history buff. Mr. Rusch also was an involved member of the Pawleys Island community.

Surviving are his wife, Harriet; son, Kevin C. Rusch of Arlington, VA; daughters, Kimberly Rusch and husband Norman Getsinger and Melissa Tidwell and husband Scott all of Charlotte, NC; seven grandchildren; sisters, Janet Coberly and husband Neal of CA, Margot Allison of CT and Ellen Brecher and husband Howard of NY and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held Saturday at All Saints Episcopal Church "Little Chapel".

Memorials may be made to St. Francis Animal Center, 125 North Ridge St., Georgetown, SC 29440.  
Sign a guest book at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com)  
Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of arrangement.

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PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN



**Gregory and Sharolyn Hysong perform "For Good" from the musical "Wicked" at the Nov. 13 Fall Recital of the Alexandria School for the Performing Arts.**

## OPINION

# Thank You for Helping Us Continue to Help You

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO, RN, FACHE  
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL



Every week I get heartfelt letters of thanks from former patients or grateful family members for the care they have received at Inova Alexandria Hospital. I love to read these letters because it reminds me why I chose a career in healthcare — to help heal, educate and touch the lives of other people. I'm glad we're touching the lives of so many in our community.

In this season of gratitude and giving, we at Inova Alexandria Hospital are also grateful. In 2006, we asked for your help when we launched

**COMMENTARY** Project 2010, an \$84 million expansion project designed to enhance existing hospital services and improve community access to these services. The community generously heeded our call for help, donating over \$25 million — nearly one-third the total cost! Combined with funds from Inova's reserves and loans, those private donations helped us fully fund Project 2010 and

complete construction ahead of schedule this past October.

As the largest investment of capital into the hospital in the past 30 years — and our most ambitious building expansion ever — Project

2010 underscores Inova's commitment to keep pace with our community's ever-changing healthcare needs. The project evolved from extensive research showing that one out of every four Alexandrians would be between the ages of 50 and 65 by 2010 — an age when devastating health conditions like heart attacks and strokes are more likely to occur. With the construction of 68,000 square feet of new floor space and the renovation of more than 50,000 square feet of existing hospital space, we were able to enhance key services to meet the demands of our aging population. These include:

♦ An expanded Emergency Department to handle more than 60,000 annual patients —

and counting.

♦ Additional procedure rooms to accommodate the increasing demand for minimally invasive surgery for cardiac and stroke patients, and two new surgical operating rooms.

♦ A 24-private room unit — The Twig Surgical Center — for post-surgery patients that offers a state-of-the-art physical therapy gym for rehabilitation.

♦ A new fully-automated Pathology laboratory.

Even as we celebrate the close of Project 2010, we know there will continue to be more challenges just around the corner, and we will meet them. Since our founding in 1872 as a not-for-profit community hospital, Inova Alexandria Hospital has continually enhanced our facility and services to offer the latest treatments and technologies, earning us many "firsts" in patient care. That's a history we will proudly recall as we also celebrate our 139th anniversary this month.

Thanks for all of your continued support, and best wishes to you and your family for a holiday season filled with joy and good health.

view of the 70,000 people in 'West Alexandria' seemed rather presumptuous." It was agreed all comments made on a draft small area plan would be forwarded to the City Planning staff for their consideration. There was limited discussion on a variety of land use issues. However, there were no votes on individual developer plans, proposed building heights, open space, affordable housing, inclusion of Beauregard as part of Corridor C, the "bucket list" (proposed developer contributions), or a proposed "ellipse" at the intersection of Beauregard and Seminary. To call the comments forwarded to the City Planning staff as recommendations would be presumptuous and inaccurate.

Although there was general agreement on some various assumptions, the comments sent to City staff did not reflect group consensus, agreement on criteria or guidelines for a small area plan.

Although individuals attending BSCG meetings discuss differences in opinions on major issues, it would be a mistake to blame them

for not suggesting the "recommendations" need a vote. It is the responsibility of the elected leaders conducting the meetings to entertain a motion if actions of the group are to be characterized as recommendations to the City staff. If the leaders of the BSCG continue to insist they have passed along recommendations, we need to ask whose recommendations?

It is important that City, elected officials and citizens involved in civic discourse protect the public participation process. It would be misleading to suggest the BSCG approves or recommends zoning densities, heights, or redevelopment and mitigation plans being considered by the developers. There is great potential for abuse in stating a group has made recommendations when they have not. The involvement and actions taken by City sponsored or citizen groups must be accurately and truthfully reported if the public process is to have any credibility.

Dave Cavanaugh



**Students of the Alexandria School for the Performing Arts show off their ribbons following the Nov. 13 recital at the Salvation Army Citadel in Del Ray.**

## The Sounds Of Music

Dozens of students from the Alexandria School for the Performing Arts presented their Fall Recital Nov. 13 at the Salvation Army Citadel corps hall in Del Ray.

Performances included solo and duet selections on piano, guitar, cornet, tuba and voice. Dance class students presented a routine to "Step By Step" and the Youth Band performed "Songs of Freedom" and "Melodious Straines."

Awards were presented to the students by ASPA principal Cheryl Jones-Gage and corps officer Lt. Trey Jones. The ASPA, open to students of all ages, offers instruction in brass and percussion instruments, vocal, dance, guitar and piano, with a staff of 11 instructors. For more information, call 703-836-2427.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

## WELLBEING

# Beating the Holiday Blues

Area experts offer advice on keeping money woes, family conflict and loneliness from ruining the holiday season.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**A**sk the average person what feelings come to mind as they enter the month of December and you're likely to get responses that range from joy and excitement to grief and dread.

"Overwhelmed," said a Burke mother of two whose husband is deployed overseas.

"Nervous," replied an Arlington father of four who recently lost his job.

For many, what is often billed as the most joyous time of the year can bring anxiety, loneliness and depression.

"The media portrays the holidays as this never ending blissful time," said Lisa Calusic, M.D., a psychiatrist at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and Inova Behavioral Health Services in Alexandria. "People [often say] 'I should have a loving, warm family. I should have the perfect holiday season. We should be merry 24-7.' Those expectations are going to lead to depression and feeling anxious because there is no such thing as the perfect anything much less the perfect holiday season."

Mental health experts say that holiday blues are caused most often by family conflicts, over-commercialization, grief, stress, fatigue, unrealistic expectations, financial limitations and an inability to be with family and friends. Local therapists offer suggestions for minimizing Yuletide stress and depression.

### Develop A Holiday Strategy

From shopping for presents to dealing with difficult relatives, it is important to think ahead about how you will deal with challenging scenarios.

"Plan strategies for how you're going to cope with situations," said Dr. Robert Hedaya, M.D., D.F.A.P.A., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Georgetown University School of Medicine and founder of the National Center for Whole Psychiatry in Chevy Chase, Md. "Maybe it is limiting your time with a family or maybe it is getting away for the holiday if you don't have family."

### Be Realistic

"Do everything you can not to buy into what the culture or anyone else says your life should look like during this time of year," said Dr. Jeffrey W. Pollard, Executive Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at George Mason University. "There

is nothing wrong with having the life that you had three months ago."

### Stick to a Budget

Trying to buy happiness or holiday cheer with an abundance of gifts is setting the stage for anxiety and depression.

"One of the other things that happens is that people will put themselves in a financial bind in order to ... make sure everything is perfect or is happening the way that others want it to happen," said Pollard.

Decide how much money you can afford to spend, create a budget and stick to it.

### Keeping the Faith

Religious differences can be one of the thorniest issues to negotiate during the holidays.

The home of McLean-based psychotherapist Toni Coleman will sparkle with Hanukkah blue and Christmas red this holiday season, as it does every year. Coleman, who is Catholic, and her husband who is Jewish, have been navigating their way through the fusion of Christian and Jewish customs since they were first married nearly 25 years ago.

"When you start out getting married and you're of

different faiths, there is a lot of stress if you've got families of origin with agendas who want you to celebrate their way," said Coleman who is the mother of four children. "We negotiated it extremely well."

Coleman and her family celebrate both Ha-



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA BERG-CROSS

**Potomac, Maryland-based clinical psychologist Linda Berg-Cross, Ph.D. says that the best motto for preventing holiday stress and depression is "less is more."**



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

**Toni Coleman of McLean prepares to celebrate both Hanukkah and Christmas. Religious differences can create family conflict, a leading cause of stress and depressing during the holidays.**

nukkah and Christmas. She encourages others who face the same challenge to keep a positive attitude about both religions, find ways to compromise and start their own traditions.

### Acknowledge Feelings; Ask for Help

Feelings of sadness and grief over the loss of a loved one or an inability to be with family and friends can intensify during the holidays. Experts say it is important to acknowledge and express these feelings and ask for help.

"Reach out to your sources of support like friends who know you well and won't make judgments," said Calusic, who lives in Arlington and has a private practice in Falls Church. "It is useful to lean on the people who know you on a day-to-day basis."

Support and companionship can be found through community or religious activities.

### More Exercise, Less Sugar and Alcohol

Don't allow the holidays to become a free-for all when it comes to wellness.

"You want to ensure that you're functioning as well as you can mentally and physically as you go into this time of stress," said Hedaya. "If you are going into a rough time you need to have better reserves. You need to limit your use of alcohol or stimulants."

Making an effort to practice healthy habits is a tool in battling holiday blues.

"Exercise is a huge part of it. Go for walks, hit the gym, or any kind of outlet that you can find to release nervous energy and depression," said Calusic. "Everyone loves their cookies and cakes and holiday favorites. But constantly eating sugary and fattening foods definitely has an impact on mood and anxiety levels."

### Help Others

Benevolence is a mood booster.

"Is there any opportunity to do some volunteer work," said Pollard, of George Mason. "If you find yourself in a funk and you want to get out of it, help somebody, volunteer somewhere. You'll be surprised how good that can make you feel."

Coleman, the McLean therapist, has employed this strategy and encourages her cli-

ents to do the same. "If a family feels that it is going to be a difficult holiday, and they are grieving or have a loss in their life, they can fill it by trying to celebrate the real spirit of the holidays which is doing for others," she said. "There is a tremendous amount of pleasure and satisfaction in that."

### Environment Plays a Role

Mental health professionals say that some people suffer from seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a condition that results from less exposure to sunlight as days grow shorter.

"It is a mild variant of depression that falls in line with the shorter days of fall and winter," said Calusic. "It is much more common than people give it credit for."

One of the most popular remedies is phototherapy, a treatment involving exposure to intense light.

"The best thing to do is get a dawn simulator which is a small light box that you keep near your bed and set it to go off three hours before your desired waking time. It recreates the dawn experience. It is the best form of light treatment."

**"Whatever you decide to do try to be present in it and experience that engagement."**

**— Potomac psychologist Linda Berg-Cross**

The best motto for preventing holiday stress and depression is less is more."

Making realistic decisions about what you can and cannot do will quell anxiety.

"The key ... is to make a plan that allows you to include the most meaningful [activities] only," said Coleman. "This involves conscious decisions to forego some things and set limits on others."

Berg-Cross encourages her clients to focus on connecting with others. "Whatever you decide to do try to be present in it and experience that engagement," she said. "The top priority [should be] that you had chance to sit down with somebody and breathe and create space for the human encounter because ultimately that is what people most often remember."

# SPORTS

## Members of 1961 GW Crew Reunite

Fifty years after they last rowed together as a team, the original members of George Washington High School's 1961 varsity four crew team came together recently for a "Reunion Row" on the Potomac River.

The Reunion Row, which launched from the Dee Campbell Boathouse in Old Town, took place on Nov. 5. It was held in conjunction with the GWHS Class of 1961's 50th Reunion, which occurred that same weekend.

**SPORTS BRIEFS**  
Taking part in the row were 1961 class members Jeff Morehouse, John Huetter, Sam Sabin and Paul Tanguay.

As members of the George Washington High School varsity four crew team that rowed together in both 1960 and 1961, Morehouse, Huetter, Sabin and Tanguay were members of one of the most successful boats on area waters. In fact, they were so successful that they made it to the 1961 Rowing National Championship, where they finished in second place.

After graduating from GWHS, Morehouse successfully continued his rowing career for four years at Rutgers University, while Huetter rowed again at UCLA after a hiatus in the Air Force. Both took up sculling years later and continue rowing today at the age of 68 — Morehouse in South Carolina and Huetter on San Francisco Bay. According to Huetter, "Sabin and Tanguay bravely came down to the docks after decades away from a racing shell" to join their teammates for the Reunion Row. "The biggest physical challenge for us was getting in and out of the shell," Huetter quipped. "This was not a lightweight crew!"

To symbolize the generations of athletes who have rowed on the Potomac, Huetter further noted that he and his teammates from the GWHS class of 1961 were joined on the boat by a member of the T.C. Williams Class of 2015 — Spenser Gilliland, who is a sophomore coxswain on TC's crew team today and guided the class of '61 varsity four in their outing on the Potomac.

Pat Marquardt, a 2001 graduate of T.C.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Members of the 1961 George Washington High School Varsity Four Crew Team, on the water together again for the first time in 50 years, Nov. 5, 2011.**

Williams who rowed for TC and serves as a coach of the crew team today, coordinated the Reunion Row.

## Local Harriers Compete In Region Championship

T.C. Williams harriers Shannon Smythe and Anteneh Girma, and Bishop Ireton's Liam O'Connor competed in the Foot Locker South Region cross country championship on Nov. 26 in Charlotte, N.C.

Each runner posted a personal-best time

in the 5K championship meet. Smythe, a senior, finished 43rd in the girls race and set a T.C. Williams record with a time of 18 minutes, 17 seconds. It was her second year competing in the event.

"It was really fun," Smythe said. "It's a really fast course — it only has one hill — and you're competing against a lot of really, really good girls, so it's much more competitive than anything you ever see before that race."

Girma, a freshman, finished 133rd in the boys race with a time of 16:24. Girma shaved 15 seconds off his previous best.

"He's one of the best freshmen," Smythe said, "we've ever seen."

O'Connor finished 142nd with a time of 16:28, 13 seconds better than his previous best.

Virginia had 350 runners competing in the regional event which covers 16 states/territories. The Virginia boys finished atop the state standings, determined by each state's top five runners.

Annandale's Ahmed Bile (second, 14:38), Chantilly's Sean McGorty (sixth, 14:54) and Lake Braddock's Sophie Chase (second, 17:06) each finished in the top 10 of their respective races to earn a trip to nationals in San Diego on Dec. 10.

"It was just a good way to end the season," Smythe said.

## SCHOOL NOTES

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

Held on Oct. 29 in Arlington, the **Healthy Kids Fun Run** registered 3,000 runners ages 5 to 12, nearly two-thirds entered through the coordinated effort of physical education teachers and PTA groups. The elementary schools with the most students registered will receive the Healthy School Award and \$1,000 toward their P.E. departments from MCM partner, Sodexo. The Alexandria schools to receive this honor are **George Mason Elementary** (243 students); **James K. Polk Elementary** (240 students); **Mount Vernon Community School** (115 students) and **William Ramsay Elementary** (90 students).

Loyola University Maryland has an-

nounced the members of its spring 2011 Dean's List. The following local students have achieved this honor:

❖ **Meghan Palmer**, a member of the class of 2013 from Alexandria;

❖ **Sara Ochs**, a member of the class of 2011 from Alexandria;

**Adrienne Kirsch Fraser Darling of Alexandria**, a graduate of The College of New Rochelle, was awarded the Ursula Laurus Citation at the College's 73rd annual Alumni College Weekend in June.

**Jennifer A. Tollefson of Alexandria** was named to the dean's list at Boston University for the Spring semester.

**Bryce W. Johnson of Alexandria** made honor roll at Oregon State University.

**Johnny Amin of Alexandria**, a student at George Mason University, received the GEICO Achievement

Award.

**Margarita Jennings** graduated in May from Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN. Margarita, daughter of Margarita and John Jennings of Alexandria, received a B.S. in Nursing.

**Michael Brady**, a resident of Alexandria, graduated from Siena College in May. Brady earned a degree in Management.

The following students graduated on May 22, 2011 from Amherst College in Amherst, Mass.:

❖ **Floyd Oliver Jr., of Alexandria**, son of Floyd J. Oliver Sr. and Patricia A. Oliver, graduated. Oliver Jr., who majored in English, entered Amherst after graduating from The Potomac School.

❖ **Eliza Peabody, of Alexandria**, daughter of David H. Peabody and Virginia C. Peabody, graduated magna cum laude. Peabody, who majored in English and Interdisciplinary, entered Amherst

after graduating from T.C. Williams High School.

**Bryce W. Johnson of Alexandria** made the Scholastic Honor Roll at Oregon State University for the Spring 2011 semester with a 3.5 GPA or better. He is studying his Post Baccalaureate, Botany.

**Kristina Cruz of Alexandria** has earned Honors for the spring semester of the 2010-2011 academic year at the University of New Hampshire.

The Junior League of Northern Virginia is having a **Back-to-School Health Fair** for uninsured or underinsured children residing in Alexandria. Saturday, July 23, 2011, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Arlandia Health Center, 2 East Glebe Road, Alexandria, Va., 22305.

**Julianne Tortolano** has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army after successfully completing

the Army ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) program and graduating with a bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University, Calif. She is the daughter of William T. and Mary Ann Tortolano of Achilles Court, Alexandria. Tortolano graduated in 2007 from Bishop Ireton High School, Alexandria.

**Sarah Puerto** of Atlanta, Ga., daughter of Thomas David Jarzen and Luz Esmeralda Jarzen of Alexandria, received a Bachelor of Arts from Emory College of Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., at its 166th commencement ceremony on May 9, 2011.

**Audrey Mackey**, a resident of Alexandria, was among 1,749 students who received undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates of advanced study from The College of Saint Rose in Albany, N.Y. Mackey received a Bachelor of Arts as a member of the Class of 2011.

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 32



AUSTIN SMYTHE

**Bishop Ireton's Liam O'Connor (2259) and T.C. Williams' Anteneh Girma (2147) competed in the Foot Locker South Region cross country championship on Nov. 26 in Charlotte, N.C. T.C. Williams' Shannon Smythe also competed.**

# TC Girls Determined To Beat West Springfield

**Region runner-up Titans lost four times against Spartans last season.**

By JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams girls basketball program's accomplishments during the 2010-11 season have the Titans feeling confident. TC earned a berth in the state tournament, won 19 games and finished runner-up in the Patriot District and Northern Region.

The Titans proved to themselves they're capable of playing at an elite level and they believe they have what it takes to make another deep postseason run in 2012. However, one team remains stuck in the minds of those donning red, white and blue. It's an opponent that eats at the Titans and serves as daily motivation for improvement to avoid last year's feeling of defeat.

A feeling TC experienced four times in a single season.

West Springfield won all four meetings with the Titans during the 2010-11 campaign, beating TC twice during the regular season and in the district and region championship games. The Titans kept things close in the region final, losing 46-41, but each of the other three meetings was decided by at least 14 points.

**"Losing to a team four times is tough. It's a nasty taste in my mouth; it's a nasty taste in [the players' mouths]. ... Jan. 6 is when we'll see [West Springfield] for the first time this year. [The Titans are] looking forward to Jan. 6."**

— T.C. Williams girls basketball coach Kesha Walton

West Springfield finished the year 28-2 and reached the state semifinals. The Spartans return seven of eight athletes who saw time in the semifinal loss to Stonewall Jackson, including four of five starters. Led by Georgetown signee Logan Battle, a 5-foot-11 post, and Duquesne signee April Robinson, a first-team All-Met point guard, the Spartans are logical



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Junior guard Christian Roberts is an offensive threat for the Titans.**

favorites to repeat as region champions.

The Titans will do their best to stand in the way of logic.

"I have to keep reminding them we're going game by game, but [beating West Springfield] is No. 1 on their list," T.C. Williams head coach Kesha Walton said. "Losing to a team four times is tough. It's a nasty taste in my mouth; it's a nasty taste in [the players' mouths]. ... Jan. 6 is when we'll see them for the first time this year. [The Titans are] looking forward to Jan. 6."

TC will travel to Springfield for the Jan. 6 meeting. The Titans will host the Spartans on Jan. 30.

TC senior guard Sofie Schedler thinks about the Spartans when she's working from the charity stripe.

"Every time at the end of practice," Schedler said, "if you're shooting a free throw, in your head you have to think, 'West Springfield.'"

Senior guard Gaby Moss thinks of the Spartans to help fight off fatigue.

"Whenever we're feeling tired or we don't want to do something right, it's, 'Oh, West Springfield beat us four times,'" Moss said. "It makes you want to work a little harder."

**SENIOR FORWARD** Johnee' Lewis thinks about getting even with the Spartans: "We just really want to beat them this year."

Lewis, Moss and Schedler are team captains who will lead the Titans in their quest to beat the Spartans and capture the program's first region title. Lewis (5'10") and Moss (5'8") are returning starters.

"[Lewis] pushed herself hard day in and



**Senior guard Sofie Schedler is one of three captains on the T.C. Williams girls basketball team.**

day out as well as her teammates, getting them involved," Walton said. "If she sees anybody down, she goes and picks them up and brings them along. She's only listed at [5'10"], but she plays like she's 6'2" [or] 6'3." ... [Moss is] kind of our offensive assassin. She can shoot the lights out [and] she can drive. She's getting a lot of Division I interest."

Schedler enters her third season on the varsity and will start at one of the guard positions.

"She's the heart and soul of our defense," Walton said. "She gets them started. Defensively, she's in your face."

Junior guard Christian Roberts (5'11"), sophomore guard Angie Schedler (5'6") and freshman guard Rejoice Spivey (5'5") are offensive threats while seniors Brooke

Ninman (5'9" forward) and Tiffani Gibson (6'2" center) will each provide a presence in the paint.

Senior Jada Roberts (5'11" forward), juniors Aaliyah Carter (5'5" guard/forward) and Baylee Simpson (5'9" guard) and freshman Megan Laychak (5'5" guard) will compete for playing time.

TC will open the season at home against Wakefield at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. The Titans' first district game is Dec. 13 at West Potomac.

On Dec. 17, TC will host 2011 state runner-up Stonewall Jackson.

"They're excited and the fact that they've been [to the state tournament] and had a taste of it, they're dying and eager to get back," Walton said about the Titans. "It just made their work ethic that much higher."

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## SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 30

Marymount University announces that the following residents are among the more than 450 undergraduates and 350 graduate students who received degrees at the University's 60th Commencement Ceremonies at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., on May 8.

❖ **Monica Miner of Alexandria** earned a/an M.A. in School Counseling.

❖ **Stephanie Perih of Alexandria** earned a/an B.S. in Nursing (second degree).

❖ **Katelyn Roehr of Alexandria** earned a/an M.A. in Interior Design.

❖ **Krista Boyd of Alexandria** earned a/an M.A. in Forensic Psychology.

❖ **Andrew Cooke of Alexandria** earned a/an B.A. in Philosophy.

❖ **Katherine Raffaelli of Alexandria** earned a/an M.A. in School Counseling.

❖ **Ana Adriazola of Alexandria** earned a/an B.S. in Nursing (second degree).

❖ **Dariya Atanasova of Alexandria** earned a/an Bachelor of Business Administration. Atanasova graduated summa cum laude.

❖ **Shauntae Barber of Alexandria** earned a/an M.B.A..

❖ **Ann Brouwer of Alexandria** earned a/an M.S.N., Family Nurse Practitioner.

❖ **Rachael Chapman of Alexandria** earned a/an M.A. in Forensic Psychology.

❖ **Kimberly Dexter of Alexandria** earned a/an M.A. in Community Counseling.

❖ **Alanoud Elzallal of Alexandria** earned a/an M.S. in Information Technology.

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Bedroom features Vaulted Cathedral Ceilings, Walk-In Closet and French Doors overlooking the tranquil garden. Dir - South on Washington St., Left on Franklin, Right on South Lee to 717.

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## OPINION

# Successful Play Festival

By MCKENYA DILWORTH-ABDALLA  
NANNIE J. LEE MEMORIAL  
RECREATION CENTER

The Anybody's Story PlayFest was an overwhelming success. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities in partnership with the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority hosted the inaugural play festival the weekend of Veteran's Day (Nov. 11-12). The playwrights that were featured were employees of ARHA Jason Ellis and Shanelle Gayden.



Gayden's play "The Day Awaits You" is a beautifully written piece that focuses on three teenagers struggling with problems ranging in relationship crisis to drug abuse. The issues are real ones that face teenaged youth each and every day. Gayden was able to skillfully give a voice to millions of teenagers who currently do not have one and do not have a platform to discuss and explore various issues.

Each actress had the awesome task of bringing uncomfortable issues to life. The playwright herself embodied a character that struggled with the difficult decision of an unplanned pregnancy. She was just shy of graduating from high school and faced with having to disappoint her family about her poor choices of having sex — unprotected sex at that.

Shayna Rhyne played a teenager who made the decision to become intimate with her (she thought virgin) boyfriend. She was a virgin and thought that they were embarking on a new experience together, but found out later that her boyfriend had given her a venereal disease.

Ebony Taylor played a teenager that just could not seem to kick her weed habit. She did everything right except smoke marijuana in her past time and that led to her secluding herself from others and smoking her life away (figuratively). She eventually received help for her addiction and goes on to lead a healthy and productive life after high school.

The fates of all three girls turn out to be what they were destined to be because the day awaited them to become the women that they were meant to be. Gayden, a playwright, poet and dancer gave each female audience member a rose, reminding them that no matter what they did in the past or where they had been, they were still a rose, a beautiful flower with great potential of blooming. If you are interested in submitting your work for upcoming play workshops contact Ms. Dilworth-Abdalla at 703-746-5533.

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Nancy Dunning was my friend. Thirty years ago, she envisioned Del Ray as a community full of active citizens, thriving businesses and excellent schools. Not only did she work tirelessly over the years to help create this community, but she inspired many of us to join in her effort. For those of you who did not know Nancy, read this beautiful tribute written by her daughter, Elizabeth. For those of you who did, join me in remembering her contribution to Del Ray and Alexandria.

—Jack Taylor, Alexandria Toyota



## *Nancy Dunning*

# The Best Mom In The World

A Eulogy for Nancy Dunning written and read by her daughter, Liz

A lot of people, I think, have moments when they imagine that they have the best mom in the world. I was lucky enough, however, to be absolutely certain – for a long time – that I actually did. My mom was my best friend. We talked just about every day. And, anyone who knows her, knows a couple of things about my mom, one of which was that she was more or less always right. When I was a teenager, that pissed me off sometimes. I mean, seriously, when you're sixteen and supposed to be going through that phase where you know everything, it puts a crimp in it to live with someone who actually does.

But, another thing that you must know if you met my mom was that she wasn't smug about her omnipotence. Like any good superhero, my mom used her powers for good, not evil. To make other people – not just herself – feel good and be better. She taught my brother and I how to do that, too. I hope we were paying attention. I'm pretty sure we were.

My mom also taught me just about everything I know about optimism and joy. Those were things at which she excelled. It started, when my brother and I were kids, with crazy names for things. I bet that you thought that playground on Old Dominion was just the Beverly Hills Co-op. Nope. It was the Super Deluxe Playground. And, back when the Mt. Vernon school playground was that log-thing which is probably now illegal in most states, a trip to the Super Deluxe Playground was an adventure indeed. Every day was an adventure. Whether we were sneaking food into movies when I was younger, or she was singing hilariously bad opera while she made breakfast, my mom made clear that every day had something good in it, something to be happy about. Even if it was just that they'd just started selling Christmas Blend at Starbucks. These small events and details weren't small – they were big. They warranted a phone call. So did a great song on the radio. So did anything that made her smile. These were great calls to receive. Random, sometimes, but great. I mean, who doesn't want to know that she busted the person next to her at the last traffic light picking their nose in the car? Who didn't want to hear her joyful voice, her laugh? She loved to laugh and there isn't a better feeling than making my mom laugh. Because, if you really got her going – and there are lots of ways to do this – she'd just get to that level where she's crying because she's laughing so hard. That's when you know that you've really won. Bonus points are given if you do that while one of you is driving.

Her gift with joy, with optimism, gave her part of her gift with people. She had, what I jokingly called, her secret decoder ring. That was our short-hand – and there is always short-hand – for her ability to listen, really listen, to people when they talk. And, more than that, to understand what they're really saying and, who they are and where they're coming from. That's why she wasn't just people's neighbor, or real estate agent, or neighborhood activist, or columnist, she was their friend. It didn't take much to be my mom's friend. She didn't make you jump a lot of hoops. Or wear overalls and a baseball cap with the same aplomb that she did. (And thank god, because really? Who can pull off overalls and a baseball cap like my Mom? Nobody.) She wanted to learn more about people and know more people. So she lit people up when she talked to them.

And, as a consequence, people mostly did what my Mom wanted them to do, or what she asked of them. Because her ideas were smart. They were filled with the energy and the joy that she carried with her all the time. And they reflected an understanding and awareness of the thoughts and values of everyone involved. So, if you did what she wanted you to do, you were also doing the right thing.

But, mostly, she wasn't a superhero – complete with secret decoder ring – to me. She was my Mom. She was better at that than anything else. She told my brother, and me, and my Dad that she loved us at the end of every phone conversation. That's what our family does. And so, individually, knowing that the last words we said to each other were, "I love you," helps.

There wasn't a day of my life – and there won't be one – when I wasn't sure that my mom loved me, that she believed in me, that she was proud of me. And with or without a secret decoder ring, a cape, or a phone booth to change in, it truly takes a superhero to, in this crazy messed up world, love people so well and so much. So perfectly. It takes all that to be what I have – the best mom in the world.

*On December 5, 2003, Nancy Dunning was murdered in her home in Alexandria, VA. Nancy's family, friends and co-workers have not forgotten her and celebrate her life daily. We will not give up and believe that the person who murdered her will be caught and prosecuted.*

*A \$100,000 reward available for the individual who comes forth with information leading to the arrest and conviction of this murderer.*

*If you have any information, we urge you to please call the Alexandria Criminal Investigations Section at 703-838-4711 or e-mail them at <http://alexandriava.gov/dunning>.*



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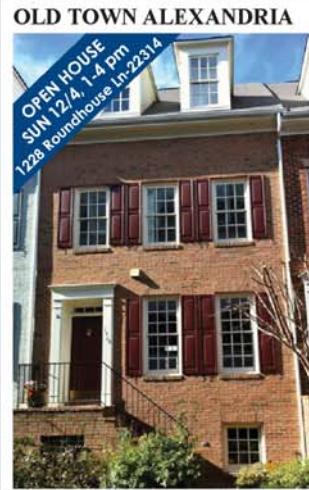
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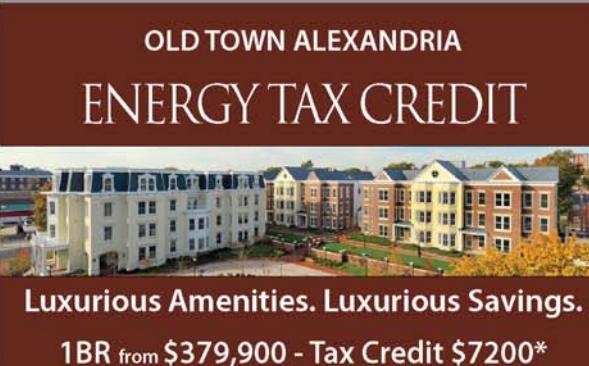
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