



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The first visitor to greet Santa and Mrs. Claus, Luke Harrington, fell asleep waiting for his turn during the annual City Holiday Tree Lighting event on Friday evening, Nov. 29.

Welcoming the Holiday Season



Councilmembers Justin Wilson and John Chapman join in the singing of holiday songs with family and friends.



Following the tree lighting, members of the Alexandria Choral Society sang Christmas carols beneath the tree.



The Alexandria Harmonizers perform a selection of holiday songs at the tree lighting ceremony.

From Food Court To Restaurant

Planning Commission approves new waterfront dining proposal.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

It's been more than two years since the waterfront Food Court shut its doors, the culmination of a long and steady decline over the last decade as vendors abandoned the building and the facility began falling into disrepair. Now the building may have a new lease on life. This week, the Alexandria Planning Commission unanimously approved a new restaurant known as Blackwall Hitch — a restaurant that describes itself as “New American Cuisine.”

“Does anybody know what a blackwall hitch is?” asked Planning Commission Chairman John

Komorowski. “I had to look it up.”

According to Merriam-Webster, the first known use of the expression dates back to 1862. It's a kind of knot used to secure a rope to a hook that originated at the Blackwall shipyard in London. Here in Alexandria, the restaurant will be an attempt to secure a new audience for waterfront dining by hooking them on a new sense of place for the long-suffering Food Court.

“This will give residents and tourists a reason to be behind the Torpedo Factory,” said land-use attorney Duncan Blair, who is representing the applicant. “This will really open up the waterfront.”

SEE NEW LEASE, PAGE 8

No Place Like Home

ESPN's LaChina Robinson returns to TC.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

LaChina Robinson remembers all too well what it was like being an awkward teen trying to fit in at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center in the West End of Alexandria. While coaches there tried to encourage her to play basketball, she had other ideas.

“I wanted to be a cheerleader,” Robinson says now with a laugh. “I wasn't hearing any of it. But re-



PHOTO BY CORRIN REID

ESPN's LaChina Robinson, left, met with members of the T.C. women's basketball team during a visit to Alexandria Nov. 25.

ality set in when I grew three inches between eighth and ninth

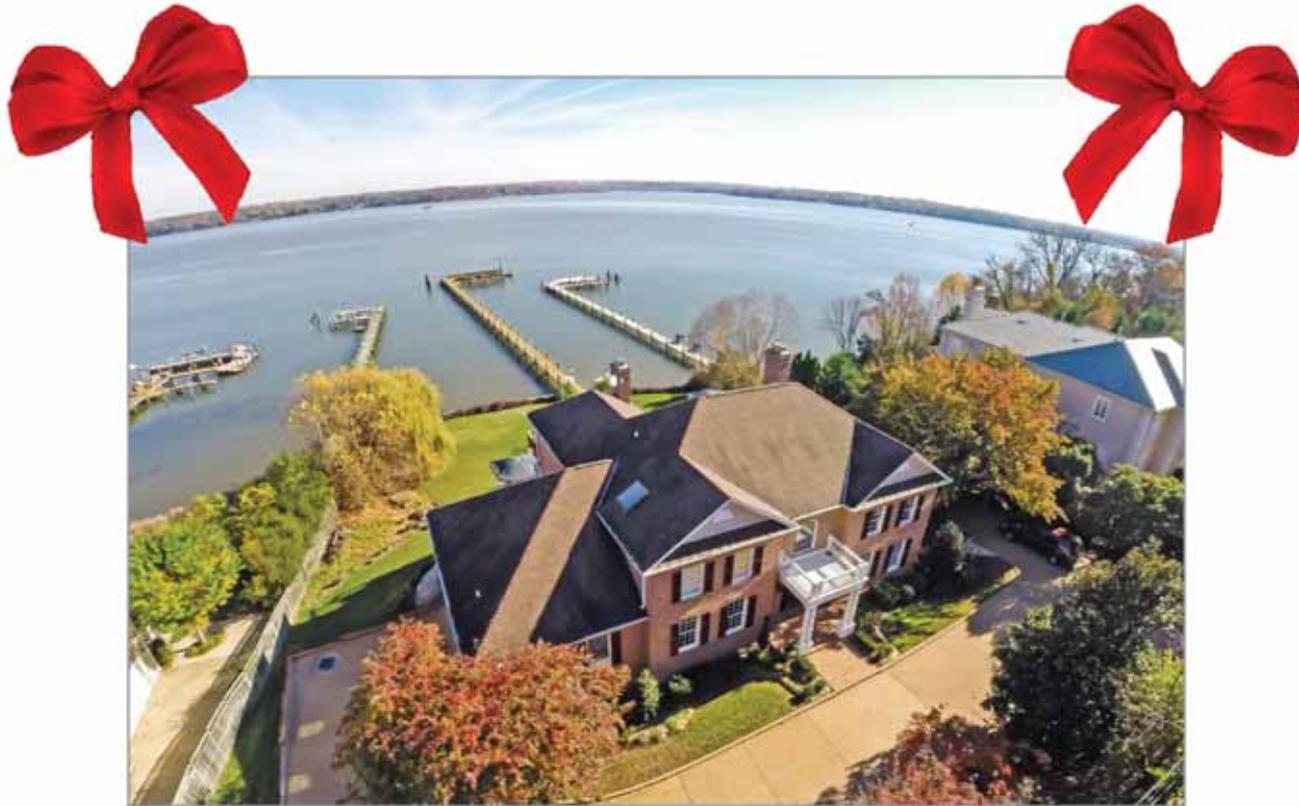
SEE ESPN'S, PAGE 9

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Pepper Pants

As the annual Scottish Walk approaches this weekend, thoughts are turning to all things Scottish. That means digging into the closet and pulling out the plaid, especially for elected officials who are prominently featured in the parade. After Councilman John Chapman presented a resolution honoring the Scottish Walk last weekend, Councilwoman Del Pepper said she was expecting her colleagues to get into the holiday spirit.

"Mister Mayor, we're certainly going to count on you wearing your kilt," said Pepper. "And that certainly goes for you, John."

"We can make it a threesome if Ms. Pepper wears hers," said Mayor Bill Euille.

"My husband wears his," explained Pepper.

"Ah," responded the mayor. "So now we know who wears the pants in your family."

Into Darkness

A promise is a promise. That's the message members of the Alexandria Planning Commission are sending the Alexandria City Council this week. At issue is a longstanding pledge that the athletic facilities surrounding T.C. Williams High School will not light up the night. Leaders at Alexandria City Public Schools want stadium lighting for the new tennis courts on King Street. But neighbors say that's not a bright idea.

"It would betray an agreement that's decades old," said Nancy Jennings, who lives in Seminary Hills.

The school system wants to construct six new tennis courts on the field to the northwest of the school, which is currently a grassy field along King Street. City officials say the closest residence is about 140 feet away, and that the lighting would be set back from King Street by about 109 feet. Two members of the Planning Commission voted in support of the city's request to have lighted tennis courts.

"It doesn't make sense to build a facility like this if we don't put the investment in to make it usable in the evening hours," said Planning Commissioner Nathan Macek.

In the end, the Planning Commission supported a motion that denied the use of stadium lighting at the new tennis courts. Three members supported the motion, two voted against and one member abstained. That sends a somewhat dimly lit message to members of the Alexandria City Council, who must make the ultimate decision. School officials and students are united behind the issue while neighborhood residents are squarely against the idea.

"We keep wondering why our citizens are so angry," observed Planning Commissioner Mary Lyman. "In this situation, it comes down to a matter of trust."

On Notting Hill

Upper King Street once had a terrible reputation as a place full of drug dealers and prostitutes. Cab drivers would refuse to stop on certain blocks, and drunken brawls sent many patrons crashing through plate glass windows at night.

All that has changed, and now residents who live on upper King Street can expect a quiet night's sleep. For the most part.

That's why Living Legend Rodger Digilio was so upset when he heard loud music coming from the Notting Hill restaurant last weekend. On Tuesday night, he appeared before members of the Alexandria Planning Commission, who were considering a special-use permit to allow an outdoor bar and remove some conditions of an existing special-use permit. Owner Amir Jahangeri responded that the contract signed by the musicians stipulated that they would stop playing at 10 p.m., so he doubted Digilio. "I don't think that's a proper response," said Planning Commissioner Eric Wagner.

City Council members will be confronted with a number of issues at Notting Hill, a fine-dining restaurant that recently opened in the space previously occupied by Le Gaulois. At issue is work conducted without permits, loudspeakers installed in violation of the special-use permit and a number of complaints from neighbors. Although the outdoor bar is not supposed to have a working tap, Jahangeri said he installed an old broken tap for aesthetics.

"That's like putting up an old tommygun on the wall for decoration," said Planning Commission Chairman John Komoroske.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



Rabbi Mordechai Newman of Chabad Lubavitch welcomes all to the annual Festival of Lights celebration at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Alexandria on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Celebrating Festival of Lights

Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington hosted a public Menorah kindling ceremony to celebrate the Festival of Lights on Sunday evening, Dec. 1, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Old Town. Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille, State Sen. Adam Ebbin and members of City Council participated in the lighting of the 6-foot menorah.

Following the kindling, hot potato pancakes and doughnuts, the traditional foods of Chanukah, were distributed to everyone attending. "We want people to 'taste' the tradition," said Rabbi Mordechai Newman, director of Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington. The program also fea-

tured professional family entertainment, a free Chanukah raffle for a NOOK HD, Chanukah gifts and treats, Chanukah music and dancing.

Chanukah is highlighted by the kindling of the Menorah each night of the holiday.

"It is a holiday that enriches our lives with the light of tradition" said Newman. "In ancient times our ancestors rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem with the Menorah. Today, we rededicate ourselves to making this world a better and brighter place."

For more information on Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington, contact Newman at 703-370-2774 or visit www.chabadAA.org.



PHOTOS BY LIZ ROLL

Traditional Chanukah foods of hot potato pancakes and doughnuts are served to the guests.



Following the menorah lighting, guests were treated to refreshments and holiday music, dancing and entertainment inside the Crown Plaza Hotel.



Mayor Bill Euille lights a candle on the giant menorah at the Chanukah celebration.

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NEWS

PHOTO BY MARIA CIARROCCI



Gil Kerlikowske, (center) director of National Drug Control Policy, with Alexandria Chamber of Commerce CEO John Long and Mayor Bill Euille during a visit to Del Ray's Holy Cow restaurant Nov. 30 as part of Small Business Saturday.

Thinking Small White House Drug Czar visits Holy Cow.

White House Drug Policy Director Gil Kerlikowske paid a visit to Del Ray's Holy Cow restaurant Nov. 30 as part of President Barack Obama's initiative to support "Small Business Saturday."

"I am particularly excited to visit to Holy Cow today," Kerlikowske said. "This is a business that gives back to its community by supporting organizations that provide drug prevention and treatment services in Northern Virginia."

Named the 2013 Small Business of the Year by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Holy Cow was signaled out for the visit because of its support of local charities: For each burger sold, the restaurant donates \$.25 to a variety of local nonprofit

organizations through ACT for Alexandria. Founded by American Express in 2010, Small Business Saturday is celebrated on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses have generated 64 percent of net new jobs over the past 15 years and employ over half of all private sector employees.

"Small businesses are the foundation of our economy," Kerlikowske said. "Half of America's workers either own or work for a small business. Small Business Saturday is an opportunity to show our support for our friends and neighbors who throughout the year are growing our local economy and strengthening our communities."

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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OBITUARY

Janice Clay Olson

Janice Clay Olson died peacefully in her home on Dec. 2, 2013 with her family by her side. She was born in Rock-



ford, Ill., on Feb. 7, 1937. She attended the University of Wisconsin earning both a bachelor's and master's degree. She married her high school sweetheart Richard Olson, an Air Force officer in 1959. Together they lived in multiple locations around the country before settling in Old Town, Alexandria in 1974.

For her professional career, Jan Olson worked for over 30 years as a teacher including 25 years in Fairfax County.

Jan Olson loved Old Town and the close camaraderie of neighbors and friends.

Over the years, Jan Olson was actively involved in the community. She was an active member of The Twig, the Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital. She was also an active participant of Antiques in Alexandria, serving as a member of the board. She was a member of the Women's Committee of The National Symphony and served on the board of directors. She thoroughly enjoyed being a member of the Old Town Walled Garden Club and cooking with her friends as part of Bon Appetite.

She continued to teach, often working as a reading tutor at Jefferson Houston Elementary School.

Janice Olson is preceded in death by her husband Richard Olson. She is survived by her two sons Jon and Eric, daughters-in-law Tanya and Tess, and granddaughters Andee, Avery and Lena.

Services will be held at Old Presbyterian Meeting House on Friday, Dec. 6, at 1 p.m. with a reception to follow. Internment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

To remember Jan Olson, consider making a donation to The TWIG. <http://www.thetwig.org/donate>.

REAL ESTATE NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday by noon. Photos welcome.

Sales Associate **David Ingram** of the Alexandria/Old Town Weichert, Realtors office was individually recognized for his success in September 2013. A top producer, Ingram led the region, which is comprised of offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, in resales.

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Terms of Complacency

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

After Republicans ousted two incumbent Democrats on the Alexandria City Council in 2009, party leaders went to work to dismantle the process. Before the Republicans were even able to take office, the outgoing Democrats moved the city elections from May to November. No longer would city politics enjoy its own election, as had been the case for hundreds of years. Instead, candidates for mayor and City Council would have to share a ballot with presidents and governors.

"If you have two candidates for each council and mayoral position as well as each School Board position, that would lead to 20 additional candidates on the ballot — as it did last year — when you also have state constitutional amendments," said state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30). "That makes for a very crowded ballot."

Last year, for example, Alexandria voters had to consider 39 candidates plus two con-

stitutional amendments. That's why the senator is proposing a solution — introduce a charter amendment that would abandon the traditional three-year term in favor of a four-year term and hold city elections on odd years when the governor and other statewide races are not on the ballot. That way, city voters will be able to focus more attention on local races instead of having them swamped by national issues and an endless sea of candidates.

"Personally I think it's the right move so that we are not competing with the presidential election," said Mayor Bill Euille. "But I don't know if it's going to go anywhere."

EBBIN FIRST RAISED the issue to council members in a legislative subcommittee meeting several weeks ago,

then circulated a memorandum to council members. After that, he began talking to individual members about the issue before raising it one more time at a work session last month. Aside from Euille, Councilman Paul Smedberg and Councilman Justin Wilson say they support the idea. Only Coun-

"We've got other things to be talking about. This is not on the radar."

—**Mayor Bill Euille**

State senator receives lukewarm reception for effort to create four-year City Council terms.

cilwoman Del Pepper has publicly spoken out against the idea. And yet it hasn't been added to the docket for the December public hearing.

"Just having members supporting it doesn't make it go on the docket," said Wilson. "You have to have someone advocate for it and put it on the docket."

So far, that hasn't happened. A possible charter amendment could be added to the docket as late as next week, but so far none of the council members have asked for it to be advertised so it can be considered. Unless the item is publicly advertised several days in advance, council members will not be able to consider it at the Dec. 14 public hearing. For now, it looks like the window of opportunity will close without council members taking action.

"We've got other things to be talking about," said Euille. "This is not on the radar."

EBBIN IS CONCERNED that if council members let the upcoming General Assembly session come and go without changing the charter, they will have missed a critical opportunity to permanently schedule city elections on odd-years when the governor is not on the ballot. That means time is of

the essence for supporters of the effort, which will need to be acted on this year if it's going to work.

"I think it's very unpredictable and hard to follow for voters as to when their local officials are up for election," said Ebbin. "It just makes no sense to me that you would have candidates for an office up at one point during a presidential year, then the next time in a state Senate year, then the next time in a federal year and then back to a presidential year."

Republicans are looking forward to the next City Council election as a rare opportunity for city politics to take a starring role once again. Without a presidential election to bring unprecedented numbers of Democrats to the polls, many Republicans feel 2014 might be their best chance at taking back one or two seats they lost last year. But that doesn't necessarily mean that Republicans are in support of Ebbin's charter amendment.

"I think it would be a very good idea to leave it at three-year terms," said Sharon Annear, a prominent Alexandria Republican. "That may not be the best thing for the party that I belong to, but sometimes you need to think beyond party. Three years has worked for Alexandria for a very long time."

Democrats Shut Out of Power in Senate

Even if Democrats win two special elections, control over committees is unlikely.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Don't expect Democrats to take control over state Senate committees anytime soon, even if the party manages to hold both of the seats where special elections are now underway. That's because Republicans included a provision in the Senate rules back in 2012 that would require a two-thirds majority to change the leadership structure. The rules apply for the entire four-year term of the Senate, and a two-thirds majority would be needed to change them. That means that even if Democrats manage to hold their 20-to-20 tie and have help from a Democratic lieutenant governor, Republicans will retain chairmanship over the committees.

"The bottom line here is that the Democrats are going to be playing defense regardless of the outcome of the special elections," said Stephen Farnsworth, professor at the University of Mary Washington. "Democrats would be able to block anything that committees organized and led by Republicans might bring to the floor, but they will have less control over setting the agenda than a majority usually would."

The two-third requirement to change Senate rules is nothing new. It dates back to 1996, the last time the chamber was evenly divided between 20 Democrats and 20 Re-

publicans. Back then, the parties created a power-sharing agreement that divided control of the Senate committees. That agreement was largely an effort to keep conservative Democrat Virgil Goode in the party, although he eventually became a Republican anyway. What is unprecedented is Republicans using Senate rules to keep themselves in power despite the outcome of subsequent elections.

"At this moment, there's nobody in either party who wants to figure out a way to share power," said Geoff Skelley, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "So we are seeing something very different than what happened in the 1990s."

THE 2011 ELECTION created a tenuous balance in the Virginia state Senate, an evenly divided chamber between 20 Democrats and 20 Republicans. Because Republicans held the lieutenant governor position at the time, Bill Bolling was able to break ties on a number of high-profile votes on abortion and voter identification. But now that Democratic state Sen. Ralph Northam has been elected to the position, Democrats were hopeful they could potentially use the tie-breaking vote to maximum effect.

"Having a tie-breaking vote in a Senate

election and it's not like either seat is overwhelmingly Democratic."

Democrats might find themselves working around the system, though. Without the ability to put their members at the head of committees, party leaders would be limited to using their newfound status on floor votes — and that's only if they are able to maintain the evenly divided status. To do that, they would need to win the special election to replace lieutenant governor-elect Ralph Northam's seat in Norfolk as well as another special election to replace attorney general-elect Mark Herring in Loudoun — pending the result of a recount.

"Both seats are more Democratic than not," said Skelley, noting that Obama won both Senate districts in 2012. "But even though the Democrats might have an advantage, at the end of the day it's a special

election and voters in both Senate districts voted for Republican Bob McDonnell in the last gubernatorial election. Democrats say that was before the Senate districts were redrawn after the 2010 Census — a process that was overseen by Democrats in the Senate. Nevertheless, special elections are hard to predict, which means that the discussion about how Northam might use his tie-breaking vote could be moot. Even if Democrats are successful in maintaining both seats, their power would be limited because Republicans would remain in control over most of the committees.

"Democrats are going to have to amend legislation on the floor to get what they want," said Farnsworth. "That's likely to be frustrating."

One quirky tradition of the state Senate is that the party out of power gets a majority of members in the Local Government Committee, viewed as a backwater to many in leadership positions. So Democrats are expected to maintain a majority vote on that committee. The current leadership structure is unlikely to change without a two-thirds vote of the Senate chamber. And nobody expects the Republicans to willingly give up power, setting the stage for the next state Senate election in 2015.

"It seems like the Republicans have found a way to avoid handing over power even if they lost the lieutenant governor's race," said Skelley. "So we're likely to see that tension play a role in the upcoming session."

"The bottom line here is that the Democrats are going to be playing defense regardless of the outcome of the special elections."

— **Stephen Farnsworth, professor at the University of Mary Washington**

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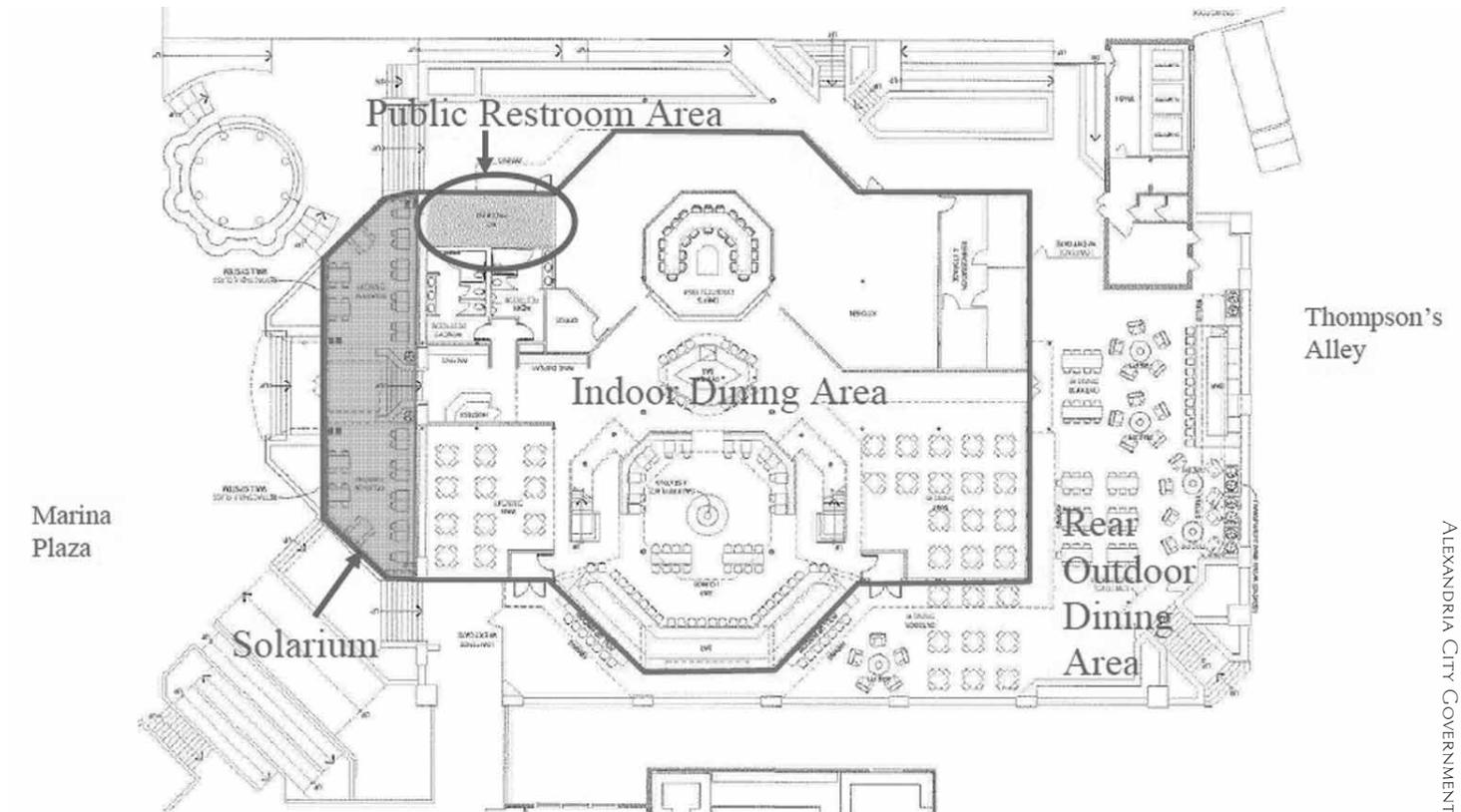
New Lease on Life for Waterfront Food Court

FROM PAGE 1

THE FOOD COURT is on land owned by the city that was leased to the Alexandria Waterfront Restoration Group in 1986. That was when the Alexandria City Council approved a special-use permit for a food court with nine vendor areas and open seating for 200 people. Seating was later expanded to 350, and the hours were expanded. Several attempts were made to allow live music, but neighbors and elected officials were concerned that would attract more people to the area and create parking problems. In the last decade, vendors abandoned the building and it closed its doors shortly before the Alexandria City Council approved the waterfront small area plan, which envisions a lively and active waterfront that is designed to attract greater numbers of people.

“There are three or four things that I think will make this space more attractive for potential significant users,” said Councilman David Speck last December. “There are people nosing around about it, but they are raising issues.”

After the Food Court closed, city leaders held a series of meetings with the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and real estate professionals. In November 2012, city officials met with Realco Property Management Services, representing Alexandria Waterfront Associates, in an effort to attract a new long-term tenant. Meanwhile, city officials were concerned about leaving the building vacant for long periods of time so a Civil War exhibit was installed in the exterior glass panels. Next week, members of the Alexandria City Council will finally consider a special use permit for a 14,000 square foot restaurant with 450 seats — 225 inside, 135 on the rear deck and 60 seats in the solarium.



Ground level floor plan for Blackwall Hitch.

“We’re thrilled to see this enhancement to our dining scene and to know that it will be located in one of Alexandria’s most pivotal locations,” wrote Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association president Patricia Washington. “Following the lead of the just-opened Waterfront Market, this new participant will strengthen Alexandria’s ‘extraordinary’ brand.”

IN MAY, City Council members approved the Waterfront Market — a new restaurant and market by Bittersweet owner Jody Manor. Like the Food Court site, this property is also owned by the city and leased to Alexandria Waterfront Associates. And like the Food Court site, city officials were concerned that the property had been vacant since a furniture store left years ago. So city officials set up a retail location for the Office of Historic Alexandria while Realco looked for a long-term tenant. City Council members ended up approving the permit that allows 54 seats on a portion of the Torpedo Factory and City Marina plaza.

“The waterfront is crowded enough without removing 800 square feet of walking space,” wrote Robin Marquis in a letter opposing the outdoor seating. “Allowing a restaurant is one thing. But taking more space away from those who just want to enjoy the outdoors does not seem fair.”

Now that the Waterfront Market is open, City Council members are poised to move



The Food Court as it appears today.

their attention north toward the long-shuttered Food Court.

The restaurant would include an oyster bar, chef’s exhibition area and private dining areas.

The rear deck would feature an outdoor bar with rollup windows and five outdoor fire pits. Although the building currently has a solarium, the applicant is considering converting it into another outdoor dining space. If the solarium remains, however, the plan calls for retractable glass that would give diners views of the marina and the Potomac River.

“Is it likely that the solarium will be removed?” asked Planning Commissioner Stewart Dunn.

“Yes,” replied Blair.

THE MENU will include seafood, steaks, small plates, flatbreads and craft beers. The restaurant will feature live entertainment inside the building, and the outdoor seats will have background music played through speakers. One potential hurdle the restaurant might face is the massive size and scale of a building originally designed for nine vendors.

“I think it’s going to be problematic for them to make an inviting scenario with 450 seats,” said Poul Hertel, former president of the Old Town Civic Association. “Converting a building designed to be a food court into a restaurant might be more difficult than they think.”

Blair said the restaurant may be open as soon as Memorial Day.

MILITARY NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos are welcome.

Kelli A. Widner has been selected for promotion to the rank of senior master sergeant in the Air Force. She is currently the Support, Manpower and Personnel Flight supervisor with 11th Force Support Squadron, Joint Base Andrews, Md. Widner is the daughter of Linda L. Southwick and Philip R. Southwick of Santa Maria, Calif., and the wife of Dennis S. Widner of Alexandria. She is a 1995 graduate of Ernest Righetti High School, Santa Maria, Calif., and she earned a Master of Arts in 2010 from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla.

Army Spc. **Richard Thomas**, whose wife, Eunji, is the daughter of Unchin and James Roland, from Alexandria, was one of 24 soldiers selected Army wide to compete in the Best Warrior competition. The event is an annual competition where 12 non-commissioned officers and 12 junior soldiers from the Army’s 12 major commands demonstrate their proficiencies in skills critical to the success of every soldier. Thomas is a satellite controller with the B Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, located at Fort George G. Meade, Md.

ESPN's LaChina Robinson Returns to TC

FROM PAGE 1

grade. Once my height reached 6'4", there was more incentive to give basketball a try."

"It's refreshing to be back around the people who inspired and encouraged me during those awkward years."

— TC graduate and ESPN analyst LaChina Robinson

Robinson's Plan B took her from T.C. Williams High School, where she graduated in 1998, to Wake Forest University, where she was a member of the 1999 ACC All-Freshman Team. Today she is recognized for her work as a college basketball and WNBA game analyst and sideline reporter for ESPN, NBA-TV and the Big Ten Network.

"At first I thought I would be an athletic director," said Robinson, who

graduated from Wake Forest in 2002 with a degree in sociology. "But during my career with the Georgia Tech women's basketball program, I worked as the team's radio analyst and my love for broadcasting began."

Robinson held several positions with the Georgia Tech women's basketball program, including director of basketball operations and special assistant to the head coach, before joining ESPN in 2009. Now a resident of Atlanta, Robinson visited family in Alexandria over the Thanksgiving holiday and took time to meet with students at Francis C. Hammond 3



ESPN sportscaster LaChina Robinson, right, talks to students at the Francis C. Hammond 3 Middle School campus Nov. 25. The former T.C. Williams basketball star returned to Alexandria to visit with students at Hammond and her alma mater.

PHOTOS BY PHOTO BY CORRIN REID

Want to be a Coach" program until 2011 and started a consulting company, Stretch Beyond, in which she implements student-athlete development curriculum, team-building activities and people-building strategies for collegiate sports programs.

"I have been around college athletics for 45 years and I have never met anyone who gives back more than LaChina," said long-time ESPN play-by-play announcer Bob Picozzi. "As a player, coach and broadcaster, she is totally committed to making the student athlete's experience a positive and meaningful one."

Robinson enjoyed the opportunity to re-

connect with her old mentors and friends, including Johnson and former teammate Corrin Reid.

Robinson's school visits were coordinated by Michael Johnson, her old coach and mentor at Patrick Henry who she credits with inspiring her to pursue her dreams.

"It was important to me to see LaChina go to college and I knew basketball could get her there," Johnson said. "She didn't start out with any natural skills to speak of but she worked hard and I knew we could teach her how to play."

connect with her old mentors and friends, including Johnson and former teammate Corrin Reid. "It's refreshing to be back around the people who inspired and encouraged me during those awkward years," Robinson said. "These are empowering moments for me and I appreciate so much more the people who saw something in me back then."

Robinson's return to Alexandria left an impression as positive as the one she leaves with her co-workers.

"I love LaChina like a sister and am always honored to work with her," Picozzi added. "Remember the Titans? Anyone who has ever met LaChina will never forget this Titan."

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ESPN sportscaster LaChina Robinson huddles with members of the T.C. Williams women's basketball team during a Nov. 25 practice.



ESPN sportscaster LaChina Robinson poses for a photo with members of the T.C. Williams women's basketball team during a visit to her alma mater Nov. 25.

OPINION

The Season of Giving Back

BY JOHN PORTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ACT FOR ALEXANDRIA



Porter

More than any other time of year, this is when we reflect on what we have and what matters most to us — our loved ones, our neighbors, our community. It is also the time that inspires us to give to others in need and support worthy charitable causes.

Alexandria has been recognized as one of the most charitable communities online the past few years. This important distinction says much about the caring and concern we show for others.

This year in particular is an especially important time to give. The need is great and growing. The charitable giving climate is changing and the threat is urgent. Consider:

Charitable giving incentives are in jeopardy. Lawmakers in Washington, D.C. are seriously considering harmful limits to the value of the charitable tax deduction. Any limits to the charitable deduction will unleash serious consequences in our communities. When you take away incentives to give, donations decline and people who rely on the programs and services provided by nonprofits suffer the most.

Charities are struggling more than ever. The belt-tightening that started with the recession was exacerbated by the sequester and the federal government shutdown. Nonprofits are

finding it harder and harder to provide services because the need is growing and the funding is shrinking. The Nonprofit Finance Fund says that most nonprofits have seen a higher demand for services since 2008. The trend has grown in recent years and is expected to continue

through 2013.

Alexandria faces tough challenges. With the free and reduced lunch rate in the Alexandria schools approaching 60 percent, it's evident that many youth and the families with whom they live are in need of support from others in the community — they simply can't do it alone.

So, what to do? With the right planning, donors can make the most of this year's giving season:

❖ Giving represents a win-win — for the donor and the beneficiary. The stock markets are way up this year: S & P 500 is up over 25 percent, the Dow Jones Industrial Average is up over 22 percent and the Nasdaq Composite Index is up over 30 percent, based on recent figures. So the time is now for gifting appreciated stock shares (instead of cash) to charities. The reason? Gifts of appreciated securities "cost" donors less and benefit their charity more than if the donor first sold the stock, paid the capital gains taxes on the sale, and then donated the remaining proceeds to the

charity. The donor receives a greater tax deduction by giving the stock directly to the charity (versus selling the shares and giving the charity the sale proceeds less the tax on those) and avoids paying capital gains tax.

❖ What if you want to give but aren't sure to what cause? Open a donor advised fund by depositing securities or cash, receive an immediate tax deduction, and decide where you want to give as you come across nonprofits to which you want to give.

These approaches certainly encourage giving and help maximize your gift, but it's not really about the donor. To be clear, the generosity of donors is vital to the success and survival of charitable organizations in our community.

It's really more about what the donors' dollars do to help families and communities in need, to educate our young people, create job opportunities, improve our health, enrich our lives through cultural activities — and so much more.

For centuries, giving back has been woven into the fabric of our society. We give because it's the right thing to do. We do it out of compassion for the most vulnerable and a commitment to building a stronger community. Regardless of our station in life, we are fortunate to have a variety of ways donate our time and money for the causes we care about.

That's the true value of giving.

John Porter is the executive director of ACT for Alexandria, Alexandria's community foundation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What Constitutes Old Town's Look?

To the Editor:

I agree with Vice Mayor Allison Silverberg's recent letter about the importance of preserving Old

Town's historic character.

But she is being too strict in her thinking when she states: "We also need to insist that all new buildings ... should incorporate Old Town's look."

Unfortunately, this rigidity is the norm among a small but influen-

tial group of people who weigh in on design issues. It has led to the proliferation of architecturally bland, faux-historic buildings in Old Town and beyond.

It also appears to be prompting the architect of the proposed waterfront hotel on the Cummings-

Turner properties to design the most innocuously bland building possible.

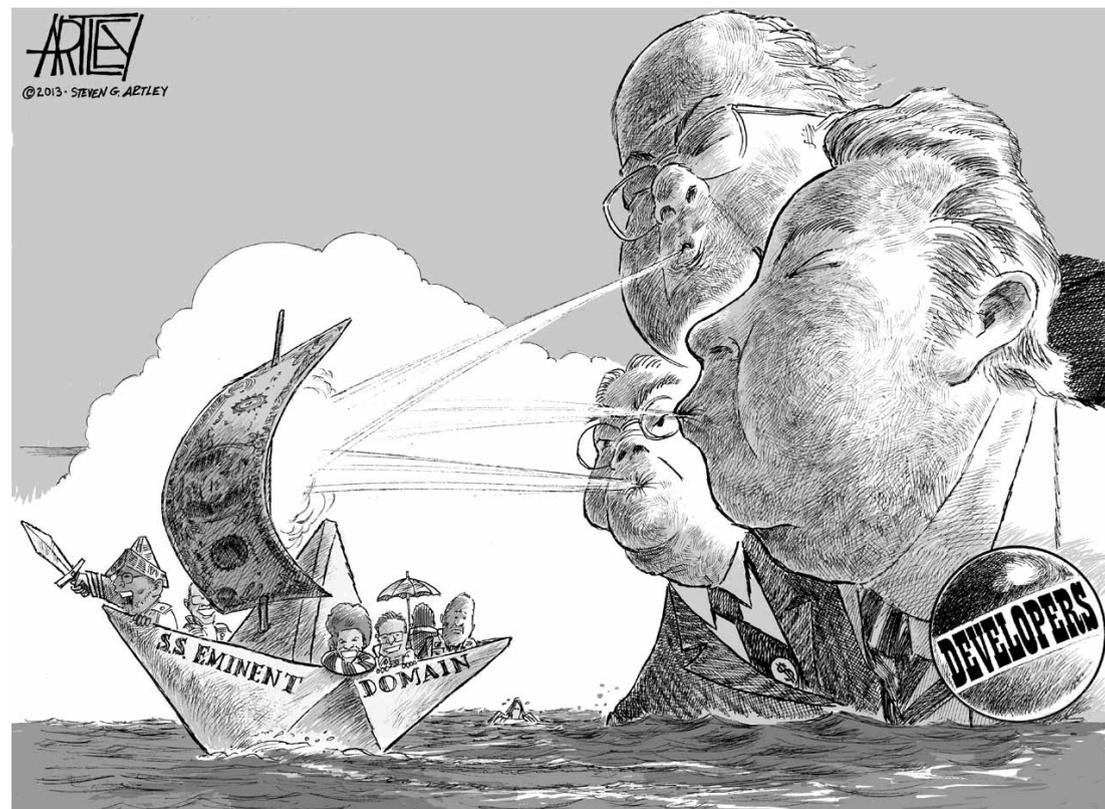
Since the city's founding its 1749, Old Town has been a densely packed urban area. Urban areas are organic in nature; they change over time to meet new human needs. Building styles often reflect those changes.

For two centuries, an organic blending of the styles of different periods was the norm in Old Town. But the creation of the historic district and the advent of a powerful design review board have effectively prevented the building of any structures of architectural distinction and frozen Old Town in time.

Although I believe we need the Board of Architectural Review, I also think that innovative, current-day architecture can coexist with the buildings of the past, and even enhance their importance.

There are many examples of this from all over the United States and the world. Take just one example close to home: the glass and steel Peterson Institute for International Economics building that is set among the grand old buildings of Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, D.C.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVEN G. ARTLEY

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper
The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria.
Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-917-6480 or by email to
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.

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Eyes on the Backus Courthouse

BY HARRY M. COVERT

There are two sides to every story and then the truth. This is a familiar saying among lawyers, judges and courthouses and the general public everywhere.

On Monday (Dec. 9) the case of the Commonwealth against an Arlington sworn officer of the law gets underway in Alexandria. Jury selection will be the first order of the proceedings on the fourth floor of the Franklin P. Backus Courthouse in downtown Alexandria.

A circuit court judge from Prince William County will preside. No doubt seats will be at capacity, security tight and it's recommended that those who want to watch don't arrive late.

This is one of the most high-profiled cases in the city. It could last a week or two with eager reporters of all media outlets paying close attention to every word. It is a murder case involving a 17-year veteran deputy of the Arlington County Sheriff's Office and the late 22-year-old Julian Dawkins.

The deputy, Craig Patterson, has been incarcerated in the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center, Alexandria Sheriff's Office, since his arrest May 31, more than a week after the shooting in the Del Ray section of the city. Bond was denied for the deputy after a widespread public outcry. Denial was also made to media wanting to broadcast and telecast the trial. Notepads and writing instruments are permitted. Among the difficulties in the case is the fact that among the relatives of the deceased T. C. Williams High School graduate is an Alexandria Circuit Court judge.

This will also be the final case for Commonwealth's Attorney S. Randolph Sengel. He retires Dec. 31 after 30 years as a prosecutor in the city. He was first elected in 1997. Assisting in the case is his deputy Bryan Porter, who becomes Commonwealth's Attorney on Jan. 1.

The job defending the deputy belongs to three city defense attorneys, no strangers to difficult cases. They are Christopher Leibig, a busy capital case lawyer; Megan Thomas, a longtime public defender and legal lecturer; and Joseph King, a multi-lingual attorney named as one of the best defense attorneys. He is also a substitute general district court judge.

Obviously the case had drawn much attention before the springtime arrest. Lots of comments from public officials and private personages were made before any facts were known. Naturally feelings are still raw. The case has drawn many rantings for justice. There is no suggestion that anything other than proper adjudication has or will take place.

Alexandria's court system has long been respected for fairness in juvenile and domestic relations courts, general district courts and at the circuit court levels.

The same holds true for the city's prosecutors, attorneys, clerks of all courts and law enforcers.

No one involved in the Patterson-Dawkins case is happy over the events. One thing for certain is that the best will be at their best when the court is called to order. The outcome will hinge on those selected for the jury. The panel will have the last word after absorbing the facts and consciously performing their civic duty.

And, every witness in the case will have to swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

In Times of Segregation

BY KATHARINE DIXON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, REBUILDING
TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

Elizabeth* smiles as she remembers growing up in Alexandria, where she has spent all 78 of her years.

Her childhood home was on Gibbon Street and she spent her elementary years at Lyles-Crouch, an all-black school in her all-black neighborhood. Her family rented their home from Mrs. Delilah who lived on South Washington — the nearest white community. As a youngster, Elizabeth fondly recalls a shop named Lora Lee's Old Club Tea House where she and her friends were allowed to buy ice cream cones if they used the back door: only "white folks" were allowed to use the front door.

Elizabeth graduated from Parker Gray School in 1961, also segregated. Because the school was so poor, Elizabeth remembers getting George Washington High School's used books for her studies. The school also only had 11 grades, not 12, and she always had to explain on job applications why she never "completed 12 grades of schooling."

After graduation, at the young age of 18, Elizabeth married her high school sweetheart, then just 21. She was first attracted to him because "he was an all-around athlete!" They first lived on Wilkes Street but in 1964 moved to a house on South Payne Street, the first integrated neighborhood Elizabeth lived in. She and her Army husband loved children and they raised three of their own in this home.

Always wanting to be around children, Elizabeth worked at Maury Elementary School as a cafeteria hostess for most of her career. She made sure students got their meals, everyone behaved, and that the kitchen and cafeteria were clean. Her husband, who also worked at Maury, loved working with kids and coached many of them in various sports.

And though her husband passed away many years ago, Elizabeth still lives in the home they shared on Payne Street. Helping her keep it safe, healthy, and energy efficient, Rebuilding Together has provided free repairs to her over the years.

Rebuilding Together Alexandria is an award winning, non-profit

organization dedicated to repairing and revitalizing homes at no charge for homeowners in need, including elderly, disabled, military veterans, and families. To date, in-kind donations of labor and materials have resulted in \$6.3 million worth of value on nearly 1,700 projects. If you would like to apply, volunteer or donate, visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org or call 703-836-1021.

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

FROM PAGE 10

In the current, fifth edition of the AIA Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D.C., G. Martin Moeller Jr. describes the building as a "modern jewel," demonstrating that "sensitive historic contexts can readily accommodate contrasting architecture when it is thoughtfully designed and appropriately scaled."

The key words here are "thoughtfully designed and appropriately scaled." In other words, a glass-and-steel building in Old Town could actually work if it was evocative of Old Town's look, thus meeting Silverberg's criteria.

To be sure, such buildings are not easy to design. The problem is, they are never given the chance, because of the bias against anything innovative in Old Town.

I'm not optimistic that my words will have any effect on the current thinking. There are too many people who believe that the best architecture for Old Town is what they think George Washington would build if he were alive today. We have already been buried in a blizzard of brick.

But I hope that those concerned will at least relent to some degree on the architecture for the hotel expected for the Robinson Terminal North site.

That property is, after all, set among relatively new, modern office buildings and faux-historic townhouses. There is no real Old Town in an architectural sense there. It is also one of the most prominent sites on the Potomac River in this area, looking out toward the monuments in Washington. It cries out for a piece of iconic architecture. Think, for example of the spectacular Institute of Contemporary Art on Boston's waterfront. But for such exceptional architecture to be built, people who care about it are going to need to band together and speak up. This is the time.

Bill Hendrickson
Alexandria

'Stewardship' Of Tax Dollars

To the Editor:

As I was recently informed by the City Attorney's office, one of its tasks is "stewardship of taxpayers' money." We all know what this means — hundreds of thousands of dollars contracted out for litigation against Old Town property owners protesting high-density development through hotels and disturbing architecture on our historic waterfront. Going before the Virginia Supreme Court to fight owners' rights to oppose waterfront rezoning. Legal maneuvering against its own Board of Zoning Appeals which agreed with the owners. Expensive legal hair-splitting between "text amendments" and "map amendments," a farce to be continued. More hearings before the Alexandria Circuit Court. The prospect of years of litigation should the city invoke eminent domain against the historic Old Dominion Boat Club instead of settling for a compromise. Ergo: the city's preference is litigation, litigation, litigation, not common-sense negotiation and compromise preserving the welfare of its citizens and its historic heritage.

What is less known is how the city's "stewardship" of our tax dollars trickles down to individual residents in need of help. In a non-fire medical emergency, would you not prefer a common-sense 15-second entry by Fire Department EMS ambulance staff into your house through breaking a small glass pane on your door instead of three minutes spent on destroying the door, frame and wall? I would have. Sadly, any kind of city compensatory gesture for the major financial consequences was denied by the City Attorney's office, invoking the said "stewardship" and hiding behind Virginia sovereign immunity statutes, antiquated compared to those of other states. Common-sense selection, training

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

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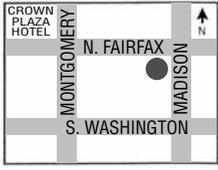
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HISTORY

Alexandria's 'Ice Age'

An industry that melted away.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
GAZETTE PACKET

A recent letter to the editor of this paper questioned the idea of a proposed waterfront skating rink in these words: "What is the historical or cultural connection to Alexandria?" The answer, of course, is none. Put aside "skating rink" and only think of ice. Then the answer becomes "quite a lot."

The Constitution was eight years old when John Gadsby signed the lease to establish his hotel and tavern in Alexandria. As proprietor, he appreciated the oversized "ice well" the owner had constructed. Blocks of ice were harvested from the river in winter and buried in a blanket of sawdust. Food spoilage was reduced, thus lowering costs to increase profits, and high quality meals could be prepared with items long out-of-season. Creative advertising of a single menu item — flavored ice cream in summertime — drew customers, not only locals but also north- and south-bound travelers and tourists and even distinguished visitors from abroad like General Lafayette. Gadsby's Tavern became a "must visit" in the capitol area.

In the years after Gadsby left the scene, the ice well went unused and frozen in time. A strong cover formed part of the sidewalk. Underfoot, it simply was forgotten. Stop-gap repairs from time-to-time evolved into today's restored historic artifact at the southwest corner of North Royal and Cameron Streets. Graphic signs explain how it was built and why it works.

For most of the 19th century, cakes of river ice were cut for sale to Alexandrian homes and commercial establishments. One business, located on a knoll at the end of Water

(now Lee) Street, even gave the immediate area a name: Ice House Hill.

In 1874, W. M. Reardon and F. A. Reid opened a warehouse to deal in ice. The firm's horse-drawn wagons plied the streets of Alexandria. Six years later, J. W. Hammond arrived to compete. The former company began supplying ice for Southern Railway freight cars in the mid-1890s, about the time that Reardon bought out Reid. Within a few years, Reardon and Hammond merged to form the Mutual Ice Company, popularly (and, legally) to be known as MICO. Some physical reminders the company are strewn about Alexandria.

Nothing remains of pre-1900 ice-making factories that supplanted natural river ice with man-made concoctions of brine and ammonia. The last large one stood on the plot beside the north wall of the Torpedo Factory, at the waterside intersection of Union and Cameron streets. Growing use of railroad refrigerator cars, rising local demand for ice and advances in technology called for a new factory. The industrial complex close-by its railroad customers rose at Payne (Extended) and First streets, adjacent to today's giant "jellyfish" water tower. In its prime, four artesian wells 250 feet deep provided 1,000,000 gallons of water per day to produce over tons of ice each year for loading onto more than 50,000 railcars. The local economy and workforce benefited greatly from this round-the-clock operation.

For the better part of a century, the MICO complex was crucial to agriculture and the food supply of the entire Atlantic Coast. Big cities of the northeast depended on fruits and vegetables from Florida and other southern states in late fall and winter. In summer months, farms and orchards and as far as New England send fresh goods south. Either way, two days of travel required replacement of melted ice. Alexandria was in perfect position next to Potomac Yards, through which passed virtually all



Ice transit sheds, 1200 N. Henry St., small business leases

MICO Service Stations

- #1 110 S. Lee Street
- #2 406 S. Alfred St.*
- #3 319 N. Alfred St.
- #4 200 Commerce St.
- #5 419 S. Royal St.*
- #6 501 Princess St.*
- #7 Oxford St. (Del Ray)*
- * Nothing remains

train traffic: "The only icing station for railroads north of the Carolinas and south of New York." Low-lying sheds visible from vehicles on Route 1, close to where Henry and Patrick streets split at the North End, are the sole remnants of the ice factory. These platforms faced rail sidings for loading ice into refrigerated cars.

MICO also offered full service retail operations that contributed to Alexandria's community health through proper foodstuff preservation. Markets and restaurants had commercial iceboxes. Hotels' needs were similar, and they voiced the hot summer boast of "ice cold drinking water." Homeowners had ice chests for domestic use. MICO delivered ice and make it available across the city in "service stations," a few of which remain, hidden in plain sight. Pre-WWII advertisements offered home refrigerators, water coolers and "Crystal Clear Ice Cubes and Punchbowls for Social Functions."

After that war, everything was changed. Nearly all businesses and homes had refrig-



Refrigerator sales store, 1129 King St., currently vacant

erators and ice-makers. Icing units were installed on railroad cars. MICO directed its efforts to servicing cooling equipment, and even expanded into the fuel oil and burner business, but to no avail. It and the few smaller auxiliaries of Alexandria's "ice age" simply melted away, and that is the hard, cold truth.



Service station #1, 110 S. Lee St., architects' offices



Service station #4, 200 Commerce St., development paused



Service station #3, 319-21 N. Alfred St., residence

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/GAZETTE PACKET



ARLINGTON \$3,995,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AR8207559
Offering dramatic views of DC and the Potomac, this 30th floor Waterview Residences penthouse provides elegant spaces suited for both entertaining and private relaxation.
ROB CARNEY +1 703 927 4290



ALEXANDRIA \$3,700,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AX7731151
George Washington spent his last 4th of July in 1798 in this residence when it was once a tavern. The half-acre lot features a 2-car garage, swimming pool, and carriage house.
ROY MELLONI +1 703 863 0077
ROXANE NUNES +1 703 470 9903



ALEXANDRIA \$2,900,000 | ttrsir.com/id/21064841
Exemplifying the heritage of beautiful Virginia architecture, yet embracing today's design elements, this home offers 5 bedrooms, pool and cabana on 1.3 acres, and is only minutes from Old Town.
KAREN BARKER +1 703 928 8384
WETHERLY BARKER +1 703 965 9613



ARLINGTON \$2,825,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AR8191145
This Colonial in Lyon Village has 6 BRs, 5.5 BAs, approx. 6,400 sf, gourmet kitchen, full-house entertainment system, outdoor kitchen, walk to metro, shops and restaurants.
JOHN ERIC +1 703 798 0097



ARLINGTON \$2,289,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AR8121613
This 29th-floor residence overlooks the Potomac with a floor plan perfect for entertaining or enjoying the views. The home features hardwoods and a gourmet kitchen.
DEBBIE SHAPIRO +1 703 407 1600
STEPHANIE WHITE +1 703 489 5045



ALEXANDRIA \$1,999,999 | ttrsir.com/id/AX8173147
This 5 BR, 3.5 BA 4,200 sf stone house circa 1945 has been renovated with a new addition to offer this architecturally designed, contemporary unique house with European panache.
FLEUR HOWGILL +1 202 425 9403



ALEXANDRIA \$1,998,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AX8202960
This stunning end-unit townhome in Old Town waterfront community offers 3 BRs, library, chef's kitchen, and a family room that leads to a brick patio. 2-car garage.
VICTORIA KILCULLEN +1 703 915 8845



ALEXANDRIA \$1,495,000
This renovated historic home offers an amazing blend of modern and traditional design, 3BR, 3BA, top-of-the-line kitchen, dramatic master suite, spacious L.L. family room, rear yard and off-street parking.
HEATHER COREY +1 703 989 1183
MAXWELL RABIN +1 202 669 7406



ALEXANDRIA \$1,425,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AX8203644
This Federal-style home, on the most charming block of Prince Street, offers refinished original hardwood floors, beautifully landscaped back garden, and a spacious dining room and library.
DAVID DeSANTIS +1 202 438 1542



SOLD
ALEXANDRIA \$975,000
This Charles Goodman designed home in Hollin Hills has been expanded and renovated, featuring 5 BRs, 3 BAs, floor-to-ceiling windows throughout, flooding each room with natural light.
RUSSELL FIRESTONE +1 202 271 1701



SOLD
ALEXANDRIA \$939,500
This meticulously maintained 3BR, 2.5 BA home in Old Town offers off-street parking, exposed brick walls, custom built-ins, new HVAC and roof, Pella windows, and updated kitchen and baths.
HEATHER COREY +1 703 989 1183



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LETTERS

Civility Lacking

To the Editor:

On Monday, Nov. 25, the Traffic and Parking Board (TPB) performed in front of a full house (see photo). The first item on the public hearing docket was a controversial one, the city's proposed plan for traffic calming, pedestrian safety and bike lanes on a section of King Street between Russell Road and Janneys Lane. City staff presented the results of their engineering analysis and public outreach, conducted over more than a two-month period. Unfortunately, the board leadership greeted the presentation by Hillary Poole with disdain and disrespect. Board members were not willing to give Ms. Poole their attention and respect. The board chair spoke in a snarky tone and was dismissive and disrespectful.

There were about 56 speakers (38 for and 18 against). The public comments were respectfully delivered. The public fulfilled its responsibilities to be respectful and listen. Not so for the TPB leadership. They mostly ignored the speakers and did not listen to answers to the few questions asked.



For example, when a sight-impaired woman asked that the roads be made safer for her Tandem Tuesdays bicycling club, the board expressed no interest at all. (A fully sighted rider "drives" the Tandem with visually-impaired "stokers" providing the power.) The few questions asked of members of the public who supported the city's proposal were asked in a dismissive, if not hostile tone.

TPB members are citizen repre-

sentatives appointed to advise the director of Transportation and Environmental Services. Derision and disrespect by board leaders are neither helpful nor appropriate. Regardless of where we stand on controversial issues, let's maintain our civility, and demand the same from leaders of our boards and commissions.

Jim Durham
Alexandria

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

and supervision of all Fire Department staff is essential — and costly. Too costly for a city more interested in going “legal” against valid residents’ concerns and needs and averse to taking responsibility for its actions?

Eminent domain, sovereign immunity — nonsensically, we, the tax payers who reside and do business here appear to be the city’s enemies, to be fought in court with our own tax dollars. But we are not just an abstraction, easy targets of wasteful legal proceedings. No, we are individuals intimately affected by city decisions. Our definition of “stewardship” is negotiation, compromise and proper care, not the promotion of the city’s idiosyncratic agenda by saving on services and common sense. There is a dire

need to return to true stewardship — the preservation of our historic mandate and the care for citizens’ well-being, going way beyond the waterfront. I take my hat off to all city staff and elected officials not infected by the ambition to enhance their curriculum vitae through legal “finesse” but having maintained their truly unique sense of community and service to all which I came to know when I moved here exactly 27 years ago.

Ursula Weide, PhD, JD, Alexandria

Support Compromise

To the Editor:

I am writing in reaction to your article “War of
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 29

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Alexandria Gazette Packet

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WHERE HOME BEGINS

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Wellington \$2,950,000
7715 Northdown Road, Alexandria, VA 22308
French Country style home with breathtaking views of Potomac River from three levels. 8,500sq-ft estate offers elegance and comfort with 6BR/4 Full & 3 Half BA/3CG & gated entry.
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



Plymouth Haven \$1,375,000
8701 Standish Road, Alexandria, VA 22308
Beautifully designed colonial in the heart of Plymouth Haven. Features 6BR/6.5BA/2CG, professional chef's kitchen, separate apartment, two offices, private yard and stone patio.
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



Jefferson Park \$1,175,000
609 Malcolm Place, Alexandria, VA 22302
Beautifully renovated & expanded colonial with impeccable attention to detail. 5BR/3.5BA, gorgeous kitchen, outside entertainment area and flagstone entry.
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



River Bend Estates \$1,139,000
8911 Charles Augustine Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308
Stunning new construction just steps to Potomac River and Fort Hunt Park. Features 5/6BR/5BA/2CG, high ceilings, custom stone fireplaces, main level bedroom with full bath & deck.
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



Old Town \$1,200,000
610 Queen Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Circa 1810, this bright and sunny 4BR/2.5BA free standing home features original pine floors, fp plus a brick walled garden with beautiful landscaping.
Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



The Summit \$925,000
702 Kings Court, Alexandria, VA 22302
Stately 4BR/3.5BA Federal colonial w/gracious room sizes, fine moldings, 2 fp's, beautifully refinished hdwd fls & freshly painted throughout. Short stroll to King St. Metro.
Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Carlyle Towers \$925,000
2151 Jamieson Avenue 1806-07, Alexandria, VA 22314
Wonderful, youthful double unit with wide open floor plan, 38' long enclosed glass room. 3BR/3BA/2CG 2 Storage. Take a tour on the web: <http://tour.circlepix.com/home/ZU6L4B>
Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



Heywood Glen \$599,999
4315 Dahill Place, Alexandria, VA 22312
Lovely home, move-in condition. 4BR upper lvl, fam rm, FP, fresh paint & refin hardwoods, bsmt for expansion, deck, patio, gar, level lot, located on 2 quiet cul-de-sacs.
Lauren York - The York Group 703-409-3377



Wellington Heights \$1,495,000
1219 Woodcliff Court, Alexandria, VA 22308
One of a kind custom home to be built on large 3/4 acre cul-de-sac lot. 4-5BR/4.5BA, high end amenities and finishes throughout. Wayneswood school district.
The York Group 703-409-3377



Kings Landing \$514,000
3400 Sapphire Court, Alexandria, VA 22310
Lovely light-filled 3 lvl, 4BR/2.5BA/2CG colonial on a large fenced .24 acre cul-de-sac lot mins to Metro offering renovated bathrooms, new windows, new HVAC & more.
Joy Deevy 703.930.5198



New Alexandria \$489,000
1212 Olde Towne Rd, Alexandria, VA 22307
Come visit this extraordinary bucolic cottage steps from the Potomac and bike path. Surrounded on 4 sides by gorgeous professional landscaping, irrigation system and waterfall!
Lyssa Seward 703-298-0562



Jefferson Manor \$389,900
2712 Farnsworth Drive, Alexandria, VA 22303
2 Blocks 2 Metro! 3 LVL home w/large lot & wood flrs! Expanded and recently renovated w/new furnace, kitchen, and remodeled lower level. 2BR/2BA, 2 blocks to Park and Metro!
Tom Rickert 703-447-7901



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4808 S. 28th St, Arlington
\$509,000
One of Fairlington's Largest Homes!
 Rare Dominion II end unit, 3 finished levels. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac. Many upgrades include kitchen with granite, stainless and custom cabinets. Other features: hwd flrs, thermal windows and attic storage. Fenced rear yard with two level patio. Backs to open land. Walk to pool, tennis courts and playground. One of a kind opportunity!



9127 Continental Dr
\$598,500
Major Updates!
 Nothing like it for under \$600,000! Spacious home with numerous recent updates. Fabulous features include: large room sizes, bright open floor plan, brand new custom kitchen, updated baths, 4 bedrooms, gleaming hardwood floors, living room with fireplace, family room, and garage parking. Prime location on large lot—walk to neighborhood school! **OPEN SUN 12/8, 1-4!** GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Cherrytree; R-Continental.



8428 Old Mount Vernon Rd
\$859,000
Large Home - Totally Updated!
 One of a kind compound consisting of a luxurious 5645 sq ft home and a totally remodeled and updated 2BR cottage. Ideal situation for home office or extended family. New home has everything including 6BR, 7BA, custom kitchen open to family room, large living and dining rooms, main level study, stunning master suite, finished lower level and 3 car garage. Most house & lot for \$\$ in Mt. Vernon! **OPEN SUN 12/8, 1-4!** GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mount Vernon.



8412 Washington Ave
\$425,000
True One Story - No Stairs!
 Expanded Rambler on level lot in prime Mt. Vernon location. All major rooms including bedrooms on one level. Extensive major updates include: thermal windows, kitchen, baths, furnace, electric panel, siding, gutters-in short almost everything! Large back covered deck. One level living in "move-in" condition at remarkable price! **OPEN SUN 12/8, 1-4!** GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mount Vernon; L-Woodley; R-Washington Ave.



1503 River Farm Dr
\$1,295,000
Grand Colonial Minutes from Old Town!
 Best price for estate caliber residence in highly sought after GW Pkwy area! Special home custom designed to capitalize on its park like setting and seasonal River views. Special features include 3 finished levels, w/o LL, 5BR with dual master suites, library, sunroom, open kitchen to family room, expansive glass walls, multi-deck and amazing 4 car garage. Combo of size, features & location add up to a truly unique value!



9322 Old Mansion Rd
\$1,650,000
Breathtaking River Views!
 Large classic Colonial in prime location on cul-de-sac near Mt. Vernon Estate. Magnificent setting on high bluff overlooking river provides the most amazing waterviews in area. Prestigious home features 3 finished levels, large room sizes, Colonial trim detail, walk-out lower level with three sets of glass doors overlooking grounds and river views. Massive exterior deck and screen porch capitalize on stunning view.



4300 Sheridans Point Ct
\$830,000
Elegant Georgian Colonial!
 Abundant custom enhancements make this property a true showplace. 3 fin levels, open floor plan, updated kitchen & baths, sunroom, magnificent custom trim detail, luxury master bath, recently finished lower level. Huge deck and 2 car garage. Hard to find home with this size and luxurious appointments under \$1,000,000.



4209 Pickering Place
\$589,950
Classic Colonial Prime Location!



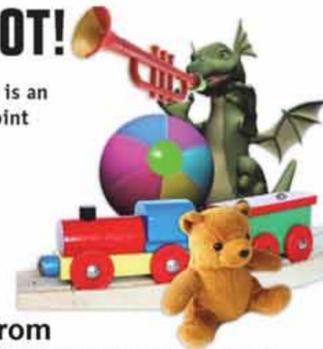
4409 Tarpon Lane
\$525,000
Yacht Haven Opportunity!

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\$799,900
Parker Gray Historic District
428 N FAYETTE ST
 • Elegant brick Victorian
 • 3 level townhouse
 • 3BR / 2.5BA
 • Hardwood floors thru-out

- Formal living and dining rooms
- Family room off amazing kitchen with island
- Nice yard. Off-street parking
- Few blocks to Metro

Martine Imer & Alexander Imer
 703.346.7283 or 703.403.2465



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$1,325,000
Old Town
609 S FAIRFAX ST

This spacious 4L brick and cedar TH boasts 4/5BR, 3.5BA plus a finished LL, which could be used as an au-pair or mother-in-law suite. A sophisticated kitchen with French doors to a brick deck overlooking a spectacular garden is among the many accents found thru-out this great offering custom built from the foundation up in 1978.

Norma Gants 703.408.2560



\$1,249,000
Alexandria POPULAR BULFINCH SQ

4BR/3.5BA home located a few blocks from the waterfront and King St. Dentil moldings, HW floors, renovated kitchen has

updated appliances/wine chiller, DR with built-ins. Private oasis-flagstone patio with hot tub. 2 deeded parking spaces.

Peggy Crescent / Ginger Webre
 703.244.2138 & 703.595.8776



\$840,000
Alex. / Liberty Row "NEW PRICE"

This 2BR/2BA top floor condo has style and comfort. Elegant entry, light filled living room, separate dining room opening to gourmet kitchen with island,

Viking SSA, custom back splash and granite counters. Plantation shutters, hard wood flooring, custom molding, custom bookcases, wet bar and balcony.

Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$265,000
Belle View "CORNER BALCONY"

Top floor unit has 2BR/1BA plus large storage unit. Fully remodeled kitchen with granite, porcelain floor and pass-thru. All wood floors. baseboards and window moldings replaced. Custom 8ft closet doors for max storage. Community has pools, tennis, playgrounds and shopping within walking distance. Bus to Metro. Walk or bike the GW Pkwy river hike/bike trails. Old Town is only 1/2 mile north.

Effie Blankinl 703.593.2634



\$749,900
Alex. / Belle Haven "COUNTRY KITCHEN"

Classic stone and slate center hall Colonial with large room sizes. Hardwoods thru-out. Large, sunny kitchen with wall of windows. Covered porch and stone patio all beautifully landscaped with recent sprinkler system and fenced yard. 2 wood-burning fireplaces. Large master with sitting room and balcony. Lower level includes family room, craft room and bath.

Julia Martin 703.850.5543



\$799,900
Arlington "DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH"

Located on 25 acres in excellent neighborhood, great school district plus Metro and shopping. This is the chance to have your own customized dream home. Currently a 3 level, 4BR/4.5BA home with a large detached 2-car garage with studio/office/workshop on upper floor. Totally livable. Excellent opportunity for investors/contractors.

Cindy Nelson 703.965.7562



\$339,000
Alexandria "NEW PRICE"

Wonderful location offers access to eateries, shops, Metro and all of Old Town. This 1BR/1BA has lovely hardwoods, crown molding, and W/D in unit. Wood-burning fireplace in living area with decorative wood mantle, plus tile hearth and surround. Built-in bookcases/shelves and office alcove complete the bedroom with walk-in closet.

Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764



\$485,000
Townes at Cameron Parke "GREAT VALUE"

NEW LISTING! Townhome living for the price of a condo! Gorgeous kitchen with granite and GE CAFE appliances, hardwood floors on main level, two master bedrooms with en-suites, deck and two-car garage. Outdoor pool. So close to Eisenhower Metro and Old Town.

Mike Lekas 703.927.9895



\$519,000
Alexandria "DYNAMITE PRICE"

This large 3-4BR / 2.5BA home with a solarium addition will delight nature lovers! The lush garden provides views of nature and greenery from every window. Skylight, bay windows, warm hardwoods, separate DR. Freshly painted, replacement windows. LL family room with fireplace. Rec room addition. Fenced yard with patio and storage shed. New roof. Meticulously maintained. Excellent Value!

Martha Deal 703.622.6797



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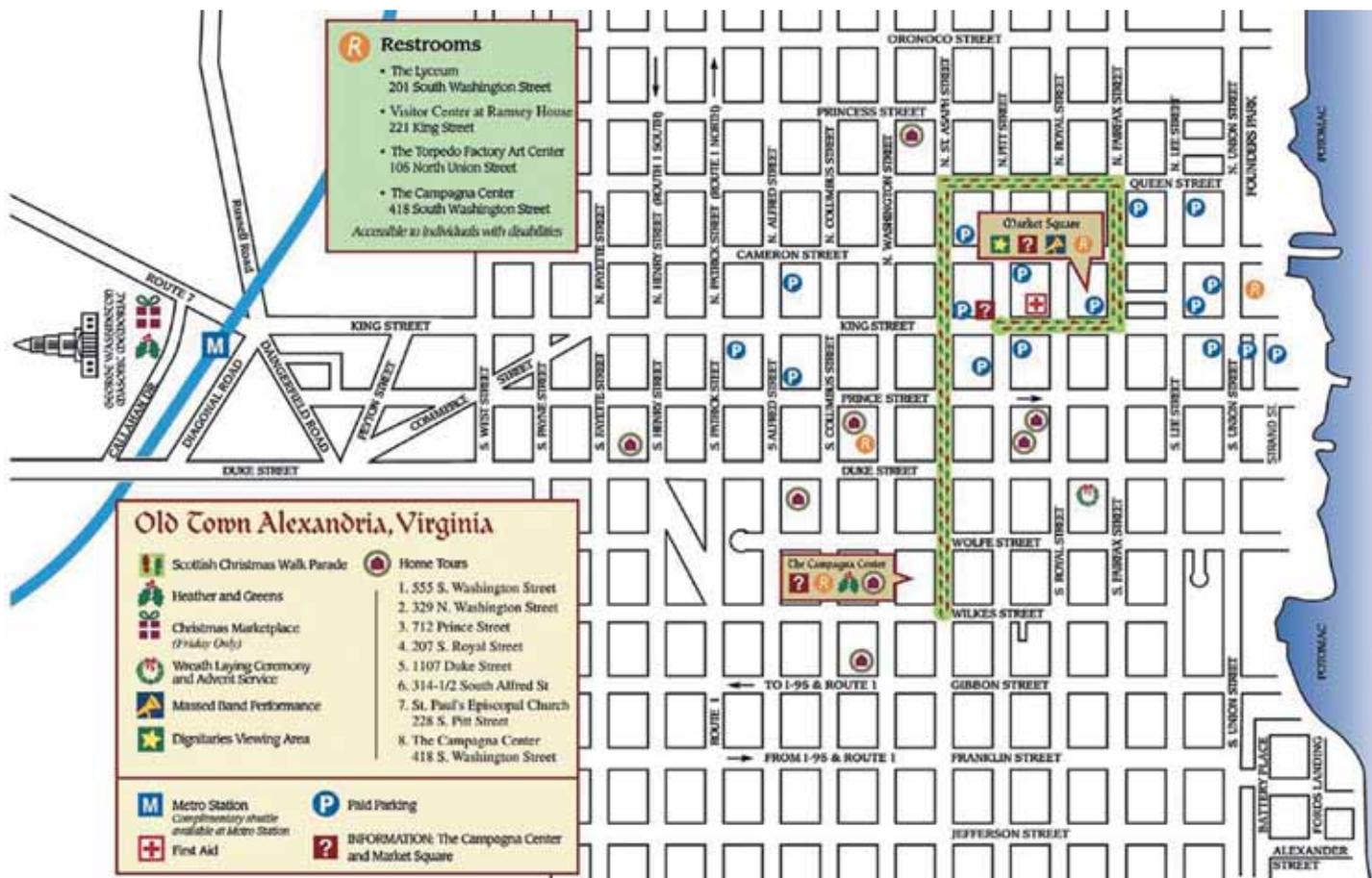


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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend

Christmas Marketplace: A collection of unique vendors under one roof, with items for everyone on your list. Friday, Dec. 6: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Additional shopping hours for Taste of Scotland guests: 7-10:30 p.m.

Heather and Greens: Purchase fresh heather bundles or a variety of wreaths, garlands, flatwoods and more. Friday, Dec. 6: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Saturday, Dec. 7: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Campagna Center parking lot.

Deck the Halls with Santa: Children have an exclusive audience with Santa and "Plaid the Dog." Featuring crafts for to help "Deck the Halls," seasonal treats, and a raffle full of goodies, toys and experiences for the whole family. Friday, Dec. 6: 1-3 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Crafts are appropriate for ages 2-5. The Masonic Temple does not permit strollers. \$35/adult, \$25/child.

THE TASTE OF SCOTLAND:

Taste some of the finest Scotch, enjoy light fare, beer, and wine. Friday, Dec. 6: 8-11 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Patron Hour: 7-8 p.m. Featuring a complete top-shelf tasting menu, including rare Scotches and passed hors d'oeuvres. There will also be a grand prize silent auction and a heated, outdoor cigar tent open to patron guests only.

General Admission: 8-11 p.m. Featuring Scotch tasting, a sampling of Scottish food, beer, and wine. A silent auction will also be held. Festive Scottish attire encouraged.

Tasting Seminar: 8:15 p.m. Join Chris Williamson, the Brand Ambassador for Chivas Brothers & Glenlivet, for a Scotch Tasting Seminar on single malt and blended Scotch. Tickets are limited.

Tickets: Patron, general admission and tasting seminar tickets available. Patron tickets are \$180/person (tax-deductible portion: \$100); \$290/couple (tax-deductible portion: \$150); seminar upgrade is \$10/person (patron ticket holders only). General admission tickets are \$110/person (tax-deductible portion: \$50); seminar upgrade: \$20/person (general admission ticket holders only).

SATURDAY

Annual Parade: For the 43rd consecutive year, The Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Parade takes place Saturday, Dec. 7. 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 down the streets of Old Town. Saturday, Dec. 7: 11 a.m. Begins at Wilkes and S. Saint Asaph streets, and ends at Market Square with a massed band concert.

Holiday Home Tours: Stroll through historic properties in Alexandria, which are dressed up for the holidays by interior designers and local florists. Saturday, Dec. 7: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$35.

14th Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights: Saturday, Dec. 7, 5 p.m. at Alexandria City Marina. Dozens of brightly lit boats will stretch along the Potomac River. Visitors can come early for dockside festivities at the marina starting at 3 p.m. Santa will arrive by fireboat. Braddock Brass Band will perform holiday favorites and Santa will take free pictures with children and canines at the gazebo. Dockside festivities at marina behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com or call 703-746-3301.

Del Ray Holiday Tree Lighting and Luminaries: Saturday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m. at the corner of Mount Vernon and East Oxford Avenues. Enjoy caroling, music by local favorite Kate Moran and a 20-foot tree cut down and donated by Bill Blackburn and Mike Anderson, of Pork Barrel BBQ and Holy Cow. Thousands of luminaries will line Mount Vernon Avenue throughout the evening. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

43rd Scottish Walk Weekend

Be prepared as pipes, plaid and pageantry fill the streets of Old Town Dec. 7 during the 43rd annual Scottish Walk Parade, the centerpiece of a weekend of holiday events that includes a Holiday Marketplace, Designer Tour of Homes and Taste of Scotland cocktail reception.

Sponsored by the Campagna Center, the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C. and the Scottish Affairs Office, more than 30,000 people are expected to line the streets to watch this year's parade, which will feature more than 120 Scottish clans, local dignitaries and costumed canines.

The weekend culminates with the 14th annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights along the Potomac River, Saturday, Dec. 7, at 5 p.m. and the annual Del Ray Holiday Tree Lighting at 6 p.m. at the corner of Mount Vernon and East Oxford avenues. Mount Vernon Avenue will be lined with thousands of luminaries throughout the evening.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

An elf and Santa bagpipers.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

ABC7 Meteorologist Adam Caskey will serve as Grand Marshal for the 2013 Scottish Walk Parade.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Thistle Dancers perform during the 2012 finale.



PHOTO BY "MANGO MIKE" ANDERSON

With National Harbor on the horizon, the sailboat Firefly took the prize for Thinking Outside the Christmas Box in last year's Parade of Lights.

Holiday Cheer!

From the creators of Restaurant Eve



HOLIDAY DINNER TO-GO BAG

Beef Wellington (will need to be cooked) • Chestnut & Sherry Soup
Creamy Mashed Potatoes • Sautéed Glazed Carrots
Pan-Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Pancetta
and Butter Potato Rolls. \$100, feeds two

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST BAG

Egg & Ham Strata (savory casserole of egg, ham, & bread)
Cinnamon Rolls (will need to be baked)
Fresh-Squeezed Orange Juice • Winter Citrus Fruit Salad
and 10 oz. bag of ground Society Fair Coffee. \$40, feeds two

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Franco and his staff wish you peace, love, faith & hope this holiday season!

Christmas Eve Dinner

Featuring Holiday Music with Mike Blaney with David Redskin on the Piano And a few Arias by Franco, too!

Special Holiday Menu includes:
~ Salmon with Caviar ~ Lobster Ravioli
~ Veal with Cream Brandy Sauce

Mon, Tues, Wed: 3-Course Dinner Special
Mon: Italian Class & Toastmasters
Wed: Jazz Night
Fri: Sophisticated Swing
Sat: Jazz Combo
Sun: Italian Brunch with Mimosa
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The Bread & Water Company would like to express our thanks and gratitude for all of the gracious warmth and excitement the community has shown us.

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TO ALL OF YOU FROM ALL OF US, WE WISH YOU A JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!



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Scottish Walk Parade Holiday Designer Tour of Homes
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Heather & Greens Sales A Christmas Marketplace

Parade: Saturday, Dec. 7th at 11:00 a.m.

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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

ONGOING

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions to hone figure drawing skills. Drop-in with your supplies to draw live models. Fee: \$8-12. View the calendar at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union Street. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Encore Chorale. Mondays 10:30 a.m.-noon at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Register now for Encore Chorale's fall season. The group of singers, ages 55 and up, practice classical and holiday songs to prepare for December performances. \$150 tuition. Visit encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747.

Art Exhibit. See "Portent" in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., from Oct. 24 through Dec. 8. The works attempt to visually come to terms with, reflect or represent the magnitude of natural events. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Theater Performance. Through Sunday, Dec. 22, see "A Broadway Christmas Carol" at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7 p.m.; Thursday-Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. This show is a cross between the classic Dickens' tale and song parodies of more than 30 Broadway show tune favorites. \$50/adult; \$25/student or child. Visit www.metrostage.org for tickets.

Theater Performance. See The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol" from Dec. 5-22 at the theatre, 600 Wolfe St. Performances are Thursdays-Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays-Sundays at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. \$15. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or 703-683-0496.

Tickets Now on Sale. Buy tickets for the

Alexandria Candlelight Tour with special early-bird pricing. \$15/adult; \$12/senior if purchased before Dec. 1. Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House Historic Park, Lee-Fendall House and Lloyd House by candlelight and enjoy decorations, entertainment and more on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 6-9 p.m. or Sunday, Dec. 15 from 3-6 p.m. Tickets purchased after Dec. 1 are \$20/adult; \$15/senior and \$5/child. Tickets can be purchased at shop.alexandria.gov or 703-746-4242. Visit www.historicalexandria.org.

Art Exhibit. See "Photographers at the Factory" Nov. 1 through Dec. 31 at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit celebrates FotoWeekDC. Hours are Thursdays 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; all other days from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Photographs will line the hall walls and in multiple studios. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Art Exhibit. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents "Holiday Sizzle" in Studio 18 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit starts on Nov. 19, additional items will be added Dec. 9 and the exhibit closes Jan. 5. Free. Some items will be for sale. Visit www.potomacfiberarts.com or 703-548-0935.

Art Exhibit. Artist John Gascot of Studio 4, 218 N. Lee St., suite 101, creates an art exhibit to honor the life journeys of transgender individuals. It will be on display through January. Gallery hours are Thursday-Saturday, noon-7 p.m. and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.studio4oldtown.com.

African American Activists Exhibition. Through Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing photo-documentary project created in 2006 by artist-photographer Nina Tisara to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria. This free exhibit is at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 601 Wythe St. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

Art Exhibit. "Small Works," juried by Irene Owsley will run Nov. 26-Jan. 5, at the Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Art Exhibit. See "IMPART," a project that is a collaboration between The Art League and the Wounded Warriors at Ft. Belvoir. Features ceramics by eight artists showcased at The Art League in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit runs through Jan. 5. Visit www.theartleague.org.

"The Street Sense Project." Thien-Kim Pham presents "Portraits of People Who Live and Work on the Streets" in studio 21 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit runs Dec. 5 through Jan. 6. A portion of the sales will be donated to a local charity related to the subject matter depicted in the piece. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Art Exhibit. "Small Worlds," a multimedia juried exhibition with a focus on artists who work in miniature or small scales will run Dec. 6-Jan. 12, at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Art Exhibit. See "Primary Colors" art exhibit from Jan. 3-Feb. 2 at The Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists use the three primary colors without mixing them. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., through Sunday, March 23, 2014. This exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

CLASSES

Christmas Cooking Class. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14 at Osteria Marzano, 6361 Walker Lane, Suite 140. Chef Carmine Marzano will teach participants how to cook an Italian Christmas meal, then dine on the creations. \$85/person. RSVP to info@osteriamarzano.com or 703-313-9700.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Just drop-in for the session and bring your supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

Winter Class Registration. Early bird registration for classes at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane will end Dec. 20. Call 703-201-1250 or visit www.artatthecenter.org for a list of classes.

Drop-In Classes. Try a collage class on Dec. 9-11 or a painting class on Dec. 16-18 at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. \$25/person. All ages, but children under 4 must be accompanied by adult. Visit www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250 for a schedule. RSVP to kathryn@artatthecenter.org with child's name, age and the day and time of the class.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

Christmas Tree Sale. The Alexandria Police Youth Camp is hosting a sale from Nov. 30-Dec. 5 at 110 Callahan Drive. Hours are weekdays from 4-8 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Proceeds will help fund scholarships for children to attend the camp. Visit www.alexpyc.org.

Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale. Pick out a freshly-cut North Carolina Fraser Fir while enjoying some hot cider and cookies. Ten percent of the sale will go back to a designated PTA. Runs Saturdays and Sundays at St.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Artisan Cathy Harl, left, showcases her latest works to shoppers Patricia Harl and Pat Libhart at last year's Holiday Market to benefit the city's women's programs.

Shop 'Til You Drop

More than 30 female artisans will showcase their crafts Dec. 8 at the 16th Annual Women's Holiday Art Show in support of the City of Alexandria's Domestic and Sexual Violence Services.

Sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for Women and Friends of the Commission for Women, the free event will be held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St., 1-5 p.m. Holiday shoppers can enjoy complimentary refreshments as they browse a selection of high-quality, handcrafted pottery, clothing, jewelry, accessories and gifts in support of the city's programs for women. Restaurant gift certificates and other items will be raffled off throughout the event.

The Holiday Market will also serve as a collection point for unwrapped toys and gifts for the children of clients of the Alexandria Battered Women's Shelter. Tax-deductible contributions are also welcome. Call LaToshia Love at 703-746-3123 or visit www.alexwomen.com.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, through Dec. 15. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com or 703-360-4220.

Christmas Tree Sale. Saturdays, Dec. 7, 14 from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays, Dec. 8, 15 from noon-4 p.m. in the parking lot adjacent to Trinity United Methodist Church, corner of Cameron Mills and Allison. Sponsored by the North Ridge Citizens Association. \$25-\$90 for a tree, \$16 for wreaths, \$20 for garland and \$25 for tree stands. Call Bruce Johnson at 703-548-9604.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

Theater Performance. 10:30 a.m. at W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Arts on the Horizon presents "Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition." \$8/child and adults. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org for tickets.

Holiday Shopping Event. 4-8 p.m. at Reunions Gifts and Antiques store, 1709 Centre Plaza. Enjoy champagne, snacks, raffle, trunk show by local artist Janine Bland. Twenty percent of all sales will be donated to Senior Services of Alexandria. Visit www.seniorservicesalex.org.

Ballet Performance. 5:30 p.m. Alexandria Community Dance and West Potomac Academy present "The Nutcracker" at West Potomac High School theater, 6500 Quander Road. More than 100 students from local schools and performers ranging from age 4 to adult will perform. \$12/adult; \$10/student in advance or \$15/adult; \$12/student at the door. Visit www.alexandriadance.com for tickets.

A Peter White Christmas. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Features Mindi Abair & Rick Braun. \$49.50. Visit

www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

Theater Performance. 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Arts on the Horizon presents "Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition." \$8/child and adults. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org for tickets.

Holiday on the Avenue. 6-9 p.m. at the Del Ray Farmer's Market at Mount Vernon Avenue and E. Oxford Ave. Watch as the Del Ray Christmas tree is lit up, enjoy a visit from Santa Claus and a stroll down Mount Vernon Avenue which is illuminated by thousands of candles. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com or 703-683-2570.

Ballet Performance. 6:30 p.m. Alexandria Community Dance and West Potomac Academy present "The Nutcracker" at West Potomac High School theater, 6500 Quander Road. More than 100 students from local schools and performers ranging from age 4 to adult will perform. \$12/adult; \$10/student in advance or \$15/adult; \$12/student at the door. Half-price tickets for all Boy and Girl Scouts. Visit www.alexandriadance.com for tickets.

Holiday Open House. 6:30-9 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Enjoy food, refreshments and music while browsing items for purchase. Door prizes will be given. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Music Performance. At Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Bo Bice will perform as a special guest vocalist with Blood Sweat & Tears. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

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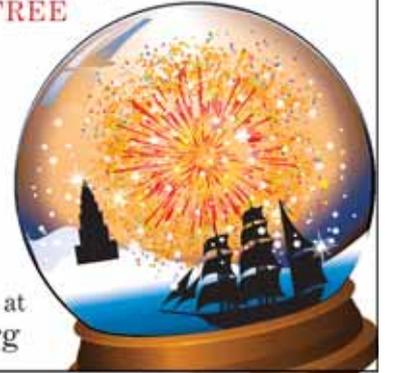
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ENTERTAINMENT

18th ANNUAL DEL RAY ARTISANS Holiday Market

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Fridays: Dec 6, Dec 13 & Dec 20: 6 - 9pm
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Saturdays: Dec 7, Dec 14 & Dec 21: 10am - 4pm

Sundays: Dec 8, Dec 15 & Dec 22: Noon - 4pm

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SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Holiday Craft Fair. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 400 Cameron St. Alexandria Unit 24 of the American Legion Auxiliary will host the event. There will also be a bake sale. All proceeds will support veterans, military and their families in the community.

Holiday Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Theater Performance. 10:30 a.m. at W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Arts on the Horizon presents "Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition." \$8/child and adults. Visit www.arts.onthehorizon.org for tickets.

Scottish Walk Parade Open House. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Enjoy free tours and browse items that were used during the time of George Washington. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/historic/apothecary/default.aspx or 703-746-3852.

Watercolor Show and Sale. 4-7 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Over 50 participating artists from the Torpedo Factory will be selling their works. All artists are students of Gwendolyn C. Bragg. Free. 703-765-4573, TTY: 711.

Country-Western Dance. Lessons start at 6:30 p.m., dancing from 7:30-10 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles welcome. \$10/NVCWDA member; \$12/non-member; \$5/child. Visit www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941. Bring own non-alcoholic drinks.

Music Concert. 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Canadian folk singer James Keelaghan will perform. \$18/general; \$15/advance. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

Honky Tonk Holiday Show. Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun performs at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Benefit Concert. 8:15 p.m. at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road. The Singers' Theater of Washington will perform popular arias from composers including Rossini, Puccini, Wagner and more. \$20/admission is suggested. Visit www.singerstheatre.com.

Father Christmas Photos. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Gadsby's Arcade, 320 King St. Children and dogs can take photos with Father Christmas. \$10 for polaroid-like photos and \$5 donation for your own photos. Proceeds benefit Gadsby's Tavern. 703-746-4242.

Kwanzaa Family Fun Workshop. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Learn about Kwanzaa through games, songs and more. \$5/person. Visit oha.alexandriava.gov/bhrc/ or 703-746-4356.

Christmas at Carlyle House. Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Tour a holiday-decorated house, talk to soldiers from the 1st Virginia Regiment during 1761, enjoy demonstrations, samples and more. \$5/person. 703-549-2997.

Winter Wreath Workshop. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Create a beautiful winter wreath to take home for your front door after Green Spring staff demonstrate the dazzling possibilities. Greens, forms, ribbons and cones included with additional \$20 supply fee. Code: 290 484 6901, \$35/person. Register on-line at

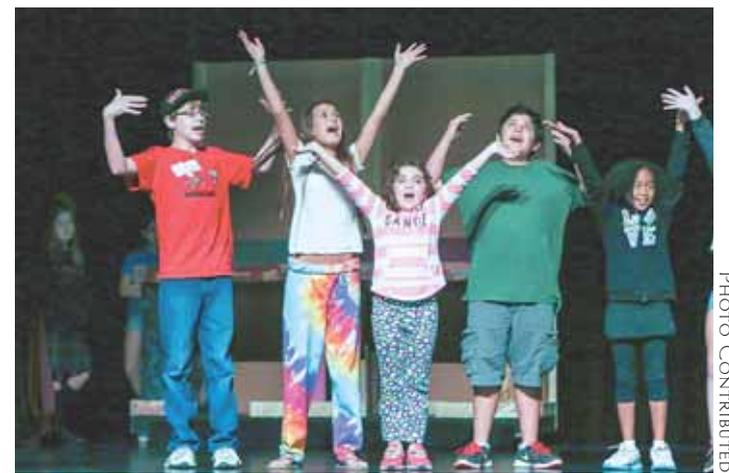


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MVCCT Auditions

The Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre will hold auditions the evenings of Dec. 9 and 10 for MVCCT's upcoming production of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." Originally published in the 1600s with the main characters returning from war, Heather Sanderson will direct an updated version of the play that is set in 1982 Italy as the characters return from the World Cup. Teens 12-18 years old can register online at mvcct.org and auditions will be held at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. For additional audition information email admin@mvcct.org.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call Green Spring Gardens 703-642-5173.

Ornament Decorating Workshop. 1-4 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Families can decorate an artifact-shaped dough ornament. Free. 703-746-4399.

Home for the Holidays Pops Concert. 2 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. at Alexandria Singers, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The Alexandria Singers will perform. \$25/reserved seats; \$20/general; \$15/group, senior or military; \$5/child age 6 and under. Visit www.alexandriasingers.com/ or 703-941-7464.

Ballet Performance. 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Alexandria Community Dance and West Potomac Academy present "The Nutcracker" at West Potomac High School theater, 6500 Quander Road. \$12/adult; \$10/student in advance or \$15/adult; \$12/student at the door. Military members can get tickets for \$10 with proper ID for the 6:30 p.m. show. Visit www.alexandriadance.com.

Holiday Treat Cooking Class. 9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. on Dec. 7 at PetSage, Inc., 23091 S. Dove St. Learn how to bake treats for cats and dogs. Reservations required. Visit www.petsage.com or 703-299-5044.

Holiday Concert. 8 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial Theatre, 101 Callahan Drive. Alexandria Choral Society will perform "Songs of the Season: The Mystery of the History." \$25/adult; \$15/senior, military; \$10/student; children under 13 are free. There will be a reception following. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org or 703-232-1664.

Music Performance and Toy Donation. 7:30-9 p.m. at L&B Pizzeria, 5401 Mapledale Blvd., Manassas. Fuse Box will perform during the event. Bring an unopened toy or make a \$10 donation. Visit www.fuseboxband.net.

SATURDAY-THURSDAY/DEC. 7-12

Tree Decorating Contest. Decorate a tree with friends and neighbors or business between Dec. 7-12 at the Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Ave. RSVP for a tree at 703-845-5000.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Theater Performance. 11 a.m. at W-

3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Arts on the Horizon presents "Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition." \$8/child and adults. Visit www.arts.onthehorizon.org for tickets.

Breakfast with Santa. 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. at the Hotel Monaco, 480 King St. Metropolitan School of the Arts will host the breakfast. Tickets range in price from \$35-\$45/person. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org for tickets.

Holiday Market. Noon-4 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Watercolor Show and Sale. Noon-4 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Over 50 participating artists from the Torpedo Factory will be selling their works. All artists are students of Gwendolyn C. Bragg. Free. 703-765-4573, TTY: 711.

Gardeners' Holiday Open House. Noon-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. This festive day is for gardeners of all ages, individuals and families. Admission is free. There will be a Holiday Puppet Show by Bob Brown (tickets for the 2 p.m. show are \$3/person and can be purchased in advance using Code: 290 489 4301), festive greens and tree ornaments for sale, a vintage train display, seasonal breads for sale, and complimentary refreshments. There will be a whimsical gingerbread house contest. Get your Gingerbread House contest entry form at www.greenspring.org on the Special Events page. Call 703-642-5173 for more information.

Book Launch Party. 1-3 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center, 3210 King St. Alexandria resident Shannon Jones will sign copies of her book. There will also be story time, pizza and gelato, face painting, activity stations and more. Free. Visit www.keekesbigadventures.com.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic will perform at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. \$20/adult; 18 and under free. Visit www.wmpamusic.org or 703-799-8229.

Chorale Performance. 4 p.m. at Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 N.

ENTERTAINMENT

Beauregard St. New Dominion Chorale will perform works by Benjamin Britten and Thomas Beveridge. Special guest chorus World Children's Choir will perform along with other guests. \$30/adult; \$25/senior; \$5/student, child; \$20/groups of 10 or more. Visit www.newdominion.org or 703-442-9404.

"Christmas in Cape Breton." 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Natalie MacMaster is an award-winning fiddler. \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

MONDAY/DEC. 9

Tavern Toddlers: Rhythm and Music. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Toddlers through 36 months can enjoy storytime, dancing, crafts and more. \$7/group of three. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern.

Garden Sprouts: Welcome Winter.

11 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Preschool children ages 3-5 with accompanying adult. Tour the garden to see the changes that winter brings. Learn why some animals stay and others migrate or hibernate. Make a winter landscape to take home and a pinecone feeder for the birds that remain. Code: 290 481 4401, \$6/child. Register on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call Green Spring Gardens 703-642-5173.

Santa Railway Express. 1:25 p.m., depart King Street Station and return at 3:30 p.m. Ride the train with Santa and Mrs. Claus. \$27.50, tickets sold exclusively at Whistle Stop Toy & Hobby, 1719 Centre Plaza. Visit www.whistlestophobbies.com or 703-549-4912.

TUESDAY/DEC. 10

Living Legend Nominee

Introduction and Concert. Meet the nominees at a reception starting at 6:30 p.m. and during the concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Community College's Winter Concert at the Schlesinger Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Free. The 2014 Legends will be selected later in December.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 11

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Wooten Brothers will perform for all ages. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

Special Holiday Shopping Night. 5-8 p.m. at the museum store in The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Enjoy

In a Nutshell

The Center for Ballet Arts will present "Nutcracker In A Nutshell" Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. Performances will be held at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St., NOVA Community College, Alexandria Campus. Bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots, U.S. Marines collection, if you like. The performance runs 75 minutes and is a perfect holiday event for families! Tickets are \$25. Call 703-273-5344 or visit thecenterforballetarts.com for ticket information.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

giveaways while browsing inventory that is 30 percent off. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov to shop online.

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

2nd Thursday Art Night: Decadent December. 6-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Do some holiday shopping while tasting chocolate and wine. There will be handcrafted ornaments, a DIY craft station and a musical performance by chamber choir Pro Coro Alexandria. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or 703-838-4565.

Opening Reception and Meet the Artist. 6:30-8 p.m. meet Thien-Kim Pham and see his exhibit "Portraits of People Who Live and Work on the Streets" in studio 21 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. A portion of the sales will be donated to a local charity related to the subject matter depicted in the piece. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Spirit of the Season Concert. 7 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants will perform. Free, but tickets are required. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-5658.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Rick Springfield performs. Tickets are \$69.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Reception. 6:30-8 p.m. meet some of the artists of "IMPART," a project that is a collaboration between The Art League and the Wounded Warriors at Ft. Belvoir. Features

ceramics by eight artists showcased at The Art League in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.theartleague.org.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 12-15

Living Christmas Tree. First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St., presents the Living Christmas Tree. Showtimes are Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday at 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. \$7/person. No children under 4. Childcare is available upon request. Visit www.fbcalexandria.org/LCT for tickets.

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

Music Performance. See Mint Condition at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. 7:30 p.m. \$55. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Holiday Market. 6-9 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

A Christmas Medley. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Readings of holiday poems, stories and remembrances by Frederick Douglass, Frank O'Connor, William Shakespeare and others. \$10. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com.

Community Open House. 2:30-4 p.m. at the Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Ave. The best decorated tree will be chosen. 703-845-5000.

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City Honors Crisis Intervention in Action

Alexandria's Crisis Intervention Team recently recognized four public safety personnel for exemplary performance in assisting persons with mental illness during a crisis. Those honored were: Teresa Smith, the Quality Assurance Coordinator for the Department of Emergency Communications; Master Deputy IV Michael Cole, Sheriff's Department; Officer Ray Golden and Officer Richard Harrell, Police Department.

Smith was praised for embracing the CIT mindset by ensuring that all Department of Emergency Communication employees have CIT training and that the CIT core values are a part of the DEC culture.

Cole, a CIT trainee who became an instructor, was lauded for giving time and energy to ensuring that the CIT program is successful in the Sheriff's office, providing specialized training on the weekend to emergency communication technicians and assisting when transporting inmates with mental health problems.

Golden was named Officer of the Year for properly apprehending a man who was experiencing a psychiatric crisis on a busy street. Golden used the least amount of force, thus avoiding harming passersby,



Mayor William D. Euille, Police Chief Earl Cook, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Emergency Communications Director Jo-Anne Munroe, and Liz Wixson from the Department of Community and Human Services presented awards to Teresa Smith, Quality Assurance coordinator for the Department of Emergency Communications; Master Deputy IV Michael Cole, Sheriff's Department; Officer Ray Golden and Officer Richard Harrell, Police Department.

himself and the man in crisis.

Harrell received the CIT Intervention of the Year Award for conducting a thorough investigation into nuisance complaints in a neighborhood and discovering that the source of the problem was a young man with bipolar disorder.

Because Harrell recognized that this was not a criminal case but one in which a person needed treatment, the investigation ended when the young man moved out of the neighborhood and into long-term mental health treatment.

The awards were presented by Mayor William D. Euille, Police Chief Earl Cook, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Emergency Communications Director Jo-Anne Munroe, and Liz Wixson from the Department of Community and Human Services. Also recognized were the more than 250 city employees from the Police, Fire and Sheriff's Departments, Code Administration, the Department of Emergency Communications and the Department of Community and Human Services who participated in the week-long trainings to enable them to intervene in situations where a person with mental illness had put himself or others at risk of harm.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnews.com. Deadline is Thursday by noon. Photos welcome.

TREE SALE

Christmas Tree Sale. The Alexandria Police Youth Camp is hosting a sale from Nov. 30-Dec. 5 at 110 Callahan Drive. Hours are weekdays from 4-8 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Proceeds will help fund scholarships for children to attend the camp. Visit www.alexpyc.org for more.

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

SoberRide Program. From 10 p.m.-6 a.m., Dec. 13-Jan. 1, Washington-metropolitan area residents can call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home. AT&T users can dial #WRAP for the same service. More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at www.soberride.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

Workshop. 7-8 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Dr. Gybrilla Ballard-Blakes will discuss "Give Your Parents a Standing Ovation: For Caregivers of Elderly Parents." Learn how to navigate conflicts, get legal and financial resources, and more. Free. 888-882-4093.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

Grand Re-Opening. 8:30 a.m. at Giant Food, Alexandria Commons, 3131 Duke St. Dec. 6-8, the Alexandria Giant Food will provide a tasting passport to all customers during special event hours (Friday, 3-7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon-4 p.m.), encouraging exploration of changes throughout the store and a chance to win free groceries. Over the next four weekends, Alexandria Commons Giant customers may enjoy raffles, tastings and prizes. During Friday's celebration, Giant will make a donation to United Community Ministries: Cynthia N. Hull Food Pantry. Visit www.GiantFood.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Talk. 4 p.m. at Alexandria House, Drake room, 400 Madison ST. Dr. Vernon Sylvest will discuss science and spirituality. Hosted by Noetic Science of Alexandria. Recommended donation of \$10. E-mail sls4@rcn.com with questions.

MONDAY/DEC. 9

Help the Cats Training Session. 7-8 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Center. Learn how cats can be spayed and neutered for free and learn about the trap-neuter-return program. RSVP by e-mailing animals13@verizon.net.

TUESDAY/DEC. 10

Living Legend Nominee Introduction. Meet the nominees at a reception starting at 6:30 p.m. and during the concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Community College's Winter Concert at the Schlesinger Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Free. The 2014 Legends will be selected later in December.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 11

Transportation Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at



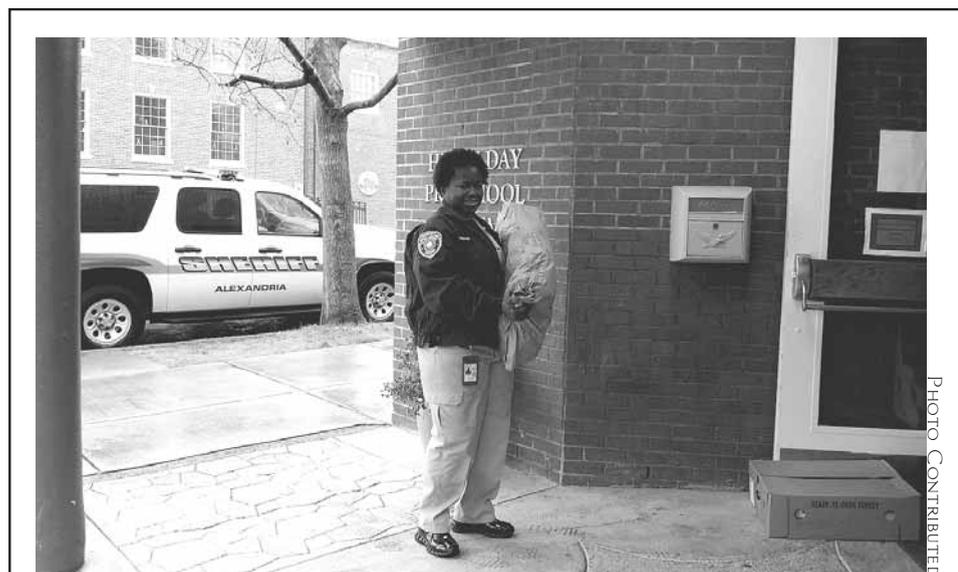
The City of Alexandria held its annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony in Market Square Nov. 29. Entertainment and a visit from Santa were part of the festivities that signaled the official start of the holiday season. For a complete schedule of holiday events, including free concerts to be held in Market Square, visit www.visitalexandriava.com.

Marriott Courtyard Alexandria Pentagon South (Mark Center), 4641 Kenmore Ave. discuss the Super NoVa Transit & Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Draft Action Plan. Free. Visit www.supernovatransitvision.com for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

English Language Workshop. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All levels can join in on this workshop. Free. 703-746-1702.

Low Vision Resource Group. 1:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Kevin Osborne, MLIS, Adult Services Manager, will be talking about eReaders and other mobile devices. Free. 703-746-1702.



Cooperative Thanksgiving Effort

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office assisted with Project Thanksgiving, a regional effort to provide families in need with complete Thanksgiving dinners. On Tuesday, Nov. 26, Deputy Valarie Wright picked up 16 Thanksgiving dinners with turkeys and all the fixings from Lockheed Martin in Manassas and then delivered them to Hopkins House, a local organization that shared them with deserving Alexandria families. Lockheed Martin provides funds the dinners and their employees arrange for the food purchases and meal coordination.

OPINION

Brighten a Senior's Day During Holiday Season

By MARYANNE BEATTY
MEALS ON WHEELS
PROGRAM MANAGER,
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

As we approach the holiday season with our "to do" lists, shopping, and family gatherings, we sometimes forget that for many of Alexandria's seniors it can be a lonely time of the year. Senior Services is very grateful for its supporters and volunteers who help brighten seniors' lives during the holidays, as they do every day of the year in so many ways.

Our Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver meals 365 days a year, including Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Thanks to the generosity of the Ron Bradley Foundation, homebound seniors each receive a special holiday meal in their home. SSA's Friendly Visitor Program is celebrating its one-year anniversary, and 60 seniors know they'll be celebrating the holidays with a friend who connects



SSA volunteers deliver meals to seniors on Thanksgiving Day with cards made by Ruth Brannigan's 4th and 5th grade math students at Mount Vernon Community School.

them to the community with weekly visits and the gift of friendship. "It has been wonderful to see how many people have com-

mitted to the program. In many cases, these visits are the highlight of the week for both the senior and their friendly visitors," says

SSA's Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson.

Alexandria's small business community has also committed to help our city's seniors during the holiday season.

Reunions Gifts and Antiques, www.reunionsva.com, is hosting a "Shop and Support a Charity" event on Thursday, Dec. 5 from 4 - 8 p.m., and will donate twenty percent of all sales to support SSA's programs.

Wine lovers can also help SSA during the entire month of December by shopping at Unwined in the Bradlee and Belle View Shopping Centers, www.unwinedva.com/wine/.

Their experienced team has assembled a special Secret Santa mixed six bottle six pack they call "Lagniappe," and the proceeds of all sales will go to Senior Services of Alexandria. SSA is grateful to our giving community throughout the year, but especially during the holiday season. Knowing someone cares is what the holiday spirit is all about. To learn more about the work of Senior Services of Alexandria, visit www.seniorservicesalex.org.

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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

S&A Restaurant Lounge & Entertainment, LLC trading as Jolley's Restaurant & Lounge, 654 S. Pickett St., Alexandria, VA 22304. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer, Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Abel A. Woldu, member, 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 of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

The Board of Equalization and Assessment Review for the City of Alexandria will convene at 4:00 PM on Thursday, December 19, 2013 at 301 King Street, City Hall, Room 3008, Alexandria, Virginia for the purpose of hearing complaints of inequalities wherein the property owners allege a lack of uniformity in assessment, or errors in acreage in such real estate assessments. Upon hearing such complaints, the Board will give consideration AND INCREASE, DECREASE, OR AFFIRM such real estate assessments.

Dockets for each hearing may be obtained by contacting the Department of Real Estate Assessments, 301 King Street, City Hall, Room 2600, Alexandria, VA 22314, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday in person or by calling 703.746.4180.

The deadline for filing an appeal was June 1, 2013, however this appeal deadline is not applicable to appeals of assessments for real estate that was newly constructed pursuant to Virginia Code §58.1-3292.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

ITB #00000391: Cora Kelly Recreation Center Gym Doors Replacement
ITB Opens: December 17, 2013 at 3:00 pm

For general inquiries contact Darryl Jackson, Contract Specialist at 703.746.4298. The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

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Dept of Rail & Public Transportation Presents Super NoVa Transit/TDM Action Plan at public meetings Dec. 11 at Courtyard Marriott Alexandria Pentagon South & Dec. 17 at Holiday Inn Manassas Battlefield from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Public input needed to prioritize policies to enhance transportation choices and improve connectivity in region. Meetings are ADA and transit accessible. DRPT strives to provide reasonable accommodations and services for persons who require special assistance to participate. Contact the Title VI Compliance Officer, 804-786-4440 or TDD 711 for information. Comment deadline December 31, 2013.

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Transit/TDM Action Plan
Achieving Mobility Beyond Boundaries

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 16

Upper King Street" [Gazette Packet, Nov. 28], which was written so as to make all participants seem uncompromising. In fact, the city staff originally proposed to remove 37 spaces. In the current compromise proposal, 27 spaces are removed and three spaces are added on nearby streets.

At the hearing, 38 people spoke in favor of the bike lanes, including two residents in the immediate area. Almost all spoke in favor of the compromise proposal even as most recognized that it wasn't their ideal.

Only 18 citizens spoke against the compromise proposal. Almost everyone agreed that current conditions are unsafe.

The Traffic and Parking Board similarly miss-characterized the situation, claiming there was no "common ground" (the 10 spaces retained and three spaces added in the compromise is that common ground). I am disappointed that the board has chosen to mislead the public so as to create, out of thin air, an excuse to do nothing. I am disappointed that the board seems to have misled your reporter as well.

Jonathan Krall
Alexandria

Safety for All

To the Editor:

On Monday, Nov. 25, the Traffic and Parking Board deferred a proposal to add bike lanes to King Street just west of the Metro station, asking for further review and delay. In so doing, they ignored the hard work that city staff has done to implement the city policy known as "Complete Streets." In 2011, City Council approved a Complete Streets Policy. The term Complete Streets describes a comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, riders and drivers of public transportation, as well as drivers of other motor vehicles (i.e., cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles, SUVs, etc.), and people of all ages and abilities, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities. The policy directs the director of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) to implement the policy, for example, by reviewing safety of a street when it is scheduled for repaving, and making changes as warranted. In Alexandria, boards and commissions exist with citizen representatives to advise city staff and /or council on broad areas, such as the Environmental Policy Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission. In the case of Complete Streets, there is no corresponding board or commission with responsibility for "safe and convenient travel for all." Instead, a Traffic and Parking Board is responsible for reviewing requests for changes to parking — just one of several uses of our public streets. A board for an individual category of street use such as parking, is inefficient, at best. Why not evolve to a board with responsibility "for the safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users," rather than retaining a board out of touch with city policies and not aligned with the city's multi-modal transportation and Complete Streets objectives.

Jake Jakubek, Alexandria

Not Impossible

To the Editor:

A sage man once said "We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations." Such is the case with the current situation between the city and the Old Dominion Boat Club. As long-term members of the Waterfront Commission, we urge both parties to consider alternatives, regardless of whether they've been previously discussed. Now that the highly regarded Olin Studio has been brought into the equation, we have an opportunity to incorporate all the pieces of the puzzle together to create our beautiful world-class waterfront.

This is a common sense approach to a complicated issue. For instance, why not engage in a discussion of swapping the city-owned Beachcomber building and property with the Boat Club and its parking lot? This would give the Boat Club the opportunity to build a state of the art modern facility, while allowing the city to redevelop the entire foot of King Street and eliminate, once and for all, this contentious barrier and the possibility of ongoing and expensive litigation. Another option to consider is below grade parking. The hotel being proposed by Carr Hospitality at Duke and Union streets is required to provide underground parking. Surely a similar design is a possibility on the ODBC lot. Perhaps Olin Studio could devise a plan that incorporates below grade or even partially below grade parking with grass, plants and benches at street level. This is done in other cities, why not Alexandria?

We enthusiastically support bringing together a representative from ODBC, the city and a mediator. The representatives of the disputing parties should have decision making authority and the mediator should be chosen from a host of retired judges from nearby jurisdictions, not Alexandria. This foundation would more likely result in a positive outcome. Everyone wants to get this right from the get-go and in good faith. We believe the community is ready to resolve this issue so that we can all move forward with a minimum of expense and civic acrimony.

Yes, this is a great opportunity, not an impossible situation for our historic city.

Jody Manor
Christine Bernstein

Thankful for Baskets

To the Editor:

I just want to say thanks on behalf of our communities and the many families who received a Thanksgiving basket for the holiday. Many volunteers from the Alfred Street Baptist Church took the time to participate with a helping hand and warmth that left many speechless with a hug and a thank you. When one volunteer called a person who didn't show to receive her basket, she found out the woman was taking care of her sister in Woodbridge. Since the volunteer lives near Woodbridge, she delivered the basket. The holiday baskets were a true blessing. I also want to say a special thanks to Felica T. for the additional baskets.

Geri Baldwin, Alexandria

Holiday Recipe Makeovers

Strategies for keeping traditional treats healthy.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

When Alice Jenkins saw her doctor two months ago, he diagnosed her with high blood pressure and high cholesterol, and suggested she change her diet and lose about 30 pounds. Lawson, 45, started a diet program and has lost nine and a half pounds, but now that she's in the midst of the holiday season, she's concerned about losing the strides that she's made with her dietary changes.

"I have a large family and we get together a lot during the holidays," said Lawson, who lives in Alexandria. "There is always sweet potato pie, macaroni and cheese, and deep fried turkey."

She's not alone. While the holiday season is a favorite time to celebrate with family and friends, for some it is also a time to overindulge in rich, fat-laden foods. However, local chefs say it is possible to recreate time-honored dishes that are often family traditions with less fat and fewer calories — and without sacrificing taste.

"The greatest piece of nutritional advice I might give a class or client would be to increase one's consumption of vegetables and whole grains," said Nichole Ferrigno, a certified holistic health coach and chef at L'Academie de Cuisine in Bethesda. "Within the framework of holiday foods, I'd suggest making the focus of one's holiday table whole grains and vegetables."



Nichole Ferrigno, a certified holistic health coach and chef at L'Academie de Cuisine in Bethesda, suggests making whole grains and vegetables the focus of one's holiday table.

Tweaking recipes for traditional holiday foods to make them heart-healthy and waistline-friendly is easier than one might think, says Ferrigno. "Many festive and traditional foods of the season are healthy at the core, but have been laden with processed sugars and refined carbohydrates to the point where they cease to have much nutritional value," she said. "Traditionally, we enjoy hearty, warming and nurturing

foods this time of the year, which is adaptive behavior, as this is the time of the year when our bodies have greater calorie demands to keep warm."

Lenora Lawson, chef faculty at The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Washington in Arlington, suggests alternative ingredients for dishes such as cranberry sauce and casseroles.

"When making cranberry sauce from scratch, a lot of recipes call for brown sugar," she said. "You can use agave or honey, or if you really want to get creative you can use pineapple juice."

To make eggnog more healthful, Lawson recommends using skim milk instead of whole milk. "If you want to go way outside the box, you can use almond milk or soy milk," she said.

She even has healthy techniques for fat-laden casseroles. "In sweet potato casserole, you can substitute butternut squash for half of the sweet potatoes," she said. "Instead of using sugar, you can use honey or agave. Instead of traditional marshmallows, use oats seasoned with orange zest sprinkled on top."

Lawson says that white rice is a nutrition culprit that can be replaced easily. "Rice is a holiday meal favorite," she said. "Substitute white rice for brown rice and use a pilaf method by sautéing onion in olive oil and adding vegetables like celery, carrots or peas. You can garnish it with dried cranberries to make it more festive."

Warming soups like roasted carrot-ginger,

or mushroom barley are among Ferrigno's recommended holiday menu items. Additionally, she said, "Think sweet potato pancakes instead of traditional potato latkes or arugula salad with roasted butternut squash, dried cranberries, pumpkin seeds, and shaved parmesan."

For those who love roasted meat, Ferrigno said, "I'd recommend going with a light poultry here, like chicken, turkey or Cornish hen. Keep everything fresh and unprocessed. Actually, a bit of fat is essential in any diet: most of our vitamins are fat soluble, plus fat is what creates satiety and satisfaction. Remember that lots of fiber will absorb excess fat and cholesterol in the blood, so eat lots of those veggies and barley." Offering advice on holiday desserts, Ferrigno said, "Think gingerbread laced with lots of rich spices and molasses, [which are] high in iron and other trace minerals, pears poached in wine, fresh oranges and cinnamon sticks, or a flourless dark chocolate cake with a simple fruit sauce and a swirl of lightly sweetened Greek yogurt instead of whipped cream."

Lawson has a secret ingredient for an all-American dessert as well. "When it comes to apple pie, most crust is made with white flour and butter," she said. "You can substitute wheat flour and the only difference is that the crust is a little thicker. You can also substitute apple juice for sugar or cook the apples before making the pie and let them concentrate because apples are naturally sweet anyway."

Combating Holiday Stress

Local experts suggest turning to yoga and meditation to relax.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Marybeth Montoro says her entire body relaxed as she lay stretched out on a yoga mat for savasana, a relaxation pose, at Pure Prana Yoga Studio in Alexandria, while her yoga instructor guided the class through a breathing practice.

"That is where I first learned to meditate," said Montoro. "I was going through a stressful time. The teacher would guide us through it, teaching us how to meditate with our breath. At the end of class we did a clear mind meditation where you watched the thoughts float out of your mind like clouds."

The holiday season brings merriment and festivity, but it can also bring stress and fatigue. A study by the American Psychological Association showed that 61 percent of Americans experience stress frequently during the holidays, while 68 percent experience frequent fatigue. Mental health experts say meditation and restorative yoga can be effective methods for dealing with both.

"Meditation and restorative yoga is a good way to deal with and relieve the symptoms of stress, and I highly recommend it because it has a relaxing effect on the body," said



Yoga instructor Jill Minneman demonstrates supta baddha konasana, a restorative yoga pose.

Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington.

However, she said, "It is important that people look at the root causes of stress. In the long-term you need to look at what's wrong in your life."

Kathy Judd, a yoga instructor at 532Yoga

in Alexandria, agrees that yoga is beneficial. "Because we are pulled in so many different directions during the holidays, we're less likely to be nourishing ourselves, and we're putting toxins in our body," she said. "Restorative yoga and meditation can allow us to come back to what we're feeling and what we're thinking."

Judd said her meditation practice consists of rolling out of bed and sitting for 10 minutes on a pillow or blanket, closing her eyes and watching her breath. "Meditation provides a buffer between something stressful happening and my reaction to it," she said. "A regular meditation practice helps me to witness all of the business like traffic, crowded holiday shopping, people fighting for parking spaces ... like it is a really interesting television show."

Even a five-minute meditation is effective, especially if it is done repetitively in this way, said Sara Vandergoot, co-owner and director of yoga at Mind the Mat Yoga & Pilates in Alexandria and Arlington. "It can become habitual, like taking a shower. You don't feel right unless you've done it. It is a cumulative effect of maintaining clarity and calm. That is why it is important to do it every day."

Vandergoot teaches private one-on-one

meditation sessions and incorporates the practice into her yoga classes. "Studies have shown that [when] the mind quiets, the nervous system calms and that mental clarity is the result of the mind focusing on one thing," she said. "One technique of meditation is the focus on one mantra or affirmation such as 'may I be happy.' Another technique is focusing on the breath coming in and out of your nose or focusing on a single object like a candle flame."

One challenge that those just starting to meditate might face is an inability to control a wandering mind, said Vandergoot. "A tool to help beginners when your mind wanders is focusing on one object or mantra," she suggested.

Vandergoot also focuses on restorative yoga, which "is generally done with props like blankets, blocks and bolsters. It is really calming and rejuvenating for the nervous system. If you're tired in the afternoon and you're thinking 'I'd really like to take a nap,' it is amazing that even 15 minutes of restorative yoga can make you feel rejuvenated and refreshed."

"It's good to use props," she said, so the body is supported and isn't straining. "The body lets go. It's about releasing deep-seated tension in the body."

T.C. Williams Figures To Benefit from Increased Depth

Titans won district title last season with small roster.

By JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The 2012-13 season was a test of endurance for the T.C. Williams girls' basketball team. The Titans started the season with nine players on their roster and entered some games with just six athletes. Along with a lack of depth, T.C. wasn't a particularly tall team. One of its tallest players, 5-foot-11 senior Christian Roberts, was listed as a guard.

While it wasn't easy, the Titans, led by a small core group of athletes, beat three-time defending Patriot District champion West Springfield twice during the regular season and took home T.C. Williams' first district title since 2009.

This season, all but two players return from that district-championship team and the Titans figure to have a full 12-player roster, which should help sustain the team's level of play as T.C. Williams works its way into the postseason.

"That's going to make a lot of difference," head coach Kesha Walton said about the Titans' depth.

"We're able to do more things when we have subs. We don't have to worry about foul trouble as much [and] we're able to get after it more."

T.C. Williams' top two returning offensive players are junior guard Rejoice Spivey (5 feet 9) and senior sharpshooter Angie Schedler (5-9). Walton said she's looking for leadership from the duo.

"You've got to talk more," Spivey said about transitioning into a leadership role, "and lead by example and learn how to talk to different teammates, because different teammates don't always take it good when you're yelling at them."

Schedler said she's looking forward to the impact of the Titans' increased depth.

"I like having players that I can depend on and I can depend on getting a break and



T.C. Williams senior Angie Schedler is one of the Titans' best perimeter shooters.

then going right back in the game," Schedler said. "Last year, I got a lot of charley horses from running so much."

Junior forward Grace Peterson (6-0) will be relied upon for rebounding. Junior guard Megan Laychak (5-4) is a solid defensive player.

Walton said senior guard Tykera Carter (5-5), a transfer from Riverdale Baptist, will also be a key contributor for the Titans.

Carter said she doesn't feel like an outsider with something to prove to her new team — other than her desire to win.

"I feel like I definitely just have to work within the team," she said. "I don't feel like



T.C. Williams junior Rejoice Spivey is one of the Titans' top scoring threats.

I have to prove myself except for to myself and to show my teammates that I'm all about winning and trying to make it to states and win a ring."

Seniors Taylor Burns (6-0) and Angelica Coleman (5-9), junior Nya Palacio (5-3), sophomores Josephine Brocato (5-10), Ajuanae Nelson (5-4) and Claire Vermillion (5-9) and freshman Keyana Roberts (5-11) are also on the team.

T.C. Williams won its season opener against Bishop Ireton, 63-42 on Tuesday. The Titans have a tough stretch of games approaching, starting with a road game against Paul VI at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6.

The Panthers have won the last seven independent school state championships.

On Saturday, T.C. will travel to Wakefield and play in the first game of a girls' and boys' doubleheader, starting at 5:30 p.m. The Titans will travel to face West Springfield on Dec. 13 before hosting Edison, last year's Northern Region champion, on Dec. 14.

Spivey said she expects the Titans to have a target on their backs after winning last season's Patriot District title.

"It's motivation," she said. "We've just got to come out harder than they do and prove ourselves."

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Megan Burton, a senior majoring in interior design, helped design a concept for a multimodal transportation center for Roanoke, Va. She is part of the Virginia Tech School of Architecture and Design.

Hailee Reeder, a freshman studio art major is a member of the 2013-2014 McMurry University Marching Band. Hailee is in the colorguard for the University Band.

Kami Richter received the Freshman Tuition Merit Scholarship for the Fall 2013 semester. Richter's major is

anthropology.

Lily Pickett participated in Butler University's Fall Alternative Break, an annual service trip where Butler students travel to various locations throughout the United States to assist communities in need in various ways. Students traveled to Mullens, W.V., where they worked with the Rural Appalachia Improvement League to build trails and clean up a local park in the community.

Davis & Elkins College student **Carly Sable** assisted in the Division of Fine and Performing Arts production of Thornton Wilder's classic "Our Town." Sable, a senior, served as stage manager. She is the daughter of Carolyn

Sable of Alexandria.

The following Virginia Tech students are members of the Marching Virginians:

Corinne Mayer, a senior from Alexandria, majoring in biological sciences in the College of Science, is a member of the flag corps and holds a leadership position as a rank captain.

Tracy Laux, a junior from Alexandria, double majoring in business information technology in the Pamplin College of Business and Spanish in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, plays the trumpet and holds a leadership position as a rank captain.

Kyle Parker, a junior from Alexandria, majoring in computer science in the College of Engineering, plays the

baritone and holds a leadership position as a rank captain.

Matusala Tewolde, a first-year student from Alexandria, majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech, was selected to be a member of the Marching Virginians as a trumpet musician.

Henry Lawson, of Alexandria, was awarded a scholarship at Denison University. Lawson, a member of the class of 2017, received a Denison Alumni Award. The Denison Alumni Award is based on academic achievement, leadership and personal merit.

Emory & Henry's theatre department is performing the Stephen Sondheim musical, "Into the Woods." **Adelaide Plemmons** from Alexandria served as

Properties Crew and Paint Crew.

Jessica Shott, a chemistry major at James Madison University, earned 2nd place for a presentation titled "The Synthesis and characterization of thienyl phosphine derivatives for polymerizable metal complexes" at the University of Maryland Baltimore County Undergraduate Research Conference. Shott was one of 12 JMU students to earn first or second place awards.

Bridget B. Reilly was awarded a scholarship by Saint Francis University for the foreign exchange study abroad program in Ambialet, France for fall of 2013. Bridget is a graduate of Bishop

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PHOTOS BY SALLY MACKLIN/GAZETTE PACKET

Photography Show

John Bordner speaks with Lisa Soltis and Donna Anaya about his photography: "In my imagery I try to distill a complex scene down to its core essence."

Gayle Petro and Jim Kirkman attend the DRA Del Ray Dozen Invitational Photography Show at the Nicholas A. Colassanto Center, Nov. 16.



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Special thanks to Alexandria Gazette Packet

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 31

Ireton High School and daughter of Pete and Crissy Reilly, of Alexandria.

Alexandria City Public Schools Health Services Coordinator **Robin Wallin** was named Virginia's school nurse administrator of the year by the Virginia Association of School Nurses Inc.

Wallin, a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Nationally Certified School Nurse, has served as ACPS health services coordinator since 2005. She joined ACPS in 1997 as a school nurse at Francis C. Hammond Middle School, and became school nurse at George Mason Elementary School in 1999. She earned a Master of Science in nursing from the Yale University School of Nursing Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program and a Bachelor of Arts in international affairs from The George Washington University School of Public and International Affairs. She is a candidate for a doctorate in nursing practice from the Yale University School of Nursing.

Under Wallin's leadership, the Alexandria Teen Clinic relocated to T.C. Williams High School, where it now serves more than 3,000 high-school students.

Wallin recently developed partnerships with several dental clinics, which now provide clinical services to hundreds of ACPS elementary students. Wallin also served as staff liaison on Alexandria's School Health Advisory Board, through which she helped develop a state-of-the-art technical tool to teach families how to access medical insurance and medical care.

Wallin also is the recipient of the 2013 Vola Lawson Award from the Alexandria Office on Women's Salute to Women program, the 2009 Flora Krause Casey Public Health Award from the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission, the 2002, Whole Village Award from the Educational Association of Alexandria and the 2002 World Asthma Day Recognition Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Wallin received her honor during Virginia Association of School Nurses' 29th Annual Conference Celebration luncheon on Nov. 9 in Williamsburg. She now is in the running for the national school nurse administrator of the year award.

Freshman guard **Kelly Loftus** and sophomore forward **Ruth Sherrill**, both of Alexandria, are members of the 2013-14 Hofstra Women's basketball program.

For seven weeks this fall, a group of student athletes from area schools spent their afternoons at the **Dee Campbell Boathouse** in Old Town, learning how



Rowers race down the Potomac during the final day of 2013 Fall Crew, Saturday, Oct. 26.

to row on the Potomac River and getting into shape as part of the Alexandria Fall Crew program for 2013. The program, which ran from Sept. 9-Oct. 26, was held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 4-6:30 p.m.

Designed for novice rowers who wanted to learn more about the sport and intermediate rowers who wanted to build on the skills they have developed in the past, Fall Crew was open to students in the 7-12 grades from public and private schools in Alexandria and the Washington area.

The program featured on-the-water instruction that taught the basics of rowing, and on-land conditioning drills

similar to the workouts that are regular and important part of crew.

More than 150 athletes participated in this year's program, double the number who took part in the program in 2012.

In response to this record turnout, the program's organizers not only hired more coaches, but also brought in an extra launch and extended the program by two weeks.

On-the-water coaches for this year's Fall Crew program included Megan Lister, Leslie Shinnars, Alan Weatherly, Chris Ottie, Sian Jones, Jay Shea, Scott

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 34

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2013 Annual Meeting

Presented By COMCAST

Please join us at our 2013 Annual Meeting & State of Business Breakfast as we review highlights of 2013 and welcome the 2014 Board of Directors.

December 12, 2013

7:30AM -9:30AM

Hilton Alexandria Old Town • 1767 King St • Alexandria, VA 22314

\$55 members • \$65 non members

To register go to www.alexchamber.com



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NEIGHBORHOOD

Seminary Valley

In the wake of Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday, our local West End business news comes to mind. As of the last Census, Zip Code 22304 had over 800 businesses; the vast majority employed fewer than 20 persons. Health care and social services, retail establishments, restaurants and professional, scientific and research establishments constituted the majority of businesses.

Never mind the big changes that may or may not be coming to Landmark Mall: driving around town as I often do, it is easy to spot big changes afoot. For example, the Hawthorn Suites Hotel on Van Dorn is undergoing extensive renovations. At first I thought that the highway construction was claiming the building, but a quick note to City Council member Justin Wilson garnered the following explanation:

"The original use in this building, in the early 1960s, was apartments. It was converted to the Hawthorne Suites extended stay hotel sometime in the 1970s. The owners are now converting the hotel back to apartments, and the conversion of the use is by-right. They currently have a building permit for some interior work to their lobby and minor exterior upgrades, which is likely what you've observed on the site."

In related news, another nearby extended-stay hotel is converting back to apartments, The Washington Suites Hotel off Duke Street. The West End Business Association (WEBA) has a great write up on the hotel's now-departing manager, Mike Barber. Mike served as president and treasurer of the WEBA and notes that while Old Town and DelRay have a plethora of willing small businesses that support their business associations, West End businesses are not always aware of the WEBA's impact.

To find out more about WEBA, go to www.alexandriaweba.com. A quick perusal of its member directory will reveal businesses that we patronize every day, and quite a few of which you may not have heard. Or better yet, go to the group's next happy hour, set for Dec. 5 at 5:30 p.m. at Clyde's Restaurant on Beauregard Street. The WEBA's next membership meeting will be held on Dec. 13 at Tempo Restaurant on Duke Street at 7:45 a.m.

Are there now-defunct businesses that you remember in the West End with fondness? For me, The Four Seasons Restaurant comes to mind. Drop me a line and let me know; I will write up your reminiscences in a future column.

— MIA JONES

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 33

Mulrooney, Jane Turner and Jim Owen. Land coaches included Sunny Stewart, Susan Belle, Janice Pritchett, George Bergmann, Joe Marm, and Liz Clark, while trainers included Terrill Jeffries

and Nicole Holy. Fall Crew Director Patrick Marquardt and Head Coach Cathy Hott coordinated the efforts of all the coaches and trainers.

With Fall Crew over, athletes will now begin a program of winter conditioning to make sure they are in shape for the

start of the 2014 rowing season next Spring.

Winter Conditioning, which is open to Alexandria City Public School students in the 8th-12th grade, begins Dec. 2 and will be held Monday-Thursday from 4-6 p.m. at the Boathouse.

Be a Part of CHILDREN'S GAZETTE PACKET

During the last week of each year, the Alexandria Gazette Packet devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students. The results are always remarkable, and the editions have won many awards. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through e-mail or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be provided in .jpg format. Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide the submissions by Friday, Dec. 6 for publication the week of Dec. 26.

E-mail submissions to:

smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Gazette, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet



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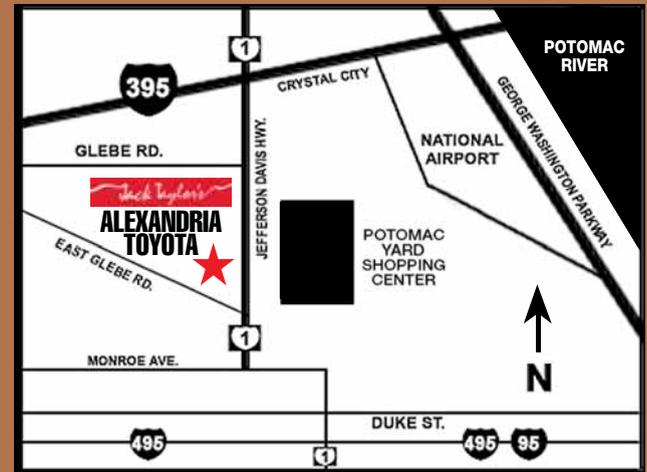
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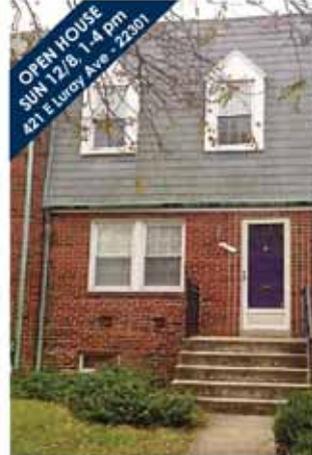
Seminary Ridge Stunner

This amazingly well-maintained home is a sight to be seen. It offers four bedrooms and two and one half baths. The kitchen is completely updated with granite counters and stainless steel appliances. The picturesque windows look out on tall trees and a quiet yard. Location close to interstate access, area schools, and much more!

Sue Goodhart
703.362.3221
www.thegoodhartgroup.com
MLS ID# AX8174653



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703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



ALEXANDRIA \$1,250,000



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Kate Patterson
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www.katepattersonhomes.com
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Donna Cramer
703.627.9578
www.DonnaCramer.com
MLS ID# FX8080361



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$999,900



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