



PHOTOS BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

### And So It Begins

The City of Alexandria Tree Lighting Ceremony at Market Square kicked off the holiday season on Friday, Nov. 27. Entertainment included a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and performances by Encore Stage & Studio Children's Theatre and the Alexandria Singers.



Heidi and Jason Abdell



The McMillans



Emily Lawton of the Salvation Army



Mayor William D. Euille speaks to the crowd while Town Crier Benjamin Fiore-Walker and members of City Council Redella S. "Del" Pepper, John T. Chapman, and Justin Wilson, with his son Eli, look on.



Pepper, Rob, and Claire Williams — Claire will celebrate her first birthday on Christmas Eve.

## Hedging Bets

### MGM addresses new casino's impact on Alexandria.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**cross the Potomac, the MGM Casino is beginning to take shape. By the end of next year, Alexandria will be a short drive across the Potomac from a casino larger than any in Las Vegas. Representatives from MGM spoke at the Campagna Center on Dec. 1 to address the positive and negative impacts the casino will have on Alexandria.

According to Logan Gaskill, MGM's vice president of human resources, construction is beginning on the 10th floor of the project, and crews are attempting to seal parts of the building to be able to continue to work throughout the winter. If all goes accord-

ing to schedule, Gaskill said the casino will be set to open in the fourth quarter of 2016.

"This is not just a casino," said Gaskill. "It's a resort."

Danielle White, regional vice president of community engagement for MGM, tried to reinforce the idea of the project as more than a casino.

Gaskill and White emphasized the high-end retail options at the casino, naming Gucci and Louis Vitton as two brands MGM was looking to include. Other features at the site include a 3,000-seat theater, with rows that can fall to transform the room into an arena or boxing ring.

"Only 30 percent of the revenue comes from gaming," said White,

SEE MGM. PAGE 26

## Too Small To Fail

### "Onerous regulations" cripple Food Trucks Pilot.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**fter two years, and with only a week before City Council is set to make a decision, it's difficult to say the results of the Food Truck Pilot Program are decisive.

The idea was to allow food trucks on Alexandria streets in a limited capacity to test whether or not a policy allowing food trucks would be beneficial or not. The staff's proposal, presented to the City Council at its Nov. 24 meeting in preparation for a public hearing on Dec. 12, would remove

the "sunset" from the pilot program and essentially accept it as policy unless later overturned. But with only eight food trucks taking up the city on its restrictive offer, many members of council were not satisfied that the pilot had answered the initial question.

According to Joanna Anderson, only eight food trucks participated in the program, which she admitted was less than expected.

"There was not a lot of participation," said Anderson, "and most of that was at the Hilton Center and the Port City Brewery, who had been pushing for the pro

SEE 'ONEROUS'. PAGE 26

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# Turkey Trot Turns 40 Arga, Sullivan set course records.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**C**ourse records were set in both the male and female divisions as more than 5,700 runners took to the streets of Del Ray in the 40<sup>th</sup> running of the Alexandria Turkey Trot.

“We had a record number of runners register this year,” said Pat Miller of the Del Ray Business Association. “It was a great way to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.”

Under sunny skies, 21-year-old Habtamu Arga set a course record for men of 23 minutes and 31 seconds in the 5-mile race while Susanna Sullivan, 25, defended her 2014 title with a new women’s record time of 27:11.

The race serves a benefit for the ALIVE! food bank, which received canned goods and monetary donations totaling \$5,000.

“It was such an amazing morning,” Miller said. “The weather was beautiful — so crisp and clear and everyone was in great spirits.”

Numerous cash prizes were awarded by DRBA, which founded the race 40 years ago when the organization was still known as the Potomac West Trade Association. Among those awards was oldest T-shirt contest winner Mallory Lawhorne, who showed up with a shirt from the 1988 race that was a gift from her father, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne.

DRBA board member Gayle Reuter presented Lawhorne with \$100 cash, which

Lawhorne said would be donated to the Animal Welfare League’s Adopt it Forward program.

Other prizes were donated by Pork Barrel Barbecue, Sweet Fire Donna’s, Royce Flowers and Bistro Du Soleil.

Among the top finishers was crowd favorite and masters runner Michael Wardian, 41, who along with his dog Rosie defended his title in the Doggie division with a time of 28:09, good enough for 17<sup>th</sup> place overall.

City Council was represented by past and present members Justin Wilson (33:30), Rob Krupicka (33:45), and Frank Fannon (49:33). ACT executive director John Porter finished in 1:10:22 while his son and Commonwealth’s Attorney Bryan Porter clocked in at 35:50. Marathon-a-month runner Brooke Curran came in at 42:43 while Matias Palavecino, 34, won the stroller division with a time of 28:29.

For complete race results, visit [www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com](http://www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com).

**ALIVE! Executive Director Diane Charles, left, receives a check from Pat Miller on behalf of the Del Ray Business Association. ALIVE! received canned goods and monetary donations totaling \$5,000 as part of the 40th anniversary of the annual race.**

PHOTOS  
CONTRIBUTED



**A record setting 5,700 runners lined up for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alexandria Turkey Trot in Del Ray. Two course records were set in the annual Thanksgiving Day race that also serves as a benefit for the ALIVE! nonprofit food bank.**



**Mallory Lawhorne, left, holds up a Turkey Trot T-shirt from 1988. DRBA board member Gayle Reuter, at right with a shirt from 1995, presented Lawhorne with \$100 for winning the oldest T-shirt contest.**

# Bows, Baskets and Bikes Visit Alexandria builds business with bikes.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET



**Volunteers gather for a group photo at the fourth annual Visit Alexandria Bows, Baskets and Bikes charity event Nov. 19 at Christ Church.**

**V**isit Alexandria joined forces with Volunteer Alexandria in the fourth annual Bows, Baskets and Bikes charity event to build bikes for families in need as part of its Alexandria Cares teambuilding program for community service projects.

Held Nov. 19 at Christ Church, the event brought together local meeting planners, hoteliers and businesses to build bikes while showcasing corporate community service projects.

“Increasingly, meeting planners are looking for authentic experiences in how they can connect their attendees with the local community,” said Megan Hosford, Visit Alexandria’s team lead for Bows, Baskets and Bikes. “Volunteer Alexandria can provide that and fulfill the need for a corporate service responsibility component that many organizations plan for during meetings.”

Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg  
SEE VISIT, PAGE 16



**With Volunteer Alexandria Executive Director Marion Brunken looking on at right, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg tightens the handlebars on a bike as part of the Visit Alexandria Bows, Baskets and Bikes charity event Nov. 19.**

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

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Sergeant Craig Davie delivers cans of vegetables as part of Project Thanksgiving's meal delivery to Hopkins House.

## Sheriff's Office Delivers Thanksgiving Meals

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office once again assisted in Project Thanksgiving, a regional effort to provide deserving families with complete Thanksgiving dinners. On Tuesday, Nov. 24, Sergeant Craig Davie picked up 16 Thanksgiving dinners — complete with turkeys,

potatoes, veggies and dessert — from Lockheed Martin in Manassas and then delivered them to Hopkins House, a local organization that shares them with Alexandria area families in need. Lockheed Martin funds the dinners and employees arrange for food purchases and meal coordination.

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# Resiliency Required in Child Abuse Cases

Luncheon honors those working with victims.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he Center for Alexandria's Children organized an appreciation luncheon last month to honor the work of its Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), which is comprised of 55 representatives of both Alexandria city agencies and certain state agencies. Together, they investigate, prosecute and treat child abuse cases that come through the Center for Alexandria's Children.

The center, a non-profit organization that opened in 2007, is the first place in Alexandria for victims of child abuse to go when they need help. It was designed to co-locate all the necessary professionals and authorities when needed. From forensic investigators to doctors to criminal prosecutors, the team has members to execute each step of the process. This group, officially called the Multi-Disciplinary Team, continues to keep this service child-focused. The center has since grown to include child abuse prevention services.

According to Giselle Pelaez, executive director of the Center for Alexandria's Children, a priority of the organization is the investment in the personal and professional resiliency of each team member. To retain effective people who stay motivated to work these challenging cases, the organization makes sure to demonstrate its appreciation, and encourage self-wellness, for the entire Multi-Disciplinary Team. In this spirit, official theme of the Nov. 10 luncheon was "Resiliency."

"We know through both our experience and research that a crucial component to ensuring these professionals' continued



Center for Alexandria's Children's Multi-Disciplinary Team.

dedication is keeping them healthy, which means investing in their resiliency," Pelaez said. "This luncheon is just one way in which the center does that. It's an appreciation lunch for the MDT, so we try to give them a really nice meal and a really nice setting, something they don't often have time to do."

She added that at each seat was a "resiliency gift bag" that was stuffed with gifts to promote good health and self-care —

stress balls, exercise bands and chocolate and gift cards, all donated by the Alexandria Police Association and the center's board of directors.

The center organizes and directs the MDT, which includes members of the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services (specifically, Child Protective Services, the Sexual Assault Center, and the Community Services Board), the Alexandria Police Department, and the City Attorney's Office.

The state agencies that provide active MDT members are the Alexandria Health Department and the Commonwealth Attorney's Office.

"The center coordinates the MDT, hosting weekly supervisor case reviews and monthly full team case reviews, as well as specialized training and support services, such as expert forensic interviews, for members," Pelaez said. "We also serve as the one safe place where child abuse victims receive their collaborative services, in order to minimize their trauma and maximize resources."

This year's luncheon was such a success that there will be a third annual celebration in honor of these dedicated team members. "It went really well," Pelaez said.



Mayor Bill Euille and Giselle Pelaez, executive director of the Center for Alexandria's Children.

"Sixty-five people were in attendance, with 45 of them being actual team members. We had nurses from INOVA who conduct the sexual assault examinations, detectives with the Special Victims Unit of the Alexandria Police Department, prosecutors and victim advocates from the Commonwealth Attorney's office alongside Child Protective Services' social workers and investigators. Our board members and city agency heads also attended."

Local guests included Mayor William D. Euille, Commonwealth Attorney Bryan Porter and former Mayor Kerry Donley.

"We decided to have speakers who were from the MDT as opposed to people who were 'VIPs,'" Susan Britton, program director for the Child Advocacy Center, said. "Our theme was 'Resiliency' because this work is very difficult, and the center's responsibility is to support their personal and professional resiliency."

The first speaker, Deputy Commonwealth Attorney Cathryn Evans, read a poem she had written about resiliency. She defined resiliency in terms of what each team member brings to the table during the approach of these tragedies.

Evans' speech concluded with: "While all the work that this great city does is valuable and immeasurable ... What you — you in this room — what you do is of the most consequential kind. Your work does more than save lives; your work saves souls. And that, in part, is because you are defined by Resiliency."

"People had tears in their eyes," Britton said. "It was very emotional and very touch-

ing. Just by the attendance alone, you can tell the people really enjoyed the speeches, and the entire event."

**"Your work does more than save lives; your work saves souls."**

— Cathryn Evans,  
Deputy Commonwealth Attorney

Pelaez said that official team appreciation will continue, as the MDT is comprised of true local heroes.

"These professionals are doing the work, dedicated at a level that is unmatched," she said. "These are the social workers and detectives who work day and night on some of the most horrible cases that happen in our city. We thank them as colleagues and friends."



Center for Alexandria's Children's appreciation luncheon honored members of its Multi-Disciplinary Team.

# CRIME

## Police Investigate Rape, Abduction

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a rape and abduction that occurred in the 2700 block of Eisenhower Avenue on Nov. 16.

At approximately 12:30 a.m., a 23-year-old woman let a man she met through the Internet into her hotel room. The suspect brandished a firearm and raped the victim. She was then forced to leave Alexandria with the suspect. Detectives are investigating the possibility that the victim was also assaulted in another jurisdiction.

The suspect is described as a black male, 6'0" to 6'1", 180 to 220 lbs.

Anyone with information about this incident or the suspect is asked to contact Detective Amy Santiago with the Alexandria Police Department at 703-746-6289.

## Suspects Arrested For Bank Robbery

The Alexandria Police Department has made two arrests in a robbery that occurred at the PNC Bank in the 800 block of N. Washington Street on Dec. 1.

Around 9:58 a.m. on Tuesday, two suspects entered the bank and each brandished a handgun. The suspects demanded money before leaving the bank. No one was injured. The suspects were subsequently

apprehended by police officers in the 2400 block of Mainline Boulevard. Two city residents were charged with robbery and use of a firearm in commission of a felony.

Due to the bank robbery, George Washington Middle School, Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology, Maury Elementary, Charles Barrett Elementary School, Mount Vernon Community School were briefly in a lock-in where all doors were locked but classes continued as normal. No entry or exit in or out of the school was allowed.

Anyone with information about the bank robbery is asked to call Detective Loren King at 703-746-6689.

In other incidents, the police reported the following:

### DEC. 1

❖ A suspect is in custody after he snatched a purse from a woman in the 700 block of N. West Street. The victim was not injured during the robbery.

### NOV. 30

❖ A robbery of a business in the 300 block of N. Ripley Street. One suspect displayed a handgun and stole cash. There were no injuries.

### NOV. 27

❖ A person inadvertently shot himself in the side of his body at King and Pitt Street. It is not life threatening and no one else injured.

### NOV. 26

❖ A robbery in the 100 block of N. Ripley Street. Two suspects brandished a firearm and stole cash from the victim. There were no injuries.

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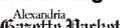
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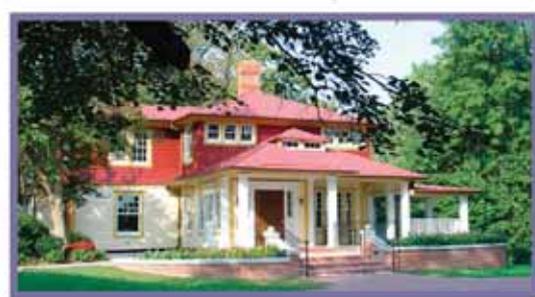


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## LIVING LEGENDS

# Capturing the City through Its People and Places

## Nina Tisara's commitment to art.

BY PAM ST. CLAIR

**A**lthough she and Living Legends of Alexandria are sometimes seen as one and the same, artist-photographer Nina Tisara had a life before she founded Living Legends and is living the life she planned after her retirement from its management.

Living Legends of Alexandria (LLA) is an ongoing, not-for-profit photodocumentary project that tells the stories of the people who are shaping the physical and cultural face of the city. Though there are many recognition programs no other program has chronicling the current history of Alexandria as its mission.

The idea for Living Legends came when within a two-week time in the fall of 2006, the city and the Gazette Packet came to the Tisara Photography studio asking for photos of people who had died to include with stories they were writing. When the photos weren't there, Tisara thought why not photograph people while they're still alive. From there it was a natural step to capture their stories at the same time and create an ongoing historical record. Incorporated in July 2007, LLA is beginning its ninth year. The Legends are selected annually by the LLA board of directors from nominations received from the public.

Tisara majored in sculpture at the High School of Music and Art in New York City. She had just turned 18 when she moved to Washington, D.C. from Brooklyn, N.Y. on Christmas Eve, 1956. She soon married and had four children, Julie, David, Steven and Lynn.

Early in her working career, Tisara worked for an Air Force photo unit. One of the airmen volunteered to teach a class to those responsible for selecting photos for the permanent archives. That, mused Tisara, created the "latent image" that developed many years later when she took a photography class at Northern Virginia Community College to reward herself for passing economics. A fellow student told her about a possible job opening at the Port Packet (now the Alexandria Gazette Packet) and that was the start of a 30-year-plus career



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON

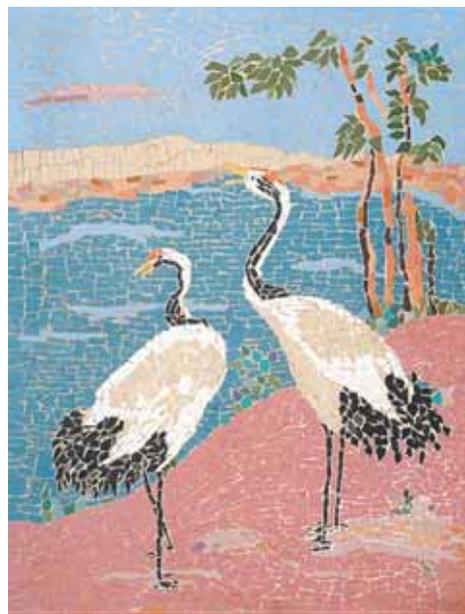
**Several years ago Nina Tisara began creating intricate mosaics of porcelain tile and bits of stained glass. "I'll be looking for exhibition sites," she said.**

as a photographer.

Later, Tisara worked for a national association of state agencies on Capitol Hill while freelancing for the Port Packet on the weekends. She incorporated Tisara Photography in 1985 and in 1990 she quit her full-time job and opened her photography studio in the newly developing King Street Metro area. Two of her children, Lynn Mills and Steven Halperson, joined her as partners in the business endeavor. Halperson now runs the studio specializing in portraits and special events.

While still operating from the basement of her Fairlington home, Tisara taught photography to senior citizens at the Durant Center and to children at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center. She collaborated with a photography teacher at the Capitol Children's Museum, then located near Union Station in Washington, D.C. At the end of the class, the children's work was displayed at the museum in an exhibition curated by Jim Coldsmith, then the editor of the Alexandria Port Packet. Tisara was gratified to learn many years later that one of her students had become a professional photographer.

At the time she started Tisara Photography, Tisara was accepted in the Torpedo



**"Two Cranes" by Nina Tisara.**

Factory Art Center and was a founding member of the Factory's first photo gallery, Factory Photoworks (now Multiple Exposures Gallery). She gave up her gallery membership when she was awarded a grant from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts to document worship in Alexandria and could no longer maintain the required number of gallery hours. For the project she called "Converging Paths" Tisara photographed over 50 churches and synagogues in the City of Alexandria — all in black and white and all in available light. The work was exhibited at the Lyceum, the city's history museum, from December 1985 through April 1986 and later in other locations including the Campagna Center and Marymount College in Scranton, Pa. Some 15 years later, Tisara focused her lens on the City's African American churches and produced "United in the Spirit" which was exhibited at Alexandria's Black History Museum.

The national recession at the time Tisara opened her King Street studio motivated her to become active in the business community. She joined the newly formed group, KSMET (the King Street Metro Enterprise Team), and became its second president. Tisara served for six years on the board of directors of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and received its Outstanding Board Member Award in 1995 and its Friend of Small Business Award in 1996. She was a member of the King Street Metro Task Force, a group of citizens and city staff concerned with the development of the area, and an establishing member of the King Street Gardens Park Foundation. The park is an award-winning public art project in the area.

Tisara's recognitions include: Women to Woman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cultural Affairs and the Arts, Alexandria Commission on the Status of Women, 1989; the Alex Award for contributions to the Arts, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, 1991; the Alex Award for work as an artist, Alexandria Arts Forum, 1991; Outstanding Service Award, KSMET, 2004; Service to the

## Living Legends: The 2015 Project

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle the people making current history in Alexandria. The project was conceived in 2006 to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.

This is the last of a series of profiles that appeared this year. Watch for stories and photographs of the 2016 Legends coming next year. For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit [www.AlexandriaLegends.org](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.org) or contact [Info@AlexandriaLegends.com](mailto:Info@AlexandriaLegends.com).

Community Award, Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs, 2006; Alex Award for Service to the Arts and Living Legends of Alexandria, Alexandria Commission for the Arts, 2008; Marian Van Landingham Lifetime Service Award, Volunteer Alexandria, 2011; and Donna Bergheim Cultural Affairs Award, Alexandria Commission for Women, 2013.

Since 2007 LLA has chronicled the stories of more than 200 extraordinary Alexandrians and when in 2014 Alexandria lost three legends, LLA was there to tell their stories, just as it was created to do. Legends lost that year were civil rights leader Ferdinand Day (age 96), former councilman Nelson Greene, Sr. (age 100), and Gladys Seisler. Tisara was especially pleased that Day and Greene had recently attended LLA's 2nd annual Theatre Night at MetroStage in September. Held in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, the occasion honored those Legends who played key roles in fostering civil rights in Alexandria in the '60s. In addition to Day and Greene, also honored were Melvin Miller, Connie Ring, Patsy Ticer, Gwen Menefee-Smith, Dorothy Turner and the memories of civil rights activists Vola Lawson and Mel Bergheim who were named Living Legends in 2007 and 2008 respectively.

"Having this group of iconic leaders gathered at one time in one place was a dream come true for me," said Tisara remembering the event with a smile.

In a move that is near and dear to Tisara's heart, LLA plans to focus more in the future on "Family Legends." The free programs have been offered at local recreation centers, the Alexandria Black History Museum and Carpenter's shelter for the homeless. The program expanded last year with a new collaborative effort with Alexandria City Schools (ACPS) and the PTA on their Reflections program. Reflections is a national arts recognition and achievement program for students. This past summer a Family Legends component was included in the ACPS Summer Enrichment Program.

Asked what she plans to do next, Tisara reports: "I want to continue working with children and adults to encourage their appreciation for photo-documentation — and several years ago I started creating intricate mosaics of porcelain tile and bits of stained glass. I'll be looking for exhibition sites."

**Nina Tisara helps students with photos for their author pages during a Family Legends class.**



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN BAKER

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MLS # AX9513273



**Open House Sunday 2-4pm Wellington Manor**  
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**Open House Sunday 2-4pm Wellington Estates**  
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# OPINION

## Laying the Foundation for the Future

BY ALVIN L. CRAWLEY  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Autumn is traditionally a time for reflection. As the leaves drift to the ground, we look back at what we have achieved over the course of the year. While in Alexandria City Public Schools we have made commendable academic strides, and our students continue to excel in and outside the classroom, there is still much work to do in our march towards becoming a high performing school division. Thus, autumn is a time for looking forward and planning our direction for the coming years as evidenced by our new five-year strategic plan, 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) FY2017-2026, and 2015 Redistricting efforts.

This month, we launched the ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan, which will serve as a roadmap that guides us to becoming a high-performing school division characterized by excellence, perseverance and relationships. The plan has six distinct but interrelated goals that focus on: academic excellence and educational equity; family and community engagement; hiring and retaining exemplary staff; optimal facilities and learning environments; staff and student health and wellness; and effective and efficient operations. Together, these goals form the cornerstone of our mission statement: Every Student Succeeds. These three simple, but powerful words, reflect our commitment that every child, regardless of their background or where they come from, has access to a fine education in optimal learning environments and equal access to program opportunities.

With an approved plan comes the work of making it a living document by ensuring that everyone in our ACPS community, from staff to families to the wider Alexandria community, understands how they can play their part to see every student succeed.

The late Nelson Mandela said, "Action without vision is only passing time. Vision without action is merely day dreaming. But vision with action can change the world."

For school staff our strategic plan means delivering a rich, relevant and rigorous instructional program daily that reflects individual student's needs, strengths, talents and goals. It also means developing trusting relationships with students and their parents. These relationships are critical in and outside of the school house. We invite our community members to join in this effort through mentoring, volunteering in classes, tutoring, and providing internships that connect students to real world work experiences.

This autumn the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget focuses on the modernization of schools, by creating additional student capacity to accommodate growing enrollment and by planning school facilities appropriate for the future. Alongside building a new Patrick Henry School, which was approved in a previous CIP, the updated CIP proposes retrofitting leased space to create a new elementary school location in the West End in time for the start of the 2017-18 school year. Space will also be

found to expand comprehensive pre-K services in Alexandria in collaboration with various partners, with the goal of promoting learning opportunities for young children. The CIP also includes planning work for modernizing the T.C. Williams' Minnie Howard campus in 2017, and designing a new building for Douglas MacArthur Elementary School beginning in 2019. Throughout our planning, our focus is all about looking forward.

Finally, autumn is also the time when we formally began the redistricting process, one of several approaches needed to address our projected annual 3.6 percent growth in enrollment over the next five years. The recent action taken by the Alexandria City School Board to extend the redistricting decision timeline will allow for better alignment with the FY 2017-2026 CIP, and extend community engagement opportunities. This decision essentially moved the timeline for implementing division-level redistricting to the 2017-18 school year.

Autumn is about being thankful and acknowledging the good things that we have as a community. In Alexandria, we have a School Board that is supportive and excited by our future, with new School Board members joining our team very soon. We have a staff that is highly invested in bringing our ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan to life across all six goals, a stronger facilities modernization plan, and the engagement and support of our community. Most importantly, I am thankful to have the opportunity, as your superintendent, to interact with so many awesome students in our school division each day.

Together, we have exciting times ahead of us.

### ACPS 2020 STATE-OF-THE-SCHOOLS

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Need Ethics Commission

To the Editor:

I would like to comment on Jus-

tin Wilson's recent remarks about newly elected Mayor Silberberg's

proposal to establish an ethics commission to improve the city government's transparency.

Mr. Wilson has been quoted as

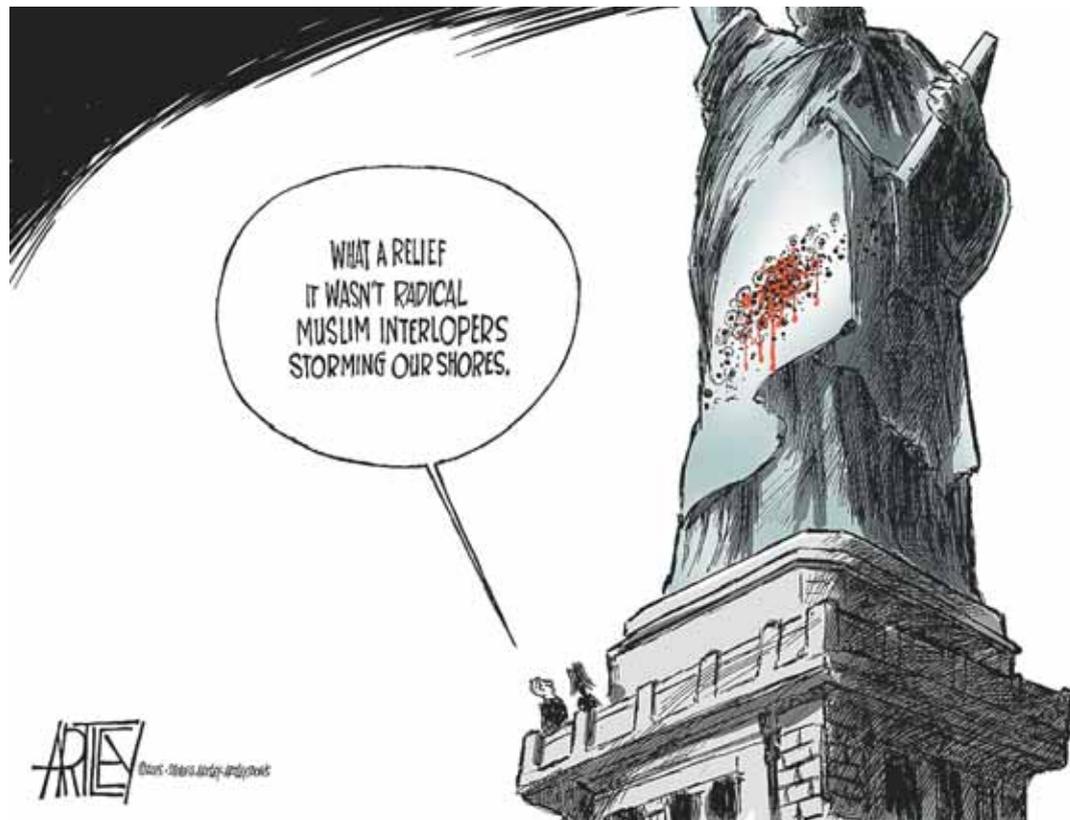
saying: "I would certainly like to review a proposal if and when it is made, and then figure out where we go next, but this outgoing Council (as well as previous Councils), has done a lot to create what is probably the most transparent, accessible and above-board government around."

This flies in the face of recent questionable events, which are as follows:

- Members of the current City Council, allegedly in executive session, allowed the deputy city manager to approve the BRAC 133 structure next to the Mark Center, much to the dismay of the Seminary Hills residents, who must fight massive traffic jams on a daily basis.

- The outgoing mayor indicated that he would vote on the development of the North Robinson Terminal, despite the fact that he had received contributions from the developer.

- The previous vice mayor voted to give half of Wales Alley to Virtue Feed and Grain, despite



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

Alexandria  
**Gazette Packet**

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PHOTO BY JENNIFER POWELL

## An Intimate Concert

Paul Reisler brought his storytelling, songwriting and musical talents to the Atheneum on Nov. 19. With more than 3,500 recorded songs to his credit, Reisler together with vocalist Lea Morris and Marshall Keys on saxophone, performed 15 original works that ran the gamut from ballads to the instrumental Marsyangdi inspired by his journey through Nepal, an antiwar protest, homelessness, and a few songs from his national award-winning Kid Pan Alley Children's Songwriting project.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

the fact that the Old Dominion Boat Club owned the easement on that property. It just so happened that his bank had bankrolled the loans to initially set up the restaurant. His reply to all this when confronted was that he was not the loan officer.

❖ And lastly, who can forget the "10 percent rule," which allows members of City Council to hide their ownership of personal interests, if under that 10 percent.

There are many more examples of the current "above board" climate in Alexandria, but they are too numerous to relate here. Ms. Silberberg's initiative will go a long to re-establish our trust in local government. In short, there has never been a better time to change the climate from questionable to ethical.

**Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet**  
Alexandria

## City's Students In Good Hands

To the Editor:

My heartfelt thanks to all who participated in the Nov. 3 ACPS school board elections. The city's children are our future and voters have chosen wisely.

I congratulate the District C winners, welcome newcomer Raimee Gentry, and recognize Superintendent Alvin Crawley for his leadership.

I leave the School Board satisfied that I have done my best. As I recently told my campaign volunteers; my mother always said, life works out just as it should. Soon after the election I was promoted to the position of corporate vice president for finance and operations.

Voters knew what I did not. With the increased time and travel required I could not have had it all.

My best wishes for future success.

**Patricia Hennig**  
Alexandria

## Gluten-Free Awareness

To the Editor:

After living away from Alexandria for three years, I recently returned and rented a home in Old Town while my nearby home was renovated. I ate out at many Old Town restaurants and was disappointed at the lack of knowledge and offerings for diners who are gluten free. I have traveled all over the world and even in some of the most remote places, I have found an understanding of what foods are gluten free.

However, Alexandria restaurants seem to be challenged by this concept and it makes people who have to eat gluten free feel unwelcome. There are a couple of exceptions. La Tasca and Los Cuates, both on King Street, have done an excellent job in training their staff about what is gluten free and offer many options. But, many of the restaurants I visited in Old Town did a terrible job of offering options. Most of the time the best they could do was offer an uncreative salmon and salad.

That gets old for diners who are gluten free. Alexandria is a major tourist destination and should feel welcoming to all who visit. As a resident of Alexandria, I no longer feel welcome in Alexandria restaurants. I have to explain too much about gluten free to poorly-trained staff and I'm bored with most of the dining options offered at local restaurants for people who are gluten free. I hope restaurant owners will revisit training their staffs on a regular basis about dietary restrictions facing people entering their businesses.

**Ines Alicea**  
Alexandria

# Fairfax Water

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER RATE AND PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2015, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges and its proposed 2016 Budget. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes to the Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges, to be effective April 1, 2016, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,950 to \$4,100†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,750 to \$10,240.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,090 to \$1,150†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$36 to \$37.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$9.80 to \$10.10†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.55 to \$2.68 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.55 to \$3.80 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$50 to \$52.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
10. A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 110% to 104%.
11. A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Materials from 25% to 16%.
12. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$45 to \$46.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is proposing a \$170.4 million budget for calendar year 2016\*. Revenues are expected to be \$170.4 million in 2016. Water sales are expected to provide \$147.3 million. Approximately \$23.1 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2015	2016
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 53,891	\$ 55,581
Power and Utilities	10,677	10,750
Chemicals	6,335	7,857
Purchased Water	6,717	6,090
Supplies and Materials	4,985	5,113
Insurance	1,017	1,050
Fuel	781	880
Postage	637	664
Contractual Services	9,930	10,422
Professional Services	1,146	1,046
Other	2,363	2,447
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>98,479</b>	<b>101,900</b>
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,669)	(9,616)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 88,810</b>	<b>\$ 92,284</b>

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$41,417,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$24,131,000

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

A copy of the proposed changes to the rates and the 2016 budget can be viewed on our Web site at [http://fairfaxwater.org/current/public\\_hearing\\_2015\\_12\\_17.htm](http://fairfaxwater.org/current/public_hearing_2015_12_17.htm). Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Mr. Ken Lasso at 703-289-6194. Interested parties also may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water  
Public Hearing Comments  
8570 Executive Park Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on **Wednesday, December 16, 2015** to be included in the record of the public hearing.

# Raising Children Who Are Resilient and Readers

**Vision: Every child in Alexandria can read and succeed.**

BY GWEN C. MULLEN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ALEXANDRIA  
TUTORING CONSORTIUM (ATC).



**R**esilience allows children to develop in spite of adversity, which every child faces in some form. Developmental research underscores the importance of early childhood in building resilience. Schools, family, and community obviously all play a role. At ATC we have learned that providing books for the ACPS kindergartners and first graders we tutor about resilience in children's everyday lives can be valuable — stories about everything from making friends and asking for help to overcoming obstacles, fears and disabilities to reach ends that are serious to children.

Last year I asked ATC's coordinators, who write the lesson plans and select the books for ATC's trained volunteers to use with the

child they tutor, what gift book they would recommend we give the students. They chose "Pete the Cat, I Love My White Shoes" by Eric Litwin because, as one of them put it, that

story is what resilience looks like to a first grader. The children loved it, got the message, and soon were reading it on their own.

When I asked the staff of Hooray for Books! Alexandria's independent bookstore, for their help, they wrote the descriptions below for their selections of stories of children and resilience:

❖ **"One Word from Sophia"** by Jim Averbek, is about a little girl who really wants a pet giraffe. Even as her parents and relatives refuse, she comes up with different ways to persist in asking.

This book has great illustrations and lots of fun vocabulary, making it an excellent read aloud for ages 2+.

❖ **"Drum Dream Girl"** by Margarita Engle is a poetic text with vibrant illustra-

tions by Rafael Lopez, telling the story of a girl in Cuba in the 1930s who dreams of being a drummer. Despite being told that only boys can play drums, she doesn't give up and eventually joins a famous jazz band. This book is based on a true story and has a great author's note. For ages 3-10.

❖ **"Flat Stanley"** by Jeff Brown is an older title that remains very popular with beginning readers. Stanley is accidentally flattened by a bulletin board one day, but he is perfectly fine after his accident — except for the tiny detail that he is now two-dimensional.

Stanley deals with not being able to do a lot of the things he used to do, overcoming new challenges such as blowing away in the wind, and discovering new talents and ways to help the people around him.

In the rest of the Flat Stanley series, Stanley has a variety of adventures all over the world where he accomplishes tasks that no one but he can do, turning what he initially viewed as a disability into his greatest strength. For ages 5 to 7.

❖ **"Crenshaw"** is the latest title by Katherine Applegate, who won the Newbery a few years ago for "The One and Only Ivan."

In this story, Jackson's family is facing financial struggles and as he tries to help his parents and stay positive, he keeps seeing his old imaginary friend Crenshaw, a giant cat who helps him see his life's challenges in a different light, which helps him overcome those challenges. For ages 8-10.

**"SO HOW CAN YOU SHOW** your child that reading and learning new things are family values," asks Daniel Willingham, a professor of psychology at the University of Virginia and the author of "Raising Kids Who Read"? "An obvious implication is that your child should see you reading. Telling your child to do something you neglect yourself won't work. .... You can't tell your child 'go read' while you are watching television or checking Instagram."

Columnist Frank Bruni in "The Gift of Reading" [Nov. 25, 2015, The New York Times] also quotes Willingham, this time about the importance of reading: "Kids who read more get better at reading .... And kids who read well don't just do better in English class — it helps them in math, science and every other class, too." Bruni goes on to say "I'd go even further. Reading tugs them outside of themselves, connecting them to a wider world and filling it with wonder..... It's transformative."

*"The Hermitage is where I've finally found my family."*  
—Helena Scott

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ALEXANDRIA  
Symphony Orchestra

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**BELLE HAVEN** \$799,000 | 6028 Fort Hunt Road  
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**COLLINGWOOD** \$1,100,000 | 1228 Falster Road  
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Conceptual view from former GenOn Power Plant site.



Potential community space design for Montgomery Street.

IMAGES CONTRIBUTED

# Plans for Old Town North Take Shape

Motherhood, apple pie, and “enriching community living” in Old Town North.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

After a week-long community engagement process, Alexandria city staff was happy to report that people like good things. At the Planning Commission meeting on Dec. 1, city staff started with a review of the three-day charrette, held between Nov. 16 and 20. The community meetings were intended to gain resident input on the Old Town North Small Area Plan update, but the way this was carried out received some criticism from the Planning Commission.

On a slide showing that the Old Town North residents had overwhelmingly supported “enriching community livability” and “cultivating urban village character,” Planning Commission member Stewart Dunn called out the staff on the subjective polling.

“Why would anyone vote against ‘enrich community livability’ or against ‘promoting viable balance of uses?’” said Dunn. “It’s like [asking people to vote on] motherhood and

apple pie.”

Planning Commission member Maria Wasowski defended the language as trying to ensure that staff was adequately capturing the goals of the community. In the question on transportation, for example, the 11 percent opposed to neighborhood walkability were stating that it wasn’t a priority for them.

Most of the commission seemed willing to accept the findings of the charrette as the high concept framework for a plan rather than a plan itself.

“If the intent was point of departure, it’s been very successful,” said Commission member Nathan Maceck.

But the analysis also did note some more concrete areas for future development. Nancy Williams, principal planner, said that the central theme of the feedback was that Montgomery Park needed to emerge as a heart of the community. The necessity of added community meeting space in the park, which Chair Mary Lyman said was self-evident since staff had needed to contract with a company to find space to host

the charrette.

The elephant in the room, for many on the commission and in the charrette, is the former GenOn plant to the far north of the plan’s coverage area. The description of an open space area on the bluffs overlooking the Potomac, with a clear view of the D.C. monuments, was an enticing one.

“We need creativity and flexibility on [the Power Plant] site,” said Lyman. “This could be its own separate plan. The potential here is amazing, I’m particularly impressed by the monument view.”

But Lyman also noted that, while she was impressed with the community engagement, staff still needed to continue reaching out to residents of Old Town North who hadn’t been able to attend the charrette.

“The one thing that’s important to do is to make sure that the people who weren’t able to be part of this [are] draw them in,” said Lyman. “That’s how discontent gets spread. You have people who feel left out

of the process. We’ve done a good job of avoiding that, let’s continue to do so.”

“I appreciate everything that’s been said, but I want people to be mindful of the fact that this process emerged very quickly and there were a number of people who did their best to participate but weren’t able to as fully as they’d like,” said Herbert J. Cooper-Levy, a community representative on the Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group.

“As we move forward, we need to be aware that the concepts need to be tested. We’re at a very high level of concept rather than low level plans ready for implementation.”

— Herbert J. Cooper-Levy, a community representative on the Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group

“As we move forward, we need to be aware that the concepts need to be tested. We’re at a very high level of concept rather than low level plans ready for implementation.”

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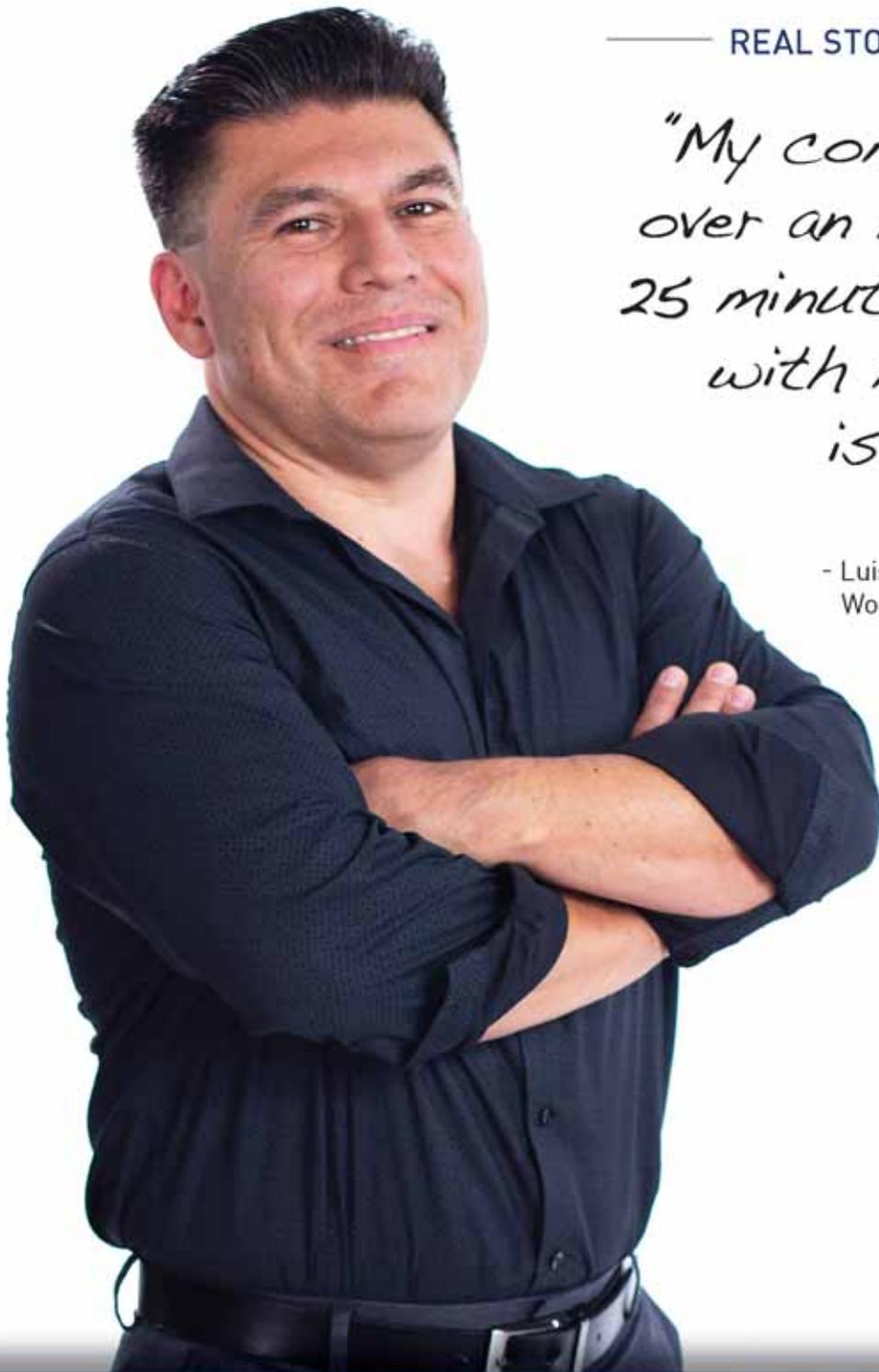
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PHOTO BY M. ENRIQUEZ/VISIT ALEXANDRIA

Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, second from right, participated in the Visit Alexandria Bows Baskets and Bikes charity event Nov. 19 at Christ Church. Joining Silberberg from left are Ryan Krull, Kimpton Hotels of Alexandria; Andy States, Wheel Nuts Bike Shop; and Lorraine Lloyd and Megan Hosford of Visit Alexandria.

## Visit Alexandria Builds Business with Bikes

FROM PAGE 3

participated in the event and praised the work of the volunteers and businesses.

“This is wonderful and meaningful work that you are doing,” said Silberberg, who helped volunteers assemble bikes.

This is the second year for the partnership with Volunteer Alexandria, which helped expand the scope of opportunities for volunteers to contribute to the local community.

“This is part of our Business Shares Program,” said Volunteer Alexandria Executive Director Marion Brunken. “We offer customized employee engagement

opportunities through projects that support numerous nonprofits to help those in need throughout the city.”

The Visit Alexandria sales team, which booked \$5.9 million in Alexandria meetings and groups business in fiscal year 2015, created the Alexandria Cares program to provide meeting planners with events that give back to the local community while affording teambuilding experiences for attendees. This follows a trend in the meetings industry that promotes corporate social responsibility initiatives.

For more information, visit [www.meetalexandriava.com](http://www.meetalexandriava.com).



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# NEWS

## Annual Holiday Door Decorating Judging

An Old Town tradition will get underway the week of Dec. 6, when residents of the Old and Historic District of Alexandria will display their holiday spirit on their doors and a team of judges from the Old Town Walled Garden Club will select the winners of the 48th Annual Holiday Door Decorating Contest. The first, second, and third place winners will be awarded prizes from Blackwall Hitch on Cameron Street, The Market Square Shop on King Street, and Sonoma Cellar on King Street, respectively. In addition to these prizes, photographs of the winning doors will be featured in

a holiday issue of the Gazette Packet.

Contest rules are as follows: Except for bows and ribbons, decorations must be made from natural materials by the homeowners themselves; purchased professional arrangements are not eligible to win. Judging criteria include originality of design, scale, color, contrast, and attractiveness from the street.

The Old Town Walled Garden Club will be doing the judging the week of Dec. 6. For more information, contact the Old Town Walled Garden Club at OTWGClub@gmail.com.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**One of the 2014 winning wreaths featured dried lotus pods, quince and citrus fruit slices and nuts on a boxwood wreath.**

### HOME SALES

In September 2015, 221 Alexandria homes sold between \$3,200,000-\$124,742. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$625,000-\$465,000 range. For the complete list, visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code
1400 JULIANA PL	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$625,000	Detached	0.25	22304
211 CAMERON STATION BLVD	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$620,000	Townhouse	0.02	22304
1217 POWHATAN ST	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$620,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314
122 MAPLE ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$619,900	Semi-Detached	0.06	22301
1723 PRICE ST	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$615,000	Townhouse	0.06	22301
2935 VIEWPOINT RD	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$615,000	Detached	0.17	22314
808 DEVON PL	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$610,000	Townhouse	0.04	22314
1014 COLONIAL AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$609,900	Townhouse	0.03	22314
1132 COLONIAL AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$605,000	Townhouse	0.06	22314
513 BELLEFONTE AVE E	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$600,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.06	22301
5130 GRIMM DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$600,000	Townhouse	0.03	22304
1046 ROYAL ST N	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$600,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314
404 SECOND ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$599,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314

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**Alexandria—9037 Patton Blvd 22309 \$699,000**

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**Annandale—7410 and 7412 Hamilton St 22003 Starting at \$599,000**

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**Alexandria—8007 Jackson Road (Hollin Hall) 22308 \$849,000**  
**Just listed!!!** [MLS#FX9528814](http://MLS#FX9528814). M&T Home Builders will design & build a new, custom home over the existing foundation on this 10,118sf lot. Pricing includes purchase of the "As-is" house (FOR SALE BY OWNER) and a construction contract for a 2-(optional 3)-story home with 4-5 BRs and 3.5 plus baths. Financing assistance available. Call for tours of model home. Buy now and move in June 2016. (Image is example of customized kitchen.)

Visit us at [MandTHomeBuilders.com](http://MandTHomeBuilders.com) and see other M&T Listings  
 MLS#'s [FX8645595](http://FX8645595) [FX8720578](http://FX8720578) [FX8733561](http://FX8733561) [AR8740154](http://AR8740154) [AR8734738](http://AR8734738)

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## LTA Stages 'A Christmas Carol'

Charles Dickens' classic story to play from Dec. 4-19.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Little Theater of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol," from Dec. 4-19. The story follows Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, who travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Complete with special effects, Victorian carols, and Tiny Tim, "A Christmas Carol" is a must for the family.

Lawrence O. Grey Jr. plays the role of Ebenezer Scrooge. He said Dickens chose the name Ebenezer, which in scripture means "the stone of help," to describe the help given to Scrooge by the spirits to change his life. He said the surname Scrooge may be from an obscure English verb scrouge, meaning "squeeze" or "press," describing the cold-hearted miser who has pressed the joy out of life and has taken refuge in greed, avarice, and life without emotion and caring.

"Scrooge's story represents to me the ultimate meaning of Christmas," he said. "It is a story of redemption. To a life trapped in darkness that holds only doom and despair comes a message of hope and change and light. Throughout 'A Christmas Carol,' the personality of Ebenezer Scrooge shifts from a man who only cares about himself and his wealth to a man who cares about others."

Nathaniel Burkhead plays the role of Tiny Tim, a sweet, kindhearted and innocent character. "I love how he stays happy and filled with Christmas cheer," he said. "He is the kind of person that will always see the glass as 'half full,' no matter what happens."

He said a challenge in working on this piece was learning to speak in a British accent and learning to walk with a limp, which resulted in a sprained ankle. Lastly, he said there was the challenge of finding the right-sized crutch.

Colin Davies plays the role of Mr. Whitham, also known as one of the Gentlemen. He said the narrator is "essentially the voice of Dickens, responsible for introducing scenes and setting the context and commenting on the action, as a kind of Greek chorus." He adds: "The Gentleman I play is humorous, slightly pompous and good-natured."

He said what was unusual about the role of the Narrator is that he does not actually interact with any of the other characters, apart from the other Narrator (who is played by Dan Lavanga). "He speaks to the audience, but not to the other people on stage, which means he does not develop his relationship with others and broadens his character," he said. "The challenge is to explain what is happening, or about to happen, without detracting from the action."



Actors in rehearsal for The Little Theatre of Alexandria's production of "A Christmas Carol," which will run Dec. 4-19.

He adds: "I grew up in England, and so was steeped in Dickens, and I admire the way he can write very touchingly without becoming over-sentimentalized. We are living in difficult and unpredictable times, and Dickens' story seems more relevant than ever. Like many people, I have recently been saddened by the lack of sympathy expressed by some towards those in far worse conditions than ourselves, and 'A Christmas Carol' expresses very effectively the message of Christian kindness and generosity towards others."

Erik Rieloff plays the role of Fred, the nephew of Ebenezer Scrooge and only surviving family member. "Fred is very resolute in his ways and is happy no matter how his uncle treats him or feels about his presence," he said. "I love my uncle no matter what and I am intent on spreading Christmas cheer to him no matter what. Fred is the life of the party and everywhere he goes people love him for his humility and giving nature."

He said his biggest obstacle is that he's not used to playing someone who is so cheerful and constantly happy — no matter what the circumstances may be. "It is a challenge each time our wonderful director tells me to be more cheery, lol, but I guess you can just credit that to my NYC roots," he said.

Rieloff also plays the Ghost of Christmas Future, the most feared and dark character in the play. "He does not speak at all but has a very menacing presence and is symbolic of the most dreadful of outcomes in Scrooge's life should he not take heed of the lessons learned from the previous en-

counters with other spirits," he said.

Daniel J. Calderon plays the role of Jacob Marley, who was just as Scrooge was in the beginning of the play — a shrewd, unfeeling man of business who weighs any situation by the amount of monetary profit he might gain from it. "It isn't until he dies that he realizes how much of a waste that is, and so he has returned to the one friend, and protege, he had in the world — Ebenezer Scrooge — to save him from the same fate in the afterlife," he said.

The challenge for him was the accent. "I've done accents throughout my time on stage, but finding the right one and sticking with it was hard," he said. "Fortunately, I had a patient director and some fellow cast members who could help me find my way."

He said there are no insignificant players in the show; everyone is important to everyone else. "Everyone Scrooge encounters is key to his salvation and I hope the audience sees the correlation in their own lives," he said. "It's not just about being 'nice' on Christmas. It's a story of how to keep that kind of spirit actively working through each of us every day of our lives because — as Jacob Marley found out — it is too late once we are no longer in this world."

Katya Zaitsev plays the role of the little girl Cratchit, a very happy girl who loves her family and who likes to help people. She said a challenge for her is that "sometimes it can be hard to focus on two things at once; like saying a line and getting a basket to decorate the Christmas tree," she said.

Show producer and LTA president Lloyd Bittinger said he wanted to produce because



when the Board of Governors was selecting a director, Rachael Hubbard was asked to direct. "She and I discussed and made a deal that if she would direct, I would produce. She's wonderful to work with and truly loves this story. She also gets the most out of the actors and ends up with a terrific production," he said.

He added: "I like to work in the various areas of the theatre and also do a lot of work on the lighting team, hanging and focusing lights, and running the light board. My goal as producer is to pull all of the elements together to make this the best holiday production the Little Theatre has ever done."

He said he wanted to take on the singular role as producer because he had co-produced the production before and felt like he would be able to do a good job having had that experience.

Between the director, the musical director and himself, they are working to make this year's production the most audience-pleasing "A Christmas Carol" ever. "We want to have the deep and dark scenes because they're important to telling the story, but we are adding some songs and dancing to lighten up the production," he said. "We want the audience to leave the theatre smiling and being happy and singing a song. This is our gift to the community for a happy holiday season."

*The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., is staging "A Christmas Carol" from Dec. 4-19. The show runs Thursdays-Fridays at 8 p.m.; with Saturday and Sunday matinees each at 3 and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 703-683-0496 or visit thelittletheatre.com.*

# ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

## ONGOING

### Mike McConnell: "Flip Side."

Through Dec. 13, during gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Mike McConnell was a commercial illustrator who recently dedicated himself to fine art. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

### Green Spring Gardens Art Show.

Through Dec. 27, gallery hours at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist Carol Higgs works in batik, oil, watercolor, and collage. Painter Joan Wolfe works with acrylic and Erik and Caroline Hottenstein use watercolors. Free. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

### "A Broadway Christmas Carol."

Through Dec. 27, various times at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Created by Kathy Feininger and directed by Michael Sharp, this MetroStage holiday tradition is a cross between the classic Dickens' tale and Broadway parodies. Tickets are \$50. Visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org).

### Tag on 3rd: Gallery 311 Opening Exhibit.

Through Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The Associates' Gallery is re-opening in a renovated space on the Torpedo Factory's third floor, studio 311. The exhibit will honor Robert Rosselle, a sculptor who died in July. He occupied Studio 311 for many years, and two of his sculptures will take center stage in the group's new show.

Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

### "Not-So-Modern" Jazz Quartet Performance.

Thursdays through Dec. 31, 7:30-10 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Not So Modern Jazz Music plays music from the glory days of traditional jazz, including tunes from traditional Dixieland and the Swing era. Free. Visit [www.stelmoscoffeepub.com](http://www.stelmoscoffeepub.com) for more.

### "Nature's Journey."

Through Jan. 2, at American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. Darlene Kaplan will exhibit more than 60 of her original oriental brush paintings in a one-person art exhibition. Free. Visit [www.darlenekaplan.com](http://www.darlenekaplan.com) for more.

### Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery:

"Winter Wonderland." Through Jan. 3, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory Art Center—Studio 18, 105 N. Union St. Artists working in textile focus on "sparkle and shine, clean and white." Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

### Christmas at Mount Vernon.

Through Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Visit George Washington's estate and see Aladdin the camel on the grounds, in honor of the camel that Washington paid to visit Mount Vernon in 1787. Stroll through Mount Vernon's modern buildings and view sparkling holiday decorations, featuring 12 dazzling Christmas trees, and historical chocolate-making demonstrations. Also visit the rarely-open third floor of the Mansion. All is included in the general admission price which is \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth ages 6-11, and free for children 5 and under. Visit

[www.mountvernon.org/christmas](http://www.mountvernon.org/christmas) for more.

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 3-5

**Addison Weeks Trunk Show.** 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Ivy Lane Living, 309a Cameron St. Find Addison Weeks items at a 20 percent discount. Free. Visit [www.ivylaneliving.com](http://www.ivylaneliving.com).

### Alexandria Community

"Nutcracker." Various times at West Potomac High School, Spring Bank Auditorium, 6400 Quander Road. West Potomac Academy and Alexandria Community Dance are teaming up to present their seventh annual performance of "The Nutcracker," the traditional holiday story. Tickets are \$10-20. Visit [www.alexandrianutcracker.com](http://www.alexandrianutcracker.com) for more.

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 3-5

### Sleepy Thompson Basketball

Tournament. Various times at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. Varsity teams from eight schools will compete for three days of match-ups. Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for students per day. Visit [www.sleepythompson.com](http://www.sleepythompson.com) for more.

### "The Nutcracker."

7 p.m. on Friday and Thursday, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria and Lorton, presents a classic performance of Clara and her Nutcracker in a journey from her home through the Land of Snow and into the Land of Sweets. Tickets are \$27 for adults and \$21 for seniors and students. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

## Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax

Presents

### Nutcracker In A Nutshell



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Sunday, Dec. 20th  
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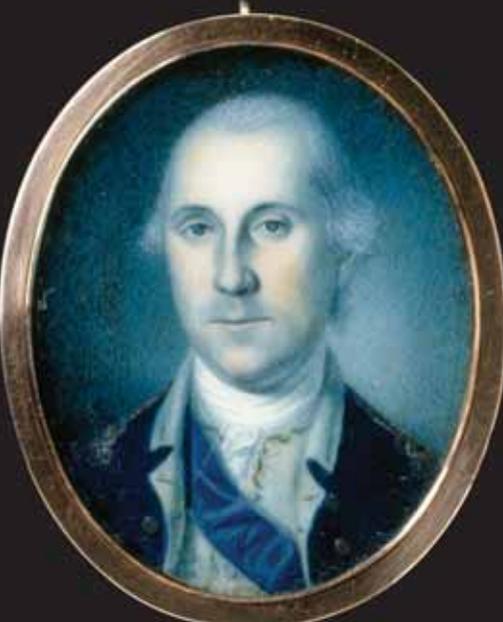
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 DECEMBER 10 - 13

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# A Holiday Tradition Returns To MetroStage for 6<sup>th</sup> Season

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, METROSTAGE

Six years ago MetroStage decided that we needed to establish a holiday tradition. “A Christmas Carol,” a mainstay at Ford’s Theatre, and “The Nutcracker” with the Joffrey, American Ballet Theatre and the Washington Ballet were already booked. And now “Black Nativity” makes a regular appearance at Theatre Alliance. Looking back “A Broadway Christmas Carol” was almost an inevitable choice. It was originally developed at Round House Theatre in Silver Spring and ran for seven sold-out seasons until 2004. A small cast, a musical featuring Broadway show tunes, a classic story with a twist, and ultimately a very funny play with a heart and a soul and a lot of silliness and madcap antics seemed to be the perfect way for this theatre to usher in the holidays. Our productions of “Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)” had been a resounding success on our stage, and it too used familiar Broadway show tunes to spoof the most famous of Broadway composers and had been a huge hit with our audiences.

In its sixth season at MetroStage “A Broadway Christmas Carol” is definitely a certifiable, indisputable tradition and hit show. Patrons return every year introducing more friends and family to this alternative holiday entertainment. Adults love identifying the 35 Broadway shows represented in the score with a some new material included each season (there is a cheat sheet in the lobby for after the show in case you couldn’t identify a song or two) and children can enjoy it on a completely different level, given the fast-paced rollicking fun and lightning fast costume/character changes. Familiarity with the material brings added delight as evidenced from our patrons who return every year in anticipation of the same silliness, the remarkably talented cast (and musician), and a unique theatre experience that ushers in the holiday season with charm, exuberance and sharply clever lyrics.

This is a holiday entertainment that is wickedly funny and captures the heightened spirit of the holidays while at the same time telling a story with a very serious message of love, kindness, and generosity among family and friends, and an old miser’s ultimate redemption. And it is told (and sung) by



PHOTOS BY CHRIS BANKS



some of the best vocal talent in the area and played by one of the best pianists in the business. The combination of comedy and storytelling is performed by exceptionally talented actors with incredible vocal ranges, comic timing, and exceptional vocal prowess and physical dexterity. A little something new is added to the script every year, and this year is no exception.

If you know one Broadway tune or hundreds, your spirits will soar, and you will be primed and ready to take on the holidays after spending a few hours at MetroStage with the Crachits, Fezziwigs, Belle, Fred, Marley, and the rest of the Dickens’ gang.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 19

### DEC. 3-5, DEC. 7-8

“Snow Day.” 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 3, 4, 7, and 8; 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 5 at The Lab Theatre at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Arts on the Horizon will present “Snow Day” about a young girl’s first snow. This play is nonverbal and will feature live music. Tickets are \$9. Visit [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org).

### FRIDAY/DEC. 4

Teen Night. 7-10 p.m. at William Ramsay Recreation Center, 5650 Sanger Ave. Alexandria Campaign on

Adolescent Pregnancy’s Keepit360 Club and Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria’s Above the Influence Club are hosting a night of games, food and more. Free. Text “Titan” to 30644, or email [Kim.Hurley@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Kim.Hurley@alexandriava.gov) to RSVP.

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 4-6

Artfête. Various times at The Art League’s Madison Annex, 305 Madison St. The Art League hosts an annual art celebration and open house featuring exhibits, live music, artist demonstrations, and refreshments, as well as a weekend-long ceramics and jewelry sale of handmade wares by Art League

students and associates. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

### Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend & Parade.

Various times throughout Old Town. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. The weekend celebrates Alexandria’s heritage with a parade, a taste of Scotland event, holiday marketplace and more. Visit [www.campaigncenter.org/scottishwalkweekend](http://www.campaigncenter.org/scottishwalkweekend).

### DEC. 4-19

“A Christmas Carol.” 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

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- Fridays...Daryl Ott on the Piano with Franco
- Saturdays...David Redskin on the Piano with Franco

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# ENTERTAINMENT

**2015** Alexandria Chamber of Commerce  
**Annual Meeting**

Join the Chamber as we wrap up 2015 and give a sneak peek into 2016. The meeting will highlight our successes in 2015 and recognize outstanding Chamber members.

Early Bird Member Ticket price is \$45! Ends November 15th. Member Ticket price will be \$55 starting Monday, November 16th.

To register, visit [www.AlexChamber.com](http://www.AlexChamber.com).

**December 8**  
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**Bluegrass band Gold Heart, made up of the three Gold sisters, will perform at The Birchmere on Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).**

Saturday-Sunday. The Little Theatre of Alexandria performs the classic Victorian tale of Ebenezer Scrooge who travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Tickets are \$15. Visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

#### DEC. 4-20

##### **Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market.**

Various times at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray's annual Holiday Market offers handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists (including pottery/ceramics, photography, jewelry, fiber, paper crafts and glass). Find different artists each weekend. Free to attend. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org/holidaymarket](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org/holidaymarket).

#### DEC. 4-5, DEC. 20

**Mount Vernon by Candlelight.** 5-8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Take character-guided tours, listen to caroling, watch 18th-century dancing, and see a reproduction of Martha Washington's "Great Cake" recipe. "Mrs. Washington" and Aladdin the Christmas camel will also be on site. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$15 for youth. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/christmas](http://www.mountvernon.org/christmas) for more.

#### DEC. 4-23

##### **Alexandria's Holiday Market.**

Various Times at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Visitors can enjoy live entertainment, traditional European food and sweets, wine and beer, while shopping for arts and crafts. Free. Visit [www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com](http://www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com).

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 5

**Pottery Show and Benefit.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Ave. More than 30 students, faculty and staff will donate ceramic pieces to raise money for the ceramics department. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu) for more.

**Photos with Santa.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at @home Real Estate, 111 S. Alfred St. Families are invited for photos with Santa and hot cocoa. Free. Visit

[www.athomedcmetro.com](http://www.athomedcmetro.com) for more.  
**Book Sale and "New Look" Open House.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Barrett Branch of the Alexandria Library, 717 Queen St. Hundreds of gently used books, cds, and dvds will be available for purchase. All ages can make a holiday card for a retired veteran (supplies provided) and listen to the G.W. Middle School Choir. Free. Call 703-746-1713 for more.

**A Soldiers' Christmas at Carlyle House.** 1-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. The "Soldiers' Christmas" event will feature re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment, who will highlight colonial life in Alexandria during the holidays at the time of the American Revolution. Free, \$1 suggested donations. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org).

##### **Ornament Decorating Workshop.**

1-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St. Decorate and take home artifact-shaped ornaments. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

##### **Holiday Festival: "Take a Walk in the Woods."**

4-9 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. More than 140 artists will keep their studios open late for patrons to shop. The Alexandria Choral Society and the Braddock Brass Quintet will perform. Santa Claus will visit. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

##### **16th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.**

5:30 p.m. at Alexandria's waterfront at the foot of Cameron Street near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Dozens of illuminated boats cruise the Potomac River at the historic waterfront, led by Alexandria's fireboat The Vigilant and Washington, D.C.'s fireboat John Glenn. DC media personality Tommy McFly of 94.7 Fresh FM will be the parade announcer. At the marina before and after the parade, visit the "Holiday Festival: Take a Walk in the Woods" at the Torpedo Factory Art Center to find live music and holiday shopping at open studios. Free. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com/holidays](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/holidays).

**Holiday on the Avenue.** 6 p.m. at Del Ray Farmers Market. Take a stroll down Mount Vernon Avenue and see the "luminarias." Free. Visit [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com).

**John Gorka.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Folk musician John Gorka is touring in support of his 12th studio album "Bright Side of Down." Tickets are

\$35, \$10 for students. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

#### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 5-6

**Christmas Tree Sale.** 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at 2911 Cameron Mills Road. Find 4-13 foot fresh-cut Fir trees. Trees priced \$35-175. Call 304-703-1350.

#### SUNDAY/DEC. 6

**Breakfast With Santa.** 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Hotel Monaco, 480 King St. Breakfast with Santa features the Metropolitan School of the Arts, of Alexandria and Lorton, Frosty Follies show. Watch a Broadway-style revue, get pictures with the cast, and eat brunch with Santa. Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$35 for ages 9 and younger. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

**Del Ray Studio and Sale Show.** 12-6 p.m. at Studio of Del Ray Arts, 8 East Howell Ave. Find carved/turned wood creations, jewelry, pottery, fiberwork, paintings, and more. Free. Email [slallypottery@gmail.com](mailto:slallypottery@gmail.com) for more.

**Winter Warm Ladies Tea.** 3-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Choose from a variety of 18th-century desserts. Try John Gadsby's special blend of tea or American Heritage Chocolate. Preceded by a free tour. Tickets are \$35. Call 703-746-4242.

**Lessons and Carols.** 4:30 p.m. at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. The public is invited to the annual Lessons and Carols with the Awarding of the Dean's Cross for Servant Leadership in Church and Society. Free. Visit [www.vts.edu/chapel](http://www.vts.edu/chapel).

**Menorah Lighting.** 5 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 901 N. Fairfax St. Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille will light a six-foot menorah. Free. Visit [www.chabadaa.org](http://www.chabadaa.org) for more.

**Christmas Reading Program.** 7 p.m. at Heritage Hall—Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St. Listen to a reading of Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales." Free. Email Paul Bea at [pbea@phbpa.com](mailto:pbea@phbpa.com) for more.

#### MONDAY/DEC. 7

**Dance Class: The Art of Ballroom Dance.** 7-7:45 p.m. class and 7:45-8:30 p.m. dancing at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ballroom dance professional Gary Stephens teaches the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango,

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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## TUESDAY/DEC. 8

**Chanukah On Ice.** 6-8:30 p.m. at Pentagon Row Ice Skating, 1201 S. Joyce St. Children and adults may ice skate to contemporary Jewish music and classic Chanukah songs. It will continue with a lighting ceremony, greetings from local dignitaries, delicious Kosher food, Chanukah songs and a free raffle. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$13 at the door, price includes skate rental. Visit [www.chabadaa.org](http://www.chabadaa.org) for more.

**Handmade Holiday Card Making.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn card-making techniques. Free. Call 703-746-1754.

**Bell's Beer Dinner.** 7-10 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S Union St. Find a special menu paired with beer from Bell's Brewery. Tickets are \$65. Visit [www.unionstreetpublichouse.com](http://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com) for more.

**FOURPLAY: Bob James, Nathan East, Chuck Loeb, and Harvey Mason.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Bob James and Nathan East celebrate the release of "The New Cool" with band members. Tickets are \$55. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9

**Parent-Child Music Class.** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane. Accelerando Music is offering a free parent-child music class at the MOMS Club of

Alexandria South monthly meeting. MOMS Club of Alexandria South serves at-home parents as well as parents who work part-time or have home-based businesses and who reside in zip codes 22303, 22306 and 22307. Free. Email [Southalex moms@yahoo.com](mailto:Southalex moms@yahoo.com) or [visitsouthalexandriamomsclub.webs.com](http://visitsouthalexandriamomsclub.webs.com).

**"A Christmas Carol."** 6:30 p.m. reception, 8 p.m. performance at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Attend a fundraising performance of "A Christmas Carol" complete with a visit from Santa Claus. Proceeds benefit Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Tickets are \$25. Visit [www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us](http://www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us).

**"The Historical Impact of Military Chaplains in Shaping the Ethical Climate."** 7:30 p.m. at Church of St. Andrew and St. Margaret, 402 E. Monroe St. The Rev. John Weatherly will explore the roles of armed forces chaplains before, during and after the Civil War, including the foundation of the Chaplain Corps. Free. Call 703-963-9616 for more.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 10

**Jane Franklin Holiday Celebration GiftFest Performance.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Watch a performance of "Incidence." Find a gift wrap challenge, raffles, food, and "mystery gifts." Free. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) for more.

**"Art Uniting People" Reception.** 6:30 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. "Art Uniting People - A Celebration of Recovery, Creativity and Mental Health," is an art exhibition presented every year to showcase the artwork by local individuals. Free. Visit

[www.artunitingpeople.wix.com/artunitingpeople](http://www.artunitingpeople.wix.com/artunitingpeople).

**All That Glows.** 7 p.m. at Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Highway. The Woodlawn Council invites the public to a holiday open house with a "reimagined" 19th century menu. Tickets are \$200. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/all-that-glows-tickets-19335619358](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/all-that-glows-tickets-19335619358).

**Holiday Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Ave. The NOVA Community Chorus and Alexandria Band and Jazz Ensemble perform. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu).

## THURSDAY/DEC. 10-13

**"A Stable Christmas."** Various times at First Baptist Church Alexandria, 2932 King St. Join the cast, chorus, and orchestra of First Baptist Church of Alexandria's 2015 production of the Living Christmas Tree, "A Stable Christmas." The production features traditional and contemporary holiday music, a 25-foot Christmas tree filled with 110+ singers and 50,000+ synchronized lights and the story of Jim and Dot, as they begin their lives together. Tickets are \$7 each plus a \$1 service charge per transaction. Visit [www.fbcalexandria.org](http://www.fbcalexandria.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 12

**Breakfast with Santa.** 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Eat a pancake breakfast, make crafts, and play games. \$5 per person, families of 5 or more pay a flat \$25 family rate. Visit [www.facebook.com/MVHSClassof2019](http://www.facebook.com/MVHSClassof2019).

**Alexandria Harmonizers**  
**The Holiday Show!**

Tickets starting at only \$20 on-line at [harmonizerholiday2015.brownpapertickets.com](http://harmonizerholiday2015.brownpapertickets.com)

Also featuring:

**Positive Vibrations** **Marilyn Moore** **Word of Mouth**  
**Youth Steel Orchestra** **Operatic Soprano** **Acapella Ensemble**



**Saturday, December 12**  
**Matinee 2:00pm; Evening 7:30pm**  
**Schlesinger Center Concert Hall**  
**4915 E. Campus Dr., Alexandria, VA**

**FIRST NIGHT**  
**ALEXANDRIA**

**DECEMBER 31, 2015**  
**An Old Town New Year's Eve Party**  
**28 indoor venues in Old Town and one in Del Ray**

**FIREWORKS ON THE POTOMAC**

**PLUS** afternoon adventures with the Seventh Annual Fun Hunt and new creative and culinary activities all around town

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

Children 12 and under, and active military are **FREE**

PRESENTING SPONSORS

Badge and schedule information at [FirstNightAlexandria.org](http://FirstNightAlexandria.org) • #ALXFirstNight

**Give the Gift of Art**

Torpedo Factory Art Center

**Take a Walk in the Woods**

Saturday, December 5 | 4 - 9 pm  
More than 140 artists!

Holiday Festival

Special thanks to



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### 'A Bountiful Tom Turkey'

Grace Episcopal School repeated its successful collaboration to collect food items to benefit those who are in need. Its students helped feed the hungry in Alexandria by creating a canned-food "Bountiful Tom Turkey" on Nov. 18. Measuring 30 feet by 32 feet this turkey-shaped structure was made of boxed and canned foods donated by Grace Episcopal School students and their families. This service learning project included students from preschool through grade 5. More than 265 cans, jars and boxes of food were used in the construction. All of the food was donated to the Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry, which works in conjunction with the Alexandria Department of Human Services to feed Alexandria families in need. For information on Grace Episcopal School visit [www.graceschoolalex.org](http://www.graceschoolalex.org) or call 703-549- 5067.

### Holiday Gifts Set in Stone

Those looking for holiday gifts that make a bold statement might be in luck this weekend. Ivy Lane Living in Old Town Alexandria will host a trunk show featuring Northern Virginia-based jewelry and home accessories line Addison Weeks.

From Thursday, Dec. 3 to Saturday, Dec. 5, the event will take place at 309A Cameron St., 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Handcrafted pieces by designers Lee Addison Lesley and Katherine Weeks Mulford include candles, jewel encrusted boxes and napkins rings made of 24K gold plate or brass and crowned with semi-precious and synthetic gemstones.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Handcrafted, vibrantly colored semi-precious and synthetic gemstone accessories are part of the Addison Weeks collection.**

For more information, call 703-746-9702

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

### Holiday Market Supports Programs

On Sunday, Dec. 6, the Friends of the Alexandria Commission for Women will sponsor its 18<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Market at the Charles Houston Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria from 1- 5 p.m.

Each year, this event raises money to support programs critical to women in the city, such as those dealing with domestic vio-

lence and sexual assault. It also showcases the work of creative women artists and artisans, including jewelry, pottery, glasswork, prints, notecards, hats, scarves, purses and other accessories.

Admission is free and refreshments are provided. For more, [friendsofalexwomen@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofalexwomen@gmail.com).

### SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

**Dr. Gina Wilson** has joined the faculty at The Loudoun Campus of Northern Virginia Community College as an assistant professor of veterinary technology.

**Angelo LeitnerWise** and **Michael Undersander** have enrolled at Marietta College (Marietta, Ohio).

**Austin Baney, Katherine Beutner, Michelle Dwyer, Helen Hong, Annelise Miranda, Brandon Phan, Paul Poling, and Joseph Siedlarz** of Bishop Ireton High School have been named Commended Students in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program.

**Andrea Schimmoeller**, a business management major, has received dean's list recognition at Columbus State Community College (Columbus, Ohio).

**Eliza Malakoff** has enrolled at Carleton College (Northfield, Minn.) as a member of the class of 2019.

**Mary Pat Schlickemaier**, principal of Saint Rita Catholic School, has been named to the 2015 Class of National Distinguished Principals.

**Amelia Rykard** has graduated from Troy University (Troy, Ala.) with a Bachelor of Applied Science degree from the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Clemson University (Clemson, S.C.) Young Alumni Council has recognized **Captain Joseph Branch III** as one of the 2015 "Roaring 10," a recognition for young alumni who have made an impact in business, leadership, community, educational and/or philanthropic endeavors.

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Joanna Gohmann with relics from the 1755 warehouse.



One of the beams from the warehouse foundation.



Full foundation of the 1755 warehouse.

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

# Historic Discovery

## 18th Century warehouse unearths more questions than answers.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

Once thought lost to demolition and fire, pieces of a mid-18th century warehouse on Alexandria's waterfront have been reclaimed. The discovery at the construction site of Carr's Indigo Hotel came as a surprise to city historians who had assumed the warehouse was demolished after it was built on top of in the 1770s. The discoveries at the site include a largely intact frame foundation, as well as a beam from the pier, pieces of barrels, and a mammal skull.

The warehouse, the earliest historic struc-

ture in Alexandria to be archaeologically excavated, was built in 1755 by John Carlyle, six years after Alexandria was founded. Joanna Gohmann from the Office of Historic Alexandria said the building was likely used to store grain and other brew-ery supplies.

"It influences the interpretation of the waterfront area of the city, which is under development," said Lance Mallamo, director of the Office of Historic Alexandria. "We had hoped to find evidence of this structure because we knew it was at this location. What surprised us was how much of it remained from 1755, eight feet under the mud. We were very pleased to find it there."

According to Gohmann, finding intact

18th century wood is virtually unheard of, especially in such a quantity. The wood typically rots or decays over time. But Gohmann said sand and mud from the Potomac had kept an airtight seal around the wood beams.

The staff at the Alexandria archeology museum needed to continually spray the beams with water to keep them from deteriorating.

One of the most intriguing questions brought up by the wood's discovery is its massive size. According to Gohmann, some of the beams were 30 feet long and two feet in diameter.

"This tells us there were trees at least that big in the area," said Gohmann. "Dating will

tell us when they were cut and from where." Mallamo theorized that its size and its survival are not unrelated.

"It was probably first growth forest," said Mallamo, "some of the original wood in Alexandria that was leveled to build it. That wood tended to harden rather than decay with age."

Currently, samples of the wood have been sent to the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab for analysis. The wood had to be sawed down to 12-foot pieces, the largest the lab could accommodate. The beams' analysis will take three years, which Mallamo said could help show some of the different building techniques used in early Alexandria.



### From Passion to Patent

Finalists in the 2015 Collegiate Inventors Competition gather Nov. 17 for a photo outside the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum. Winners of the competition included undergraduate gold medalists Joseph Barnett and Stephen John from Western Michigan University, back row at right, for their invention of NeoVent: Dual Pressure Respiratory Equipment, and graduate gold medalist David Kolesky from Harvard University, back row seventh from right, for his invention of 3D Bioprinting of Vascularized Human Tissue. See [www.collegiateinventors.org](http://www.collegiateinventors.org).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

# MGM Addresses New Casino's Impact on Alexandria

FROM PAGE 1

"Much of our focus is elsewhere."

The casino will employ 3,600 employees, but 50 percent is already committed to come from Prince George's County. The other 50 percent, Gaskill says, could come from D.C. or Northern Virginia.

"This is not a zero sum game," said Dave Mallard, president of the Campagna Center, "This will have a tremendous impact on job creation and tourism... and there's opportunity for Alexandria as well."

But if the new casino comes with benefits to the city, Gaskill also acknowledged that it has a share of problems. One of the biggest impacts Alexandria will feel will likely be in traffic, particularly increased congestion on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

"The reality is, there will be tough traffic issues," Gaskill said, "We're exploring different options with local authorities. As we open, there will be rough moments."

But the concerns about traffic didn't faze many in attendance at the update meeting. Some saw the concerns about the casino as crying wolf after the minimal impact from National Harbor's development.

"National Harbor didn't have much of an impact," said Harry Mahon, "I don't really think this casino will either."

Some were encouraged by the casino's focus on high-end retail, saying it will help keep the casino's businesses from competing with Alexandria.

"This should help a lot of our local shops," said Lonnie Rich. "This is really good for our unique stores, and we'll get a lot of hotel spillover."

"From the city's perspective, we welcome MGM, particularly for job sector growth," said Mayor William Euille, and echoed the comparisons to National Harbor.

"There were concerns from small businesses over National Harbor, but that didn't happen."

Euille also said he trusted the newly established MGM Casino Task Force to address issues of parking and transportation, as a similar one did during the growth of National Harbor.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Concept rendering for the MGM Casino at National Harbor.**

**Logan Gaskill, MGM's vice president of human resources, at Alexandria's Campagna Center.**

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES GAZETTE PACKET



## 'Onerous Regulations' Cripple Food Trucks Pilot

FROM PAGE 1

gram." Where the food trucks didn't show up were the parks.

"There was not much participation at parks," said Anderson. "Food trucks don't consider them close enough to where people want them."

Councilman Justin Wilson backed the findings of the pilot, saying the program's small scale was sufficient as a test.

"We wanted to do a modest approach on this, and we did an extremely modest one," said Wilson. "There's very few places in the city where this works, but I have no problem with extending sunset."

But for many on the council, the strict limitations of the program hindered the

Food Truck pilot. For the pilot to be successful, it needed to expand to include commercial parts of the city.

"I don't even know why we bothered," said Councilman Paul Smedberg. "The trucks were nowhere people wanted the trucks to be because it was so restrictive .... While the food rodeos are a nice idea, people want regularity and certainty as opposed to spontaneity. Until you open up Carlyle and the King Street Metro Area, why even bother? Why waste all this time? I don't know what it gets us."

Councilman John Chapman moved that the staff bring forward additional options for expansion of the program.

"We structured this way too much so it did not get a chance to live up to any real

opportunity for success," said Chapman. "Other jurisdictions are doing this and having very good success with this. I don't see why Alexandria should be any different."

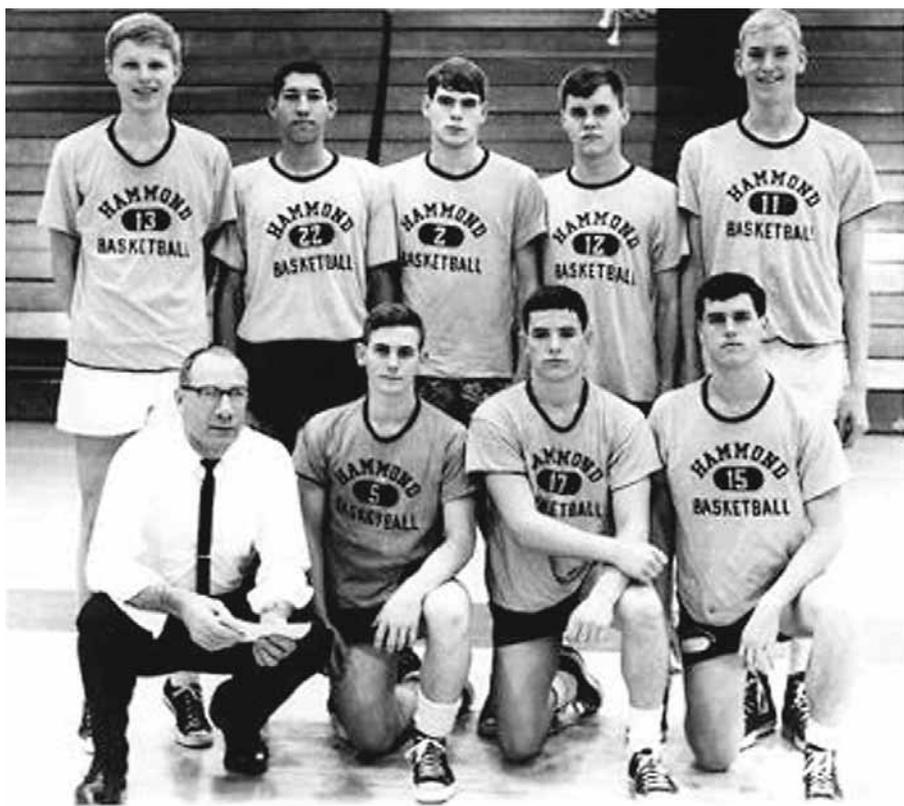
In letters to the council, organizers of Four Mile Run Market described the food truck regulations as onerous.

"We have had very little success in getting many vendors to come to market," said Kevin Beekman. "The cost and burden are just too hard to overcome .... We need your help to revise the food truck registration process." "Every food truck vendor I've talked to has said the system is set up to fail," said Nicholas Partee. "Food trucks don't make enough at our small market to justify all the fees. They need to have more of a reason to register in the city, which

would in turn eliminate the barriers to setting up at our market from time to time"

Partee proposed ideas that would help improve the process, including allowing more trucks in commercial spaces in limited numbers. Mayor William Euille said he agreed with much of Partee's assessment and urged the staff to consider the proposed ideas before the issue is brought to a vote in City Council in December. Euille was not as quick to fully embrace the idea of food trucks on every corner though. "We really don't have a lot of open space areas, that limits the opportunities and availability for food trucks," said Euille. "We're in a unique situation. If we're going to have it, let's find ways to make it work and be successful. Otherwise, let's just scrap it."

# SPORTS



## Then and Now

The 1964-65 Hammond High School boys' basketball team was pictured in the Alexandria Gazette prior to a game against Washington-Lee. Hammond finished 14-5 that year and lost to Wakefield by one point in the regional semifinals. Pictured in the back row, from left: Rod Klima, Ronnie Rust, Ron Clevenger, Bill Hawkins and Art Laib. Pictured in the front row, from left: Coach Downing, Robbie Rixe, Mike Lynch and Barry Lockhardt.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Members of the 1964-65 Hammond High School boys' basketball team meet for their 50-year reunion. Pictured from left: Rod Klima, Bill Hawkins, Ron Clevenger, Art Laib, Ronnie Rust, and team manager Dennis Hamilton.



Registration is open for the 2016 MidAtlantic Erg Sprints.

## Ready, Set, Register ... Race

Registration is now open for competitors and volunteers looking to be a part of the 2016 MidAtlantic Erg Sprints, held annually in Alexandria.

On Jan. 30, the Gerry Bertier Gymnasium at T.C. Williams High School will be transformed into a world-class rowing competition for juniors, college, open, adaptive, masters rowers, lightweights, parents, and kids from across the region. The MidAtlantic Erg Sprints is the second largest of its kind in the world and the largest for high school athletes — it has grown to include more than 100 events for juniors, college, open, adaptive, masters, lightweights, as well as a competition for parents and children. Races held include 2K, 20 & 30-minute, 500M and marathons.

Qualifying finishers of the day have the opportunity to compete in the 2016 World Indoor Rowing Championship at Boston University's Agganis Arena. Brand new Concept2 Model D/PM5 ergs, fully

assembled, "test driven" the day of Erg Sprints, and warrantied, can be purchased at a discount online.

Early registration discounts for competing in the 2016 MidAtlantic Erg Sprints are being offered until Jan. 5. Details on this year's event, competition registration, discounted erg reservations, volunteering and vendor information are at <http://ergsprints.com/>.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The 2016 MidAtlantic ErgSprints will be held on Jan. 30 at T.C. Williams High School.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Sleepy Thompson Tournament

The 60th Sleepy Thompson Tournament will be held Thursday, Dec. 3 through Saturday, Dec. 5 at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students per day, with four games per day.

Participating teams include: SSSA; Atlantic Shores Christian; Bishop Ireton; Episcopal; Maret; Norfolk Collegiate; St. Anne's-Belfield and Woodberry Forest.

The first game of the tournament, St. Anne's-Belfield vs. Maret, is scheduled for

3 p.m. Thursday.

### TC Boys, Girls To Face Wakefield

The T.C. Williams boys' and girls' basketball teams will travel to Wakefield High School to take on the Warriors in the annual Parker-Gray/Hoffman-Boston games, starting at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5.

The girls' teams will play at 5 and the boys' teams will play at 7.

The TC boys opened the season with a victory over SEED charter school on Monday. Wakefield beat Yorktown on Tuesday.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Athletes Commit

Six seniors at Bishop Ireton High School signed National Letters of Intent: Shannon Corridon, Basketball, University of New Haven; Kelly Larkin, Lacrosse, Naval Academy; Brittany Dolan, Lacrosse, Penn State; Susan Morad, Lacrosse, Manhattan College; Maggie Lohrer, Lacrosse, Boston University; and Grace Fletcher, Lacrosse, Liberty University.

# Merry and Fit Support groups help members maintain fitness during season of indulgence.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

Just after 7:30 on a recent Sunday morning, the steady beat of Cold Play's "Viva la Vida" pulsed through the warm, sleepy air. In the back of the room, lit only by a lavender florescent strobe, were four women perched on stationary exercise bikes. At the command of the instructor, they stood up on the pedals, leaned in to the space in front of them and started to climb a virtual hill.

"If these classes and our workouts weren't fun it'd be hard to get motivated, especially this early in the morning," said Jennifer Henry, one of the women.

The women, all friends, are taking an early morning spin class in an effort to achieve a common goal: to stay in shape and fend off weight gain during the holidays. They've formed what they refer to as a holiday fitness team. During the days between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, the average American will pack on at least an extra pound that they won't shed, according to the New England Journal of Medicine.

So seeking out like-minded people and forming a support group with the goal of staying motivated, disciplined and accountable when it comes to health and fitness is an effective weapon in the war on holiday bulge. The group concept is a fitness trend

that becomes more useful during the season of indulgence, say experts.

"Working out in groups offers camaraderie and accountability," said Paul Raker, YMCA Alexandria, which offered a "Find Your 150" program aimed at encouraging healthy eating and at least 150 minutes of cardio exercise each week. "What you'll find is that people are more likely to show up [for exercise] when they have a friend or small community as opposed to the person who tries to do it on their own."

Henry says her group has created a schedule that, in addition to their Sunday morning spin class, will include a once-weekly power walk at 8 o'clock in the evening, a weekly standing appointment with a trainer and an early morning bike ride. While they say that it is unlikely that each woman will make all of the sessions during the entire holiday season, they hope that having a road map will keep them on track. "If we didn't have any sort of plan, our group would totally fall by the wayside," she said. "We're making it as convenient for ourselves as possible to make sure we stick with it."

Before developing a schedule, there needs to be an acceptance by group members that the season will likely have an impact on one's diet and ability to exercise, said Bethesda, Md.-based Kate Heller, a certified personal trainer and CrossFit trainer.

"Even if you find yourself missing a Zumba class or with less time to spend at

the gym, it's still important to make exercise a priority," she said. "If you are over scheduled and can't get in a full workout, set aside time to at least do something to break a sweat and get your heart rate up."

Heller suggests maintaining a schedule by setting a calendar or smartphone reminder as you would for a doctor's appointment.

Planning early morning workouts, like those of Henry's group, can head off scheduling conflicts.

"No one will have an office holiday party or meeting scheduled for 5 a.m.," said Lauren Blumenthal, an Arlington-based wellness coach.

"Even a short cardio routine that gets your heart rate up and boosts your metabolism can help you feel healthier during the rest of the day."

Meeting a group of friends to plow through a Crossfit workout DVD or having pool of buddies to source when looking for healthful recipes that will hold up against calorie-laden holiday fare is another benefit of group fitness.

"We found that when we offered nutrition seminars and then had a potluck dinner where all of the group members prepared and brought a healthy dish, it was a great way to benefit from shared knowledge," said Raker.

When an evening holiday party is on the calendar and the temptation of heavy chocolate Yule logs and rum-spiked eggnog lurk in the subconscious, meal skipping to conserve calories should not be part of the health plan, says Sarah Leonard, an Oakton-based dietitian.

"You'll be ravenous by the evening and ready to eat everything in sight," she said. "If you know you'll be in a situation where you're tempted to eat rich and unhealthy food, eat small, vitamin-packed bites throughout the day. Try half of an avocado with a tomato or celery with a teaspoon of peanut butter. These are vitamin-packed and have good fat, so they're filling."

The group should acknowledge that the holiday season will be filled with merriment and temptations to indulge, and it's OK to yield to those desires with caution, says Blumenthal.

"The goal of a fitness group shouldn't be to lose 10 pounds before the New Year. That's too restrictive and unrealistic and could backfire," she said. "Focus on not gaining any weight and on maintaining any fitness achievements you've acquired this year, like increased endurance."

**"Working out in groups offers camaraderie and accountability."**

— Paul Raker, YMCA Alexandria

## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

### THROUGH DEC. 5

**Syrian Refugee Blanket Drive.** Various times at City Hall, 301 King St., or Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The goal is to fill several shipping containers to be sent to a local relief agency in Turkey for delivery to the refugee families. Visit [www.helpsyrianrefugees.us](http://www.helpsyrianrefugees.us).

### THROUGH DEC. 10

**Winter Scarf Drive.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Donate a handmade or store-bought scarf. Call 703-746-1751 for more.

### THROUGH DEC. 11

**Toy Drive.** At Weichert, Realtors, 121 N. Pitt St. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices. Visit [www.weichert.com/offices](http://www.weichert.com/offices).

### THROUGH DEC. 13

**Provide Feedback.** Share your thoughts on how the Old Town North neighborhood can be improved. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/86032](http://www.alexandriava.gov/86032) to learn more about the Old Town North SAP Update planning process. Visit [www.engage.alexandriava.gov](http://www.engage.alexandriava.gov) to leave comments.

### THROUGH DEC. 15

**Application Deadline.** The City of Alexandria invites local businesses to apply for the Healthy Workplace Award. The Alexandria Healthy Workplace Award program recognizes

Alexandria workplaces that have demonstrated a commitment to employee health and wellness in the City of Alexandria. Visit [www.helathieralexandria.org](http://www.helathieralexandria.org) for more.

**Accepting Donations.** Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at 421 King St., Suite 400. Every year, the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program organizes a holiday party for children and mothers who have been recently served by the program. Children's toys and gift cards in denominations of \$25 will be accepted. Call 703-746-4911 for more.

### THROUGH DEC. 30

**Leaf Collection Program.** Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/leafcollection](http://www.alexandriava.gov/leafcollection).

### THROUGH DEC. 31

**Accepting Nominations for 2015 CIVIC Awards.** The City of Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission is accepting

nominations for the 30th annual awards program. The award recognizes residents who have provided a valuable service to our community in meeting recreation or park needs. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 5

**"An Advent Pilgrimage: A Walk Through Sacred Space."** 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. Meditate upon Advent-themed Stations of the Cross. Lunch included. Free. Visit [www.vts.edu/lte](http://www.vts.edu/lte).

### TUESDAY/DEC. 8

**Financial Aid Advising.** 6 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Parents of seniors will learn how to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to access

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 30

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-Andrew Jackson

**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.

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**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-11-07**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Teaching Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-11-07 Teaching Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, December 10, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Chris Guy  
Procurement Manager



William Francis Smith

Of Alexandria, Va. on November 13, 2015 at age 91. Bill was born October 25th, 1924, the son of Charles Henry Smith and Fanny Ellen Wellford Jones. He attended George Washington and Episcopal High Schools in Alexandria and the University of Virginia. He interrupted his time at The University to attend US Navy Officer Candidate School where he earned the rank of Ensign and participated in WWII in the Pacific. Upon graduation Bill returned to Alexandria where he taught at G.W. High School. He then began his lifelong career in banking, working at Burke & Herbert and Alexandria National. Bill's love of Alexandria led to publishing A Seaport Saga and ultimately to creation of the William F. Smith Special Collection of historic photographs at the Alexandria Library. He served on several boards including the Alexandria Library, Alexandria Library Company, The Salvation Army and the Alexandria Tourist Council. He was a member of the Jamestown Society and various state and local historical groups. Bill was a devoted member of St. Paul's Episcopal church where he served on the vestry and traced his family to its founding in 1809. He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Nancy Jane (Leith) Smith, 3 children William Francis Smith, Jr of Delaplane, VA, John Nicholas Leith Smith of Searsmont, ME and Catherine McLean Smith Tyler of Alexandria, 6 grandchildren and his brother, Charles Henry Smith Jr. He was predeceased by his sister, Catherine Wellford (Smith) Spratley. A memorial service will be held December 4th, 2015 at noon at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St., Alexandria, Va., 22314. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church or St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria, Va. 22314.

**21 Announcements    21 Announcements**

**ABC LICENSE**  
Braddock Place Deli, LLC trading as Sophias Cafe, 1320 Braddock Pl, Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Usama Misleh, 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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

**ABC LICENSE**  
EMS Food Group, LLC trading as Chickpea and Olive, 529 E. Howell Ave. Alexandria, VA 22301. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Erik Dorn Member/Manager  
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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

**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:

Title: ITB No. 00000566, Integrated Transportation System Construction Project-Phase II (Re-bid)

ITB Opening Date and Time: January 12, 2016, 3 p.m., prevailing local time

Non-mandatory Pre-bid Conference: December 10, 2015; 10 a.m., prevailing local time at Purchasing Division, 100 N. Pitt Street, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314.

For general inquiries contact Darryl K. Jackson, CPPB, Contract Specialist III 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.**

**21 Announcements    21 Announcements**

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-11-07**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Teaching Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-11-07 Teaching Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, December 10, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Chris Guy  
Procurement Manager

**21 Announcements    21 Announcements**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot from Nov. 3 to Dec. 3, 2015 to elect the President-Elect, four seats on the Board of Directors, and three seats on the Nominating Committee for service beginning on June 6, 2016. Eligible ASCO members may also vote on a proposed ASCO Bylaws amendment by proxy ballot from Nov. 3 to Dec. 3, 2015. Information about proxy ballots is available at [www.asco.org/election](http://www.asco.org/election). Completed proxy ballots will be delivered to the ASCO President or her designee for casting at a meeting to be held on Dec. 8, 2015, 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22314. Members with questions can email [ascoelection@asco.org](mailto:ascoelection@asco.org) or call 571-483-1316.

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**21 Announcements    21 Announcements**

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-11-05**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Virginia Alternative Assessment Program (VAAP) Teacher Training & Support in the ACPS school district.

Emailed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-11-05 VAAP Teacher Training & Support will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, December 11, 2015. Proposals received via email shall be transmitted with a date and time stamp. Any email response received where the senders date and time are after this specified time shall not be considered. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP.

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)  
ACPS Senior Buyer

**21 Announcements    21 Announcements**

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The Mount Vernon Gazette

**Zone 4:** Centre View North  
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**21 Announcements    21 Announcements**

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**21 Announcements    21 Announcements    21 Announcements    21 Announcements    21 Announcements    21 Announcements**

**DC RICHMOND** Passenger Rail Improvement Alternatives Presented

Join the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Dec. 8, 9, or 10, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. for public meetings where you can offer your input on reasonable alternatives to improve intercity passenger rail between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, VA. DRPT strives to provide reasonable accommodations and services for persons who require special assistance to participate. Contact the Title VI compliance officer at 804-786-4440 or TDD 711. All comments received by Friday, Jan. 8, 2016 will be considered in the alternatives review process. For more information, meeting locations, and comment forms, visit: [www.DC2RVArail.com](http://www.DC2RVArail.com).

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FROM PAGE 28

the most grant money. Free. Contact the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's Director of College Advising, Margaret Feldman, at margaret.feldman@acps.k12.va.us or call 703-824-6730.

**City Council Legislative Meeting.** 7 p.m. at City Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact Jackie Henderson at jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-4500.

**WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9**

**Mental Health First Aid Training.** 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Mental Health America, 2000 N. Beauregard St., 6th floor. This course will teach individuals how to respond in a mental health crisis, whether in the workplace, in a public setting, or with a family member or friend. The cost is \$70. Visit bit.ly/10H1aMg.

**Registration Begins for The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.** 9 a.m. online, in-person or by phone at the Registration and Reservation Office located at the Lee Center at 1108 Jefferson St. Call 703-746-5414 or visit rec.alexandriava.gov.

**THURSDAY/DEC. 10**

**Windmill Hill Park Shoreline Rehabilitation Project Meeting.** 6:30-8 p.m. at City Hall, 301 King St. The City of Alexandria will host a public meeting to present information for the Windmill Hill Park Shoreline Rehabilitation project. Engineering design of the shoreline improvements began following City Council approval of the "living shoreline" concept plan in June 2015. Development of the final design is underway with construction anticipated to start in the first quarter of fiscal year 2017. Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to see the design progress and additional design detail. Contact Tony Gammon at anthony.gammon@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4155.

**Oakville Triangle & Rt. 1 Corridor Advisory Group.** 7 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Contact Katherine Carraway at katherine.carraway@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-3855.

**Board Of Zoning Appeals - Regular Public Hearing.** 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 301 King St. Call 703-746-4666.

**FRIDAY/DEC. 11**

**Alexandria Housing Development Corporation-Development Committee.** 7:30 a.m. at Franklin Capital Group, 201 N. Union St. Call 703-746-4990.

**DEC. 11-JAN. 1**

**Holiday SoberRide.** 10 p.m.-6 a.m. Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the annual Holiday SoberRide program will provide free cab rides up to \$30. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

**SATURDAY/DEC. 12**

**City Council Public Hearing.** 9:30 a.m. at City Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact Jackie Henderson at jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-4500.

**MONDAY/DEC. 14**

**Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group Meeting.** 6:30 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Comments received via engage.alexandriava.gov will be discussed. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

**TUESDAY/DEC. 15**

**Waterfront Commission Meeting.** 7:30 a.m. at City Hall, 301 King St. Contact Jack Browand at jack.browand@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5504.

**FRIDAY/DEC. 18**

**Nomination Deadline.** The Office of Historic Alexandria seeks nominees for the The Fort Ward Interpretive Plan Committee, who will oversee the development of an interpretive plan for the park that identifies important themes and stories associated with the park and to recommend programs that explaining the meaning of the park's unusual cultural, historic and natural resources. All nominations should be sent to Nicole Quinn at nicole.quinn@alexandriava.gov.

**Marketing Fund Application Deadline.** The Alexandria Marketing Fund is a grant program that provides seed money in the form of matching funds for new and innovative marketing programs. For the application form and guidelines visit www.alexandriava.gov/marketingfund.

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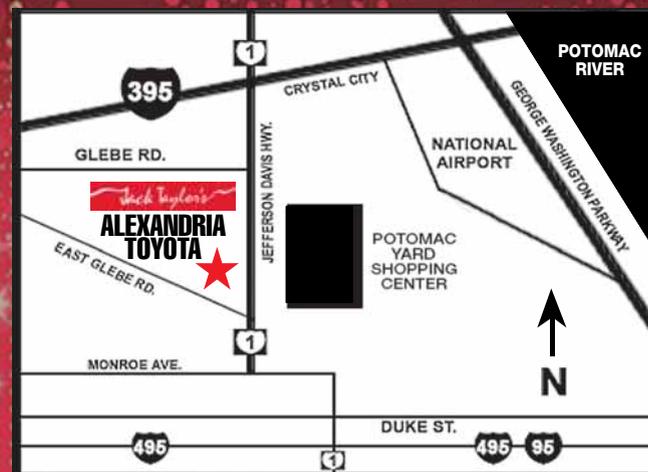
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Beautiful expanded Cape with spacious open plan addition. Main level has a living room, dining room, study, half bath, mud room, large gourmet kitchen/family room opening to a level back yard. Top floor has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, laundry room. The finished basement has full bath. 803 S Overlook Dr.

**Margaret Benghauser**  
703.989.6961  
www.MBenghauser.com



**Alexandria \$929,000**

Stately colonial in water-privileged neighborhood featuring gourmet kitchen, two-car garage on a lovely half-acre landscaped lot. Large rear deck, new carpet. Boat slips available! 9324 Mount Vernon Circle

**Melissa Shelby**  
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www.MelissaSellsVirginia.com



**Alexandria \$659,000**

A gorgeous, brand new kitchen with high-end finishes will make your holiday entertaining easy and the granite counters have tons of room for making sugar cookies. In the family room, vaulted ceilings and large windows provide an airy feeling. Large yard and garage. 1210 W Braddock Rd.

**Elizabeth Lucchesi**  
703.868.5676  
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**Alexandria \$619,000**

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**Alexandria \$684,000**

Lovely private setting with walkways, gardens, expansive patio and deck areas. Short walk to community pool, dock and tennis. Spacious 4-bedroom, 3-bath contemporary with kitchen and bath updates, over-sized garage, large basement storage and tucked away office.

**Joel Miller**  
571.277.1321  
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**Old Town \$1,699,000**

Rare property steeped in history, yet fits the lifestyle of the modern urban dweller! Extensive renovations and an open gourmet kitchen. 4 bedrooms with en-suite baths, basement with 12-foot ceilings, lovely garden and patio, 2 parking spaces and all within two blocks to King Street. 508queen. mceneaney.com

**Sue Goodhart**  
703.362.3221  
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



**Cameron Station \$379,000**

Carlton Place - A Perfect Landing! 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths on the first floor, open air balcony, updated kitchen & gas fireplace. Garage parking & storage. Minutes to Old Town. Brenman Park, restaurants & rush hour shuttle to Van Dorn Metro.

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## A Visitor's View of Alexandria

Born and raised in a small town on the Hudson just above New York City, Private Robert Knox Sneden enlisted in the Union army with the 40th New York's topographical engineers and wound up posted to virtually every major scene of fighting during the Civil War, including Brandy Station, where his capture in 1863 by Mosby's irregulars led to a prison stint at Andersonville.

As artistically prolific as he was peripatetic, Sneden sketched and mapped everywhere he went. At his first posting, in Alexandria, he was assigned to Gen. Samuel Heintzelman's III Corps staff at Fort Lyon, now the elevated site of Metro's Huntington Station. From that hilltop aerie, Sneden busily sketched and mapped the city and its immediate surroundings as the defenses of Washington were taking shape.

The map above was drawn in September 1862 and found in Sneden's pocket sketchbook. It depicts an Old Town veined with stockades to

protect its dual railroad hubs and vital roundhouse. A major battery at over-scaled Jones Point covers the Potomac River. Forts Lyon and Ellsworth (on Shuter's Hill) monitor Duke Street, the city's main east-west thoroughfare. To the south, across the stone causeway built in 1810 where Richmond Highway now crosses Hunting Creek, lay *terra incognita*. Intelligence identified the marshland just below Hunting Creek as a den of swamp-dwelling secessionists; Sneden likely avoided it altogether. That may be why he made this particular map's several errors, misidentifying all of the major roads south of Old Town and mistaking Quaker-owned Walnut Tree Farm—later named Wellington Villa and now known as River Farm, just three miles below Alexandria—for George Mason's Gunston Hall, actually located another dozen miles downriver on Mason Neck.

*This and other maps and drawings can be found in "Rare & Historic Maps & Views of Mount Vernon, 1760 to 1910," a special exhibit and sale at The Virginia Florist, through January 1, 2016.*

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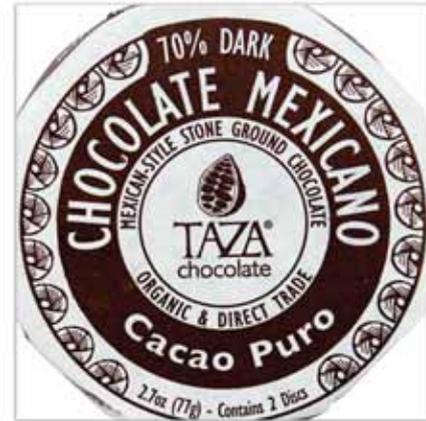
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