Minnie Howard’s Miniaturized Improvement Budget
ACPS budget scales back Minnie Howard modernization.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

The 2017-2026 CIP Budget centers around fixing what’s broken in Alexandria schools. The budget proposal continues a sweeping change in the capital improvement program; the approach calls for the renewal of outdated buildings.

At $291.2 million, it also carries the benefit of being slightly less expensive than the $291.4 million CIP budget approved earlier this year.

But, like any budget, it comes with a few sacrifices. Some are small trades, like reducing the funds for interior wall repair at T.C. Williams High School to $20,000 to replace the gym lights with L.E.D. lighting. Others may have more substantial impacts on students, faculty, and staff.

“We looked at the condition of Minnie Howard and most of us that have been there: it is in desperate need for modernization.”

— Ronnie Campbell, member, School Board

In particular, during the add/delete process, $14 million was redirected away from efforts to modernize T.C. Williams High School’s Minnie Howard campus. The programmatic intent, as listed by School Board Chair Karen Graf, was to take out of the “design” and “build” phases of the school’s modernization and invest in other elementary level projects. According to Graf, Lyles-Crouch, Mount Vernon, and Maury Elementary Schools were scheduled for modernization, but their non-capacity needs had been neglected.

The problem with Minnie Howard, for the School Board, is that no long-term plans have been put into place. The adjustment notes that actual design and costs for the school are still dependent on future decisions about capacity, redistricting, and grade level configurations.

In the meantime, the school would undergo one-third of its original modernization plans. While the cafeteria, gym, and other “core” parts of the school will undergo expansion, it’s the school’s classrooms that take the brunt of the budget cut. Ten new classrooms are scheduled to be added, but this still leaves the budget only able to partially address what the facilities staff called “inadequate physical conditions and deficiencies in educational adequacy of spaces.” The decision did not sit well with some members of the School Board.

See Scaling Back, Page 4

Neighborhood Subdivided
City Council rejects appeal to stop subdivision in Clover-College Park.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

The application to subdivide 809 and 811 Vassar Road was approved in May 2015 by the Planning Commission, but at that point, the fight was only getting started. An appeal was submitted by the neighbors, and in a 4 to 3 vote, the City Council remanded the decision application back to the Planning Commission. The commission, once again, approved the application, after which the neighbors filed a second appeal to the council. However, the City Council’s ruling at its Dec. 12 meeting, that the lots should be allowed to be subdivided, might finally but the question to rest.

In the latest controversy, much of the discussion centered around the city’s standards for lot character. According to Alex Dambach, division chief of the Department of Planning and Zoning, the staff recommended approval because the lot fully complies with the zoning ordinances and all of the determining factors for lot character. Lot character is judged by the area of the lot, its orientation, the alignment of the nearby streets, restrictions on the lot, and most controversially in this discussion: street frontage.

While the subdivision unquestionably fit the majority of the standards, there was disagreement on whether it fit the bulk of the standards.

“The staff says, subjectively, that it’s going to fit . . . but it has to pass the numbers.”

— Mark Leone, resident

See Council, Page 4

Placing Wreaths in Arlington
The T.C. Williams Boys Basketball team participated in the Wreaths Across America event on Saturday, Dec. 12 at Arlington Cemetery. The team gathered to volunteer, honoring those who serve, and remembering the sacrifices made by veterans.
Alexandria
$799,000
Marvelous renovations throughout includes a wonderful chef’s kitchen with stainless appliances & walkout to a showstopping outdoor space with wood-burning fireplace and full kitchen. Great location near interstate access. Old Town and bike/jog trails! 6036forthunt.mceenearney.com
Sue Goodhart
703.362.3221
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com

Rosemont
$565,000
Gorgeous 3-level, all-brick townhouse in Rosemont. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Rich hardwood floors throughout, updated kitchen, finished lower level family room or guest suite. Deck & back yard overlooks park. Walk to King St Metro & Old Town only one block away.
Jen Walker
703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com

Alexandria
$699,000
Oversized windows in the sunny family room perfectly frame the backyard view of Monticello Park. The kitchen is updated with lots of original charm in the floors, fireplace and tile-work. 4 generous bedrooms and 2 baths, perfect for busy mornings. Easy to Metro, Del Ray, and Pentagon.
Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676

Old Town/Barings South
$337,500
Old Town location and great condition for a fabulous value! Two-bedroom condo renovated with wood floors, granite and stainless kitchen, double pane windows, five outfitted closets, separate dining room, loads of light and an oversized reserved parking space!
Donna Cramer
703.627.3578
www.donnacramer.com

Old Town
$724,000
Sited on a double lot in the heart of Old Town, this must-see contemporary conversion will amaze you with its wide open floor plan and open spaces. Rear alley access allows for off-street parking and the approved addition of a two-car garage!
Ann Dozier Michael & George Myers
703.608.5219 | 703.585.8301
www.AnnDozierMichael.com

Alexandria/Hollin Hills
$749,000
Spacious, bright contemporary has 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, almost 3,500 SF and features sweeping views, master bedroom suite, hardwood floors, family room, 2 fireplaces, and expansive deck! Atrium addition brings the outdoors in! Great value!
Jodie Burns
571.226.5790
www.JodieBurns.com

Alexandria
$512,000
Set on a 1/3-acre lot on a cul-de-sac, this well-maintained 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath home is sunny and spacious. Designer kitchen is open to the family room with fireplace. Newer energy-efficient windows and HVAC. Easy Metro or Fort Belvoir commute.
Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676

Clifton
$659,000
Beautifully updated and maintained colonial has over 4,000 SF finished living space. 5 bedrooms up! Huge master suite with gas fireplace and French doors to balcony. Sun-filled gourmet kitchen opens to family room with gas fireplace. Lower level with large rec room and full bath.
Chris Hayes & Gordon Wood
703.944.7737 | 703.447.6138
www.HayesWoodHomes.com

Dumfries
$495,000
This home offers quality down to the smallest detail: 89-acre flat lot, new roof (2015), Trex deck, tinted windows, renovated kitchen with granite, island, backsplash; luxurious master suite, all baths updated; finished basement with dry bar, room for entertainment and storage.
Kristie Zimmerman
703.786.6155
www.KristieISmyAgent.com
**Defendant Sentenced to Life**

Omar Hernandez Lopez, 25, of Alexandria, was sentenced on a three count indictment relating to four years of his ongoing sexual abuse of a child, starting when the child was 5 years old. The abuse only stopped when the defendant moved away from the home that he shared with the child. The child did not immediately disclose the abuse out of fear of the defendant. However, two years after the abuse ended, and after struggling with serious mental health issues, the child disclosed the abuse to the child’s mother.

Specifically, the defendant was convicted of the following three charges: Aggravated sexual battery, rape of a child under the age of 13 by a person over the age of 18, and rape of a child under the age of 13 by a person at least 3 years older than the child.

The defendant was sentenced to a mandatory term of life in prison on the second count, with an additional 40 years of active prison time on the other two counts.

The case was investigated by Detective Kevin Thomas of the Alexandria Police Department’s Criminal Investigations Section, Special Victims Unit, with the assistance of the Center for Alexandria’s Children and the support of mental health providers from the Community Services Board. Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Jessica Smith and Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Audra O’Brien prosecuted the matter on behalf of the Commonwealth.

In a statement, Commonwealth’s Attorney Bryan Porter said: “My thoughts are with the victim of these horrendous crimes, who showed an amazing amount of courage in reporting the abuse to authorities. The sentence imposed in this case sends the unmistakable message that this community will not tolerate violence against children. By securing a life sentence, my office has delivered the appropriate punishment and has ensured that this predator will not be able to victimize other children.”

“It is my sincere hope that in this sentence the victim will find some small degree of closure and that the process of healing can begin. I would like to thank the Alexandria Police Department for the outstanding investigation conducted by its detectives. The significant sentence in this case should put sex offenders on notice that the Alexandria Police Department and Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office will zealously investigate and prosecute crimes of sexual violence against children.”

The defendant is currently in custody in the William G. Truesdale Alexandria Adult Detention Center, awaiting transfer to the Department of Corrections.

**Affordable Apartments Available**

Jackson Crossing, a new affordable mid-rise apartment community located at 120 East Reed Ave., is scheduled to open this winter. The community will feature amenities such as underground parking for residents, a rooftop patio, on-site management, and community space. The location has access to public transit and is located near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as well as dining and shopping opportunities. Jackson Crossing offers 1, 2 and 3 bedroom floor plans. Anticipated rents are $1,091 for a one bedroom unit, $1,287 for a two bedroom unit, and $1,470 based on a three bedroom unit. Maximum income limits are:

- One Person - $45,900
- Two People - $52,400
- Three People - $59,000
- Four People - $65,500
- Five People - $70,800
- Six People - $76,000

Call 703-271-8400, ext 134 to be placed on the inquiry list and for more information.

**Library Receives Curiosity Grant**

Alexandria Library received a $7,500 “Curiosity Creates” grant from the American Library Association’s Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and Disney. Out of 400 applications, the library is the only Virginia library among the recipients. The grant is for creating programs that encourage creativity in children.

**Jingle Bell Rock**

**5K raises arthritis awareness.**

**By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet**

I t is the leading cause of disability in the United States, with more than 53 million Americans being affected by some form of arthritis. Still in his 20s, Garrett Golubin became one of those statistics when he was diagnosed with spondyloarthritids earlier this year.

“I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease that caused a form of arthritis called spondyloarthritis throughout my body,” said the Alexandria resident. “In addition to other debilitating symptoms, it left me disabled for many months.”

A biologic therapy called Humira and other medications help Golubin control the disease and as he regained his strength, he wanted to do more.

“I became involved with the Arthritis Foundation to help all of those in similar and worse conditions who don’t have a voice and are in need of a better future,” said Golubin, who along with his mother Cindy acted as chair of the 2015 5K Jingle Bell Walk/Run for Metropolitan D.C. “TTR Sotheby’s sponsored our group and was a general sponsor of the event.”

Held Dec. 4 in Pentagon Row, the event raised more than $96,000 from over 1,000 participants.

“People think of arthritis as an old person’s disease,” Golubin said. “But there are more than 300,000 children in the United States afflicted with some form of autoimmune disease. It is also the leading cause of disability in veterans.” According to the Arthritis Foundation, more than 400 children are diagnosed with juvenile arthritis in the Metropolitan D.C. area each year. The disease affects children of all ages, genders, races and backgrounds and at this time, there is no cure. “Most Americans are unaware of the extent of this disease,” Golubin said. “Through events like the Jingle Bell 5K, I want to continue to raise awareness and funds to help veterans and particularly our children prevent, control and ultimately one day cure arthritis.”

For more information, visit www.arthritis.org.

**Holiday Cheer For All**

Kylie Wiest, community outreach and adoptions associate at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, accepts a holiday donation from Natasha Edwards at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter.

**Photo by Laura Mae Sudder**
News Briefs

From Page 3

Swearing-In Ceremony
dren, particularly programs that reach low-income, immigrant, and underserved areas.

Beatley Central will be doing a series of 21 programs under the collective name “STEAMtivity” – a compound of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) and creativity. These programs will be both low-tech and high-tech and encourage children to be creative, explore their own interests and ideas, collaborate, and have fun while learning in the STEAM areas. Programming began in November and will carry on through May 2016.

The grant money will be used to purchase laptop computers, iPad mini’s, MaKey MaKeys, Arduino kits, littleBits snap circuits, Lego Mindstorms Robot kits, and Strawbees building supplies. All materials will be kept by the library after the grant period is over and will be used for continued programming.

For more information on upcoming STEAMtivity-related programs, contact Diana Price at 703-746-1735.

Tree Work at Fort Ward Park

The City of Alexandria will begin the seasonal tree maintenance in Fort Ward Park and Museum Area beginning the week of Dec. 26, and will continue through January 2016 subject to the weather conditions. The work includes structural and deadwood pruning of 52 trees, removal of 42 dead or diseased trees throughout the park and grinding of remaining tree stumps.

City arborist staff in the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities conducted an assessment of all trees in the park and museum area and identified specific trees that needed maintenance or removal.

The tree maintenance work will be carried out by a city tree contractor and supervised by the city arborist staff. Any ground disturbance activities will be coordinated with the city’s Office of Historic Alexandria staff. Recreation staff will also post public notice of tree maintenance work in the park and museum area.

Following the tree maintenance work, 24 new native trees will be planted in the spring of 2016. Funding for the new trees is included in the approved FY2016 Capital Improvement Program of the city.


Swearing-In Ceremony

The public is invited to attend the formal City Council installation ceremony on Monday, Jan. 4, at 7 p.m. in the T.C. Williams High School Auditorium, 3330 King St.

New mayor, Allison Silberberg, and new Council member Willie Bailey will be sworn in with re-elected incumbents John T. Chapman, Timothy B. Lovain, Redella S. “Del” Peper, Paul C. Smedberg, and Justin Wilson.

On Sunday, Jan. 3, Silberberg is hosting an “Installation Celebration” at the George Washington Masonic Temple on Sunday, Jan. 3, from 3 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend and it is free and open to the public. No RSVP is necessary and refreshments will be served.

Man Dies in Industrial Accident

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating an industrial accident in the 200 block of Gentry Avenue. On Monday, Dec. 14, around 12:57 p.m., police responded to a report of a man who fell from a ladder while working. The victim, a 51-year-old man, was transported to the hospital and pronounced dead by medical staff.

Detectives continue to investigate. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Detective Ryan Clinic at 703-746-6673.

In other police news:

DEC. 17

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a commerical robbery in the 300 block of S. Whiting Street. Two suspects with guns stole cash from a convenience store. There were no Roundups. Page 5

News

Council Rejects Neighbors’ Appeal

From Page 1

Lot 626, flanked by 811 Vassar Road on the left and 809 Vassar Road on the right.

Scaling Back School Modernization

From Page 1

“...We have to approve it.” Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, the only vote against upholding the Planning Commission’s decision, was still divided on the issue. Silberberg lamented that such a conflict had emerged over subdividing a parcel of land, but said that the city was not being transparent or predictive in its land use decisions. However, in one of his last pieces of advice as mayor of Alexandria, William Eulie argued for a transparent but not necessarily predictive model.

“In my 21 years sitting up here, these are never easy, and I’m not sure you want to be predictive,” said Eulie. “What you want is a process; a process that everyone can understand and respect. We have a process, but maybe it’s time to look at what we have for modifying and making changes.”
George Washington Chapter President Dwight Whitney, left, is joined by APD Chief Earl Cook as Deputy Chief Eddie Reyes and Officer Jonattan Lopez are presented with Law Enforcement Commendation medals Dec. 7 at APD Headquarters. With them are SAR Public Service Award Chair John Blair and Awards Chair Jack Pitzer.

SAR Honors Lopez, Reyes

Deputy chief to retire Dec. 31.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

The George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presented Law Enforcement Commendation medals to Alexandria police officer Jonattan Lopez and Deputy Chief Eddie Reyes Dec. 7 at Alexandria Police Headquarters.

Lopez received the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Award for his exceptional service providing lifesaving care to a citizen. While on patrol July 26, Lopez was dispatched to assist a citizen. Upon arrival, he discovered a 48-year-old resident lying on the floor unresponsive. Noticing that the victim’s face was purple and that he was not breathing, Lopez initiated life-saving CPR chest compressions and continued until relieved by the Alexandria EMS. Lopez’sinitiated life-saving CPR chest compressions and continued until relieved by the Alexandria EMS. Lopez’s rapid response saved the life of the resident.

Reyes, who rose through the ranks from patrol officer to deputy chief, will retire Dec. 31 after 25 years of service. He worked in almost every unit of the department, most notably as the commander of the emergency communications center and in the interoperability center on Sept. 11, 2001, and during the Washington D.C. sniper attacks.

In 2002, Reyes was assigned to the National Institute of Justice CommTech Program. He chaired the Metropolitan Council of Governments Police Technology Subcommittee and has served as the chairman of the Virginia State Interoperability Executive Committee.

Reyes has served on the Virginia Latino Advisory Board and was chairman of the International Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Management Section. He was appointed vice-chair of the FCC Emergency Response Interoperability Center and serves on the Transportation Safety Advancement Group. He coordinated the construction of the Alexandria Police Headquarters building and a number of electronic innovations adopted by the Department.

“It is such an honor to have the collaboration that the Alexandria Police Department has with all the civic associations in Alexandria like Sons of the American Revolution,” Reyes said. “Few organizations know the true meaning of service and dedication like the members of the Sons of the American Revolution and having them acknowledge me for 25 years of service to the citizens of Alexandria wraps up my career just perfectly. I’m so grateful and honored of the award and recognition they have given me.”

Scaling Back on School Modernization

From Page 4
capacity projects directly contrasted with the CIP’s primary objectives.

“Our priorities were for capacity and modernization,” said School Board Vice Chair Chris Lewis. “[but] we’re moving money from complete modernization. But the cut’s defenders recognized it as one of the many necessary difficult budget choices.

“It’s being disingenuous to say that anyone is saying we don’t need to modernize,” said School Board Member Bill Campbell. “Nothing in anyone's adds [or] deletes say we don’t need to modernize. To me, it makes perfect sense to say we need to prioritize how much modernization we do now vs how much capacity that we add. I think you guys have struck a balance between the modernization you’re planning to do now with the clear capacity needs we’re going to have in the next 12 years.”
Holiday Ideas

Wrap It Up

Last minute gift ideas.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

I

If you are still doing your holiday shopping on Christmas Eve, you are not alone. According to the National Retail Federation, nearly 90 percent of holiday shoppers still have lists to wrap up with many opting for an “experience” rather than a more traditional gift.

In the most recent NRF survey among millennials, 36.1 percent of holiday shoppers are planning to give the gift of experience such as a dining gift card or tickets to a sporting event or theater production. Even more respondents – 55 percent – said they would like to receive such a gift.

“Season tickets to a local theater, or even to a single production, is a great gift idea,” said Roland Branford Gomez, a longtime director at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. “LTA also offers classes for all ages, both in on stage performance as well as playwriting and improvisation. I can’t think of a better gift to give a child than the chance to meet new people and learn and experience the arts.

Youth classes at LTA are for ages preschool through eighth grade and include a wide range of performing arts including acting, singing, dancing, improvisation, Shakespeare and guitar.

Classes take place weekdays and weekends with many culminating in a large scale spring showcase production on the main LTA stage.

Summer Camps commence June 6 and run through August 29 with Full day, half day and extended day options available. Online registration is available at www.thelittletheatre.com.

“We have an Open House scheduled for Jan. 9 from 10 a.m.-noon,” Gomez added. “It will feature a backstage tour, family improv, puppet making and face-painting and is a great way for everyone to learn more about classes here at LTA.”

For a night on the town, consider tickets to First Night Alexandria. Live performances and is a great way for everyone to learn improvis, puppet making and face-painting.

“First Night Alexandria will feature a backstage tour, family day and extended day options available. Jan. 9 from 10 a.m.-noon,” Gomez added.

“Tickets to First Night Alexandria make a great last minute gift and can be purchased online at www.firstnightalexandria.org.

The Potomac Riverboat Company offers tours along the riverfront, including tours north to Georgetown or south to Mount Vernon Estate. Individual passes can be purchased for these tours and others such as the Canine Cruise, but a little known secret is that the company also offers a season pass for use on the water taxi and most other tours. For more information, visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

“It’s hard to think of just the right gift since so many people already have what they need,” Gomez said. “A gift of experience will bring lasting memories and for children, help shape them for a lifetime.”

The Little Theatre of Alexandria offers classes for all ages. Register online at www.thelittletheatre.com.

New Children’s Book

From Local Author

Set in the early twentieth century, “Oz, Dog of the Del” is a new children’s story in rhyme from Alexandria writer Taylor Baldwin Kilian.

The book features Oz, a fearless dachshund who lives at the Hotel del Coronado in Coronado, Calif. (San Diego). He befriends a young girl named Izzy and takes her on an adventure around the island of Coronado where they meet Charlie Chaplin filming a movie, the Great White Fleet, Charles Lindbergh in his airplane, and Frank Baum -- the author of “A Wizard of Oz,” who promises to write Oz and Izzy into his book.

The book is illustrated by Patricia Palermino of Alexandria, a self-taught American folk art artist who has been publishing her collection of paintings depicting Washington, D.C., and Alexandria historical locations for more than 20 years.

The book is available for sale at the Alexandria Farmers Market at Patrick Palermino’s booth and online at Amazon and www.ozdogofthedel.com.

New Cookbook

Learn how to make Buzz Bakeshop’s red velvet cupcakes, Clyde’s jumbo lump crab cakes, the Landini Brothers’ carbonara or recipes from 41 Alexandria restaurants in The Twig’s new cookbook, “Alexandria-Favorite Restaurants-Best Recipes.”

This 144-page spiral bound cookbook is now available for purchase. Single copies are $25 with tax, and may be purchased online at www.thetwig.org or at The Twig’s Thrift Shop, 106 N. Columbus Street, Alexandria. Orders of 50 or more will receive a 10 percent discount and not be charged sales tax.

The Twig, the junior auxiliary for Inova Alexandria Hospital, has published this cookbook. For the past year, Twig members worked with chefs from 41 restaurants for permission to reprint favorite recipes. All recipes were tested by members of The Twig and adjusted for the home cook.

The Office of Historic Alexandria is also selling the cookbook. Copies may be purchased at The Lyceum, Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, and the Apothecary, and Alexandria Museum Store at the Old Town Hilton, all in Old Town Alexandria.

The Twig, the Junior Auxiliary for Inova Alexandria Hospital, is a non-profit organization of women dedicated to providing financial aid, volunteer service, and support to Inova Alexandria Hospital, which was originally established by volunteers in 1933 by a group of 24 young women who gathered at the home of Mrs. Julian T. Burke.

The organization recently announced a new $1 million pledge to the hospital, toward renovations for the hospital’s Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU). The pledge will be payable over an 8-year period. Sales of the cookbook will go toward this pledge.

See www.thetwig.org or visit its thrift shop at 106 N. Columbus St.

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Church Donates $1 Million to Smithsonian


By Marissa Beale
Gazette Packet

Alfred Street Baptist Church’s 200-plus year history is one that includes contributions to education, missions, children’s ministries and more.

In November, ASBC added one more contribution to the list by donating $1 million to the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), which, when it opens in fall 2016, will be the 19th Smithsonian Institution. The building is located on Constitution Avenue between 14th and 15th streets, N.W. ASBC is now considered a founding member of the museum, making it the first religious institution to be designated as such.

“I am very excited about it,” said ASBC member Renée Spivey who also donated to the museum. “I’m planning to be there during the displays.”

ASBC presented the donation at its 10 a.m. Sunday worship service in early November to 20 members of the Smithsonian that were present, including NMAAHC’s director, Lonnie Bunch.

Plans for the museum are over a decade in the making. In 2003, an Act of Congress established the museum as part of the Smithsonian Institution, and in January 2006, the Smithsonian Board of Regents voted to build the museum at a five-acre site adjacent to the Washington Monument.

“Hopefully this museum will attract people from all over the country and from all over the world,” said ASBC member Monte Richards, who also donated to the museum.

In a sermon titled “Tell Your Own Story,” the Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley spoke about articulating one’s own experiences and how important this is.

“When I sit in Alfred Street I feel so blessed to be there,” said Spivey. “I have always felt that there was something spiritual about the ground that church is on. It just gives new meaning to the song “Sweet, Sweet, Spirit.”

“Once it’s in the Smithsonian it means that as long as it’s in America, the story can be told,” said Wesley to the congregation. The church is also donating several artfacts, including the Howard University sweatshirt worn by Wesley for the Black Lives Matter movement.

From left: Lonnie Bunch, director, Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History & Culture; the Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, pastor Alfred Street Baptist Church; Pat Johnson, ASBC chair, Deacon Board; and James McNeil, ASBC chair, Trustee Board.

Seniors Celebrate the Season

First Baptist Church of Alexandria welcomed 150 Alexandria seniors from local senior centers to a special holiday luncheon sponsored by Alexandria’s Successful Aging Committee. The committee is comprised of the City of Alexandria’s Community and Human Services; Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; Redevelopment and Housing Authority and Senior Services of Alexandria. At left are Carmalita Collier and Dee Cuators of St. Martin de Porres Senior Center with Brenda Holloway, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

Filling Dr. Bear’s Gift Closet

Classrooms were turned into bakeries on Dec. 4 for St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School’s 22nd annual fourth grade bake sale benefiting Children’s National Medical Center. The bake sale took place inside the classrooms, where faculty, staff, students, and parents purchased the baked treats. Fourth grade students organized the baking, advertised the sale around school, decided how to price the items, made change, and rolled the coins. Then they made a list of toys they’d like to buy, and their teachers purchased them with the bake sale proceeds of $1,720. All the gifts will go into Dr. Bear’s Closet at Children’s National Medical Center for patients and their siblings to enjoy.

Empty Bowls to Help Those Who Are Hungry

ALIVE!’s inaugural Empty Bowls Alexandria event in November brought together more than 130 people to raise awareness and funds to feed people in Alexandria who are hungry. More than $30,000 was raised to support ALIVE!’s Last Saturday Food Distribution and Family Emergency Programs. Held at the Durant Arts Center in Old Town, guests at ALIVE!’s Empty Bowls event enjoyed a meal of soup, bread and desserts provided by 12 of Alexandria’s restaurants. Jen Walker Real Estate Team, Mercedes-Benz of Alexandria and Whole Foods – Old Town were the lead financial sponsors of the event. Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Fine Arts Department and their ceramics students crafted and provided the bowls for each attendee.

Diane Charles, executive director of ALIVE!
Merry Christmas

We wish you hope, peace, love and joy during this holiday season.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

So let us share the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

— MARY KIMM
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor’s Note about the rest of 2015: This is our last regular edition of 2015. Next week, after Christmas, we will publish our annual Children’s Gazette, devoted entirely to the artwork and writing of local students. Our next regular edition will publish Jan. 6-7, 2016, with deadline for content and advertising of Dec. 30 (late ads accepted).

In the meantime you can reach the editors at gazette@connectionnewspapers.com and sales/marketing/advertising at sales@connectionnewspapers.com.

Digital replica editions of the most recent week’s papers are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs.


Sign up for a free digital subscription at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/subscribe.

Letters

Intended Hospitality?

To the Editor:

Parking in Old Town Alexandria Dec. 18 reminded me of attorney William Kunstler’s questioning of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley during the 1968 Chicago Seven trial following the Democratic National Convention, during which Chicago police clubbed demonstrators. Kunstler asked Daley if that was the traditional hospitality shown visitors.

Exceeding my Old Town parking meter time by one minute on Dec. 18, I received a $40 ticket — yes, 60 seconds late as the ticket indicated, and having arrived at my car within seconds of the citation being issued. The city makes clear on its website that there is no grace period. The “meter maid” did his job. So, I ask, the city, with its Old Town merchants and restaurateurs in mind: “Is this the intended hospitality shown visitors to Old Town?”

For me, it will be a long time before I again visit, for lunch, dinner or shopping, Old Town Alexandria, noting that my dollars spend equally well in my home of...
AARP, Senior Services Offer Caregiver Workshop

Learn what resources and support are available to caregivers.

By MaryAnne Beatty
Senior Services of Alexandria

Caring for a family member or close friend is one of the most important roles you’ll play. It may start with driving your loved one to get groceries or going to the doctor. Later, you may find yourself taking more time off from work, preparing meals or handling bills.

No matter where you are in the journey of family caregiving having a plan and knowing what resources are available can help guide both you and your loved ones in making the process easier. It’s important to help guide both you and your loved ones in knowing what resources are available can of family caregiving having a plan and making a plan, the various options available for health care and resources and support needed to better care for loved ones.

Senior Services of Alexandria is teaming up with AARP for an informative Caregiver Resources and Support Workshop on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, at Immanuel Church on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Road in Alexandria starting at 10 a.m. – noon (Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.). Participants will hear from local experts from Insight Memory Care Center and Griswold Home Care on the importance of making a plan, the various options available for health care and resources and support for those serving as caregivers.

Retired Major General Antonio Taguba, an AARP community ambassador, will kick-off the session talking about his personal experience serving as a caregiver. After his parents became ill, he and his siblings were ill-prepared to care for them. Faced with tough decisions about their health and finances they managed to care for them the best they could.

To help others, General Taguba now advocates for caregivers and their families. His personal story will provide valuable insight to workshop participants.

This event is free and open to the public with light refreshments served. Please RSVP online at seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

“Excerpts from AARP’s “Prepare to Care – A Planning Guide for Families.” Visit the AARP Caregiving Resource Center at aarp.org/caregiving or call 1-877-333-5885.

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In Transit
Seaman Shaquan Johnson, from Alexandria strikes down the lines after the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) departs Brest Naval Station in November. The Sullivans is in transit while returning to homeport in Mayport, Fla. after a scheduled port visit in Brest, France.

Veterans Recognized
The Alexandria Sheriff’s Office recognized the military service of several inmates who are currently in the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center. On the morning of Nov. 11, a deputy read a message of gratitude over the address system. The message in part said, “To the men and women who served to protect our country, our nation’s interests, our people, and other nations who could not protect themselves, we thank you for the freedoms you’ve preserved. On behalf of Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and staff, we recognize your efforts, we appreciate your dedication and we thank you for your service.” Then Lieutenant Deborah Vaughan and Sergeant Felicia Mensah (in photo) delivered red, white and blue cupcakes to each of the veterans in the jail.

Each Feed One
As part of its “Bring Change” campaign, the South Washington Street TD Bank’s Penny Arcade served as a designated hub for a community coin counting event and fundraiser to support Each One Feed One. TD matched up to $2,000 in coins counted and representatives of TD joined the staff at Each One Feed One to hand off the donation of $4,073.85. From left are Scott Meehan, TD retail market manager; Constantine Ferssizidis, TD capital team lead; Sara Hasan, TD assistant store manager; Xavier Hixon, CEO of UCAP; Amy Mosely, CEO Each One Feed One, and Michael Allison, marketing representative, Each One Feed One.

Academic Convocation
St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes has two National Merit Semifinalists this year, who placed in the top 1 percent of more than 1.5 million students who took the 2014 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship qualifying test. These seniors will continue on in the National Merit Scholarship competition, and finalists will be announced in early 2016. The semifinalists are: Caroline Currin and Isabel Shaw. In addition, SSSAS has 15 seniors who scored in the top 5 percent in Virginia and are named National Merit Commended Scholars.

Saints Serve
On the day before Thanksgiving, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School gathered for the annual Saintsgiving service day. Alumni, students, parents, faculty, and friends made 4,600 sandwiches for the non-profit Martha’s Table and sorted pounds of donated candy for the Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation drive.

Teacher Invents Math Game
An interactive math game will be produced by the award-winning game company ThinkFun. “Dice Chase” was invented by St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School’s director of Lower School Mathematics Ann Bremner. It will be sold on Amazon.com in late December and at Barnes & Noble in January.
**Elks Lodge Serves Its Community**

Alexandria Elks Lodge #758 is conducting charitable activities for communities, youth and veterans. Programs consist of scholarships, Americanism, youth hoop shoot, drug awareness, dictionaries, safety glasses, Kids Summer Camp, holiday food baskets, lunch bags for the USO, among others.

The lodge is located at 7120 Richmond Hwy. It serves lunch to the homeless daily Mondays to Fridays from noon to 1 p.m., conducts veterans’ Bingo monthly at the DC/VA Medical Center, supports local Boy and Girl Scouts and Little League sports associations.

The lodge has adopted local elementary, middle, high schools, vocational schools and churches to provide for their needs in any way it can.

Its motto is “Elks Care Elks Share;” the lodge is able to provide venue, needed goods/perishable or not and/or donations for uniforms, tools, equipment, trip funding, and more.

For those in need or who would like to participate in any of the Elks’ charitable programs, call 703-660-8734.


**Celebrating Beaujolais Nouveau**

In observation of the annual French celebration of the 2015 Beaujolais Nouveau and to present the newly elected board members of Living Legends of Alexandria (LLA), LLA sponsored Beaujolais Nouveau at Del Ray Towers. The semi-guided wine tour showcased three wine flights by sommeliers accompanied with light fare, introduced new board members and celebrated past year’s Living Legends. Beaujolais Nouveau is made from the Gamay noir à Jus blanc grape, better known simply as Gamay. The grapes are required to come from the Beaujolais region of France.

The mission of Living Legends of Alexandria (LLA) is to identify, honor and chronicle individuals who have made significant contributions to the quality of life in Alexandria.

**Alexandria Carpet One**

Alexandria Carpet One Floor and Home recently celebrated a Grand Opening of its new retail location at 851 S. Pickett St. The full service residential flooring business has been located on Pickett Street for 43 years and is a division of CCA Floors and Interiors which is located nearby at 885 S. Pickett St. The former location for both businesses, 430 S. Pickett St. is the site of a new condominium project.

With Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille is, from right, is Christine Sennott of @Home Realty; David Fanning, store manager; CEO Ken Hirshman; Founder Daryl Reinke; Walter Clarke of Burke & Herbert Bank; and an aide of the mayor’s. Sennott and Clarke were representing the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Bill Euille quips that soon he’ll be eligible to be considered as a Living Legend of Alexandria.

Guests enjoy sampling the wine.
Entertainment

Email announcements to 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


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 for more.

“George Washington’s Thanksgiving Proclamation.” Through Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. This exhibit will detail the history of Thanksgiving at Mount Vernon. On October 3, 1789, Washington issued his Thanksgiving proclamation, designating for “the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving.” Admission to the exhibit is included in Mount Vernon ticket prices. Tickets are $17 for adults, $9 for children, and free for children ages 5 and younger. Visit www.mountvernon.org/thanksgiving.

“Printed Matter.” Through Jan. 17, at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Printed Matter features a mix of works (printed media, such as serigraphy, book arts, and graphic design) created using traditional techniques as well as newer or reimagined ones. Free. Visit www.targetgallery.com.

French Movie Night. Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit www.izazacausa.com.

Journey to Be Free: Alexandria Freedmen’s Cemetery. Through November 2016 at The National Inventors Hall of Fame–USPTO campus, 600 Dulany St. The exhibit features the stories of inventors of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.


Alexandria Cars and Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseinia’s, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812. Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria’s citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.leeafieldhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Alexandria-based artist Kathlyn Avila says her ceramic sculptures embody “familiar souls.” In the “No Ordinary Woman” exhibit, patrons will find characters inspired by Avila’s childhood as an African American in the ’50s and ’60s including a seamstress and gran. See “No Ordinary Woman” through Jan. 3 at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on Thursdays, 12-6 p.m. on Sundays. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Avila’s ‘No Ordinary Woman’ On Display at Art League

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“Ancient Art of Movement.” 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is $48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

Flamenco Show. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit www.izazacausa.com.

Dinner for the Washingtons. 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. A new exhibit tracing the 150-year history of the long-forgotten Freedmen’s Cemetery, its rediscovery and how the new Contrabands and Freedmen’s Cemetery Memorial was created at the site. Call 703-746-4356.
TUESDAY/DEC. 29
Misc Condition Holiday Show, 7:30 & 11 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. R&B group performs. Tickets are $85. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 31
First Night Alexandria. 2 p.m.-12 a.m. at throughout Old Town and Alexandria. This 21st annual New Year’s Eve celebration will feature more than 175 performances at 29 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, children’s face painting and games. The afternoons Seventh Annual Fun Hunt is accompanied by all-new activities for families and pets. There’s an old-fashioned carnival at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray. First Night’s fireworks finale returns with a spectacular display over the Potomac River at midnight. Tickets are $20 before Dec. 14, $30 after. Admission for children 12 and under, seniors, military, volunteers are free. Visit www.firstnightalexandria.org.

New Year’s Eve at The Birchmere Inn. 5:30-12 a.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Eat a five-course meal. Tickets are $99 plus tax and gratuity. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Seldom Scene. 8 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Bluegrass band Gold Heart will perform with Seldom Scene and Only Lonesome. Tickets are $39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 1
Mo’Fire. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. MO’Fire and In Groove reservations. Call 703-483-2205.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are $4. Call 703-763-4857.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artists offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to work on their life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw on our live model. Fee ranges from $8-$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artist in Local, 7748 Mt Vernon Ave. Visit www.thedelrayartists.org for a schedule.

Community Yoga. Wednesday 9:30-10:30 a.m. or 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Studio 100. No experience required to participate in weekly community class. Suggested $10 donation. Visit www.532yoga.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 26
Southside Johnny. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Southside Johnny joined The asbury Jukes. Tickets are $39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 27
Kwanzaa Celebration. 2:5-3 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wylte St. This “Kujichagulia” or self-determination celebration will feature Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright. Free. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

Hank Williams Night. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Musicians perform in the 19th annual tribute to Hank Williams. Tickets are $29.50 plus a service charge. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

ENTERTAINMENT

p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how the Georgian mansion was planned and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. $5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Second Thursday Music.
Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit www.athenaeum.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music. The Monday Morning Birdwalk takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trials), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. from November through March), is free, requires no reservation and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park’s entrance at 3701 Loxheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

Art for Life. Third Thursday of every month. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Hyatt Regency Crystal City has partnered with the National Kidney Foundation for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Virginia History Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it goes together: ham and eggs, bride and TV dinners. $5 in addition to museum admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Community Yoga.
Community Dance.
Life Drawing.
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Thrift Shop.
 destiny.
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Christmas at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
Please join us for worship – all are welcome!

December 24: Christmas Eve
5:00pm: Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist
10:15pm: Special Christmas music with choir, orchestra, and hand bells
11:00pm: Festival Holy Eucharist

Immanuel Chapel on the campus of Virginia Theological Seminary (Episcopal)
3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria

December 25: Christmas Day
11:00am: Holy Eucharist for Christmas Day
Zabriskie Chapel, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria

www.icoh.net

“The Pumpkin Church”
SUNDAY/JAN. 10
Panel Discussion: “Take a Turn Down Merry Street.” 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. George Combs, manager of Alexandria Library’s Special Collections Branch, author Michael Leo Pope, and Callie Stapp of The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum will introduce you to the history behind the PBS series, “Merry Street,” which is based in Alexandria. Free. Call 703-746-1721 or email admin@nvfaa.org to RSVP.

Winter Warmer Ladies Tea. 3:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Choose from a variety of 18th-century desserts, drink tea, and visit with “Dolley Madison.” Tickets are FREE. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov.

Organ Music. 4 p.m. at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. The public is invited to hear organist Janet Yieh Sun perform. Free. Visit www.vts.edu.


Maceo Parker. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Saxophonist Maceo Parker performs. Tickets are $39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Meigs Hodge. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Traditional and contemporary blues guitar and vocals. Tickets are $15. Visit www.africafusion.org for more.

Civil War Ball Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Civil War Ball on the Jan. 23, learn the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel and more from an expert. Tickets are $12 per class, $30 for the entire series. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov.


FRIDAY/JAN. 15
Tea Tasting: Teas for Winter Health. 10 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Taste a variety of the best teas and herbal infusions to boost immunity and boost moods. Learn about their medicinal properties and discover new healthful brews. Tickets are $22. Call 703-642-5173.

Garden Talk: Houseplants. 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn more about the proper lighting, soil, and watering for houseplants. The class fee is $10. Call 703-642-5173.

“No Holds Barred” Opening Reception. 6:30-9 p.m. at The Gallery of Contemporary, 1601 N. Quaker Lane. Celebrate the exhibit named for the “don’t hold back, just let go” approach artists Pamela Underhill and Rusty Lynn employ in their armmaking. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

FRIDAY/SUNDAY/JAN. 15-17
Eddie Fose and the Fose Band. 7 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Local folk band will give a show entirely based on requests from the audience. Tickets are $39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 16
Floral Design: Winter Cutting Garden. 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Master gardeners will conduct a class to help you determine your needs and rethink your garden space to better match your style. Admission is $38 plus $25 supply fee. Call 703-642-5173.

Family Art Workshop: Shape Tape Art. 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Parents and children ages 4-9 are invited to make art using tape, acrylic paint, and a canvas. Tickets are $30, $5 for each additional child. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com/mommy-me-holiday-workshops.

Lecture: Civil War Medicine. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Beadley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Dr. Guy Hasegawa, a Civil War medicine scholar, will give a talk on “Medicinal Alcohol in the Civil War.” Free. Visit www.alexandriabib.org.us.


Celebration Gala. 6-11 p.m. at Holiday Inn, 625 1st St. This Black Tie Gala will celebrate the installation of the new Pastor of Historic Shiloh Baptist Church, Reverend Taft Quincy Heathley. Tickets are $60. Visit www.shilohbe.org for more.

SUNDAY/JAN. 17
Celebrate Community SK & 1K Fun Run/Walk. 8-11 a.m. at Eisenhower Ave. This event will honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with an additional food drive for ALIVE. Registration costs will be $15-25, and $20-25 on the day of the race. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

“Tea Traditions Beyond Downing Abbey.” 2-3 p.m. at Beadley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Laurie Bell will share how other parts of the world celebrate and enjoy tea. Visit www.alexandriabib.org.us or call 703-746-1721.

The United States Marine Band. 2 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Free. Visit www.marineband.mil for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 21
Morris Day and The Time. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Listen to live music and see Entertainment. Visit SeeEntertainment.com.

Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes will celebrate the release of new album “SOULTIME!” on Saturday, Dec. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are $39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.
Candy for a Cause

St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School continued its support to the Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation this fall with its annual post-Halloween candy drive, where they collected 7,500 pounds of candy from local organizations, including SSSAS. Faculty, staff, parents, and students helped sort, load, and deliver the donated candy to 12 local hospitals and organizations to help the foundation’s efforts in supporting children who are ill or at risk. The organization is dedicated to increasing childhood cancer awareness, education, advocacy, research and psychosocial support services to children, their families, and medical personnel.

Just Waiting

Elvis waits by the entrance of the King and Union streets Starbucks in the early morning of Dec. 14. Elvis was a refugee from a hurricane forecasts during the streets of New Orleans. He ended up in the Alexandria Shelter and was adopted.
Mamo’s 32 Points, Williams’ Layup Lift TC Over WP
Titans even Conference 7 record with win over Wolverines.

By Jon Roetman
Cazenovia Packet

Every time the West Potomac boys’ basketball team tried to take control of Friday’s Conference 7 contest against T.C. Williams, Fahmmi Mamo brought the Titans back.

West Potomac guard Khalil Williams Diggins buried a left-handed 3-pointer off the glass in the closing seconds of the third quarter, giving the Wolverines a six-point lead. Mamo answered with two buckets in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter, helping tie the score at 42.

Midway through the Titans’ 20 fourth-quarter points, Mamo finished with a career-high 32 points during a win over West Potomac on Dec. 18.

“Sometimes to learn, you’ve got to go through hurt,” Houston said. “This is one of those times.”

Williams Diggins led West Potomac with 17 points. He knocked down four 3-pointers and grabbed five rebounds.

Jamie Sara finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Wolverines. Lisenby finished with 12 points and freshman guard Daryl Mackey, Jr. had eight.

Next up for West Potomac is the Wakefield holiday tournament Dec. 28-30.

T.C. Williams will compete at a tournament at the University of North Carolina Wilmington Dec. 28-30.

“Obviously, it’s a confidence booster for us,” Hill said about the win over West Potomac, “but we’re trying to remain humble and recognize what got us the win. What got us the win was the work ethic in practice, taking the time to engineer victories because they’re just not going to happen, you have to win them. … It’s like paying a bill: you’ve got to do it again.”
SATURDAY/JAN. 23  
Preparing for a Ball. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Explore the tavern where famous balls like George Washington’s Birthday Ball were held and practice the tasks involved in preparing for a ball. Includes an 18th century dance lesson and a craft to take home. The program begins each 45 minutes. Tickets are $6. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.  
Ladies Night Out Art Workshop: Vision Board. 7-9 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Visit www.metalphotosaisec.com for tickets and more.  
Civil War Ball. 6:30-11:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. The evening will include live music, dance instruction, and period desserts. Period attire, either civil or military, is encouraged. Tickets are $45. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.  
MONDAY/JAN. 25  
Lecture: “Medical Heroism in Alexandria.” 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Learn about the heroism and challenges that doctors and nurses experienced in ministering to the wounded in Alexandria and the advances in women’s rights and medicine that resulted from their efforts. Tickets are $10. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.  
TUESDAY/JAN. 26  
Homeschool Day: Wrights’ Flight. 1-3 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear about Oreville Wright’s historic flight from Fort Myer to Alexandria and test basic principles of flight. Tickets are $8 per child, free for adults. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.  
“Talking Mercy” 7-8 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. A discussion of the show so far and a look at the “real” Alexandria. Visit www.axlib.org or call 703-746-1703.  
Music at Mount Vernon. 7-9 p.m at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. “Music at Mount Vernon” is a three-part series designed to educate the public about the music of the Civil War. Each performance is $125 for members and supporters. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.  
THURSDAY/JAN. 28  
Reading: “Virginia Luxuries.” 7 p.m at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Attend a staged reading of a new play written by Pamela Leaugh detailing the lives of two Alexandria families—of moder, the other being in the Civil War era. Tickets are $15. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.  
Birthnight Ball Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Learn about the history of the Birthnight Ball on Feb. 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Tickets are $12 per class or $30 for the entire series. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.  
FRIDAY/JAN. 29  
Civil War Wine Dinner. 7-10 p.m at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Start your evening in the museum for the first course and conversation with Gray Ghost Vineyards. Then head down to the restaurant’s main dining room to experience more wine and great food inspired by the 19th century. Tickets are $65 per person. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.  
JAN. 29- FEB. 7  
Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week. Neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. More than 60 Alexandria restaurants offer a $35 three-course dinner or a $35 dinner for two. More than two dozen restaurants are also offering each deal at $10, $15 or $20 per person in addition to the dinner specials. Visit www.alexandriarestaurantweek.com for more.  
SATURDAY/JAN. 30  
“Explore the Real Mansion Houses.” 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 12 N. Fairfax St. Go behind the scenes and learn about the true story of the nurses, doctors, soldiers and Alexandrians who man in PBY’s new series Mercy Street. The program will begin in one of the original lofts of the famous hospital, normally closed to the public. Tickets are $10 for Alexandria Historical Society members and friends of the Carlyle House, $20 for non-members.  
Artist Workshop: “No Holds Barred.” 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn to make box sculptures. Supplies will be provided. Free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.  
“Northern Virginia Women in the Civil War.” 7-9 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Professor Alice Reagan discusses the changes in lifestyle for women during and after the civil war. Visit www.alexandriavh.lib.va.us.  
SUNDAY/JAN. 31  
Wonders of Science. 1-4 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Visit the Apothecary and discover curious objects, from poison bottles to dragon’s blood, and find out how they were used — and if they worked. During the hour-long tours, Project Enlightenment, McLean High School’s historical-reenactment society, will conduct 18th century scientific demonstrations. Tickets are $6. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.  
THURSDAY/FEB. 4  
Salon: An Artful Conversation. 6-8 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Learn about the artful conversations that took place at the 18th century political salon. Tickets are $35 for youth, $25 for adults. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.  
SUN. FEB. 7  
Birthnight Ball Dance Class. 6:30-9 p.m at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Birthnight Ball on Feb. 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Tickets are $12 per class or $30 for the entire series. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.  
FEB. 5-28  
SATURDAY/FEB. 6  
“The Green Family of Cabinetmakers.” 1-3- 3 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Learn how the Greens made their money and became prominent Alexandrians. Visit www.alexandriavh.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1703.  
THURSDAY/FEB. 11  
Birthnight Ball Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Birthnight Ball on Feb. 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Tickets are $12 per class or $30 for the entire series. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.  
FRIDAY/FEB. 12  
Mount Vernon Chocolate Dinner. 6-10 p.m at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Find a four-course meal in celebration of Valentine’s Day from peppercorn crusted steak and triple chocolate cheesecake. Tickets are $125 each. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.
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