



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.

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 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 unquestioningly fit the majority of the stan

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 4

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Alexandria \$799,000

Marvelous renovations throughout includes a wonderful chef's kitchen with stainless appliances & walkout to a showstopper outdoor space with wood-burning fireplace and full kitchen. Great location near interstate access, Old Town and bike/jog trails! 6036forhunt.mceneaney.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

www.LizLuke.com



Old Town/Bearings 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 over-sized reserved parking space!

Donna Cramer

703.627.9578

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

703.608.5218 | 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 decking. Atrium addition brings the outdoors in! Great value!

Jodie Burns

571.228.5790

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

www.LizLuke.com



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 (2013), 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.KristielsMyAgent.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 chil

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 4



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Members of Team Golubin United Against Arthritis pose for a photo at the 5K Jingle Bell Walk/Run for Arthritis Dec. 4 at Pentagon Row. From left are (back): Catherine Curry, Hunter Thompson, Jennifer Harvey, Wesley Valentine, Alex Grymes, Alison Williams, Chris Williams, Garrett Golubin and Karen Lloyd. In front: Gregory Golubin, Jessica Rogers, Cindy Byrnes Golubin, Whitney Newman, Nora O'Brien and Courtney Golubin.

Jingle Bell Rock

5K raises arthritis awareness.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It 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 spondyloarthritis 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 medicines 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

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 minis, 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 dead-wood 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.

Visit the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan Implementation project website at <http://alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=29638>.

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” Pepper, 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 Clinch at 703-746-6673.

In other police news:

DEC. 17

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

SEE ROUNDPUPS, PAGE 5

NEWS

Council Rejects Neighbors’ Appeal

FROM PAGE 1

dards, there were concerns over how much of the lot faced the street.

“The lot frontage 10 percent narrower than the narrowest existing lot and 35 percent narrower than the mean [frontage],” said Mark Leone, a local resident drawing from the city’s staff report. “The staff says, subjectively, that it’s going to fit ... but it has to pass the numbers.”

While the owners of the Vassar Road subdivision had a few supporters, the majority of the speakers in attendance were residents of the nearby neighborhood who questioned what they saw as an arbitrary ruling from the Planning Commission.

“I understand that it meets R8 requirements ... but the lot frontage provides clear numeric basis [for the decision],” said resident Deborah Nagle. “It is arbitrary and capricious to ignore lot frontage as part of the analysis — the factor that produces numbers that would allow you to make an objective comparison.”

For many neighbors, the dismissal of lot frontage indicated that the city was favoring subjective arguments over lot character while ignoring quantitative data. Dambach acknowledged that lot frontage was one of the more lacking areas of the subdivision, but said staff still found it acceptable within the broader context of the lot and the neighborhood.

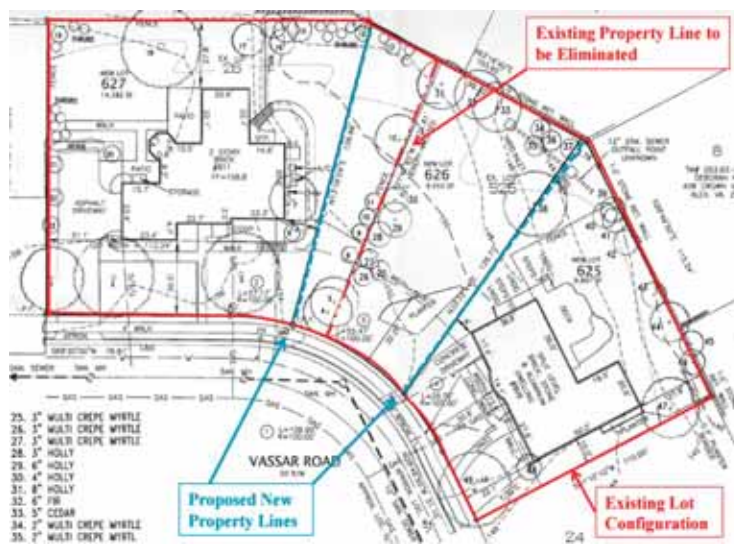
“These lots do fall at the small end of the spectrum, some [neighbors] might even say they’re off the spectrum,” said Dambach. “But [the lot] sits uniquely at a bend that can allow for this lot to have a little less frontage because it has a much larger rear yard.”

Furthermore, while the lot frontage is listed as part of the guidelines for what composes a lot’s character, Councilman Justin Wilson noted that it’s not a legally binding parameter.

“We cannot say the applicant for the subdivision has not met this criteria given the way the language is written right now,” said Wilson. “We have created a playing field to analyze this, but that’s not codi-



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



A design of the subdivided lot 626.

fied ... 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 Euille argued for a transparent but not necessarily predictive model.

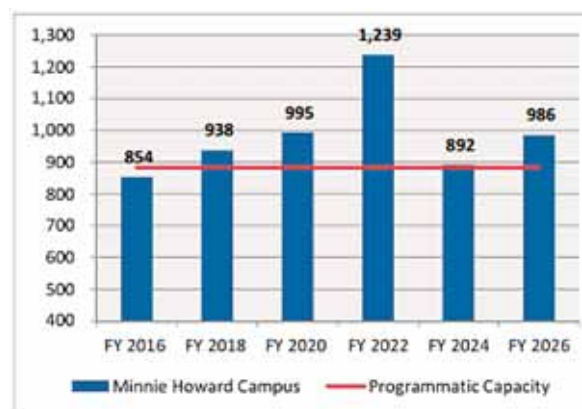
“In my 21 years sitting up here, these are never easy, and I’m not sure you want to be predictive,” said Euille. “What you want is a process; a process that everyone can understand and respect. We have a process, but maybe it’s time to look at what we have for modifying and making changes.”

Scaling Back School Modernization

FROM PAGE 1

“I have concerns,” said School Board Member Ronnie Campbell. “We looked at the condition of Minnie Howard and most of us that have been there: it is in desperate need for modernization. We need to find money from something else. Every child that goes through T.C. Williams will go through Minnie Howard. This doesn’t shine a good light on us.”

For others, taking funds out of



Projected enrollment and capacity at Minnie Howard indicating a peak in 2022.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



BY ERNEST COCCINS, GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER SAR

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'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."

News Briefs

FROM PAGE 4
injuries.

DEC. 11

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a felonious assault in the 3900 block of Mt. Vernon Avenue. The victim was transported to the hospital.

DEC. 8

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating the brandishing of a weapon in the 3800 block of Executive Avenue. Two suspects are in custody.

DEC. 7

❖ The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a felonious assault in the 100 block of Ellsworth Avenue. The victim has a non-life-threatening injury and was transported to the hospital.

❖ The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery on the Holmes Run bike path near the "Bicentennial Tree." Two suspects robbed the victim while brandishing a knife. There were no injuries.

DEC. 6

The Alexandria Police Department has a suspect in custody after a commercial robbery in the 6000 block of Lincolnia Road. A suspect robbed convenience store with a firearm and was apprehended as he fled.

DEC. 5

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a commercial robbery in the 3000 block of Duke Street. A suspect brandished a gun and stole cash; there were no injuries.

DEC. 2

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 1000 block of Oronoco Street. Two suspects stole wallets and cellphones from two victims. There were no injuries.

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."

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

Good Shepherd Catholic Church Mass Schedule

Saturday:
5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)

Sunday:
7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter and Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm
Monday-Saturday:
9:00 am Mass
En Español: Monday, 6:30 pm; Thursday, 7:30 pm;

First Friday,

7:30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday: 6:00 pm; Thursday: 7:00 pm; First Friday: following 9:00 am Mass & 7:00 pm

Confession:

Wednesday, 6:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am, 4:00 pm

En Español:

Sunday, 1:10 pm; Saturday, 6:00 pm

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HOLIDAY IDEAS

Wrap It Up

Last minute gift ideas.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

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 take place throughout the city with festivi-



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

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

ties culminating with a fireworks finale along the Potomac River at midnight. Children and active duty military are free and tickets 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.”



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Season passes for The Potomac Riverboat Riverboat Company are now available. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com for more information.

Twig Offers 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.

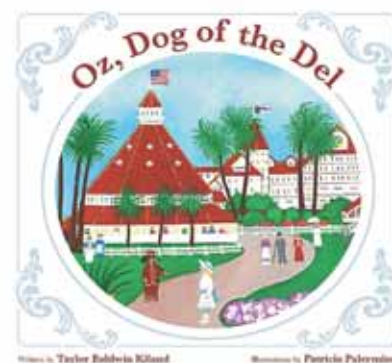
The Twig, the junior auxiliary for Inova Alexandria Hospital, has published this cookbook. For the past year, Twig members worked with chefs from 41 restaurants for permission to reprint favorite recipes. All recipes were tested by members of The Twig and adjusted for the home cook.

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’s 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 dhop at 106 N. Columbus St.



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 Kiland.

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, DC, and Alexandria historical locations for more than 20 years.

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

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Church Donates \$1 Million to Smithsonian

Supporting National Museum of African American History and Culture.

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 arti-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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.

facts, including the Howard University sweatshirt worn by Wesley for the Black Lives Matter movement.

Founded in 1803, ASBC is one of the nation's oldest historically African American congregations.

Seniors Celebrate the Season



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

First Baptist Church of Alexandria welcomed 150 Alexandria seniors from local seniors 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.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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!



OPINION

Merry Christmas

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

The pages of our newspapers have been full of holiday spirit for more than a month. Menorah lightings, group and individual efforts to help the needy, stories of giving, secular celebrations, religious celebrations. Shopping locally. Giving locally.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, the promise of redemption.

It is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to treat others as you would have them treat you.

Matthew 7:12 "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 25:35-40 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'"

EDITORIAL

"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.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 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 editions 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

Past issues of the Gazette back to 2008 are available at <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/>

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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

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Helping Decorate

Students from Mount Vernon Community School help U.S. Sen. Mark Warner decorate his senate office Christmas tree. The 14-foot Fraser fir was grown at Mt. Rogers Tree Farm in Grayson County, Va.

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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OPINION

AARP, Senior Services Offer Caregiver Workshop

Learn what resources and support are available to caregivers.

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
SENIOR SERVICES OF
ALEXANDRIA

Caregiving 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



balance caregiving with taking care of yourself by tending to your own needs.*

To assist those serving as caregivers to find out how to get the 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.

MILITARY NOTES

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

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Sean I. Wilson** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Wilson is the son of Saquan A. Wilson of Alexandria.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

THROUGH DEC. 30

Leaf Collection Program. Visit 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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

JANUARY

1/6/2016.....Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions

1/13/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 18

1/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

1/27/2016.....Community Guide

1/27/2016.....Winter Fun, Food, Arts

& Entertainment; Valentine's Preview

FEBRUARY

2/3/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I

2/3/2016.....Wellbeing – National Children's

Dental Health Month

2/10/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

2/10/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II

2/17/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

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2016 Chairman's Community Reception
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Set Sail with the Chamber
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PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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 Ferissizidis, 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.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO

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.



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 Curran 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.

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.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Tim Dodds and Alexandra Mooskin

Innovation in Education

St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes science teachers Tim Dodds and Alexandra Mooskin won the 2015 Virginia Association of Independent Schools Middle School Innovation in Education Award. They received the award for their “Green City Design Challenge.” Students are tasked in a collaborative group setting to create a sustainable city for 10,000 residents. This project allows students to understand common problems (energy accrual, water and food access, refuse management) and how the solutions are determined by how different cultures perceive, through valuing or disvaluing, the problems themselves.

PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria Elks Lodge #758 gets a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus each year to see the children in the surrounding communities. On Dec. 13, the lodge provided 56 breakfasts of French toast casserole (special made by Lani Cadow), sausage, scrambled eggs and juice for the children 11 years and younger and their families.

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 as-

sociations.

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.

Visit www.elks.org.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN HALPERSON

Mayor-elect Alison Silberberg, Living Legend Engin Artemel (2008) and LLA board president Jennifer Ayres.

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 cel-

ebrated 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.



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



Guests enjoy sampling the wine.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Grand Opening

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.

ENTERTAINMENT



Avila's 'No Ordinary Woman' On Display at Art League

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 griot. 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.

CALENDAR

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

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.torpedofactory.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.

"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 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 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.

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 thanks-giving." 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 xerography, book arts, and graphic design) created using traditional techniques as well as newer or reimagined ones. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital Art Show.

Through Jan. 31 at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St. The artwork is on display in waiting areas and examination rooms as a part of Del Ray Artisans' Gallery Without Walls program. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

"Art Uniting People."

Gallery hours 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.

"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.latascausa.com.

French Movie Night.

Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html.

Journey to Be Free: Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery.

Through March, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe 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.

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.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Alexandria Cars and Coffee

invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina'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.

Fifty Years of Collecting.

Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

National Inventors Hall of Fame Exhibit.

Through November 2016 at The National Inventors Hall of Fame-USPTO campus, 600 Dulany St. The exhibit features the stories of Inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame who served their country during World War II and returned home to help build the nation with their innovations. Free. Visit www.inventnow.org.

Dinner for the Washingtons.

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 food was prepared 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 pm. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk

takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. 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 Lockheed 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 will 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 Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

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 703-765-4573.

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

Community Yoga. Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Suite 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 is joined by The asbury Jukes. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 27

Kwanzaa Celebration. 2-5:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. This "Kujichagulia," or self-determination, celebration will feature Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright. Free. Visit ow.ly/V30mp.

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.

TUESDAY/DEC. 29

Mint Condition Holiday Show. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. R&B group performs. Tickets are \$65. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 2 p.m.-12 a.m. at venues 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 afternoon's 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, and volunteers are free. Visit www.firstnightalexandria.org.

New Year's Eve at Mount Vernon Inn. 5:30 p.m.-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. Blue grass 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 Gratitude perform a tribute to Earth, Wind & Fire. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 2

Bill Kirchen. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Musician Bill Kirchen is joined by Too Much Fun and Commander Cody. Tickets are \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 5

"Twelfth Night of Christmas." 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Addison Academic Center-Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. The Evening School of Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary invites the public to a Twelfth Night of Christmas celebration. Free, but registration required. Visit www.vts.edu/evening.

JAN. 5-FEB. 7

"Birds of a Feather." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery-Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. The artist focus on things that go together: ham and eggs, bride and groom, etc. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 6

<cal2> **"Buying a New TV."** 2-3 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Learn what to look for in purchasing and using a new TV. Presented by Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services. Free. Call 703-768-6700, ext. 4 to register.

Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Grant Hellmers, Organist-

Choirmaster of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, will direct the adult choir in a Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany. Free. Call 703-549-3312 or email grant@stpaulsalexandria.com for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 7

Salon: An Artful Conversation. 6-8 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Judith HeartSong's Salon: An Artful Conversation is a monthly meeting of artists, writers, and arts professionals. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.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 for more.

FRIDAY/JAN. 8

"True Colors: Like a Rainbow" Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Meet the artists of the "True Colors: Like a Rainbow" exhibit. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/True.

The Cecilian Players. 8-10 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Concert consisting of works by Debussy, Ravel, and Shostakovich. Free. Call 703-836-7480 for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 8-9

Ricky Skaggs. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Bluegrass musician Ricky Skaggs is joined by Kentucky Thunder. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

JAN. 8-31

"True Colors: Like a Rainbow." Gallery hours at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans' artists use colors of the rainbow for inspiration. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/True.

JAN. 8-FEB. 27

"No Holds Barred." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is named for the "don't hold back, just let go" approach artists Pamela Underhill and Rusty Lynn employ in their artmaking. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

SATURDAY/JAN. 9

"The Real Greens." 1:30-3 p.m. at Alexandria Library Special Collections Barrett Branch, 717 Queen St. Dr. Donald DeBats presents, "The Real Greens: Emma and the Green Family of Alexandria." Find out about the real Emma and her family at the center of "Mercy Street." JDeBats is the Head of American Studies at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. Free. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1703.

American Balalaika Society Concert. 8 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St. This full orchestra has its roots in Russian folk music with two stringed instruments, the balalaikas and domras. This concert is titled "Roots of Romanticism: Musical Masters of the Late 18th/Early 19th Centuries." Tickets \$15 in

Christmas at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill



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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

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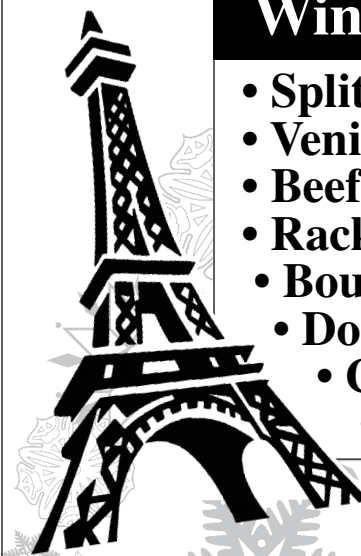
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ENTERTAINMENT

advance and \$20 at the door. Visit www.absorchestra.org for more.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

Panel Discussion: "Take a Turn Down Mercy Street." 1 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. George Combs, manager of Alexandria Library's Special Collections Branch, author Michael Lee Pope, and Callie Stapp of The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum will introduce you to the history behind the new PBS series, "Mercy Street," which is based in Alexandria. Free. Call 703-746-1721 or email admin@nvfaa.org to RSVP.

Winter Warmer Ladies Tea. 3-5 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 \$35. 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.

"Twelfth Night: A Celebration of Epiphany & Winter Solstice." 6 p.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Armonia Nova performs using historical instruments including baroque harps and early viols. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.armonianova.org for more.

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.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

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

Holy Holy. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Band Holy Holy will perform featuring Tony Visconti and Woody Woodmansey performing David Bowie's "The Man Who Sold the World." Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

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 @ Convergence, 1801 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 artmaking. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 15-17

Eddie From Ohio. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Local folk band will give a show entirely based on requests



PHOTO BY KRISTINE WALTON

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.

from the audience. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Tickets are \$60. Visit www.shiloh-bc.org for more.

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 Beatley 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.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Book Talk: "Kidnapped by Nuns." 2-3 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Retired White House correspondent Robert Fuss will discuss his book "Kidnapped by Nuns and Other Stories of a Life in Radio," chronicling his four decades of traveling from Hollywood to Zimbabwe with presidents. Book sales and signing to follow. Free. Call 703-768-9840 for more.

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 Quincey Heatley.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 16, 23-24, 30

Jane Franklin Dance: "Niche." 7:30 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Alexandria dance company Jane Franklin Dance performs "Niche," which follows an unremarkable couple with a new house, big careers, and odd neighbors. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Visit www.janefranklin.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 17

Celebrate Community 5K & 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 Downton Abbey." 2-3 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Laurie Bell will share how other parts of the world celebrate and enjoy tea. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1751.

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 Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Listen to live

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 17

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

or park needs. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

THROUGH 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.

MONDAY/DEC. 28

Deadline for Personal Data Record Form. 5 p.m. The Alexandria City Council is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on boards, commissions and committees. All applicants must complete a Personal Data Record Form. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/boards.

SATURDAY/JAN. 9

“Caregiver Resources and Support.” 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Immanuel Church on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Road. Senior Services of Alexandria and AARP will cosponsor a speaker series event on “Caregiver Resources and Support.” Learn how to get the support needed to care for themselves as well as their loved ones. Free. Visit www.seniorservicesalex.org for more.

Polar Plunge. All day at Youth Camp Kekoka, 1083 Boys Camp Road, Kilmarnock, Va. The public is invited to take the “Polar Plunge” to raise money for the the Guardian Program, a scholarship fund which ensures every child gets to experience Camp, hosted by the Alexandria Police and the Alexandria Police Youth Camp. Visit www.ymcacampkekoka.org for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Provide Feedback on Design Themes. 6:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation center, 901 Wythe St. The community is invited to provide input on the design themes for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, and on the refined design concepts for Potomac Greens Park, by visiting AlexEngage, the City’s online engagement forum perform a public forum. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/engage for more.



PHOTO BY HAL HARDWAY

Just Waiting

Elvis waits by the entrance of the King and Union streets Starbucks in the early morning of Dec. 14. Elvis was a refuge from a hurricane found wandering the streets of New Orleans. He ended up in the Alexandria Shelter and was adopted.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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 organizations helped include: MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, Children’s National Medical Center, The Children’s Inn at NIH, The Hospital for Sick Children, Special Love for Children with Cancer, Embry Rucker Community Center, Covenant House DC, Miriam’s Kitchen, Cornerstones (Reston), and several local Ronald McDonald Houses. The Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation was founded in memory of Mattie Brown, a Lower School Saint who died from bone cancer in 2009. The foundation is dedicated to increasing childhood cancer awareness, education, advocacy, research and psychosocial support services to children, their families, and medical personnel.

ONGOING

Divorce Workshop for Women. Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. The workshops are designed to provide education on the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce in a logical, yet compassionate way. The workshop fee is \$25. Visit www.novasecondsaturday.com for more.

Recreation Survey. Alexandria citizens that received a Park and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey are encouraged to participate in order to affect recreation decisions in the community. Results will be posted online at alexandriava.gov/recreation in fall 2015. Contact Dana Wedeles at 703-746-5491 or dana.wedeles@alexandriava.gov with questions.

Alexandria Library cardholders can now use Gale Courses from Gale, part of Cengage Learning. Gale offers six week online instructor-led courses for creative writing, GED test preparation, and more through lessons, assignments and tests. The program is offered for free with a valid library card. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us to enroll.

Seeking Donations. Computer CORE, which is dedicated to helping low-income adults become computer literate is seeking donations. Visit www.computercore.org/ contribute.

Senior and Job Programs. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Queen of Apostles Church, 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria. St. Martin de Porres Center offers senior and job placement programming Monday through Friday at the parish. Email Kathryn Toohey, kttoohey@ccda.net.

Parent Support and Educational Group. Every Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m. Ladrey High-Rise, 300 Wythe St. A place where

parents can share their daily parenting frustrations and triumphs in a supportive environment and learn new strategies from each other to deal with these challenges. Call Krishna Leyva at 703-824-6865 or email krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us.

Be Heard at the City’s Monthly Public Hearings. A schedule of the meetings can be found at www.alexandriava.gov. Voice opinions, speak about something on the docket or just speak about something you are concerned about. Sign up in advance to speak through the city’s website. Anyone is welcome at any of the public hearings.

Public Space Recycling. Alexandria has placed more than 80 bright blue recycling containers next to public trash cans in the commercial districts along Mount Vernon Avenue and King Street, as well as other public spaces, including parks, recreation fields, and other high-traffic pedestrian areas. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recycling.

Composting & Food Waste. Alexandria now has Resource Recovery Stations, located at the City’s Farmers’ Markets (Old Town, Del Ray) to collect food waste. More than 270 people have participated in the food waste program over the last several months. Participants drop off items weekly, over eight tons of waste has been collected, to be composted to make a natural fertilizer. To learn more about composting visit alexandriava.gov/YardWaste.

English as a Second Language Class. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Tuesdays and Thursdays, all levels 10 a.m.-12 p.m., intermediate workshop 3-5 p.m. All classes free. Call the information desk, 703-746-1702.

The Talking Book Service at Alexandria Library will now operate Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Patrons may also reach the service at 703-746-1760.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

Fredericksburg; or, for that matter, at Reston Town Center or Tyson’s Corner, which provide zero-price parking garages with close proximity to top-quality shops and restaurants.

As with all actions, there are measured reactions.

Frank N. Wilner
Fredericksburg

Discouraging Public Hearing

To the Editor:

If what we witnessed at the Alexandria City Council’s public hearing recently is an indicator of what we can expect in the next three years, we have reason to be greatly concerned.

Twenty-four citizens were part of a citizen’s appeal concerning the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Robinson Terminal South development. Of those 24 speakers, about 20 of them were in favor of the appeal, which meant that the developer (EYA), would need to start the entire BAR process again.

Moreover, three members of the BAR filed a minority report citing a number of reasons why the proposed development did not “fit in” to the architecture of the Old and Historic District. Wayne Neal, the vice chair of the BAR presented their case, assisted by Margaret Miller, who is another member of the BAR.

As one of the 24 speakers, I presented my reasons for the appeal but how discouraging to see that Justin Wilson and Paul Smedberg were laughing and seemingly could have cared less about what we was saying, since they were not paying any attention.

However, it soon became evident why they did not need to listen to the citizens and BAR minority members. Mr Wilson hastily read his prepared motion to override the appeal, thus approving the Certificate of Appropriateness for the development. Since they were just re-elected, there is no need to curry favor with citizens, so the council voted 6-1 and 5-2 against the two appeals.

If this were a football situation, the developers would be going to the playoffs, while the citizens have been relegated to the minor leagues, and the BAR to the bench. I cannot overstate the importance of the citizens to become stakeholders in the democratic process, and to demand that the City Council become more responsive to citizen (and some BAR members) concerns. If this does not happen, our new mayor will be overridden every time by essentially the same bunch of out-of-control council members who are constantly at odds with the citizens, the neighborhoods, and the ultimate good of this great city. If this continues, one hopes that the City Council members will heed the words of Abraham Lincoln, one of our greatest Presidents, who said: “You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.”

Townsend A. “Van” Van Fleet
Alexandria



Jaquan Johnson-Terry scored nine points for T.C. Williams during the Titans' 56-55 win over West Potomac on Dec. 18.



PHOTOS BY RICHARD MAPLE

T.C. Williams junior Fahmmi Mamo scored a career-high 32 points during a win over West Potomac on Dec. 18.

Mamo's 32 Points, Williams' Layup Lift TC Over WP

Titans even Conference 7 record with win over Wolverines.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE 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 fourth, West Potomac's Brandan Lisenby grabbed a rebound and headed up the floor, weaved through some Titans and dropped in a layup, part of a 10-3 run that gave the Wolverines a five-point lead. Mamo countered with a pair of free throws and a three-point play, tying the score at 52.

With less than 2 minutes remaining, Lisenby buried a 3-pointer from the corner, putting West Potomac up 55-52. Mamo scored on a tip-in at the other end, pulling the Titans within one.

Then, with less than a minute remaining, one of Mamo's teammates made a play.

T.C. Williams forward Teyan Williams stepped in front of a West Potomac pass in the Wolverines backcourt and dropped in a

layup, giving the Titans the lead. The Wolverines' final possession resulted in a missed 3-pointer and T.C. Williams came away with a 56-55 victory on Dec. 18 at West Potomac High School.

"I dropped in my zone and I was, like, reading his eyes," Williams said about the West Potomac ball-handler. "I just saw where he was passing it, I got in front of it and [made] the layup."

The win evened the Titans' Conference 7 record at 1-1. T.C. Williams opened conference play on Tuesday with an 83-77 loss at Lake Braddock.

Mamo finished with a career-high 32 points against West Potomac, including 14 of the Titans' 20 fourth-quarter points.

"Their guy got hot," West Potomac head coach David Houston III said about Mamo. "He made a lot of shots late. ... You've got to give him credit."

Mamo grabbed eight rebounds and knocked down four 3-pointers, the last giving TC a 47-46 lead with 4:40 left in the fourth quarter.

"I just really wanted to win," he said.

Mamo's performance came three days after he scored 28 points against Lake Braddock, which at the time was a career best for the junior.

"He wasn't a major player for us last year," TC head coach Bryan Hill said. "... We were just really focused on working on his game

in the offseason, in the spring and the summer and the fall, and it's showing."

Freshman guard Jaquan Johnson-Terry finished with nine points for T.C. Williams. Jordan Jones scored five points. Williams finished with four points and six rebounds, and DeJuan Robinson had four points and five rebounds.

The Titans played without standout guard Tavaris James, who missed a second straight game due to illness.

West Potomac suffered its fourth straight loss after a 2-0 start, and dropped to 0-2 in the conference.

"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-point-

ers and grabbed five rebounds.

Jamie Sara finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Wolverines. Lisenby scored 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."

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Matthew McLaughlin, the son of Daniel J. McLaughlin and Debra A. Sandler, is serving as a residence coordinator for the 2015-16 academic year at Bates College (Lewiston, Maine).

Khalila Karefa-Kargbo, the daughter of Emerica Karefa-Kargbo, has been named to Randolph-Macon Academy's president's list for the first quarter of the 2015-16 school year.

Elizabeth Jane Addington has been named to the dean's list at James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Va.) for the spring 2015 semester.

Macy E. Cheeks and **Melissa Lee**

Moorehead have graduated from Emporia State University (Emporia, Kan.).

Stevenson University (Owings Mills, Md.) football player **Cortez Taylor** has been named to a MAC All-Conference Team.

Jonathan Forbes and **Carey Natoli** have been inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at Virginia Commonwealth University (Richmond, Va.).

Matthew Donald Carpenter has graduated from Brenau University (Gainesville, Ga.) with a M.S. degree.

Margaret Gorguissian and **McKinzey Torrance** have enrolled at Tufts University (Medford, Mass.).

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

R&B. Tickets are \$69.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

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 for more.

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 Birthnight 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.

"Our American Girl" 1-3 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Join Mount Vernon's American girl, "Nelly Custis" on a tour of George Washington's estate. Enjoy refreshments with "Lady Washington" and create colonial crafts. Tickets are \$35 for youth, \$25 for adults. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Ladies Night Out Art Workshop: Vision Board. 7-9:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Women are invited to make vision boards for 2016. Tickets are \$45. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com.

Civil War Ball. 8-11 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 civilian 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. Tom Schultz of DC Military Tours will discuss the heroism and challenges that doctors and nurses experienced in ministering to the wounded in Alexandria and the advances in women's rights and medical science as a result of their efforts. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

TUESDAY/JAN. 26

Homeschool Day: Wrights' Flight. 1-2:30 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear about Orville 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.alexandria.lib.va.us 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 through music. Tickets are \$175 for all three events, \$125 for members and supporters. Visit www.mountvernon.org 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 Leahigh detailing the lives of two Alexandria families — one modern, the other living 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. 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/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 \$100. 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 lunch deals 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 House." 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Go behind the scenes and learn about the true story of the nurses, doctors, soldiers and Alexandrians who star in PBS's new series Mercy Street. The program will begin in one of the original lobbies 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. Visit www.alexandriahistoricalsociety.org for more.

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." 2-3 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Prof. Alice Reagan discusses the changes in lifestyle for women during and after the civil war. Visit www.alexandria.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. Judith HeartSong's Salon: An Artful Conversation is a monthly meeting of artists, writers, and arts professionals. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

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.

FEB. 5-28

"All aBoard." 7-9 p.m. at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Eight board members, Ron Blank, Michele Reday Cook, Kim S. Joy, Stephen Lally, Marlin Lord, Elizabeth Guerry Mead, Kathy Turner and Joan Woodill, display their work. Free. Visit www.delrayartisans.org/show.

SATURDAY/FEB. 6

"The Green Family of Cabinetmakers." 1:30-3 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Learn how the Greens made their money and became a prominent Alexandria family. Visit www.alexandria.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. 6:30-10 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Find a four-course meal in celebration of Valentine's Day featuring peppercorn crusted steak and triple chocolate cheesecake. Tickets are \$125 each. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

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21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Nell Elizabeth Hammond of Fries, Virginia went home to be with her Lord on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at the age of 87. Nell was born on September 25, 1928 at home in Fries to Ernest and Nancy Shupe.

She attended Fries High School, Class of 1946. She then attended National Business College in Roanoke. While there she met and married Joseph M. Hammond of Troutville, VA. Eventually they moved to the Northern Virginia area where they lived for about 40 years. While there they raised a family, two daughters: Sheila and Joan. Nell was a homemaker, worked for Fairfax County School Food Services and Montgomery Wards. In 1987, Nell and Joe moved back to Fries. "Mama always said Fries was heaven and she would not want to live anywhere else."

Nell was crafty, enjoyed working outside, motivated working with others. She loved and supported her family. Her faith in the Lord was instilled in her at an early age by her parents and it stayed with her all her life. The old hymns brought her pleasure and comfort. The Lord's foundation was her rock and now she is in His trusting hands.

Nell is survived by her brother Curtis Shupe of Fries, VA. Two daughters Sheila Jones and husband Dan of Springfield, VA and Joan Hammond of Fries, VA. Also surviving are grandchildren Angela and Joseph Campanella of Fries, VA; and Jeremiah and Nathanael Jones of Springfield, VA; great grandchildren: Nicole Campanella and Matthew Bourne of Fries, VA. Also many more family and friends.

The funeral service will be held Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 3:00 in the Liberty Hill United Methodist Church, Fries, VA with Rev. Donald White officiating. Burial will follow in the Liberty Hill Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1:00 PM until service time at the church.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to "Stand Up Dub" c/o Hillcrest Baptist Church, 1218 S. Main Street, Galax, VA 24333. This is a fund for E. W. Shupe to buy a track wheelchair which will allow him to stand.

A guestbook is available online at www.vaughanguynn.com

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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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.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg



Sealed proposals 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: Request for Proposals No. 00000576, Cooperative Procurement, Capital Bikesare Operating and Maintenance Services

Closing Date and Time: February 4, 2016, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

The City will hold a Non-Mandatory pre-proposal conference: January 7, 2016, 10:00 AM prevailing local time, 100 N. Pitt Street, Suite 301, Purchasing Conference Room, Alexandria, VA 22314

For general inquiries contact Shawn K. Brooks, Contract Specialist III at 703.746.4289.

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

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-07-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Architectural and Engineering Design Services for Parker-Gray Stadium Improvements.

Sealed Proposals with the notation "Parker Gary Stadium Design Improvements", RFP# 15-07-05, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, **January 21, 2016**. 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 703-619-8343, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services – Current Bids and Request for Proposals.

All questions should be submitted before 4:30 p.m., January 14, 2016. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.

There is a non-mandatory pre-proposal conference for this RFP on January 7, 2016, at 10:00 AM, at the Alexandria City Public Schools Central Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place, in the sixth (6th) floor conference room 620, in Alexandria, VA 22314. All Offerors interested in providing the services in the RFP are encouraged to attend.

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.

Sharon T. Lewis M.P.S., CPM, CPPB, VCO
Director of Procurement & General Services

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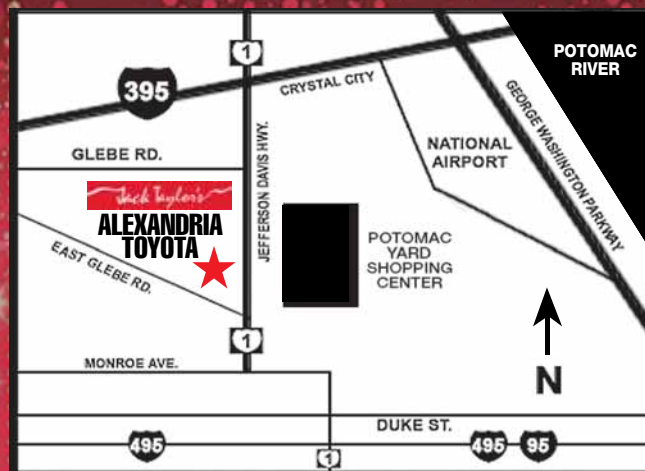
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