



Welcome to 2016

Fireworks light up the sky over the Potomac River to ring in 2016 as part of the 21st celebration of First Night Alexandria.

PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 3.

Council Gears Up

City officials look at challenges and opportunities in 2016.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria City Council brought in 2016 with a roar of bagpipes. The City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums played in the auditorium of T.C. Williams High School for the council's Jan. 4 installation, but soon, it was right back down to business.

Allison Silberberg, Alexandria's newly elected mayor, and the other members of the council took the Oaths of Office. Afterwards, Silberberg and the six members of the council laid out their visions for the next three years in Alexandria.

"What and how to build from the West End to Old Town while maintaining our sense of community is a top priority," said Silberberg, whose campaign had focused heavily on the need to balance between neighborhood conservation and economic development throughout the city.

Another item the new mayor has been pushing forward is the idea of an ethics commission. The idea springs out of the 2015 state level proposal for new ethics standards. Silberberg proposed establishing a Transparency Study Group to look into an ethics pledge, areas of focus regarding ethics, and structures and duties of a future ethics advisory commission.

"We should be a national leader



VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET
Mayor Allison Silberberg swearing the oath of office.

"We should be a national leader in ethics and transparency."

— Mayor Allison Silberberg

in ethics and transparency," said Silberberg. "There are ethics commissions across the nation ... We have many commissions in our city, including the

beautification commission, but there is no ethics advisory commission."

The idea has built support among some in Alexandria, including an endorsement by the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA). Roy Byrd, co-chair of the AFCA, said that supporting and being involved with ethics reform in Alexandria is one of the AFCA's major goals for 2016.

"We wanted to make sure it has a little more grist to it than just 'we're going to have a study group to look at ethics' and then it goes

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Welcoming the New Year

First Night fireworks usher in 2016.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Revelers from throughout the region descended on the Alexandria waterfront to watch fireworks light up the sky over the Potomac River and usher in 2016 as part of the 21st annual First Night Alexandria celebration. “This year was another huge success,” said First Night Alexandria executive director Ann Dorman. “We’re estimating between 10-12,000 people attended. While we’re still running numbers it could be the most successful year yet.”

Festivities began early in the day as thousands of people flocked to the city to participate in the seventh annual Fun Hunt and the second annual First Night Del Ray celebration.

“We had 29 venues this year,” Dorman said. “There were 28 in Old Town and one in Del Ray with more than 150 performances throughout the city.”

The First Night Battle of the Bands, which featured a special performance by Alexandria’s own Keira Moran, showcased local talent with two acts walking away as champions.

“We changed the format for the Battle to encourage more single performers,” Dorman added. “There were actually two winners — Lunamatic won as best band and Reeseey won for best cover of a Keira Moran



Revelers gather on the steps of the George Washington Masonic Memorial to watch the First Night Alexandria fireworks.

PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

song. Keira performed a set and is recording those songs in Nashville and Los Angeles this summer for a new CD.”

As the final hours of the year ticked away, lower King Street was packed with revelers dancing in the streets to the tunes of DJ Ray Casiano.

At the stroke of midnight, the First Night Alexandria fireworks lit up the sky as a finale to the evening and to welcome 2016.

“It was an exciting evening and we hope to see everyone back again next year,” Dorman said.



PHOTO BY WAYNE HULEHAN

Keira Moran gives a special performance at the Durant Center during the First Night Alexandria Battle of the Bands.

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VIEWPOINTS

New Year’s Resolutions aren’t for All

New Year’s Resolutions are a tradition most common in the Western Hemisphere in which a person makes a promise to himself for some kind of self improvement or act of kindness to others in the upcoming year. At the end of the Great Depression about a quarter of American adults made New Year’s resolutions. At the start of the 21st century, this had increased to 40 percent. Studies of New Year’s resolutions have shown that most participants fail to keep their resolutions due to setting unrealistic goals, forgetting about them or making too many resolutions.

— SHIRLEY RUHE



Stoyan Bakalov, 43-year-old Alexandria recycling worker from Bulgaria, said, “Let me think about it. Peace and good health to everybody.”

Mike Brandt, 43-year-old software salesman, said, “I’m going to establish a gym called Resolution. The first two weeks we’d have the exercise equipment and for the remaining part of the year, it will be a bar.”



Nikki Dell, 24-year-old waitress at Jack’s Place said, “I don’t believe in New Year’s resolutions, declaring you have achieved a goal you haven’t even started. I try to change

Ed Matricardi III, 47-year-old lawyer, says he wrote down a few resolutions: “To be kind and more patient in the new year as well as healthy.”



things when they happen and not wait a year.”



Terese Matricardi, 46-year-old school psychologist currently homeschooling two children, said, “my pocket resolution that I keep in my mental pocket is for better health, happiness and holiness for myself and my family.”

Melinda Lynam, 62-year-old owner of Monday’s Child who has been owner for 9 years but at the store for 35 years, said, “I’m single and I have two sons so my New Year’s resolution is to clean out my attic because sooner or later they will have to clear it out if I don’t do it first.”



Elizabeth Crumley, 26-year old employed at Catholic University, said, “My resolution is definitely to save money.”

Zach Corriveau, 29-year old waiter at Overwood, said, “I don’t make New Year’s resolutions because I don’t commit to them. At least I’m honest.”



Lindley Hazelwood, 6-year-old first grader, said, “Cartwheels; I want to learn to do cartwheels.” And prompted by her father, “I want to practice the piano more.”

Della Hazelwood, 3-year-old Montessori pre-schooler, said, “To do the map of the world at school.”



Jon Wilbor, seven decades young, having Saturday morning breakfast at Jack’s Place said, “I want to get my house organized, to do the unfinished projects.” His friend sitting next to him explains Wilbor is the official litter patrol of Alexandria, walks every day to pick up litter.

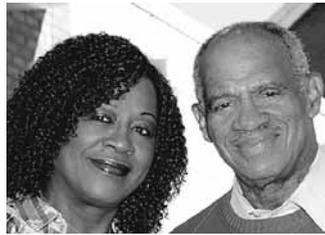
PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

2016 Nominees for Living Legends of Alexandria

Living Legends of Alexandria announced this year's nominees on Dec. 10 at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria. Music by the NOVA Community Chorus, Alexandria Band and Jazz Ensemble set the stage for a tribute to the 2016 Living Legends of Alexandria nominees. Dr. Jimmie McClellan, Dean of Liberal Arts and 2012 Living Legend of Alexandria, introduced the 2016 nominees.

Every year, Living Legends of Alexandria invites the community to nominate neighbors they know or citizens they admire for recognition by the community as a whole. The projects, philanthropy and work these individuals do help move Alexandria forward. Living Legends of Alexandria is an on-going, not-for-profit photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria. The Office of Historic Alexandria archives this documentation so it can be remembered for years to come.

In January, the board of directors of Living Legends will announce the Living Legends for 2016. A Meet the Legends reception will be held on March 15.



Ruth and Bill Cleveland

Ruth and Bill Cleveland have been involved in community activities for years with Bill becoming the first black Republican on City Council where he served 15 years, six as vice mayor. They are actively involved with the nonprofit organization, The Untouchables, serving young men 5 to 18 years old. The Untouchables learn civic responsibility while giving back to the community.

Kim Allen Kluge

As music director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra for 28 years, Kim Allen Kluge contributes to the rich cultural fabric of Alexandria through his outstanding artistic leadership and a strong connection to the local community. Passionate about music education, in 2003 he founded the Children's Arts Festival and spearheaded the 2012 ASOSympatico project with teachers at John Adams Elementary School.



Joan Singer

Joan Dagg Singer, founder and director of the acclaimed Alexandria-based tango quintet, QuinTango, has created and performed an array of tango-related music programs for Alexandria elementary school children, immigrant communities and other community groups to help bridge cultural differences and to celebrate their heritage and their community of Alexandria.



Elizabeth "Betsy" Anderson

Betsy Anderson was nominated by the Art League, Torpedo Factory Artists' Association and Torpedo Factory Art Center Board for significant contributions to Alexandria arts. Simultaneously with demanding volunteer duties, Anderson has sustained an impressive career as a painter with works represented in private and corporate collections nationally and internationally. She lives her vision nurturing the arts and artists enriching Alexandria.



Keith Burner

For Keith Burner, it's all about the kids. He's been instrumental in many projects for the Dunbar Alexandria Boys & Girls Club and other civic organizations. "I think kids benefit from having positive role models in their lives. I just do my part."



Wanda Dowell

Wanda Dowell began work at Fort Ward in 1965, rose through the ranks and served as site director for more than 20 years, attaining museum accreditation and a designation on the National Register of Historic Places. Dowell said, "Just because you are a small museum, there is no reason you can't be a quality museum."



H. Warden Foley and William McNamara

Because of their positions of leadership at American Legion Post 24 over many decades, it is recognized that the gift of historic Gadsby's Tavern and adjacent City Hotel buildings to the citizens and City of Alexandria would never have happened without Warden Foley and Bill McNamara.



Lisa Cole Smith

Lisa Cole Smith dreamed of being an actress as a child. As she grew up, her faith became a larger part of her life. Combining these two passions seemed impossible, but now, as pastor of Convergence in Alexandria, she's living a dream of her own creation and serving a wide and growing community of artists, audiences, and the faithful.



Janet Barnett

Janet Barnett is a powerhouse of commitment to our city's senior population. As executive director of Senior Services of Alexandria she handled marketing, fundraising and community outreach, expanded the Meals on Wheels program and the Friendly Visitor program which provides in-home visits to seniors. Barnett also established the Senior Resource Center and implemented the popular Reader Series.



Yolanda Carrasco

The mother of a child with autism, Yolie (Yolanda) Carrasco (left) saw a need to bring disability awareness into the classroom. In 2008 she joined with Mildred Rivera, mother of twin boys with autism, and together they led a "gang of moms" to create programs on inclusiveness during Disabilities Awareness Month and Autism Awareness month in Alexandria schools.



Lorraine Friedman

"The Dream Dog story: See a Need, Create a Program!" So says, and does, Lorraine Friedman, attorney/mom/volunteer/songwriter/teacher whose creative programs reach broadly and deeply into Alexandria. Since 2002, the DreamDog Foundation has served thousands of children and adults with innovative literacy, creative writing, performing arts and empowerment programs and has put 250,000 books on shelves for children in their neighborhoods.



Steve Nearman

Steve Nearman couldn't change things for every young person, but hoped to help one child to take the better fork in the road. Between 1999 and 2015 he volunteered and led the Child & Family Network Centers, which provides preschool for at-risk children. An avid runner, he created the Woodrow Wilson Bridge half-marathon and the Visually Impaired Half Marathon Championships to benefit area charities.



Jodie Smolik

Jodie Smolik came in 1997 to The Winkler Preserve, 45 acres of native plants and wildlife near I-395. She created innovative science education programs offered free to all Alexandria City Public School students, built the structures to sustain them, and defended the preserve when it was threatened by highway construction in 2010, an effort successful with support of parents, teachers and the children.

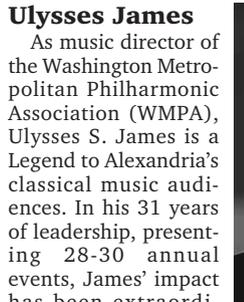
Herman Boone

Coach Herman Boone in 1970 built a cohesive and cooperative high school football team from two rival Alexandria teams, one predominately white and the other predominately black, joined by integration into a single high school. He also sought out and obtained college athletic scholarships for more than 50 black athletes. The film, "Remember the Titans," commemorates the state championship team and Boone's leadership.



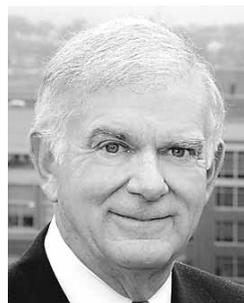
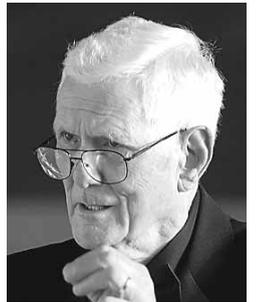
Diane Charles

Diane Charles has lived and worked in Alexandria over 30 years. She has recognized community needs and found ways to make positive change. As director of Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) for 11 years and currently leading ALIVE! she has grown and strengthened programs and staffing and leads by example as a citizen-volunteer.



Ulysses James

As music director of the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA), Ulysses S. James is a Legend to Alexandria's classical music audiences. In his 31 years of leadership, presenting 28-30 annual events, James' impact has been extraordinary. The City of Alexandria and the Arts community have been and will be for many years to come, the beneficiaries of his years of service.



Roger Parks

Roger Parks, founder/owner of American Advertising Distributors of Northern Virginia, has created marketing programs for the city's tourism interests. His board service includes the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, the Alexandria Police Foundation, the American Heart Association, the Old Town Business Association and the Old Town Business and Professional Association. He served as president of the King Street Metro Enterprise Team.



Jen Walker

Jen Walker works behind the scenes, helps neighbors in need, rounds up volunteers to make sure an event will happen, and steps up every time to sponsor all those events that make a community a community. A successful Realtor, her heart, hands, and her love for her neighbors and Del Ray is endless. A vibrant community returns her love.



'Installation Celebration'

Parkfairfax Brigade with Mayor-elect Allison Silberberg at her "Installation Celebration" at the George Washington Masonic Temple on Sunday, Jan. 3.



Allison Silberberg with her "three buddies from American University:" State Sen. Adam Ebbin, Marylander Luby Ismail Kronemer, and former Alexandria School Board member Eileen Cassidy Rivera, who was the campaign co-chair.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Allison Silberberg with Terrie and Mickey Simpson.

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PEOPLE

Helping in Bird Count

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

It was Saturday, Dec. 19 at Monticello Park on Beverly Street. Tom Albright has just joined the team recording the birds in part of Subsector 4 for the Christmas Bird Count.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is held nationwide each year from Dec. 14-Jan. 5. It serves as an early census on the winter birds. Albright has been participating in this annual event at Monticello since 2004.

PEOPLE AT WORK Albright walks past the large Monticello sign and starts into the park. He stops and looks up toward the ridge. "There's a flock of birds up there, high in the trees; there are robins and House Finches. I think it will be a good count day."

He and two others start around the loop that parallels a small stream running through the park. "Listen," he says, "there is a chickadee," and his eyes search through the lower branches looking for the tiny black-capped bird. And Albright's eyes light up as he points to the far undergrowth on the right of the path. "There's a Winter Wren in there, a fairly unusual sighting."

The group will spend 45 minutes at this location and then move on to another part of the subsector of Sector 4 that includes Chinquapin, Cameron Run/Lake Cook, Ben Brenman and Fort Ward. This is the 116th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

There is a specific methodology with each count taking place in an assigned 15-mile wide diameter circle. Volunteers follow a designated route counting every bird they see or hear that day.

The team leader, in this case Paula Sullivan, keeps records of species, numbers and locations of birds and sends the numbers to a central location where thousands of reports across the United States and Canada are added to a historic database.

Albright moves past the large log that has fallen across the stream. Not much there today. In the background the hammering of a Downy Woodpecker punctuates the silence.

At the end of the count they have totaled up 14 different species and 33 total birds. Except for 2013 that totaled only 9 species of birds, the last five years have all had 14 different species, although not always the same 14.

Total number of birds has varied from the low of 11, also in 2013, to 70 in 2012, mostly due to 19 White-throated Sparrows, 9 Carolina Chickadees and 8 American Robins.

Albright says, "The count depends on when you are there. You only get a feel for the birds in the area. An hour or two later you could see something else."

Today Albright and the team spot a number of year round backyard birds including three Northern Cardinals, three American Robins and three Blue Jays. The rare Winter Wren is an exciting discovery.

In a way Monticello Park seems to be

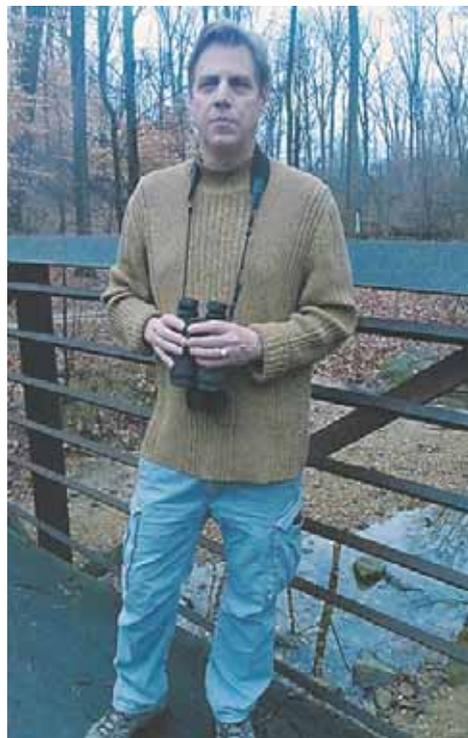


PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Tom Albright stands on the small bridge spanning the stream, listening for the flock of robins and finches up on the ridge. His team spent 45 minutes at Monticello Park on Beverly Street recording the birds they saw and heard for the Christmas Bird Count.

Albright's own personal place. The park is 4.5 acres of deciduous trees, fallen logs and undergrowth, good cover for spring and fall warblers.

The small stream attracts warblers from high in the trees on a warm summer day — usually for the 10 a.m. bath.

In early March Albright will begin his annual warbler watch, walking this same loop every day until May 31 and recording what he sees or hears. He has been keeping statistics on arrival and departure dates of species of warblers since 2005 and produces comparative bar charts over the years. He won't expect to see many warblers for weeks but "just in case."

One year he recorded a surprise Pine Warbler on March 9. In late April the tempo of warblers picks up and "you can expect to see more than one species of warbler a day."

As the days go by, more warblers arrive for an average of 15-18 different species of warblers a day. By mid-May on a good day, Albright says "you can see 20 plus different species of warblers."

Each day Albright scratches the sightings in his notebook and sends out an email report to his ever growing list of interested birders. By summer warblers have migrated through the park but on July 25 and until mid-November Albright records the fall migration, generally slower and with birds in a different fall plumage.

Winter is just an interlude between migrating warblers for Albright. Only 60 days until the 2016 warbler count begins.



PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Archaeological Find

The hull of a 50-foot vessel was discovered at the Indigo Hotel construction site at 220 S. Union Street. The ship had been scuttled in the late 18th century, but had been preserved by silt from the Potomac that kept the wood frame from rotting. After the ship has been scanned with 3-D laser, photographed, measured and drawn, it will be dismantled for further study.



Francine Bromberg, city archaeologist, is on hand to answer local citizen's questions on Jan. 5 about the latest archeological find.

CRIME

Police Investigate Bank Robbery

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating the robbery of a Burke and Herbert Bank located at 306 E. Monroe Ave. On Monday, Jan. 4, at 2:25 p.m., a man entered the bank and passed the teller a note which implied that he had an explosive device. He demanded money, the teller complied, and the suspect fled with an undisclosed amount of cash, leaving the "device" at the bank. There were no injuries and the item was not an explosive.

The suspect is described as a heavysset black male, approximately 6'2", in his late

50s to early 60s. He was last seen wearing a gray knit hat with a black stripe across it, a black winter jacket, and glasses.

The Federal Bureau of Investigations is offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to the identification, arrest and conviction of this bank robbery.

Police ask that anyone with information about this incident call Detective Ryan Clinch at 703-746-.6673.

In other police activity:

❖ Jan. 6: The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 400 block of Yoakum

Parkway. Two victims were robbed at gunpoint by two suspects; there were no injuries.

❖ Jan. 5: The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the Unit block of Skyhill Drive. An unknown suspect took a lunch box from the adult victim. There was a delay in reporting.

❖ Jan. 3: The Alexandria Police Department is investigating an unintentional discharge of a firearm in the 1000 block of Cameron Street. An intoxicated subject shot his own foot; it is non-life-threatening.

❖ Jan. 1: A Fairfax County Police Department helicopter assisted the Alexandria Police Department in the search for a burglary suspect in a wooded area in the 4800 block of Eisenhower Avenue.

❖ Dec. 27: The Alexandria Police Department has arrested an adult male after he assaulted and



Suspect in Jan. 4 bank robbery.

robbed another adult of a cell phone in the 100 block of King Street.

❖ Dec. 23: The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery from person in the Unit block of W. Reed Avenue. Three suspects displayed one firearm and stole cash. There were no injuries.

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OPINION

New Year's Goals A few wishes for the Virginia General Assembly, more coming ...

❖ **Expand Medicaid:** Expanding Medicaid to cover as many as 400,000 uninsured people in Virginia under the Affordable Care Act would come at virtually no cost to Virginia and would be a massive boost to Virginia's economy. The local and state economy is suffering from the loss of federal

EDITORIAL

spending in other areas, and it's just plain crazy and mean-spirited to deny medical care for people who can't afford it otherwise, and at the same time, turn away an economic stimulus equal to 20,000 or more jobs and a direct infusion of nearly \$2 billion a year.

❖ **Fund Education:** Localities need more help from the Commonwealth to pay for schools.

❖ **Fostering Futures:** Help teens in foster care by extending services and support, including foster care maintenance payments, to qualifying individuals age 18 to 21 years. The money spent will be matched by Federal dollars, and every dollar spent helping former foster children become independent, self-supporting adults saves a bundle in other costs down the line.

❖ **Stop Predatory Lending:** The local impacts of predatory lending, including some

car title loans, can be devastating to struggling families and individuals who get into the cycle of high interest debt. This is not an issue of just allowing more choice as some have claimed. And when someone loses the vehicle he or she needs to get to work, the costs can extend.

Early Voting for Presidential Primary Starts Next Week

Every year is an election year in Virginia. Just two months ago, Virginia voters faced ballots for almost every state and local elected officials. While candidates spent millions of dollars and not very much changed, some critical races in Virginia have been decided by a fraction of one percent of votes cast.

Elections have had significant consequences here, and the coming election is likely to be in that category.

Early voting (absentee voting in person) for U.S. Presidential Primaries starts Jan. 15, really, starting in just a little more than a week. The official primary date is March 1, but there

is no reason to wait until then to vote. Voters in Virginia don't register by party, but can only vote in either the Democratic or Republican primary. To vote in the Republican primary, each voter will need to sign a form asserting that he or she is in fact a Republican.

Democrats will choose between Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders (in that order).

Republicans will choose among 13 candidates who will be listed in the following order: Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, Ben Carson, Rand Paul, Mike Huckabee, Ted Cruz, Donald Trump, Jim Gilmore, Chris Christie, Jeb Bush, Rick Santorum, John Kasich and Carly Fiorina.

For details on absentee voting in Fairfax County, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm.

For details on absentee voting in the City of Alexandria, see www.alexandriava.gov/Elections.

For details on absentee voting in Arlington, see vote.arlingtonva.us/absentee/.

— MARY KIMM
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

A New, Shared Sense of Purpose

BY ALLISON SILBERBERG
MAYOR, CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

I thank you for this great honor of serving as your mayor. This is a time for a new, shared sense of purpose, to paraphrase Senator Robert F. Kennedy. The priorities of our citizens speak to us. The question is, what will future generations say when they

look back at our actions? Alexandria should be a national leader in ethics and transparency. There are ethics commissions all across our nation, and countless universities and think tanks are focusing on this very topic. Our interests should not be driven by a problematic situation. In other words, we should repair

COMMENTARY

the roof while the sun is shining. We have many city commissions, including a Beautification Commission, but we don't have an ethics advisory commission. The employees of our city staff sign an ethics pledge. Our elected leadership should be held to the same standard. As one of our first council decisions this year, we

should establish a study group to look at these matters and report back to council in the spring. I believe we must create an ethics advisory commission to educate and advise us and do so only in a forward-looking way, setting a higher standard for us all. Our citizens want it, and future generations will thank us.

Below is a note I sent in mid-December to my colleagues on the incoming City Council.

So I say to Alexandrians from the West End to Old Town, let us think about what is possible. I ask for your input, energy, and active support. Together we will forge ahead and make a difference for the sake of our beloved city.

Dear Colleagues,

Following our informal discussions, I would like to move toward a consensus that in 2016 we will begin to establish Alexandria as a national leader in ethical standards. The input from many of you has been very helpful.

To help develop proposals for consideration by City Council and the public, I would appreciate your continued consultation and participation. As I have mentioned, the purpose of an ethics commission is to educate and advise. Our work will pay off in better government, improved citizen confidence in our work, and increased attrac

SEE SHARED, PAGE 10



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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LETTERS

Expensive Visit

To the Editor:

The following letter was addressed to the mayor and City Council.

As much as I enjoy patronizing downtown Alexandria, I will never again spend my money or plan any events in the city. I have absolutely had it with the oppressive parking ticket racket.

There is no recourse against unfair tickets. Your city's ticketing system is especially hard on the working class, and any who can least afford to pay them.

I recently attended your boat parade on Dec. 5, where I had dinner and drinks with a group, and returned to find two parking tickets. Neither of these tickets would hold up were I to defend myself in court, but not all of us are able to leave work for half the day to do so.

So I will be working six extra hours overtime this week to pay for these tickets — time better spent on my graduate studies or volunteering on behalf of your non-millionaire residents.

As long as your city is anti-visitor, I will keep my business in the 'burbs, and encourage my friends to do the same.

In your debt (literally),

Travis Dennis, Falls Church

Be Nice To One Another

To the Editor:

As we kick off another New Year, let us abandon some of the negative practices of the Old Year regarding the interactions of the mayor and City Council. Start with a return to civility. Every member deserves the courtesy of a second for their motions, so they can be openly discussed. Go ahead and later vote against them, but don't deny the airing of the idea. Secondly, it is childish when some members continually visit among themselves while residents are testifying, or another council member has the floor. Your job is to listen.

Next, focus on the growing deficit and the high price tag for essential sewer updates. If you don't have money to fund the necessary amenities and services, declare a moratorium on the endless stream of proposed condominiums, without any attention to the schools those occupants will need for their children. Remember, only one person gets to be mayor at a time, so some of the future wannabees need to hold their rhetoric as they position themselves for the 2018

campaigns.

Finally, all council members need to be clear they are elected solely by Alexandria residents, not by the lobbyists, whose financial motives spur them on. There was a deaf ear shown by several council members toward genuine opposition by neighbors to the Woodbine and Old Colony expansions, and the lot rezoning in the Clover-College Park area, where 24 taxpayers spoke out, and their concerns got short shrift. Staff members have an advisory role in this process, but they aren't elected and aren't held accountable for their decisions, as council members are. The council's job isn't to rubber stamp items before it, but to debate the pros and cons. Don't be afraid to defer something where there is not enough solid information on the long-term impacts. Drill down on the details and costs before you decide.

Like our moms told us when we headed off to school, be nice to one another. That's good advice for a council that has had a reputation in the past for housing warring factions. It's time to start over.

Kathleen Burns
Alexandria

School Project Lacks Vision

To the Editor:

The Patrick Henry School and Recreation Center Project time clock has begun in earnest. The architect will soon be selected. The Community Advisory Committee has been formed. Neighborhood traffic studies have been completed. But something very fundamental to the process of creating a new school has been completely missed. I speak of the school's vision as an integral part of the ACPS system, and as a unique educational setting in its West End neighborhood.

When planning a major educational project, it makes sense to start with a discussion about educational values, unique community contexts, and hopes and dreams for students and staff. A distillation of those ideas creates the vision, and drives (or should) the eventual selection of an architect (form follows function). Yet while there were community discussions and School Board meetings, they focused on the physical condition of the school, overcrowding issues on the West End,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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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	Confession: Wednesday, 6:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am, 4:00 pm
Monday-Saturday: 9:00 am Mass En Español: Monday, 6:30 pm; Thursday, 7:30 pm;	En Español: Sunday, 1:10 pm; Saturday, 6:00 pm

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Love, Caleb

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Middle School: Launching Pad to Success or Pipeline to Failure?

BY GWEN HUBBARD LEWIS
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CONCERNED CITIZENS
NETWORK ALEXANDRIA

Per recent studies, our middle schools nationwide are often overlooked, frequently allocated secondhand resources and habitually saddled by low expectations, yet it is the critical period in a child's education and development.

Dr. Robert Balfanz, director of the Johns Hopkins University Center for the Social Organization of Schools, states: "The middle grades will play a pivotal role in enabling the nation to reach President Obama's goal of graduating all students from high school prepared for college or advanced career training. In high-poverty neighborhoods, in particular, our research and school improvement work indicate that students' middle grades experiences have tremendous impact on the extent to which they will close achievement gaps, graduate from high school, and be prepared for college. As a result, ... there is a need to reconceptualize the role the middle grades play in the public education system."

Educators and policy makers have an opportunity to improve this inequitable situ-

ation. We must do so, suggests the directors of the Reach and Rise for Excellence (RARE) afterschool enrichment and mentoring program sponsored by the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA) at Francis C. Hammond Middle School.

CCNA discovered that there was a lack of full support and resources in the local middle school, based on its research in 2009. At RARE we believe that one of the most critical challenges of our time is to provide the necessary tools for these students during their transitional years between sixth through eighth grades. This is the decisive, make-or-break crossroad in their academic experience that becomes either the launching pad to their success or the pathway to their failure.

According to Pierrette Hall, principal at Hammond, more than 1,000 students receive free and reduced lunches, and one-third or more are underachieving. Therefore, RARE recruits students who are at risk of dropping out of high school and who will benefit the most from tutoring in math and reading. The goal of RARE is to provide help with homework assignments in order to increase their letter grades in the classroom; significantly improve their SOL scores in both math and reading; increase life skills and cultural awareness; and to appreciate their differences and build relationships of



Hammond Middle School students and mentors in the RARE afterschool enrichment program.

respect. RARE staff and mentors emphasize the need to value the diverse ways people look, speak, think, and act within the immediate community and around the world.

Ms Hall said, "The dedicated work of this organization has increased student engagement for students enrolled in the afternoon program and has had a positive effect on our entire school community. The CCNA/RARE Program has had a long-standing partnership and a proven history of success — a history that features improved student test scores, improved school attendance and more focused students. One of the best things about the program is the way it brings together various community members and gets them actively involved in helping kids learn and grow."

RARE has proven to be a successful model as our 2014-2015 data shows: the total number of students served was 31 and 71 percent of them successfully met program

goals, including a 62 percent improvement in math. In fact, 47 percent passed the math SOL and 40 percent passed the reading SOL in the school that was once under state control. As stated by Gwen Day-Fuller, CCNA board chair, "We are making great progress but we have some tough challenges. Our initial vision for RARE was to build on our success at Hammond and to expand to the other middle schools. The lack of resources and funding has prevented us from realizing that goal. We also need additional resources to enhance the parent education component and more collaboration among other nonprofits and community stakeholders. In summary, we believe that, as concerned citizens, we all should take up the charge to make a difference in our middle schools, where the need is, indeed, most critical in Alexandria and throughout the nation."

Visit ccna.org for more information.

Shared Sense of Purpose

FROM PAGE 8

tiveness of Alexandria for new businesses.

The path for this work has been paved by others in years past. There were campaign finance reform efforts of Councilmen Wilson and Smedberg, along with then-Councilman Krupicka in 2008. (With this note to council, I attached their Oct. 28, 2008, memo.) A few years later, Alexandria City employees developed an ethics initiative. At the state level in 2015, the Governor's Commission on Integrity and Public Confidence in State Government has proposed new ethics standards. We have all seen rising citizen interest in the subject. Yesterday, the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations sent us a letter recommending the creation of an ethics commission. Communities all across the country have an ethics commission, which provides guidance to its elected leadership.

I propose that we adopt a resolution to establish a Transparency Study Group to look at these matters. The study group would look primarily at three areas: an ethics pledge, areas of focus regarding ethics, and structures and duties of a future ethics advisory commission. In 2004, Fauquier

County adopted an 18-point ethics resolution, and this can help guide us all. (With this note, I attached Fauquier County's resolution. Both attachments will be on my site, www.allisonsilberberg.com.)

I propose that the study group be comprised of seven members and that they be requested to report recommendations to council by March 31, 2016. The seven members would come from the following: the mayor would select the chair; the council would select three members; and one member would be sent from each of the following: the Alexandria Bar Association, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, and the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations.

In short, my immediate proposal will be for council to establish a study group to report back to us with recommendations for an ethics pledge, an ethics code, and an advisory commission. As you know, this morning I asked the City Attorney for an opinion in order to properly prepare for council action in January.

I look forward to hearing more of your thoughts and working with each of you. Thank you very much.

— ALLISON

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WELLBEING

George Mason University Fitness Director Ethan Carter says choose foods and physical activities that you enjoy is a key to successful weight loss.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Resolving To Lose Weight

What works and what doesn't when it comes to health and fitness.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

More than half of Americans are resolving to lose weight and get in shape this year, according to a new Nielsen survey, but only 8 percent will achieve that goal.

"People tend to make New Year's resolutions to give themselves a fresh start," said Lyn Chang, a Bethesda, Md.-based marriage and family counselor. "They're also a way of addressing things about ourselves that are dissatisfying and trying to make a change. The problem is that most people create resolutions that are too unrealistic."

Small and practical targets, such as taking a 10-minute walk during lunch or joining an exercise class that meets twice weekly, are more attainable than vowing to spend two-hours a day at the gym, says Domenica M. Rubino, M.D., director, Washington Center for Weight Management and Research in Arlington.

"You have to distinguish fantasy from reality and think about making sustainable changes," she said. "When you start setting and achieving small goals it builds your confidence to keep going. One change tends to beget another change, and I think that's particularly true with weight loss."

"You have to distinguish fantasy from reality and think about making sustainable changes."

— Domenica M. Rubino, M.D., Director, Washington Center for Weight Management and Research

Successful weight loss requires a multi-pronged approach, says Chang. "Break the larger goal in to smaller steps like creating an exercise routine or practicing healthy grocery shopping and meal planning," she said. "Carefully examining and planning the mi-

cro-steps to achieving the larger goal of weight loss is what will increase the chance of success."

Whether choosing food or exercise, the key is making it pleasurable. "If I don't like a certain vegetable, but say that I want to eat it everyday because its healthy, I'll only be able to maintain that for a short time," said Ethan Carter, fitness director at George Mason University. "The same is true for exercise. Fitness is more than dumb bells and bar bells. If you like hiking or yard work, you should choose that as a way of getting exercise."

Rubino encourages clients to view exercise as a gift rather than a means for burning calories. "See it as mood management or a way to feel better," she said. "People who are chronically trying to lose weight tend to resent exercise and activity because it's always connected to their weight, so they see it as pointless. It helps to see it as something that can improve your mood and your overall health and wellbeing. When we're feeling better we can make better choices."

Creating balance is an often-overlooked component of weight loss, but one that can sabotage health and fitness efforts, says Cheryl Mirabella, a nutritionist and wellness coach with Living Whole Health in Alexandria.

"If you're working hard and don't have a lot of balance in your life then you turn to food for pleasure, but when you're focusing on things that make you happy you naturally turn to healthier food choices and food loses its power as a source of pleasure and reward," she said.

Mirabella asks her clients to create what she calls a joy list. "They jot down a list of things that make them happy like spending time with friends, music or another hobby," she said. "The list

is broken down into immediate activities like sitting with a cup of tea and a book, mid-term activities like having lunch with a friend and long-term activities like a weekend trip. The idea is to have a source of inspiration and something to look forward to."

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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
2/24/2016..... Pet Connection

MARCH
3/2/2016.....Wellbeing
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ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY TODD FOX

St. Louis-based Bottle Rockets celebrate the release of “South Broadway Athletic Club” on Jan. 22 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

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

“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.

“Celebrating What We’re Made Of.” Through Jan. 31 at The Associates Gallery, 105 N. Union St. This show features mixed media artist and TAG member Karen Fitzgerald, who creates art from recycled materials. Using everything from junk mail to food packaging, Fitzgerald’s art celebrates the small things that make up our everyday lives. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.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. 12 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.alexandriarchaeology.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.

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.

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.

ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY/JAN. 9

Carl Chase Book Signing. 12-2 p.m. at Capital Teas, 145 Waterfront St., National Harbor, Fort Washington, Md. Chase, a resident of Alexandria, will be available to sign copies of his book, "Jack Spade: Dream Detective." Free. Visit www.tatepublishing.com for more.

"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 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.

"The 39 Steps." 3 p.m. reception, 4 p.m. performance at Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Highway. The Picnic Theatre Company performs the Alfred Hitchcock spy thriller after a reception serving tea, hot chocolate, and treats. Tickets are \$21.99-27.24. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

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 for more.

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/chapel.

"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.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

Fitness for Kids. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane. MOMS Club of Alexandria South invites at-home parents as well as parents who work part-time or have home-based businesses and who reside in zip codes 22303, 22306 and 22307 to learn more about the importance of fitness and strategies to help incorporate into life. Free.



PHOTO BY ERNEST EVANS

Brazilian singer Cissa Paz will lead a concert of Carnaval dance music at the Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. on Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.carlyleclub.com for more.

Email Southalex moms@yahoo.com or visit southalexandriamomsclub.webs.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 for more.

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

FRIDAY-MONDAY/JAN. 15-18

"Into the Woods Jr." 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday and Monday at Aldersgate Church Community Theatre, 1301 Collingwood Road. Into the Woods, Jr. features Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk), and the Witch in this retelling of classic Grimm Brothers fables. Tickets are \$12 plus a service fee. Visit www.acctonline.org for more.

JAN. 15-30

"Medieval Story Land." 8 p.m. on

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ENTERTAINMENT

Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. on Saturdays at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Red Knight Productions presents "Medieval Story Land," a parody of the medieval fantasy genre. Tickets are \$18 and \$20. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 16

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

"The History of Fort Myer." 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St., #327. Author and historian John Michael will give a lecture, and will be signing book. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

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.metamorphosisaac.com.

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 or call 703-746-1702.

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

SATURDAYSUNDAY/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.

"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.



TAG Reveals Mixed Media Exhibit

The Associates Gallery (TAG)'s "Celebrating What We're Made Of" will feature mixed media artist and Associates Gallery member Karen Fitzgerald, who creates art from recycled materials. Using everything from junk mail to food packaging, Fitzgerald's art celebrates the small things that make up our everyday lives. The opening reception on Thursday, Jan. 14 will happen in conjunction with Second Thursday at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit will be on display through Jan. 31. Admission to both the exhibit and the reception is free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Pictured here: "From the Depths" by Karen Fitzgerald

Rockets celebrate the release of "South Broadway Athletic Club." Tickets are \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 18

MLK Community Summit. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The MLK Community Summit is an annual community service event created and hosted by The Morning Bishop Theatre for the purposes of providing meaningful service projects while learning about the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The community is invited to participate in community service activities of first aid assemblage, baking cupcakes, creating greeting cards for the sick and shut-in, donation sorting and material organization. Contact McKenya Dilworth at theatreofpurpose@gmail.com or call 202-352-4864.

MLK Poster Exhibition and Program. 1-3 p.m. at Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall, 301 King St. The exhibition will display students' illustrations of their own family's struggles and journeys to reach Alexandria, perhaps from another country or situation. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

TUESDAY/JAN. 19

Homestead Records at the National Archives. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Sharon Cook MacInnes, Ph.D. talks about the 30 states where federal homesteading occurred in this talk sponsored by the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. Free. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org or call 703-768-4101.

THURSDAY/JAN. 21

Morris Day and The Time. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Listen to live 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.

FRIDAY/JAN. 22

Bottle Rockets. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. St. Louis-based Bottle

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 22-24

"Into the Woods Jr." 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday at Aldersgate Church Community Theatre, 1301 Collingwood Road. Into the Woods, Jr. features Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk), and the Witch in this retelling of classic Grimm Brothers fables. Tickets are \$12 plus a service fee. Visit www.acctonline.org.

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.

"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.

Author Event. 2-3:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Gregg Riley, an Inspirational speaker, author and retired U.S. Army Colonel will read from and sign copies of his new book "Steps to the Promised Land." Free. Call 703-746-1702.

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.metamorphosisaac.com for more.

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.

JAN. 23-FEB. 28

"Trending: Contemporary Art Now!" Gallery hours at the Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. This all-media exhibition shows works by self-identifying women artists. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

SUNDAY/JAN. 24

American Association of University Women Program. 2-4 p.m. at Cameron Station Clubhouse, 200 Cameron Station Blvd. The Guest House Speaker's Bureau is a program in which women who have exited from prison/jail share their journeys about the origin of their difficulties, the nature of incarceration, and the steps they are taking to reenter society as responsible citizens. Their talks reveal insights into larger policy issues being addressed by the currently-heightened focus on improving the criminal justice system. Free. Call 703-548-1349.

MONDAY/JAN. 25

"WIRED Alexandria." 6:30 p.m. at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Agenda: Alexandria presents "WIRED Alexandria: Is Our Historic City Living in the Past?" Neighboring jurisdictions offer dark fibre, cable/broadband choices and widespread public Wi-Fi hotspots important to today's businesses and young people. Can Alexandria compete? Find a cash bar followed by dinner. Tickets are \$32 for members, \$37 for nonmembers before Jan. 22; \$37 for members, \$42 for nonmembers after Jan. 22. Tickets for the program only are \$5 for nonmembers, free for members. Reservations required. Call Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or email agendaalexandria@aol.com.

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.

Annual Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber Meeting/Book Talk.

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites, 8100 Loisdale Road, Springfield. White House press corps member Paul Brandus will discuss and sign his book "Under This Roof." Tickets are \$45. Visit www.mtvernon-leechamber.com 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

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.

FRIDAY/JAN. 29

"Paris Viva: France After the Attacks." 7-9 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Ave. Guy Sorman, publisher of "France-Amerique" will present a lecture. \$5 suggested donation. Visit www.guysorman.eventbrite.com.

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, visit the restaurant's main dining room to experience more wine and food inspired by the 19th century. Tickets are \$100. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov.

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.

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.

Looking at Challenges and Opportunities in 2016

FROM PAGE 1

away,” said Byrd. “[It’s] about trying to change the culture. The best way to describe that is going from a compliance-based way of looking at it to value-based. We find that as an important distinction. That’s something the citizenry will definitely appreciate.”

To give ethics reform any kind of legitimacy in Alexandria, AFCA board member Frank Putzu said an advisory group would need to be formed to look at the scope of a potential advisory commission and assess what kind of authority the potential commission would hold. Appointment to an ethics commission, Putzu noted, would also need ethical screening to ensure non-bias.

“We don’t want it devolve into a political food fight,” said Putzu. “We need folks with credibility in the area with no stake in the outcome.”

Specifically, Putzu recommended reaching out to local academia and to lawyers with no business before the city but who’ve dealt with these types of ethics issues before.

Ali Ahmed, the other co-chair of AFCA, specified that an ethics commission should focus on improving disclosure of matters that could affect decision making and making advisory options requested by officials or the public available. Ahmed and other supporters in the AFCA also repeatedly noted that any type of ethics reform shouldn’t look to cast judgement on decisions rendered before its implementation.

“From our perspective, we’re not looking at this in terms of commentary on the previous administration,” said Byrd. “We want this forward looking.”

Silberberg addressed this point in her inaugural speech as well, saying that any ethics reform would not retroactively affect or target past decisions, and that it wasn’t spurred on by any particular actions.

“We should repair the roof while the sun is shining,” said Silberberg. “We do [this] only in a forward looking way.”

Among Silberberg’s other stated ambitions was the extension of Alexandria’s tree canopy from its current goal of 33 percent coverage to the national goal of 40 percent coverage.

“I challenge us to make this a reality in one decade,” said Silberberg. “I ask our city’s children and youth to help us change our landscape. Ask your family to plant a tree in your honor for a holiday or birthday gift. Help green up our city.”

Silberberg also included a hope to extend library hours throughout Alexandria to include Sundays, calling it an investment in the future.

The meeting also marked the official selection of Justin Wilson as vice mayor. For Wilson, many of the upcoming challenges for Alexandria will be regional. Wilson told an anecdote about his son who was amazed that his teacher lived in as far away a location as Springfield.

“Even at an early age, he had developed a mentality that we have here in the city sometimes that anything on the other side of Four Mile Run or on the other side of the beltway might as well be in Siberia,” said Wilson. “But I think the challenges that this council will deal with over the next three years are very much regional in nature, and they are going to be the test of whether we’re successful.”

For Wilson, the biggest challenge is the looming economic threat hanging over the city, which is troublesome for a city Wilson described as still trying to catch up on delayed investments to the city infrastructure.

“I think one of those important challenges will be how we manage the transition of our economy,” said Wilson. “We see the storm clouds. The job creation in D.C. region is among the lowest in the nation for the last three years. That’s a real threat to our economy.”

“Ten years ago, [business consumption taxes] paid 15 percent of the costs of government,” said Wilson. “Today they pay 13.5 percent. That’s a major challenge for our city and it threatens our ability to provide the services our residents expect us to maintain.”

One of those services that Wilson said has been hit hardest is Alexandria Public Schools.

“Our commitment to our children is threatened by the twin challenges of capacity and preparedness,” said Wilson. “Last year, 20 percent of the students who started in Alexandria schools had no pre-

school experience to speak of. For many of those children, they started out as behind from day one.”

Wilson also warned that the city was not prepared for the population of students working its way through the school system.

“There are over 1,500 kids in Alexandria’s kindergartens today,” said Wilson. “I’ve heard kindergarteners have a way of becoming ninth graders.”

According to Alexandria School Board Chair Karen Graf, the need to expand facilities is the school system’s highest priority goal. Part of that goal is the planned building project at Patrick Henry Elementary School, which will replace the aging structure with a new school building and boost the school’s student capacity from 600 to 800 students. The School Board and City Council are slated to collaborate on the project in a series of joint work sessions. Opening for the new school is currently scheduled for Fall 2018.

“We’re looking at our 10-year plan for expanding our existing facilities as well as planning for future population growth,” said Graf. “A lot of that planning is happening this year.”

Wilson is also not alone in emphasizing the importance of pre-k education in Alexandria schools.

“We want to offer a pre-k space for every four year old in the city,” said Graf. “Studies show [it] sets [students] up for the future of their academic life. It’s investing up front rather than later.”

If Alexandria could achieve their goal of universal pre-k, Graf said they’d be one of the first cities in Virginia to do so.

But School Board member William Campbell noted that building new facilities alone won’t solve Alexandria’s problems.

Back to Work

2015 was a significant year for Commonwealth Attorney Bryan Porter, who oversaw the prosecution of now-convicted Alexandria serial killer Charles Severance. For the first part of 2016, Porter said his office is working on the broader range of issues affecting criminal justice in Alexandria. The first priority is assessing the viability of body cameras. Porter said his office needs to look at how cameras would affect discovery obligations, a pre-trial procedure concerning obtaining evidence. Aside from the financial impact of his office requiring an additional staff person, Porter said he couldn’t see any immediate downsides to the implementation of body cameras.

Porter will also begin prosecution for a 2009 homicide case against Willie Smith, a non-city resident who was arrested in the murder of Michael James Horton near the Braddock Road Metro Station.

Porter and Alexandria Law Enforcement officials have said there’s been no new update on the four unsolved homicides in 2015, including two that also look place near the Braddock Road Metro Station.

“We’ve laid out a Capital Improvement Plan because we know from the joint work groups between the city and the schools that capacity is a major thing we’ll have to deal with,” said Campbell. “But at the same time, we’ve seen that we also need to begin modernizing our facilities or it’s going to cost us in the future.”

But schools aren’t the only major demand on City Council funding. Other City Council members raised affordable housing, infrastructure development, and equitable pay raises for city employees as other city priorities for 2016. Negotiations on funding those priorities will continue as the City Council moves into its budget procedure in the spring.

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.

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.ymcacampkekoa.org for more.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 16

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TC's Tovsky Focused on Growth in 2016

Two-sport athlete looking to improve rebounding, hitting.

Andrew Tovsky is T.C. Williams' big man on the basketball court and its ace on the pitcher's mound. The 6-foot-5, 230-pound senior is the biggest player on the T.C. Williams boys' basketball team. Tovsky and the Titans fell to Annandale 61-60 on Tuesday, dropping their record to 4-5, including 1-2 in Conference 7. TC competed in a tournament at the University of North Carolina Wilmington during the winter break, winning two of three games.

Q&A: In the spring, Tovsky is the baseball team's No. 1 starting pitcher. As a junior, he earned first-team all-conference honors and started on the mound when TC upset Annandale in the conference tournament to earn a regional berth. He also started against eventual state champion Madison in the opening round of regionals.

Tovsky will play baseball at Elon University.

Tovsky recently participated in a Q&A via email.

Q: Did you make any new year's

resolutions? If so, what are they?

A: 2015 was a good year for me. So I think that if I am able to stay focused and concentrated like I was this past year, I will be able to continue to grow as a player and person.

Q: As a basketball player, what is one thing you would like to do better in 2016 than in 2015?

A: I feel like I could have helped the team more on the glass. We're a little undersized this year so rebounding is an area where I feel as if I can be a big help.

Q: As a baseball player, what is one thing you would like to do better in 2016 than in 2015?

A: I think I will need to be a little better of a hitter this year as opposed to last. A lot of our big bats were seniors and guys that contributed a lot offensively, so helping fill those gaps is one of my goals this year.

Q: The basketball team played in a holiday tournament in North Carolina over winter break. What was the trip like off the court?

A: It was definitely a great way for our team to get closer and spend time together. Most of the time we spend together as a team is spent on the court, and it was good to be able to spend time together in a dif-

ferent setting.

Q: What will it take for the basketball team to get off to a strong start in 2016?

A: Coach [Bryan] Hill has been preaching to us the last couple weeks that the intensity of our practices needs to be high so we are prepared for game situations. Winning three of our last four games has shown our guys that we can compete with very good competition, so I think it is just a matter of continuing to work hard and trust our great coaching staff.

Q: After qualifying for the regional tournament last year, what kind of expectations does the baseball program have entering the new year?

A: We fully expect to compete in the district and make it back to regionals. The district will be tough this year, but the guys have been putting in a lot of time and I think it is definitely possible to make a run at the district.

Q: What would be your ideal way to finish your senior year, as a student and an athlete, at T.C. Williams?

A: I am very close to a 4.0 cumulative GPA for high school, so I think that is my



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Andrew Tovsky, seen as a junior, plays baseball and basketball for T.C. Williams.

main goal as a student. As an athlete, neither me nor my brother have been able to win a district title at TC, so I think that would be a good way to go out.

— JON ROETMAN

SPORTS BRIEFS

TC Boys' Basketball Falls to Annandale

The T.C. Williams boys' basketball team had a chance to open 2016 with a victory, but a last-second shot attempt failed, giving Annandale a 61-60 win on Tuesday in Alexandria.

The Titans fell to 4-5 overall and 1-2 in Conference 7.

Jordan Jones led T.C. Williams with 24 points. Tavaris James finished with 13 points and Fahmmi Mamo added 11.

The Titans competed in a tournament at the University of North Carolina Wilmington during winter break, winning two of three games.

T.C. Williams will travel to face South County at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8.

BI Boys Win 2 of 3 At Holiday Tournament

The Bishop Ireton boys' basketball team won two of its three games at the George Long holiday tournament at Wakefield High School Dec. 28-30.

After losing to West Potomac 61-49 in their opener, the Cardinals responded with wins over Washington-Lee (52-35) and Annandale (58-49).

BI dropped to 5-9 with a loss to HD Woodson.

The Cardinals will travel to face Archbishop Carroll at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 7.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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MONDAY/JAN. 11

Ad Hoc Monitoring Group on Waterfront Construction. 5:30 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Contact Jack Browand, jack.browand@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5504.

Ad Hoc Group on Digital and A-Frame Signs. 7 p.m. at City Hall, Council Work Room, 301 King St. Contact Alex Dambach, alex.dambach@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3829.

TUESDAY/JAN. 12

Waterfront Commission Marina Committee. 5:30 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Contact Jack Browand, jack.browand@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5504.

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

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Damon Wooten has graduated from Park University (Kansas City, Mo.) with a Master of Business Administration.

Khalila Karefa-Kargbo received the Most Improved Player Award for her performance on the Randolph-Macon Academy varsity girls' tennis team during the fall of 2015. Karefa-Kargbo is a freshman at Randolph-Macon Academy (Front Royal, Va.).

Heather Evans and **Hannah Eve** have been named to the dean's list at Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, Va.). Evans is a senior studying music performance. Eve is a junior studying digital media.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

Parents in Action. 8:30-10 a.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Join the Parent Group for Spanish-speaking families at George Washington Middle School and learn how you can help deter your child from participating in risky behaviors. Free. Call Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or email krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us.

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. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/engage for more.

FRIDAY/JAN. 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Program. The City of Alexandria will honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a

Kathryn Perry has been named to the dean's list at Carthage College (Kenosha, Wis.) for fall 2015.

Yokabed Mamo has been named to the dean's list at Chadron State College (Chadron, Neb.) for the fall 2015 semester.

James Ulrich has been named to the dean's list at Belmont University (Nashville, Tenn.) for fall 2015.

Kiran Easterbrook has been named to the dean's list at Dean College (Franklin, Mass.) for the fall 2015 semester.

I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.
-Arthur Wing Pinero

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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 ole 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

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OBITUARY

Mary Yancey Moore of Alexandria, Virginia died on Monday, December 28, 2015. Mary was a long time employee of the Department of Interior a member of the Belle Haven Country Club and the Old Dominion Boat Club. she is survived by several nieces and nephews and her good friend Lisa Doyle. Friends may call the Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 where the family will be present on Wednesday, January 6th from 12:00 - 1:00pm. A graveside service will follow at 1:30pm at Mt. Comfort Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Fisher House Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project or K9 Companions for the Disabled.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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 Bikeshare 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.

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Eleanor "Nancy" Valtin

Nancy Valtin died peacefully in her home in Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, December 19, 2015. Her husband and children were at her side.

Nancy was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, in 1929 and attended Wyoming Valley Seminary, where she was active in music, literature, and (a fact which amused her for the rest of her life) sports. She studied English at Swarthmore College, where she honed her sharp wit and met her beloved husband, Heinz. They were married in 1953 and never spent a day apart if they could help it.

The Valtins lived in the Upper Valley of the Connecticut River for 50 wonderful years, first in Hanover, New Hampshire, and then in Norwich, Vermont. For 25 of those years, while Heinz taught at Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, Nancy found her professional calling as a much loved and admired kindergarten teacher at the Marion Cross School in Norwich. An avid traveler, she planned memorable family trips around the U.S. and abroad, and it was from her that the whole family caught the travel bug. She was also steadfastly devoted to causes she held dear.

Nancy is survived by her husband Heinz, children Tom and Alison, grandchildren Leah, Tommy, and Jamie, and many, many friends, loved ones, and admirers.

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OBITUARY

Robert L Brown Jr.

Robert L. Brown Jr. entered into eternal peace on Friday, December 25, 2015 in Anne Arundel County, MD.

Robert was born August 18, 1954, the son of the late Robert L. Brown Sr. and Ruby L. Morris. He graduated from T.C. Williams High School in 1973. Robert retired from the United States Postal Service.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Denise, their two children Christina Brown, Robert "Beau" Brown III, their spouses Dan Burke and Felicia Brown, and 4 grandchildren, Halie, Buzzy, Olivia and Daniel. Siblings, Denise Hendrix (Randy), Steve Brown (Lara), Lee Ann Brandt, Sandra Sutton (Bob), Kathryn Cole, Carol Miller, Susan Mercaldo, Linda Snyder (Ken), Joyce Edelen (Keech), Dennis Morris and Debra Morris.

Rob enjoyed spending time with James R. Brown, William Jefferson, David Brandt, Duncan Brown, and Derek Brown as well as many other nieces and nephews.

Rob was an avid sports fan. He loved his Washington Redskins and Washington Capitals. He also enjoyed coaching youth baseball and basketball. Rob enjoyed the outdoor life including hunting, golfing and loved taking trips to the "Rivah" to spend time with his best friend James Cappelli among many others.

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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

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Betlehem Lando, trading as Hebir Ethiopian Exotic Restaurant, 410 East Glebe Rd, Alexandria, VA 22305. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Bethlehem Lando, owner
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Col. Edward K. Yellman

Col. Edward K. Yellman, loving husband, devoted father and grandfather died peacefully at home January 4, 2016. He is lovingly remembered as a man of deep personal integrity, patriotism, dedication to duty, and love of family and country. Friends may call at the Demaine Funeral Home, 520 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 where the family will be present on Friday, January 8, 2016 from 5 to 8 pm.

A mass of Christian burial will be offered on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at St. Louis Catholic Church, 2907 Popkins Ln, Alexandria, Virginia 22306.

Graveside services with full military Honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Class of 1949 Fund, Association of Graduates, U.S. Military Academy, at 698 Mills Road, West Point, New York 10996.

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FROM PAGE 9

whether or not to have swing space during construction, project timelines, traffic issues, and an audacious attempt to put an oversized and over budget recreation center on the property. These were all needed and important discussions, but they occurred in a vision vacuum, and resulted in a less-than robust feasibility study that pleased no one.

An educational vision emerges from the school's leadership and wider community, is a reflection of the school system's culture and way of working, and provides a unity of purpose that excites and energizes all the stakeholders — it's synergistic and future-oriented. It gives meaning and the arc of purpose to children and teachers, and acts as a powerful draw for the wider surrounding community to be engaged and involved with the school. It makes you want to be in that building.

An example: I invite readers to imagine Patrick Henry School and Recreation Center as a place of "expeditionary learning" and field exploration. On the West End we have abundant natural, civic and industrial resources, many within walking distance, which students can investigate first hand. Just a short distance from the school students can study the health of nearby streams and creeks, observe migratory waterfowl and even those pesky beavers in Cameron Station. An expeditionary learning model isn't the only possible vision for the school, but does reflect the context of the West End and is a well-established approach to teaching and learning. Other schools in the area (notably Campbell Elementary in Arlington) pursue this approach, so there are even a wealth of existing resources available.

While Patrick Henry does have a planned educational structure (prek-grade 8), a set of best practice architectural guidelines, and a set of performance expectations for the school, these don't constitute a vision. I'm afraid that without one, especially one as exciting as expeditionary learning, ACPS's efforts to redistrict school attendance zones and secure needed Capital Improvement funds will fall short. The need for space may be pressing, and the opportunity to give a small number of families a middle school choice may be well-intentioned, but neither constitutes a vision for our children that can light a fire of enthusiastic support from all corners. I strongly urge the school leadership, the new School Board, the superintendent, and the Community Advisory Committee to open up time and space for this dialogue. We can aim for higher ground.

Sissy Walker
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Monday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send by e-mail: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

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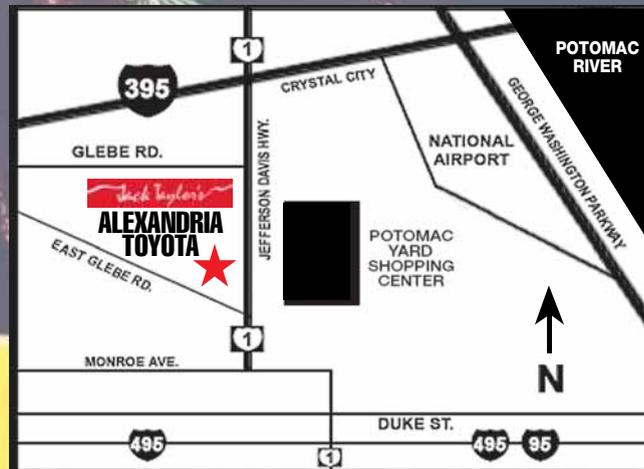
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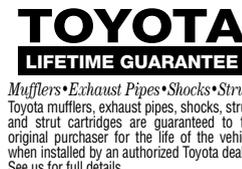
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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
Purchase Site Line Wiper Blades and Receive 1 year RAINEX OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE APPLICATION

Includes FREE touch ups. Dramatically improve wet weather driving visibility.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. AX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16.

WINTER SAVINGS



TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL

\$5 OFF \$10 OFF

NON-SYNTHETIC SYNTHETIC

INCLUDES: Change oil (up to 5 qts.), install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. AX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL \$139⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 24 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.

Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. AX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
DETAIL SPECIALS

- Wash & Vacuum **\$39⁹⁵**
- Hand wash, wax & interior cleaning **\$139⁹⁵**
- Full premium detail **\$295⁹⁵**

By appointment only. Vans & SUV's additional.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. AX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
ROTATE & BALANCE SPECIAL \$59⁹⁵

INCLUDES: Rotate and balance all 4 wheels and inspect brakes and tires.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. AX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
15% OFF ANY ACCESSORIES

- Apparel • Window visors
- 1-pod adaptors • All weather floor mats
- Toyota bedliners

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. AX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
VARIABLE DISCOUNT

- \$5.00 OFF** with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99
- \$10.00 OFF** with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99
- \$15.00 OFF** with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99
- \$20.00 OFF** with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99
- \$50.00 OFF** with purchase of \$500.00 Or more

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. AX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
NITRO-FILL \$39⁹⁵

We will purge the tires of air and refill them with nitrogen.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. AX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS

- BG FLUID EXCHANGE SPECIAL**
- TRANSMISSION FLUSH **\$189⁹⁵**
- POWER STEERING FLUSH **\$139⁹⁵**
- BRAKE FLUSH **\$139⁹⁵**
- FUEL INDUCTION FLUSH **\$139⁹⁵**

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. AX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE \$159⁹⁵

Synthetic \$10 More

INCLUDES: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. AX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT \$79⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.

INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. AX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

INCLUDES: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights, belts & hoses & fluid levels.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16.

New RAV4s, Priuses Scion IMs and IAs ALL ON SALE LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Winter is here and so are the SAVINGS! Ask one of our sales managers, George, Mike, Yared or Rocky 703-684-0700

WE ARE HERE TO MAKE DEALS!



ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA/SCION
3750 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY. | ALEXANDRIA, VA 22305
703-684-0700 | ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM
JUST MINUTES FROM REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT!





Alexandria \$1,075,000

Essentially a new build after being taken down to original foot print 2007! Sits on quarter acre lot. 5 bedrooms and 5 full baths with main level living option. Finished basement, screened porch and deck. 1-car garage parking. 814chalfonte.mceneaney.com

Sue Goodhart
703.362.3221
TheGoodhartGroup.com



Alexandria \$1,375,000

Complete renovation with 6 bedrooms and 4 baths in George Mason school district. Sunny and bright rooms. Gorgeous kitchen is the heart of the home. Main level bedroom and bath. 216 Woodland Terrace

Jen Walker
703.675.1566
JenWalker.com



Del Ray \$949,000

Gorgeous Craftsman style house built in 2012 just a short walk from The Avenue. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, hardwood floors, finished storage basement, deck, landscaped garden with flat, fenced backyard, & driveway parking for 4 cars. 209 Laverne Ave.

Annette Hinaman
571.216.4411
AnnetteHinaman.com



Quaker Village \$610,000

A stunning kitchen renovation, generous open living spaces & a convenient location will put this home on your shortlist. Gorgeous, spa-like master bath. Deck & enclosed patio. Very quick walk to get coffee, grab dinner or bus to the Metro. 31 Arell Court

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
LizLuke.com



Alexandria \$462,500

Exceptional Remodel! Gourmet open kitchen with granite and stainless! Super entertaining floor plan leads to huge Trex and Trellis decking and spacious yard. Family room, 3 bedrooms and 2 renovated bathrooms! 5710 La Vista Drive

Esther Drourr
703.244.1539
EstherDrourr.com



Runnymede \$450,000

A breath of fresh air! Gorgeous and fully renovated, this stunner offers 3 bedrooms + den, 3 full baths + 1 half, 2 fireplaces, large deck with elevated view, and style for days! Everything has been done. Add a peaceful, yet close-in neighborhood & you're home!

Genevieve Moorhouse
703.401.5902
GenevieveMoorhouse.com



Old Town \$1,319,900

Stunning river views of the Potomac! Gorgeous Porto Vecchio condo with 3 spacious bedrooms with en-suite renovated baths. Bright and ready to move in. 3 parking spaces included, great amenities and a wonderful location! 1250washington605.mceneaney.com

Sue Goodhart
703.362.3221
TheGoodhartGroup.com



Alexandria \$929,000

Fantastic, custom, center-hall colonial has three levels, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths and a basement that is sure to impress. Custom built-ins, theatre space, fenced back-yard and so much more. Stratford Elementary. Visit today! 2332 Lakeshire Drive

Sandy McMaster
571.259.2673
FischerMcMasterHomes.com



City of Alexandria \$589,000

You will love coming home in 2016! Luxury 4 level end unit townhouse with 2 car garage, elegant finishes, loads of light, 3 bedrooms with en suite baths, walk out terrace level with high ceilings, built ins and gas fireplace. Convenient to Metro, Dash, Beltway, Old Town. 102 Lake Cook Drive

Vici Boguess
703.447.2829
BBZgroup.com



Del Ray \$699,000

Light-filled rooms and gorgeous finishes in this townhome will make you forget the winter blues. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, updated eat-in kitchen, wood burning fireplace, Trex deck and generous storage throughout. Less than 2 blocks to all Mt Vernon Ave fun! 18 A W. Mount Ida Avenue

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
LizLuke.com



Old Town \$750,000

Delightful Victorian freshly restored with many period details, gorgeous wood floors, new kitchen, baths, and garden. Located on a fantastic light, corner location at corner of North Patrick and Cameron Streets. Also zoned commercial. 1001 Cameron Street

Paul Anderson
703.408.0676
paulvanderon.com



Old Town \$950,000

A GEM! Beautiful English garden in front with rear brick patio. Main level has living room with beautiful built-ins and fireplace, kitchen, dining room, and powder room. Upper level has 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, a sitting room and veranda! Off-street parking for one car.

Jo Erkiletian
703.862.6870
McEneaney.com