



# Big Trouble in Little Businesses

**Why Not closing, Old Town Coffee Tea and Spice hangs in the balance, and questions surround future of small business in Old Town.**

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**ithin the next few months, Old Town Alexandria will be losing one of its small business institutions and a second one remains at risk for closure. The shelves of Why Not, an iconic Old Town toy store once full of toys and books for children of all ages, are almost empty. A few blocks away, the fate of Old Town Coffee Tea and Spice remains precariously balanced. While Alexandrians celebrate the

**“Businesses need to manage their real estate footprint.”**

— Stephanie Landrum, President, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership

many years of fond memories at these stores, many are left concerned whether these closures are dark omens for King Street’s future.

Kate Schlach, owner of Why Not, said the last few weeks have been a whirlwind of emotions.

“I knew people loved the store, but I had no idea it meant this much to them,” said



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

**Kate Schlach, owner of Why Not.**

Schlach.

The store suffered a share of setbacks over the year, but ultimately said it was competition from online businesses like Amazon that killed them.

“It was online stuff that did it,” said Schlach. “Slowly but surely it brought us down. I saw people taking out their phones and ordering online while they were in the store.”

Schlach said she considered banning

cellphones from the store, as other small town businesses have done, but decided against it.

“We’re going to ruin businesses if it’s just online,” Schlach warned, noting that there’s something special about being able to touch things before buying them, especially toys. “We’re heading into a boring world. Maybe in 10 years, it can come back around, when people realize how much they miss this.”

For the potential new toy store owner in 10 or 15 years, Schlach passed along lessons learned over the years at the store.

“Do it with your heart,” said Schlach. “It will be fun. Most of the time I was here, it was fun ... Don’t buy what you’re told to buy, don’t just buy the hottest thing. We used to do what the salesmen told us to do, but when we bought what we wanted to, that’s what made the difference.”

But while Schlach says the internet’s growth was the coup de grace for the small toy store, it was not the only hindrance to the business.

“The city really messed up with parking,” said Schlach. “It used to be two-hour parking here, now it’s paid, and we saw a huge drop off after that.”

Schlach also referenced incidents where city workers would be planning to install lights or utilities on King Street on a Monday, and would leave “no parking” signs up over the weekend.

In the future, Schlach says she hopes someone younger and with more energy should try and start their own Old Town toy store, but it more than likely won’t be her. After retiring, Schlach says she plans on moving to Richmond.

“Carytown [in Richmond] is what Old Town was, it’s what King Street used to be,” said Schlach. Why Not started in Old Town in 1962 and moved to its current location in 1965. Schlach started working there in 1968.

SEE CHALLENGES, PAGE 4

# Remembering ‘Shadow’ Sebele

**EHS plans memorial for standout player, coach.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**S**occer fans on two continents are mourning the loss of Abel “Shadow” Sebele, a 2009 graduate of Episcopal High School who was killed Jan. 7 when he was struck by a vehicle while crossing a street in San Diego.

A star in his native Zimbabwe, Sebele considered Alexandria his adopted hometown and EHS will hold a tribute soccer match and memorial service Jan. 17 to honor the player who just days ago celebrated his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

“We are so devastated by the tragic loss of Shadow,” said EHS Assistant Director of Athletics Damian Walsh. “In the Episcopal

community we were all aware of his bright soul and his kind spirit but it has been absolutely incredible for us to learn about the impact that he had on all of the stops along his journey. From San Diego to Wichita, Des Moines and Morgantown, West Virginia, the amount of support that has been

offered has been heartwarming.”

Born Dec. 31, 1989 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Sebele came to the U.S. in 2005 when he received a scholarship to EHS. He was already known as “Shadow,” a nickname he earned because of the way he would follow his older

SEE EHS, PAGE 6



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Former Episcopal High School soccer standout Abel “Shadow” Sebele, center, died after being hit by a car Jan. 7 while crossing a street in San Diego. A tribute soccer match and memorial service will be held Jan. 17 at EHS.**

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# NEWS

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## Taking Office

At an induction ceremony on Jan. 7, over half of the 2016-2019 Alexandria School Board swore their first oaths of office. Newcomers Hal Cardwell, Cindy Anderson, Margaret Lorber, Veronica Nolan, and Ramee Gentry were welcomed to the board by incumbents Bill Campbell, Karen Graf, Chris Lewis, and Ronnie Campbell. Also at the ceremony, the new board voted unanimously to retain Karen Graf and Chris Lewis as School Board chair and vice-chair.



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

## Environmental Recognition

At the Alexandria City Council's Jan. 12 meeting, its first of 2016, the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities Department was recognized for its E-3 certification from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. An E-3 ranking recognizes facilities with fully-implemented environmental management system, pollution prevention programs and demonstrated environmental performance. "The city and this department do a phenomenal job, and we want the city to be recognized as an environmental leader," said Thomas Faha, regional director for the Department of Environmental Quality. "[This department] is a leading example of going well above and beyond the minimum requirements." Faha singled out the department's native plant-tree sale for the community and ecological restoration efforts.

## International Competition

Alexandria's Torpedo Factory artist Tatyana Schremko and her team partner, Suzanne Firstenberg, with their ice sculpture in Harbin, China. Schremko is one of 60 artists competing in the International Ice Sculpting Competition in northeast China, where their sculptures will be displayed in the Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival until Feb. 5.



# ASC To Host Nats' Scialabba

## Director of Player Development to preview upcoming season.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**M**ark Scialabba, director of Player Development for Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals, will be the featured speaker at the Alexandria Sportsman's Club meeting Jan. 19 at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

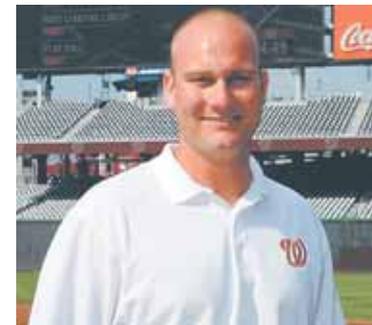


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

"We are excited to have Mark speak at our annual Washington Nationals Night meeting," said ASC president John Duke. "This is the perfect opportunity for all our area baseball players and athletes to hear from a veteran on player development, what it takes to succeed in the major leagues and get a preview of the Nationals' upcoming season prior to the team heading to Florida for Spring Training."

Scialabba has risen through the ranks of the Nationals' front office beginning in 2006. He was promoted to director of Minor League Operations in 2009 before assuming his current role beginning in 2013. He works on all aspects of Washington's player development operations, including contracts, roster management, budgets and player personnel decisions.

The ASC meeting will be held Jan. 19 at the Old Dominion Boat

**Mark Scialabba, director of player development for the Washington Nationals, will be the featured speaker at the Alexandria Sportsman's Club meeting Jan. 19 at the Old Dominion Boat Club. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and is free and open to all.**

Club located at 1 King St. in Old Town. A complimentary reception sponsored by Sean Johnson of Movement Mortgage begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by the recognition of outstanding winter sport performances at 7:15 p.m.

Scialabba's preview of the Nationals' season will be followed by a light dinner courtesy of the Primo Family Restaurant. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.alexandriavasports.org](http://www.alexandriavasports.org).

## Ready for Snow's Return



FILE PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

As the first flurries of snow began to fall outside City Council chambers at its Jan. 12 meeting, the city prepared for the worst. With weather forecasts predicting a chance of snow on Sunday, Jeremy Hassan, Public Works Services division chief at Transportation and Environmental Services, briefed the council on the city's winter weather contingency. While the 2015-2016 winter has

been a notably mild one, Hassan noted that the city usually sees 15 inches of precipitation with a mean temperature of 42.4 degrees. The snow and ice control teams are mobilized an average of eight times each season, with a total budget of \$836,000. New this year are GPS trackers in the contractor vehicles to ensure operational efficiency.

# Challenges for Small Businesses

FROM PAGE 1

“Old Town used to be so much fun,” Schlabach said, remembering some of the stranger stores in the area, like a quirky furniture store and a tire store. “We might only get two or three customers a day, but we grew. We did great for some years... I feel sorry for the people of Alexandria now that there’s no toy store. Every town needs a toy store.”

Schlabach said the decision to close wasn’t directly related to waterfront development plan, but said it didn’t help.

“I’m glad I’m not going to be around for that,” said Schlabach. “If it’s going to be anything like National Harbor, it’s going to be a disaster.”

Schlabach owns the building Why Not is located in, but that if she’d had to pay the rent other Old Town stores face, they couldn’t have stayed in business as long as they have.

While Why Not’s future is sealed, other small businesses in Alexandria remain in jeopardy. Old Town Coffee Tea and Spice recently announced that they would be closing the doors to their business on South Union Street, though a possibility has recently emerged that this may mean a change of location rather than permanent closure. The narrow store is covered, floor to ceiling, in various types of chocolates, coffees, treats and accessories. According to the owner, Frank Poland, the idea was to create a European-style store in Old Town.

“Old Town was known for its small businesses,” said Poland. “It attracted visitors. But when the city leased a lot of space to larger national businesses, the rents were driven up.”

For Poland, when his lease was set to expire, his landlord suggested that the rent could raise by more than a third and would transition the agreement into a “triple net lease,” meaning that Poland would have to pay for utilities and other property owning aspects. Ultimately, Poland said this effectively would have doubled the rent. Poland’s store is located directly across the street from 220 S. Union, site of the new Indigo Hotel and diagonally across Duke and S. Union streets to Robinson Terminal South, the planned site for a new mixed use apartment and retail complex.

“The rent increase comes from the larger chain stores [moving in] and taxes, which have gone up steadily,” said Poland. “I don’t think the city has ever nourished its small merchant population, but they go out of their way to take care of hotels.”

Poland says he’s been extremely happy with his years working as a small businessman, and that in his time he’s tried to keep his nose in the store and stay out of the local politics.

“I’ve had a great 20 years here,” said Poland. “I will miss it. Alexandria has been good to me, but I am disturbed to see that they’re killing the goose that laid the golden egg. They’re pushing out small businesses and bringing in big box retail, who won’t stay if they can’t make a profit, and then what are we left with? An empty King



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE

**Frank Poland (left), owner of Old Town Coffee Tea and Spice, with customers Emma Youcha (center) and Mina Hofkosh-Hulbert.**

Street. Change is going to happen, and the hotel is an improvement over what is there now, I recognize that ... but when small businesses are gone, people won’t have a reason to come back here.”

Many of the current development problems, Poland said, stemmed from the initiatives 10 years ago at the beginning of the push for Waterfront redevelopment. Poland even noted that initiatives the city tried to undertake to help businesses on King Street, like the art festival, hurt more than they helped.

“People drive here, walk up and down King Street, and they park but they don’t shop,” said Poland. “It costs me half one weekend revenues each year.”

Old Town Coffee Tea and Spice has been in business in Alexandria for 35 years. Poland bought the store 20 years ago. If it closes, Poland says he plans to move with his wife to Maine. But as of the second weekend in January, Poland might have to delay that trip to New England. A possibility has emerged that the store won’t close but will rather relocate to another area of Old Town. Poland said that the store wasn’t closing for sure, but at the moment he couldn’t say more than that they were looking at moving to a new location in the Old Town area.

Stephanie Landrum, president of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, said that changing store locations is one of the many options available to Old Town small businesses to stay alive with new development coming in.

“Businesses need to manage their real estate footprint,” said Landrum. “There are opportunities to do more with a smaller space. Rents everywhere in the region continue to grow. Some tenants negotiated leases for 10 years ago in a different real estate scenario. We’re currently working with [Old Town Coffee Tea and Spice] to find another space.”

According to city officials and financial leaders, it may be a little premature to cry doom and gloom for Old Town.

“[We] recently discussed looking at recent announcements of businesses leaving to see if there are common reasons,” said Robert Shea, chairman of the board for the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. “One of the

things I want to make sure we do is not respond to anecdotes and get some data that tells us the root causes, some say this is unusual, others say this is seasonality.”

But while it may or may not be an indicator of a larger problem, the closing of Why Not has drawn attention all the way to the top of city government.

“Immediately upon seeing the story about Why Not and Coffee, Tea, and Spice, I called [City Manager] Mark Jinks immediately to express my concern at the loss of these institutions,” said Mayor Allison Silberberg, who said she’s arranged meetings with AEDP and other local financial institutions to discuss this problem. “We’re not the only city that has rising rents. We need to look at what other cities have done. What is in our arsenal and what can we do to be even more business friendly.”

One area where Jinks said Alexandria has provided an advantage over other localities is a quick turnaround in permitting.

“In some places in Northern Virginia, it may take a month to get a permit,” said Jinks. “In Alexandria, it can be as quick as a few days or up to a week.”

Despite concerns surrounding the small business closures and potential closures, according to Jinks, it’s premature to look at these as an economic indicator for the city as a whole.

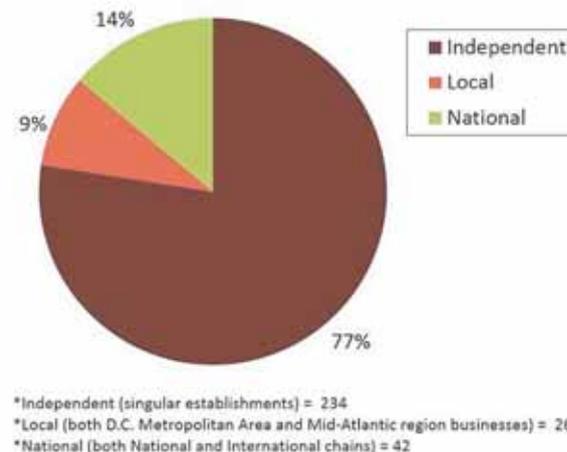
“What we’re seeing is the cyclical brand shift,” said Jinks. “December is the biggest retail season, and after that, that’s when many retailers and leases are timed to say ‘do we go forward or do we close?’”

Like many Alexandrians, Jinks lamented the loss of Why Not, saying it was his go-to place to take his kids for toys.

“It’s tough, with increasing rents and competition from the internet, to make a go of it with retail space,” said Jinks. “We have looked and continue to look at ways we can support those small town retailers. They’re what makes Old Town unique.”

Jinks noted that some of the stores that closed recently, or are at risk of closing, do not have an internet presence, and said that the city might need to look at offering additional counseling and advice on building an online store.

Like Jinks, Landrum said that Old Town’s businesses will need to find ways to deal



VERNON MILES / ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE

**Types of retail in Old Town as of 2011, the latest numbers available to the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. According to Stephanie Landrum, president of the AEDP, nearly all of the businesses that have closed since 2011 were replaced by like-businesses, meaning national chains replaced national chains and local stores replaced local stores.**

with new markets.

“Any independent business faces challenges in competition, especially online. They should have an online presence.”

Even for businesses like Why Not, Landrum said there are options to maintain small businesses in that space if the building owners work with the city.

“We should be talking about succession planning,” said Landrum. “Options include selling to employees, which is what happened to Chadwick’s restaurant.”

Landrum emphasized that it was more important to celebrate the success of businesses like Why Not and Old Town Coffee Tea and Spice.

“The average lifespan of a business is three years,” said Landrum, “I don’t want us to miss that we should be celebrating their success.”

Not all of Old Town’s unique businesses are worried about incoming development. The Tea and Spice Exchange and Blackwall Hitch are both relatively small franchises that are still fairly new to Alexandria, at least in comparison to stores like Why Not.

Sherri Moxley, manager at The Tea and Spice Exchange, says her King Street store has been in Alexandria for six years and most of her business comes from tourists. This is part of why Moxley says she’s not particularly concerned about new development. If anything, Moxley said development brings in more visitors, which spreads store advertising by word of mouth. Moxley believes development could also bring in new types of stores to draw in more visitors. Additionally, as Landrum said was vital for small businesses, Moxley said they have a monopoly on the local tea and spice industry with a strong local following. With Old Town Coffee Tea and Spice in jeopardy, that could be more true than ever.

Blackwall Hitch, the second location for an Annapolis-based restaurant, is one of Old Town’s newest restaurants. In June, the restaurant will celebrate its first anniversary on the waterfront, and manager Alex Basili says they’re going strong.

“We’ve found a lot of support in the local community,” said Basili. “It’s a wonderful place and it’s been very smooth so far. I

SEE CHANGE, PAGE 5

# Change as Part of the Business Cycle

FROM PAGE 4

believe Waterfront development will be positive. [It is] bringing more people and providing a better Waterfront that will really help our business.”

Academics from George Mason University noted that there were both pros and cons to new Waterfront development for the city.

“It’s an oversimplification to say it’s all good or all bad,” said Kat Grimsley, director of the Masters in Real Estate Development at George Mason. “If you’re increasing density, that brings more heads and bodies into the area, especially if the businesses are demand driven. But on the other hand, if you’re improving the amenities, something that comes in is more modern than what’s there, and that brings with it higher rents than what’s already there. The problem with that, for cons, is that landlords of existing spaces can justify increases in existing rents even if there’s no added amenities.”

Grimsley noted that these rent increases can have a serious effect on the types of business that come into an area.

“Quiet sleepy areas with lower rents suddenly face newer buildings with newer amenities, and then where you are is worth more, and landlords can charge more,” said Grimsley, but warned that it can get even

worse. “If a brand new building goes in near you, there’s more traffic in the area and landlords think they can get more out of you. But what happens if the building you’re in becomes a target for redevelopment itself? It’s a displacement. Forget rates going up, if the area becomes more valuable, the owner of the building can sell and the building can be torn.”

As Silberberg noted, Alexandria is far from the first city to deal with challenges facing small businesses in the wake of redevelopment. Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government Leadership, noted similarities between Alexandria’s Old Town redevelopment issues and Detroit’s Riverfront.

“I looked at the Economic Impact Study for the Detroit Riverfront, which found that it had helped create a vital sense of place that significantly benefited the development of residential units, and enhanced the ability to attract businesses,” said Shafroth in an email. “Those changes, quite naturally, have affected both residential and business development rates (and assessed property values) — and attracted some \$639 million in private sector investment.”

Like Grimsley, Shafroth noted that development is almost never a question of being all-good or all-bad.

“The report notes it increased visits to the area by close to 60 percent from outside

the city — and has increased the premium on rates that can be charged for riverfront located properties by approximately 12 percent,” said Shafroth. “While, of course, Detroit and Alexandria are very different; I think the 12 percent is not an unreasonable approximation of what Alexandria could expect. That would mean, for existing small businesses; they could anticipate increases in property tax assessments or higher rental rates: the changes, after all, make this property considerably more valuable. That would also mean, therefore, pressure on those who could not afford higher costs — just as it would mean greater opportunities. Change will be disruptive, especially to anyone on a fixed income.”

For the owners of Why Not and Old Town Coffee Tea and Spice, the fondest memories in the store was seeing the impact on children and teens who worked for them.

“We had a lot of high school kids work here,” said Poland. “They really recruited each other, and they come back every Christmas. I get to teach the kids about business and customers .... They like it here, and that’s been a great reward.”

“So many kids started here as teens,” said Schlabach, “and they’ve stayed important to me.”

*Additional reporting was provided by Celine Anderson, Isabel Knight, Eduard Saakashvili, and Rose See.*

## Police Arrest Murder Suspect

Alexandria Police have charged one suspect, and have two other suspects in custody, in connection with the homicide of Jose Luis Ferman Perez. Perez was found dead in Beverley Park, at the intersection of N. Overlook Drive and S. Overlook Drive, on Nov. 9, 2015.

A 17-year-old male was charged with murder on Jan. 13. Police are withholding his name since he is a juvenile.

Two other suspects related to the homicide are in custody. More information regarding the suspects and their charges will be released when available, according to police.

“This heinous crime shocked the community and made many people worry for their safety and the safety of their children,” said Police Chief Earl Cook said in a statement. “I am pleased to say that this challenging homicide investigation is drawing to a close. I credit not only our detectives for their determination and hard work but thank the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Homeland Security Investigations for their assistance over the course of the investigation.”

The Police Department asks that anyone with information about this investigation contact Sergeant Sean Casey at 703-746-6853.

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# Arch Campbell Delights Crowd at Beth El Synagogue

Speck's finance lecture includes movie reviewer's retrospective.

BY GALE CURCIO  
GAZETTE PACKET

**D**avid Speck, managing director of Speck-Caudron Investment Group, can't predict exactly what the stock market will do and Arch Campbell can't predict which movie will win next year's Oscar. However, as experts in their fields — finance and movie reviews, respectively, they can speak with confidence and authority about their subjects.

Opening the December "Special Lecture for Clients," Speck gave a brief update to his clients, saying, "The market has had a strange year. In August, there was a 10 percent correction, which was due. However, the fact that the market dropped 600 points one day was a relatively minor event."

He contrasted this one-day downturn to 1987, when the market dropped 500 points — that was a 22.6 percent drop.

Continuing, Speck said, "September was mixed. October was one of the best months in history. November was mixed and December has been up and down. We're not sure what to expect — the market has been so reactive, but I am somewhat optimistic [about next year]."

The investment group, co-managed by Tristan Caudron, holds these lectures periodically for their clients. The star of this show was Campbell, who Speck said, "There are few people around that you don't have to introduce. He has brought fun, entertainment and information to generations."

Campbell said that it was nice to be asked



David Speck and Arch Campbell

PHOTO BY GALE CURCIO

to come anywhere. Since he retired a year ago, he said, "Like Joan Rivers used to say, 'I have so much white space on my calendar that I have to wear sunglasses.'"

Campbell also commented on why he still wears his trademark hat. He took the hat off to show his bald head and said that he looked like Willard Scott without the hat.

Looking around the Beth El Synagogue where the lecture was held, Campbell said, "This setting is the most auspicious setting I've spoken in."

Campbell then launched into this presentation about how he became a movie reviewer.

It all started in Dallas, Texas. "I was in my early 20's, throwing spitballs around the newsroom. We had gotten a new producer, and he came into the newsroom, asking 'Who wants to be a movie reviewer?'"

Campbell said that he raised his hand. The first movie he reviewed was "American Graffiti." "I wrote that 'it had a good beat kids can dance to' and gave it three stars."

At the age of 26, Campbell became a

movie reviewer for a major station in Dallas, Texas.

Going further back in his life, Campbell talks about what he thought he was going to do. As a child growing up in San Antonio, he listened to his father playing the piano and wanted to do the same.

"He had perfect pitch and could play the piano by ear," said Campbell. He could identify notes while blindfolded. My father didn't sleep well and so after TV signed off, he would sit down and play the piano. As a kid, I would hear him playing all these great songs."

His parents paid for piano lessons, but any hopes of Campbell becoming a great piano player were dashed after his first recital.

"It was me and a six-year-old and the six-year-old was way better than I was," he said.

In high school, he became interested in photography, but was thrown off the grounds of a site where he tried to take photographs without a press pass.

Speech class became a turning point for Campbell. He told a story about having an accident with a lawn mower and being in the hospital. "The stories were funny and two of my teachers said, 'You should go into broadcasting.'"

He went to community college and got a job at KBTC in Austin, Texas. The station was owned by Lyndon B. Johnson, who had a small apartment above the radio station.

He remembers listening to LBJ's address in March, 1968, when he said that he would not accept the nomination for President. "There was a huge collective groan in the station as somebody said, 'Oh no, he's

[Johnson] coming back' [to the station]," said Campbell.

Campbell enjoyed working for the radio station but he really wanted to work on television.

His chance came when they wanted his wife to leave where she was working and asked her, "What will it take to keep your husband here?" The answer was a spot on television. Campbell joined WRC-TV and was on television for 42 years before retiring.

"It's interesting to look at the random nature of life," said Campbell. "Here I am and isn't it interesting to see how I got here."

Campbell said that he has been watching movies since he was 11 years old when he watched "Shock Theater," "Frankenstein" and "Dracula."

"I loved those movies," he said.

During college, he paid \$10 for 10 tickets for the Circle Theater's double features.

Campbell reminisced about some of the new personalities that he worked with. "We had the best line-up. Jim Vance did the news; Bob Ryan the weather; George Michael the sports and then I did the movie reviews. After that Johnny Carson came on."

"One of the reasons that it worked so well is that that four of us bonded so well."

Wrapping up the lecture, Campbell answered questions about his favorite movies — "Citizen Kane" and "The Third Man;" worst movie — there are a lot of them; does he binge watch — yes, recently he watched 60 hours of "The Wire;" and thoughts about current animation — "Inside Out" was one of the best movies I've seen."

"There's an example of something good coming out of the computer world," said Campbell about animated films.

# EHS Plans Memorial for Standout Player, Coach

FROM PAGE 1

brother everywhere.

"Only my grandmother still calls me Abel," Sebele would say with a laugh.

At EHS, Sebele ran track and was a member of the indoor 4x400 state record-holding relay team. He was also a captain of the soccer team, including the 2009 state championship team. In soccer, he holds the EHS record for single season goals (31) and assists (23), and he remains Episcopal's all-time leading scorer, with 70 goals in 71 games.

In 2009, Sebele received the soccer player of the year award from the Alexandria Sportsman's Club.

"I remember clearly Shadow's impressive athletic credentials, character and work ethic both on the field and off," said former ASC president Marc Leon. "What a tragic loss of a fine young man."

Sebele went on to attend West Virginia University, where he was a midfielder for the Mountaineers, scoring 14 goals and executing the second highest number of assists (25) in program history. He graduated from WVU in 2012 with a degree in sports management.

**"We are so devastated by the tragic loss of Shadow."**

**— EHS Assistant Director of Athletics Damian Walsh**

Following graduation, Sebele continued his soccer career, playing for the Des Moines Menace of the USL Premier Development League, the indoor Wichita B-52s, and then the outdoor Wichita team in the National Premier Soccer League. For FC Wichita, he was the club's first captain and scored the first goal in team history. His #18 jersey will be the first to be retired, according to the club's Facebook page.

In 2015, Sebele joined the San Diego Sockers, a professional indoor soccer team. The Sockers will honor Shadow with a moment of silence prior to their game on

Sunday, Jan. 17, and the team will wear memorial patches bearing his #18 for the remainder of the season.

As an alumnus, Sebele returned to EHS to join the boys' soccer coaching staff as an assistant coach for the 2014 and 2015 seasons, preparing the team for a conference championship in 2014 and a state semifinal appearance in 2015.

"I am so blessed to have had the privilege of knowing Shadow Sebele," said EHS varsity soccer coach Rick Wilcox. "First as an amazing student athlete who courageously embarked on an American adventure and enriched the lives of so many Episcopal teammates and classmates, and more recently as a coaching colleague and good friend."

Sebele is survived by his parents Simo Moyo and Ezekiel Dlubhe Sebele; two sisters, Yekelani and Steffinah; two brothers, Ndumiso and Sabelo; his EHS guardians, Doug and Diane Kehlenbrink; and their son, Peter.

Walsh created a GoFundMe page to help the Sebele family with the costs incurred in transporting Sebele's body back to Zimbabwe, where he will be buried. It raised more

than \$25,000 in two days.

"This incredible amount of support is going to be such a huge help to the Sebele family," Walsh said. "Hopefully we can continue to get the word out to friends and family and other supporters of soccer. We are going to get Shadow home and give his family the means to have a special funeral for a special young man."

A stateside memorial service and reception for Sebele will be held Jan. 17 at 2:30 p.m. at Callaway Chapel on the EHS campus. Friends and former soccer teammates are invited to participate in the Shadow Sebele Tribute Match at Coxe Field that morning at 10:30 a.m.

A fund is also being established by EHS alumni to honor Sebele's memory. For more information, contact Rick Wilcox at 703-933-4024 or fw@episcopalhighschool.org.

"Shadow was an inspiration on the field and an incredible friend to so many off the field," Wilcox said. "He was embraced by every community he played in because of his humble nature and his warm and loving personality."

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ❖ JANUARY 14-20, 2016 ❖ 7

# OPINION

## Pet Photos for the Pet Gazette Packet

**T**he Pet Gazette Packet, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on Feb. 24, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 17.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to

adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature,

identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### In Praise Of Sunlight

To the Editor:

RE: Mayor Silberberg's Ethical Guidance Improvement Proposal

Mayor Silberberg's proposal to improve the way Alexandria addresses city government ethics has merit. It deserves support from Council to match the importance voters attached to it in the recent mayoral campaign. Some tried to write it off as a way to gain political advantage in a tough campaign. The fact remains Mayor Silberberg was only showing strong leadership, as she recognized a deep concern of the voters.

Her belief is primarily that public decisions must be made as much as possible in the light of day, so the people local government serves have full confidence the decisions are made with no unseen — or unaccountable — influence on them. As the reformer Louis D. Brandeis wrote in the Dec.

20, 1913 Harper's Weekly: "Publicity is justly commended as a remedy for social and industrial diseases. Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants ...."

Our new mayor's interest in transparency puts her in a long line of reform advocates. Her concern is not that local processes are terrible and should be revamped. Rather, governmental openness should always be encouraged and — whenever possible — strengthened. The mayor's proposal to study and recommend improvements can accomplish that. She continued the sunlight metaphor herself in remarks at the council installation.

We may look forward to earnest, practical results from this study.

**Michael Campilongo**  
Alexandria

#### Schools Face Growth Crisis

To the Editor:

I feel compelled to write to you

to correct your headline "Minnie Howard Miniaturized Improvement Budget" in the Dec. 23 addition. This led your readers to believe the School Board cut the Minnie Howard project. This is not the case.

Last year, the School Board approved \$27.6M to build 20 new classrooms and a partial modernization to expand some of the common areas like the cafeteria and administrative buildings. I want to be clear that this project needs to be done and has been in our Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for over 6 years. Our high school population is now over 3,500 students. This city needs to expand secondary space for our students. However, this project was not approved for funding in the city budget last year, causing the superintendent and School Board to go back to the drawing board.

This year's CIP proposal made by the superintendent to the School Board included 10 classrooms for Minnie Howard and a

full building modernization. But this project proved too expensive for the School Board, at an increased estimate of \$44M. A discussion was launched around how to best use those dollars across the 10 years.

In the end, the School Board felt it would be best to build some number of classrooms and a partial modernization and then use the difference to expand preschool and build a new elementary school to help resolve some of the urgent capacity issues there.

When all the numbers were settled, the Minnie Howard project is now at \$29.8M, over \$2M more than last year. The School Board did not miniaturize it.

Concurrently, the superintendent is also doing research about grade level assignment and could be looking to use that campus for a variety of different secondary programmatic solutions. This report will be complete by next fall. In the meantime, ACPS has a crowded high school and definitely needs to build at the Minnie Howard campus.

We have a growth crisis in the school system now. Due to deferred capital projects over many years, ACPS is trying to think creatively about the next three years in order to advance academics while providing the proper and optimal learning environments for all students at all our campuses.

Additionally, the best investment for the city is in preschool. ACPS is working with partners and the city to ensure that we are developing a quality Pre-K program for every four-year-old child in the city. If this is accomplished, it will also help ease some of the crowding issues at five of the elementary campuses.

While I think the article somewhat explains our decision making, it is helpful to understand the past budgets as well as our past and future growth projection numbers. ACPS will be growing until 2030. The School Board needs to

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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## OPINION

# Participate in MLK Community Summit 2016

BY MCKENYA DILWORTH

## Details

**T**he Annual MLK Community Summit is an opportunity for people of Alexandria and surrounding communities to come together to honor the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by performing community service projects. Each year there is a particular theme for the event and this year's theme is again a quote from the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., embodying today's societal tone: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Sponsors and partners of the event are The Morning Bishop Theatre Playhouse, Inc., Fathers Advocacy, Volunteer Alexandria, and Convergence Arts Initiative.

In recent past, the event was co-hosted by Alexandria City Public Schools (TC Satellite Campus) and City of Alexandria's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (Lee Center) which were well attended by community members with the help of Volunteer Alexandria.

The Summit is for everyone who wants to come out to do good for the community. To date, the activities are the following: making sandwiches for the homeless, baking sweets for children at the Carpenter's Shelter, creating cards for the sick, visiting

**Where:** Convergence 1801 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA 22304

**When:** Monday, Jan. 18

**Time:**

❖ 10 a.m. - Noon Community Gardening Community Groundbreaking and Arts Workshops

❖ 12:30 - 4 p.m. Service Projects and MLK Rock Garden (Path of Dreams) Project

**Registration:** Email [theatreofpurpose@gmail.com](mailto:theatreofpurpose@gmail.com)

**Who:** Any and everyone who wants to make a difference.

nursing homes, breaking ground for a community garden, painting, creating the MLK Rock Garden (Path of Dreams), working on Meditation Garden, organizing donations and supplies, making first aid kits and sorting books. There will also be art workshops, speakers and yoga demonstrations throughout the day. If you are a part of an organization or know of one that could use some help in an area where we could be of service on that day, please contact us soon so that organization's tasks can be placed on the list of service projects for that day. There has been an overwhelming response to this event, and we want to make sure that everyone's time that day is well spent. To register for this event, email [theatreofpurpose@gmail.com](mailto:theatreofpurpose@gmail.com) and indicate the time you are able to serve.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Community Garden upkeep during a previous Martin Luther King Jr. summit.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

make the best decisions with the properties we own and make sure that we are creative fiscally and academically in developing our properties for the future. And there is not a chance we can miniaturize that.

**Karen Graf**  
Chairman, School Board

## TC Stadium Project Overdue

To the Editor:

This year T.C. Williams High School is celebrating its 50 year anniversary. In 1969, I was a member of the freshman football team at T.C. Williams. Our school colors were Red and Gold then, but we were still

the original Titans. My parents would come and sit in the same bleachers that are on our field today. The tops may have gone through replacements, but the existing structure has never been upgraded or reconfigured.

The stadium project at TCW is one that is long overdue. For 50 years, our fans have not had a concession stand, restroom facilities, or locker-room near the field. Our scoreboard is at least 20 years old as well as our press box.

We currently have two Olympic track athletes, but yet our track has not been resurfaced in nearly 10 years. Alexandria has one high school and because of its athletic and academic accomplishments it is known worldwide.

We need this project to upgrade our facilities, beautify and enhance the security

of the field so that the community of Alexandria has a place to be proud of when their student athletes are representing their community and showing their Titan Pride.

**Steve Colantuoni**

## Wishing New Board Success

To the Editor:

Congratulations to the returning and newly elected members of the Alexandria City Public School Board. Winning a local election takes a lot of time, effort, and money — yours as well as your supporters' — and marshalling all those resources towards positive effect is hard work.

That work pales, however, compared to

the effort needed to achieve the purpose you have signed onto: "Every Student Succeeds" — the stated mission of ACPS's 2020 Strategic Plan.

Realizing that mission will depend on the clarity of your collective resolve. You will need to understand what success requires; by extension, it will be critical to recognize what it does not. Contrary to much of the debate during the election and discussions at the first meeting of the newly constituted City Council, students will not succeed because of:

❖ More money. ACPS already commands the lion's share of the city's budget (>40 percent) and is in the upper reaches of per-pupil expenditure (>\$17,000) in the state and country. Money is no guarantee of suc-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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Former student Sara Dabney Tisdale in Studio Theatre's production of *Mary-Kate Olsen is in Love*. Publicity photo: Teddy Wolff.

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

cess. Despite the heavy investment in Alexandria's schools, system-wide pass rates on Virginia's Standards of Learning tests, albeit trending up, still hover around the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile. The issue is not how much money the school system receives, but how that money is spent. Which brings us to ...

❖ Bigger and better infrastructure and associated references to "capacity," "capital improvement," and the "optimal learning environment" (the last-mentioned invariably emphasizing buildings rather than brains). Council and School Board members have described these issues as "the school system's highest priority." What validates that claim? Since the primary function of schools is to educate, has ACPS assessed existing space for optimal educational use? Zero evidence proves that new and modernized schools, additional and upgraded gymnasiums and sports stadiums, state-of-the-art food courts, ecologically correct roof-top gardens, and the like translate into students' academic success. If the concern is overcrowding, why not repurpose some of those extracurricular-use and superfluous administrative spaces into classrooms? Which brings us to ...

❖ Redistricting. Redrawing school boundaries to "equitably" distribute the school population and subgroups of high- and low-performing students — groupings seemingly linked to ethnicity, race, and income — smacks of social engineering at best and social bias at worst. Leave students in their neighborhoods and make sure that every school prioritizes, and effects, every child's advancement.

So what does success entail? Superintendent Alvin Crawley's focus on academic rigor and better teaching is spot on, especially after years of mortenson esque sociobabble. Success results from setting the highest expectations for all students and giving them educators committed to excellence. It is about students' acquiring content and being able to think critically and creatively. Success optimizes their readiness for college and careers, enabling them to learn what they need to know to participate in society's work and partake of its fruits. Towards that end, ACPS should stop investing taxpayers' funds in buildings, architects, and school-redistricting consultants. Instead, the system should recruit and retain only the very best principals and teachers in the marketplace; remunerate and reward them accordingly; and then empower them to do their jobs.

The success of the School Board is vital to our children's. It goes without saying, we wish its members all the best.

**Judy Navarro**  
Alexandria

## Tremendous Resource

To the Editor:

A community with good parks and adequate sports fields signals a city's strong values and commitment to the health and welfare of its citizens, both young and old. Never before has this been more important in Alexandria than now, as the School Board prepares to move forward the Parker-Gray Stadium project at T.C. Williams High School.

I served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for over two decades and during that time I helped lead a professional effort to document the shortfall the city had in serving the need for athletic fields for both our children and adults. We have made some headway in the last few years with several new fields in place, conversion of some grass fields to artificial turf and the installation of lights in a handful of locations. But these efforts have not come close to closing the gap in the demand.

And while we made some progress the need continues to grow primarily due to more children in the city and a greater percentage of them playing sports. The same little feet rapidly overfilling our classrooms also need places to play formally and informally.

Providing facilities for sports and recreation is something we want to encourage and, in my view, a health imperative for Alexandria.

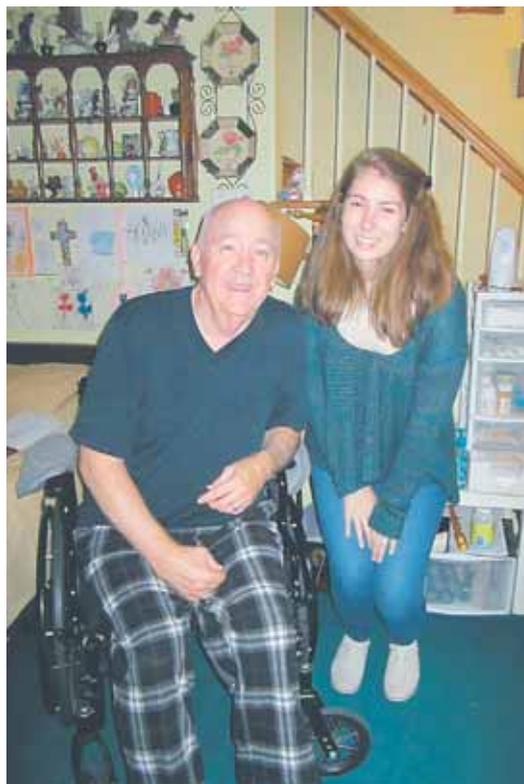
We want our young people to be developing life-long patterns through early participation in active play and team sports. Team sports undeniably teach invaluable lessons that will benefit our children later in life both at home and in the workplace.

Now that our city is virtually "built-out" with land becoming a very rare and expensive commodity, it is increasingly imperative that we fully develop our existing fields.

This is one critical reason I'm in full support of the plan to fully modernize the Parker-Gray Stadium at T.C. Williams, the stadium of the much-storied Titans.

The proposed field rehabilitation at TC will include replacing the press box, expanding the concession stand, building much

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



**Robert Morrison and Rebuilding Together Alexandria's Breanne Driscoll.**



**Robert Morrison's home.**

# A Fan for Life

BY KATHARINE DIXON  
PRESIDENT, REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

Robert Morrison's been waiting and hoping. It's been a long time since he's seen his beloved Redskins perform so well. Sadly, the playoff loss ended their season, but then he's used to the team's ups and downs. When he first moved into his Alexandria home with his wife, it was an up year, as the Redskins went to the Super Bowl led by Quarterback Bill Kilmer and Coach George Allen.

REBUILDING ALEXANDRIA TOGETHER

That was 44 years ago and much has changed, but his passion for football and the Redskins has remained the same. Robert was originally from Lexington, Ky., and relocated to Alexandria after serving in Vietnam, living at first with his brother. That's where he met his wife ... through one of his brother's neighbors.

Today, he sits in his home adorned with Redskins memorabilia — including his coveted helmet mailbox — and filled with photos of his family and life. He reminisces about his neighbors and feels lucky to call them his friends. He remembers how they would all play horseshoes into the wee hours of the night in a nearby grass field, which is now paved over into a parking lot.

Back then, Robert worked as a carpet cleaner and his wife worked at several stores in the area, which are now long gone, and cleaned houses with her sister, and babysits — which she contin-

ues to do even now. Together, they made a living, raised a family, and maintained their home. Over the years though, this has become more difficult for Robert, especially after he suffered a stroke, which decreased his mobility.

Shortly after, he got introduced to Rebuilding Together Alexandria, which works to preserve housing affordability and revitalize the Alexandria community by providing free home repairs. After doing an audit of his home, we made modifications to help them both navigate and stay in their home. Our volunteers replaced and extended a handrail

in the living room and basement, weather-stripped the front door, painted the ceiling in kitchen, added pavers near the garbage bins for better access, and more.

These type of upgrades are important since most of our clients are homeowners who live near the poverty level. By improving their housing conditions, we can help them remain active in their neighborhood and in turn help our city remain economically, socially and culturally diverse. For Robert, this means he can spend less time worrying about maintaining his home and more time focusing on the Redskins' next season.

If you know someone like Robert who could benefit from our services, we encourage you to introduce them to us. To learn more, visit [www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org](http://www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org) or call 703-836-1021.





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**Open Sunday 2-4PM:** One of the largest homes in Potomac Greens. This award-winning Fairfax model lives like a detached home with its wide, open rooms, high ceilings, and streaming natural light. 3 outdoor living spaces, wide 2-car garage, 3,825 finished square feet. Quiet location, just minutes to DC, Reagan National Airport and Old Town.

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

needed restrooms, replacing the sound system and, yes, installing stadium lights. Lights mean we can make much better use of the high school's only field. And for the first time in more than three decades our Titans can play under lights, something most in this town would love to see again.

We are the only public high school in Northern Virginia without a lit stadium, without the comradery and excitement of night games. It is time for the citizens of this community to invest and give our kids the same high school experiences as the rest of Northern Virginia.

Cities that invest fully in these kinds of public resources gift the students at T.C. Williams now and those of future generations that will follow behind. While installing lights is critically needed, it is also exciting to think about our only high school, the largest campuses in the Commonwealth of Virginia, having a fully updated facility, one in which we can take great pride.

This field project has been in the planning stage for nearly five years. It has been carefully considered and, if built, will be tremendous resource for generations to come. The time has come for us to lend our voices in support.

**Judy Guse-Noritake**  
Alexandria

## Police in Budget

To the Editor:

Several Alexandria crime reports for essentially the entire month of December show that besides one recorded homicide, we had 105 assaults, 9 robberies, and 115 thefts/break-ins (includes 17 car thefts) during that very short time span. Although it is a given that crime generally spikes during the holiday season, this appears to be much more than a normal perturbation, and is totally out of sight.

I have on a number of occasions indicated that the members of the Alexandria Police force are understaffed and underpaid as compared to other similar local jurisdictions.

By not fully staffing the requirements, we end up having a reactive police presence instead of a proactive police force, and we allow the "bad guys" to have easy targets of opportunity in robbing our banks, stores and citizens. By not paying enough, and despite the fact that we may hire really good people, we will lose them to other jurisdictions who will take better care of them. This unsavory dilemma needs to be turned around immediately. During the upcoming fiscal year 2017 budget discussions, this problem has to be remedied.

Our safety net is the most important city government service provided to all our citizens. It affects each and every one of us on a daily basis. We look forward to the resolution of this matter.

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



PHOTO BY RUBEN "BILL" DURAN

**Trail at Four Mile Run Park**

## New Trail Needs Repair

To the Editor:

The new trail at Four Mile Run Park looks to be a nice addition for birders, fisherman, and a new hangout area for loiterers and their trash. While it is nice to see the bike trail repaved and the temporary/detour trail which hopefully will remain permanent, it is unfortunate that the new trail is already in need of repair given it has not officially opened.

Also, what ever happened to actually expanding the parking lot at a minimum 3-4 more spaces where the gravel and boulders were placed after demolishing the covered concrete area? Further is it really going to break the city budget to expand out the creek side to increase, improve parking on that side? Lastly, is there a specific reason why park parking is not allowed on the Conservancy building side at a minimum during the youth and adult soccer league

games?

**Ruben "Bill" Duran**  
Alexandria

## Cap Number Of Residents

To the Editor:

The Gazette Packet's front page article ["Neighborhood Subdivided," Dec. 24, 2015] about our City Council's wrong-headed approval allowing a developer to cram an infill house betwixt two properties he owns in Clover-College Park was disheartening for many reasons.

Rather than elaborate on these reasons — elaborations likely to trigger defensive responses that will do nothing to correct the wrong — I am positing a plan. After years of informally assessing ever-increasing congestion on streets, schools, stores, Metro platforms and neighborhoods, the Clover-College Park decision prompted me to pitch it now.

It's a congestion plan. Very simply, it caps the number of Alexandria residents at 150,000. It's akin to human density restrictions for buildings, elevators, school rooms, etc. When adopted, in some legitimate way of course, it will keep congestion in Alexandria — in all its forms — roughly where it's at today. It will also head off at the pass future infill applications, even those that

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

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

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Discover why many people like you have come to call the Hermitage home—the chance to experience a new lifestyle with an array of services and amenities.

The residents at the Hermitage stay busy. Just ask Helena Scott, who was confined to wheelchair for 30 years because of Multiple Sclerosis and with regular physical therapy at the Hermitage, can now walk a mile a day when the weather permits. In her spare time, Helena knits scarves for fellow residents, volunteers in the beauty salon, sits on the Health Center Committee and delivers mail. Our residents also rave about our superb dining service, our courteous and helpful staff, and an overall feeling of caring and security that comes with living at the Hermitage.

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**Alexandria \$ 1,350,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4**

**555 S. WASHINGTON ST #101** Masterful renovation of historic George Washington Club with one private residence available. Over 3,000 sf of finished space on 3 levels/3BR/2.5BA, large formal rooms, high-end appointments, private outdoor patio with fireplace + 3 indoor fireplaces, 2-car garage, secluded gated entry.



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**1250 S WASHINGTON ST #205** Beautiful river and formal garden vistas. Elegant 3BR boasts 2,200 sf on one level with a sunny East exposure. Updated kitchen, warm wood floors and newer zoned HVAC systems. Garage parking, limo service, 24-hour desk, excellent security. Stop by or call for an appointment.



**Norma Gants 703.408.2560**  
**ALEXANDRIA / The Watergate \$ 769,900**

The many features of this 3 level townhome condo make it a perfect house for entertaining - a newly redone kitchen, a beautiful dining room with a Palladian window, large living room (approx. 20 x 16) with wood-burning fireplace, wet bar and huge UL deck for relaxing - and more. Two parking spaces convey.



**Franki Roberts 703.898.0840**  
**ALEXANDRIA / Hollin Hills \$ 735,000**

Mid-century modern 2-level on very private lot. 3 / 4BR + den - main level master suite could be easily converted to 2 bedrooms - rec room, 2 fireplaces, carport, screened porch, private patio surrounded by lush shrubs and trees, and systems new in 2015. Community pool and tennis court.



**Renee Reymond 703.507.5330**

**ALEXANDRIA / Old Town \$ 649,900 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4**

**508 GIBBON ST** Classic Clapboard . . . 1880's townhome with addition now available. Original wood details and floor, 2BR, open kitchen and family room with fireplace, bonus sunroom, office, brick patio, steps to grocery, eateries. Ready for move-in. Call Renee.



**Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914**

**ALEX. / Wilton Woods \$ 630,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4**

**6118 BEECH TREE DR** Wonderful stone façade! Great curb appeal. Pristine and rare 5 bedroom home in Wilton Woods. Extras included hardwood, plantation shutters, skylight, deck, beautiful landscaping, close to Huntington Metro.



**Val Klotz 703.303.9744**

**ALEXANDRIA / Heritage Hill \$ 424,000**

A private townhouse community just off Telegraph Road, minutes to I-495, Old Town Alexandria and within walking distance to Huntington Metro. Townhouse features 3BR / 2.5BA / 3 finished levels with fireplace. Fenced back yard off kitchen. Reserved parking.



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**McCormick & Lusk Group 202.412.8885**  
**ALEXANDRIA \$ 399,900**

Spacious 2BR / 2.5BA home with great flow! Hardwood floors, open concept kitchen, family room with fireplace, rear deck and yard, full basement and rec room, master suite with flexible loft space. Super clean and move-in ready.



**Elfie Biankini 703.593.2634**  
**ALEXANDRIA / Belle View \$ 259,000**

Top Floor Balcony Unit. New remodeled kitchen with dishwasher, granite, porcelain floors and pass-thru window to dining room. Oak floors, custom 8 ft closet doors for max storage. W/D + storage unit in building. Community pool, tennis courts, playground, hike/bike trail along river, close to Metro, Old Town and more.



**Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343**  
**Woodstock, VA \$ 200,000**

Fantastic cabin on the Shenandoah! 5.5 acres offers a 2BR cabin a stone's throw from the river plus buildable lot 2 hours from DC. Furniture conveys. Sleeps 6. Gentle slope to water's edge perfect for launching canoes and kayaks. Excellent spot for tubing and catching bass. Must see if looking for the perfect getaway!



Long & Foster Old Town Historic District Office 703.683.0400  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## LTA Stages Cult Docu-Drama, 'Grey Gardens'

Story of Jackie Kennedy's relatives and the American Dream gone wrong.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is staging "Grey Gardens" from Jan. 16 to Feb. 6, 2016. Based on a true story and the 1975 cult documentary, it is an exploration of the American Dream gone wrong and what it means to become a social pariah.

Director Christopher Dykton said "Grey Gardens" is a chamber piece about the aunt and cousin of Jackie Kennedy: Big Edie and her daughter Little Edie who created a scandal in the 1970s by living in squalor at their dilapidated Hampton estate known as Grey Gardens. The story focuses on the life of the characters in a couple moments in time. Dykton said exploring the heart of characters in unique situations and taking a good look at human nature has been an artistic focus for him lately.

"Sad, happy, touching, and brutal, 'Grey Gardens' deeply explores human nature and how our choices lead to who we are, what we become, and what we accept, especially as we grow older," said Dykton. "And it's a study of the relationship between a mother and a daughter, albeit a damaged relationship."

Presenting 'Grey Gardens' at two different points in time was quite a challenge, he said. "With the exception of the part of older Big Edie in Act 2, all other actors — there are eight of them: two women, four men, and two juvenile actresses — portray dual parts between the two acts. Of course, the biggest artistic challenge and perhaps the best female musical lead created to date in the 21st century is the role of Big Edie in Act 1 and Little Edie in Act 2. These characters are played by the same actress, which demands an actress of great skill," he said.

Co-producer Rachel Alberts said this musical has everything. "The first act is a fairly classic musical, in style and in tone. But the second act cracks that facade and we're really drawn in to the change. The two acts are so different and so powerful. I loved reading the script, so when I was asked to produce it, I couldn't say no. I wanted to be part of bringing this odd, quirky, powerful musical to life."

She added: "This play is a strange hybrid — part love story between a mother and a daughter and partly an exploration of the American Dream gone wrong and what it means to become a social pariah. The story blends humor, heartache and humanity. It's also based on a true story which makes it even more compelling."

She said the music is challenging, filled with four-part harmonies and odd tonal switches, but it's also incredibly beautiful and really serves to move the story forward. They had to find three actors (Big Edie, Little Edie, and Edith) who could act and sing and "become" one another. "It's pretty amazing what the script asks of these actresses, but they deliver. It took a lot of ef-



The Little Theatre of Alexandria is staging "Grey Gardens" from Jan. 16 to Feb. 6.

fort, and a lot of practice, but I think they nailed it," she added.

Nicky McDonnell plays Big Edie in Act 1 and Little Edie in Act 2. "In Act 1, we see Big and Little Edie on a splendid summer day in 1941 where their lives appear to be in full bloom and full of promise," she said. "Beneath that wealthy exterior, however, we see the subtle foreshadowing for where we find the mother and daughter in Act 2. This is arguably one of the great tales of riches to rags and an incredible study on how that affects the human condition. It also is a powerful window on how we as onlookers perceive a circumstance such as this from afar."

She added: "Both women are very bright, very fragile and very dependent on one another. Their actions, choices and desperation capture the imagination and the story takes us down a road less traveled."

She hopes the audience will discover the intricacies of the story. "I think a lot of people will see crazy instead of courage. I want them to see nostalgia instead of nuts; I want them to see bravery instead of bonkers. Most of all I want them to see and feel the love and loss that exists in this story and touch their sense of compassion rather than judgment."

Marshall Cesena plays two characters, Joe Kennedy Jr. and Jerry. "Joe is on the road to greatness, and Edie is going to help on that journey — he thinks. Jerry is a young, local handyman who stumbled onto the house one day and keeps coming back for the entertainment and companionship," he said.

For challenges, he said the show has a lot of highs and lows. "One minute your character is on top of the world, endless possibilities ahead, and the next he's fighting for his future, dreams ripped away," he said.

Dick Reed also plays two characters: Major Bouvier, father of Edith and grandfather of the other Edith as well as Jackie and Lee Bouvier in Act 1; and Norman Vincent Peale in Act 2. "The two are oddly similar in that each firmly believes that everyone holds the key to their own destiny," he said. "NVP ex-

presses this in a song that parodies his mantra of the power of 'Positive Thinking,' 'Choose to Be Happy.' Major Bouvier does this in song, too ('Marry Well'), but also clearly states his disappointment in and total disgust with his daughter and her choices."

He said the biggest challenge for him was being strict toward his daughter. "Bouvier is a softie with his grandchildren even while instructing them how to live worthwhile lives. I have daughters and a grandson — each of whom I love dearly and enjoy even more — and while I did and do give them advice on life, I did not do as a [disciplinarian]. So I have nothing in my experience to bring to the character. And the women playing these roles are wonderful, which makes being harsh that much harder to do."

Penelope Gallagher plays the role of Lee Bouvier, the tomboy sister of Jackie, and a real princess. For challenges, she said, "In the show, I have to go from sad numbers to happy numbers constantly. Also, most of the actors are adults who have much more experience than I do. I'm just trying to learn as much as I can."

Joel Reppress plays two different roles: Brooks Jr. and Brooks Sr. "The character Brooks Sr. is the glue in the first act. He keeps everything on schedule. He is aware of the issues between Big Edie and Little Edie, but knows his role," he said.

He added: "While my role is small it helps support the story, so maintaining focus and matching the intensity of the actresses who portray Little Edie in the first act and second act is important."

*The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria, is staging "Grey Gardens" from Jan. 16 to Feb. 6. The show runs Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; with Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and \$30. Call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).*



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

### CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

**"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](http://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](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

**"True Colors: Like a Rainbow."** Through Jan. 31, 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](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/True).

**"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,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

# 3 Healthy Eats to Start the Year Off Right

Trying to balance a resolution with reality?

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

It's a new year, and your willpower to maintain your fitness goal is still going strong. With one eye on the scale and the other on your social calendar, it can be tough to find a middle ground. Here are three restaurants that make keeping your resolution a little easier.

## The Sushi Bar, 2312 Mount Vernon Ave.

One of the newer faces on Del Ray's block, The Sushi Bar made a splash when it first opened by becoming the yin to its neighboring Pork Barrel Barbecue's yang. Its calm, sleek demeanor welcomes diners in a way that is quite different from Pork Barrel's more rowdy layout. Whereas its neighbor sports a fun-for-the-whole-family environment, The Sushi Bar is more subdued, even requesting that children stay home. And in perhaps the starkest contrast, the food at The Sushi Bar is filling yet clean and healthy — a perfect way to stay on your resolution diet and still enjoy a great night out.

The first thing you'll notice about The Sushi Bar is its menu. So often, sushi restaurants maintain the same general standards and the same general offerings as all of their competitors: miso soup and salad, a California roll, and the like. But The Sushi Bar does things a little differently.

At first, diners might be a little stymied when scoping out the menu, but given a moment to warm up to the chef's specialty rolls, it's soon clear that this is a chef who knows what he's doing. From the Del Ray roll — a mix of spicy tuna, avocado, eel sauce, jalapeno, and more — to the crunchy salsa roll, a masterpiece teeming with mixed fish, avocado, and mango salsa, there are plenty of opportunities to try new things while sticking to your calorie count. The vegetable rolls — notably the Veggie J roll — are also standouts in their own right, bursting with fresh vegetables and served in creative ways. (Helpful hint: If you're looking for other non-fish sushi options, all you have to do is ask. The chef will make a showpiece worth waiting for.)

If you've got room in your diet for something to wet your whistle, you'd do well to try the sake tasting menu. Or order by the carafe or by the bottle — there's something on the menu for all tastes and price points.

## The Pita House, 719 King St.

The Pita House is no Johnny-come-lately to the Old Town restaurant scene, that's for sure. From its former abode on Cameron Street to its newer digs on King, just west of Washington Street, it's a familiar face to many Alexandrians. And its fresh, flavorful menu offerings continue to welcome diners in, year after year.

Sit down, order a Turkish coffee and an appetizer of hommos bel fool — hummus topped with hot fava beans — and peruse the menu for your main dish. You can get a lot for your caloric buck here if you know what to look for. Craving a green-veggie meal? The Pita House's Greek salad, brimming with fresh lettuce, tomatoes, green peppers, fresh feta cheese, and a light, tangy dressing, will leave you satisfied.

If you're in the mood for something a little heartier, one of the restaurant's shawarma varieties — beef, chicken, or a combination — will hit the spot. Slow-roasted and served alongside rice and plenty of vegetables, it's decidedly a Pita House specialty. Or split the difference and select a sandwich: The veggie pita will fill you up without weighing you down.

## Fontaine, 119 S. Royal St.

Admittedly, you've got to be careful how you order to stick to your resolution goals at Fontaine, purveyor of crepes both sweet and savory. But peruse the menu carefully — and steer clear of most of the sweet crepes — and you'll find a world of options available that will help you stay on the right path.

If you're ready to dial up your vegetable intake, you could do much worse than the Farmer's Market crepe, which is filled with zucchini, mushrooms, tomatoes, spinach, and a hint of feta cheese. Or investigate the Zenist, which is a wonderful mix of lentils, tomatoes, and spinach in a coriander coco-



The Farmer's Market crepe at Fontaine is full of veggies



The chef at The Sushi Bar creates custom rolls for guests with diet restrictions. Here, he's created a vegetarian roll.

nut curry sauce. Fontaine's array of salads are also excellent choices — but you're at a restaurant that specializes in crepes. Make the most of it!

If you simply can't walk away from Fontaine without a sweet treat, give the Sweetest Thing a try. Filled with wine-marinated cherries and mascarpone cheese, it's a delight for the taste buds, a wonderfully

surprising mouthful of sweet and sour with each bite. Enlist your dining companions to split the crepe with you, and you can still stick to your diet plan with minimal guilt and maximum taste.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).

## CALENDAR

### FROM PAGE 14

Fitzgerald's art celebrates the small things that make up our everyday lives. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.  
**"Birds of a Feather."** Through Feb. 7, 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](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.acctonline.org) for more.

### JAN. 15-30

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

# ENTERTAINMENT

\$20. Visit [www.portcityplayhouse.com](http://www.portcityplayhouse.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 16

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

**"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](http://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.metamorphosisaec.com/mommy-me-holiday-workshops](http://www.metamorphosisaec.com/mommy-me-holiday-workshops).

**Lecture: Civil War Medicine.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Dr. Guy Hasegawa, a Civil War medicine scholar, will give a talk on "Medicinal Alcohol in the Civil War." Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://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](http://www.shiloh-bc.org) for more.

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

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

**"Tea Traditions Beyond Downton Abbey."** 2-3 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Laurie Bell will share how other parts of the world celebrate and enjoy tea. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://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

**Country music artist Emily West performs on Saturday, Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are \$25. Visit [birchmere.com](http://birchmere.com).**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

[www.marineband.mil](http://www.marineband.mil) for more.

## 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 to provide 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 McKenna Dilworth at [theatreofpurpose@gmail.com](mailto:theatreofpurpose@gmail.com) or call 202-352-4864.

**Historic Christ Church MLK Day Event.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Historic Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Christ Church Alexandria is hosting a day-long reading of his writings, speeches, and sermons. Free. Visit [www.historicchristchurch.org](http://www.historicchristchurch.org) for more.

**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](http://www.alexandriava.gov) for more.

**Gad Elmaleh: "All in English."** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. French comedian performs. Tickets are \$25. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) 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.mvgenalogy.org](http://www.mvgenalogy.org) or call 703-768-4101.

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 20

**Antiques Club Meeting.** 9:30-11 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Ryan Johnson, a professional clock repairman, is scheduled this month to speak on how to properly take care of clocks, especially old clocks. Free. Call 703-360-4979 for more.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 21

**Morris Day and The Time.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Listen to live R&B. Tickets are \$69.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://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](http://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 Rockets celebrate the release of "South Broadway Athletic Club." Tickets are \$29.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## 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](http://www.acctonline.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 23

**Preparing for a Ball.** 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Explore the tavern where famous balls like George Washington's Birthnight Ball were held and practice the tasks involved in preparing for a ball. Includes an 18th century dance lesson and a craft to take home. The program begins each 45 minutes. Tickets are \$6. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://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](http://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.

**Documentary Screening.** 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1900 Windmill Lane. Watch a 90-minute documentary on the life and principles of Aldo Leopold, author of "Sand County Almanac" and one of the principal conservationists/environmentalists of the 20th century. Free. Visit [www.greenfiremovie.com](http://www.greenfiremovie.com) for more.

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

**Emily West.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Country music artist performs. Tickets are \$25. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.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](http://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](http://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](mailto:agendaalexandria@aol.com).

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

## 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](http://www.alexandriava.gov/engage).

## 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 community program at 7:30 p.m. The

program, "Our World, His Dream! Make it Happen!" will be held at the Third Baptist Church, 917 Princess St. The program, presented by the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Planning Committee, will include welcome remarks by Mayor Allison Silberberg, a keynote address by former Washington, D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, and music by the Metropolitan Washington Baha'i Chorale.

**Parent Engagement Coffee.** 8:30-10 a.m. at Patrick Henry Elementary School Cafeteria, 4643 Taney Ave. Learn how to support your child in school. Call Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or email [krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us).

**City Council Legislative Subcommittee.** 5 p.m. City Hall, 301 King St. contact Bernard Caton, [Bernard.Caton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Bernard.Caton@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4300.

## MONDAY/JAN. 18

**MLK "Day On."** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall

and Arts Center at the Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Campus, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, more than 250 Northern Virginia Community College students, faculty, staff, and community members will participate in a "day on" instead of a day off for the federal holiday. For the fourth year, NOVA campuses are partnering with Stop Hunger Now to package thousands of dehydrated meals in an effort to end hunger around the world. In addition, the Alexandria Campus will collect canned goods and gently used outerwear to distribute to local nonprofit organizations. To register, visit <http://bit.ly/1ZrtVIZ>.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 19

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

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Designers from Ivy Lane Living used a shade of soft pink in a bedroom of the 2015 D.C. Design House.



Individually, Pantone's Color of the Year selections lend themselves to linens, accent chairs and throw pillows, says Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria.

# Color of the Year Pantone honor bestowed on two colors for 2016.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

Two colors, Serenity (light blue) and Rose Quartz (pale pink), were recently named the Pantone Color of the Year selection for 2016. Pantone provides professional color standards for the design industries, and each year, the hues are credited with influencing fashion and interior design.

This is the first time in the 16-year history of Pantone's annual color crowning that the honor has been bestowed on two hues.

From upholstery and paint to decorative accents and works of art, local designers offer thoughts on how the demure shades can be incorporated into interior décor.

"Light blue shows warmth and is welcoming," said James Nicolson, vice president of Sales and Operations at Tech Painting Co. in Alexandria. "Periwinkle is a common color for powder rooms and eat-in kitchen

areas. But pink is kind of a strange color because if men are involved, they are often put off by it." Gretchen Fuss, an Alexandria-based artist and interior designer, incorporates the shades into her own works of art. "There are realistic ways to use these colors," she said. "Serenity is by far one of my favorite shades of blue and I will revisit it in my artwork. Rose Quartz and Serenity remind me of the sun setting on the water. I see both as soft accents that can easily marry into the styling of the gray regime."

Designer Courtney Cox of Ivy Lane Living in Alexandria says she and her partner Alex

Deringer used the pink hue in a bedroom of the D.C. Design House last year. "While we didn't expect that Pantone would select two shades for its color of the year, we were charmed but not completely surprised to see Rose Quartz in the mix," she said. "We have been loving the warm, inviting hue for a while now."

Fresh alternatives to the traditional neutral palette is how Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria describes the Pantone picks. "Think pale soft pink walls with a muted blue sofa," she said. "These colors work best together if you keep your furniture and accessories sleek

not fussy. Individually they lend themselves to linens, accent chairs and throw pillows." Pantone's Color of the Year selection began in 1999 and serve as a barometer of the current mood of society. The 2016 picks offer tranquility, evoke inner peace and provide a respite from the stress of daily life.

"Serenity and Rose Quartz demonstrate an inherent balance between a warmer embracing rose tone and the cooler tranquil blue, reflecting connection and wellness as well as a soothing sense of order and peace," said Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute in announcing this year's selection.

Local artist and author Kathryn Horn Coneway of Art at the Center in Alexandria appreciates the decision to choose two colors and believes that color has the power to affect emotions. "Colors create moods by their relationships to each other," she said. "Different color combinations evoke a different sense of energy in a composition."



Artist and designer Gretchen Fuss says, "Serenity is by far one of my favorite shades of blue and I will revisit it in my artwork."



Designers at Ivy Lane Living in Alexandria added pops of rose quartz into the design of this room through the mohair fabric sofa and painting above the mantle.



Serenity, a shade of blue that was named a Pantone Color of the Year selection for 2016, can work as an alternative to the popular neutral palette, says Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living.



Interior designer Marika Meyer says Pantone's Color of the Year selections would work well in a family space.

## Design Trends for 2016

Local style gurus predict the elements that will be popular this year.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

The start of the year offers an opportunity to ring in new trends, particularly when it comes to a home's interior. From sustainably sourced textiles to sparsely accessorized rooms, local tastemakers look into their crystal balls and offer predictions on design elements that will be popular this year.

Interior design is going high tech, allowing designers and clients an opportunity to work collaboratively during the design process. "Technology seems to be driving design firms," said Jean P. Freeman, professor of Interior Design at Marymount University in Arlington. "Since there are so many computer programs that assist designers in creating visual, 3-D drawings, clients are able to better understand the designs. Designers and clients both are able to visualize how spaces appear with colors, textures, volume, proportion and other aspects of design."

Freeman believes that consumer demand for energy efficient appliances and designs, as well as sustainably sourced materials, is a trend that will continue and even be elevated. "Now they are interested to find out the origins of various textiles, furniture [and] cabinets," said Freeman.

Eschewing fussy and indulgent decor in favor of a clean and simple aesthetic is a trend that Kristine Winner, associate professor of Interior Design at Northern Virginia Community College expects to see this year. "... This indicates a trend toward more comfortably contemporary environments with minimal accessories," she said. "It also indicates that we should be designing interiors for people that will allow them to be surrounded by the things they love rather than a load of things selected for no real reason."

The trend toward de-cluttering and simplification will extend to home choices. "Go small or go home" is one theme that Sharon Kleinman of Transitions in Potomac, Md. believes will resonate with consumers this year.

"One trend I'm seeing among my clients is that they are either downsizing from large homes on more acreage or moving towards city living with little to no property and more compact living space," said



PHOTO BY GWIN HUNT

Designers will be tasked with creating elegant spaces on a small scale in 2016, predicts interior designer Sharon Kleinman.

Kleinman. "I'm also seeing clients gravitate towards transitional furnishings. There doesn't seem to be as great a divide between the more traditional versus the more modern."

Outdoor upholstery fabric will no longer be confined to alfresco furniture, forecasts Amanda Mertins, president of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria. "One of the most popular design trends for this year is the use of outdoor fabric for indoor upholstery," she said. "It has been used for high traffic rooms especially where kids are involved but now, given a broader selection and interesting patterns, customers are using it in traditional living areas and dining rooms."

Elegant and bold mirrors will make an appearance in bathrooms marrying style and function. "Bye-bye to medicine cabinets and hello to mirrors that make a statement," said Mertins. "Modern metallics, large wood-framed and vintage mirrors add interest and boost style to a utilitarian space which is used every day."

Furniture and accessories made of Lucite, a transparent plastic material, is one trend that Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors predicts for 2016. The designer also expects to see a transition from cool grays to warmer grays, whites and cool beiges being used as neutral shades. "We are seeing a return to organic patterns as a change from the strong geometrics, which have populated the fabric field for the last few years," she said. "Colors and patterns are still quite popular and will be."

Trends that Gretchen Fuss, interior designer with Tchoupitoulas Furnishings in Alexandria, expects to see include "classic, elegant, fundamental pieces with clean lines as seen in midcentury modern, vignettes composed in thoughtful arrangements that include pops of color found in Abstract art," she said.

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# MidAtlantic Erg Sprints Set for Saturday, Jan. 30

**O**n Jan. 30, the T.C. Williams High School gymnasium will come alive with rowers, screaming coxswains, and cheering fans as the Alexandria Crew Boosters host the 31st anniversary MidAtlantic Erg Sprints. The event has grown to become not only the second-largest indoor rowing competition in the world but also the world's largest competition of its kind for high school rowers. Registration is now open; rowers of all ages and skill levels are invited to participate.

"We are really excited about this year's MidAtlantic Erg Sprints," said Alexandria Crew Boosters President Steve Scroggs. "The event celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year with record-breaking participation and intense competition. For the second year in a row, a competitor broke a world record. We expect this year will be equally exciting. We are proud that the MidAtlantic Erg Sprints has become a preeminent event for world-class athletes, including Olympic athletes who train on the Potomac. But we are equally proud of all our participants. The opportunities for young and senior rowers, as well as adaptive rowers, parent-child competitors, and relay teams ensure there is a place for everyone who is interested in rowing and fitness. We encourage enthusiasts from around the East Coast to join us as competitors, volunteers and supporters."

Last year's Erg Sprints featured nearly 1,900 athletes, with approximately 1,600 high school athletes, 200 collegiate athletes, and 200 athletes from rowing clubs and other masters programs from up and down the East Coast. Participants included 130 teams from 14 states. The athletes came from such area high schools as T.C. Williams, Bishop Ireton, West Potomac, McLean, Yorktown, Washington-Lee, Bishop O'Connell, Lake Braddock, James Madison,



**The T.C. Williams gymnasium transforms to host the 30th anniversary of the MidAtlantic Erg Sprints on Jan. 31, 2015. Over 1,900 rowers participated, making it the world's second largest indoor rowing competition.**

St. Albans, Gonzaga, Georgetown Visitation, National Cathedral, Walt Whitman, Wilson, Walter Johnson, Great Bridge Crew Club, and Annapolis Rowing Club. This year's competition will feature more than 100 events for junior, college, and masters rowers, as well as events designed for lightweight rowers, coxswains, parent-child teams and children. The Erg Sprints also feature events designed for adaptive rowers — a category of event specifically designed for individuals with disabilities that has had competitors from Wounded Warriors, Athletes Without Limits, as well as the Capital Adaptive Rowing Program in Washington, D.C. In addition, the Erg Sprints will

offer informational seminars for young rowers who are interested in rowing beyond high school. The seminars will be led by Olympic rowers and veteran coaches to provide the younger athletes with information about their future in rowing, from what colleges are looking for to what it takes to become an elite rower and compete in the Olympics and Paralympics.

Races on Jan. 30 will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at approximately 4 p.m. The top finishers in the MidAtlantic Erg Sprints will qualify to compete in the 2016 World Indoor Rowing Championship — also known as the Crash-B Sprints — which will be held on Sunday, Feb. 28 at Boston University's



PHOTOS BY POWER TEN PHOTOGRAPHY

**Former Alexandria Crew Boosters President Dan Shipp, accompanied by top U.S. rowers Esther Lofgren and Yohann Rigogne, commemorate the 30th anniversary of the MidAtlantic Erg Sprints in T.C. Williams High School on Jan. 31, 2015. Esther Lofgren, a 2012 Olympic gold medalist and eight-time U.S. national team member, shattered the world record for the half marathon, posting a time of 1 hour, 20 minutes and 12 seconds, beating a 2003 record by three minutes.**

Agganis Arena.

Athletes interested in competing in this year's Erg Sprints can register by visiting [www.ergsprints.com](http://www.ergsprints.com). Online registration is open through Jan. 25. Information for becoming vendors, volunteers, or sponsors is also available on the website.

## TC Grad Schedler Sets SU 3-Point Record

**A**ngie Schedler is no stranger to knocking down 3-point shots. The 2014 T.C. Williams graduate was a perimeter sharpshooter and four-year varsity player for the school's girls' basketball team, and helped the Titans win the 2013 Patriot District championship.

Now a college sophomore, Schedler's display from behind the arc on Jan. 9 put her name in the Susquehanna University record book.

Schedler set a school record by making seven 3-pointers in a single game. She knocked down 7 of 8 attempts against United States Merchant Marine Academy during an 86-39 victory. She finished with 31 points.

"I actually was feeling sick before the game," Schedler wrote in an email. "It was a game we were expecting to win and after my first two 3s in the first couple of minutes is when I started to feel like I was

going to have a good game. ... I just got good looks. No forced shots, just what felt right."

Schedler said she believes she made more than seven 3-pointers during an AAU game. Her college career high for points in a game is 33 against Lycoming College.

"It feels pretty good," Schedler wrote about setting a school record. "I'm hoping that sometime in my next years here that I can come across the opportunity again."

Schedler's sister, Sofie, a 2012 T.C. Williams graduate, is a senior for Susquehanna and finished with a team-high eight assists against USMMA.

"It has been a lot of fun this year," Angie Schedler wrote. "We still read each other very well while we play and it's only improving the more we play together." The win over USMMA improved Susquehanna's record to 9-4. The Crusaders will travel to face Drew University at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

"This season," Schedler wrote, "the only goal I'm worried about is winning the [Landmark Conference] championship."

**Angie Schedler, a 2014 T.C. Williams graduate and sophomore on the Susquehanna women's basketball team, made seven 3-pointers in a game on Saturday — a Susquehanna record.**



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**21 Announcements 21 Announcements**

**ABC LICENSE**  
Betelhem 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. Betelhem 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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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

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**OBITUARY**  
Lawrence A. Wilkes (age 71)

Of Alexandria, on Tuesday January 5, 2016 at INOVA Alexandria Hospital. Born in Warrenton on September 29, 1944, he was a son of Gordon Allen Wilkes and Mildred F. Lunsford Wilkes who preceded him in death. He was graduated from Virginia Military Institute and earned a Master's at the University of Virginia. Mr Wilkes served in the Army as a captain. He was the President of WVS Development Companies. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Carol S. Wilkes; a son, Lawrence Gordon Wilkes; a daughter, Anne Joline Wilkes; his twin brother and sister in law, Gerald and Barbara Wilkes. A memorial service was held at Moser Funeral Home on Sat. January 9, 2016 at 1pm. Interment Warrenton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to VMI Foundation, PO Box 932, Lexington, VA 24450 with his name on the memo line.  
[www.moserfuneralhome.com](http://www.moserfuneralhome.com)

**21 Announcements 21 Announcements**

**OBITUARY**  
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.

**21 Announcements 21 Announcements**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Title: RFP No. 00000571, Potomac Yard Metro Station Project Consultant Services

RFP Closing Date and Time: February 9, 2016, 4 p.m., prevailing local time

A Non-Mandatory Vendor Pre-Proposal Conference: January 25, 2016, 9 a.m., Purchasing Division Conference Room, 100 North Pitt Street, Suite 301, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

For general inquiries contact Michel F. Hauer, CPPO, CPPB, Acting Purchasing Agent at 703.746.4295.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

**21 Announcements 21 Announcements**

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-12-03**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Consulting Services for Online Learning Programs.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-12-03 Consulting Services for Online Learning Programs will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, January 22, 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 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

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## LETTERS

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FROM PAGE 12  
have no taint.

Maybe my congestion plan will shake awake one of our elected officials. But I doubt it. So that leaves me importuning departing Mayor Euille to address it. Actually, he's ideal. He's the living manifestation for why I crafted my plan in the first place. He's been the leader in densification. And, now that he's become a simple citizen, he can explain why my plan is reasonable or why his, which has no limit, is better. As you ponder the merits of mine and the demerits of his plan, keep this in mind: the city already has a congestion plan. You can find it, with some effort, on the third floor of City Hall. It's in the zoning office. Unlike mine, which is 150,000 residents, and unlike former Mayor Euille, whose congestion plan has no limit, current city zoning caps the number of permanent residents at more or less 250,000.

Since no more roads can be built in Alexandria, if the city's plan prevails, then you have yet to experience congestion. And you have yet to feel the financial consequences of this congestion. To help you prepare, just recall this simple truism: the more people who are crammed into the rigid confines of our small city, you're guaranteed more cars on the roads, more youngsters in schools and higher taxes.

Using this simple equation, the Euille congestion plan — unless disavowed by his council acolytes (all but Silberberg) — will ultimately take all your disposable income. The city congestion plan will snare more of your hard earned income. How much more is impossible to predict. Let's just agree it will require far more taxes than you are currently paying. My plan will at least keep your taxes stable, even after adjusted for inflation. So, there you have it: which do you prefer? The higher taxes, more congestion city plan limiting residents to 250,000, or Euille's and his City Council successors' plan, the one with no limit to residents, taxes and congestion, or my no tax increase, no more congestion limit of 150,000 residents?

**Jimm Roberts**  
Alexandria

## Honoring Robert E. Lee

To the Editor:

After the despicable murders in Charleston, S.C. by a mentally unbalanced youth, the City Council, as it should, wanted to express its condemnation of that heinous act. The appropriate action would have been a resolution to that effect. Instead, it decided to follow the example of other communities who attacked our Confederate heritage in toto by refusing to honor native Alexandrian and internationally acclaimed Robert E. Lee as we have done for decades. What a non sequitur! Lee opposed slavery, set an example of practicing good race relations throughout his life and was honored by the U.S. Congress for his work to promote national unity and peace after the war. Throughout his lifetime, RE Lee was honored, respected and admired by all, including in the North and West, as my earlier

letters have consistently noted.

Two years ago the mayor appropriately issued a proclamation honoring Alexandrians Gen. "Light-Horse" Harry Lee and his son Gen. Robert E. Lee on their birthdays, Jan. 29 and Jan. 19, for their contributions to our country. It is appropriate to do so annually, and I hope the mayor and council will do so this year and declare that our Virginia and U.S. flags are flown in his honor. He served under both long and well. Refusing to recognize and honor Lee's contributions is a stunning error which the council should rectify immediately. Council should set a worthy example for the rest of the country, not follow others' hasty and mistaken actions taken in the heat of emotion.

As "Mercy Street" airs starting Jan. 17, many people will be interested in how Alexandria treats its history. Lee loved Alexandria; I hope the council will treat his memory and contributions with the honor he so richly deserves.

Besides issuing a proclamation and flying our flags in his memory as noted above, I recommend in future years that the city sponsor an annual Lee/Confederate history symposium, as well as essay and poster competitions in our schools, and an oratorical contest. The city also needs a statue of this Virginia, American and international hero in a prominent place. Lee, a brilliant student (and competent artist), improved the curriculums as head of both West Point and Washington College (now Washington and Lee University), so a memorial associated with education would be very appropriate. Because many people mistakenly believe slavery — and nothing else — caused the war, we should correct that erroneous narrative in widely used history books to provide a full and accurate account, starting with the 1777 adoption of the Articles of Confederation and the 1787 adoption of the Constitution which established our federal republic.

**Ellen Latane Tabb**  
Alexandria

## Racism: The 8th Deadly Sin

To the Editor:

At one time or another, we all have come across references to the 7 deadly sins. Doing some research revealed they were referenced back to the 4th century. Although worded slightly different, they were in

essence the same as they are today: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy and pride. All of us have experienced a degree of these sins in our lives at one time or another. It is to be human to fall prey to them.

Pride - an excessive belief in one's own abilities.

Envy - wanting what others have, be it status, abilities, or possessions.

Gluttony - desire to eat or consume more than you require.

Lust - a powerful craving for such as sex, power and money.

Anger - loss of rational self-control and the desire to harm others.

Greed - desire for material wealth or gain.

Sloth - laziness and the avoidance of work.

I am going to add an 8th. Racism. Racism is a sin because it: denies the very source of humanity, the image of God in human-kind; destroys God's likeness in every person and thus repudiates creation and its goodness; assumes that human beings are not equal before God and are not part of God's family; is contrary to biblical teaching; denies basic justice and human dignity; is a flagrant violation of human rights. Racism tells you that you are superior to someone of another race.

Like the other deadly sins, every human being possesses a degree of racism. Racism can occur at both an unconscious and conscious level, can be both active and passive, and can be intentional or not.

Racism exists at three main levels: individual, institutional and cultural.

Individual racism takes the form of individual attitudes, beliefs, values and behaviors. Racial prejudice, bigotry, belittling and jealousy are racist attitudes. Examples of racist beliefs are racial stereotypes, the belief that some races are better than others and even the belief that people can be classified according to race in the first place.

Institutional or systemic racism takes the form of the practices, customs, rules and standards of organizations, including governments that unnecessarily disadvantage people because of their race, color or ethnicity. They do not always involve differences in treatment and can result in what is known as "disparate impact", i.e. de facto discriminatory effects, which may or may not be intentional.

Cultural racism involves the cultural values and standards that disadvantage people because of their cultural differences, viewed as inferior.

I do not believe that racism can be "stamped out." Just like the original 7 deadly sins, the 8th must be understood that it exists within us, and to acknowledge that is to begin addressing it. The institutional and cultural forms are based upon the individual form. Addressing our instincts toward it at an individual level will then carry over to address it at the institutional and cultural level. This is not to say that racism cannot be addressed at those levels. It must be — through laws, application of those laws, and practices that in essence, promote racism. The effects of these actions can be direct, or indirect. For example, police departments across the nation can re-examine their training procedures regarding the use of lethal force. Banks use of "redlining." Changes in these procedures can have an indirect effect on racism as blacks are disproportionately targeted as statistics have shown.

We need to recognize that laws, rules and goals have been created by the dominant culture. "Come and be like us" will not be sufficient to create a just multicultural society. Neither can the people in power and control be the only ones to benefit from the system. We need to make every effort to use the gifts and perspective of all participants and allow all to benefit for the sake of the common good.

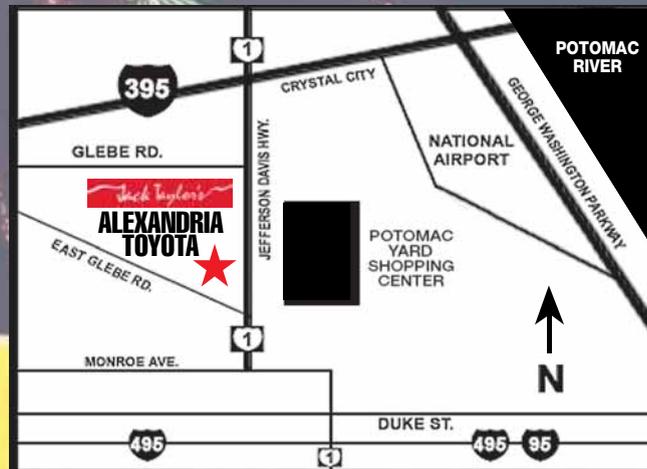
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NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16

**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT \$79.95**

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. TAX 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**

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**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE \$159.95**

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. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/16

Jack Taylor's  
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**TOYOTA Let's Go Places**



**Old Town Alexandria \$995,000**

Location, location, location! Built in 1845, this Old Town 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home has historic appeal throughout. Only 3 blocks from King Street and 2 blocks from the river. Idyllic backyard setting with patio, garden and pond for relaxation. 414fairfax.mceneaney.com

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



**Alexandria \$1,325,000**

Expansive, 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath Williamsburg colonial on cul-de-sac. Sited on one half acre this home offers 4 fireplaces, fresh paint, refinished floors, new landscaping, stainless steel appliances in upper level kitchen, bonus lower level kitchen, family room, 1-car garage. 519 Canterbury Lane

**Noel Kaupinen**  
703.200.1165  
www.NoelK.com



**Old Town Alexandria \$1,225,000**

Own a piece of history, St. John's Square spacious 3-bedroom home with renovated marble baths (2 in master suite), original floors & moldings, high ceilings, 3 fireplaces, old world charm! Closets & storage galore. Walk to everything in Old Town, 2 car parking. 710 Duke Street

**Babs Beckwith | Susan Craft**  
703.627.5421 | 703.216.4501  
www.BabsBeckwith.com



**New Alexandria/River View \$795,000**

This lovely home is sited on a gorgeous .42-acre corner lot just one mile south of Old Town, two blocks from the Potomac River, easy walking distance to shopping, dining and transportation. Convenient to Reagan National Airport and all of the Metro D.C. area! 6409 10th Street

**Robin Arnold**  
703.966.5457  
www.RobinArnoldSells.com

**Winter Clothing Drive**

In partnership with United Community Ministries, we are proud to sponsor a Winter Clothing Drive!

Coats • Gloves • Mittens • Hats

Please drop off new or gently used winter clothing to our office.

Drop off donations:  
Monday-Friday, 9AM-5PM • Saturday-Sunday, 10AM-4PM  
109 S. Pitt Street • Alexandria, VA 22314

 **UNITED COMMUNITY MINISTRIES**  
At the Heart of Community



**Alexandria \$748,500**

With a new baths, appliances, floors, HVAC and more, this 4-bedroom house is just waiting for new owners. The gorgeous kitchen with island is part of an open floor plan, perfect for entertaining. Easy walk to Del Ray restaurants. 2801 Sycamore Street

**Elizabeth Lucchesi**  
703.868.5676  
www.LizLuke.com



**Arlington \$485,000**

Spacious 1500-SF end unit condo with 2 bedrooms & 2 full baths located on revitalized Columbia Pike. Updated kitchen with stainless appliances. Washer & dryer in unit. Balcony with great urban views. Walk to restaurants, Giant & less than a mile to Pentagon. 1016wayne804.mceneaney.com

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



**Quaker Village \$639,000**

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

**Elizabeth Lucchesi**  
703.868.5676  
www.LizLuke.com



**Arlington \$440,000**

Enjoy city-convenience and spectacular city-views from this 12th floor, 1-bedroom, 1-bath bright and open condo. Upgraded stainless appliances, hardwood flooring, marble, gas fireplace and balcony. Underground parking; gym/sauna/pool/security. 1276 N Wayne St #1217

**Mary Farrell**  
703.969.5522  
www.ChooseMary.com