



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Happy New Year

The fireworks finale of First Night Alexandria provides the backdrop to a selfie for a couple celebrating New Year’s Eve on King Street. See story and more photos on page 3.

In the Red

Schools, Metro, and infrastructure form trinity of 2017 city budget priorities.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

For the City Council, the largest looming issue in the upcoming months of 2017 is always the city’s budget. The routine is fairly similar year after year: the city and school system haggle to a compromise over expanding school enrollment costs while other city departments rotate through yearly budget increases and decreases. But this year, according to the City Council, the budget process is shaping up to look a little more dire than usual.

THE YEAR
AHEAD

“The budget is going to be a very big deal,” said Councilman Timothy Lovain. “It always is. It’s our main business, but it will be particularly challenging with Metro needs, school needs, and other infrastructure. Those capital needs are critical to the future of the city. We need to address them as best we can.”

While school capacity needs generally take the largest focus in the budget discussion, this year a Metro system in crisis and crumbling city infrastructure are muscling into the spotlight. The issues being discussed and weighed aren’t new, but Councilman Paul

Smedberg says the scale of the demands exceeds previous years. “We’ve had these issues before, but the dollar amounts and the size is bigger,” said Smedberg. “Schools, infrastructure, and transportation are all core to what we do. How we prioritize the rest is what we have to decide.”

Across the council, schools, infrastructure, and transportation are agreed to be the core budget priorities in 2016.

“Blooming student enrollment in the schools also presents a real challenge,” said Lovain. “It largely shows up for us in school construction funding needs. It’s a happy problem, it’s a compliment to our system, but we’re adding so many students. There’s a structural deficit we face. [Our]

needs are growing faster than revenues. That shows up on the capital side and for schools.”

In terms of capital costs, the approved Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) FY 2017 - FY 2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget last year totaled

\$273,988,551. The FY 2018 - FY 2027 CIP proposed by Superintendent Alvin Crawley raises that 10-year total to \$515,739,655.

“We need to expand the number of schools that we have and somehow or another accommodate renovations and expansion, maybe building a whole new

SEE LOOKING AHEAD, PAGE 16

“We’re not going to be able to make everybody happy but we were elected to make hard decisions.”

— Councilman
Willie Bailey

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Happy New Year

First Night events draw thousands to Alexandria.

Revelers from around the world descended on Alexandria to ring in the new year as a midnight fireworks show ushered in 2017 and concluded the 22nd annual First Night Alexandria celebration.

"We estimate there were in the neighborhood of 10,000 people in Alexandria for First Night," said First Night Alexandria executive director Ann Dorman. "We had great, enthusiastic crowds throughout Old Town and in Del Ray at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center all evening. Other than the church sanctuaries, every venue was at capacity all evening."

More than 150 performances took place at 24 venues in Old Town and Del Ray, with live music, dancing, children's face painting and games. A Fun Hunt took place during the day and a Battle of the Local Stars at the Durant Arts Center featured a special performance by local recording artist Keira Moran, who used the evening to film the music video for her latest single "We Can." The video debuted on iTunes on New Year's Eve.

The First Night concept was launched in Boston in 1975. While hundreds of First Night events across the country have disappeared since that time, First Night Alexandria has continued to grow and thrive, becoming one of the largest and most successful events in the region while adhering to the original concept of charging one price for an array of family-friendly entertainment.

"First Night is one of the largest volunteer efforts in Alexandria," Dorman said. "Thanks to the herculean efforts of Joe Shumard, we had approximately 200 volunteers working throughout the day all over town. This event would not happen without their help and that of our wonderful sponsors, including the City of Alexandria, Dominion Virginia Power, New Target, Burke & Herbert Bank, LCOR, Clark Construction, Virginia Paving, John Marshall Bank, the Alexandria and Mount Vernon Gazettes, Visit Alexandria and many others."

For more information, visit www.firstnightalexandria.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun perform at The Torpedo Factory.



Diners at King Street Blues are entertained by the Surf Jaguars.



Fireworks light up the sky over the Potomac River to usher in 2017 as part of the First Night Alexandria celebration.

Somchit and Boonchai Soponvuttikul enjoy the fireworks display as part of First Night Alexandria. The couple was visiting the U.S. from Thailand.



PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER
GAZETTE PACKET



Alexandria native Pete Farnham performs original tunes in the Vola Lawson Lobby of Alexandria City Hall.



Vaughn Ambrose, director of jazz at Saint Stephen's and St. Agnes Upper School, performs with his trio to a standing-room-only crowd at The Principle Gallery.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Arts Program Grant Application

Workshops. In early January, the City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts began accepting applications for Arts Program Grants. Funds are available to eligible arts organizations and individual artists for operations, programs and special projects that occur in Alexandria between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. Workshops

to prepare grant applications will be held on Jan. 18, Jan. 26 and Feb. 6 www.alexandriava.gov/Arts

SATURDAY/JAN. 7

Drug Take Back. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray, 2204 Mount Vernon Ave. and Police Headquarters, 3600 Wheeler Ave. Officers and deputies will be collecting potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. The service is free and anonymous with no questions asked. Amy.Bertsch@alexandriava.gov

SUNDAY/JAN. 8

School Open House. 2-4 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit www.burgundyfarm.org for more.

MONDAY/JAN. 9

Alexandria Democratic Committee Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium, Minnie Howard School, 3801 W. Braddock Road. Collecting canned foods for ALIVE. MSLyman@verizon.net or 703-549-3367
Community Meeting on Surplus City-Owned Properties in Old Town. 7:30 a.m. at the Durant

Recreation Center, 1605 Cameron St. Regarding the disposition of the following city-owned properties: 912, 916 and 920 King St.; 116 S. Henry St.; and 120, 122 and 122 1/2 N. Patrick St. The City Council has declared the city-owned properties listed above as surplus real estate and has authorized the city manager to issue Request for Proposals for the competitive disposition, sale and redevelopment of these properties. alexandriava.gov/45620 703-746-4770.

TUESDAY/JAN. 10

City Council Legislative Meeting. 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St.

CityClerkStaff@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-4500.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 11

Free College Financial Aid Assistance. 5-8 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Room C-206. Free, confidential assistance from financial aid professionals as well as a free dinner and chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship, 22" LG TV, or senior class ring. margaret.feldman@acps.k12.va.us or 703-824-6730

THURSDAY/JAN. 12

Commission on Aging. 4 p.m. Human Services Building, 2525 Mt. Vernon Ave. 703-746-5692.

DEADLINE FRIDAY/JAN. 13

Alexandria Marketing Fund Applications. Round 2 of applications accepted for the Alexandria Marketing Fund, a grant program that provides seed money in the form of matching funds for new and innovative marketing programs that promote Alexandria as a destination for visiting, shopping and dining, and doing business. The program also provides grants for the expansion of ongoing or pre-existing programs. Round 3 deadline is May 1. Reilly@alexecon.org

SATURDAY/JAN. 14

Devotional & Discussion on Race Unity in America. 2-4 p.m. at the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Public Library, 5005 Duke St. Alexandria Baha'i Community is sponsoring a race unity in America discussion. Free raceunitydiscussions@gmail.com

MONDAY/JAN. 16

Resource Recovery Announcements. Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on Jan. 16, residents are reminded that trash and recycling will be picked up one day later during these weeks than regularly scheduled. In addition, Christmas Tree Recycling will take place Jan. 9-20. www.alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery

TUESDAY/JAN. 17

Waterfront Commission Meeting. 7:30 a.m. at City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. jack.browand@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5504.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners. 7-8 p.m. at the Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Topic: Microgreens what makes them so good for you? Learn their many benefits, and some simple ways to grow these nutritious and inexpensive baby plants and sprouts at home. 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Small Business Roundtable. noon-1 p.m. at the Alexandria Small Business Development Center, 625 N. Washington St, Suite 400. An opportunity to meet with other small business owners in a facilitated discussion format. No pre-registration is required. Feel free to bring your lunch or a beverage.

THURSDAY/JAN. 26

Vegetable Gardening Part 1: Jumpstart Your Garden With Seeds. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Get the scoop on seed selection, hybrid vs. heirloom, what seeds to start indoors, germination tips, and best bets for seed saving. Find out how to make starter pots, and easy-to-create lighting systems to bring the sunlight inside. 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

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Proposed Teen Center Taking Shape

Charles Houston Recreation Center would expand teen-specific activities.

By RIKKI GEORGE
GAZETTE PACKET

If everything goes as planned, the Charles Houston Recreation Center (CHRC), located at 901 Wythe St., will be in prime shape this summer. What's in store is a state-of-the art multi-media center that expands CHRC offerings and operating hours for teen-specific activities.

It is the brainchild of many, including CHRC staff, volunteers known as the Charles Houston Advisory Council (CHAC) and at least 45 teens. If successfully implemented, it has the potential to be the blueprint for other teen centers around town, according to Akida Jordan of Alexandria's Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities.

"Not everyone necessarily likes sports," said Hadi Kamara, 16, an 11th grader at T.C. Williams High School. And the current space is not appealing, he adds, a comment echoed by others his age.

So Kamara and his peers signed up to create a vision to attract youths. Kamara and Zachary Hunter also produced a GoFundMe video, now posted on CHRC's website to help raise funds.

Destined to replace CHRC's game room, the new center is based on a six-zone design. This includes a computer and study zone with charging docks and wireless connection to facilitate homework; a gaming zone with video and table-based games to promote teamwork; a music zone; an art zone; a food and wellness zone, which will also include information on jobs; and a social zone, with comfortable seating and tables to encourage socialization within an open, fun and safe community environment.

"The biggest challenge to make the teen center a reality is institutional and adult



The current Charles Houston Recreation Center game room, a facility owned by the city.

acceptance," said community activist MacArthur Myers. "They'll see it as a gathering place for trouble." In fact, said Myers, "it is a hub for the development of youth, our future leaders, to become well-rounded individuals and a place to maximize their potential."

Presently, CHRC is teen-only from 6 p.m. to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays, with teen numbers steadily increasing in the past few months. July is busiest with teen participation around 537.

That seems to be one of the reasons why CHAC, now a 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit organization, has put fundraising on a fast track. Summer months are especially important because there are less safe activities, such as school events competing for teen attention, according to Cathy Hamilton, CHAC secretary.

In the end, by June 2017, more funds are needed to initiate the \$70,000 project, which also includes ongoing mentoring pro-

grams. As of Dec. 20, CHAC has raised \$17,000. The city pledged \$25,000.

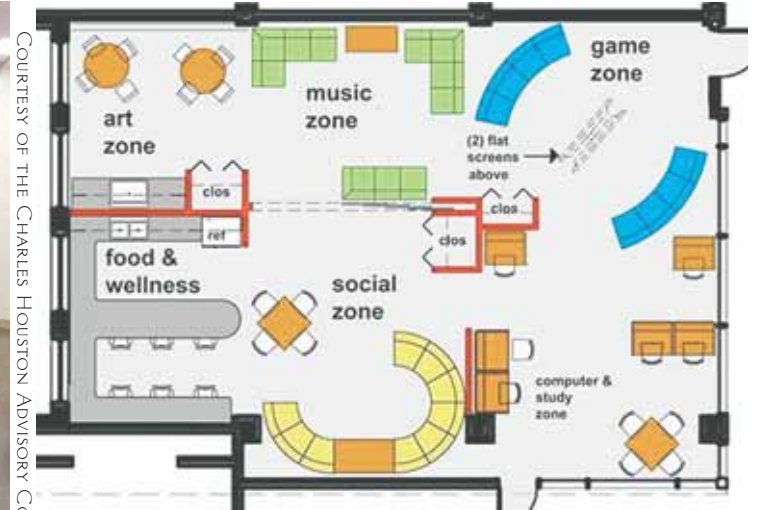
"I see kids extremely interested," said Kamara. "Sororities and fraternities are already on board to support the project in 2017," he said. CRHC staff is on board.

And "business community funding will happen sooner than later," said former Mayor Bill Euille.

"The more teens connect with the com-

munity, the more value they bring," Jordan said. Teens will be able to freely voice their concerns in a safe place. Adults will listen. And together, they learn what matters. "Society is cyclical that way," said Jordan.

To make a contribution, go to the GoFundMe box at www.CharlesHoustonRec.com or contact Paul Hamilton, CHAC president, at charles.houstonrec@gmail.com.



David Ghezzi of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural activities, developed the initial architectural six-zone design plan for the proposed CHRC teen center.

Eight Named as Living Legends

The Living Legends of Alexandria announced its 2017 recipients last month. Selected from public nominations received throughout 2016, these community leaders were chosen through one of two criteria: They led the creation or redevelopment of something that improves the quality of life in the City of Alexandria or, improved the quality of life in the City of Alexandria through many years of service:

❖ **Kerry J. Donley** for his continual effort to expand the economic and business development of the City of Alexandria.

❖ **Bill Euille**, former mayor of Alexandria, for his commitment to civic engagement and improving the quality of life for many City of Alexandria residents.

❖ **Carter Flemming** for her service to over 20 Alexandria organizations.

❖ **Gwen Mullen** for her care and commitment to develop the City of Alexandria's youth and access to better education.

❖ **Sandy Modell** for her dedication and effort in connecting the citizens of Alexandria through the city's mass transit system.

❖ **Jen Walker** for her continued support in developing the community of Del Ray through the Del Ray Business Association (Visit Del Ray).

❖ **Mary Anne Weber**, for her continued effort to bring affordable health care and mental health awareness to the citizens of Alexandria.

❖ **Ethel Underwood**, for her leadership and activism on Alexandria's Commission on Aging, Women in Voluntary Service to America Memorial, Inova Alexandria Hospital, Hopkins House, the Executive Committee of the NAACP and several other Alexandria organizations.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Living Legends of Alexandria organization. LLA is an on-going, not-for-profit photo-documentary project that identifies, honors and chronicles people making current history in Alexandria.

PRESCRIPTION FOR DANGER

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- Combining pain killers or anti-anxiety drugs with alcohol multiplies the effect—your heart or your breathing can stop.
- Drug-induced deaths now exceed deaths from motor vehicle accidents in more than 17 states.
- Most kids who abuse prescription drugs report they get them from their home medicine cabinets or from friends.
- Proper disposal of unwanted medication prevents environmental contamination of our waterways and soils.

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- Drowsiness
- Hallucinations
- Nausea and vomiting
- Non-reactive pupils
- Staggering or unsteady gait
- Sweating or extremely dry, hot skin
- Tremors
- Unconsciousness
- Violent or aggressive behavior

Suspect an Overdose? Call 911

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PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Police Recruits Graduate

The Alexandria Police Department welcomed 26 recruit officers who graduated from the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy Basic Law Enforcement School on Dec. 21. The recruits spent approximately 20 weeks in training at the regional academy, covering topics such as community policing, emergency vehicle operation, firearms training, defensive tactics, crash investigation and basic legal training. Numerous Alexandria Police Department recruits received performance-based awards or broke academy physical fitness records during the 135th session: Matthew Beinhauer, 3rd place Emergency Vehicle Operations Center; Benjamin Berlin, Session 135 Class President; Chris Dannenfelser, vertical jump record; Alexis Gomez; Andrew Harrell; Travis Jones, 1st place Emergency Vehicle Operations Center; Ryan Klein; Westrick McIlvanie, 1st place Firearms; Anthony Mitchell; John Moorman; Michael Oliver, III-2nd place Fitness; Oscar Olland-Thomas Shaw Award, Session 135 Class Vice-President; Sarah Parker; Peter Prunty; Kirill Schipanov; John Stafford; Virgil Usana; Colton Vanderah; Jamie Lee Victor-300 meter run record, plank record; Rodney Villanueva; Jacob Wachter; Shakita Warren; Suzanne Watts, 3rd place Academics, Session 135 Class Vice-President; Joseph Winkler; and Justin Zackaria. Recruit officers will partner and train with experienced patrol officers for an additional 12 weeks before working independently as solo patrol officers.

New Deputies

From left, Deputy Zachary Selph, Deputy Emily Morris, Deputy Kirsten Knapp, Deputy Morgan Garner, Deputy Maurice Anderson and Deputy Derek Freeman were the six Alexandria deputy sheriffs that graduated from Session 135



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

of the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy on Wednesday, Dec. 21. The new deputies completed nearly six months of training including emergency vehicle operations, firearms training, defensive tactics, crash investigation, basic legal training, jail and courthouse procedures, and other important areas. The academy serves 17 participating law enforcement agencies in this area.

Captain Graduates from FBI Academy

Alexandria Police Captain Shirl Mammarella graduated from the FBI National Academy on Dec. 16, one of 225 graduates in the academy's 266th Session. The National Academy Program is held at the FBI Academy in Quantico, and consists of 10 weeks of coursework in intelligence theory, terrorism and terrorist mindsets, management science, law, behavioral science, law enforcement communication and forensic science. Mammarella is the commander of the po-



Captain Shirl Mammarella

lice department's Patrol Support Division. She joins the following current Alexandria police officers who have also completed the FBI National Academy: Acting Chief David Huchler, Deputy Chief Chris Wemple, Deputy Chief Shahram Fard, Captain Don Hayes and Captain Len Fouch.

Mammarella joined the Alexandria Police Department in 1987. During her tenure with the department she was assigned as a Vice Narcotics detective and a Domestic Violence detective, and also served as a supervisor in the Traffic Unit. Most recently, Mammarella completed a study and proposal for a new shift configuration for Patrol which was approved and will be implemented in January.

PEOPLE NOTES

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

Alexandria resident **Jesse Robinson** was recognized by The Virginia Film Office as one of the three winners of the 2016 Virginia Screenwriting Competition. His film, "Where Teardrops Fall," was set in Northern Virginia, the main character works as a government hitman to pay off his student loans until the weariness of the work forces him to reconsider his method of repayment.

Robinson is a writer, director and editor with an MFA from the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

His first feature film, "Young & Innocent," was shot in Virginia and is currently in post-production.

Speck Appointed To MWAA Board

David Speck, former Alexandria City Councilman and member of the Virginia House of Delegates, has been appointed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe to serve in the McAuliffe administration as a board member of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.



David Speck

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Speck recently retired from his position as managing director of investments for the Speck-Caudron Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors in Alexandria. With more than 35 years of experience in the financial services industry, Speck was twice named one of the top 400 financial advisors in the country by the Financial Times and one of the top 10 financial advisors in Virginia by Barron's Magazine.

Speck attended the University of Virginia and received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from The George Washington University, where he was also a member of the administration and faculty for 10 years. He is a graduate of the Securities Industry Institute program at the Wharton School and was a faculty member of that program from 1988 to 2001.

Currently, Speck serves as a director of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, ACT for Alexandria and the Northern Virginia Health Foundation. He also served as the regional chairman of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia.

In 2010, he was named a Living Legend of Alexandria and in 2013 was honored by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce as Alexandria's Business Leader of the Year.

Speck previously served as a member of the MWAA board of directors from 2003-2010 as an appointee of Gov. Mark Warner. His current term will expire in November 2020.

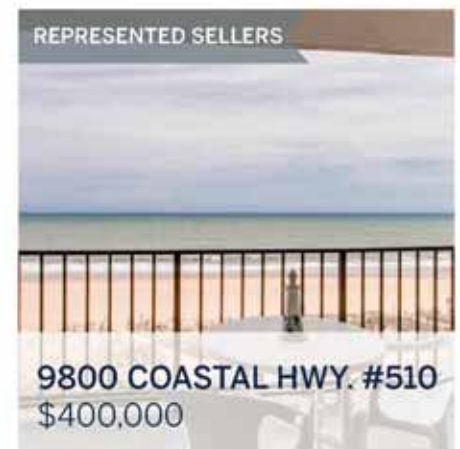
— JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO BY MAUREN SCHWEERS

And the Winner Is ...

The Del Ray Business Association's Pat Miller presents ALIVE! executive director Diane Charles with a \$500 check, the Alexandria non-profit's prize for winning the 2016 Del Ray Tree Decorating Contest. The ALIVE! tree featured food-themed decorations, spotlighting their work as the largest private safety net for the needy in the City of Alexandria. Twelve Alexandria-based non-profits participated in the annual contest, which was decided by a public online vote.



Thank you for a great 2016!
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Information Center:

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For immediate consideration or more details,
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NEWS

Preparing for Next Voyage

One year after its discovery, the historic 300-year-old ship found in a dig on the Alexandria waterfront is still awaiting its next voyage. In storage on South Quaker Lane, the ship is kept in bins of water to keep it preserved. According to Francine Bromberg, city archaeologist, the last year has been spent largely sorting through grants and establishing a long-term plan for the ship while keeping it maintained.

"It was a matter of getting everything in place," said Bromberg. "We had to make sure we had the funding. Last April, as part of spring2action, the Friends of Alexandria

Archaeology had a large fundraising campaign and we raised \$30,000 for the ship. Plus we had allocations by the city into the budget for FY 2017, which happened in July. It has taken a while, but once we had the funding things went full speed."

Now, Bromberg says the city is in the process of picking a conservator within the next month to do preservation work on the ship.

"When we do send the ship off for conservation, we're going to have a bon voyage [event]," said Bromberg. "Once away, it will take three to five years before its ready to come back to the city."

— VERNON MILES

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Alexandria Police Department.

SUNDAY, JAN. 1

❖ The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 1200 block of Madison Street. Three suspects brandished a firearm and stole a phone during a phone sale arranged through an online application. There were no injuries.

FRIDAY, DEC. 30

❖ The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 4600 block of Seminary Road. A teen suspect stole cash during phone sale arranged through an online application. There were no injuries.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28

❖ The Alexandria Police Department is investi-

gating a commercial robbery of a convenience store in the 500 block of John Carlyle Street. Two men brandished firearm and stole cash. There were no injuries.

❖ The Alexandria Police Department is investigating the report of a robbery in the 1200 block of Madison Street. A suspect stole phone being sold via an online application. There were no injuries.

TUESDAY, DEC. 27

❖ The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 1000 N Henry Street. A suspect brandished a firearm and stole a cell phone. There were no injuries.

SUNDAY, DEC. 25

❖ The Alexandria Police Department is conducting a sudden death investigation in the Unit Block of N Floyd Street.

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- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Dakota Connection



Artist rendering for Hotel Indigo.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Family takes a selfie with Town Crier Ben Fiore-Walker outside the Carlyle House.

Looking Ahead: New Year in the Old City

As 2017 kicks off, Alexandria promises to offer a few new attractions for visitors and residents alike. Opening in Spring 2017, Hotel Indigo Old Town Alexandria will be the first waterfront hotel and the first one of the new pieces of the Alexandria waterfront.

"It's a really important addition to the

waterfront," said Patricia Washington, president and CEO of Visit Alexandria. "It extends the promenade. This begins the process of extending that waterfront from King Street South to Duke Street. People can go from waterfront parks to the marina area now. Businesses along that area should benefit from this new, southern anchor on the waterfront."

Washington said the hotel will bring new visitors to Alexandria's waterfront, many of whom stay overnight and are more likely to spend money downtown.

On the other side of the city, the Portner Brewhouse is connecting Alexandria's new businesses to its historic legacy. Owners Catherine and Margaret Portner, great-great granddaughters of Alexandria brewer and

businessman Robert Portner, will be opening Portner Brewhouse at 5770 Dow Ave in January.

"For people who live here, Portner Brewhouse is a big deal," said Washington. "To have Portner Brewhouse opening in the west end with its incredible historical connection... that's an incredible story."

— VERNON MILES

Annandale United FC - Girls Tryouts

Annandale United FC is holding girls expansion & summer Super-Y tryouts for hard working girls that have the passion and desire to play competitive soccer. AUFC will form teams or add players for NCSL (Select) and NPL (Premier) levels of play. Additionally we will form USL Super-Y teams which will compete this summer.

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 Saturday's - Jan 14, 21, 28,
 Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4th
 U9-U12 : 10-11 AM
 U13-U16 : 11-12 PM

If you are interested, have questions or would like to register for tryouts, please email the Girls Director of Coaching: aufc_girls@annandaleunitedfc.org

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ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

OPINION

Alexandria's Four Seasons of Giving

BY GISELLE L. PELAEZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE CENTER FOR
ALEXANDRIA'S CHILDREN



Giselle

Alexandria is an amazingly generous community, not just during the holiday season. Together we give money, time and things throughout the year to help others. As last year's Spring2ACTion campaign demonstrated, raising more than \$1.3 million for local nonprofits in just 24 hours, Alexandrians love to give back.

This support is what helps organizations like ours provide high-quality, high-impact programs that make a difference in the lives of people every day, from homeless veterans to newly immigrated families. We are proud partners with Alexandria's public agencies who envision the same city we do: strong, healthy and safe. As City Manager Mark Jinks recently conveyed to his employees, it is their "talent, commitment to service, creativity and teamwork," combined with that of our nonprofit colleagues, that makes Alexandria a great place to live and work.

But with the start of 2017, we draw our attention to another round of difficult conversations around the city budget. Together as public and private partners we face a potential shortfall of \$16 million to maintain current levels of service to Alexandria's residents. And while the city manager has been given the ability to consider a tax increase to fill this gap, it would require a more than 4-cent increase per dollar to avoid any cuts in service, a rate above any that has ever been approved. What does this fiscal challenge mean for us, our neigh-

bors, our parents, kids and families?

Alexandria's current financial picture translates to very distressing cuts that will set our community back from its best-practice investments in prevention and stabilization, which also saves significant money in the longer term. As just one example of many, it will jeopardize the Center's Learn & PlayGroups, the only free and open program for parents and their children under three — so at a minimum, those kids will go back to entering kindergarten with little to no early childhood education exposure, taxing our teachers and schools to meet their needs. At worst, it may lead their family to become entangled in the child welfare system as they struggle with parental stress and other challenges without the tools and strategies needed to stay connected to their children and community. We are one of many local nonprofits that are seriously concerned about our ability to provide critical programs and services in light of distressing public budget shortfalls, and we are working hard to come together to fill gaps in innovative, effective and efficient ways so that our senior citizens, homeless individuals and families, young children and others do not fall further into desperation and need. Our criminal justice, child welfare, and hospital systems cannot bear the costs they would incur if our safety nets fail or disappear.

As we have seen in the decade since the Center opened our doors, our community rises to the occasion year after year, filling as much of this gap in public services as possible in a small community with a wide diversity of interests — in animal welfare, child protection, homeless services, and others. In fact, the same week that we will celebrate our 10th anniversary alongside many of Alexandria's most generous donors, the city manager will present a pro-

posed FY18 budget that will demonstrate exactly how high the bar will rise for private citizens to support basic community needs.

Those of us who dedicate our lives to this work feel grateful year-round for Alexandria's giving community that does not limit itself to the holiday season. We are lucky to be a part of a city with a well-established culture of giving back as well as one that values deep engagement between the public and private sectors. We have no doubt that together we will rise to meet the need again, but we must preserve the deep investments we all have made in public-private partnerships. Best-practice models like the Center and others ensure that we unite all four resources and expertise to serve those who need our help, even in times of financial strain. Stay informed during this important budget season, communicate with councilmembers about the causes that are important to you, volunteer and support our work in whatever ways you can. Thank you to all who engage, give, and share so that together we can continue our work to be a safe, happy and healthy Alexandria.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Progress at Jefferson-Houston

To the Editor:

I am a parent of a kindergartner and first grader at Jefferson-Houston School. As the redistricting process within ACPS comes to an end, there has been a late push for major changes to boundaries on the east end of

Alexandria. I firmly oppose these proposed changes, and ask the School Board to stand with the success of Jefferson-Houston when they vote on redistricting ACPS on Jan. 26.

Like many parents zoned for Jefferson-Houston I was concerned about sending my children there. After careful consideration our family registered with three requirements in mind: is our child happy, learning, and safe? The answers were clear. We have not only remained, but enrolled our second child as well. My children are very happy at school, are learning above national grade level standards, and safety has never been a concern.

I am confident about sending my children to J-H regardless of its accreditation status because I can cite a large body of research showing that children who come from advantaged households reach the same level of achievement regardless of the racial or socio-economic makeup of the school. Children whose basic needs are well met, are exposed to math and literacy early and often, and have received quality preschool education

statistically perform well in any school placement. Research also supports that these students do particularly well in math when attending truly diverse schools.

We should still examine why J-H is under enrolled, has such a high FARMS rate, and has a more segregated student makeup than nearby schools. It has been suggested that a gerrymander

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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OPINION

Art and Poetry Live in Alexandria

BY WENDI R. KAPLAN

As we wind up 2016 and launch into a new year, I think of the poetry and art that many Alexandrians have shared with us. I am grateful to be part of this beautiful city that is filled with artists and creative souls. For truly it is creativity that widens our perspectives, deepens our understandings and strengthens our connections.

Some highlights of December were working with the extraordinary Bridget Tomich, a TC Williams teacher who has launched the Poetry Out Loud program at the high school.

POETRY CONVERSATIONS

This is a terrific competition that challenges students to memorize and recite poetry. The first winner of the TC competition is Alexis Figueroa Mata who shared two poems, "Zacuanpapalotli" by Brenda Cardenas and "Caged Bird" by Maya Angelou. Her recitations were fluid and deeply moving.

The Arabesque program highlighted the arts and culture of Arab-Americans. I was honored to share poetry there, along with Palestinian poet, Samar Najia.

The beautiful art of contemporary Arab artists is on display at the Durant Arts Cen-



ter on Cameron Street through Jan. 12. This wonderful work is sponsored by the Alexandria Office of the Arts.

In Del Ray, the fabulous Nancy Belmont created another outstand-

ing and moving community art installation called Be The Light. In addition to her cooperative sculpture, she invited artists, to share music and poetry and, yes, light, on one cold evening that lit up Mt. Vernon Avenue. Kate Moran with her beautiful voice, and the young and talented Marian Morton lavished us with their music, and Gina Rollo White shared mindful, light filled words to the gathered group. I contributed the poem below.

Dear Light

Thank you.
Thank you for the way
you paint the sunset
with golds and reds.
For the way you awaken me,
simply by peeking through my window—
Like this morning,
brushing the sky with hues
of cerulean, sapphire, indigo, denim,
sharing secret names for blue,
that, for me, were new and
drew streaks of Renoir
both outside of me
and inside of me.

Thank you for the morning
I crested the hill, and found

the bright, full Frost Moon
waiting like a queen at the top,
deciding she would stay—
no matter
that the sun had already risen.

Thank you for the flames
we light in December,
reminding us of
past and possible miracles.

My wish for you dear Alexandrians is a
2017 filled with poetry and words and art
that bring you fountains of light and love.
You can reach me at
wendi.kaplan@verizon.net.

Wendi R. Kaplan is poet laureate of Alexandria.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

dered district is the root of the problem. This fails to acknowledge a far deeper problem: administrative transfers.

Families zoned for Jefferson-Houston could previously request an administrative transfer to another ACPS school. Through the 2015-2016 school year, a full class of students opted out of Jefferson-Houston.

These were kids from economically advantaged families that could wade through the process and provide private transit to and from school. Less affluent families lacking reliable transportation were effectively excluded from this policy.

After years of administrative transfers schools like Lyles Crouch and Matthew Maury are now over capacity and Jefferson-Houston under. The FARMS rate is out of balance. ACPS has realized its mistake and starting in 2016-2017 it all but stopped administrative transfers. The striking socio-economic imbalance between J-H and other neighboring elementary schools is correcting. ACPS projects that when students districted for J-H attend J-H, the FARMS rate will correct itself. ACPS also projects that expanding the boundaries would overcrowd the school.

Alexandria residents must understand why boundaries did not change for Jefferson-Houston during the redistricting process. The trouble wasn't our boundaries; it was that the boundaries were regularly

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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OPINION

Washington Nationals' Mascot Delivers Meals on Wheels

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS/
OUTREACH
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Last month, an Alexandria Meals on Wheels senior client received his meals from a special volunteer — Washington Nationals mascot President Abe Lincoln. The visit came as part of Meals on Wheels America's nationwide volunteer-recruitment campaign with the Ad Council called "America, Let's Do Lunch," which aims to inspire people of all ages to volunteer their lunch breaks to deliver with Meals on Wheels.

Currently, more than 10 million (1 in 6) seniors face the threat of hunger, and more than 15 million are living alone in isolation. With the senior population projected to double by 2050, Meals on Wheels needs a new generation of volunteers to keep up with the growing need. "We're so excited to partner with Abe, the Nationals and Senior Ser-

vices of Alexandria to bring awareness to senior hunger and isolation in our region," said Susan Waldman, Meals on Wheels America's chief marketing and communications officer. "For many Meals on Wheels clients, the volunteer who will deliver their meal may very well be the only other person they will see or speak to that day. So, the partnership with the Nationals is invaluable to us."

Delivering Meals on Wheels isn't just about nutrition; it's about the moments of human connection that nourish and inspire both the senior and the volunteer. It focuses on caring for individuals whose diminished mobility or resources make it hard to shop for food, prepare meals or stay connected to their community.

"Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA), in partnership with the City of Alexandria's Division of Aging and Adult Services, delivers Meals on Wheels 365 days a year," said Mary Lee Anderson, SSA's executive director. "The program has a great volunteer community, but the program is always looking for new volunteers at all ages."



From left: News Channel 8 Anchor Autria Godfrey; Washington Nationals Mascot-President Abe Lincoln; Susan Waldman, Meals on Wheels America; and MaryAnne Beatty, Senior Services of Alexandria.

For more information about SSA and to volunteer with Meals on Wheels in the City of Alexandria,

visit seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414. For more information about "America, Let's Do Lunch"

go to AmericaLetsDoLunch.org.
* Statistics provided by Meals on Wheels America

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11
bypassed.

This is not a "neighborhood without a voice." We have been heard by Dr. Crawley, ACPS central office, and Jefferson-Houston advocate Veronica Nolan. Our voices have combined to halt administrative transfers. If you

are a parent of a rising kindergartner, your child will enter a Jefferson-Houston that is a representative cross-section of Alexandria thanks to the cooperation of ACPS, our parents, and Ms. Nolan.

Visit J-H and see teachers guiding students through our International Baccalaureate program, enthusiastic kids interacting and learning alongside friends from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Deep and meaningful learning is happen-

ing at Jefferson-Houston. I invite residents who are doubtful to visit the school, and to take another look at the recent data. There is a new narrative at Jefferson-Houston, and it is important that the truth begins to overpower rumors.

Wendy Montes de Oca
Alexandria

Let's Talk To Each Other

To the Editor:

It is 2017 and time for new year's resolutions, or to think about what we resolve to do in the next year. I resolve to be more involved and actually do the things I think

about doing in the community every year, all of which involve talking to other people. Sometimes we don't feel like talking, or making the effort, knowing the level involved in actually achieving a goal. But I am sure once I start I will find it worth it.

When I was at T.C. Williams I started a communications club, and every week we would get together and do exercises that would help us better communicate with people. One exercise was to draw concentric circles, and put your family or closest friends in the center circle, people you talk to once a week in the next circle, once a month in the next, etc. Soon you realized who was in what circle. This year we learned that we don't talk to people outside our own circles enough. Whether we just talk to our friends on Facebook, or those

we see day to day, we know not enough of us reach out to understand people who don't agree with us. I resolve in the new year to do this.

In order to solve problems facing all of us, we need to talk to more people. Maybe it is the people in Northern Virginia talking to the people in Southwest Virginia, through cultural exchanges, or schools setting up sister schools. But maybe it is also people right here in Alexandria who are not the people you talk to everyday. Maybe it is going somewhere different for coffee, or deliberately attending a meeting or community event on a topic you don't know much about. Or when you shop local, go into a shop you don't normally shop at and talk to the owners or employees. I think it

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

is incumbent on all of us, to reach out beyond those that we know will give reassurance we are headed in the right direction, to talk to people who may challenge our perceptions, and teach us something we don't know about ourselves. It will certainly make 2017 more interesting.

Boyd Walker
Alexandria

Focusing On Veterans

To the Editor:

Alexandria is home to a large active duty military, retired, and veteran population along with their families. While difficult to accurately estimate, active duty service members are ever present shopping in our stores, renting properties, buying new homes, and participating in our community's life and livelihood. The surrounding military bases and installations annually transition over 15,000 military service members out of active service to civilian life. When their family members are included in this transition, this number is magnified. It is estimated that over 11 percent of Alexandria's population are veterans. And, at least 240 veteran-owned businesses call Alexandria home.

Alexandria is also home to an array of entities and activities involved in services and support to the military community and veterans. Capitol Post, a model national veteran transition support center located in Old Town, provides a business incubator along with education and counseling services for veterans and their families seeking jobs, starting businesses, and beginning new careers. Importantly, Alexandria's American Legion Post #24 resides in its historic home of Gadsby's

Tavern where it continues its vital engagement with the veteran community. The Military Officers Association of America, National Military Family Association, and the Blinded Veterans Association are based here along with a host of other nonprofit veteran support organizations. Each year we honor veterans at the Rocky Versace memorial, recognize their sacrifices in 9/11 commemorations, and plan to recognize Hidden Heroes — the caregivers who support veterans and Wounded Warriors.

As much as Alexandria is home for veterans and their families, a base of operations for veteran-owned businesses, and transition site for military members moving into civilian life, there is no entity within the city that coordinates and advances the needs, activities, and growth of this remarkable community within our community. Veterans and their families are a key resource to power the city's growth, strengthen the city's neighborhoods, and add their talents to the city's businesses and agencies, public and private. While this progress forward is desirable and possible, it is not inevitable.

We are heartened to see Alexandria's City Council on Dec. 13 unanimously approve the creation of an Ad Hoc Planning Group to develop and formally propose the formation of an Alexandria Veterans Commission. This commission can represent and advance the interests and needs of Alexandria's community of active military members, veterans, their families, and caregivers, and capitalize on the strengths of this unique group of citizens. It can also form, expand, and empower a network of mutually supporting activities serving the common purposes of community engagement, personal growth, and compassionate, caring support.

John R. (Bob) Wood
Lieutenant General (Retired),
US Army

Alexandria
Emily McMahon
Director
Capitol Post
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Doug Gurka
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Frank T. Tobin Jr. P.E.
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American Legion
Mike Faber
Friends of Rocky Versace
Alexandria

Consider Source Of Taxes

To the Editor:

Wealth creation, the font from which all tax revenue flows, was conspicuously missing from the script capably crafted by Kathleen Burns in the Dec. 15 edition of the Gazette-Packet.

Intended to rejuvenate the Democratic Party, Ms. Burns' story line, when distilled of practical steps to make their candidates more appealing, was typical of all Democratic Party nostrums: sincerely spending other people's money for good and worthy things.

Her boldest recommendation: demand low-paying Call Centers return to Virginia. Her worst recommendation: demanding our state government command all privately owned businesses pay a wage arbitrarily set by legislators.

State and local government laws, regulations and meddling reduce business profits and, thereby, reduce tax revenue to spend on good and worthy things.

Jimm Roberts
Alexandria



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ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Tips to Achieve New Year's Resolutions

Advice on setting and reaching goals.

BY RIKKI GEORGE
GAZETTE PACKET

Terry Garret wants to quit smoking. Timothy Noel Castle wants to get in shape. Larry Miller wants to stop procrastinating. And Pat Troy wants to do more for others.

The New Year is here and it naturally inspires people to make resolutions like losing weight, finding a new job and all of the above. Often times, however, people set themselves up for failure. By February, that ambitious plan to lift weights before work becomes no plan at all.

With a little retooling and help from others, New Year's resolutions can be achievable. Here are a few tips from local experts to get started on the right track.

According to Executive Coach Jean Stafford, New Year's resolutions fail because people never go beyond the "wish stage." It is about details. How are you going to lose those 10 pounds?"

Stafford suggests developing a plan based



Alexandria resident Terry Garret. "I really want to quit smoking and lose weight for health

reasons. I just want to be healthier. I've taken the patch and that didn't work."



Retired restaurant owner and parade organizer Pat Troy. "[I always have] New Year's resolu-

tions. The most important thing is health, family and friends. We need to do more for others."



Timothy Noel Castle, formerly of Alexandria, lives in Fairfax. "I've been ... 20 years

without a cigarette.... I want to work on my core with sit-ups and crunches. I go to gym and walk six to 10 miles a day. Your health is more important than all the money in the world."



Larry Miller has been a resident of Alexandria for 52 years. His resolution is to not procrastinate. "I have a tendency to procrastinate," Miller said. He spends two

hours walking a day. He is stress-free. He's been retired for 20 years.

PHOTOS BY RIKKI GEORGE
GAZETTE PACKET

on the model of S.M.A.R.T. goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-based. "Being realistic is key for resolutions," Stafford said. "Be in the realm of possibility."

For board certified clinical hypnotherapist Ruth Ruskin, L.C.S.W., "resolutions are an opportunity to feel good if successful or an opportunity to look at why things are not working. Do you not have the motivation to go to the gym at 5 a.m.? What could be an alternative strategy for you?"

Ruskin suggests breaking a resolution down into steps on a daily or weekly basis

and work them into a schedule. By doing so, tasks become less overwhelming and, more importantly, they become a habit.

Dr. Kristine Erickson, a wellness coach and personal trainer, agrees. Have a vision for the future but start small. Setting up a small, reachable goal will lead to bigger goals and that leads to confidence building and success.

Understanding the emotion behind the resolution is also important, according to stress management expert Dr. Cynthia Ackrill, a physician trained in neuroscience and leadership coaching. Why do you want

to change? And do you have the knowledge to proceed with the resolution? Willpower alone won't get you there, she said.

"It helps to be accountable to someone and not on Facebook," said Ruskin. Identify one or two trusted people — especially someone with similar goals. Together, you become a co-motivating group.

Finally, understand you won't be perfect. It takes a lot of work to change behavior, so "have compassion with yourself when you do this," said Ackrill. If you fail, just start again. As Ruskin said, "The all or nothing approach never gets you to all."

Keeping Resolutions Realistic goals and specific plans among keys to success.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Every January for the last five years Faye Ripke has resolved to lose weight and lead a healthier lifestyle. However, the only thing she has to show for it, she says, is a trail of unused gym memberships and a wardrobe of clothes that have increased in size.

"Both of my parents died from heart attacks," says Ripke, 57 of Fairfax Station. "My doctor keeps telling me that I need to do more aerobic exercise to get my heart rate up every day and drop about 75 pounds."

Losing weight, getting organized, achieving physical fitness and improving one's finances are the most frequently made resolutions, often the guilt-induced responses

to holiday indulgence. According to a study published last month in the Journal of Clinical Psychology, only eight percent of people who make New Year's resolutions keep them and achieve success.

"One reason that many people fail to achieve their goals is that they might not be ready to make the change, even if they would benefit from doing so," said Joel Bitman, a Bethesda-based psychotherapist. "Another reason is that people often set unrealistic goals or don't have a plan to achieve their goals."

Actually wanting to make the change that the resolution would bring about is the first step followed by developing strategies to achieve it. "When you set a goal, say quitting smoking for example, ask yourself whether it's something that you really want

to do or something that you think you should do," said Bitman. "If you're doing it because you think you should or because society is telling you that you should, but the reality is that you really enjoy smoking, it will be much harder, if not impossible, to quit."

While it is easy and often tempting to look at pictures of ultra thin models and resolve to transform one's body by the end of the year, setting unrealistic expectations can sabotage a set of goals, says Alicia Brand, a Falls Church personal trainer.

"Trying to lose 60 pounds in time for a beach vacation during spring break isn't going to happen," he said. "But losing 10 pounds by April is absolutely achievable for most people."

A key to that achievement is creating a

set of concrete goals that are realistic, specific, measurable and include a timetable, says Bittman. "You actually have to make mindset changes and behavioral changes in order to successfully reach a goal, and changes in behaviors are often quite difficult," he said. "But if you are able to make small changes and reach small weekly, daily or even hourly goals, you're more likely to gain confidence to keep going. It's easy to become discouraged and give up."

"If you want to become more fit, but you haven't exercised in years, you might begin by committing to walking 30 minutes a day, three days a week," said Brand. "That is much more realistic than signing up for a gym membership and planning to spend an hour there every day until you've whittled your body down to a size two."

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Bob Polson 703.587.7427
ALEX. / Braddock Heights \$ 774,000 OPEN SUN 1 - 4

2605 CENTRAL AVE 4 bedrooms up. Huge family room with skylights and new sliding glass Anderson door to patio. Also hardwood floors, double-paned windows throughout, fireplace and custom built-ins. Freshly painted inside and out. Fenced flat back yard with new patio.



Mike Manuel 703.615.6317
ALEXANDRIA / Del Ray \$ 839,900

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Mary Taylor 703.785.5619 & Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
ALEXANDRIA / Porto Vecchio #721 \$ 1,150,000

Stunning Potomac River views from every room of this corner 2,035 sq ft residence! Gracious room sizes, high ceilings, wood-burning fireplace, eat-in kitchen, spacious master with ample closets, separate laundry room and outdoor balcony complete this home. Two contiguous garage spaces (1 tandem).



Pia Taylor 301.661.9974
ALEXANDRIA / Westgrove \$ 739,900 OPEN SUN 2 - 4

Located on a quiet street this more than 4,000sf home boasts 4/5 bedrooms including a main level master, 3 full baths, hardwoods, Florida/sunroom, kitchen with breakfast room, 2 wood-burning fireplaces. Updated windows, huge rec room on LL, lots of storage + a whole house generator complete this home.



Michael Lekas 703.927.9895
ALEXANDRIA / Potomac Yard \$ 725,000 OPEN SUN 1 - 4

Better than new condo and just minutes to Braddock Metro! Large end-unit featuring 1,851 sq. ft., 3 spacious bedrooms, 2.5 upgraded baths, stunning kitchen with quartz counters/tile backsplash, wood floors main level, one-car garage plus driveway, low condo fee of \$230 / month.



Peggy Parker 703.928.6227
ALEXANDRIA / New Alexandria \$ 665,000 OPEN SUN 1 - 4

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Looking Ahead

FROM PAGE 1

school,” said Councilwoman Redella “Del” Pepper. “We have to accommodate the number of students we have. We have to work on that. That’s certainly my highest priority, is to accommodate the increased population of the schools. They’re packed.”

Councilman John Chapman agreed that school capacity needed to be the city’s top priority.

“School capacity is on everyone’s mind,” said Chapman. “[We need to see] how we deal with that and how we’re able to stretch the city resources and taxpayer resources within a decent timeframe. School capacity is the number one issue.”

But Vice Mayor Justin Wilson warned that school capacity needs aren’t only going to impact the capital budget, but will include increased costs to the operating side of the budget as the larger schools need more teachers and administrators.

But rising Metro subsidies for Alexandria to pay for repairs and maintenance could play a major part in this year’s budget. On Oct. 30, 2016, Metro General Manager/CEO Paul J. Wiedefeld proposed a \$1.8 billion budget, with a projected \$39 million increase in contributions from Virginia. Alexandria faces a proposed subsidy increase of \$6.5 million, from \$33 million to \$39.5 million.

“The Metro costs are largely operating expenses as well, a real serious deficit,” said Lovain. “They have to pass the hat to local jurisdictions, so that will be a major cost driver. With schools and Metro, those show up in capital but also in operating budget as well.”

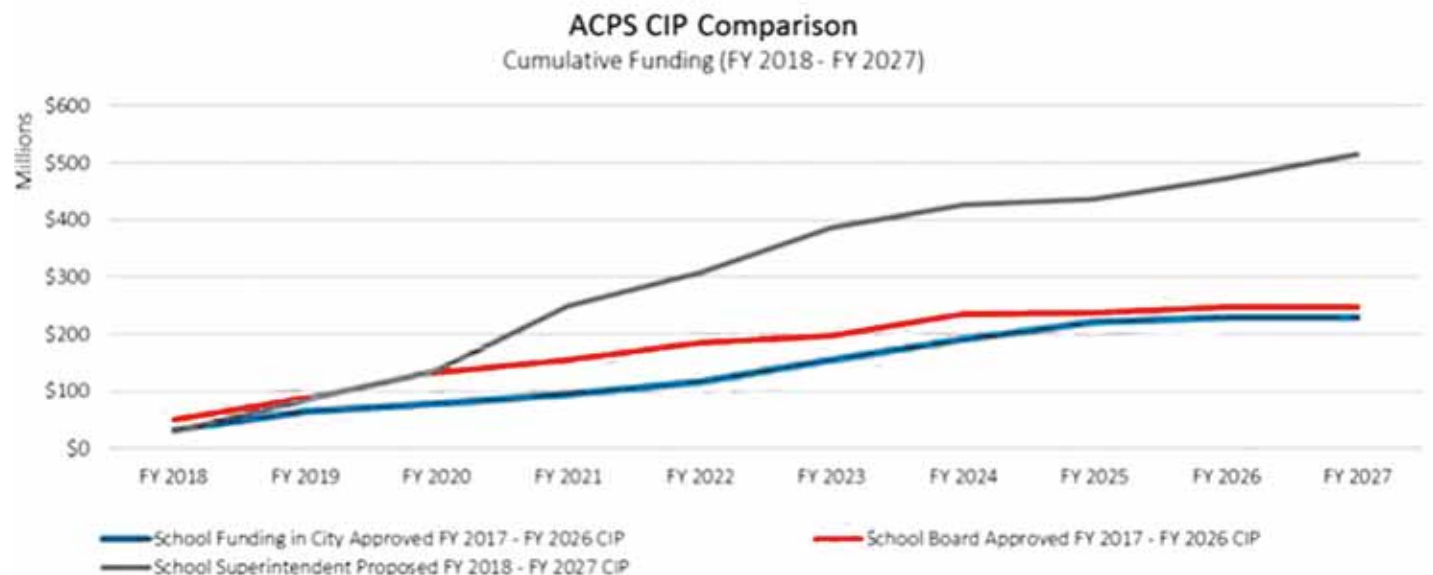
Moving forward, Smedberg said the region is going to have to look at how to deal with funding sustainability for the Metro.

For Mayor Allison Silberberg, “[We have to] push harder for a dedicated revenue stream for WMATA,” said Silberberg, “specifically federal support and a regional sales tax.”

Beyond the budget, Lovain noted that changes to the Metro in Alexandria are underway, even if items are not being brought before the council. In particular, Lovain said work on the Potomac Yard Metro Station are ongoing but aren’t items the council will be voting on.

Finally, for many on the City Council, the city can no longer afford to put off delayed infrastructure investments. An FY 2015 City Facility Condition Assessment found that the average city-owned building scored a Grade C on the facility condition index. Eight, including City Hall, ranked as an F. According to a staff report, bringing these facilities to Grade C would cost \$101 million.

In addition to costly long-term repairs on buildings like City Hall, a state mandate requires the city to begin a retrofit on the local stormwater infrastructure. In addition to a half-cent real estate tax dedication, the stormwater infrastructure retrofit will require an additional 1.2 cents added to the



	FY 2018	FY 2019 – FY 2022	FY 2023 – FY 2027	Total 10Yr CIP
School Board Approved FY 2017 - FY 2026 CIP	51,107,183	134,499,009	61,376,875	291,176,617
School Funding in City Approved FY 2017 - FY 2026 CIP	32,500,000	84,675,000	112,620,000	273,988,551
School Superintendent Proposed FY 2018 - FY 2027 CIP	29,771,241	277,315,579	208,652,835	515,739,655
DELTA (ACPS Proposed CIP minus City Approved School Funding)	(2,728,759)	192,640,579	96,032,835	241,751,104

Alexandria City Public School CIP costs continue to rise to deal with enrollment growth related capacity needs.



Despite improvements, affordable housing supply in Alexandria cannot keep up with the city’s demand.

real estate tax rate or \$4.6 million in funding for the FY 2018 budget.

“The biggest priority is how we address deferred infrastructure work and the deferred capital maintenance,” said Wilson. “For us, that’s going to be dealing with school capacity, sewer, municipal buildings; the whole collection. These are capital investment we’ve deferred for far too long.”

Behind those three priorities, Silberberg and others on the council said the city will also need to focus on pedestrian-related issues in Alexandria.

“We need to focus on public safety in terms of speed and stop sign enforcement,”

said Silberberg, “and [we need to look at] lowering speed limits on certain streets to 25 or 30 miles per hour.”

In the middle of budget season, Chapman noted that pedestrian safety will be one policy issue that continues to be discussed in early 2017.

“We haven’t heard the last on pedestrian safety,” said Chapman. “That’s going to be a big topic we have to tackle. Once winter season is gone, more people will be out and walking, there will be more interaction and I think pedestrian safety is going to come up as a bigger issue in the spring. In the spring, hopefully we can make a real dif-

ference on the pedestrian safety issue We have allowed people to drive however they want without real consequence. I think some decisions we made in terms of code change will hopefully help get people to understand how necessary it is for them to yield. Hopefully as we go forward, talk more to state legislature about what we want to see in terms of help they can provide.”

In addition to pedestrian safety, several on the council cited affordable housing as a large issue just below the big three for the FY2018 budget.

“We also need to maintain our public

SEE LOOKING AHEAD, PAGE 22

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

3 Ways To Bust New Year's Resolutions

**Diet got you down?
Here are some places
to break free.**

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Fess up — you're not even a week into the New Year and already your diet has become bland and boring. Here are three Alexandria restaurants where you can give into temptation once and for all.

Lavender Moon Cupcakery, 116 S. Royal St.

Life is short — better have a cupcake. And Lavender Moon, indisputably one of the city's best cupcake shops, offers up its wares in spades. From traditional flavors such as takes on vanilla and chocolate to adventurous combinations such as Irish whiskey coffee cake and, a recent favorite for New Year's Eve, strawberries and champagne, this bakery has you covered. But you'd better hustle — once they've sold out for the day, the doors are locked and you're out of luck.

It's easy to get overwhelmed while standing face-to-face with a veritable buffet of sweet treats, but you can't go wrong with blood orange dreamsicle — a cakey version of the summertime frozen dessert, teeming with orange flavor and boasting a smooth, moist cake. Or for a campfire favorite brought back into the city, pick up a s'mores cupcake, with all the chocolately, marshmal-



PHOTO BY HOPE NELSON/GAZETTE PACKET

BurgerFi sports quite a few offerings that are poised to break dietary resolutions.

low flavors of the original. In fact, go ahead and pick up a few — they'll keep for later.

Carluccio's, 100 King St.

Admittedly, there's nothing in the culinary landscape so satisfying as the carby good-

ness of pasta. And at Carluccio's, which has quickly become a mainstay in Alexandria's Italian-food scene, the possibilities are seemingly endless. From a variety of antipasti sharing boards to start one's meal (preferably with a gaggle of compatriots)

to a plethora of pasta options for dinner to a sweet treat to finish up the evening, the restaurant has everything you need to carb-load for the days ahead.

Coming in with a crowd? The family-style Trio de Pasta might hit the spot. Choose three pasta entrees from the menu — perhaps a spaghetti con polpette (meatballs), pasta con funghi (mushrooms), and the agnolotti (pasta filled with burrata cheese and spices) — and get ready to break bread with the table. Don't feel like sharing? Try the risotto of the day for one — and if the mushroom variety is on the menu, order it at once.

BurgerFi, 111 N. Pitt St.

Nothing busts the dietary budget quite as quickly as a hearty burger, that's for sure. And BurgerFi — a relative newcomer to the neighborhood — has just what the doctor ordered (so to speak) to delve into a caloric heyday.

When perusing the menu, there's really only one deep end to dive in — the Breakfast All Day (aka BAD) Burger. A patty topped with a fried egg, hash browns, cheese, grilled onions, maple syrup, and ketchup, it will make you forget about your rice cake in mere seconds. And vegetarians aren't left out, either — the slightly more healthy Veggie burger is waiting in the wings for just such an occasion. Grab some onion rings or fries on the side, and you'll be back to your old ways in no time.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

"Fully Committed" at MetroStage.

Through Jan. 8, various times at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Tom Story plays a restaurant reservationist, juggling phones, personalities and pandemonium with the dexterity of a Cirque du Soleil contortionist. \$55-\$60 703-548-9044 www.metrostage.org

Art Exhibit: Color Disorder.

Through Jan. 8 at Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Katie Baines and Amy Chan's acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print work on display. Sat., Nov. 13, 4-6 p.m. is opening reception. 703-548-0035, nvfaa.org.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery:

"Geometry Glitz." Through Jan. 8, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. 2016. In this show, our artists have the sparkle and shine of the holidays for inspiration, with an additional focus on geometry. Explorations may focus

on points, lines, and other flat shapes, such as circles and triangles, or 3-dimensional shapes, such as spheres and cubes. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Bagels and Bach Concert Series Returns.

Through Jan. 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Enjoy classical music from Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association's Youth Orchestras while eating a light brunch. Advance registration: resident \$10/Nonresident \$15. Children under 5 years old are free. For more information, contact Cheryl Ann Colton at 703-746-5565 or email cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov

American Arabesque Art Exhibition.

Through Jan. 12, 5-10 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. An art exhibition by contemporary local Arab Americans and Arab artists. Free curator tours on Jan. 5 and 6 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 703-746-5565

DASHing Words in Motion.

Through Feb. 1, The City of Alexandria Office of the Arts and the Alexandria Transit Company have joined forces to host a poetry contest "DASHing Words in Motion." Possible inspirational ideas might stem from the Alexandria Transit Company's DASH buses motto which is "Keep Alexandria Moving," or bus stops, neighborhoods, roads,

or other modes of transportation within the City of Alexandria. www.alexandriava.gov/Arts, email at poet@alexandriava.gov, or by phone at 703-746-5565.

Multiple Exposures Gallery.

Through Feb. 12 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, #312, 105 North Union St. Colleen Henderson's A Study in Contrasts, and Sandy Lebrun-Evan's McDowell County, WVA. Artist reception is Jan. 14, 2-4 p.m. www.multipleexposuresgallery.com

Making as Meditation with Kathryn Coneway.

Second Wednesday of each month, 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. Children able to participate in silence are welcome to come with a parent's quiet supervision. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Email info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org.

New Frontiers in Textile Art

through Jan. 15 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. a new exhibition in Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the, turns an eye toward the

future of textile art. Public reception: Thursday, Dec. 8, 6-8 p.m.; Juror's Talk at 7 p.m.

Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.

Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit www.dcmilitarytour.com for more.

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History.

Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org for more.

Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit.

Ongoing at the

Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/fortward for more.

Alexandria's Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War.

Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama "Mercy Street," with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum for more.

"Ancient Art of Movement."

1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations.

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ENTERTAINMENT



Acoustic Music Live

Acoustic artists **Friction Farm** and **Michael Bowers & Siobhan Quinn** will perform **Sunday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Tickets are \$18/\$15 for advance sales and members, contact herb@focusmusic.org or 703-380-3151.**

First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

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

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

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

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

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

Dinner for the Washingtons. 12 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m.

(8 a.m. November through March), is free, requires no reservation and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

Doggy Happy Hour. Starting April 5, Tuesdays through October 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20 and Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Doggy Happy Hour at Jackson 20 and the Hotel Monaco Alexandria offers specials on cocktails and beers plus treats and water for canine companions. Free, but drinks sold separately. Visit www.monaco-alexandria.com for more.

Baseball Boat to Nationals Park. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. The Potomac Riverboat Company offers baseball enthusiasts the chance to avoid the crowds and take a leisurely cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Nationals Park along the scenic Potomac River. Admission: one-way \$20; round-trip \$25 Monday-Thursday; round-trip \$28 Friday-Sunday. Visit www.baseballboat.com for more.

Wake Up Wednesdays featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday's near the King Street Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located near 2000 Duke Street near Motley Fool. The cafe will feature coffee, live music to help commuters start the day off right and donuts from Sugar Shack. maurisapotts@gmail.com

CAMPS, CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

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

Community Yoga. Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Suite 100. No experience required to participate in

weekly community class. Suggested \$10 donation. Visit www.532yoga.com.

THROUGH JAN. 6

Mount Vernon Holiday Tours. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Tour the Mansion, watch historic chocolate-making demonstrations, and meet Aladdin the Camel. Join daily "Camel Talks" and learn more about the rare animals at George Washington's home during the holiday season. Hear from costumed friends and family of the Washingtons tell stories of Christmas traditions of the past. Mount Vernon is open every day of the year, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day. 703-799-5203 or www.mountvernon.org. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free.

Holiday Ornament Making. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. On select weekends, make a Mount Vernon holiday wooden ornament. For children ages 5-10, accompanied by an adult. Included in admission. Supplies limited. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free.

Holiday Teddy Bear Teas. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. On select weekends, bring a favorite stuffed animal friend to have "tea" with "Lady Washington." This special experience will also include a hands-on seasonal activity. For ages 4-11, accompanied by an adult. Refreshments provided. \$5 in addition to general admission. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free. 703-799-5203 or www.mountvernon.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 5

Cuban Cruise Informational Meeting. 5-6:30 p.m. at Carr Workplaces, 500 Montgomery St., Suite 400. The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce for a four-day trip to Cuba. sbolouri@alexchamber.com

FRIDAY/JAN. 6

The Cecilian Players, Blessed Sacrament's Chamber Ensemble. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. The concert is free but contributions to support the concerts are welcome. jmccrary@blessedsacramentcc.org or 703-998-6100 x 103

Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South

ENTERTAINMENT

Pitt St. Grant Hellmers, organist-choirmaster, will direct the Adult Choir in a Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany. Music by Ayleward, Stanford, Archer, Palestrina will be featured. The Three Wise Men will appear at this service. 703-549-3312, grant@stpaulsalexandria.com

Free Acapella Concert. 7-8:30 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. The seven woman acapella choir had the honor to spread the light of the Lucia Winter Solstice tradition. The tradition is a combination of the Italian Saint Lucy and the old Scandinavian legends of the evil spirits of 13th of December and is one of Sweden's most cherished traditions. Free. 703-746-4554

JAN. 6-29

Simply Abstract” Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Features local area artists' expressions of abstract art using shape, form, color, and line in 2- and 3-dimensional work. Artists tossed their colors and media in the air to release their inner energy in this display of artwork. Opening Reception: Friday, Jan. 6, 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 6-7

ROAM Winterfest. 8:30-11:30 a.m. at 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. The shows will be a benefit for Rose Cruz's family; Cruz was a local Alexandria who was fatally injured when she was hit by a car. www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500

SATURDAY/JAN. 7

Nowell Sing We. 7-9 p.m. at the St Mary Catholic Church Lyceum, 313 Duke St. Alkemie Medieval Music Ensemble will present a concert of Medieval and Renaissance vocal music for three sopranos and vielles (medieval fiddles) and instrumental dances in celebration of Epiphany. stover.michael@gmail.com 202-966-7298 www.alkemie.org

Parade of Plants. 10-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Look at the history of the Rose Parade, see close-up photos of the floats and go on a walk in the gardens to collect plant materials. Afterwards make a wintery decoration from natural materials in the tradition of the floats. \$6 Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 2901813501 or call 703-642-5173.

Zombie Drama Camp Registration. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the West Potomac Theatre Department, 6500 Quander Road. Open to students 3rd-8th grades. www.westpotomactheatre.org

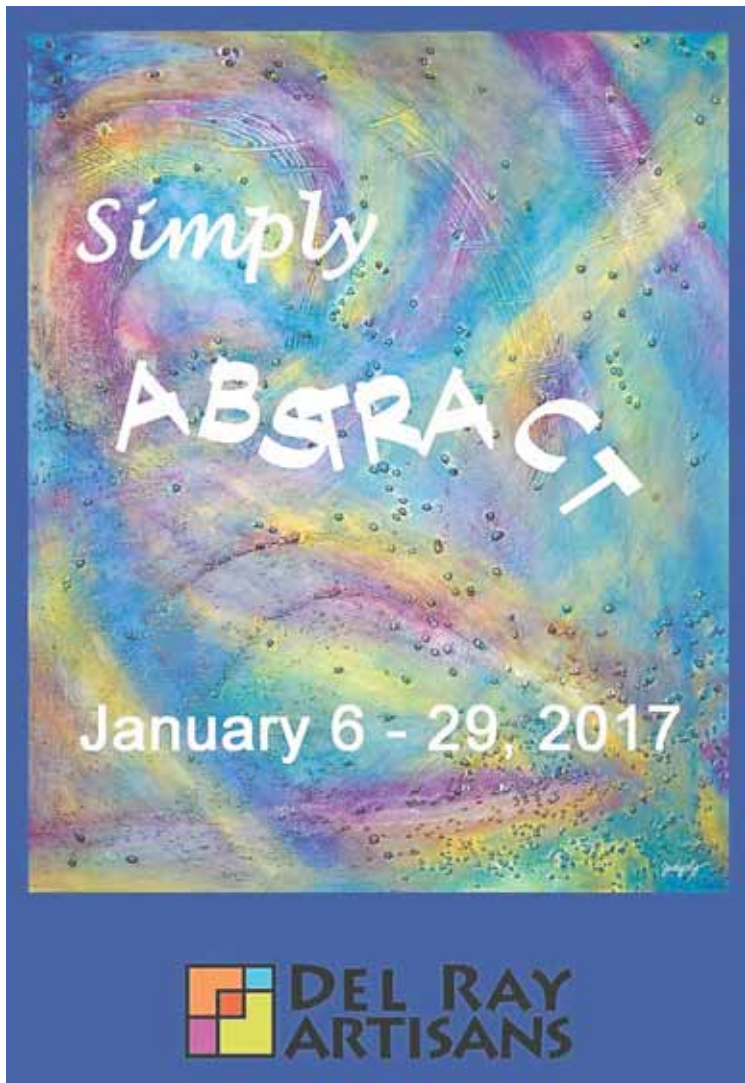
SUNDAY/JAN. 8

Art Show and Reception. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Reception for the Vienna Arts Society show at the Horticulture Center and Historic House from Dec. 20-Feb. 19. Free. 703-642-5173

FocusMusic Concert. 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. FocusMusic presents folk and acoustic artists Friction Farm and Michael Bowers & Siobhan Quinn. \$18/\$15 for advance sales and members herb@focusmusic.org 703-380-3151

MONDAY/JAN. 9

Yoga for Gardeners 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. This class features an introduction to the



Vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. Register \$91 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 2901262401 or call 703-642-5173

Garden Sprouts: Nature Playgroup 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Preschooler do nature-themed activities while other playgroup parents can meet one Monday a month. \$6 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 2901028701 or call 703-642-5173

JAN. 9-20

Christmas Tree Recycling. Residents who receive city refuse collection may place Christmas trees at the curb for recycling on their regular trash collection day, beginning Monday, Jan. 9, through Friday, Jan. 22. Remove stands, lights, and decorations from trees. See alexandriava.gov/YardWaste.

TUESDAY/JAN. 10

NVCC Community Chorus invitation. Rehearsals start for all interested singers to join for the spring 2017 season. No audition is required. Join by registering for this one-credit class at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus. Rehearsals are 7 p.m. on Tuesdays at the NVCC Alexandria campus, 3001 N. Beauregard, with some optional extra Saturday morning rehearsals. The college waives tuition for seniors 60 and older. Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, 703-845-6097 mwhitmire@nvcc.edu

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/JAN. 11-12

Musical Comedian Stephen Lynch. 7:30 p.m. at the The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. \$25.

www.birchmere.com

JAN. 11-MARCH 1

Jitterbug/Lindy Hop classes. 7-9 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. In the beginner class, learn the three footwork patterns that are the basis of all forms of swing dancing: six-count, eight-count Lindy Whip and Circle, and Charleston. The intermediate class builds upon the foundation to help develop a vocabulary of dance moves that are easy to use on the social dance floor. www.gottaswing.com

THURSDAY/JAN. 12

Veterans Curation Program Meet and Greet. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Alexandria Laboratory, 816 N. Saint Asaph St. Tour the facility and meet the new group of laboratory technicians and learn about the progress made over the past six and half years. 571-312-4717 or www.VeteransCurationProgram.org

“The Hidden World of Food in the Civil War.” 7:30 p.m. at the Lecture Hall of The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. \$10 per person and may be purchased in advance at The Lyceum or by going to shop.alexandriava.gov. Reservations are required, space is limited. alexandriava.gov/Lyceum.

SATURDAY/JAN. 14

Movie Night at Del Ray Artisans. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Featuring “Pollock.” Learn about the life and work of 20th century artist Jackson Pollock. DelRayArtisans.org/event/pollock-movie

Stuff the Bus Food Drive for UCM. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Shoppers at Mount Vernon Plaza, 7660 Richmond Highway. Annual food drive hosted by Fairfax County Government and

“Simply Abstract,” art exhibit (Jan. 6-29) at Del Ray Artisans, is an exploration of abstract compositions using shape, form, color, and line by local area artists. Opening Reception: Friday, Jan. 6, 7-9 p.m. DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

MTV Transportation to stock United Community Ministries food pantry. List of most need items at www.ucmagency.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 17

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast. 7:30-9 a.m. at Carluccio's, 100 King St. Focus on roundtable power networking and giving attendees the chance to exchange business cards, develop new prospects, and share a 60-second commercial with each table. Members \$35, Non-Members \$50, Members at the Door \$40. www.alexchamber.com

SATURDAY/JAN. 21

Family Owl Outing at Huntley Meadows. 4:30-6 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Discover the secret world of owls and learn what makes these raptors excellent predators of the night. After the presentation, hike the trail at Huntley and hopefully hear or spot one of the park's resident owls. \$7. 703-768-2525 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/.

TUESDAY/JAN. 24

Homeschool Program: Firefighting Technology. 1-2:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse, 107 S. Alfred St. See how fire-fighting technology has evolved and test the scientific concepts behind how the historic equipment worked. Tickets are \$8 per child, adults free. Pre-registration is required. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 25

Dyke Marsh Walk 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Dyke Marsh, 6401 George Washington Memorial Pkwy. Join

leader Tom Nardone to scan the river for waterfowl and enjoy a walk through the marsh and woodland areas. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Bird Club. www.nvabc.org/

Volunteer Alexandria Open House. 4-7 p.m. at 123 North Alfred St., 1st floor board room. Meet friends and learn how to get engaged in the community. Visit www.volunteerallexandria.org

Iconography: Prayer in Images. 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Learn how to read the symbolism in this art form and how icons are used in Orthodox Christian churches and homes with Laura Clerici. 703-360-4220

THURSDAY/JAN. 26

Songwriter Scott Miller and Mac McAnnally in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. 703-549-7500 or www.birchmere.com

SATURDAY/JAN. 28

“Hands on: Collaborate Abstractly” 2-3:30 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Workshop students partner up to create abstract art. DelRayArtisans.org/event/hands-on

Chairman's Voyage: To Boldly Go.... 7 p.m.at Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, 2834 Duke St. Hear the future of the City of Alexandria and welcome our new Board Chair Dak Hardwick and celebrate the possibilities to come. 703-549-1000 info@alexchamber.com

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

Marine Chamber Orchestra Plays Water Music. 2 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. Music by George Frideric Handel, Ned Rorem and John Knowles Paine. 703-845-6156 or www.schlesingercenter.com

MONDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 30-FEB. 5

Restaurant Week. Participating restaurants offer multi-course \$35 dinner, \$22 lunch, and – for the first time - \$22 brunch menus, exclusively available during Restaurant Week. www.rwdmv.com

TUESDAY/FEB. 7

Iconography: Prayer in Images. 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Learn how to read the symbolism in this art form and how icons are used in Orthodox Christian churches and homes with Laura Clerici. 703-360-4220

FEB. 7-MARCH 19

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Torpedo Factory, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. Cosmic Sights and Sounds, comes as the winter night sky's grand collection of brilliant stars begins to give way to the vernal equinox. This show will also highlight the work of featured artists Carol Bodin, Mickey Kunkle, and Lynda Prioleau. www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com

TUESDAY/FEB. 14

Submission Deadline. 2017 Needlework Show & Sale mail-in entries: Jan. 11-Feb. 14; walk-in entries: Feb. 12-14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Looking for needlework pieces that showcase many techniques in both traditional and contemporary designs. woodlawnevents@savingplaces.org

SCHOOLS

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

Kristen Folkerts, of Alexandria, has been named to the dean's list at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities (Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn.) for the spring 2016 semester.

John Mulberger, of Alexandria, has been named to the Fairleigh Dickinson University (Madison, Nj.) dean's list for the spring 2016 semester.

Richard Millard, of Alexandria, graduated from Lafayette College (Easton, Pa.), earning a Bachelor of Arts in government and law.

Mohanad Kurdi, of Alexandria, was named to the spring 2016 dean's list at the University of Findlay (Findlay, Ohio).

Uzair Ahmed and **Tarana Malhotra**, both of Alexandria, have been awarded the Virginia Tech Pamplin Leadership Award through the Honors College for the 2016-17 academic year. Ahmed will be majoring in general engineering. Malhotra will be majoring in business information technology.

Lindsay Sopko, of Alexandria, has been named to the honors list at Mary Baldwin College (Staunton, Va.) for the spring 2016 semester.

Shantelle Jennings of Alexandria, has been named to the honors list at Mary Baldwin College (Staunton, Va.) for the spring 2016 semester.

Alexandria resident **Stacie Fox**, a master's student in the Global Field Program from Miami University's Project Dragonfly, traveled to Belize to study coral reefs, manatees, howler monkeys, jaguars and other wildlife while learning methods communities are using to sustain them.

Sarah Laane, of Alexandria, was named to the Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) spring 2016 president's list.

Brandon Streicher, of Alexandria, has been named to The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh dean's list for the spring 2016 semester.

John Williams, of Alexandria, graduated from St. Olaf College. Williams, the son of Marcus and Nancy, earned a degree in English.

Claire Malkie, of Alexandria, has been named to the Hofstra University (Hempstead, N.Y.) dean's list for the spring 2016 semester.

Megan Jackson, of Alexandria, has earned honor roll distinction at the University of Kansas for the spring 2016 semester.

Bilen Haile, an Alexandria resident and accounting major, has been named to the dean's list at Columbus State Community College (Columbus, Ohio) for the spring 2016 semester.

Hriday Kamshatti, of Alexandria, has earned Faculty Honors at the Georgia Institute of Technology for the spring 2016 semester.

Thomas Lincoln Enloe and **Emily Hutcheson**, both of Alexandria, earned honors list recognition at the Missouri University of Science and Technology for spring 2016 semester. Hutcheson is studying engineering. Enloe is studying mechanical engineering.



Toy Drive

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Middle School students, faculty, and staff collected 250 toys for the Fairfax Fire & Rescue annual toy drive. SSSAS partners with them each year.

Thomas Lincoln and **Christopher Wayne**, both of Alexandria, have graduated from Missouri S&T (Rolla, Mo.). Lincoln graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering. Wayne received a Master of Science in engineering management.

Haley Cooper and **Bianka Michalski**, both of Alexandria, graduated from The College of Wooster (Wooster, Ohio). Michalski received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. Cooper graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in anthropology.

Meghan Meehan, of Alexandria, was named to the Merrimack College (North Andover, Ma.) dean's list for the spring 2016 semester.

Henry Scherck, of Alexandria, graduated from Union College (Schenectady, N.Y.) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and classics, summa cum laude.

Gabriel Verde, of Alexandria, received a diploma from Averett University. Verde graduated cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in aerospace management: flight operations.

Tess Pascua and **Joseph Hardcastle** received degrees from Boston University (Boston, Mass.).

Jonathan Romero, **Robert Banez**, and **Marisa Righi**, all of Alexandria, graduated Cum Laude from James Madison University (Harrison, Va.).

Theodora Beschel, of Alexandria, was named to dean's list for spring 2016 semester at Wheaton College (Wheaton, Ill.).

Claire Gaffney, of Alexandria, has been named to the dean's list in the University of Notre Dame's (Notre Dame, Ind.) College of Engineering for the spring 2016 semester.



Advances to Playoffs

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School "It's Academic" team appeared on the television quiz program on Saturday, Dec. 10 and advanced to the playoffs. Seniors Sam Dubke, Jessica Edwards, and Sterling Gilliam, coached by Upper School Art History Teacher Kara Sandoval and Upper School English Teacher Dr. Roberta Klein, competed against W.T. Woodson and Washington-Lee high schools. The playoff round will air sometime in February on NBC4 Washington.

Maggie Cole, of Alexandria, was named to dean's list for spring 2016 in the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, Wis.).

Nathan Sullivan, of Alexandria, received a Master of Science in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta, GA).

Heather Pearson, of Alexandria, made the dean's list for the spring semester at Susquehanna University (Selinsgrove, Pa.).

Nicholas Campbell, of Alexandria, received Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Worcester, Mass.).

Maura Newell, of Alexandria, made dean's list for the spring semester at Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame, Ind.).

Julia Hrechka and **Belen Rogers**, of Alexandria, made dean's list for the spring semester at Mount St. Mary's University (Emmitsburg, Md.).

Dawit Tsigie, of Alexandria, graduated from Cornell College (Mount Vernon, Iowa) with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

Cody Brooks, of Alexandria, received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Marist College (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.).

Danielle Audrey Ann Primeau, of Alexandria, was named to spring 2016 dean's list at the University of Rhode Island (Kingston, R.I.).

Shuaib Kamara, of Alexandria, received a Bachelor of Science in sport management from Davis & Elkins College (Elkins, W.Va.).

Kenny Vasconcelos, of Alexandria, graduated from the University of San Diego. Vasconcelos earned a bachelor's degree in finance.

Cullen Scheland, of Alexandria, has been honored by Lafayette College (Easton, Pa.) for academic excellence. Scheland received the Rexroth Prize in German - Culture/Literature Studies Award, as well as the Arthur Montgomery Geology Award.

Fiona Carroll, of Alexandria, was named to spring 2016 dean's list at Stonehill College (Easton, Mass.). Carroll is majoring in political science and international studies.

Genevieve C. Francis, of Alexandria, graduated from the University of Scranton (Scranton, Pa.). Francis earned a Bachelor of Science in health sciences.

Kiran Easterbrook, of Alexandria, was named to the Dean College (Franklin, Mass.) dean's list for the spring 2016 semester.

Grace Webber, of Alexandria, was named to the dean's list at William Jewell College (Liberty, Mo.) for the spring 2016 semester.

Daniel Luc Burns, of Alexandria, earned a bachelor's degree in government from Connecticut College (New London, Conn.) in May 2016.

These Alexandria residents were named to the Virginia Military Institute dean's list for the spring semester of 2016:

❖ **Maxwell L. Cormier** is a recent graduate who majored in civil engineering. Cormier's parents are Dwayne P Cormier and Tiffany Lea Cormier.

❖ **Patrick K. Piedad** is a recent graduate who majored in physics. Piedad's parent is Maria A Madrigal.

❖ **Marcel D. Ward** is a recent graduate who majored in mechanical engineering. Ward's parent is Marit Heijink.

❖ **Edward L. Wilkinson Jr.** is a recent graduate who majored in history. Wilkinson's parent is Edward L Wilkinson.

❖ **Mason S. Malone** is a senior majoring in mechanical engineering. Malone's parents are Gale A. Malone and Col. Marvin S Malone.

❖ **Patrick W. Doolin** is a junior majoring in history. Doolin's parents are Capt. and Mrs. Joel A Doolin (ret.).

❖ **Conrad W. Jenne** is a junior majoring in applied mathematics. Jenne's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Kirk E Jenne.

❖ **William O. Woodward Jr.** is a junior majoring in history. Woodward's parents are Capt. and Mrs. William O Woodward Sr.

❖ **Haotian Xia** is a junior majoring in international studies and modern languages and cultures. Xia's parents are Mr. and Mrs. John Petitto.

❖ **Thomas A. Nicholson** is a sophomore majoring in biology. Nicholson's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Carl W Nicholson.

Michael Savoy, of Alexandria, received Associate of Arts degree from Barton Community College (Great Bend, Kan.) in the spring semester of 2016.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

32 Lost

32 Lost

Obituary



MEDICO, Frank (age 92). Born in South Braintree Massachusetts and resided in Mt. Vernon, VA for 52 years died on Friday December 30, 2016. He exemplified care, love and a person who always placed helping and concern for others first.

He is survived by his adult daughters Jane and Patricia Medico, son Fred Medico, Daughter-in-law Susan Medico, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Friends may visit at the **DEMAINE FUNERAL HOME**, 520 S. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314 where the family will be present on Sunday January 8th from 2PM to 5PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Monday January 9th at 10A.M. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 310 S. Royal St., Alexandria, VA 22314 with Interment to follow at Quantico National Cemetery at 1:00pm. In Lieu of flowers contributions may be made to St. Jude children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105 or Shriners Hospital for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Dr. Tampa FL 33607.

OBITUARY



Mrs. Mary Nell ("Nellie") Thomas Lawrence, wife of Fred and mother of Eric and Chris, passed away in the early morning of Wednesday, the 21st of December 2016 in Alexandria, Va. She was seventy-four.

Nellie was born in Houston, Texas on the 8th of December 1942, to Marcus Wray and Martha Elizabeth Hutchins Thomas. She graduated in 1961 from Lamar High School in Houston and matriculated at Southern Methodist University. After marriage, she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Education and History in 1965 at LSU-New Orleans.

Nellie and Fred met on a blind date in 1959 and quickly became high school sweethearts. Their life long journey of enduring love was cemented when they were married in Houston, Texas on the 25th of July 1964. The couple moved to New Orleans where her two sons, Eric and Chris were born. She provided unwavering support and guidance for her family as they moved to McLean, Va., Denver, Co., and finally Alexandria, Va.

Nellie had two passions in life: the unconditional love of her family and a deep intellectual curiosity for lifelong learning and education. Nellie was a certified elementary teacher, a G.E.D coordinator and a docent at the Woodlawn Plantation, Frank Lloyd Wright Pope-Leighey House and the National Portrait Gallery. Always the active learner and volunteer, she was a compulsive reader and was involved with several organizations including P.E.O. International - Chapter J, Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Smithsonian programs, and OSHER Lifelong Learning. Regularly attending plays, concerts, operas and exhibits, she also loved hiking, backpacking, fishing and skiing in the Rocky Mountains and Blue Ridge Mountains. Travel to historic or scenic sights and towns occupied many extended weekends

Nellie is survived by her husband of fifty-two years, John Frederick; sons, John Eric and his wife Patricia Thompson Lawrence, and Christopher Alan and his wife Catherine Ann Sheeler Lawrence; and her six loving grandchildren Sadie Oxford Lawrence, John Patrick Lawrence, Beaumont Cunningham Lawrence, Christina Elizabeth Lawrence, John Thomas Lawrence and Mary Caroline Lawrence. She is also survived by her brothers Marcus and Robert Hutchins Thomas along with sister-in-law Lynda Sims Lawrence and nephews Father Robert and Michael Graham Lawrence, and James Thomas.

A memorial service for friends and family will be held at eleven o'clock in the morning on Wednesday, the 28th of December in the Chapel of the Demaine Funeral Home, 520 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Immediately following, all are invited to join the family at a reception at the same location.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions in Nellie's memory be directed to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Smithsonian Institution Campaign, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, or the charity of one's choice.

Obituary



John W. Trumbo, 89, passed away on December 29th, 2016 in Columbia, South Carolina. He was born on September 26, 1927 in Washington, D.C. to Alice Jane Holder and George Thomas Trumbo, and grew up in Arlington and Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Richmond and the Virginia Military Institute, Class of 1948A. He served two terms in the armed forces from 1948-1953 as a First Lieutenant.

John met his beloved wife Barbara Jean Pryse in Washington, D.C., and they married in 1949. He was dedicated to his family and church. He was a deacon and Sunday School teacher for more than 50 years, first at Plymouth Haven Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia and then at Stuarts Draft Baptist Church. He owned and operated an IGA grocery store in Alexandria and then in Stuarts Draft.

He will be greatly missed by his wife of 67 years, his daughter Anne (Erick), son Steve (Sue), grandsons David (Shannon), Andrew, Matthew, Keith, Will and Nathan, and great-grandchildren Gavin and Blakeley. He was predeceased by his son George Thomas Trumbo II, sister Mary Edna Ritchie, and brother Robert Holder Trumbo.

A memorial service to celebrate John's life will be held at Stuarts Draft Baptist Church, 2517 Stuarts Draft Hwy., Stuarts Draft, VA on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 3 p.m. There will be a graveside service for the family on Monday, January 9, 2017 at Fairview Cemetery, Culpeper, Virginia at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in John's name to the George Thomas Trumbo Scholarship at VMI, P.O. Box 932, Lexington VA 24450.

Condolences may be given at clore-english.com Arrangements have been entrusted to Clore-English Funeral Home, 11190 James Monroe Highway, Culpeper, Virginia.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

CITATION
G.L.c. 210, 6

DOCKET NO.
NO16A0067AD

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court**

In the matter of Brandon Alexander Aguirre

To:
Rosbin Aguirre, last known of Alexandria, in the State of Virginia
A petition has been presented to said court by:
Cynthia O'Grady of Stoughton, MA

Joshua O'Grady of Stoughton, MA
requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Brandon Alexander O'Grady

Norfolk Probate and Family Court
35 Shawmut Road
Canton, MA 02021
781-830-1200

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are in indigent person. An indigent person is defined by the SJC Rule 3:10 The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT:

Canton

ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00AM) ON:

3/29/2017
WITNESS, Hon. John D. Casey, First Justice of this Court
December, 23, 2016

The biggest things are always
the easiest to do because there
is no competition.
-William Van Horne

Missing Yorkshire



Trimmed, 8 Yrs, "Maui"
female neuter, red and green
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Do not chase. Has chip.
Sighted eve 30 Dec.
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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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

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The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection
Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
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EMPLOYMENT

Looking Ahead

FROM PAGE 16

health and social [programs] given that the state and federal levels [seem to] be pulling back," said Smedberg. "We also have to maintain funding for affordable housing. We need to figure out how to make that sustainable. Those are issues that are right beneath the surface, but they're still big issues. For some people, those are the main issues."

Across the dais, Councilman Willie Bailey is one for whom affordable housing is a top priority for the city.

"A lot of folks don't think about the big picture on [affordable housing]," said Bailey. "The affordable housing is the root cause for a lot of issues for residents. Even the children's advocacy organizations pick affordable housing as a key issue. The past year has been pretty good. We've been doing a good job finding ways to provide more affordable housing, [the redeveloped] Carpenter Shelter being one. I don't think we'll ever get back to having as many as we did, but every little bit helps. We need to think outside the box."

As Alexandria deals with local budget issues, city councilors are also keeping a wary eye turned towards Washington.

"We need to keep a watchful eye on how federal levels will affect the locality," said Pepper. "I'm worried what [Trump's] priorities are and how that will impact the country, particularly Alexandria."

As the local budget continues to swell and assistance from the state and federal governments seems less and less likely, some on the council said the city is going to need to take a look at a major long term economic shift for Alexandria.

"We need to look at handling economic transition, particularly with changes in Washington," said Wilson. "Have to redouble our efforts to build an economy that's less dependent on federal spending. We're going to see dramatic change in the federal government. Whether you agree or not is irrelevant, it's a big impact on our region. We have to build on our focus areas. We have clusters of life-sciences and innovation sprouting out of National Science Foundation and PTO. I think that's an area we can build on."

"With vacant commercial properties ... a lot of times we want anyone in these spaces, but we also have to be strategic about it and build on what's been successful," said Wilson. "In some areas, have to ask 'will that office demand ever come back?'"

But in the short term, it's clear some city departments and needs will be harder hit than others. As far as what budget items will suffer cuts, Smedberg said he would need to wait to see what the city manager proposes.

"[After the budgets] from the last four or five years, there's not much fat left in these departments," said Smedberg. "I know it doesn't look like it, but we've done a lot of trimming."

"We're not going to be able to make everybody happy," said Bailey, "but we were elected to make hard decisions."

ELECTRICAL

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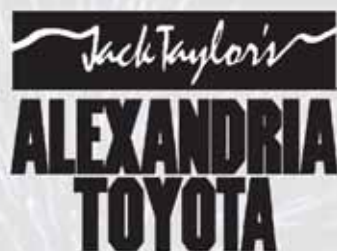
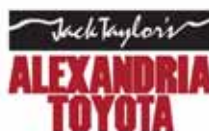
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