An Amazonian Deal

Decision encompasses Crystal City, Pentagon City and Potomac Yard.

Amazon’s selection of Arlington as one of its two new headquarters became official Tuesday, Nov. 13. Along with New York City, Arlington will be part of a $5 billion investment, expected to create more than 50,000 jobs across the two new headquarters’ locations. The new Washington, D.C. metro headquarters will be located in National Landing; the newly named National Landing is made up of Crystal City in Arlington as well as portions of Pentagon City in Arlington and Potomac Yard in the City of Alexandria.

The area is served by three Metro stations, commuter rail access, and Reagan National Airport — all within walking distance. The community has a variety of hotels, restaurants, high-rise apartment buildings, retail, and commercial offices.

As part of Amazon’s new headquarters, the region will benefit from more than 25,000 full-time high-paying jobs; approximately $2.5 billion in Amazon investment; 4 million square feet of energy-efficient office space with the opportunity to expand to 8 million square feet; and an estimated incremental tax revenue of $3.2 billion over the next 20 years as a result of Amazon’s investment and job creation, according to the

‘Lot of Negative Pressure’

City, schools staff paint grim fiscal picture for upcoming budget.

Going into the FY 2020 budget season, Alexandria faces structural deficits, slow growth and an economic downturn inevitable in the not-too-distant future, staffers told City Council on Saturday, Nov. 10.

STRUCTURAL DEFICITS

The city faces a preliminary FY 2020 budget gap of $28 million, including an $18 million gap for the school division’s budget, which the city largely funds. The city administration forecasts the total gap will widen to $91 million in five years.

This continues a persistent trend of expenditures outpacing revenues. Each year for the past several years, the City Council and School Board have wrestled to balance their budgets, as required
Reflecting on a wonderful 2018, it has been an exciting and rewarding year with McEnearney. I couldn’t be happier working at this highly esteemed brokerage and working with some of the most talented and savvy agents and staff in the business.

Looking ahead to the holidays and to 2019, I am eager and hopeful it will be another dynamic and fun time in the world of real estate. As you know, my clients mean so much to me and my goal in helping folks buy and sell homes is really to listen and be your biggest and strongest advocate.

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“Tracy is a wonderful realtor and we highly recommend her! She sold our house and found us our new home. She is very knowledgeable about the area and super patient/kind. We were very happy with the whole experience and would definitely work with her again!” – Gretchen H.

“Tracy was a delight to work with in the purchase of what is turning out to be the best home we’ve ever owned. Tracy is extremely knowledgeable about the community, neighborhood and schools. A very warm and engaging personality, she will always be our go-to real estate professional for future sales/purchases and recommendations!” – Bill J.

“We worked with Tracy to sell our home this Spring and we highly recommend her. She is a true professional - patient, enthusiastic, and detail-oriented. She is very knowledgeable, and really knows her stuff about the Alexandria real estate market. Tracy helped guide us through the process from beginning to end. She is a true five-star realtor!!!” – Tanya M.

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‘Such a Consequential Decision’

School staff consider programmatic sites to prepare students for workforce, meet high school capacity needs.

By Dan Brendel

To modernize high school education and relieve capacity strain, the public schools administration advises distributed programmatic sites, rather than strictly an expanded or second high school campus.

Between its Minnie Howard (grade 9) and King Street (grades 10-12) campuses, T.C. Williams High School will need to accommodate some 4,900 students within the next decade. That’s roughly 1,200 — a third — over the facilities’ combined design capacity.

How the division copes with this ballooning enrollment “is really shaping what the city’s going to look like in the next 50 years,” said School Board member Hal Cardwell.

In last year’s budget, the city government and school system put the problem on the front burner. They agreed on $5 million for project planning in FY 2019 and a total of $124 million by FY 2021 for construction.

That’s one of the largest single public investments on Alexandria’s horizon, behind sanitary sewers and transit.

But what exactly that sum would buy was left an open question. This summer, the schools launched a fast-tracked process to define the High School Project, aiming to narrow down sites and to get it to the design phase by springtime. After three months of initial community engagement, staff broadly outlined three options on the table, expressing a preference for the third, at the School Board meeting on Thursday, Nov. 8:

❖ Expand the existing high school campus(es);
❖ Add an additional stand-alone high school(s) somewhere in the city;
❖ Create off-site specialty programs, e.g., a network of “thematic-based learning centers” distributed across smaller sites.

Community engagement so far has sought to glean from students, families, educators and local businesses what they want a high school experience in Alexandria to look like.

See ‘Consequential’: Page 31

Bits and Bytes

BI Hackathon draws 150 students.

Bishop Ireton High School hosted its second annual Hackathon, a student-run event that gives middle and high schoolers the opportunity to attend workshops, learn how to code and create their own projects.

More than 150 students from 43 schools attended the two-day event held Nov. 3-4 on the school’s Alexandria campus.

“This event has allowed me to give back to the community that has fostered my growth and development over my four years of high school,” said Patrick Riley, director of this year’s Hackathon and a member of the Bishop Ireton class of 2019. “Computer Science gave me the opportunity to explore my interests and creativity in ways I could not before, and I am grateful to have been able to afford that opportunity to others.”

Students participated in workshops that included Java, Python, Android Studio, Programming, and more. Gautam Das and Alex Kreidler took home the grand prize, a paid internship with Decipher Technology Studios, with their creation of a custom app that allowed users to create and solve various problems.

“I was most surprised by the number of inexperienced programmers who not only attended the event, but stayed the entire time and submitted projects,” said Terri Kelly, the computer science teacher who orchestrated the event. “The students flourished in the open-ended environment of choosing their own project and the language they would create it in.”

Other notable projects included a rover that analyzed oil contamination in beach sand (Winner of Best Beginner Hack), a program that utilized Amazon Alexa to reduce and monitor water consumption (Winner of Best Solution to a Real World Problem), and an app that converted brain waves into audible speech (Winner of Best Use of Hardware).

For a full list of student projects, visit https://hackbi.devpost.com/.

— Jeanne Theismann

ACPS Local Survey Results

“How Aspects of Learning are most important to you?”

Encouraging creativity, risk-taking, and innovation

A high school education should develop these skills according to citizens, parents, students, educators and other public school staff.

 wereld of Best Solution to a Real World Problem, and an app that converted brain waves into audible speech (Winner of Best Use of Hardware).

For a full list of student projects, visit https://hackbi.devpost.com/.

— Jeanne Theismann
Alexandria Gazette Packet
November 15-21, 2018
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$ 895,000
4026 Spectacular 2BR/3BA with elevated sunroom adding 300 sf to and bringing the outdoors in with tree top views of Alexandria City. Beautiful private residence. For more info, call 1-800-4-Dazo. 3BR/2.5BA

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ALEXANDRIA / Parker Gray
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1604 PRINCES ST. Charming, semi-detached 2BR/2BA townhouse with front porch, 1,450 sf, finished living space in updated kitchen, granite, S/S, custom cabinets & bathtub. Kitchen addition perfect for dining/kitchen/pottery. Newly finished LL walk out. Rare driveway - off street parking. Near 2 Metro!

Elke & Holdi Kohler
703.987.7633 or 703.609.7367
ALEX. / Riverside Gardens
$ 649,000 OPEN SUN 2 - 4
2129 STABLE DR. 4 finished levels 4BR/2.5BA with beautiful hardwoods throughout, wood burning fireplace, en suite kitchen, formal living and separate dining rooms, large rear entry. Within walking distance to Stratford Landing ES, Carl Sandburg MS and neighborhood pool. Driveway parking.

Karl Stainberg
703.343.3242
ALEXANDRIA / Fair Haven
$ 649,900 OPEN SUN 2 - 4
2321 FORT DR. Stunning updated Cape has open floor plan with gourmet kitchen - granite, stainless, breakfast bar, gas stove and tons of cabinetry. Sliding glass doors to outdoor deck and fenced yard. 105 mn to Metro, close to Old Town and easy access to commuter routes. Priced below appraisal. 3BR/1.5BA

Donna Bellamy
301.758.1599
ALEXANDRIA / Penn Daw Village
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703.472.1282
ALEXANDRIA / Old Town
$ 524,000 OPEN SUN 2 - 4
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Karl Stainberg
703.343.3242
ALEXANDRIA / Fair Haven
$ 649,900 OPEN SUN 2 - 4
2321 FORT DR. Stunning updated Cape has open floor plan with gourmet kitchen - granite, stainless, breakfast bar, gas stove and tons of cabinetry. Sliding glass doors to outdoor deck and fenced yard. 105 mn to Metro, close to Old Town and easy access to commuter routes. Priced below appraisal. 3BR/1.5BA

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News

Keeping Youngsters Warm

First responder volunteers helped distribute more than 1,000 coats Oct. 27 as part of the Firefighters and Friends annual coat drive distribution at Samuel Tucker Elementary School and the Leonard Armstrong Recreation Center.

Members of the Alexandria fire, police and sheriff’s departments joined community volunteers in helping local children select a new coat. Sponsors of the drive included Operation Warm and the Alexandria-based nonprofit InspireLit, which provided several new books for each child.

Other sponsors include: Apple Federal Credit Union, Greenhill’s Pickett Place Community Foundation, Departmental Progressive Club, Alexandria Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities, InspireLit, PSI NU Chapter, Omega Psi Phi, Department of Emergency Communications, BFSP of Alexandria, Nationwide Credit Corporation, Mission BBQ, Rotary Club of Alexandria, Grass Roots of Alexandria, Bell Partners, Inc., BW Communications and Gates Hudson.

Malia Dixon, center, poses in her new coat with her mother Jessica Wehrman and Minnie Mouse at the annual Firefighters and Friends coat drive distribution Oct. 27 at the Leonard Armstrong Recreation Center.

“We believe a new winter coat can be more than a coat,” said Firefighters and Friends founder and Alexandria City Councilman Will Bailey. “It builds self-esteem and tells a child ‘You are worth it and we care.’”

— JEANNE THEISMANN


“A new winter coat can be more than a coat. It builds self-esteem and tells a child ‘You are worth it and we care.’”

— Firefighters and Friends founder Will Bailey

Photo contributed

Photo by McArthur Myers

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Alexandria Meals on Wheels serves 67 meals per weekday.

People

Here Comes Lunch

By Shirley Ruhé
Gazette Packet

Priscilla and Todd Andre-Cotton pick up their Meals on Wheels delivery list at the loading dock before heading out on Route 1 on Oct. 26. "Oh, here is a new address," Priscilla says. The Andre-Cottons drive the fourth Friday of the month delivery as part of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House team.

Todd says he has been delivering with Priscilla for three years, but Priscilla says, "I have been doing it for years. In Pittsburgh it was a different set-up where we worked out of the church where the meals were cooked." Here in Alexandria the city pays for most of the meals with the Senior Services supplementing several days a month.

The lunches are catered by Jeffrey’s Catering on Wheeler Avenue. Kristy Cleaveland, executive chef, says, "Besides Meals on Wheels, we cater for Head Start, daycare, shelters and the Food Bank." She adds on any one day between the breakfasts, lunches and snacks for the children they are paying for Head Start, "Today we’re making 15,000 items."

Today’s Meals on Wheels menu includes a hot meal of minestrone soup, cornbread, mashed potatoes, fruit salad and milk. In addition, each person gets a cold meal of chicken salad with a roll, spinach-strawberry salad, vinegar-oil dressing, a banana and milk. Cleaveland explains they have a separate menu for vegetarians.

"For instance, today we would substitute the chicken salad with cucumber hummus and provolone cheese." Priscilla and Todd check out the seven addresses for today’s delivery and haul the insulated containers which have been prepackaged for the cold and hot lunches to their van. Today there is an extra box for each client that contains non-perishable supplies to keep on the shelf in case there is an emergency and there would be no delivery. This special delivery takes place twice a year. One volunteer says, "I think we’ve only missed one delivery during Snowmageddon."

Priscilla and Todd take off toward Beauregard Street to find the first address. Todd drives down the block searching for the numbers on a row of apartment buildings, turns the van around and tells Priscilla, "It must be back this way." In a minute Priscilla decides to get out of the van. "I’m going to walk it; it’s easier. Priscilla disappears while Todd drives into the apartment complex and follows the numbers.

He finds the address, but the next question is where is Priscilla. She comes jogging around the corner and they locate Unit 10. "Next time we’ll know," she says. "We won’t get caught more than once. But guess we won’t finish our route in an hour today." She says Meals on Wheels does provide detailed directions but sometimes a new one can be difficult to locate.

Priscilla heads up the stairs and Nancy Aberli opens the door. She explains she is the ex-wife and caretaker of the client. Priscilla delivers a hot meal and a cold meal to a new client on today’s delivery list. Nancy Aberli opens the door and accepts the meals as the caretaker of the client.

Sons of American Revolution Honor Sheriff, Deputies

John Blair of the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presented Deputy Brian Wade, Deputy Gerald Wooden and Deputy Myrna Juarez with awards on Oct. 24 for their outstanding responses in two incidents last year. Then Blair presented an award to Sheriff Dana Lawhorne in recognition of his exceptional public service.

Blair, who serves as the chapter’s Public Safety Awards chair, first awarded Wade and Wooden with law enforcement commendation medals for their quick thinking and rescue of an inmate who had attempted suicide.

Then he presented Juarez with the chapter’s new life-saving award for her response, while off duty, to aid a man who had been critically injured in a crash on I-95. Blair stated that Juarez is the first person to receive this award.

Members of the deputies’ families and many of their colleagues were present to see them receive their awards. Blair also announced that his chapter was presenting Lawhorne with the law enforcement commendation medal for his outstanding public service. Due to a prior commitment, Lawhorne was unable to be there so Undersheriff Tim Gleenon had the honor of accepting the award on the Sheriff’s behalf.

From left: John Blair, Deputy Brian Wade, Deputy Myrna Juarez, Deputy Gerald Wooden, and Undersheriff Tim Gleenon at the Sons of the American Revolution presentation ceremony at the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office.
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713 Alfred Street N
3 Bedrooms  3F  1H Bathroom
$995,000

830 Hallowell Way
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City Commemorates 100th Anniversary of WWI Armistice

From Page 1

service to their country shortly after WWI. More than 4,000 residents served directly in WWI in uniform, while hundreds more worked in war industries including aircraft construction, shipbuilding and other war-related production.

Although the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919, officially ended World War I, hostilities between the major powers ended on Nov. 11, 1918, when an armistice went into effect. Armistice Day was celebrated in the United States every year thereafter until President Dwight D. Eisenhower changed it to Veterans Day in 1954 to encompass the veterans of all American wars.

Gadsby’s Tavern was originally purchased by the American Legion Post 24 in 1929 and opened as a memorial to local WWI veterans. The building was gifted to the city in 1972 and now operates as a museum and restaurant. The plaque honoring WWI veterans is located on the Cameron Street side of the building outside of the entrance to American Legion Post 24.

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Patricia Sarah Gibson

Patricia Sarah Gibson — known to her family and friends as Trish — died on Oct. 27, 2018 at age 63 from a rare form of cancer. She died peacefully at the home of her daughter in Boulder, Colo., surrounded by her family, her final wish.

Trish was born on July 28, 1955, in Rockville Centre, N.Y., daughter of the late Francis S. Murphy and Patricia Blazey Murphy. The family moved to Washington, D.C., in 1967, where Trish graduated from Wilson High School and attended American University. She and her husband, Campbell (Cam) Gibson, were married in 1979, and, except for four years in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (1979-1981 and 1993-1995), made their home in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County.

Trish was active in numerous community and school activities, starting with the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center in Alexandria, where one year she was in charge of the Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Subsequently, she volunteered for the United Community Ministries (UCM) in the Mt. Vernon area, where she co-chaired the Capitol Steps fundraising event for many years. At West Potomac High School, Trish was president of the parents’ association for the Wolverine marching band. She worked for 14 years at the American Horticultural Society in various positions and retired as director of Buildings and Grounds. Her last volunteer activity was at the USO at Fort Belvoir. Trish’s other interests and hobbies included gardening, knitting, bowling, and her 9:30 class at Trident CrossFit. She had a lifelong fondness for England, especially inn-to-inn walking tours. Trish was known to her many friends for her warmth and generosity and for helping others in times of need. She was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. In recent years, she doted on her four young granddaughters (the “Grand Girls”) and loved knitting for them and did Facetime with them nearly every day.

She is survived by her husband, Cam, of Alexandria; by her daughter Nicole Christensen, son Trevor Gibson, son-in-law Eric Christensen, daughter-in-law Maura Dudley, and granddaughters Harriet Christensen, Campbell Christensen, Simone Gibson, and Lilla Gibson, all residents of Boulder, Colo.; and by her three siblings, Dano Murphy of Bethesda, Md., Barbara Murphy of Washington, D.C., and Charlotte Murphy of Mt. Airy, Md., and their families.

A memorial service for Trish will be held early next year. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions in her name be made to the Semper Fi Fund of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Obituary
Opinion

Wetlands, Toxins: Who Should Pay?

To the Editor:

As kids growing up in Alexandria, we knew that the soil around the train tracks in Potomac yard contained toxic wastes. We did not play there. I recall watching workers spray herbicides to clear weeds from the tracks.

Reading the Citizens for Common Cents advertisement (Nov. 1-7, page 9) opposing the Metro station, and the letter “Fresh Eyes on Fresh Water” by C. Dara and Jimm Roberts the following week, leads me to conclude that construction of the planned Metro station is still too risky, because the process lacks due diligence for health and environmental quality and transparent accountability.

We must insist on an independent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by Federal law, including an impact study of wetlands, lest these be destroyed. Further Potomac Yard development portends toxic runoff that can kill fish and wildlife up and down the food chain and pose direct health threats to Alexandrians, particularly residents of Potomac Greens. Ultimately this amounts to a negative-sum investment if the health/environmental benefits purchased with our multi-million dollar Combined Sewage System (CSS) project are negated at twice the cost. Such risks should prompt the city to evaluate putative liability costs from legal actions not only by its own citizens but also by residents in downriver communities.

Financial transparency of assets and liabilities are necessary to determine feasibility of Metro station and Potomac Yard plans with complete project budgets and tax revenue projections. Are our taxes meant to subsidize major private developers such as JBG? How can the city let a major housing development such as South Potomac Yard be planned and developed (with North Potomac Yard coming next) without first ensuring capacity for transportation (and school) needs, and then stick taxpayers with the bill for Metro access? If there is to be a Metro station, developers such as JBG or other pertinent developers (such as for Amazon HQ2) should pay for it, but only after due diligence that significant environmental and health impacts have been properly excluded.

The bottom-line: the cost of the Metro station is prohibitive. The city will likely pay closer to $500 million than the $320 million estimated, not to mention the incalculable costs of health and environmental risks. Once thePotomac Yard development portends toxic runoff that can kill fish and wildlife up and down the food chain and pose direct health threats to Alexandrians, particularly residents of Potomac Greens. Ultimately this amounts to a negative-sum investment if the health/environmental benefits purchased with our multi-million dollar Combined Sewage System (CSS) project are negated at twice the cost. Such risks should prompt the city to evaluate putative liability costs from legal actions not only by its own citizens but also by residents in downriver communities.

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The bottom-line: the cost of the Metro station is prohibitive. The city will likely pay closer to $500 million than the $320 million estimated, not to mention the incalculable costs of health and environmental risks. Once the shopping center is demolished to develop North Potomac Yard for mixed-use, the city will lose the $34 million in annual taxes from its retailers, pending new mixed-use revenues. What is the time-lag and effect on the city budget during this time? Will taxes increase to compensate?

The newly-elected council should stop and think. Please get real about risks, costs, liabilities, environmental protection, and regulatory compliance. Align tax funds with priority goals. Without true due diligence and a changed approach, the Metro station will be built at huge citizen expense, diverting funds from other pressing priorities (climate change, school infrastructure, education, etc.). Together with development of North Potomac Yard, the Metro station pits our environment and health against an expected increased tax base at a later time. Is this a good deal?

Mary E. Palmer M.D. Alexandria

Will Amazon Save the Wetlands?

To the Editor:

There appears to be nothing that local and state elected officials won’t do to please Jeff Bezos and his billions.

Now that Amazon is really coming to town, Alexandria officials are rushing to get their new Potomac Yard Metro station approved by the Planning Commission and City Council, permitted by state and federal agencies, and built. Even the Commonwealth of Virginia has joined the cheerleading by promising to spend a few hundred million dollars on transportation improvements that might include the southern entrance to the Potomac Yard Metro station that was cut because of a lack of funding.

But these facts overlook another important fact: Alexandria has chosen a Metro site that will destroy valuable wetlands along the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Nobody seems care all that much about the environmental damage, not the National Park Service, and certainly not the City of Alexandria.

According to the so-called compensation agreement, the city’s “preferred alternative is designed to minimize impacts to wetlands and other waters of the U.S. and to compensate for impacts to wetlands in accordance with the Clean Water Act.” But the facts indicate the opposite conclusion.

The recently formed Environmental Council of Alexandria (ECA) has voiced its strong disapproval by asking the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to deny Alexandria its request for permits to fill in these wetlands. The ECA believes that the damage will be permanent, and that it also involves tidal wetlands. The solution is to build the Metro station elsewhere in Potomac Yard.

The Potomac Yard wetlands are a valuable ecological and environmental resource. The wetlands which the city has chosen to destroy both filter contaminants and absorb great quantities of water and runoff.

There is nothing smart or innovative about building a Metro station in a wetland when viable less environmentally damaging alternatives exist. Hear ye, hear ye, economic development, without a sound environmental foundation, is not acceptable.

ECA Board
Vineaeta Anand
Katy Cannady
Jeremy Flachs
Hal Hardaway
Andrew Macdonald

Value All Viewpoints

To the Editor:

As chairman of the Alexandria Area Young Republicans (AAYR), I would like to congratulate the young candidates of both parties for running for office this year. While the races for City Council and U.S. House District 8 did not
Letters

FROM PAGE 12

turn out precisely the way we wanted, Kevin Dunne and Thomas Oh are two young Republicans who are committed to representing the City of Alexandria. They have shown us that the next generation is ready to seek and hold elected office for the benefit of us all. We hope they return to the ballot very soon.

Even though they are not Republicans, we at AAYR look forward to working with the young members of our newly elected City Council (Elizabeth Bennet-Parker, Mo Seifeldein, Canek Aguirre) on the issues of mutual importance in our city. These include: ending the “Tale of Two Alexandrias” where we have some of the very best schools in the same city as schools that are failing or are unaccredited; instituting better transparency and accountability within the City Council; not waiting until the city is in violation of federal standards to fix our infrastructure (water and sewer specifically); creating a better business climate in our city; looking to manage city expenditures before raising taxes; and helping those most in need of medical care, food, and housing with non-governmental solutions, to name a few.

We at AAYR would also like to explore a more direct form of representation so that all citizens of Alexandria have a member of council that is local to them. As champions of democracy, we should all strive for a city that represents all viewpoints in positions of government rather than having one political party controlling everything.

Congratulations again to all and we at AAYR look forward to working with the young people of Alexandria on these and other issues that matter to the people of our fine city.

Andrew Lund
Alexandria

Improve Process

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to your final report on the elections for City Council. As you reported, all of the elected City Council members were sponsored by the Democratic Party. The overall way the election was conducted, from the primary to the November election, was an abysmal sham. There was no way that any minority party could possibly win — unless the Democrats did not come out and vote.

As you know, at-large elections have been determined illegal in many communities across our country since the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 because they were determined to be discriminatory. At-large elections permitted the majority faction in the community (be it by race, religion, or political party) to win all seats on their City Council. Therefore, the minorities did not get any representation on the council even though their percentage in the community in many cases would have justified one or two.

This is the same thing that is happening in Alexandria where the minority parties are being effectively shut-out for representation on the City Council. In the last election, votes for the Democratic candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives were about 80 percent of all votes cast. In the City Council election, we saw about the same distribution with the six Democrats receiving between 70 and 80 percent of the votes when corrected for the fact that each voter could vote for up to six candidates and the top Republican got more than 20 percent of the vote.

In a fair election, one would assume that the Republicans should have won about 20 percent of the City Council seats (or about one seat), but because of the way the elections are run in this city, the majority party is able to effectively shut-out any minority party. This needs to be corrected.

One way to correct this is to divide the city into precincts or wards and have people vote only for the candidates representing their precinct or ward. Then the City Council member representing them will truly be representing their interests.

Another way, which is not as effective, would be to not allow any political party primary prior to the City Council election. All candidates would be on the November ballot with no party affiliation. Unfortunately, this would probably result in the majority party having a caucus to limit the number of candidates the party put on the final ballot.

The purpose of a democracy is to provide representation for all viewpoints, be it religious, political, race, gender, sexual orientation, etc. It is shameful that our city has an electoral process that is not democratic.

James J. Melton
Alexandria

‘Cut Your Losses’

To the Editor:

The “No Potomac Yards” ad by

See LETTERS, Page 14
Letters to the Editor

From Page 13:

Citizens for Common Cents in the Nov. 1 Gazette Packet did an excellent job of laying out the terrible effects this new station would have on our beautiful city if we go ahead with it. I would like to add one question: Does this new station have any constituency besides developers who are directly profiting from it and their city doppelgangers?

And one further objection: There isn’t the slightest need for a new station. On the contrary, development hasn’t even touched the fallow lands around several of the existing stations. And the West End is home to a new tourist attraction, the Ghost Mall, with all the dereliction but none of the charm of Western ghost towns. Is that going to be a generational thing? Is it even going to spread, if millions are sunk into the redundant new station?

The phrase “Cut your losses” is the kindest thing that can be said about the Potomac Yard station.

Elisabeth Vodola
Alexandria

Appreciative

To The Editor:
On Oct. 31, at 3 p.m, the contractor for Washington Gas, InfraSource, was repairing the sidewalk just in time for all the little trick-or-treaters along the 500 block of Wilkes Street.

On the behalf of the residents along Wilkes Street — and me as well — I’d like to thank Supervisor Thomas Edgewood, Melvin Smith, Al Woodson and all of the guys with InfraSource for their diligence and efforts to keep the area safe for pedestrians, joggers, seniors, and the disabled.

It’s much easier to walk on, and with all the leaves falling and change of weather, safer too.

Activist Geri Baldwin
Alexandria

A Non-violent Thanksgiving

To the Editor:
While President Trump is pardoning two turkeys for Thanksgiving, everyone of us can exercise that same presidential power by choosing a non-violent Thanksgiving observance.

And here are some other good reasons:
-
You can brag about pardoning a turkey - like Trump (or not).
-
You will stay awake for your entire favorite football game.
-
Your sensible vegetarian kid won’t have to boycott the family dinner.
-
Plant-based holiday roasts don’t have to carry government warning labels.
-
You won’t have to call Poultry Hotline to keep your family out of the hospital.
-
Your body will appreciate a holiday from the fat, cholesterol, and hormones.
-
You won’t sweat the environment and food resources devastation guilt trip.
-
You won’t spend a sleepless night wondering how the turkey lived and died.

Seriously, this Thanksgiving, let’s give thanks for our good fortune, health, and happiness with a life-affirming, cruelty-free feast of plant-based holiday roast, vegetables, fruits, and grains.

Our own dinner will feature a store-bought plant-based holiday roast, mashed potatoes, stuffed squash, candied yams, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. An internet search on “vegetarian Thanksgiving” is getting us more recipes than we could possibly use.

Ali Gatlin
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:
Letters to the Editor
The Gazette Packet
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com
Florence King’s Mission: Financial Literacy

By Mike Lane

The numbers don’t change very much from year to year. As high as 14 percent of Americans are classified as illiterate. Despite multitudes of programs designed to reduce that rate, the needle doesn’t seem to move. The numbers don’t change much when measuring the financial literacy of Americans either. Shockingly, surveys show that only about 35 percent of us are financially literate. It is the remaining 65 percent who have never taken or even exposed to financial literacy who are at-risk for substantial financial and burdensome debt problems.

Enter Florence M. King, civic activist, classical music enthusiast, descendant of a slave owned by George Washington, and founder and CEO of the FMK Financial Literacy Center, a non-profit organization.

Imagine over the years you have collected more credit cards than you need. As your needs changed and better offers came along, you opened new accounts but never closed the old ones. As you prepare the application for a new mortgage you are tempted to simplify things by closing a handful or more of your old accounts.

“Don’t do it!” warns King. “Every account you close will lower your credit report score and multiple closures may lower it to the point of disqualification.”

Before graduating from George Mason University, King worked at Equifax, one of the major credit reporting companies. The things she learned about managing a credit score have powered a career in credit management and now, credit and financial literacy education.

After a first career as a federal employee, King founded FMK Credit Services in 1991 where she helped clients repair bad credit and multiple closures may lower it to the point of disqualification. She sold that business and in 2005 started FMK Credit Education Center. In 2016 she founded yet a third company, the non-profit FMK Financial Literacy Center.

The Financial Literacy Center’s mission is to ensure that disadvantaged families and senior citizens are educated in such a way that will promote financial stability and independence and provide ways to improve their financial footing through self-sufficiency and home ownership. It empowers underserved and at-risk families by exposing them to financial education programs to reduce the cycle of un-sound monetary practices. Those new to the United States with little or no experience with American financial institutions are another target demographic.

King holds regular seminars teaching the financial illiterate the skills necessary to enter the financial mainstream. She often works with small businesses, churches, charities, and other corporations to work directly with those in need. Many of her students have never had a bank account, much less a credit card or bank loan. Others are disqualified from mainstream banking due to their financial history. She also does one-on-one counseling.

Many are trapped in a cycle of high-fee services with check-cashing storefronts, car-title or payday loan companies. Successful graduates of King’s seminars receive a certificate honored by local banks which allow them to open their first account. Often a bank representative attends a seminar and opens special no-fee new accounts for graduates right there on the spot.

Over the years, King estimates she has helped upwards toward 10,000 clients with their credit and financial literacy difficulties. And she has no plans to slow down. For almost 20 years, King has been more than a “key” member of the Financial Counseling Team ministry at McLean Bible Church. The church describes her as its “most trusted financial counselor” and a “woman of great character, courage, humility and discernment.”

Growing up in Fairfax County before integration, King was bused across the county to Luther Jackson High School, the only high school African-Americans could attend. She is a descendant of both Thornton Gray and Thomasine Gray; Thornton was a freed slave at Mt. Vernon while Thomasina was enslaved at Mt. Vernon until emancipated by George Washington in 1801. King served on the City of Alexandria’s Freedman’s Cemetery Memorial Steering Committee and is also recording secretary of the Laurel Grove School Association, a historic schoolhouse telling the story of many freedmen and women in the post-civil war era.

A nonpartisan city Elections Officer for 25 years, King has also served on a plethora of other Alexandria City Citizens Commissions, including the Alexandria Historical Resources Commission where she has contributed to preserving the historical legacy of our city for 15 years.

She is currently chairwoman of the city’s Commission on Employment where her commission is responsible for developing a citywide plan for employment services that reflects the goals of linking existing City employment and training programs with employment and training programs operated by the city school systems and with the economic development program operated by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the city council. Also, in the city of Alexandria, King is on the Board of Agenda: Alexandria, a non-partisan, non-profit organization that produces monthly programs with an unbiased multi-faceted look at controversial topics in Alexandria.

She is an active member of the board of directors of the Alexandria Symphony having recently spearheaded an effort to reduce the symphony’s venue costs by thousands of dollars.

King is a vice-president of the Northern Virginia Urban League and partners with the league to present her financial literacy educational seminars.

She has served as a member of the board and chairman of the Development Committee for Alexandria’s Parent Leadership Training Institute, an organization that seeks to teach advocacy skills to parents to enable them to become leading advocates for their children.

The Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce says this about her: “Ms. King has quietly helped others to be better individuals and better members of society.”

Living Legends: The Project

The mission of Living Legends of Alexandria is to identify, honor and chronicle the lives of individuals who have contributed to the community in an exemplary and lasting way that has significantly impacted the quality of life in Alexandria and serves as an inspiration to others. For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.org or contact Alexandrialegends@outlook.com

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City Schools Paint Grim Upcoming Fiscal Picture

by law — to "solve for the gap," as Morgan Routt, the city's budget director, put it. They've done so by varying combinations of cuts; raising new revenue and reducing or outsourcing staffing (in the city's case); and drawing down on fund balance (in the schools' case).

For both the city government and school division, the principal budget driver is personnel costs. Salaries and benefits account for more than half of the city's operating budget, excluding schools and capital funding, said Routt. For the schools, the proportion is almost 90 percent, said Dr. Gregory Hutchings Jr., the schools' superintendent.

Rising health insurance costs represent a particular challenge, especially for the schools, which have seen a 39 percent increase over five years. While the city has cut or contracted out 71 full-time equivalent positions since 2009, the schools have added positions in recent years, largely due to ballooning student enrollment. Students learning English as a second language and students eligible for free and reduced price meals (a federal program and proxy measure of poverty) have increased by 21 percent and 8 percent over five years. These subgroups, which require more specialized instruction and services and thus cost more, accounted for 32 percent and 59 percent of Alexandria's student body in FY 2018 — about twice the proportions in Arlington and Fairfax's schools.

Construction and labor costs continue to rise, making the city and schools' long lists of capital projects that much more expensive. Once project cost re-estimates are finalized for this budget go-around, "we may end up … saying, we can't afford all these, and that'll send us back to the drawing board. Or we may say, these are important, critical projects we need to move forward with, and therefore we'll have to up the local funding, either through debt or through cash capital, for those projects," said City Manager Mark Jinks.

For the schools' part, "we would like to move away from allocating the maximum use of our fund balance every year to balance our budget," said Dominic Turner, the schools' acting CFO. Following such a trajectory, "we would end up with no fund balance, and if there were an emergency, we wouldn't have the funds to be able to cover that."

SLOW REVENUE GROWTH

"We're in one of the longest growth cycles in U.S. history. … It's been almost 10 years since we've had what anyone technically calls a recession," said Kendel Taylor, the city's finance director.

Yet a decade of national growth hasn't resulted in Alexandria's revenues keeping up with spending pressures. Residential and commercial real property, which together account for about 60 percent of FY 2019 City General Fund revenues, haven't seen robust growth. The residential tax base "has come back" since the aftermath of the financial crisis, "but it really isn't a thriving tax category," said Taylor. Commercial assessments have remained relatively "flat."

That's in unadjusted dollars. In inflation-adjusted dollars, comparing 2018 to 2009, residential and commercial assessments haven't grown at all, remaining almost exactly flat at $22 billion and $17 billion. The tax rate, however, increased from $0.903 per $100 of assessed value in 2009 to $1.13 in 2018 — a record high since 1988.

Business property taxes, major consumer taxes (sales, transient lodging, restaurant, communications) and business license/gross receipts taxes tell a similar low-, no-, or negative-growth story. Only the vehicular personal property tax has seen appreciable growth — though it's a relatively minor category, accounting for only 5 percent of FY 2019 General Fund revenues.

"[Alexandria's] aid from other government [states, federal] is basically stagnant," said Taylor.

The changes from the Medicaid expansion will probably result in a loss for us. Other revenue sources are going to go down and it's going to net to nothing. We're going to watch very closely what happens with the Internet sales tax reform. But … it's not going to be the panacea that some have hoped for.

Amazon's second headquarters, announced for Arlington and Alexandria this week, "will hopefully have long-term impact. But we won't see immediate revenue impact … We can't count on that being the things that saves us in the coming fiscal year," she said.

On the other hand, population influx resulting from Amazon's decision could exacerbate the schools' existing enrollment-related budget challenges, said Hutchings.

In the regional economy overall, "there's been a shift: we aren't as reliant on the federal government" as in the past, said Taylor. "We're more diversified, and that's good. But … jobs that we have today are not as high-paying … as the jobs we had back in 2008-2010. … The jobs we lost were worth more than the new jobs we've added, to the tune of about $44,000 per job," compared to 2007, in terms of gross regional product.

As a result, the Washington, D.C. region's ranking among metropolitan nationwide, in terms of per capita income growth, slipped from 4th during the period 2000-06 to 15th during 2010-16. "And this, remember, is in the midst of the country's second longest economic growth cycle in history," said Taylor.

LOOMING ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

History suggests "it's very likely we're going to have some sort of slowdown. Everyone agrees on that," she said.

The probability of a U.S. recession will rise to 14 percent by next October, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, using a model based on Treasury yields. That's up from about 10 percent presently, 8 percent a year ago, 3 percent two years ago. The last time the model yielded a 14-percent likelihood was July 2006, a year and a half before the Great Recession began.

"In the past, the D.C. area has been able to withstand some of the recessions' impacts that other parts of the country aren't able to withstand, because of our reliance on the federal government," said Taylor. Less economic dependence on the feds at present, while "really good" in other respects, "could also mean that we don't weather as well when the next recession happens."

Summing up, she said: "The reality is that, economically speaking, nobody does know what's going to happen in the next 6-12 months. But the indicators that we have show a lot of negative pressure for our citizens and for our city revenues.

Amazon Decision Based on Investment and Incentives

company's press release.

Amazon will receive performance-based direct incentives of $573 million based on the company creating 25,000 jobs with an average wage of over $150,000 in Arlington. This includes a workforce cash grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia of up to $330 million based on $22,000 for each job created over the next 12 years. Amazon will only receive this incentive if it creates the forecasted high-paying jobs. The company will also receive a cash grant from Arlington of $23 million over 15 years based on the incremental growth of the existing local Transient Occupancy Tax, a tax on hotel rooms.

The region and Amazon employees will benefit from the Commonwealth investing $195 million in infrastructure in the neighborhood, including improvements to the Crystal City and the Potomac Yards Metro stations; a pedestrian bridge connecting National Landing and Reagan National Airport; and work to improve safety, accessibility, and the pedestrian experience crossing Route 1 over the next 10 years. Arlington will also dedicate an estimated $28 million based on 12 per
THE CAMPAGNA CENTER

PRESENTS

48TH ANNUAL
SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND

Friday, November 31 and Saturday, December 1

Celebrating Alexandria’s rich Scottish heritage and tradition of giving.
2018 EVENTS

HEATHER & GREENS SALE
Presented by McEnearney Associates
Decorate your home with greenery and traditional Scottish heather while supporting The Campagna Center.
Order online at campagnacent.org.

TASTE OF SCOTLAND
Presented by The Goodhart Group
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 6:30PM – 10:30PM
The Atrium Building, 277 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
This elegant evening features a robust Scotch tasting menu, including a variety of Scotches direct from Scotland distilleries, and decadent catering by local hotspot, Society Fair.

THE SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK PARADE
Presented by Merola North American Operations
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 11AM
Old Town Alexandria
For the 48th consecutive year, we proudly present The Campagna Center’s Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Enjoy marching units filled with the magnificent tartans of Scottish Clans, the stirring sound of Scottish bagpipes and drums, Scottish dancers, reenactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries, classic cars, Santa Claus, and much more.

HOLIDAY HOME TOURS
Presented by Christine Garner, Weichert Realtors
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 12:30PM-4PM
Explore Alexandria’s history by touring some of Old Town’s most splendid homes, decked-out by acclaimed interior designers and local florists. While you tour the homes, guides will fill you in on fun facts and interesting historical tidbits.

SCOTTISH WALK GRAND MARSHAL, FIRST LADY OF VIRGINIA
Pamela Northam is the wife of the 73rd Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam. She is a former pediatric occupational therapist and award-winning science educator who has dedicated these four years to using her professional experience to advocate for quality early childhood education. She serves as the Chair of the Administration’s Children’s Cabinet, which is focused on coordinating the work of state agencies and stakeholders to better serve Virginia’s children.

The Campagna Center

KEY TO OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
Home Tour
A 305 Cameron Street
B 307 N. Washington Street
C 311 Prince Street
D 912 Duke Street
E 600 Princess Street
F Union Square Pulpit
G St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
H Historic Church, 118 N. Washington Street
I The Campagna Center
J 416 S. Washington Street
Heather and Greens
Information and Restrooms
Parade Walk

TICKET PURCHASES
Proceeds from all events of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend benefit The Campagna Center’s core education programs.

TASTE OF SCOTLAND
6:30 PM – 10:30 PM
 Patron Pair: $290
 Individual Patron: $180
$50 of each Taste of Scotland ticket is not tax-deductible

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR
12:30 PM – 4:00 PM
General Admission: $40
Ticket Pick-Up at Your First Home Tour Stop

For more information on The Campagna Center and Scottish Walk Weekend, or to make a purchase, visit campagnacent.org/scottishwalkweekend.
2017-2018 SELECT PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD
• All 5 of TCC's early childhood sites for reaccreditation were accredited this year. Nationally, only 6% of early childhood programs across the country have earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
• We recognize school readiness goes beyond the classroom; wellness plays a big role in school success. So our Family Services Providers work with families to ensure children in our program have health insurance and a primary medical and dental provider. By the end of the 2017/2018 program year, 93% of children had a health insurance provider, primary medical provider, and dental provider.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
• Our Campagna Kids and Wright to Read programs offer affordable, enriching activities and learning opportunities like literacy tutoring, homework help, spring and summer break camps, and before and after school care.
• 91% of parents report that their child has benefitted from Campagna Kids program activities.
• 88% of children in the Wright to Read program report that "reading is easier" and they enjoy reading more since joining Wright to Read.

HIGH SCHOOL
• TCC's Building Better Futures program helps teens develop leadership skills through mentoring, academic tutoring, community service, college planning, and externships with local businesses.
• 93% of Building Better Futures students were promoted to the next grade level; 94% of seniors will be starting college in the fall of 2018, attending Bridgewater College, George Mason University, Virginia Tech, Old Dominion University, Marymount University, Liberty University, Virginia State University, and Northern Virginia Community College.

ADULTS
• TCC's New Neighbors program helps immigrants become self-sufficient members of the community. With ten levels of English instruction, access to city services, and on-site child care, New Neighbors provides a safe place where people from many cultures build skills and friendships while learning English.
• 97% of New Neighbors students report that learning English has helped them develop a greater sense of self-confidence and independence.

BECAUSE OF YOU, IN THE 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR:
A total of 2,673 enrollment opportunities were offered to children and adults across our programs.
501 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers discovered the joy of learning through our Early Childhood programs.
1,109 children had a safe place to learn and play after school. They had homework help, reading assistance, and whole lot of fun in our Campagna Kids and Wright to Read programs.
Building Better Futures presented 135 youth with externship opportunities, tutoring sessions, enrichment activities, and college preparation and application assistance.
232 adults and 75 children advanced their English language skills, made friends, and were warmly welcomed by our New Neighbors program.

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION
This year, you can give the gift of a great education.

DONATE AT CAMPAGNACENTER.ORG

THE CAMPAGNA CENTER’S SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND
AN ALEXANDRIA TRADITION
Proceeds from all events of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend benefit The Campagna Center’s core programs. Your support of our programs advances our work to educate and enrich Alexandria’s students, from cradle to career. With your help, each year we make strides toward three distinct goals: ensuring that children enter school ready to learn, supporting the academic and social success of children and youth, and helping adults in our programs realize goals that foster self-sufficiency. Your generous gifts to The Campagna Center reach more than 2,000 Alexandrians each year, enabling them to learn, grow, and thrive!
THANK YOU TO THE CAMPAGNA CENTER’S 2018
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Special thanks to the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center for the coordination and planning of The Campagna Center’s Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Our great appreciation also extends to our friends at the City of Alexandria and to the members of the St. Andrews Society of Washington, D.C. Cover art by Patricia Palermino.
In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the City of Alexandria’s Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA) raised awareness by providing activities and programs that support the fight, identified survivors and honored the loved ones taken too soon. Pink symbolizes strength and hope. RPCA will continue to bring awareness about this deadly disease that takes the lives of so many loved ones; early detection and mammogram testing save lives.
News

As part of the Commonwealth’s increased investment in the tech-talent pipeline, Arlington and Alexandria public schools will have access to new resources related to computer science education, to be made available statewide. They include: ongoing professional development for current and future teachers; high-quality curriculum and related resources; summer and after-school programming for students; and meaningful career exposure and work-based learning opportunities in high-demand fields.

Arlington County and the City of Alexandria are investing $570 million in transportation projects, including rail connections, transit facilities, multimodal streets and transportation technology serving the site, all of which were planned as part of County Board- and City Council-approved long-term Capital Improvement Plans. Arlington and Alexandria are also pursuing additional funding opportunities to advance investments in this corridor.

To augment these local investments, the Commonwealth will invest up to $195 million of non-general fund money in new or expanded transportation projects to improve mobility in the region, including an additional entrance to the Crystal City Metro station and a south entrance off of Potomac Avenue to the new Potomac Yard Metro station. Other projects include improvements to U.S. Route 1 in Arlington County, a pedestrian bridge from Crystal City to Reagan National Airport and a transitway expansion supporting Pentagon City, Crystal City and Potomac Yard in both Alexandria and Arlington.

As part of this project announcement, both communities will fund affordable housing, workforce housing and public infrastructure, bolstered by revenues generated from Amazon’s new presence in their communities. Combined, the communities project investment of at least $1.5 billion over the next decade, resulting in the creation and preservation of 2,000 to 2,400 affordable and workforce units in and around the Crystal City, Pentagon City and Columbia Pike areas and throughout Alexandria.

Arlington’s proposed direct financial incentive to Amazon is an annual pay-for-performance grant tied to the company meeting 6 million square feet in office occupancy targets over the initial 15 years with a value of approximately $23 million. The incentive comes from a percentage of the new incremental revenue generated by the county’s Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), which is a tax paid by tourists and business travelers on hotel rooms or other paid lodging.

In addition to direct financial incentives, Arlington County also proposed using a portion of new incremental revenue generated by Amazon’s arrival within the existing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) area to make strategic infrastructure investments in and around National Landing.

The Arlington County Board will vote on a final incentive agreement no earlier than February 2019 and will follow its regular public engagement and hearing process for development decisions. To facilitate the development of Virginia Tech’s Innovation Campus in National Landing, Alexandria has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the university in which the city agreed to work with Virginia Tech to structure a financial plan for development, potentially including local financial support, as well as providing expedited processing for planning and development approvals and permits. The Innovation Campus will be located in the Alexandria portion of National Landing on land owned by investment firm Blackstone Group L.P. real estate fund. The land is commonly referred to as Oakville Triangle and will be developed by Stonebridge Associates. The city will follow its public engagement and hearing processes for any required planning and development decisions, and any other city commitments will be decided on by City Council.

Amazon Decision Based on Investment and Incentives

Class Size Disparities

** = K-8 school, but only K-5 data included here, for comparability. These figures represent full compliance with state requirements for class sizes, as well as the School Board’s own standards, according to Helen Lloyd, school division spokesperson. The administration is looking into the class size disparity between Francis C. Hammond and George Washington middle schools, said ACPS Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings Jr.
New Independent Pop-Up Bookstore Arises

Old Town Books, a new independent bookstore, is the latest pop-up to debut in Alexandria through Alexandria Economic Development Partnership’s (AEDP) Pop-Up ALX program.

The general interest based bookstore located in the historic 104 South Union building, will feature literary fiction and non-fiction, with a focus on new releases, up-and-coming authors, and book club picks.

The pop-up will also have a merchandise section of greeting cards and gifts for book lovers. The store will also be a place for community engagement through book clubs, author events, writers groups, and workshops and will have a cozy kids nook with picture books, young adult books, board books, toys, puzzles, and games.

Owner Ally Kirkpatrick, a native Alexandria, left New York City where she worked at New York University as an academic advisor to undergraduates studying Media, Culture, and Communication to launch her business concept.

She grew up in the Fort Hunt area of Alexandria and is a graduate of West Potomac High School. She was an English major as an undergraduate, and earned her master of art in creative non-fiction at NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study. Her passion for books and supporting emerging writers runs deep as she is a writer herself. She is developing her first book project — a memoir titled “The Green Cabin Year” — and is represented by literary agent Kate Garrick at the Karpfinger Agency in New York.

AEDP’s Pop-up ALX program arranges pop-ups around Old Town Alexandria, allowing vendors to test the Alexandria market without making long-term commitments.

The agency collaborates with local property owners, brokers, and business community members to help run the program.

Old Town Books will host an invite only open house on Thursday, Nov. 15 and will open to the public on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 24 from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. The pop-up will operate from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily in its current location through April 2019, and will look for a larger and permanent space in Old Town.

Upcoming Old Town Books free events include: Authors Hannah Bae and Lisa Jakub, in conversation with journalist Tayla Burney on the essay collection “(Don’t) Call Me Crazy: 33 Voices Start the Conversation about Mental Health” on Nov. 27 at 6:30 p.m.; weekly storytime for children every Thursday and Saturday at 11 a.m., beginning on Nov. 24.

Upcoming Old Town Books ticketed events include: Cookbook authors Cathy Barrow (“Pie Squared”) and Brian Noyes (“Red Truck Bakery Cookbook”) in conversation with Washington Post Deputy Food Editor Bonnie Benwick on Dec. 8 at 11 a.m.; author Nicole Chung (“All You Can Ever Know”) will deliver a craft talk on memoir writing on Dec. 15 at 5 p.m.

Ticketed events are priced at the cost of the featured book, and are available for purchase through the Old Town Books website, www.oldtownbooks.com.

Public Meetings

Fall Transportation Meetings: Updated Schedule

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with an open house followed by a public comment period. At the open house you can learn about various transportation initiatives, as well as Virginia’s project prioritization process (SMART SCALE), Virginia’s Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and the VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment and Departments of Transportation and Rail and Public Transportation will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and discuss your ideas and concerns about Virginia’s transportation network. The open house will be followed by a public comment period, where you can provide comments about the various initiatives. Comments will be accepted at the meeting and may also be submitted via email or online at www.ctb.virginia.gov.

Updated Schedule: Area Public Meetings will be held at the dates, locations and times listed below:

- **Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 8:30 p.m.**
  - NOVA District Office
  - Potomac Conference Room
  - 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219
  - or DRPTP@drpt.Virginia.gov.

- **Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 4 p.m.**
  - Fredericksburg District
  - Office Auditorium
  - 86 Deacon Road
  - Fredericksburg, VA 22405
  - or Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov.


*Please note that these dates have been changed from previous listings.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may send your comments on highway projects to Infrastructure Investment Director, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219, or Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov.

You may send comments on rail, public transportation, and transportation demand management to Public Information Officer, DRPT, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov.

Comments will be accepted until December 13, 2018.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation’s Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation’s Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

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**News**

**National Recognition**

David S. Mercer and Lucia Anna “Pia” Trigiani, principals of MercerTrigiani, received national recognition for their legal accomplishments as a boutique real estate law firm offering community association legal services. Mercer and Trigiani, both graduates of the University of Richmond School of Law, have been listed as “Best Lawyers in Real Estate Law” in the 2019 edition of The Best Lawyers in America, marking the 15th consecutive year that both attorneys received this professional designation. MercerTrigiani also received a Tier I law firm ranking in Washington, D.C. for real estate law by U.S. News – Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms” for 2019. Additionally, the firm has received a Tier 2 ranking for real estate law. “Best Law Firms” rankings were awarded to 14,000 firms in 122 practice areas in 170 metropolitan areas and eight states. See www.MercerTrigiani.com.

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**Crime**

The following incidents were reported by the Alexandria Police Department:

**SUNDAY, NOV. 4**

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a commercial robbery in the 500 block of King Street. A woman implied she had a weapon while stealing items. There were no injuries.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31**

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 3100 block of Mt Vernon Avenue. A unknown subject stole a belt from a teenager. There were no injuries.

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**Alexandria Gazette Packet  November 15-21, 2018  23**
Some of the area’s most talented tastemakers are donating their time to Sarah Hayes Design, who created a console table display with her 17-year-old patient. “And, as Caoilinn and I would both agree, the more twinkle lights, the merrier.”

“When decorating for the holidays, let your imagination take over and don’t be afraid to combine elements that may at first seem unlikely companions,” said Sarah Hayes. “And, as Caoilinn and I would both agree, the more twinkle lights, the merrier.”

“Also, make decorations together with and for your children so they can be a part of the fun,” added Biletnikoff.

Offering hints at what visitors will experience at the display, Ashley Greer of Atelier Ashley Flowers in Alexandria said, “I have teamed up with a sweet patient to create a classic, woodland-inspired holiday tree … Along with my crew of talented volunteers, we’ve designed dozens of handmade wreaths that will adorn the tree along with beautiful and felt ornaments … This tree will bring our theme — Over the River and Through the Woods — to life.”

“We’re inspired by our É patient partner who loves horses, unicorns, magic, pink, and purple,” added Rachel and Charles Gang of Helen Olivia Flowers, also in Alexandria. “She lives in the country with her family so being outdoors is a part of her life. We’re incorporating nature, plants, and pastel colors into our enchanted design.”

Metallic animals, feathers and other natural elements are what designer Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors and Marika Meyer Textiles in Bethesda is using to create a safari-themed tree. “We’ll incorporate some of my Marika Meyer Textiles to create the garland and tree skirt using a custom colorway,” she said. “It will be a festive and fun way to celebrate the holidays.”

Other designers participating in Light Up the Season who are in the area include Lauren and David Liess of Lauren Liess in Great Falls, Wendy Danziger of Danziger Designs in Potomac, and Sascha Roth of Urban Country in Bethesda.

All of the holiday trees, mantelpieces, wreaths, ornaments and artwork on display will be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit Children’s National. Light Up The Season will be on Sunday, Dec. 16, from 12-4 p.m. at Four Seasons Hotel Washington, D.C.

For more information and tickets visit: childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason or email lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com.
Ongoing

Art Exhibit: “Connecting Threads.” Through Nov. 25 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit features the work of regional artists showcasing traditional and non-traditional ways to manipulate fiber and highlights narratives where textiles and fiber trigger nostalgia. See the exhibit and donate new towels for Carpenter’s Shelter from Nov. 2-25. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/ connectingthreads.

Art Exhibit: “Pattern + Texture.” Through Dec. 2, gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Suite 21, Alexandria. Photographer Pete McCutchen captures mesmerizing patterns found in rock, ice, and sand, transforming natural scenery into abstract, striking images. Presented in monochrome and printed on metallic paper, McCutchen’s photographs bewitch the eye with their ability to evoke two-dimensional patterns, jegged rocks become houndstooth, sand dunes pose as piping. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-833-1780.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-noon on the grounds of Mount Vernon. The market features local farmers and producers who sell fresh produce and meats; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; dairy products and eggs; herbs, and more. Visit www.mountvernon.org or call 703-784-4356.


Holiday Shop. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. At Mt. Vernon. Featuring 50 artisans in fiber arts, photography, wood, paper, metal, glass and clay; orchids; crafts from around the world. Country Kitchen with famous chutneys, cakes, pies, cookies. Hot lunch. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Dollhouse Exhibit. Through December, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Alexandria. Exhibit “Our Alexandria” at Del Ray Artisans. The exhibit captures some of the forgotten businesses, people, and institutions that made African American families strong – church, school, and family. Other exhibits on display. Suggested admission $3 per person. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/museums or call 703-746-4356.

November 15-Jan 6 Art Exhibit – Re:Vision. Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. In Re:Vision, Elizabeth Caspero reflects on the emotional content of immigration and what it means to push forward with a new life while remaining pulled by the old. Using as springboard two sets of images that represent these conflicting dynamics, namely retro comic books and alternative ways to pop to soul with the Georgetown Saxatones. As space is limited, pre-registration is required. Children and caregivers. Join Mount Vernon Committee and the Office of Alexandria. Get ready to rock the 2018 Beaufentials Nouveau Day, parties are held throughout France to celebrate the first wine of the season. Celebrate the first taste of the 2018 harvest in the company of fellow French espresso drinker and City Council supporter. While guests enjoy the new flavor of the 2018 Beaufentials Nouveau and tasty treats, guest speaker Jessica Outer of Uncork’d will explore the signs and signatures of chemical changes, featuring one of the most exciting areas of chemistry: combustion. Contact Anton Murray at amurray@alexlibraryva.org.

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ECO-Justice Reading. 7 p.m. At St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub, 2200 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Great Del Rey Poetry Reading’s featured poets will include contributors to “Ghost Fishing: An Afro-Latinx Poetry Anthology,” published by the University of Georgia Press. The anthology is described as a “gathering of poetry at the intersection of race, social justice, and the environment.” Featured Ghost Fishing poets include: Jennifer Akzoin, Alondra Guevara, Amy Young. Visit www.FairfaxGhostFishingPlayers.org

Community Dance. 7-9:30 p.m. At Alexandria Junior High School, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Third Friday Community Dance with the Mount Vernon Community Band. Live music conducted by Owen Hummert. Concerts for kids and adults. Cowboy the community. Call 703-765-4573; TTY:711.

November 17 Holiday Shop. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. At Mt. Vernon. Featuring 50 artisans in fiber arts, photography, wood, paper, metal, glass and clay; orchids; crafts from around the world. Country Kitchen with famous chutneys, cakes, pies, cookies. Hot lunch. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Mt. Vernon Ice Skating. 2017 Belle Vue Blvd. Play hockey with other hockey buffs, hitting slap shots and learning puck handling skills that the pros use. Players must have full equipment. 16 and older. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/recreation or call 703-766-3224.

THURSDAY/NOV. 15 Historic Pohick Church Christmas Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Parish House and the Vestry House will be open. Admission to the Christmas market is $5 for all ages (adults and children). Note: Premium gifts will be available for purchase in the Christmas Market. Visit www.pohick-church.org or call 703-931-5575.

The Georgetowners Saxatones A Cappella Concert. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Get ready to rock the house with everything from alternative to pop to soul with the Georgetown Saxatones. As space is limited, pre-registration is required. Children and caregivers. Get ready to rock the house with everything from alternative to pop to soul with the Georgetown Saxatones. As space is limited, pre-registration is required. Children and caregivers. Get ready to rock the house with everything from alternative to pop to soul with the Georgetown Saxatones. As space is limited, pre-registration is required. Children and caregivers. Get ready to rock the house with everything from alternative to pop to soul with the Georgetown Saxatones. As space is limited, pre-registration is required. Children and caregivers. Get ready to rock the house with everything from alternative to pop to soul with the Georgetown Saxatones. As space is limited, pre-registration is required. Children and caregivers.
Capitol Steps UCB Benefit

This evening of comedy and musical satire is always a crowd pleaser — so make your reservations now. No matter who or what is in the headlines, The Capitol Steps tackle both sides of the political spectrum and all things equally foolish. More than 350 guests and community leaders enjoy the performed material last at the Madison Building. A fundraiser for the United Community Ministries. Sunday, November 18, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. At the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St., Alexandria (Madison Building). Tickets: $20; reserved table seating includes appetizers, beer, wine. Sponsorships start at $500. Visit www.ucmagency.org for tickets.

MONDAY/NOV 19
Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts. Residents will collect shoebox gifts at drop-off locations serving Alexandria participants. The Samaritan’s Purse project, partnering with churches worldwide, will deliver these gifts to children affected by war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine. Participants can donate $9 per shoebox gift online through “Follow Your Box” and receive a tracking label to deliver its destination. Those who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child’s specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement. Call 410-772-7360, or visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.

TUESDAY/NOV 20
Germanic French Ancestors. 1-3 p.m. At Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, 1050 Lee Hwy., Alexandria. Visit www.mountheiritage.org for information. Tickets: $12.50 by phone, www.mountheiritage.org. The program will include a lesson in the use of the German language, but no proficiency will be required. Jalila and Henry Hill will discuss their experience with the program.

FRIDAY/NOV 23
Mount Vernon by Candlelight. 5-8 p.m. At George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate. Join Mount Vernon’s residents and visitors for a festive evening tour. The event begins in the Ford Orientation Center, where visitors enjoy the sounds of the holiday season and view spectacular Christmas trees highlighting the lives of the Washingtons and their visitor. Guests will be guided into the 18th century for a lantern-tour of the historic area, where they will see the Slave Quarters and the Blacksmith Shop. Inside the mansion, Martha Washington and other Mount Vernon residents will welcome visitors into their home and share stories of past Christmas. Tickets: $25 adult, $17 youth (ages 6-11). Visit mountvernon.org/candlelight.

Holiday Shopping. Through Old Town Alexandria. Returning this year is Alexandria’s alternative Black Friday experience on November 23, with one-of-a-kind deals at more than 50 locally owned boutiques in Old Town and Del Ray, plus the Old Town Boutique District’s first-ever Plaid Friday. On Alexandria’s Small Business Saturday, November 24, shoppers will be treated to free parking at parking meters, the El Pizze Parral and special in-store events at more than 50 boutiques in Old Town and Del Ray. Alexandria Restaurant Partners’ offering 10 percent off at all ABP restaurants (Vola’s Dockside Grill, Mia’s Italian Kitchen, The Majestic, Joe’s Theismain’s Restaurant & Bar and Lena’s Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap) when you present a receipt from a local small business. Visit VisitAlexandriaVA.com/ShopSmall.

SATURDAY/NOV 24
Small Business Saturday. More than 50 independently owned boutiques in Old Town Alexandria and Del Ray will offer special in-store events. The Elf Prize Patrol returns from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. treating shoppers in Old Town and Del Ray to surprise giveaways. Other highlights include free parking at parking meters, pop-up performances by The Alexandria Singers and the Alexandria Community Band from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., and a postcard pop-up from Personal Postcard Photos at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, hands-on arts activities by the Mobile Art Lab and hosts for Santa and Mrs. Claus. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/SmallBusinessSaturday.
Join Jackson 20 for an Eco Friendly Turkey Day Dinner or choose from our seasonal offerings.

480 KING ST., ALEXANDRIA, VA
703.549.6080
JACKSON20RESTAURANT.COM

THANKSGIVING DINNER
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22  12pm - 8pm

OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY!
Opening at 4:30 PM just in time for Washington Redskins v. Dallas Cowboys

Karaoke at 9:30 PM
To make sure you get a chance to have a bite of Thanksgiving turkey, we will be serving an open faced oven roasted turkey breast sandwich...Yum!

Rock It Grill
1319 King St, Alexandria, VA
(703) 739-2274

Traditional Thanksgiving Buffet $19.50 Adults/$9.95 Kids 12 and under

The Best in Family Dining
An Alexandria community fixture for more than 100 years, the Royal Restaurant offers the best in Greek, Italian and American cuisine. Enjoy burgers, steaks, prime rib, chicken, seafood, pasta and full salad bar complete with special children’s menu items.

734 North Saint Asaph St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-548-1616

Contact us about Holiday Catering & Event Locations!
www.RoyalRestaurantVA.com ~ Award-winning wine menu ~ Major credit cards accepted

Thanksgiving Dinner $55 ADULTS $25 KIDS UNDER 12
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22 12pm - 8pm

Eat, Drink & Be Thankful!
OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY!

EAT, DRINK & BE THANKFUL!
Open Thanksgiving Day
November 22 • 11AM – 7PM* • $20.95 Per Person
(TAX & GRATUITY NOT INCLUDED)

Murphy’s Grill
113 King Street, Alexandria, VA

Cordially invites you, your family and friends to enjoy our 2018 Thanksgiving Dinner
November 22 • 11AM – 7PM • $22.95 Per Person
(TAX & GRATUITY NOT INCLUDED)

Menu

Butternut Squash Soup

Roasted Turkey
smashed potatoes or whipped sweet potatoes, green beans with sliced almonds, stuffing and gravy

Roasted Ham with Pineapple & Raisin Glaze
smashed potatoes or sweet potatoes, green beans with sliced almonds

Salmon with Lemon Butter Caper Sauce
asparagus and green beans with sliced almonds

Pecan Pie with Maple Syrup Whipped Cream • Pumpkin Pie

Reservations Recommended
703-548-1717

*THANKSGIVING DINNER SERVED
11AM – 7PM, FOLLOWED BY OUR LATE NIGHT MENU.
ENTERTAINMENT

4 Restaurants Serving A Thanksgiving Feast

By Hope Nelson

Don't feel like cooking this Thanksgiving Day? Have unexpected guests — or unexpected last-minute cancellations? Alexandria's restaurants have you covered. Pick up the phone or hop online to make a reservation at one of dozens of eateries just waiting to roll out the holiday feast.

Joe Theismann’s
The venerable sports pub near the King Street Metro transforms into a holiday haven for Thanksgiving. Seatings are available all afternoon and into the evening for a three-course prix fixe menu that offers both standards, such as turkey breast and prime rib, as well as alternative offerings, such as crab cakes, salmon and eggplant Parmesan. Start things off with a salad or appetizer; end on a sweet note with pumpkin, pecan or apple pie. 1800 Diaground Road. Noon-9 p.m. $29; $15 for children 12 and under. Reservations recommended.

Brabo Brasserie
The restaurant adjacent to the Lorien hotel is pulling out all the stops for a festive, upscale Thanksgiving dinner. Each course is served family-style, just like at home — only probably unlike home, diners will get to taste the likes of pressed beef terrine, baked salmon Riviera, duck a l’orange and nearly a half-dozen desserts. 1600 King St. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. $75. Reservations recommended.

Carlyle Club
Enjoy your turkey with a side of jazz during the Carlyle Club’s feast. Start off with lobster bisque or salad, move on to turkey with all the fixings (or sea bass with mango salsa) and then top it off with pumpkin or apple pie à la mode. The dulcet sounds of the Satin Doll Trio will provide a soundtrack for the occasion. 2050 Ballenger Ave. Noon-4 p.m. $55. Reservations recommended.

Virtue Feed & Grain
The options are abundant at Virtue’s holiday dinner. Start off with a spiced butter-nut squash and apple soup, a quinoa salad, spinach artichoke dip and more; then feast on turkey breast, prime rib, salmon, or pasta puttanescas. Pumpkin and bourbon-pecan pie await your dessert decision. 106 S. Union St. Noon-8 p.m. $29 ($18 for kids 12 and under). Reservations recommended.

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SATURDAY/DEC. 1
Holiday Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria. The Mount Vernon High School PTSA presents their 2018 Holiday Market. Accepting vendors. Learn more at Facebook.com/MVHSBM or email gnaholidaycoat@gmail.com.

Christmastide at Gunston Hall. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at George Page’s Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. A full day of holiday activities starts with a visit from Santa to games and crafts for all ages. The evening hours provide a romantic holiday experience by candlelight as visitors sample period food in the kitchen and explore the grounds by candlelight. $15 for adults; $10 for children and free for children 3 and under. Reservations are encouraged. Call 703-558-0220.

Brunch With Santa. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Pincern Golf Course, 660 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Skip the lines at the mall and bring the family to Pincern’s new indoor golf studio. Meet and take pictures with Santa while enjoying a family friendly brunch. Santa will be making his way around to mingle with families, take requests for holiday wish lists and give out goody bags before he heads back to the North Pole. $12 for ages 3 to 12; $14 for ages 13 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Email fcpapinecrest@gmail.com or call 703-941-1061.

Story Time for Little Historians. 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. “Why the Sun & Moon Live in the Sky,” retold and illustrated by Niki Daly. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is $3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356.

48th Annual Campagna Center Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. 11 a.m. Dozens of Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans parade through the streets of Old Town, joined by pipe and drum bands from around the region, as well as terriers and hounds. The parade, which takes place rain or shine, begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a hot food vendor. Parade admission is free. Call 703-549-0111 or visit www.CampagnaCenter.org/ScottishWalkWeekend.

Ship Biscuit Ornament Making. 1-4 p.m. At Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., #327, Alexandria. An almost completely intact ship’s biscuit from the 18th century was found in Alexandria last year. To commemorate the discovery, visitors are invited to make their own ship’s biscuit. Each biscuit will be stamped with the year and then baked at home to track its preservation. No registration required. Call 703-746-4359 or visit www.AlexandriaArcheology.org.

19th Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. 5:30 p.m. At Alexandria City Marina, Cameron Yacht Basin. Alexandria’s waterfront shines as dozens of brightly lit boats cruise the Potomac River for the Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Parade viewing areas include: Founders Park (351 North Union St.), Alexandria Yacht Basin (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1A Prince St.), Chadwick’s Waterfront Park (1 Willis St.), and Ford’s Landing Park (9 Franklin St.). Call 703-746-3301. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/BoatParade.

Holidays on the Avenue in Del Ray. 6 p.m. At Pat Miller Neighborhood Square at Mount Vernon Avenue and E. Oxford Avenue, Alexandria. Kick off the holidays with a visit to Del Ray for the annual holiday tree lighting, featuring a special appearance by Santa Claus who will lead carols and sing for photos with children. Continue the celebration and start your holiday shopping with a stroll down a scroll through Mount Vernon Avenue, which will be illuminated by thousands of luminarias. Pick your favorite in the neighborhood business association’s annual Christmas tree decorating contest. Call 703-683-2570 or visit www.VisitDelRay.com.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY/DEC. 1-2
Watercolor Exhibition and Sale. Saturday, 4-7 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Fairfax. Many local artists will exhibit and offer for sale their original watercolor paintings at the 26th annual exhibition of Famous Artists of the 21st Century. Call 703-764-3341 or visit www.F胸前19th.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2
HOLIDAY MAGIC. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. At Alexandria’s Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. “Why the Sun & Moon Live in the Sky,” retold and illustrated by Niki Daly. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is $3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356.

Frühstück Führer (Breakfast Tour). 11 a.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. “Why the Sun & Moon Live in the Sky,” retold and illustrated by Niki Daly. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is $3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356.

Traditional Thanksgiving Buffet. $19.50 Adults $7.95 Kids 12 and under. $14.95 Seniors. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; 5-7 p.m. at Hotel Alexandria, 3000 King St. Alexandria. Join us for a plated buffet with traditional food, beverages, and a “build-your-own” dessert bar. Reservations are required. Call 703-746-2000.


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The Best in Family Dining
An Alexandria community fixture for more than 100 years, the Royal Restaurant offers the best in Greek, Italian and American cuisine. Enjoy burgers, steaks, prime rib, chicken, seafood, pasta and full salad bar complete with special children’s menu items.

Food fit for a king on a family budget:
Call us about Holiday Catering & Event Locations!
Shrek – Aidan White, Donkey – Avery Johnson, Fiona – Kendall Huheey, Gingy – Eli Alexander. Show times are Nov. 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 7 p.m.; and Nov. 11 and 18 at 3 p.m. Tickets are $14/per person online.


Thursday/Dec. 6
Community Shopping Event. 7-9 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 519 King St. Every gift purchased will provide special needs assistance to an Alexandrian – a child, teen, adult, or older adult – of limited means who is striving for recovery and wellbeing with help from the City’s mental health services. Enjoy light refreshments, music, free gift-wrapping, and a great selection of handcrafted items made by artisans from over 38 countries. The more items purchased, the greater the help to those in need. Email FriendsoftheAMHC@gmail.com.

Saturday/Dec. 8
Photos with Santa. 12 p.m.-3 p.m. At Hooray for Books! and Visit Alexandria will present photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Advance reservation is required. To reserve a 10-minute slot for a child to meet Santa, make any size donation to the bookstore’s special Santa account, which will be used to provide books, toys and games for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program’s Holiday Party. Visit www.Hooray4Books.com.

“Chips for Charity” Fundraiser. 7 p.m. at The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, in the Madison Auditorium, 600 Dulany St. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Military Association is hosting a “Chips for Charity” to raise funds for Serve Our Willing Warriors (SOWW). SOWW is a local non-profit charity in Haymarket that provides in-kind retreats and other programs that positively impact the lives of wounded, ill, or injured military service members and disabled veterans. Open to the public. $30 for players, $20 for non-players. Tickets can be purchased at Gemstaww.org/charity.

Saturday/Dec. 9
Metropolitan School of the Arts Nutcracker Ballet. 1 and 5 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center, NOVA Alexandria campus. The Metropolitan School of the Arts Nutcracker Ballet showcases a world-class, international principle guest dancer, Brooklyn Mack, who performs the role of Cavalier. Tickets are $28-$28 at www.metropolitanarts.org.

Tuesday/Dec. 11
Del Ray Artisans Benefit. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; performance, 8 p.m. at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Little Theatre of Alexandria performance of “A Christmas Carol” to benefit Del Ray Artisans. $45. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/christmas-carol.

Friday/Dec. 14
Alexandria After Work Concert Series. 6-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington and The Office of Historic Alexandria sponsor a concert on the second Friday of the month with locations rotating between the Murray-Dickerson House, Lloyd House, and The Lyceum. Alexandria’s History Museum. $15 suggested donation for the musicians, light refreshments available, and a cash bar. Visit www.fsgw.org.

Saturday/Dec. 15
Photos with Santa. 12 p.m.-3 p.m. At Hooray for Books! and Visit Alexandria will present photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Advance reservation is required. To reserve a 10-minute slot for a child to meet Santa, make any size donation to the bookstore’s special Santa account, which will be used to provide books, toys and games for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program’s Holiday Party. Visit www.Hooray4Books.com.

Fridas/Dec. 14-16

Saturday/Dec. 22
Photos with Santa. 12 p.m.-3 p.m. At Hooray for Books! and Visit Alexandria will present photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Advance reservation is required. To reserve a 10-minute slot for a child to meet Santa, make any size donation to the bookstore’s special Santa account, which will be used to provide books, toys and games for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program’s Holiday Party. Visit www.Hooray4Books.com.

Mount Vernon Community Children’s Theatre presents “Shrek The Musical” starring 46 local youth from more than 22 area schools. An unlikely hero, Shrek finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside the wisecracking Donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. “Shrek the Musical” is irreverent fun for the whole family and proves that beauty is truly in the eye of the ogre. The show will be performed Nov. 9-18 at Bryant Alternative High School Auditorium, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Show times are Nov. 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 7 p.m.; and Nov. 11 and 18 at 3 p.m. Tickets are $14/per person online at www.mvccc.org.
‘Consequential Decision’

FROM PAGE 3
That vision would in turn drive what sort of facilities-based solution the schools decide to pursue, and not the other way around. High schools should produce workers capable of “reconditioning” themselves in a fluid labor market, according to a presentation by staff and consultants to the School Board on Thursday, Nov. 8.

Students must develop skills like “creativity,” “cognitive flexibility” and “learning agility” via more pupil-led “experiential learning” contexts, such as internships and apprenticeships. For this, the school system would expand partnerships with local organizations, not least businesses, tapping into the whole “Alexandria community as a classroom.”

“Right now, based on all of the data we have, strategy three is going to be the most accommodating to fulfill everything that’s in the educational vision,” said Dr. Gregory Hutchings, Jr., the schools’ superintendent.

Staff and consultants offered several cases in point from around the country. For instance, Cross-town Tech, which plans to build a high school which partners with town High School, a public charter school, is going to be the most accommodating to fulfill everything that’s in the educational vision, said Dr. Gregory Hutchings, Jr., the schools’ superintendent.

The City of Alexandria, Virginia, for its part, is considering amendments to the City Code to address delivery of unsolicited solicitation publications. The City Code contains provisions for PUBLICATIONS) of Title 9 (LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING CITATIONS) of Article 5 (PARKING, CONTEST OF PUBLICATIONS) of Title 2 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) of Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) of Section 2-3-553. The ordinance will amend Section 2-4-652 to provide that committees and commissions are required to report their findings to the City Council or to the Clerk of the Circuit Court. This ordinance will also update the Article to refer to repealed sections of the City Code.

AN ORDINANCE making supplemental appropriations for the operation of the government of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for fiscal year 2019.

In particular, the proposed ordinance accomplishes the following:

• Repeals the prior amendment to Section 4-150 (CREATION, COMPOSITION, AND DUTIES OF A COMMITTEE) of Title 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS) of the City Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. This ordinance amends the general provisions pertaining to Committees, Boards, and Commissions to be consistent with current practices. This ordinance will amend Section 2-4-652 to provide that committees and commissions are required to report their findings to the City Council or to the Clerk of the Circuit Court. This ordinance will also update the Article to refer to repealed sections of the City Code.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owner of 469 Prince Street to construct and maintain an enclosure for a marquee awning, in the City of Alexandria, Virginia. The proposed ordinance permits the owner to place a construction to allow placement of additional conduits and fiber optic cable for telecommunications services in the City of Alexandria.

AN ORDINANCE making supplemental appropriations for the operation of the government of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for fiscal year 2019.
HOLIDAY DONATIONS
Stuff the Bus with DASH.
DASH Representatives will be on-site collecting non-perishable food items along with gently used and/or new coats, gloves, hats and scarves for those children in need. Collections will be given to Alexandria citizens who have been affected by poverty and natural disasters. Collections will take place on the below dates and times:
❖ Nov. 15: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub, Del Ray, 2300 Mt Vernon Ave.
❖ Nov. 16: 9 a.m.-noon at Alexandria’s City Hall & Market Square, King Street Side, 301 King St.
If you are unable to attend any of the listed dates but would like to make a donation, email mark.curry@alexandriava.gov. Visit www.dashboardbus.com for more.

Toys for Tots Drive.
Nov. 19-Dec. 10.
Area Shephy’s Auto Stores will collect new and unwrapped toys to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which will distribute toys to children who are less fortunate fortunate to children in the community for whom the campaign is conducted. Shephy’s Toys for Tots drop-off locations include:
❖ Shephy Honda of Alexandria, 2434 Richmond Highway, Alexandria
Children’s Holiday Party. The Alexandria Domestic Violence Program (DVP) organizes a Holiday Party for children and mothers who have been recently served by the program on Dec. 13. At the party, the families reunite with past shelter friends and staff, eat and take pictures with Santa Claus, among other activities. Each mother and child receives a bag of gifts to wrap and place under their own tree on Christmas Day. If you wish to donate children’s toys or other gifts, provide newly purchased, unwrapped items. DVP will provide each mother with wrapping paper to personalize each child’s gift. DVP is requesting gift certificates to local stores in denominations of $25. For help deciding what to purchase, or questions about donating, call Madalina or Helen at 703-746-9911 for assistance. More information about Domestic Violence visit alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence.

THROUGH DEC. 31
Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for Alexandria homeowners in designated areas which historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The City Manager approved the additional backflow preventer effort in the wake of torrential rainfall July 17-22. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of $2,000. The current program period is from July 1-Dec. 31. Alexandria home owners should call the Department of Environmental Services at 703-746-0043 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes.

NAME THE NEW PARK
The City of Alexandria is soliciting suggestions for the name of the new park at the foot of King Street. The public is invited to participate in an online survey now through Nov. 16, and a public hearing on Nov. 15, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Charles Houston Recreation Center (901 Wythe St.). Visit alexandriava.gov/Waterfront.

THURSDAY/NOV. 15
Job Fair. 4-6 p.m. at 401 Wythe St. The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) is hosting a job fair for Alexandria residents, preferably low and very-low income persons or businesses which provide jobs for low-income residents. Applications are encouraged to apply online at www.alexandriava.gov/ARHA.

Foster Parent Orientation. 6-7:30 p.m. at Alexandria DC SHS 2252 Mt. Vernon Ave. Alexandria will hold a free, no obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions and explain the requirements to foster and/or adopt. Note: Go to the Mt. Ida Street side entrance of the DC SHS building. For questions or to RSVP, call 703-746-5938 or email christine.levine@alexandriava.gov.

Public Hearing. 7 p.m. at the Jerome “Buddy” Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave. The Park and Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing to receive comment on the 2018 Landscape Guidelines Update. Following the public hearing, the Commission will continue with its review.

See Bulletin, Page 33
regular monthly meeting. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/1056343. For additional information and to submit comments, contact Bethany Znidaric at bethany.znidaric@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5492.

Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Celebration. 7-8:30 p.m. at Minnie Howard Library Meeting Center, 3802 W. Braddock. The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) will celebrate 10 years of citizen-led efforts to reduce underage substance use and abuse. Representatives will also discuss upcoming activities and all who attend are eligible to vote on open board of directors positions. Visit healthalexandriand.org/SAPCA/ for more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 16

Lake Cook Celebration. 8-10 a.m. Join the City of Alexandria in celebrating the newly renovated Lake Cook at 4001 Eisenhower Ave. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will be restocking Lake Cook for the first time since the lake was closed for water quality improvements. City staff will be on hand to talk about the improvements and distribute eco-friendly literature and giveaways. Visit alexandriava.gov/Stormwater.

Comments Deadline. The City is seeking input from residents and the business community on the draft 2018 Landscape Guidelines Update. The draft is currently posted on the 2018 Landscape Guidelines Update website and open for public review and comment through Friday, Nov. 16, 2018. The City of Alexandria’s 2018 Landscape Guidelines Update revises the City’s approved landscape standards to include current industry standards, best practices, and terminology. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation for more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 17

Opening Ceremony. 8:30 a.m. at Windmill Hill Park, 501 S. Union St. The City of Alexandria invites the public to an opening ceremony for the newly renovated Windmill Hill Park with remarks by the Mayor and other City officials, a ribbon cutting ceremony, and an overview of park improvements by City staff. The ceremony will occur rain or shine.

SUNDAY/NOV. 18

Community Open House. 1-3 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Park, 4301 West Braddock Road. Join staff from the Office of Historic Alexandria to learn more about the Interpretive Plan that is being developed for Fort Ward Park by staff, citizens and consultants. The Plan will improve interpretation for the preserved Civil War fort, and more fully explore and improve interpretation for the preserved Civil War fort, and more fully explore and improve interpretation for the preserved Civil War fort, and preserve the historical context of the Park. The newly renovated Windmill Hill Park with restored historic buildings, historic landscapes, and interpreters will be open for visitors. Contact Mike Doyle at 703-946-8401 or mikeo@alxhis.org.

World Day Of Remembrance. 2 p.m. International Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) is an annual event to remember the millions of people killed and injured in traffic crashes around the world. The patient (in this context, me), is either damned if you do (side effects of the cancer or of the chemotherapy) and damned if you don’t (tumor growth, potentially). I need way more than a festivities miracle.

To invoke Tiny Tim, I need to tip toe through the tulips, so to speak; to have my chemotherapy infusions allow me to eat/satiate my meals, travel when necessary without having to double-back for chemotherapy yep, my infusion center is open on Friday, Nov. 23, as well as the day before Christmas and the day after, with their schedule repeating itself for New Year’s) and navigate an already challenging five-week turn of events. To be capped off by a Jan. 2 CT scan followed up by a Jan. 11 face-to-face appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results of the January scan. I get so emotional at the mere mention of the word chemotherapy infusions a bad name and an even worse concept.

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World Day Of Remembrance. 2 p.m. International Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) is an annual event to remember the millions of people killed and injured in traffic crashes around the world. Join members of Alexandria Families for Safe Streets (AFSS) for a walk and remembrance ceremony of King Street near the Potomac to Market Square. The walk will be followed by a brief ceremony. Contact Mike Doyle at 703-946-8401 or mikeo@alxhis.org or visit www.afssf.org.

MONDAY/NOV. 19

Community Open House. 6-8 p.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room of City Hall, Room 1101, 301 King St. The community is invited to an informal open house to learn about a proposed zoning ordinance amendment for a new residential zone to incentivize preservation of existing housing affordability. Community members are encouraged to stop by anytime to comment or ask questions. All information provided at the open house will also be posted at www.alexandriava.gov/Planning. Questions may be directed to Radhika Mohan, radhika.mohan@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-3580.
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Nate Guggenheim 202-333-5905

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
Alexandria Historic/ Torpedo Factory w/Views of the Potomac & Capitol. Renovated penthouse. Dining room w/fireplace. Private master suite. Walk to restaurants, parks & more! $875,000
Penny Yerks 703-760-0744
Piper Yerks 703-760-0744

COLONIAL BEACH, VIRGINIA
Waterfront! Breathtaking with access to the Potomac River & private pier. Completely renovated. Large screened porch w/view of Colonial Beach. 100’ pier w/ boat lift! $575,000
Penny Yerks 703-760-0744
Piper Yerks 703-760-0744

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Alexandria Gazette Packet ♦ November 15-21, 2018 ♦ 35
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**Fords Landing | $2,149,000**
Price reduced on this unparalleled waterfront home featuring glorious river views from 4 levels. Elegant and comfortable family room, kitchen and breakfast/living area. Grand master suite with 5 additional bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half bath 2-car garage. 604 Fords Landing Way
Susan Anthony 703.795.9336 www.SusanBruceAnthony.com

**Arlington | $1,699,900**
Beautiful new 6-bedroom, 4.5-bath Craftsman-style bungalow by Windmill Hill Design Build. Dream kitchen with large island leads to family room with fireplace and screened porch. Luxurious master, finished lower level, in-law suite.

**Crystal City | $1,650,000**
This double unit designed by Carlton Varney and located in the Waterford House has views of Washington, DC like no other! Designed for high-end entertaining and comfortable living it also has 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths & 2 garage spaces. 1200 Crystal Drive #1713 & #1714

**Alexandria City | $1,475,000**
Gorgeous 5-bedroom home on .47 acre features spacious rooms, gleaming wood floors, updates galore, handsome library/office, gourmet kitchen, 4 fireplaces, sumptuous master suite, custom details, 2-car garage and so much more. 1591 Chapel Hill Dr.
Julian Burke 703.867.4219 www.JulianBurke.com

**Belle Haven | $799,900**
Panoramic raised ranch style house with chef’s kitchen and beautiful garden! Formal living & dining rooms, covered porch, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Walk-out lower level offers rec room, in-law suite, kitchenette, garage, storage plus room to expand!
Kate Patterson 703.627.2166 www.KatePattersonHomes.com

**Old Town/Marina Towers | $529,900**
Watch fabulous sunsets, fall foliage and DC fireworks from the 14-foot NW-facing balcony. 1,471 SF, 3-bedroom, 2-bath, open floor plan. Tons of closets, washer/dryer in unit, garage space. Expanded kitchen with wine cooler & pro Dacor gas stove. Move-in ready.
Delaine Campbell 703.239.0039 www.DelaineSells.com

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**Stonegate | $640,000**
Wonderful end unit townhome with large yard, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2-car garage, wood floors on main level. $5,000 decorating allowance for kitchen and wood floors. New roof, new A/C, and move-in ready. Located close to Mark Center, Pentagon and just a zip to DC.
Jo Erkiletian 703.862.6870 www.McEnearney.com

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**Christopher Perry**
To Our Alexandria Office

If you are thinking of buying, selling or renting, call Chris today at 571.732.0047 or email cperry@mcenearney.com. www.CJPerryRealtor.com

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