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# Alexandria Gazette Packet



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NOVEMBER 28, 2019

## Let There Be Light Tree lighting kicks off holiday season.

**S**anta made an early visit to Market Square Nov. 23 to kick off the festivities for the city's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The drizzly skies didn't dampen the spirits of the crowd as Santa was joined by Mayor Justin Wilson in lighting the tree in front of City Hall.

"A little rain has not kept the crowds away," Tweeted Wilson as he prepared to take the stage. "It's amazing to have the T.C. Titans Choir here to help us light the Market Square tree."

In addition to carols performed by the T.C. Williams High School Choir, the program featured a performance of "Santa's Spectacular" by the Metropolitan School of the Arts and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The traditional kick off to the holiday season took place a  
SEE LET THERE BE, PAGE 16



Despite the rain, children pose for a photo on Santa's lap Nov. 23 in Market Square.



A trio of friends pose in Market Square following the annual tree lighting ceremony Nov. 23 at City Hall.

PHOTOS BY "MANGO" MIKE ANDERSON

## What Are You Thankful For?

PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



**Acting Fire Chief Corey Smedley** - "I'm thankful for my faith, my family and fire. ... I'm thankful for my crazy faith, my loving family and this wonderful profession of firefighting - the great community I can serve in."



**Kristen Ward** - "I'm thankful for my family and all of my co-workers and how compassionate they are with the people we serve here at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home."



**Diego Delgado** - "I'm thankful for being at a time and space where I can have all my family together - both mine and my husband's - that brings me lots of joy."

SEE THANKFUL, PAGE 4

**Sheriff Dana Lawhorne** - "I am thankful for my wife Linda, our three daughters, two grandchildren and two nice son-in-laws. I'm thankful for my best friend Tim Gleason and I'm thankful that I get to lead an agency of women and men who dedicate their lives to protecting and serving. It's truly an honor."



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## Take Your Thanksgiving and ...

Thanks but no thanks.

That was the reaction of Alexandria Gazette editor **Edgar Snowden** in 1876, when President **Ulysses S. Grant** issued a Thanksgiving proclamation. The idea of Thanksgiving as a federal holiday was something **Abraham Lincoln** came up with during the Civil War, and in the dark days of Reconstruction city commerce became a way to resist Republican occupation.

"It would have needed a practiced eye to detect any appearance of thanksgiving among the passers on the streets," Snowden observed in the Local Items section on Nov. 25, 1875. "Some of the schools of the city had holiday, and no business was transacted at the Corn Exchange."

The Corn Exchange is the grand building at 100 King Street, infamous for an alleged curse that prevents businesses from staying open all that long. These days, it's Mia's Italian Kitchen. Back in the day the large upstairs rooms with huge windows was the wholesale trading floor of the Corn Exchange, which must have struck Snowden as gauche federal overreach.

"The President's Thanksgiving Day was observed here only partially, all the grafts of New England custom upon a Virginia stock having so far found but moderate growth," Snowden explained.

## Gerrymanderpalooza

Judges were once seen as a group of people who could operate beyond the realm of politics. From their ivory towers and wood-paneled chambers they could take a fair and impartial look at things like redistricting. That was the thinking behind a proposed constitutional amendment creating a new commission to take the power of gerrymandering away from partisan politicians and put it in the hand of an independent judiciary.

Del. **Mark Levine** (D-45) disagrees.

He voted for the amendment last year; now he's flipflopping. Levine says in world where Bush v Gore can determine an election and Brett Kavanaugh can sit on the Supreme Court, he rejects the idea judges will make better mapmakers than elected officials in the General Assembly. Ultimately, he says, computers should draw the maps. Until that happens, he says, partisan politicians should continue to draw the maps.

"I can't trust judges to be fair on the basis of the facts and the law anymore," says Levine. "Those days, if they ever existed, they're certainly gone now."

## Impeachment Divisiveness

Should President **Donald Trump** be impeached? The answer is an enthusiastic yes, according to the vast majority of speakers at an impeachment town hall conducted by U.S. Rep. **Don Beyer** (D-8) at T.C. Williams High School. Speakers raised concerns about everything from emoluments and bribery to whistleblowers and foreign service professionals. A handful of speakers said it was all a deep state hoax perpetrated by people who hate the president.

"I was glad to see the opposite side out," said **Mike Webb**, a Republican who waged an unsuccessful campaign for the Republican nomination to run against Beyer last year. "Generally the Republicans don't come out. They don't run for office. They don't come to the polls. So it was good to see them here."

Beyer explained that he's been so busy with the day-to-day grind of Congress that people in the audience had probably seen more of the impeachment hearings than he had, although he'll have a chance to catch up now that Congress is out of session for Thanksgiving.

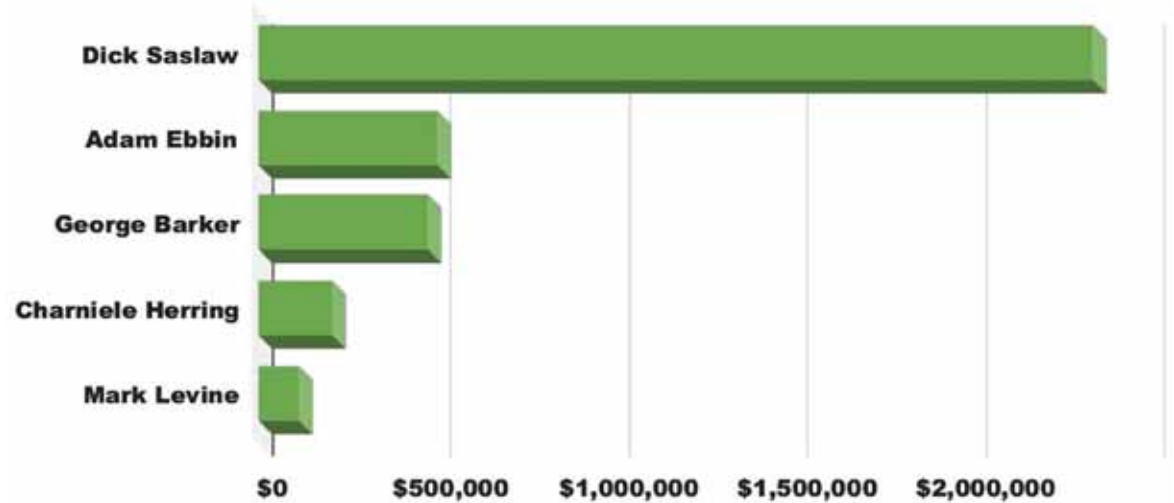
As for the hodgepodge of issues people brought up at the town hall, the congressman said there was a unifying thread tying them all together.

"If there's one common theme," said the congressman on the way out the door, "it was that we need to get over the divisiveness in our country."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## NEWS

## Campaign Spending 2019



source: Virginia Public Access Project

## Following the Money

Special-interest groups seek power and influence.

SEE FOLLOW THE MONEY. PAGE 16



### Top Donors to Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35)

- ❖ \$50,000 from Dominion Energy
- ❖ \$40,000 from Baltimore Washington Construction & Public Employees Laborers PAC
- ❖ \$25,000 from Betting on Virginia Jobs, a PAC created by casino developers in Bristol
- ❖ \$20,000 from Altria
- ❖ \$20,000 from Service Distributing Inc
- ❖ \$20,000 from Virginia Beer Wholesalers Association
- ❖ \$20,000 from Virginia Dental Association
- ❖ \$20,000 from Verizon
- ❖ \$16,250 from Virginia Auto Dealers Association
- ❖ \$15,000 from LoanMax



### Top Donors to Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30)

- ❖ \$28,000 from attorney Mark Colley at Arnold & Porter LLP
- ❖ \$20,000 from Vienna-based private equity investor Edward Hart Rice
- ❖ \$14,000 from lobbyist John Ashford at the Hawthorn Group
- ❖ \$13,000 from Thomson Hirst, board member of WinVirginia
- ❖ \$11,000 from Leslie Wilkes of Alexandria
- ❖ \$8,000 from Mark Buchholz at Federal Acquisition Strategies
- ❖ \$6,000 from Realtor Gary Dopsloff at TTR Southebys International Realty
- ❖ \$6,000 from Baltimore Washington Construction and Public Employees Laborers PAC
- ❖ \$6,000 from Richard Moore, executive vice president at Nexus Services
- ❖ \$5,800 from Win Virginia



### Top Donors to Sen. George Barker (D-39)

- ❖ \$20,000 from George Barker
- ❖ \$19,000 from Dominion Energy
- ❖ \$12,000 from the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association
- ❖ \$6,000 from the Virginia Gasoline Marketers Council
- ❖ \$6,000 from the Virginia Optometric Association
- ❖ \$5,000 from the Medical Society of Virginia
- ❖ \$4,500 from Richmond-based health-insurance provider Anthem
- ❖ \$4,500 from Newport News Shipbuilding
- ❖ \$4,500 from Northern Virginia Association of Realtors
- ❖ \$4,500 from from Richmond-based law firm Williams Mullen



### Top Donors to Del. Charniele Herring (D-46)

- ❖ \$36,000 from Dominion Energy
- ❖ \$15,000 from the Virginia Auto Dealers Association
- ❖ \$13,500 from the Virginia Beer Wholesalers Association
- ❖ \$10,000 from the Virginia Cable Telecom Association
- ❖ \$8,000 from the Feminist Majority PAC
- ❖ \$7,500 from Stephani Sion Erkiletian at Erkiletian Construction
- ❖ \$7,035 from Carolyn Mary Grimes at Wade Grimes Friedman Meinken & Leschner
- ❖ \$7,000 from the Commonwealth Challenge Fund
- ❖ \$7,000 Eva Trig Hardy of Richmond
- ❖ \$7,000 from the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association



### Top Donors to Del. Mark Levine (D-45)

- ❖ \$7,540 from Anthony Postert, an economist at the U.S. Department of Justice
- ❖ \$7,250 from Corneila Sheehan of Alexandria
- ❖ \$5,000 from Clean Virginia Fund
- ❖ \$5,000 from Marc Katz at Custom Ink in McLean
- ❖ \$3,000 from Betting on Virginia Jobs, a PAC created by casino developers in Bristol
- ❖ \$2,000 from attorney Doratheia Peters at Peters-Mullins
- ❖ \$2,000 from Michael Jacobs of Alexandria
- ❖ \$2,000 from Helen Morris of Alexandria
- ❖ \$2,000 from the Virginia Orthopaedic Society
- ❖ \$2,000 from the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association

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# THANKFUL

PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

## What Are You Thankful For?

FROM PAGE 1



**Jackson Fannon, 4 years old** – “I’m thankful for my Daddy and Mommy, my Mimi and Pop-Pop, and my house, my school and my friends.”



**Shawn Banks** – “I’m thankful to be here in good health and able to spend some time with the people I love.”



**Bill Clayton** – “I am thankful for a loving wife and family and my health.”



**Mollie Abraham with 11-month-old great-granddaughter Mollie Roudik** – “I’m thankful to be alive and well at 93 and still functioning fairly well and that I have a younger person who carries my name. We are a part of a wonderful family.”



**Brian Boisse** – “I am thankful for my loving Mom and Dad.”



**Police Chief Mike Brown** – “I’m thankful everyday I get up in the morning for the blessings I receive from my family and friends, including my APD family and the community of Alexandria. My wife and I love this city and the people in it and I am thankful for that.”

SEE WHAT ARE YOU, PAGE 5

# THANKFUL

INDEPENDENT LIVING // ASSISTED LIVING // MEMORY CARE // LONG-TERM CARE // SHORT-TERM REHABILITATION // HOME CARE

## What Are You Thankful For?

FROM PAGE 4



**Bolivian exchange student Juan Carlos Medina – “This is my first Thanksgiving. I’m thankful to be able to study here, living with a wonderful family and for my friends at T.C. Williams.”**



**Heidi Vanessa Long – “I am very thankful for my family and friends.”**

PHOTOS BY  
JANET BARNETT  
GAZETTE PACKET

**Irene Blair – “I am very grateful for my blessings that are too many to count — my loving and kind husband, for the internet that allows me to communicate with my loving and gracefully aging parents while they’re still alive, for my siblings, nephews and nieces, and I thank the Lord for the patience and strength He gives me every day to keep on smiling until the sun goes down. I’m grateful for everything.”**



### BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

#### TUESDAY/DEC. 3

**GW Parkway Safety Meeting.** 6-8 p.m. At Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. The National Park Service will host a meeting to discuss George Washington Memorial Parkway visitors’ recommendations about how to improve safety at key intersections between the City of Alexandria and George Washington’s Mount Vernon. This is the next step in ongoing work to improve safety on this section of the GWMP, and it is the first time the NPS will share this information with the public. The options include new efforts to: Educate parkway visitors about safe travel through the parkway’s historic landscape; Enforce speed limits and address distracted driving; and Engineer improvements including new traffic patterns and additional lighting. All of the solutions NPS presents will both make the road safer and protect the parkway’s historic character. Learn more about the study and see a map at [go.nps.gov/GWMPSafety](http://go.nps.gov/GWMPSafety).

#### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 11

**Fort Ward Park Meeting.** 7-8:30 p.m. At St. Stephens St. Agnes Middle School, 4401 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and the Office of Historic Alexandria will host a community meeting regarding Fort Ward Park. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the community to learn about upcoming 2020 capital projects related to implementation of the Fort Ward Park & Museum Area Management Plan and the Fort Ward Interpretative Plan.



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# City Council Serves the People

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**lexandria Elks Lodge #48 and Is-rael Temple #138 encourage the Mayor and City Council to serve the people as the Council passes out plates piled high with turkey and stuffing.

The Mayor had adjourned the City Council meeting earlier in the afternoon. Brother Harold Hughes says, "For the first time in 37 years a Mayor was able to attend our Thanksgiving dinner along with five Council members."

More than 200 people celebrate "being blessed another year" at the Lee Center Exhibit Hall, with the smells of cooked turkey and the sweetness of the candied sweet potatoes wafting through the room. Vancine, Blanche and Corey are singing "we have to praise him for each day." Hallelujahs reverberate from the back table.

People head with their walkers to a table near the front of the room while others wave at a friend across the room to save them a seat. Six members of Israel Temple fill the plates down the line with turkey and trimmings and load large trays for delivery to the tables by Council members.

Daughter Doris McMurray officiates as the Mistress of Ceremonies guiding the program through Introductions, speakers and memories. Deacon Albert "Al" Anderson from St. Joseph's Catholic Church serves as the main speaker vowing "to keep it short. I'm hungry, too." He traces the history of Thanksgiving from the Ga tribe in West Africa to the American Thanksgiving. Anderson remarks that some people today don't have a meal to eat. "Go home and find somebody to feed." He says, "We have been able to



**Daughters of Israel Temple #138 load up plates with turkey and all the trimmings at the 37th annual free Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Senior Citizens Committee of Alexandria Lodge #48 and Israel Temple.**

endure because we have faith. Be joyous. Don't let this situation in the world get you down."

The Thanksgiving dinner was organized by the Senior Citizens Committee and sponsored in part by Historic Christ's Church on Washington Street and catered by King Catering.



**Vancine, Blanche and Corey entertain the crowd as the diners count down the minutes until the turkey line begins.**

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE



**Mayor Justin Wilson and Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker serve Thanksgiving dinner to Alexandrians attending the community Thanksgiving event Saturday, Nov. 16. At another table Councilwoman "Del" Pepper and Councilman Canek Aguirre serve a member of Historic Christ's Church, which helped sponsor the dinner. Maureen McCarty is a Christ Church Lazarus volunteer financial counselor.**

## Nora Partlow, Coldwell Banker Realtor, wins 2019 Good Neighbor Award from National Association of Realtors

One of Alexandria's own, Nora Partlow, Coldwell Banker has won a 2019 Good Neighbor Award thanks to her volunteer work at Neighborhood Health which provides health services on a sliding price scale to lower income patients in Alexandria and surrounding areas. Partlow has volunteered with Neighborhood Health in Del Ray for more than 21 years. In recognition of her contributions, the award includes a \$5000 grant from Coldwell Banker to Neighborhood Health.

Partlow was a coffee shop owner when she became aware of Neighborhood Health. It had one site at the time, and she noticed that many of its clients were using her nearby coffee shop, situated among low-income housing units in the Del Ray neighborhood, as an ad hoc waiting room. She became a fervent supporter of the clinic's mission when she realized that many of her employees, primarily minimum-wage workers, couldn't afford quality medical care. Even

though Partlow covered 50% of the cost of her employees' health insurance premiums, most couldn't afford the remainder.

At meetings for the Del Ray Business Association, Partlow mobilized support for the health center. She pointed out that "small businesses depend on employees to be well so they can come to work and, as minimum wage workers, those employees depend on [Neighborhood Health] for medical care," she recalls. She encouraged business owners to donate their time, resources, and funding, and the association added Neighborhood Health to its list of beneficiaries from its First Thursday street fairs.

During its annual convention from November 8-11, the National Association of Realtors celebrated the 20th year of the Good Neighbor Awards program, which honor Realtors for their achievements as volunteers who improve the lives of people in need around them.



**Nora Partlow with Governor Northam.**

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

## LETTERS

### Protecting Wetlands to Protect from Climate Change

To the editor

Our local government just announced that it has won a great victory by at last obtaining the necessary Federal permit to destroy about five acres of wetlands at Potomac Yard adjoining the George Washington Parkway and containing tidal wetlands. These wetlands also contain about 270 mature trees and some rare native plants which grow only in wetland habitats.

There was another option for locating the Potomac Yard Metro, outside the wetland. It would not have required a permit and so could have already been built.

There was a public hearing on the state permit last July, shortly after a major flood event on July 8. Many of those who spoke at the state hearing mentioned the flooding in their neighborhoods. Rosemont where I live had some flooded basements for the first time I can remember since 2008. Parking garages in Old Town were flooded. The city spent about

\$500,000 on damages according to the city manager. It also offered low cost flood insurance to homeowners to repair damages.

But the most ominous feature of the flood event which occurred on a weekday was that it caused major flooding on the George Washington Parkway.

There was serious damage to flooded cars and people had to be rescued from them. No one drowned. We have had subsequent flooding on the Parkway, none as extreme.

As all environmentalists know, wetlands function as catch basins to hold excess water. Higher ground does not. All our flooding events are clearly related to freakish rain storms while the large catch basin of the Potomac Yard wetland was still available as a mitigating factor.

After it is destroyed there will surely be more extreme weather and more flooding.

Unless the city changes its policy soon and truly recognizes global warming as a threat, things can only get worse.

**Katy Cannady**  
Alexandria

### Munificent Salaries

Dear Editor:

Recently, various local newspapers printed the munificent salaries of Alexandria City employees. I was aghast that the City Manager is drawing about \$300,000 a year and his three Deputy City Managers pull in around \$200,000. Most of the other upper echelon employees are also making high salaries. These figures are considerably higher than Federal Employees having much more responsibility, since the top SES pay is under \$200,000, and the President only makes \$400,000. Which jurisdiction is Alexandria comparing itself to? Certainly not DC, Arlington or Fairfax County, which have much larger populations.

Another apparently extravagant expenditure is the Capital Bikeshare program, which is a public-private partnership owned by the City of Alexandria using a commercial operator, Motivate International, which also operates in DC, where the ridership pays for 77 percent of costs, as of 2015. Over the next five years, the City will expend \$1.6 million into this company, which is an average of about \$300,000 a year. It just

doesn't make sense that our city funds are being spent in this manner.

Who are the bikeshare constituents that are clamoring for this service? A Pew report indicates that most of the bikeshare ridership consists of young, white males, which seems to be the case locally as well. Capital Bikeshare is essentially a private company, and we need to treat it as such. In other words they profit from their rentals, so the city should not need to subsidize them. They should eventually stand on their own merits, and pay taxes to Alexandria for the privilege of operating within the city. Let's be more prudent with the resources, Alexandria!

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

### Nihil Dictum Quod Non Dictum Prius

Dear Editor:

As Roman dramatist Terence reminds us, even two millennia ago, "Nihil dictum quod non dictum prius." (Nothing is said which hasn't been said before.)

While Bill Rossello believes that

Mayor Wilson's "We cannot do this again" will dog his tenure, I am more concerned about the Mayor's dismissive, "If 99% of people wanted me to do something stupid, I wouldn't do it," because this remark, in response to the 13 civic associations opposing the Seminary Road diet, implied that the civic associations and their presidents meeting with the mayor are "stupid." Why else would he respond in that way?

King Louis XIV famously quipped, "L'état, c'est moi" (I am the state), a faint echo of Barack Obama's "phone and pen" remark or Mayor Wilson's dismissal of the civic association presidents' concerns.

The 99% remark is also alarming because we all recall the "Occupy Movement" who represented the dispossessed working class and the former middle class the "New Economy" has dumped into the working class. In Mayor Wilson's lifetime, by some measures, the middle class has fallen from more than 60% of the adult population to under 50%. Mayor Wilson's pro-development policies most directly enhance and benefit the 1%, while the 99% find it ever harder to afford to live here.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

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# OPINION

## Jump into the Children's (and Teens') Gazette

Please send all submissions no later than Friday, Dec. 13, 2019. Earlier is better!

During the last weeks of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue.

The annual Children's Gazette (also Children's Connection, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on flash drive. Writing should be submitted in text format. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions, but don't be limited by these:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

- ❖ Art of any type created by local young people.

- ❖ Short answers to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

- ❖ Your gratitude list.

- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

- ❖ Were you involved in November's elections? What did you think?

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.



Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

To send flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 13, 2019.

You can see last year's editions by visiting [www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Gazette clearly marked to [mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

The Alexandria Seaport Foundation finds itself shunted off to a "floating building" where there isn't enough space for all the young people needing its services so its former neighborhood can be redeveloped into luxury housing and trendy eateries serving sophisticated fare Councilmember Del Pepper can't wait to try. She might as well have said what King Louis XIV's wife Queen Marie-Thérèse remarked during the French famines, "*Qu'ils mangent de la brioche*" (Let them eat cake).

Dear *hoi polloi*, your city government hopes you understand what it thinks of you. Please do not waste its Saturday afternoon city council session with your retrograde quibbles about the bright future your betters envision, even if not for you, then at least for the people whom they believe matter.

**Dino Drudi**  
Alexandria

### Irresponsible Scooterists

The first photo shows scooters dumped in a liriopie bed, abutting the street. To digress a bit, planting areas like these are generally the responsibility of the city, which lets them lie fallow and derelict. Because of that, homeowners' associations and businesses have stepped up to improve these areas. In these photos, it was a homeowner who footed the bill for the liriopie.

That scooterists would dump the vehicles like this is testimony to the irresponsibility of the



These photos corner of Wolfe and South Union Streets span two days, this past Thursday and Friday.

ones we see in Old Town, be it stationary or moving.

Friday evening while walking across the intersection of North Lee and Queen Streets, was beset by what looked like a swarm of fire ants, as all five scooters ran the stop sign and darted around me in the crosswalk.

Back to the photos, it was entertaining, in a way, to watch how these two scooters moved about over the two days. I'm guessing it was the actions of both scooter proponents and opponents, judging by the positioning.

You might say two scooters in a plantbed are small potatoes, and that's true. But scenes like this are being repeated over and over in the big scooter scheme. We could contact [dockless.mobility@alexandriava.gov](mailto:dockless.mobility@alexandriava.gov), which is an addie on this email, to file a complaint, but no doubt the answer would be "Call the scooter company."

That's really worked, has it not?

But then the police were going to enforce scooters. Last time I looked the police have their hands full already.

An unsubstantiated rumor is the city is paying some company to remove scooters. Would be nice to know if that's true, as it would be misuse of taxpayer money for a problem forced upon us by the city.

The photo is the scooter corral at the unit block of Prince Street Friday evening. Don't know if someone tipped them, or the wind blew them over, but hardly a plus for the 3rd oldest historic district in the U.S. Have seen

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18



[www.AlexandriaGazette.com](http://www.AlexandriaGazette.com)

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**VDOT** Virginia Department of Transportation

**I-395 / Seminary Road HOV Ramp  
City of Alexandria**

Public Information Meeting

**Monday, December 9, 2019  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

Presentation begins at 7 p.m.

Inclement weather date: Thursday, December 12, 2019

T.C. Williams High School, Minnie Howard Campus  
3801 West Braddock Road  
Alexandria, VA 22302

Find out about an operations analysis assessing the traffic and safety impacts and benefits of converting the I-395 and Seminary Road Ramp in the City of Alexandria from a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)-only ramp to a High Occupancy Toll (HOT) ramp. This south-facing reversible ramp at Seminary Road falls within the limits of and provides access to the newly-opened I-395 Express Lanes facility and currently operates as an HOV and transit-only ramp. Transurban, VDOT's private operator of the 395 Express Lanes, has proposed converting this ramp from HOV to a HOT lanes ramp. The ramp would continue to provide access to the 395 Express Lanes, but would be available to vehicles with fewer than three occupants who pay a toll, and for free to vehicles with three or more occupants.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, VDOT has received guidance from the Federal Highway Administration that if the modification was to proceed, no additional environmental documentation would be required for converting the I-395/Seminary Road Ramp from an HOV-only ramp to an HOT-ramp. The findings documented in past Environmental Assessments (EA) and subsequent Findings of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) from Federal Highway Administration, remain valid.

There are no property or right of way impacts as a result of converting the I-395/Seminary Road ramp from HOV-only to a HOT ramp.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn about the project. A presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Project staff from VDOT and Transurban will be available to answer questions.

Review project information at the VDOT website ([www.virginiadot.org/395expresslanes](http://www.virginiadot.org/395expresslanes)), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-2381 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by December 31, 2019 to Mr. Abi Lerner, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email [395expresslanes@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:395expresslanes@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "I-395/Seminary Road HOV Ramp" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

State Project: 0395-96A-206, P101, UPC:108361

## SENIOR LIVING

# Who's at the Door? It's Your Doctor

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**D**r. Vivek Sinha is on the phone in his office on S. West Street talking to Protective Services about a woman who is taking 15 medications, has no doctor and needs an assessment. She has nowhere to live. Sinha has already had two what he calls "patient encounters" that morning which can be e-mails, phone calls, office visits or house calls. He averages 8-10 a day. He says his practice is low volume by design.

Later this afternoon he has scheduled a meeting with an Alexandria business owner who is interested in Sinha's healthy employee business plan as an incentive to retain employees. "It is unlimited visits for employees and family for a monthly fee."

Sinha is on his way to Saint Asaph Street to do a regular patient house call visit. Sinha says, "My population is almost 100 percent 65-years and older with a large percent with cognitive decline." Many are truly home bound but for others, such the patient he will be seeing this morning, it is just easier to stay at home. Many of the patients have relatives who do not live locally so it takes a lot of coordination with the relatives so that everyone feels comfortable with the treatment. "Communication is 80 percent of what I do."

Sinha climbs into his SUV and heads to Bruce's house. He has been seeing this patient since October 2017 and visits him about four times a year for regular check ups.

"Bruce is very fiercely independent; I mean that in a good way. He used to be a journalist for the National Geographic." He says, "It's all about establishing a baseline so you know what's normal and recognize if someone suddenly has an altered mental status, isn't eating or urinating."

Sinha knocks and waits a moment while Bruce pushes his walker toward the front door. Sinha explains Bruce has some fluid in his legs and is also treated by a wound nurse who is usually there at the same time.

"How have you been? Got enough groceries? Legs doing ok?"

Bruce has been fine although Sinha did interrupt him in the middle of watching War Games.

Sinha perches on a footstool and checks the chart, which he has brought along from the office. "We have done the lab work; it's not



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE



**Dr. Sinha checks Bruce's pulse, blood pressure and ears in the comfort of Bruce's living room in Alexandria.**

time to do it again."

Bruce chats about his years working at National Geographic. "I was trained as a photographer in Ohio but my friend steered me to an editing job in D.C., and I spent the next 30 years here." Bruce says he recently saw the film about Dian Fossey, and recalls having lunch with her. "She was a character to say the least." Fossey studied mountain gorilla groups.

Sinha pronounces Bruce's oxygen level to be good. He takes out the stethoscope and checks Bruce's heart rate. "You have a really good heart rate." Bruce laughs, "It usually goes up when you come in the door." Sinha says, "Your blood pressure is 140/88; not too bad. Let me see what it was last time." "Take a deep breath." Your lungs sound good."

Bruce says, "Maybe I can start smoking again... I'm just kidding."

Sinha says, "Mind if I take a look

at your medication? I suggest that you find a way to start taking it again regularly. I keep mine next to my toothbrush as a reminder."

Bruce comments, "Maybe I could keep it next to my martini." Sinha grins. "Just not with your martini."

"Open your mouth." Sinha moves on to check Bruce's ears. "You have some ear wax but it's best not to use Q-tips that just push the wax further in. Try over the counter wax removal drops instead."

A knock on the door and CT has arrived to check Bruce's legs and provide a new dressing. Sinha likes to coordinate with him and stays a bit longer to take a look at Bruce's legs. There is a specific regimen to check for open wounds and about how the legs should be wrapped. He tells Bruce he will be back later this afternoon to give

SEE WHO'S AT, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# SENIOR LIVING

**Dr. Vivek Sinha chats with his patient Bruce during a routine house call that he makes four times a year to monitor his patient.**

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE



## Who's at the Door? It's Your Doctor

FROM PAGE 10

him a flu shot and they arrange for about 4 p.m. "I'll let your son know about today's visit."

Back in the SUV Sinha gets two phone messages from the same hospice number. "Doesn't sound good," he says. Sinha says he works with hospice as well as home care companies which provide skilled and non-skilled ser-

vices. He is at Silverado every Thursday. "I go wherever patients call home."

After his residency and teaching in Chicago, Sinha worked in an outpatient clinic in Maryland where he saw an average of 20 patients a day. "I was not enjoying what I was doing. It was not what I had envisioned."

He started Belleview Medical

Partners 5 years ago where he practices family medicine in Alexandria.

About 60 percent of his practice is house calls. "One of my goals is to keep seeing patients but not accept new patients so I can set up a medical clinic for patients who don't normally have access to health care. That is part of the plan."

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

## 4 Restaurants for a Thanksgiving Feast

BY HOPE NELSON

**A**longside the gratitude for the day, Thanksgiving is known for its feast. But sometimes, it's more fun to enjoy the comforts of home with none of the cleanup. Alexandria's restaurant scene offers up a multitude of options for families to enjoy with no muss, no fuss (and, let's face it, more creative offerings than you'd have going at home). Here are some of your best bets for this Thursday.

### Joe Theismann's, 1800A Diagonal Road

The newly renovated sports pub across from the King Street Metro is keeping its Thanksgiving traditions alive for another year. With a three-course

**APPETITE** menu that has multiple offerings, Theismann's provides everything from tried-and-true favorites to some new takes on the holiday. Start off with crab and roasted corn fritters or chilled fall spinach dip, then dig into turkey breast, pan-roasted trout or sorghum-glazed roasted pork loin. Finish things off with – what else? – pumpkin pie or apple crumble. \$29 per person.

### The Majestic, 911 King St.

The restaurant known for its family-style Sunday Supper is pulling out all the stops for Thanksgiving. Kick things off with a rel-



**Thanksgiving at Theismann's: Start off with crab and roasted corn fritters or chilled fall spinach dip, then dig into turkey breast, pan-roasted trout or sorghum-glazed roasted pork loin. Finish things off with – what else? – pumpkin pie or apple crumble. \$29 per person.**

ish tray to share and then dive straight into a first course of butternut squash soup or salad; then, for an entrée, take your pick of five options, ranging from seared halibut to autumn carbonara. The table will share two sides (pick from cornbread stuffing, truffled mac and cheese, sweet potato mash and braised mustard greens) before head-

ing into dessert (the cajeta ice cream sounds divine, but some more traditional options are in place too). \$59 per adult; \$25 for children 10 and under.

### Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave.

The jazz and supper club located smack-dab in the middle of the Carlyle neighbor-

hood is offering two seatings for the holiday – with musical accompaniment by the Satin Doll Trio to provide some extra flair to the day. At 1 and 4 p.m., guests can sit down to dinner and feast on lobster bisque or salad to start; turkey with all the fixings or sea bass with potato cake and green beans; and pumpkin or apple pie for dessert. \$55 for adults; \$14.95 for children 12 and under. Reserve tickets online at [thecarlyleclub.com](http://thecarlyleclub.com).

### Blackwall Hitch, 5 Cameron St.

Take in some lovely views with your Thanksgiving menu at Blackwall Hitch on the waterfront. Unlike many other area restaurants offering prix-fixe menus, Blackwall Hitch is opening up a buffet for the occasion, giving diners a multitude of choices all in one place. Oven-roasted turkey, roast beef and ham round out the main events, but they're accompanied by a bevy of sides ranging from stuffing to crispy salt and pepper Brussels sprouts; from butter-whipped mashed potatoes to creamy macaroni and cheese. A passel of pies and cakes rounds out the proceedings – followed, perhaps, by a nice long walk along the Potomac to burn off some of those calories. \$42 for adults; \$18 for children 12 and under. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

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

## CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### ONGOING

**Mount Vernon Farmers Market.** Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee!). 17 local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets).

**Band Members Needed.** Join the Mount Vernon Community Band, a group of players who enjoy playing many styles of band music in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Band Room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Leighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit [www.mvbands.com/join-us/](http://www.mvbands.com/join-us/).

**Creature Comforts Art Exhibit.** Now thru Jan. 26, 2020. At VCA Alexandria, 2660 Duke Street, Alexandria. The "Creature Comforts" art exhibit at VCA Alexandria through the Gallery Without Walls program features artwork of the animals in our lives by Del Ray

Artisans members. Showcasing animals that lift and fill our hearts is a popular theme at VCA Alexandria and coincides with the winter holiday season in which creature comforts of all types are appreciated. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww)

## Holidays and Christmas

### FRIDAY/NOV. 29

**Plaid Friday (Black Friday).** Join Old Town boutiques the day after Thanksgiving and enjoy great discounts, merriment, and good cheer, all while shopping small and supporting local businesses and to celebrate plaid vibes. In Old Town, the sales start at 6 a.m. and continues all day. After you shop with our neighbors, stop by area restaurants and cafes for special deals. On this day, shoppers can receive a limited edition custom plaid tote when you spend \$100 or more at participating retailers (while supplies last), with a minimum \$50 purchase, receive free special plaid themed gift-wrapping services in the front courtyard of Izalia Spa (114 South Patrick Street), the 'plaid police' will hit the streets handing out gift cards to people dressed in their best plaid. Visit [OldTownBusiness.org](http://OldTownBusiness.org) or [OldTownBoutiqueDistrict.com](http://OldTownBoutiqueDistrict.com).

**Black Friday Alexandria.** Held in Old Town Alexandria and Del Ray. Alexandria's alternative Black Friday experience features more than 40 independent boutiques kicking off the holiday shopping season with

one-of-a-kind deals on designer and coveted merchandise, including home décor, chic fashions, gourmet food, classic toys and gifts for dogs. Store offers vary, with special discounts throughout the day and more than 10 boutiques opening by 7 a.m., including fibre space, Pacers, The Shoe Hive, Red Barn Mercantile and Bloomers. Visit the website: [visitalexandria.com/blackfriday](http://visitalexandria.com/blackfriday) or visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/holidays](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/holidays).

### NOV. 29 TO DEC. 31

**Winter Wonderland at The Alexandrian.** 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. At The Alexandrian, 480 King Street, Alexandria. New this year, the Alexandrian and Jackson 20 will convert their central courtyard into a Winter Wonderland. The Winter Wonderland will be a destination for festive cocktails and small bites by a fire pit as well as holiday programming working with local community partners throughout the season. A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Children's National. Visit the website: [thealexandrian.com](http://thealexandrian.com).

**Christmas at Mount Vernon.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Holiday programs and tours fill each day with delight at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Visitors of all ages can tour the Mansion, watch 18<sup>th</sup>-century demonstrations and hear stories of Christmases past from costumed characters. Admission: \$20 for adults; \$12 for youth (ages 6-11); free for children

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



LAURA MAE SUDDER

## Holiday Preparations

**Courtney and Frances Elwood carrying Holiday Readiness Garland for the House**

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



The 25th Anniversary First Night in Old Town Alexandria takes place Tuesday, Dec. 31.

## First Night in Alexandria

Tuesday/Dec. 31, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Karnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Karnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit [firstnightalexandria.org](http://firstnightalexandria.org).

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age 5 and below; extra cost for some activities. Visit the website: [mountvernon.org/christmas](http://mountvernon.org/christmas)

### SATURDAY/NOV. 30

**Small Business Saturday Scavenger Hunt.** 11 a.m. Old Town Business presents the first-ever Small Business Saturday Scavenger Hunt. Shop and dine in Old Town on November 30 starting at 11 a.m. until close and get your map stamped to win the grand prize. Visit 10 of your favorite businesses to be entered to win. No purchase is necessary. Every stamp after your first 10 is another entry into the raffle. Shoppers can download their map on the Old Town Business website.

### DEC. 1-6

**Holiday Market at Carlyle.** Dec. 1 from 6-8 p.m.; Dec. 2-6 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. Alexandria's Holiday Market is an annual signature event that transforms John Carlyle Square into a lively open-air festival, perfect for children young and old. On Dec. 1, Santa and Mrs. Claus and the town crier will ring in the season with a live appearance. The holiday market and festivities are sponsored by The Carlyle Vitality Initiative. Visit the website: [thecarlylecommunity.com](http://thecarlylecommunity.com)

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 5-7

**"The Nutcracker."** At West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Now in its 11th year, the West Potomac Academy Dance Program and Alexandria Community Nutcracker will present four performances of "The Nutcracker." Performances are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 5; 6:30 p.m.; on Friday, December 6; and 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 7. Led by a team of directors, including Gennifer Difilippo (Alexandria Community Dance), Courtney Betzel (West Potomac Academy), and Adrienne Taylor (Above the Barre), this unique

adaptation includes music that incorporates traditional ballet dances, as well as jazz, contemporary, Hip Hop, Irish dancing, tap and gymnastics. The cast ranges from three-year olds to adult dancers performing ballet, pointe, lyrical, tap, jazz, modern, and gymnastics. Visit <https://www.alexandrianutcracker.com/>

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 6-7

**The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend.** At various Old Town Alexandria locations. The Campagna Center presents the 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade. The parade is Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. and begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. Admission: Free for parade and Heather and Greens Sales; \$180-\$290 for Taste of Scotland; \$40 for Holiday Home Tours. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. Through your support of the events of The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, you provide vital support to Campagna Center programs that serve more than 2,000 children, teens, and adults throughout the year. Visit the website: <https://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend>

### DEC. 6-22

**DRA Holiday Market.** The Market is Dec. 6-8; Dec. 13-15; and Dec. 20-22. Hours are Fridays 6-9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. The artists are presenting a variety of media, including botanical drawings, fiber/textiles, glass, jewelry, mixed media, mosaics, painting, paper crafting, photography, pottery/ceramics,

sculpture, watercolor, wood turning, and more. Different artists each weekend. Free admission. Visit the website: [DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2019](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2019)

### SATURDAY/DEC. 7

**Cookie Walk.** Noon to 3 p.m. At the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Walk around tables brimming with homemade cookies and fill a box (or 2) with goodies. Great for holiday parties. Cost is \$10/pound of cookies. Visit the website: <http://www.opmh.org/events/6th-annual-cookie-walk/>

**Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival.** 2-8 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. The Art Center joins in the fun on Alexandria's most festive holiday weekend of the year. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at 3:30 p.m. Music and singing fill the halls all evening. After sundown, the Holiday Boat Parade of Lights passes by The Art Center's doors. Visit artists on all three floors to find the perfect gift of art. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org)

**Boat Parade of Lights.** Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit [AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade](http://AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade) Schedule in Old Town (2 to 8 p.m.)

- ❖ Holiday music and giveaways from 97.1 WASH-FM
- ❖ Letters to Santa postcard station from Penny Post
- ❖ Holiday ornament activity from AR Workshop Alexandria (2 to 4 p.m.)
- ❖ Bookmark making station from Old Town Books (4:30 to 8 p.m.)

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

# Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center Creepy Carnival, Trunk or Treat Halloween Block Party



On Oct. 31, the Department of Recreation, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center hosted their Creepy Carnival, Trunk or Treat Halloween Block party for the Alexandria community. This annual event continues to grow in numbers every year and even with the rainy forecast threatening to steal everyone's joy, it went off with a spooky bang.

Staff were dressed in their creepy carnival attire to bring the event to life and greet all their tiny guests dressed in so many different and creative costumes. From superheroes to characters from everyone's favorite Disney movies as well as the most original costumes, such as a toddler dressed like an old man with a walker and mustache.

The kids truly embraced their costumes to the fullest. There were

tons of delectable treats and creepy fun activities for everyone to enjoy.

One station taught tiny witches and warlocks how to make their own slime brew, other ninjas and princesses danced with glowing ghost, while many jumped around in our moon bounces and ran through our haunted bus screaming.

A creepy crawler show went on throughout the night and gave everyone a good and scary fright.

The children were so delighted to dance the night away to the DJ's monster mash and favorite tunes such as Thriller and Old Town Road.

For more information on programs and services offered through the Department of Recreation, please go to our website at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation>.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

- ❖ Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival
- ❖ Santa arrives by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina (3:30 p.m.)
- ❖ Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights begins (5:30 p.m.)

### SUNDAY/DEC. 8

**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 and menorah lighting, featuring a special appearance by Santa Claus, who will lead carols and sit for photos with children. Continue the celebration and start your holiday shopping with a stroll down Mount Vernon Avenue, which will be illuminated by thousands of luminarias and feature storefront windows hand-painted for the holidays. Pick your favorite in the neighborhood business association's annual Christmas tree decorating contest. Visit the website: [visitdelray.com](http://visitdelray.com)

### FRIDAY/DEC. 13

**Holiday Sing-Along.** 7:30 p.m. At Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave., Alexandria. Experience a jolly good time at the always popular – and free — Alexandria Holiday Sing-Along. You'll join in song with your neighbors as Conductor Mike Evans and the hometown Alexandria Citizens Band play your holiday favorites. Elisa Ravas will lead the singing. And to make it easy for everyone, we'll have the lyrics in brand new song books. Free tickets are available on eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/alexandrias-annual-holiday-sing-along-free-tickets-79959949361>

**TUESDAY/DEC. 31**

**First Night Alexandria.** 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is

safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Karnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Karnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit [firstnightalexandria.org](http://firstnightalexandria.org).

## Calendar

### THURSDAY/NOV. 28

**Thanksgiving Turkey Trot.** 9 a.m. This fast, flat, USATF-certified course runs through the heart of Del Ray, and is the Mid-Atlantic's premiere Turkey Trot, featuring over 5,000 runners. The 5-mile run/walk goes through the heart of Del Ray, starting and ending at George Washington Middle School at the corner of Braddock Road and Mount Vernon Avenue. In recognition of his service to the City of Alexandria and the Del Ray community, Jack Taylor has been selected as the Grand Marshal. In the spirit of the holiday, runners and spectators are encouraged to bring two nonperishable food items on race day to support ALIVE!, a nonprofit serving Alexandria's needy. Visit [www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com](http://www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com).

### FRIDAY/NOV. 29

**Christmas Tree Sale.** At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church. At 8531 Riverside Road, Fort Hunt. St Aidan's begins its annual Christmas Tree Sale on Nov. 29. This event has become a community favorite. Proceeds from the sale go to support the underserved in the community as well as to local schools. In addition, the Tree Sale has become a fun event for local

families. While families casually browse our beautiful Fraser and Balsam Firs, they enjoy cookies and hot cider and the beautiful tree lot setup on Riverside Road.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 30

**Small Business Saturday.** Celebrate Small Business Saturday in Old Town Alexandria with free parking at meters and several independently owned boutiques offering special in-store activities and promotions. Over 80 percent of businesses on King Street and throughout Old Town are independently owned. For every \$100 consumers spend at locally owned businesses, \$68 will stay in the community. Get to know local shop owners that offer personalized customer service with curated gift suggestions ranging from home décor, chic fashions, and gourmet food to classic toys and gifts for dogs.

**Small Business Scavenger Hunt.** 11 a.m. At select participating businesses in Old Town Alexandria. Shop and dine in Old Town starting at 11 a.m. until close and get your map stamped to win the grand prize. Visit 10 of your favorite businesses to be entered to win. No purchase is necessary. Every stamp after your first 10 is another entry into the raffle. Shoppers can download their map on the Old Town Business website at [OldTownBoutiqueDistrict.com](http://OldTownBoutiqueDistrict.com) or [OldTownBusiness.com](http://OldTownBusiness.com).

### SUNDAY/DEC. 1

**Museum Store Sunday.** 1 to 5 p.m. At Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum; Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum; Gadsby's Tavern Museum; Alexandria Black History Museum; and Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site. The Museum Store Association has partnered with 1,200 museum stores representing all 50 states and 18 countries to promote this initiative. The items offered are expertly curated and tailored to the museum's experience. These include books, jewelry, children's products, home

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



A Watercolor Exhibition and Sale will be held Dec. 7-8 at Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria.

## Watercolor Exhibition

Dec. 7-8, **Sale.** Saturday 4-7 p.m.; Sunday noon to 4 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Local artists exhibit and offer for sale original watercolors. Many of the artists have displayed their work in venues throughout the District, Maryland and Virginia.

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



**The Boat Parade of Lights will be held Saturday, Dec. 7 in Old Town Alexandria.**

## Boat Parade of Lights

Saturday/Dec. 7. Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit [AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade](http://AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade)

### CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

accessories, and gourmet food, which are inspired by collections or exhibits at the museum. Enjoy 20% off your purchase and a free gift at each location.

**George Washington's Alexandria.** 2-3:30 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory, 101 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it. This 90-minute guided walking tour explores sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues. The tour begins behind the Torpedo Factory's south entrance, in front of Vola's Dockside Grill. Free. No reservations required. Offered by the Office of Historic Alexandria. Contact 703-379-7460 or [suej020924@gmail.com](mailto:suej020924@gmail.com)

**Handel's Messiah.** 3 p.m. Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria. The Meeting House Choir and Period-Instrument Orchestra will present Handel's immortal 1743 oratorio "Messiah" under the direction of Music Director Dr. Steven Seigart as part of the 2019-20 Concerts with a Cause series. Free. Visit the website: [www.opmh.org](http://www.opmh.org).

### MONDAY/DEC. 2

**Garden Sprouts Playgroup.** 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Preschoolers age 3 to 5 enjoy nature-themed toys and puzzles while their grown-ups have a chance to meet other playgroup parents. Different topics are explored through games, songs, activities and a garden walk. Cost is \$8 per child. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

**Nature for Tiny Tots.** 10-11 a.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Children age 2 to 3 1/2 work with their parents to learn about plants, animals, and nature habitats through songs, crafts, and activities. Cost is \$10 per child. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows).

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 4

**Wine and Art.** 6:30 p.m. At Sonoma Cellar, 207 King Street, Alexandria. Featuring local artist and fine oil painter Lynn Mehta. Featuring five wines and five food pairs. Tickets are \$80. Get tickets at the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wine-tasting-and-artist-talk-to-benefit-the-alexandria-seaport-foundation-tickets-77901891655>

**Children's Holiday Magic Show.** 6:45-8 p.m. At Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave., Alexandria. Presented by Danny Selnick of Ring 50 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. This is a free event but children and attending adults are asked to bring a new toy or non-perishable food item.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 5

**Gadsby's Tavern Fundraiser.** 6 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society is hosting a special performance of "A Christmas Carol." Enjoy a lovely family evening including a silent auction, appetizers and sweets, beverages including a champagne punch. Tickets are \$25. Reception at 6 p.m. with a Silent Auction and "A Christmas Carol" from 8-9:15 p.m. Free photo opportunities with Father Christmas. Visit the website <http://www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us/> or at 703-549-6242.

**Kissing Ball Workshop.** 6:30-8 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Learn how to create your own traditional holiday kissing ball using fresh boxwood from the Lee-Fendall's own garden. The cost is \$20 per person. All materials are provided. Cost is \$20. A second Holiday Kissing Ball Workshop will take place on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Visit the website: [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org)

### DEC 5-21

**"Squeakers & Mr. Gumdrop."** At the Lab Theatre at Convergence, 1819 N.

Quaker Lane, Alexandria. One snowy morning, Mr. Gumdrop prepares for his annual holiday party. When an unexpected and curious mouse appears, Mr. Gumdrop's routine is thrown for a loop. Can these two wildly different characters work together to get the holiday preparations done in time? This nonverbal production captures the magic of making new friends and sharing ideas to accomplish big goals. Created for an audience of children ages 2-5. Show times are Dec. 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, and 20 at 10:30 a.m.; Dec. 7, 14 and 21 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10 for children and adults <http://www.artsonthehorizon.org> or at the door on the day of the performance.

### DEC. 6-7

**Holiday Pops Concert.** Dec. 6-7 at 7:30 p.m.; and 2 p.m. Saturday. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Alexandria Singers 'Celebrate!' Holiday Pops Concert. Join the Alexandria Singers for their annual holiday pops concert weekend as they weave pop and jazz arrangements of traditional holiday classics with new tunes that will instantly become your holiday favorites. Admission: \$25 premium reserved seating; \$20 general admission; \$15 for groups of 10+, seniors, military and students; free for children 5 and under. [alexandriasingers.com](http://alexandriasingers.com)

### DEC. 6-8

**Holiday Ceramics Sale.** Pop-up Shop Hours: Friday, noon - 8 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sunday, noon - 5 p.m. At 722 King Street (formerly Geranio's), Old Town Alexandria. This highly anticipated pop-up shop features hundreds of original works by new and experienced artists in the ceramics program. Some stained glass and jewelry items will also be on offer. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

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The T.C. Williams Choir performs at the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony Nov. 23 at Market Square.

# Let There Be Light

FROM PAGE 1

week earlier than usual due to the timing of the Thanksgiving holiday, giving residents and visitors alike more time to enjoy the holiday season in Old Town, named earlier this month by “O, the Oprah Magazine” as one of the 19 most magical Christmas towns and villages across the world.

Ranked number seven by the magazine, Alexandria bested several European towns and those closer to home including Santa Claus, Indiana, and North Pole, Alaska.

As described by the magazine: “For a traditional American Christmas, head to Alexandria, Virginia, where the Old Town’s streets and

18th-century row houses bustle with good cheer each December. Festive-seekers can find carolers, hand bell choirs, ample lights and decorations, while close by there’s Mount Vernon, home to Aladdin, a Christmas camel, as well as a Colonial Christmas experience.”

—JEANNE THEISMANN

## Follow the Money

FROM PAGE 3

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A** look at campaign-finance documents from the 2019 election cycle reveals an intricate web of special-interest money, everything from Dominion and Verizon to casino developers and car-title lenders. Members of the Alexandria delegation took money from lobbyists and associations who have pending business during the upcoming two-month General Assembly session, when lawmakers will be forbidden from taking campaign cash.

The lion’s share went to Senate Democratic Leader Dick Saslaw, the incoming Majority Leader who represents four precincts in the West End. During the primaries, he faced a difficult and expensive challenge from the progressive left. In the process, Saslaw raised almost \$1 million and spent almost \$2 million. The top-ten list of his cam-

paign contributors reads like the invitation list to a chamber of commerce cocktail hour. At the top of the list is Dominion Energy, the utility that corners the market on power and influence in Richmond. When asked about taking money from Dominion and LoanMax during the primary campaign, Saslaw rejected the idea it influences him.

“Do you really think anybody owns me given my financial situation?” he shot back in an interview last spring. “Do you know why I get this money? Because I’m the party leader. I’m the person who’s supposed to raise money for the caucus, OK? Do you really think that influences my vote?”

Until a few years ago, every member of the General Assembly took money from Dominion Energy. Now it’s the trendy new thing new thing to just say no to the utility monopoly. Charlottesville-based Clean Virginia Fund stepped in to offer competing campaign bucks for the other side of the issue, so candidates don’t even have to feel the financial pressure. Now

almost 50 members refuse money from Dominion.

State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) used to take money from the Richmond-based energy utility; now he does not. “I don’t think that people who take money from Dominion are corrupt,” says Ebbin, whose last contribution from Dominion was for \$1,000 in 2017. “It’s just that for some of my constituents, it’s a big deal.” Another big deal is the royal flush from casino developers in Bristol, who created a political-action committee called Betting on Virginia Jobs to promote the idea to lawmakers. Del. Mark Levine (D-45) is a fan of casinos, and so he sees no problem with taking money from a group because of his long standing support for gambling, especially poker.

“I might insist they have poker, though,” jokes Levine, whose day job is radio talk show host. “If they just have slot machines, you know, what’s the purpose?”



Children gather for a photo with Santa following the annual lighting of the Market Square tree Nov. 23 at City Hall.



A family gathers for a photo in front of the Market Square tree Nov. 23 at City Hall.

PHOTOS BY  
“MANGO” MIKE ANDERSON



A young girl smiles for a photo with Santa following the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Nov. 23 in Market Square.



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**Legals**

**ABC LICENSE**  
Silver Diner Alexandria, LLC trading as Silver Diner, 4610 King St Ste A3, Alexandria, VA 22302. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Robert Gialmo, owner/ The Veritas Law Firm. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

**Legals**

**ABC LICENSE**  
MUMBAI DARBAR INC trading as MUMBAI DARBAR INDIAN CUISINE, 512A SOUTH VAN DORN ST, ALEXANDRIA VIRGINIA 22304-4612. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a WINE AND BEER ON PREMISES license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Hipendra P. Ghimire - OWNER. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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Questions? E-mail [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431



**Obituary**

**Bruce L. Gilmore, MD**  
Dr. Bruce Gilmore passed away peacefully on November 19, 2019 at Gilchrist Center Hospice Care after a battle with pancreatic cancer.  
Dr. Gilmore was born in 1931 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Medical School. After serving overseas as a Captain in the Army Medical Corps, Dr. Gilmore practiced internal medicine in Alexandria, Virginia until his retirement in 2000. He was a highly regarded and much-loved physician whose sense of humor brightened the lives of his patients, friends and family.  
He is survived by his wife, Nina Carroll, her children Theresa and Jim; daughters Holly, Inga and Sabrina, his children with his late wife Inge Tegeder Gilmore; his brother Bill and sister Ann, and all their children and grandchildren.  
In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Gilchrist Center Hospice Care in Towson, MD.



**Legals**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot until December 2, 2019 to elect the President-Elect, four seats on the Board of Directors, and two seats on the Nominating Committee for service beginning on June 1, 2020. Information about proxy ballots is available at [www.asco.org/election](http://www.asco.org/election). Completed proxy ballots received will be delivered to the Chair of the ASCO Board or her designee for casting at a meeting held on Thursday, December 5, 2019, 9:30-10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time, USA, at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22318. Members with questions can email [ASCOelection@asco.org](mailto:ASCOelection@asco.org) or call 571-483-1317. This notice is issued at the direction of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

**Legals**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE**  
There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at: KING STREET LIBERTY 4368 KING STREET ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22302  
The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Exxon Mobil Corporation to develop a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of petroleum related hydrocarbons at the Site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please contact: Kleinfelder 1745 Dorsey Road, Suite J Hanover, MD 21076 (410) 850-0404  
The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ on November 27, 2019. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Alex Wardle at (703) 583-3822 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan until December 27. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case, PC# 2018-3059.  
Department of Environmental Quality Storage Tank Program 13901 Crown Court Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

**Legals**

Alliant Health Plans has notified certain members that some protected health information (PHI) may have been affected by a security incident at Magellan MRx Management, a vendor contracted by the health plan to manage pharmacy benefits.  
On July 5, 2019, Magellan discovered that the email account of one of its employees had been sending out large volumes of spam email.  
An immediate investigation revealed that several unauthorized mailbox authentications and connections originating from outside the United States had been occurring on this employee's email account since May 28, 2019. It is believed that the unknown individuals were able to obtain the employee's email log-in credentials through a phishing attack or other fraudulent means.  
Alliant was alerted to the issue on September 30, 2019.  
Magellan believes that the intruder was attempting to access the account solely to send out spam emails and had no intentions to retrieve or view member data.  
However, Alliant is treating this incident as a breach because it could not be definitively determined any emails were accessed, viewed, or downloaded.  
Magellan has informed Alliant that it has taken steps to further secure all employee email accounts and has implemented enhanced protective measures related to email account log-ons and authentications beyond the systems which were already in place. Magellan also determined that none of its other systems experienced any unauthorized access aside from the impacted email accounts.  
Magellan provided a list of impacted members on November 4, 2019 and sent letters to notify them of the potential breach on November 22, 2019. The data that may have been exposed could have included the member's name, patient/member ID, type of service, authorization ID, and diagnosis.  
For more addition information, please email [Incident@AlliantPlans.com](mailto:Incident@AlliantPlans.com) or call Alliant's customer service team toll free at 800-664-8271, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Obituary**

**Obituary**

**Obituary**

**RICHARD BENDER ABELL**  
Richard Bender Abell of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, died November 21 at INOVA Mt. Vernon Hospital in Alexandria, VA. He had been a member of the Federal judiciary for twenty years from which he retired. He was married to the former Lucia del Carmen Lombana-Cadaivid of Medellin, Colombia.  
Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Lon Edward Welch, Jr., of Birmingham, Alabama, and Charlotte Amelia Bender of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Welch divorced and remarried to Ernest George Abell of Philadelphia.  
Judge Abell graduated from The George Washington University with a B.A. in 1966 and a J.D. in 1974. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer from 1967 to 1969 in Colombia, South America. Subsequently he volunteered for the U.S. Army and served in Viet-Nam in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division in 1970. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was retired from service in 1971 for wounds received in action.  
He served as an Assistant District Attorney and Deputy Sheriff in Chester County, Pennsylvania, taught law school at Delaware Law School in Wilmington, Delaware, and was on the U.S. Senate staff of Sen. Richard Schweiker. He was Chairman of the Young Republican National Federation from 1979 to 1981 and served as a member of the board of directors of Young Americans for Freedom from 1979 to 1982.  
During the first two years of the Reagan Administration he served in several executive positions with the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C. From 1983 to 1986 he was a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice. In 1986 he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs in the Department of Justice where he served through 1990. In 1991 he was appointed to the Federal judiciary in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims as a vaccine judge/special master from which he retired in 2010.  
He was also appointed by President Reagan as a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Prison Industries Corporation in 1985, a member of the Interagency Task Force on Adoption in 1987, and a commissioner on the Presidential Commission on Agricultural Workers serving from 1988 to 1993. During his tenure as an Assistant Attorney General he served as the Chairman of the National Crime Prevention Coalition, member of the Advisory Board of the National Institute of Corrections, Co-Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the National Center for State and Local Law Enforcement Training, Vice-Chairman of the Research and Development Review Board for the Department of Justice, member of the National Drug Policy Board Enforcement Coordinating Group and Coordinating Group for Drug Abuse Prevention and Health, and as a member of the Federal Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.  
He was listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Politics, and Who's Who in American Law. Judge Abell co-authored two books, Peter Smith of Westmoreland County, Virginia, and Sojourns of a Patriot. He was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, the Society of Colonial Wars, the Sons of the Revolution, the Order of Indian Wars, the Aztec Club of 1847, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Many of his progenitors arrived in Virginia as early as 1632 and in Fairfax County in 1657.  
He was a member of Lodge No. 22, F&AM, Alexandria, Virginia. He was Anglican-Catholic by faith, a parishioner of the church of St. Andrew & St. Margaret of Scotland of Alexandria, Virginia.  
He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years; three children, Mr. David Joseph Abell of Deland, Florida, Mr. Christian Aven Lombana Abell of Midlothian, Virginia, and Mrs. Rachel Mercedes Cadaivid Abell Foreman of Islamorada, Florida and ten grand-children.  
The family received friends on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 from 4-8 p.m. at the Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S. Washington St, Alexandria, VA. A Church Service was held on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 at 10 a.m. at St. Andrew & St. Margaret of Scotland, 402 E. Monroe Ave, Alexandria, VA. Interment will occur at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.  
In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Order of Cincinnati or the Skin Cancer Foundation. Additional information may be found at [www.demainefuneralhomes.com](http://www.demainefuneralhomes.com).

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## Lost in the Shuffle



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As difficult as the last few weeks have been, with Chino's at-home hospice-type care and ultimate passing, and the "Catch-22 A" realities of "reverse-mortgaging" my house "perplexed" by the "derelict" stable/shed on my property, my upcoming quarterly CT scan hasn't even "blipped" the radar. Though it will have occurred already by the time this column prints, it's quite possible, due to the Thanksgiving holiday, its results won't be known for much longer, 12 days in fact, than has been customary. And so far, between my wife, Dina and I, none of this has even been discussed. Yet, as I sit and write on Sunday, the scan is on Wednesday, three days away. Close enough to where it should have been front and center instead of where it's been: back and off to the side.

But so what, really? My attitude is, and has always been, to quote John, a close friend: "It is what it is, and it will be what it will be." By the time I slide forth and back under the CT scan's arch, or earlier I imagine, the damage to my body such as it is - or isn't, will have been done. Either the cancer has grown/spread or it hasn't. Certainly hearing and/or reading results from the oncologist will confirm facts at present not in evidence but there is, without being particularly negative about my circumstances, an inevitability to it. One day, my amazing nearly 11-year run is going to come to a walk and eventually to a lie-down. And I will deal with it when the time/results come. In the interim however, this next scan is merely another stop on the less-than Merry Go 'Round.

I don't mean to make light of an extremely heavy burden that we cancer patients have to carry: the prospect of death. As Lee J. Cobb said in "The Exorcist": "I only mention it in passing." Cancer causes enough internal problems (physically), one doesn't need, if possible - and so far for me, it has been possible, to cause external (emotional) problems as well. Maybe it's a kind of resignation or some kind of accommodation or acceptance of reality that has enabled this one to have lived so long beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis (offered up on Feb. 27, 2009), an accomplishment I am proud to say occasionally has led to my oncologist showing me off to his medical students; his prize cow I call myself.

Honestly, what's the point, really? I'm only in control of so much. Focusing on things I can't control seems a waste of time and energy. Life is precious. Why dwell on things beyond my reach? Grasping at straws, if you can even find one, is likewise counter-productive. And setting oneself up for failure or disappointment is counter-intuitive almost. Why do that? The cancer is already causing enough havoc in your body. Don't let it affect your mind too. "Piling on," as the NFL referees used to call this major infraction. Now I believe its called "Unnecessary Roughness." For cancer patients, doing anything, physically or emotionally to hasten your demise/adversely affect your quality of life is most definitely unnecessary roughness and should be penalized.

Learning to live with what ails you seems a more prudent plan than "woeing" is me or bemoaning the process. Sure we'd all love to be on the President's plan where you're examined in the morning, scanned in the afternoon and operated on in the evening. But none of us are on the plan and wishing we were, to quote Jean Luc Picard from "Star Trek: Next Generation," is not going to "Make it so." But I can live with that. I have lived with that - for almost 11 years now, and counting. I'll learn the results from my scan soon enough. Good or bad, life goes on. To quote my friend John's daughter, Melanie: "Whatever."

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

them blow over, in a domino effect in moderate winds, which is surprising since they are pretty heavy with relatively little sail area.

Recommend this article, if you haven't read it already. It encapsulates most of the issues we're dealing with here in Alexandria. [www.cnn.com/travel/article/electric-scooter-bans-world/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/travel/article/electric-scooter-bans-world/index.html)

You'll note municipalities around the world are getting smart on scooters, banning them and the like. Not Alexandria.

Instead, we're progressing ahead to allow scooters on sidewalks, and extend the scooter pilot program almost 3X from its original timeframe. Might lead one to believe scooters are a fait accompli here.

**Hal HARDAWAY**  
Alexandria

**AND SURE ENOUGH**, I received an autoreply on that email from [dockless.mobility@alexandriava.gov](mailto:dockless.mobility@alexandriava.gov), and here's what it said (reprinted here for full effect):

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to [dockless.mobility@alexandriava.gov](mailto:dockless.mobility@alexandriava.gov)!

❖ If you are experiencing an emergency, call 9-1-1.

❖ If you emailed to report an improperly parked scooter, unsafe riding or other issue, contact the associated company directly by phone, email, or app (information is on every scooter and included below).

❖ If you emailed to provide feedback on the pilot program, it has been recorded and will be compiled along with input from our Online Feedback Form. We are currently reviewing the pilot program and will be presenting Staff recommendation to City Council in November 2019.

❖ If you emailed a question about the pilot program, we will respond as soon as possible.

❖ If you emailed to report a scooter-related injury, we have recorded your report.

❖ To Report an Improperly Parked Scooter or Unsafe Riding

Contact the associated company directly by phone, email, or app (company contact information is also on every e-scooter). Please note:

❖ You'll receive the quickest response by reaching out to the associated company directly.

❖ Companies are required to have customer service lines available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

❖ Companies are required to report to the City monthly regarding each complaint and report submitted to them.

**Scooter Operator Contact:**

**Bird (black & white):** [hello@bird.co](mailto:hello@bird.co) or 866.205.2442

**Bolt (yellow & black):**

[support@boltoffice.com](mailto:support@boltoffice.com) or 866.265.8143

**Jump (red & black):**

visit [www.jump.com/support](http://www.jump.com/support) or 844.505.9155 (scooters) or 833.300.6106 (bikes)

**Lime (green & white):**

[support@limebike.com](mailto:support@limebike.com) or 888.546.3345

**Lyft (pink & black):**

click here or 877.452.6699

**Skip (blue & black):**

[hello@skipscooters.com](mailto:hello@skipscooters.com) or 844.929.2687

**Spin (orange & black):**

[support@spin.pm](mailto:support@spin.pm) or 888.262.5189

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[www.dishesofindia.com](http://www.dishesofindia.com)



**Now Serving Luncheon Buffet Everyday**  
**Monday - Sunday: 11:00am to 2:30pm**

**Dinner Hours:**

Sunday - Thursday: 4:30pm - 9:30pm  
Friday & Saturday: 4:30pm - 10:00pm

**Party Trays for the Holidays**

Holiday Gift Certificates Available

Holiday Hours

Thanksgiving Day: Closed for the Holiday

Christmas Day: Closed for the Holiday

New Year Day: Closed for Lunch, Open for Dinner 4:00 to 9:00

**Chef's Special Menu for New Year's Eve**

**Call 703-660-6085 for details**

**Happy & safe  
Holidays**

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**We're Here For Your Pet's Urgent Needs**

WE OFFER WALK-IN MEDICAL CARE, AND STABILIZATION OF PETS FOR TRANSFER TO A NEARBY SPECIALTY CENTER, TRAUMA CENTER OR 24-HOUR INTENSIVE CARE UNIT.

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WE ARE AVAILABLE AFTER YOUR TYPICAL WORKDAY TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR PET'S URGENT NEEDS.

WE ARE A TEAM OF EMERGENCY TRAINED VETERINARIANS AND TECHNICIANS WISHING YOU

**Happy Holidays!**

*Monday-Friday 3p-11p  
Saturday-Sunday 1p-11p*

**P 703-373-3774**  
1628A BELLE VIEW BOULEVARD  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22307

## Belle View Barber & Stylists

*Serving families for over 30 years  
and still going strong!*



**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**

**Hours:**

M-F: 9 am - 7 pm  
Sat: 9 am - 5 pm  
Sun: 10 am - 5 pm

**Closed:**

Thanksgiving,  
Christmas, New Year's Day  
and Independence Day

**We Love  
Our Community!**

Thank you and happy holidays  
to our customers.

We appreciate your loyalty as we have  
watched your families grow and look forward to  
your continued support for many years to come.  
Belle View Barbers & Stylists are proud to have the  
same ownership and same location for over 30 years.

**We are HERE TO STAY!**

1608 Belle View Blvd • Alexandria, VA 22307 • (703) 660-9623





## More than a shop...

Unwined. Where surprises await and exemplary service is the norm. Top quality, hand-selected wine, craft beer, gourmet, and gifts offered by a smart team that tastes everything and tailors each recommendation to suit you.

## Store Hours

Mon-Sat: 11am-7pm  
Sunday: 12pm-5pm

### Bradlee Shopping Center

3690-J King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22303  
703-820-8600

### Belle View Shopping Center

1600 Belle View Blvd.  
Alexandria, VA 22307  
571-384-6880

[www.unwinedava.com](http://www.unwinedava.com)

   : [unwinedava](https://www.instagram.com/unwinedava)

# Revel

## Wine & Craft Beer Bar

[www.revelava.com](http://www.revelava.com)

 : [revelava](https://www.instagram.com/revelava)

## A Great Wine List Takes You into Uncharted Territory

Be the first to discover south Alexandria's newest food and beverage hideaway - brought to you by the Unwined family.

## Opening December 2019

Belle View Shopping Center  
1600A Belle View Boulevard  
Alexandria, VA 22307

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SHOE  
REPAIR

**Belle View's Favorite Cobbler  
Season After Season**

Mention this ad and get

**\$5.00 off**  
**Any Shoe Repair**

Offer expires 12/31/19

**Tuesday to Friday**  
8:00 am to 6:00 pm  
**Saturday**  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

**(703) 768-2358**  
1516 Belle View Blvd  
Alexandria, VA 22307

from my family to yours...

*happy holidays*

sarah drewry photography  
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# Give yourself the gift of sight this holiday season!



## 25% OFF

A purchase of eyeglasses

When you mention this ad

Expires 12/31/19. some restrictions apply

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EYE CARE, EYEGASSES, & CONTACT LENSES

*Proud Providers of Professional Eye Care for More than 40 Years*

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[www.novaeyedocs.com](http://www.novaeyedocs.com)



Mon, Thur, Fri:

9:00 am - 6:00pm

Tues, Wed:

9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Saturday:

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

## Call our office today

HURRY! Time is running out to use your 2019 insurance & FSA benefits!



# THE VIRGINIA FLORIST



*is delighted to invite you to our 62nd Annual Holiday Open House,  
4 to 6 pm on Monday, December 9.*

*Please come & celebrate the holidays with food, drink &  
our unique selection of wonderful gifts, fine art, historic maps &  
Washington's most elegant floral designs.*

703.765.3355

BELLE VIEW SHOPPING CENTER

1632 BELLE VIEW BOULEVARD, ALEXANDRIA

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Established 1957