

Alexandria Gazette Packet



**Holiday
Entertainment
& Gift Guide 2012**
PAGE 3

25 CENTS

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DECEMBER 6, 2012



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Rob Roy Wulf walks by the reviewing stand with members of the Mid-Atlantic Scots4Tots. More Scottish Walk photos, pages 8-9.

42nd Annual Scottish Walk Heralds Start of Holidays



Shamrock & Thistle Pipes and Drums Pipe Major William King Jr. talks with Pat Troy and Bobby Mahoney.



Scottish Government Counsellor for North America Robin Naysmith.



Former U.S. Sen. John Warner and his wife Jeanne talk with Bob Duncan, the Lord Provost of Dundee Scotland.



City of Alexandria Pipes & Drums Drum Major J. J. Powers leads the band into formation on the parade route.

Nessie caught a ride in Dan Dwod's vintage Morgan. Dwod is a member of Mid-Atlantic Scots4tots.



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WELLBEING
PAGE 31



INSIDE
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

And They're Off ...

Local retailers make holiday shopping festive and fun.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It's official. With Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday in the past, the holiday shopping season is here and local retailers are making it easy to find something special for the naughty and nice on everyone's gift list.

From beads to boots and food and art, there's no place like home when it comes to shopping for gifts and no better place to begin than at The Christmas Attic.

"People are surprised to see that we actually carry a variety of gift items," said owner Fay Carter. "We are still devoted to Christ-



A handmade Natural Spa Gift Set from local artisan Mellenie Runion is available online at www.truly-life.com or at A Show of Hands in Del Ray and the Old Town Farmers Market.

mas but we have expanded our shop to include a great selection of items for year-round as well."

For gifts that are unique to Alexandria, head over to Gallery Lafayette where local artist Todd Healy is clearing out his stock in preparation for relocation to a new space in January after 25 years at 320 King Street.

"We're having a moving sale just in time for the holidays," said Healy, who has just released his latest calendar for 2013. "More than 90 percent of my stock is on sale at 50 percent off. Mugs, cocktail glasses, tote bags — all of the gift items are on sale."

New to Healy's shop are puzzles featuring scenes of 19th century prints hand-colored by Healy.



Gift items featuring the Old Town artwork of Todd Healy are available at Gallery Lafayette, 320 King St.



Get in the holiday spirit at The Christmas Attic, 125 S. Union St.

"The historic prints include Mount Vernon, the U.S. Capitol, New York and Brooklyn," Healy said.

For the wine lover, Unwined has two locations serving Alexandria — Bradlee Shopping Center and Belle View Plaza — and owner Vanessa Moore can help select the best choices in a variety of price ranges.

"Experience" gifts such as a gift certificate to one of the many Potomac Riverboat cruises can work for just about anyone on a gift list and can be used at a time that is convenient for the recipient.

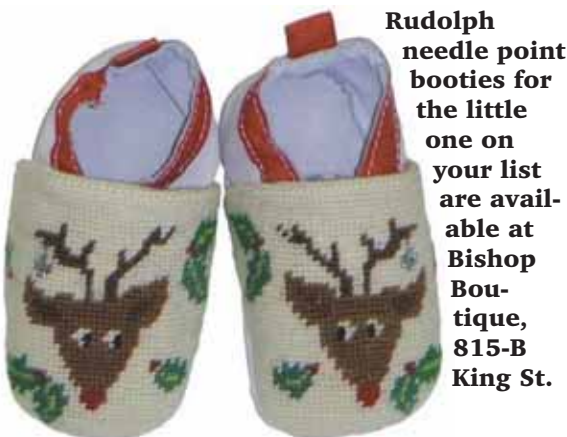
"We have gift certificates for our Canine or Pirate cruises," said Charlotte Hall, vice

president of the Potomac Riverboat Company. "And a cruise down to Mount Vernon would be great for grandparents and children."

Hall also noted that gift certificates are available for the Skipjack Minnie V, which provides a hands-on sailing experience. And baseball lovers will appreciate a trip on one of the Washington Nationals baseball cruises next season.

"Both of these are fairly new so many people have not had a chance to experience them yet," Hall said.

Traditional gifts like jewelry don't have to be boring. Unique selections can be found at Today's Cargo or Goldworks, where David Martin can design a one-of-a kind item or

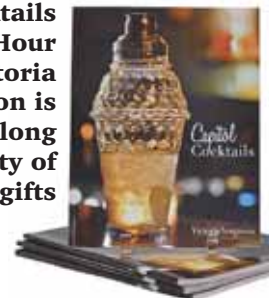


Rudolph needle point booties for the little one on your list are available at Bishop Boutique, 815-B King St.



Imagine Artwear at 1124 King St. carries a selection of wearable gift ideas.

Capitol Cocktails by The Hour owner Victoria Vergason is available along with a variety of entertaining gifts at The Hour, 1015 King St.



reset a family heirloom.

Personal "coupon" gifts — a handmade gift certificate for a day at a spa or a picnic in the park — can be made more special by purchasing one of Healy's 2013 calendars and marking a date in each month for a special event to be shared with the recipient — like an opening night show at MetroStage or the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Last but certainly not least are gifts for pet owners. Gift certificates from The Old Town School for Dogs or The Dog Park are always welcome, as would be a donation in the recipient's name to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria or any other charity of your choice.

When it comes to shopping, there really is no place like home for the holidays.

Parking reminder: In Old Town, city parking garages cost just \$2 all day Saturday and after 5 p.m. on weeknights.



Custom designed jewelry crafted by David Martin at Goldworks, 1400 King St.



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News



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Constructed in the 1970s, Jefferson-Houston School was built on the site of the old Alexandria High School, which was originally constructed in 1915.

Waiting for a Turnaround

After years of failing test scores, Jefferson-Houston to select external turnaround partner.

desire to see some oversight outside Alexandria City Public Schools.

"We all are concerned about the failure of a generation," said David Foster, president of the Virginia Board of Education. "And we want to know that we are all doing what we can to expedite some steps to help turn it around."

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

More than a decade of failing test scores and a revolving door of administrators have taken their toll on Jefferson-Houston School, which the Virginia Department of Education identified as a "priority school" back in August. Now school administrators are on the verge of hiring an "external lead turnaround partner," a step required by state officials who are fed up with years of mediocre performance at Alexandria's most troubled elementary school.

"You have an entire generation of kids that have been failed by the Alexandria city school system," said Virginia Board of Education member Chris Braunlich during a recent hearing in Richmond. "We've talked a lot here about flexibility, but a school system that has allowed this to happen for 10 out of the last 11 years has earned no flexibility."

Test scores at the school have been failing for years, with the school failing to meet accreditation standards for 10 out of 11 years. And recent years have seen an increasing decline. In the most recent set of test scores, for example, only 29 percent of black students showing basic proficiency in Math. And only 46 percent of students with disabilities at Jefferson-Houston could demonstrate basic English skills. That's become cause for alarm in Richmond, and a

WHEN OFFICIALS in Richmond denied accreditation at Jefferson-Houston earlier this year, administrators at the city school system's Beauregard headquarters attempted to appeal the decision. Their appeal was denied, and members of the Virginia Board of Education had some harsh words for Alexandria school officials. Instead of selecting one of the vendors state officials had already approved, leaders in Alexandria decided to issue their own request for proposals, which has delayed the selection of the required "external lead turnout partner."

"The last thing I want you to do is take a recommendation to your local board for a lead turnaround partner contract that I'm not willing to fund," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia Wright told Alexandria school officials. "The lead turnaround partner needs to have the autonomy to look at your data, to look at the past history and the current needs, and to make some decisions about how the corrective action plan is shaped."

Members of the Alexandria School Board have identified Jefferson-Houston as a priority for years, although efforts to improve test scores have failed to yield fruit. The school has been in a tailspin since 1999, when the Alexandria School Board adopted a controversial redistricting plan that created a racial imbalance at the school. In one year, the school went from having 50 percent of its students eligible for free and reduced lunch to 77 percent. Since that time,

SEE WAITING FOR, PAGE 30

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Jefferson-Houston: Falling Pass Rates

Subject	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
English	69 percent	67 percent	61 percent
Math	81 percent	62 percent	35 percent
Writing	75 percent	51 percent	56 percent
History	57 percent	38 percent	48 percent
Science	67 percent	51 percent	43 percent

source: Virginia Department of Education

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Raw Politics

City officials expected to roll out sewer master plan.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Lately, it seems that city officials have their minds in the gutter — literally. City leaders are planning a public forum later this month for residents to learn about the sewer master plan, a document designed to handle expected growth in the coming years and handle existing needs in the city. The plan calls for developers to pay for new demand created by growth and for taxpayers to pay for existing needs.

“The sanitary sewer system isn’t the kind of thing people think about unless there’s a problem,” said Emily Baker, city engineer with the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. “We’ve tried to develop a reasonable and fair way to pay for the city’s needs going into the future.”

One of the major existing needs has to do with leaky pipes throughout the city, where stormwater is leaking into pipes intended to carry raw sewage. That increases the gallons that flow into the wastewater treatment plant, which means more money is spent treating it. Although the plan does not call for increased fees to pay for this in the near future, Baker says city officials may

see a need for increasing the sanitary sewer fee in the future. That’s the fee charged to individuals users based on how much water they consume, currently \$1.25 for every 1,000 gallons consumed. Concern about increased rates has created concern among some.

“The members of the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations ask the city defer action on the proposed Sewer Master Plan until February to afford the organization a reasonable opportunity to provide timely citizen commentary,” read a motion the group unanimously adopted earlier this month.

CITY OFFICIALS responded by pushing the Planning Commission formal consideration to February and scheduling a public meeting later this month. The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing in January, and schedule a final adoption for February. That meets the request of the federation, although it may not satisfy all its members.

“I would like to see this deferred past February,” said Lynn Bostain, co-chair of the federation. “There are too many unknowns.”

Perhaps the biggest unknown is how the

Get Involved

The city’s Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, Engineering Division, invites residents to attend a public meeting about its draft Sanitary Sewer Master Plan on Monday, Dec. 17, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center, located at 1605 Cameron Street (Rooms 3 and 4).

The draft Sanitary Sewer Master Plan provides a summary of sanitary sewer assets and needs, along with a plan to assess future wastewater flows.

city will handle the massive development and redevelopment in the near future. In the next 30 years, city officials estimate that an additional 50,000 people will live in Alexandria. That means the city’s wastewater treatment plant will need capacity to handle an additional 4 million gallons a day. One option for handling that would be purchasing the extra capacity from Fairfax County, which would cost about \$58 million. Another option would be to fund an upgrade of hardware owned by Alexandria Renew Enterprises, formerly Alexandria Sanitation Authority.


“We’re recommending that Alexandria Renew Enterprises handle the extra capacity,” said Baker. “It would cost less money, although going that route would limit the amount of nutrients that could be dis-

charged from the facility.”

ONE LINGERING issue that the master plan does not address is a looming threat that the Environmental Protection Agency might force Alexandria to reduce the amount of nutrients dumped into the Potomac River each year. Alexandria is one of three communities that has an antiquated “combined” sewer system, meaning raw sewage mingles with stormwater runoff on its way to the treatment plant. Every time the city experiences a heavy rainfall, which is about 10 times a year, the floodgates open up and thousands of gallons of raw sewage are dumped into the river. The EPA has already demanded that the District of Columbia reduce the total maximum daily load of nutrients, which will cost billions of dollars.

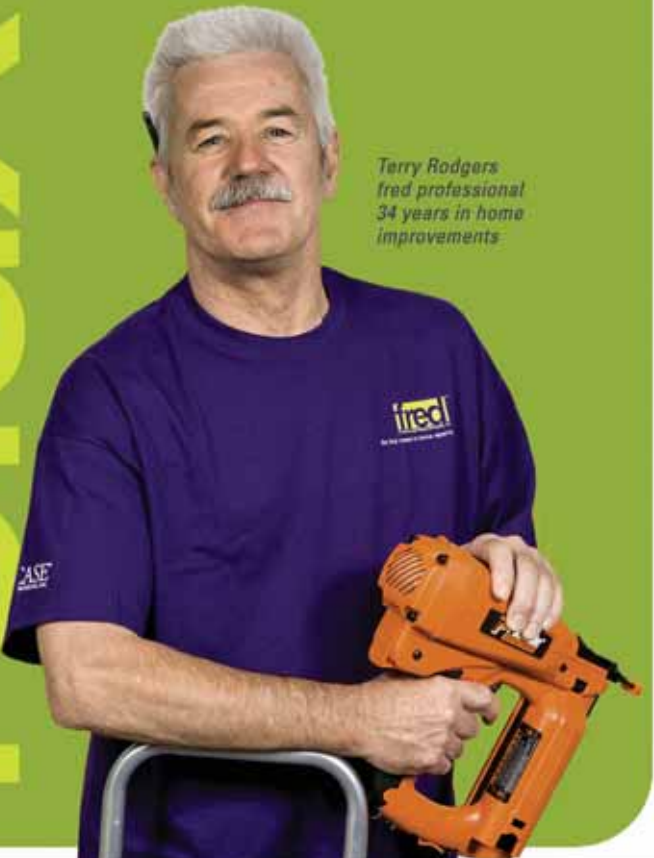
“That’s the sword of Damocles hanging over the head of Alexandria,” said Peter Pennington, former chairman of the Environmental Policy Commission. “Everyone is wondering when the EPA is going to make the same demand to Alexandria City Hall.”

Baker said the sewer master plan doesn’t address that issue because city officials are still negotiating with federal regulators for a permit to cover its combined sewer, one of only three in Virginia.



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NEWS

Santa Paws Old Town School for Dogs continues tradition.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

As owner of The Old Town School for Dogs, Carlos Mejias can answer just about any canine question asked of him, save for one.

"I have no idea," Mejias responded when asked how long he has been holding the pet photos with Santa fundraiser for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. "Someone told me it was at least 22 years but I honestly don't remember."

Opened in 1975, the Old Town School for Dogs has been the site of the longest standing fundraising event for the AWLA, bringing in upwards of \$10,000 over the course of three days.

"It's like Woodstock," said AWLA board member and volunteer Santa Gorden Kromberg. "Three days of fun and music."

Mejias begins his holiday decorating in September in preparation for the photo sittings, which took place this year from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 in partnership with photographer Alison DeSilva.

"The key to doing pet photos is to get the animal to sit still," Kromberg said. "Carlos



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

Old Town School for Dogs owner Carlos Mejias visits with Vola Lawson and her Jack Russell terrier Willie prior to a Dec. 2 photo shoot to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

can not only get animals to sit still, he can also get them to look at the camera. It's truly an art."

For Mejias, it is a labor of love.

"I love the animals," Mejias said during a break between photo shifts. "It can get a little crazy but I am happy to do what I can for the shelter. In the end it all comes together."

Visit www.alexandrianimals.org.



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Food Stamp Spike

Average number of households receiving food stamps each month

Year	Alexandria	Arlington	Fairfax
2003	1,206	2,313	7,487
2004	1,530	2,484	8,899
2005	1,658	2,443	9,855
2006	1,637	2,387	10,299
2007	1,675	2,482	10,553
2008	1,675	2,482	11,610
2009	3,294	2,848	13,769
2010	4,098	3,482	17,956
2011	4,586	3,986	21,269
2012	4,898	4,440	24,063

Food Stamp Spike

Expanding eligibility and increased outreach are behind trend.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The use of food stamps is skyrocketing in Northern Virginia, and the spike isn't just about the recession.

Over the course of the last decade, anti-poverty programs have been quietly expanding eligibility. And as more and more people qualify, local governments have been aggressively seeking out individuals who may meet the requirements to let them know what benefits are available. Now, as a result of those trends, about half of the recipients of food stamps live above the poverty federal poverty level.

"To me, that's a shocker," said David Armor, professor emeritus of public policy at George Mason University. "This is a program that's shifted from helping people in poverty to helping people with a low income."

In 2010, the federal government spent more than \$68 billion on food stamps. Of the 40 million who receive food stamps, slightly more than half were above the poverty line as measured by the U.S. Census. With members of Congress facing the so-called "fiscal cliff," Armor estimates that the federal government could save as much as \$200 billion a year by tightening eligibility of anti-poverty programs to those who live at or below the federal poverty level — not just food stamps, but health insurance, housing and income support. Others disagree.

"How about cutting a battle carrier group?" asked Charles May, executive director of Arlington Food Assistance Center. "We have our priorities all screwed up."

IN THE LAST DECADE, the number of people who receive food stamps has doubled in Arlington County, tripled in Fairfax County and quadrupled in the city of Alexandria. And the increased spending in Northern Virginia is part of a larger national trend. During the eight years of Republican President George W. Bush, federal spending on anti-poverty programs grew by \$100 billion. In the first to years of Democratic President Barack Obama, they grew another \$150 billion. Much of that increase has come from broadened eligibility.

"All of those stringent verifications we used to get we don't have to get anymore," said Linda Horn, manager for the public assistance benefits program in Alexandria. "Right now, we take your word on your bank account for example."

Government officials no longer consider whether or not applicants have an automobile. They no longer

consider whether or not applicants have educational loans. More homeless people are now eligible than in previous years. The result of all these relaxed eligibility requirements is that a drastically increased number of people are eligible for food stamps, formally known as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Local governments have also been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reach out to individuals who qualify for benefits but have not applied.

"We've gotten better at finding the people," said Mary Katherine D'Addario, public assistance benefit bureau chief in Arlington County. "We use different tools now to help people become more aware of SNAP and enroll in SNAP"

PARTICIPATION RATES have spiked across Northern Virginia as more and more people who are eligible for the benefits have become aware of them. Arlington has seen participation double from 20 percent to 40 percent. And Alexandria has seen its participation rate jump from 30 percent to 50 percent. New technology has helped government officials expand, as Electronic Benefit Transfer cards have allowed the transaction to look as simple as swiping a credit card.

"It used to be much more stigmatized to have those little paper coupons," said Kurt Larrick, communications manager for the Arlington County Department of Human Services. "But now you can go to the grocery store and use your EBT card, and nobody really knows you're paying with SNAP benefits."

Human Services workers across Northern Virginia say the recession clearly made the needs more pressing. Many potential recipients that were eligible but not receiving found themselves in need of help. And the increased outreach and new technology helped. Perhaps most significantly, however, recipients don't need to live in poverty. To be eligible for food stamps in Virginia, applicants need to be at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level.

"It gets to be a slippery slope. Once you go beyond the poverty line, it's not clear where you stop," said Armor. "I don't think that we can afford to have a safety net that's aimed more at increasing the comfort level as opposed to providing true safety for those that are truly poor."

DURING HUNGER ACTION month, nonprofits across Virginia asked their volunteers and employees to take a challenge — live off of \$4.03 a day. That's the average daily benefit from the food stamp program in Virginia. Advocates for expanding the social safety net to include the working poor say that the benefits don't amount to much for the individual, and that government can afford to help those in need.

"Try to feed yourself on \$4.03 a day, much less a family," said May. "And you'll find that really doesn't go very far."

Times They Are A-Changin'

After almost two decades as the chief prosecutor in Alexandria, Commonwealth's Attorney **Randy Sengel** says he won't run again in 2013.

Sengel was appointed commonwealth's attorney in February 1997, when **John Kloch** became a Circuit Court judge. Sengel ran for office later that year and won, eventually serving four four-year terms at the city courthouse. Now, Sengel says, he's ready to retire.

"The cases that have taken the most time and effort and commitment have been the child homicide cases," said Sengel, adding that he probably prosecuted about a dozen in his time in office. "Those are the ones that stick with you."

Sengel's personal style has been described as "understated," a quiet man who often shows up to crime scenes in a trademark trenchcoat. Sengel may be the only prosecutor that keeps copies of Rolling Stone in the reception area of his office. He's a huge **Bob Dylan** fan, and he keeps a picture of **John Lennon** in his office. When asked about the photo of Lennon, Sengel reminds visitors that he was a victim of homicide.

"It sort of reminds you that anything can happen anywhere at any time," said Sengel, who plans to enjoy international travel and fly fishing in retirement.

Porter Dynasty

On his way out of the prosecutor's office, Sengel is ready to make the case for a successor — Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney **Bryan Porter**. The son of longtime T.C. Williams High School Principal **John Porter**, Bryan Porter has been working in Sengel's office since 2001. He's in charge of prosecuting homicide and vice crimes. In an interview this week, Porter says he's officially throwing his hat in the ring, and he'll be making a formal announcement at the next meeting of the Alexandria Democratic Committee.

"When police call you in the middle of the night in a shooting case, and they want to discuss the appropriate investigative techniques and whether a warrant is necessary," said Porter. "You've got to have the experience and understanding of the law to give them the correct guidance to tell them what they should be doing to make sure the investigation is conducted properly."

A native of Alexandria, Porter is a 1989 graduate of T.C. Williams. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Virginia Commonwealth University. After graduating, he became a police officer and began attending law school at George Mason University. In 2001, Sengel hired him to be part of his team. Now, Sengel says, Porter is the best candidate to succeed him in office.

"He really has distinguished himself here," said Sengel. "He's been in law enforcement 18 years, and he's an excellent trial attorney."

What's Next?

A request of Colonial Heights Homeowners Association to allow backyard decks has some neighbors asking "What's next?"

That's the name of a city initiative to increase collaboration and open government, known as What's Next Alexandria. Some neighborhood residents on adjoining streets said they weren't consulted by city officials and didn't find out about it until it was already on the Planning Commission docket.

"What's happened here is exactly what that process was designed to avoid," said **Frank Putzu**. "We feel sandbagged."

Planning Commissioner **Mary Lyman** agreed, suggesting that the item be deferred so that neighbors could feel like they have been part of the process. Commissioner **Donna Fossum** suggested that the Seminary Hill Association should not coordinate the process because its bylaws restrict membership to owners of single-family detached homes.

"What we have here is an issue of fairness," said **Tom Collelo**, president of the Colonial Heights Homeowners Association. "We shouldn't have single-family homeowners telling townhomes what they can and cannot do."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



Allison and McClain Brooks look for friends on the parade route.



Grand Marshall R. Juge Gregg proceeds up King Street.



Campagna Center President and CEO Tammy L. Mann.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Riley, a Westie, waits with Toni Kuzmack for the group to be called into the parade line-up.

At the Scottish Walk



Drum Major Chuck Kaba of the Shamrock & Thistle Pipes and Drums from Ocean County, New Jersey.



Clan MacLeod lines up.



Drum Major Brian "Odie" Brendel leads the Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band in a warm up tune on Wilkes Street.



Jackson and Latney Montague ride with friends in a vintage Packard driven by their dad.



Alexandra Cook, 8, watches the Scottish Walk Parade Dec. 1 from her perch in Market Square.



Drum Major Matt Kuldell signals commands to the St. Andrew's Society Pipes and Drums.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Plaid Tidings

Scottish Walk Parade celebrates 42 years.

Pipes, plaid and pagentry filled the streets of Old Town during the 42nd annual Scottish Walk Parade Dec. 1, the centerpiece of a weekend of holiday events that included a Holiday Marketplace, Designer Tour of Homes and Taste of Scotland cocktail reception.

More than 30,000 people lined the streets to watch this year's pa-

rade, which included over 140 Scottish clans, local dignitaries and costumed canines.

Sponsored by the Campagna Center, the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C. and the Scottish Affairs Office, proceeds from the weekend events go directly to support the center's programs for Alexandria's children.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



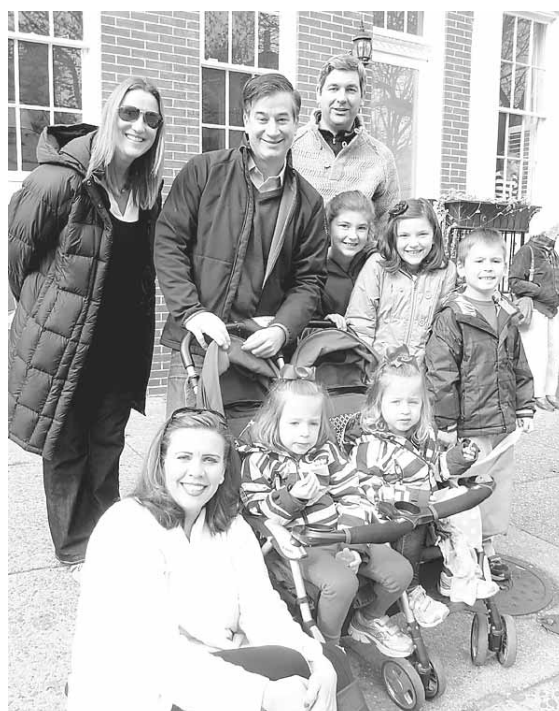
Members of the T.C. Williams High School ROTC.



The Alexandria Sheriff's Department color guard.



The Mass Bands finale.



The Lang and Friedrichs families watch the parade on N. Fairfax Street.



Shamrock Thistle Pipes and Drums Drum Major Chuck Kaba salutes dignitaries in the reviewing stand.



PHOTO BY
JEANNE THEISMANN/
GAZETTE PACKET

Toys for Tots

Spearheaded by American Legion Post 24 veterans Dave Brubaker and Mike Hillestad, local service members donated more than \$1,000 worth of toys to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign. Post 24 Commander Bill Aramony, back left, is joined by John Simmons, Dave Brubaker, Mike Hillestad and Chris Mears for the Nov. 28 toy collection.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tribute To Sengel

To the Editor:

I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to retiring Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Sengel for his tireless and exemplary service to our community. I know I speak for my former colleagues in the Alexandria Police Department when I say that one of the many remarkable measures of this distinguished Alexandrian is his unyielding commitment to the fair and equitable administration of criminal justice, and to the police and other public safety professionals who serve our city with distinction every day.

David P. Baker
Alexandria

The writer is the former chief of police in Alexandria.

Pedestrians As Targets

To the Editor:

City hall is seriously considering turning Union Street into a "shared street" where automobiles, tour buses, and bicycles will come along with pedestrians. Has city hall lost its marbles?

A tour bus weighs 10 tons, an SUV 2 tons, and even a compact car weighs a ton, versus me, a pedestrian, weighing [more than I should at] 165 lbs, and city hall thinks it's perfectly OK for me to "share the street" with traffic with merely a painted line to "protect" me? The only thing protecting pe-

destrians from motor vehicles is the curb which keeps the motor vehicles off the pedestrian sidewalk. Even bicyclists, who typically have more gall than brains as they blow through stop signs, weave in and out of traffic, etc., are beginning to figure out that they need bicycle trails, bollards, parked cars (such as the 15th Street "cycle track"), or other bicycle lane separators which the District of Columbia is pioneering to keep them safe from traffic. They are lately demanding more bicycle lanes because they have figured out they need to be separated from motor vehicles and that getting "doored" beats getting run over. Imagine throwing bicycles in with both pedestrians and motor vehicles simultaneously in a narrow street with little maneuvering room!

The wealthy merchants who built Union Street with slave labor early in the early days of the American republic built it for horse-drawn carriages with a 4-foot-8-half-inch axle, a dimension copied from Roman chariots and abided faithfully for 2 millennia in land transport — even railroad standard gauge (WMATA's MetroRail and the country's intercity passenger and freight railroads) is 4-feet-8-half-inches — until some set of fools in Detroit decided to give automobiles and trucks wider 6-foot wheelbases.

In keeping with city hall's *modus operandi* of trying to stuff 10 lbs of stuff into a 5-lb sack, where are these automobiles with their 6-foot wheelbases going to fit on a street designed for carriages' 4-foot-8-half-inch axles? Where two

carriages could pass, two automobiles or buses with wider wheelbases cannot. The two motor vehicles are not going side-swipe each other; instead, without a curb to keep them in the road-bed, they will crowd out and squish the pedestrians.

Why not just paint bull's eyes on every pedestrian on this "shared street" and have Mayor Euille personally autograph it?

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Let's Restrict Motor Traffic

To the Editor:

As an Old Town resident with travel experience in Europe, I agree with the comment that the idea of vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians all sharing space hasn't worked in Europe and is fading out to near nonexistence. On the other hand, it is widely prevalent and successful there to have historic old town centers closed to all motor traffic except for residents and emergency vehicles, with deliveries at designated hours, not busy Friday afternoons. Parking is available at the periphery.

European countries generally enjoy better public transportation than we do, but it is not unusual for there to be little or no transport in historic centers, thus addressing another modern problem: a sedentary population. Let's look to Europe, but let's borrow only their successes.

By the way, they still have not solved the issue of dangerous bi-

cyclists on the sidewalks, so there's an opportunity for us to lead the way on that.

Janine Harris
Alexandria

Not a New Problem

To the Editor:

The only thing that Union Street unites is congestion due to the conflicts between pedestrians, motor vehicles and bicycles at the most constricted downtown intersection at the approach to the Alexandria waterfront. I've written this letter before sometime during the '90s and actually studied the feasibility of closing the 100 block of King Street even further back in the mid-1970s. In fact the subject of pedestrianizing lower King Street gets revisited almost as much as the issue of downtown parking.

During the Thanksgiving Holiday I revisited the lower King Street area and marveled at the crowds of pedestrians still contending with moving traffic trying to negotiate through the mass of humanity without running over their non-motorized brethren. I now see that there is some movement afoot (sorry about that) to make the asphalt jungle a more inclusive domain where rights of passage are shared and dependent on the kindness of others. Gone are the grade differentials separating sidewalk from street and relegating pedestrians to the narrow

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

edges while motor vehicles and bicycles enjoy the lion's share of right of way. Instead there would be special pavement demarcations all at the same grade or slightly raised to create a free-for-all modes zone.

Unfortunately, this solution only prettifies the problem but does not solve it since the conflicts between metal and flesh will continue. What should be done, in my opinion, is to convert the 100 unit block of King Street to a pedestrian-only street but allow for service and of course emergency vehicles to use the street when needed and when appropriate. Remove the sidewalks and less than robust trees and create a one grade special paved platform from building line to building line. Do the same with the half blocks of North and South Union Street. Remove the parking and prohibit through traffic. Motorists will learn to adjust and access the parking garages on Union via other streets. Bicyclists must dismount. No motorcycles. Just pedestrians most of the time. Less noise. Less pollution. More opportunities for quiet, breathable outside dining. Merchants get used to the consequences of your uber success in attracting customers and provide for their safety and enjoyment. Cars take up too much space and don't buy your products or eat your food — people do.

What is this I read about implementing the most modest or timid of proposals in 5-10 years? The city fathers and mothers have been debating this for decades as I know from personal experience and after many exhortations to do something bold and decisive. Feel the fierce urgency of now and finally put this issue to rest. Enough with the studies and put the money into the pavement not into consultant's bank accounts (no offense intended).

Larry Grossman
Longboat Key, Fla.

True Culprits Of Dysfunction

To the Editor:

Former Councilman Lonnie Rich decries the long period it takes for council to vote on some issues ["Sometimes, Just Vote and Move on," commentary, Nov. 29]. I am sure he had in mind the time it took for council to vote on either the Waterfront Plan or the Beauregard Corridor Plan. A casual reader of his opinion piece in the Gazette might think that citi-

zens had something to do with this long period. That is completely untrue.

Under Planning Director Farroll Hamer public participation has become a grueling exercise in endurance for those citizens with enough stamina to attend the meetings. On several occasions I heard Ms. Hamer mention that 100 meetings were held on the waterfront plan. As I said at the final City Council public hearing, what we really had was one meeting which was later repeated 99 times.

Ms. Hamer and her staff present a plan. They hear the public reaction and then they wait for some period of time and present the same plan again. Any changes attendees asked for at the previous meeting never occur. If changes are made, they come at the behest of interests outside the public process.

For example at the very end of the Beauregard Corridor meetings, the boundary of the area to be rezoned was expanded to include the Goodwin House retirement community. This change appears to have come at the behest of Goodwin House management. No citizen attending the meetings ever asked for a boundary change at that location.

Finally after a long period of contentious meetings, for both the waterfront and Beauregard plans, the mayor and his senior staff scheduled the controversial plans for a vote. Not scheduling them earlier was entirely their choice. Council listened to a lot of comment at the public hearings, and then at least the majority of council voted for the plans. In the end, the outcome was no different than if the planning director had held five meetings instead of 100. Most of the citizens who cared enough to familiarize themselves with the plans were angry. Being ignored has that effect on people.

I attended the first meeting of What's Next Alexandria during November. We did an exercise on what it takes to be a good citizen participant in a public planning process. As I usually do at such meetings, I did the exercise as I was asked. It was harmless and since we were not debating any serious issue, congenial. However, if the city leaders want to improve our planning process, they need to look elsewhere than the citizens for the culprits of the dysfunction. We are not to blame in this, just as we are not to blame for how long it is taking council to reach decisions.

Katy Cannady
Alexandria

Give Mason His Due

To the Editor:

The Bill of Rights, one of the most important bulwarks of our freedoms, was the product of the wisdom and determination of George Mason IV of Gunston Hall, a proud native Alexandrian. This forceful statement was adopted on Dec. 15, 1791, when the Virginia legislature provided the decisive vote. Although it is the best-known

section of the Constitution, many founding fathers, including George Washington, opposed its inclusion. George Mason deserves our honor and thanks for his many important contributions to our local welfare as well as that of our state, nation and the world.

When the British closed the port at Boston, he immediately realized that the American colonies must unite to resist the British tyranny. He initiated assistance by word and deed by writing the Fairfax

Resolves, adopted in Alexandria, the county seat, on July 18, 1774. He also set an example for others by sending food stuffs overland to the Bostonians at his own expense and inviting others to join him in doing so. George Washington and other Virginians did, thus providing the first example of intercolonial cooperation against the British and preventing the Bostonians

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14



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OBITUARY

Dr. Teh-chang Shih

Dr. Teh-chang Shih, who served the Alexandria community for 32 years as a staff internist at Inova Alexandria Hospital — from 1970 until his retirement in 2002 — died at home in Alexandria on November 27, 2012. He had suffered a stroke a week earlier and was 82.

Dr. Shih was born in the port city of Quazhou, Fujian province in southern China in 1929. After graduating from community college there in 1947, he moved to Taiwan to work as a math teacher before attending medical school at the National Taiwan University, where he met his wife, Catherine. He immigrated to Canada and served a medical residency at McGill University (Canada) and earned a Master's in Science at the University of Alberta. He and Catherine finally settled in Alexandria in the late 1960s and he started work at the Alexandria Hospital in 1970.

As a staff internist at the city's hospital, Dr. Shih took care of thousands of Alexandria's poor and uninsured. His family and colleagues remember that, for 30 years, he was tireless in his devotion to his



patients, working long hours to ensure their proper care. He diligently worked to expand his medical knowledge, earning subspecialty certifications in endocrinology and geriatrics. He was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

During his nearly 10 years of retirement, he traveled to the places he had long wished to see — the Grand Canyon, Paris, Alaska.

He also made several trips to his native China and Taiwan.

He continued to keep up on new developments in medicine. And he considered himself lucky to witness the birth of and to spoil his four grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine Shen Shih, of Alexandria; his daughters, June Shih, of Alexandria and Sandra Shih, of Baltimore, two brothers, Teh-Jui Shih, of Taichung, Taiwan; Deshui Shi of Quanzhou, China; two sisters, Deqi Shi and Dewan Shi of Quanzhou, China; and four grandchildren.

A celebration of his life will be held on Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria.

NEIGHBORHOOD

Seminary Valley

The results are in for the Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association election, held this past October. Your representatives include: President - Judy Cooper, 1st Vice President - Shirley Downs, 2nd Vice President - Keith Kruse, Treasurer - Yaneev Benno, Parliamentarian - Jordan Ortiz, Secretary - Katy Matthews, Membership Secretary - Beth Richardson. Members-at-Large include Emily Brown, Rob Chamberlain, Faith Holcombe and Amanda Kent. Thanks to all who served last year and who stepped forward to serving in 2012-13.

President Cooper plans to focus on involving more community members in West End development issues. The next general meeting will be Monday, Jan. 28, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Beatley Library.

In school news, the turf field at Hammond Middle School is just about completed (it is thrilling to see the green turf as you drive by the school). The projected completion date is Dec. 17.

Polk Elementary School is hosting a mobile dentist /Smile program on Dec. 12 and 13 for children who do not have a regular dentist. Contact Nurse Stefani Lailari if you can volunteer to help that day (Stefani.lailari@acps.k12.va.us). The

Polk PTA's Dec. 18 meeting will include a visit from Superintendent Sherman; contact PTA President Leslie Kruse with a specific question or concern for the Superintendent (leslie.kruse@yahoo.com).

Patrick Henry students got into the holiday spirit early by crafting holiday ornaments for U.S. Sen. Mark Warner's office.

Art Teacher Molly Knepper worked with Ms. Wyatt's third-grade class and Ms. Jones's fourth-grade class. The students made tie-dyed snowflakes inspired by glass sculpture artist Dale Chihuly, who specializes in bold colors and organic shapes. Go to www.flickr.com/photos/acps12 to see photos of their creations.

A few dates to keep in mind: ACPS schools' Winter Break is pretty short this year ... from Dec. 24 to Jan. 1. The city will resume its leaf vacuum efforts in our area on Dec. 10; bagged leaves will be collected through Jan. 4. Also, the City will start collecting Christmas trees at curbside right after Christmas as part of its normal recycling services.

— MIA JONES

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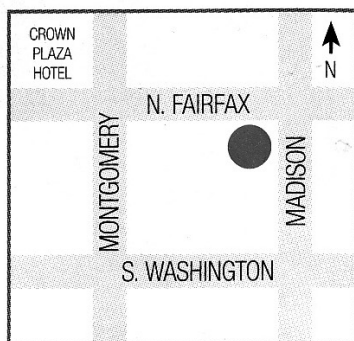
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Shoppers browse through the tables laden with gift ideas at the annual Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market.

17th Annual Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market

The entrance at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery overflowed with poinsettias for the opening of the annual Holiday market on Friday evening, Nov. 30. More than a dozen vendors set up tables in the Colosanto Center offering one-of-a-kind gifts for sale. The sale continues this weekend with a reception Friday evening, Dec. 7, from 6-9 p.m. Food for the reception was provided by Pork Barrel BBQ. The sale continues this weekend.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
GAZETTE PACKET



Jen Athanan of Jen-A-Fusion fashion accessories shows a purse she is in the process of completing.



Lesley Hall of Ruthless Art displays a selection of her handmade jewelry at the holiday market.



St. Clement head of school Nancy Lavalley Underwood, Mayor Bill Euille, Dory Herman and the Rev. John Hortum.

Celebrating St. Clement

The 68 students at St. Clement preschool and junior kindergarten donned their togas and headed down the hall to lunch on Tuesday, Dec. 4. A special meal and celebration awaited them. Mayor Bill Euille arrived and read a proclamation declaring that from now on, the week of Dec. 3 is designated St. Clement Week. Born in Athens in 150, he became known as a major Greek-speaking thinker of the early Chris-

tian church.

After much traveling, Clement went to Alexandria, Egypt where he taught in a catechetical school until his death around 211-216. The St. Clement Episcopal School on Quaker Lane was founded in 1952 as a church-operated preschool. Today it offers an all-inclusive preschool and kindergarten and extended day care for the local community.



St. Clement Church rector, the Rev. John Hortum, opens of celebration gift made by the students of the school in honor of the 60th anniversary of the school.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

from being starved into submission.

Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights was adopted by our General Assembly on June 12, 1776. It included the lines: "That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent natural Rights ... among which are the Enjoyment of Life and Liberty, with the Means of acquiring and possessing Property, and pursuing and obtaining Happiness and Safety." Jefferson's most famous lines in our Declaration of Independence are a close paraphrase. It also served as the basis for our Constitution's Bill of Rights, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen adopted in 1789, and the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

Mason wrote the first constitution for the State of Virginia, which served us for almost 200 years. It was an important model for the U.S. Constitution, the oldest written constitution still in active use in the world, distinguished for its separation and balance of powers, a doctrine Mason adopted after careful study of contemporary thinking and the best features of all governments until his time. Mason was the genius who set the framework for our Constitution, and his tenacity in insisting that a Bill of Rights be included ensured that a citizen's rights are protected at all levels of government.


Mason recognized the moral and practical obligation of the nation to ensure freedom for all people and end slavery at the earliest opportunity. He advocated education and gradual emancipation for the slaves. Because the proposed Constitution put off starting to free the slaves for 20 years and lacked a Bill of Rights, although he favored a stronger central government, he voted against its adoption, incurring the life-long enmity of his best friend and closest neighbor, George Washington.

Although Mason did not have a college education, he recognized the importance of continuing education by reading and thinking deeply throughout his life, for the benefit of his family, city, state and nation. It is very appropriate that we have an elementary school in Alexandria and a university and regional library in Fairfax which are named for him. The south-bound span of the 14th St. Bridge is also named for him.


In his personal affairs he set an example of practicality, order and honor. He was a faithful and active Christian, a loving husband to

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

his childhood sweetheart and father to his nine surviving children, and a warm friend and host. His home, Gunston Hall, located off Route 1 at Lorton, is open to the public; there is also a museum on the property.

Let's celebrate Bill of Rights Day on Dec. 15 and his birthday on Dec. 11 (1725). Alexandria should declare and celebrate George Mason Week to honor this exemplary citizen.

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

Lack of Listening

To the Editor:

I attended the first "What's next Alexandria" community dialogue meeting on Thursday, Nov. 15. Needless to say, this was not a "kumbaya" moment by some residents in attendance and I know I requested that the agenda be changed wherein Mayor Euille said "no" and another resident attempted to state that it appeared there would be no public input and no residents in attendance would be heard until several future meetings had been completed. Surprise, surprise, especially since this "city agenda" is about "engaging and listening" to citizen concerns and questions.

This controlled city hall meeting was to discuss the oil city staff had distributed to various citizens/businesses by various electronic venues. The results of this "poll" were biased and leaning towards more citizen input via the city's website and/or other electronic means. Not everyone has access to computers or other electronic tools. If anything, this should have been a survey, not a poll as polls are used for political reasons and stats and surveys provide objective results and comments. Having

taken the poll, it was clear what city staff was looking for and already knew what citizen concerns were and currently believe that city hall and our elected officials have not been listening to many of us who have been involved with community issues over the past few years and the complete lack of trust in our elected leaders along with city staff.

I found Dr. Lukensmeyer's presentation to be disappointing, generic and somewhat elementary considering her experience as a community coordinator who has done these community meetings in various cities, i.e., Portland, Oregon, Washington, D.C. along with advising various political leaders. As a professional who has had experience providing trainings and group presentations, I know I want to know ahead of time about the group composition, cultural backgrounds if appropriate, major issues of concern along with the environment and location for these presentations. For whatever reason, I can only conclude that either City Manager Young, Mayor Euille and/or other city staff did not talk with Dr. Lukensmeyer prior to the meeting and ask her if she needed any information about the group and Alexandria and/or Dr. Lukensmeyer felt she didn't need to speak with city staff prior to her presentation. It was clear that she knew little about Alexandria, the major issues that are of concern to many citizen activists and the reason for this "community dialogue meeting" and was there to discuss her experience and present the poll results. One needs to remember that Alexandria taxpayers paid Dr. Lukensmeyer \$3,000 to speak for 40 minutes. Not a bad deal since her presentation didn't provide new insights/information for the majority of residents in attendance including some new residents who attended. I heard these comments from us

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The "Light Horse Harry" Lee House



Stately brick townhouse built in 1780 was once the residence of Henry Lee and his family which included son

Robert E Lee. Tall ceilings, some original features including plaster moldings, heart pine floors, horseshair ceiling medallion, and front staircase. Currently used as an office and residence, it could be used for either or both and offers seven off street parking spaces! ~\$1,695,000

611 Cameron St Alexandria, VA 22314

Water Views in Belle Haven



Exceptionally Charming! Beautiful 5 bedroom, 3 full bath + 2 half baths, stone and brick colonial sited on a lot with Potomac River Views! Large and gracious living room with fireplace, several seating areas, exquisite moldings, built in shelves + cabinetry, French doors leading to deck, elegant dining room with fireplace, light filled



updated kitchen with breakfast area. Inviting family room with fireplace, and 2 car garage. ~\$1,395,000

6111 Vernon Terrace
Alexandria, VA 22307

Under Contract in Belle Haven



This Belle Haven home has it all! Lots of living space on 2 levels, 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, gourmet kitchen, updated lighting, updated baths, spacious living room with fireplace. Lower level family room with fireplace, gleaming hardwoods, Fresh paint, private patio, oversized garage, new heat and AC. ~\$779,000

6205 Foxcroft Road Alexandria, VA 22307



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Jefferson Park Area **\$1,495,000**
301 Charles Alexander Court, Alexandria, VA 22301
Gorgeous 5BR/4.5BA brick center-hall colonial perfect for formal entertaining & comfortable family living. Fine moldings, 4fps, hdwd fls, fully finished lower lvl + 2 car gar.
Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Chapel Hill **\$1,850,000**
911 Vicar Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302
Located in one of Alexandria's most highly sought-after neighborhoods, this custom built 6BR + 4 1/2 + 1/2BA colonial features pine fls, 3 fp's, 2 huge screened porches + 2 car garage.
Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Rosemont Park **\$979,000**
605 Little Street, Alexandria, VA 22301
Gorgeous, new construction Craftsman home in Rosemont! 4BR/3.5BA with no stone left unturned. OSP. Walk to Metro.
Eileen Marousek 703.507.2350



Mason Hill **\$739,990**
2005 Mason Hill Drive, Alexandria, VA 22307
Beautiful Updated Colonial in Mason Hill, 4BR/2.5BA, Remodeled Kitchen with Granite, SS Apps, Refreshed Baths, Hardwood Floors, Walkout Lower Level, Great Floorplan.
Greg Doherty 703-408-5068



Waynewood **\$1,095,000**
8701 Eaglebrook Court, Alexandria, VA 22308
This home is the perfect gathering place for entertaining. The well designed gourmet kitchen flows seamlessly to family room, formal dining room and fabulous outdoor living space.
Edward Pagett 703-518-6161



Old Town **\$775,000**
311 Queen Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Totally renovated plaqued 1880's brick end rowhouse featuring stainless steel kitch, granite counter tops & maple cabinets. Eat in Kitch, brkfst nook & separate dining rm.
Jolee Rubin 703-548-0697



Riverwood **\$2,950,000**
9326 Old Mansion Road, Alexandria, VA 22309
Exceptional home on a bluff overlooking the Potomac. Named Villa Buenos Aires, this home evokes luxury and a relaxed lifestyle with old charm and luxurious modern touches.
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



Alexandria **\$1,095,000**
7733 Lee Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22308
Spacious Colonial priced under assessment. Fabulous open floorplan with sunfilled spaces. Room to entertain inside and out on one half acre with mature landscaping.
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



Belle Haven **\$1,100,000**
2009 Fort Drive, Alexandria, VA 22307
Location, Location, Location! Beautiful 3BR/2.5BA tudor located on a cul de sac and sited on professionally landscaped lot overlooking the Potomac River.
Jeanne Warner 703-980-9106



Fairfax **\$429,500**
6600 Berkshire Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310
Beautifully remodeled 4BR/2BA home, gourmet kitch w/ SS appliances, greatroom addition, hardwood floors, fully finished bsmt. Easy commute to Ft. Belvoir/Pentagon/DC.
Mary Gray Edwards 703-907-9800



Janneys Lane Area **\$799,999**
2933 Bryan Street, Alexandria, VA 22302
Great for entertaining, expanded & renovated, big kit opens to family rm, fabulous decks & views! Low maint yard, garage, 3FP, 4BA, fin lower lvl, master BR suite.
Sherry York 703.625.7337



Yates Gardens **\$1,199,550**
930 South Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Entertainer's delight! Expanded and updated kitchen and family room and dreamy master suite. Expansive patio with outdoor kitchen, fireplace, gas heater. Parking for 5 cars.
Mark Souder 703-518-2800



Old Town Alexandria

310 King Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300

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*Sq Ft: 8,775 finished + 981 Storage
*Finished Levels: 3
*Baths: 5.5 ~ *Bedrooms: 5



Custom home designed and crafted by leading builder to capitalize on breathtaking views of site. Seller's circumstances provide opportunity to acquire this unique property at a fraction of assess value! Special consideration given to contracts closing in 2012. OPEN SUN 12/9, 1-4! GW Pky S; L-Old Mt Vernon; L-Rive; R-Belle Rive.



5211 Polk Ave
\$1,085,000
Just Completed - Grand Opening!
Best of both worlds-new home size and amenities combined with "in-town convenience". Spacious new home with all the bells and whistles: high ceilings, gourmet kit, upgraded trim detail, gorgeous hardwood flrs, 4 large BR including luxury MBR. Fin basement, 4.5 baths and 2 oversize 2 car garage. Nothing like it in City for close to this price! OPEN SUN, 12/9, 1-4! From 395, Seminary Rd E; R-N. Pickett; R-Pegram; R-Polk.



7720 Schellhorn Rd
\$458,000
Renovated Rambler!
Rare large Rambler on gorgeous 1/2 acre lot in prime Mt. Vernon location. Home has huge potential with 4 BR on main level including master with private bath. Other features include fireplace with marble surround, oversize two car garage, hwd flrs & huge lower level. Home needs a little TLC & is priced accordingly. Exceptional Value! OPEN SUN 12/9, 1-4! GW Pky S; R -Morningside, becomes Sherwood Hall; R-Schellhorn.



1250 S. Washington St
Porto Vecchio #824
\$599,000
Best Value!
Spacious residence with breathtaking panoramic river views from every major room. Special features include: glass walled great room, luxury MBR, marble foyer, & bright white kit. Elevated views of bridge & National Harbor. Unique opportunity-typically units with similar combination of views & elevation cost thousands more!



9317 Old Mansion Rd
\$859,000
Stunning Colonial in Riverfront Community!
Classic colonial tastefully expanded and landscaped. One of area's most distinctive properties! Fab features: 3 fin levels, expanded custom kitchen opening to sunroom and elevated stone terrace overlooking garden. MBR with dual granite vanities, separate shower & whirlpool tub. 4BR, 3.5BA, 2FP and 2 car garage. Community path to river access.



3618 Old Vernon Ct
\$839,000
Stately Columned Colonial!
Fabulous opportunity! Spacious 5BR Colonial with updated modern floor plan. Numerous features include: high ceilings, 3 finished levels, stunning master suite, custom built-ins and oversize two car garage. Prime location on large, fenced lot fronting quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Nothing like it on market at close to this price.



4002 Belle Rive Terr
\$798,500
Classic Colonial Near River!
Unique opportunity to purchase river view home in prestigious Belle Rive for under \$800K! Fabulous custom all-brick colonial on cul-de-sac with stunning views of Potomac River! Gorgeous kitchen featuring all SS appliances, farmhouse sink and carrera marble counters. Hardwood floors and plantation shutters abound. Recently finished walk out lower level. New Pella doors.



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room, formal living/dining rooms; and 2 fireplaces make this home ideal for entertaining and comfort.

Pat Wilson 703.598.7279
Glenn Witucki 703.518.8708



\$ 749,000
Alexandria / Old Town
"DETACHED TOWNHOME"

Enjoy the location and fabulous updates of this 2BR/2.5BA TH. Updated kitchen with granite counters and windows on two sides! Fireplace in living room, hardwoods on ML. 2 master suites with private BAs. LL family room, 1/2 BA, and storage.

Pat Wilson 703.598.7279
Glenn Witucki 703.518.8708



\$ 899,000
Alexandria
"COMMERCIAL!"

Immediate occupancy available in this recently renovated building including 3 levels, 7 individual offices plus reception area and a large lower open finished

level. A half bath and small kit with sink and dishwasher are on the top level. 5 deeded parking spaces plus more M-F by agreement. Walk to King St Metro. Owner/agent

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317



\$ 695,000
Alexandria
"THIS IS THE ONE YOU WANT"

Gorgeous top floor spacious 3BR/2.5BA facing southeast for maximum light and unobstructed Old Town views. Bamboo floors,

enclosed sunroom, generous closets, extra storage and 2-car garage parking. Full service resort-like building (pool, gyms, putting green and more) plus quick commutes by road or Metro.

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317



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Alexandria
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kitchen with 42" cabinets, W/D, updated 1.5 baths and lots of closets. Storage too! 2 miles from Metro and easy access to I-395 and I-495.

Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144



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Washington, DC
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Location, Assigned Parking and Renovations... make this 1BR + Den and terrace Penthouse the perfect 10! It's all here - hardwoods thru-out, French doors; 12' ceilings; granite in kitchen and baths; wood-burning fireplace; skylights; master BR with heated master BA floors; Euro shutters; W/D; built-ins; extra storage; sunny eastern exposure and Low Condo Fee.

Kendra Carey 703.887.2117



\$ 700,000
Alexandria / Old Town
"CHARMING 4 LEVEL"

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with bonus office. Large lot with front and back yard plus off street parking. Ready for your decorator. One mile to King St Metro. Shops, restaurants and Balduccis all a few blocks away. Call for more information...

Call for more information:
Deborah Alea 703.447.1315



\$ 465,000
Alexandria
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This is not your average rambler! New kitchen addition with bay window, oversized 2-car garage with workroom addition, new

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Bonnie Clark 703.725.9449



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 749,000
Alexandria South
7405 REBECCA DR

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eat-in kitchen and separate dining room, a living room with wood-burning fireplace and a comfortable family room. The lovely 1/3 acre landscaped open yard is a gardener's paradise. For more information, please call me.

Annelise Smith 703.505.2533



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Entrants in the 2012 Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.



Wii Fish, as Rudolph, won Best Powerboat.

Holiday Boat Parade of Lights

The 13th Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights lit up the Potomac River Dec. 1 as 40 boats cruised from the Washington waterfront to Old Town to compete in 11 categories in the traditional seafaring holiday display of lights.

The parade's Best in Show went to Summer C's, a catamaran houseboat featuring a light show animation of a Christmas tree set to festive music. Wii Fish snagged Best Powerboat, decked out to resemble Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer with tall antlers and red nose in lights. The sailboat Firefly took the prize for Thinking Outside the Christmas Box with an all-green Christmas tree shape that cascaded from its tall mast.

As crowds filled waterfront parks and the docks at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, city officials and dignitaries gathered aboard the Cherry Blossom where WTOP's Man About Town Bob Madigan emceed the

event. Judges were Jody Manor of Bittersweet Café & Catering, Ann Dorman of Meetings & Events of Distinction, Barbara Brecher of Brecher Design Group, and Dee Beresford from the Old Dominion Boat Club Board of Governors.

The 2012 winners: Best in Show - Summer C's; Best Sailboat - Forward my Calls; Best Powerboat - Wii Fish; Most Animated - Iron Manta; Most Holiday Cheer - Rajin Cajun; Thinking Outside the Christmas Box - Firefly; Hardest Souls - Endless Summer; Best Theme - Unusual Attitude; Most Spirited Crew - Wish You Were Here; Best Spirit of America - Luv'n Life; Best Try - John Glenn. Three honorable mentions were The Colonel's Lady, Jobsite and Hi C's.

This year's boat parade was sponsored by the Old Dominion Boat Club in partnership with the Washington Waterfront Association with support from the Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Maurisa Potts with son Derek.

City manager Rashad Young with Vola Lawson.



An entrant in the 2012 Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.



With National Harbor on the horizon, the sailboat Firefly took the prize for Thinking Outside the Christmas Box.



ACT executive director John Porter, third from left, enjoys the boat parade with his family, including Laura and Scott Porter, wife Bonnie and Bryan and Karen Porter.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Little Theatre's 'A Christmas Carol'

Opening night of the holiday classic welcomes families from the Georgetown Hospital Pediatric Oncology Center.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It's a tale as old as time: The miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is ethically and emotionally transformed after being haunted by visits from the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come in the Charles Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol," now playing at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

First published in December of 1843, LTA has updated the traditional version of the Victorian play with an original adaptation by director Rachel Hubbard that debuted Nov. 29 to children and families from the Georgetown Hospital Pediatric Oncology Center.

"We're so excited to be here tonight," said Melanie Downie, whose 8-year-old son Brian plays one of the Cratchit children. "It's a dream come true for Brian."

Brian Downie was diagnosed at 13 months with histiocytosis, a rare form of bone cancer. With 16 bone tumors discovered at diagnosis, he has had five relapses and undergone chemotherapy treatment for six years for more than 50 tumors.

"He's in remission and doing well now," said Melanie Downie, who helped arrange for 40 pediatric oncology patients and their families to attend the show that served as a Partners in Arts night fundraiser for the Arlington Soccer Association's Rowdies Red U16 girls team.

"We raised over \$1,000," said 15-year-old Charlotte Alberts, whose mother Rachel is a longtime producer at LTA. "Our teams all have to do one fundraiser a year so we thought this would be a good idea."

Typical of many school fundraisers, tickets were sold to generous family members who would not be able to attend the show. Rather than see the tickets go unused, Melanie Downie asked if she could distribute the tickets to the cancer patients and their families.

"It's such a thrill to combine our two worlds like this," Melanie Downie said. "Brian was always entertaining everyone in the hospital but he had never done any theater before auditioning for the show. We had no idea what stage right or stage left was but then he got a call back and here we are."

HUBBARD'S ORIGINAL VERSION of

the show features an onstage Charles Dickens narrating the classic tale.

"I've always loved Dickens and wanted to do something different to commemorate his 200th birthday," said Hubbard, who is making her LTA directorial debut. "All of the good that radiates from this show is because of the cast. They have worked so hard and are so dedicated and the enthusiasm of Brian and all the children is infectious."

Taking on the central role of Scrooge is Mount Vernon resident and theater veteran Elliot Bales. Bales gives a passionate performance, holding the audience spellbound

as he deftly brings a tenderness to the transformation of the despised businessman.

Mark Lee Adams, who trained with Judi Dench in London, plays Dickens

with aplomb with LTA favorite Larry Grey as Mr. Fezziwig. The entire cast is remarkably talented with costumes and staging that brings the Victorian streets of London to life.

"This is a magical evening, not just for us but for all the families here," Melanie Downie said. "For any family who has a child with cancer, you enjoy life to the fullest day by day."

Elliot Bales, right, joins pediatric cancer patients and their families following a special Nov. 29 performance of "A Christmas Carol" at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.



PHOTO BY DOUG OLMS TED

Charlie Ruppe (Turkey Boy), Viktoria Truitt (Belle's child), Julian Worth (Boy Scrooge), Penelope Gallagher (Belle's child), Lindsey Gattuso (Caroler), Brian Downie (Robert), Clare Baker (Belinda Cratchit), Grace Keefe (Fan), and Saoirse Farrell (Belle's oldest daughter) in Little Theatre of Alexandria's 2012 production of "A Christmas Carol."



Mark Lee Adams, Larry Grey and Elliot Bales relax following the Nov. 29 performance of "A Christmas Carol."



Cancer patient Brian Downie, 8, with mother Melanie and grandmother Alexandra following his Nov. 29 stage debut in "A Christmas Carol."



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

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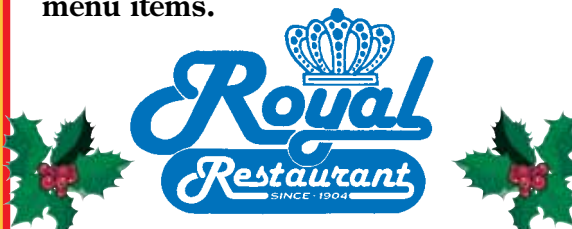
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TO ALL OF YOU FROM ALL OF US,
A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

THURSDAY/DEC. 6

A Peter White Christmas. With Peter White, Mindi Abair and special guest at the Birchmere. \$49.50. Visit www.peterwhite.com. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Art Focus Group. 7:30-9 p.m. Clay in the Classroom: Sculpture, Sensory Exploration and Community Building. Learn about the many benefits of good clean play with mud in the classroom. Classes are \$25 each or \$200 for the 10 class series. A school or group of teachers can share the registration for the full series. At 2804 Sherwood Hall Ln. Call 703-201-1250.

Free Concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. The 2013 Living Legends of Alexandria nominees will be introduced with a musical tribute, featuring music by the NOVA Community Chorus, the NOVA Jazz Ensemble and the NOVA Alexandria Band in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. The nominees of 2013 Living Legends of Alexandria are introduced to the community at 6:30-7:15 p.m. Free, parking in the Beauregard Parking Garage is \$6. Contact Nina Tisara at NinaT@ninatisara.com or Lisa Eckstein at leckstein@nvcc.edu.

FRIDAY/DEC. 7

Holiday on the Avenue. 6-9 p.m. The entire community comes together to light the neighborhood Christmas tree. Even Santa attends. This joyous celebration is followed by an evening stroll down the Avenue, which is illuminated by thousands of candles, called "luminarias." Del Ray Farmer's Market at Mount Vernon Ave. and E. Oxford Ave. Call 703-746-3301 or visit www.visitalexandriava.com.

1964 The Tribute. 7:30 p.m. 1964 The Tribute is cheered worldwide by recreating a Beatles concert performed live, with exact detailed reproduction of the songs, voices, instruments, suits, haircuts and even the iconic "Beatle Boots" made famous by the Fab Four. Now it will appear at The Birchmere Music Hall located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are priced at \$35 available at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 7-9

Del Ray Artisans' 17th annual Holiday Market. Handmade work from local artists plus bake sale. Reception is on Friday, from 6 to 9

Holiday Traditions

17th Annual Holiday Market at Del Ray Artisans — Dec. 7-9 and Dec. 14-16. Mount Vernon by Candlelight — through Dec. 16. Christmas at Mount Vernon — through Jan. 6. First Night Alexandria — Monday, Dec. 31. Find more information in our calendar as the dates approach.

p.m. The hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday. Visit TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 7-8

Sweeney Todd at TJ. 7 p.m. For a bloody good time, attend Stephen Sondheim's classic tale of "Sweeney Todd - the Demon Barber of Fleet Street" about a vengeful London barber and his landlady's scrumptious but mysterious meat pies as performed by the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology's student choir along with the TJ faculty, parent and alumni choirs. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door on performance days at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology at 6560 Braddock Road in Alexandria. Visit www.tjchoir.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Christmas Open House. 12-4 p.m. Join a Civil War-era Santa at this family-fun holiday event that explores how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. The program features living-history interpreters, a Victorian Christmas tree, period music, refreshments, readings of "The Night Before Christmas" and a patriotic Santa Claus inspired by Thomas Nast's Civil

War cartoon. Guided tours of the fort, weather permitting. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Rd. Call 703-746-4848 or visit

www.historicalexandria.org. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children.

Breakfast with Santa. 9 a.m. Join for the 5th annual Breakfast with Santa. The elves will begin seating at 9 a.m.

as we eagerly await Santa's arrival. There will be plenty of time to sit on Santa's lap and share list with him. A full breakfast buffet will be available. At Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Call 703-548-8899 or visit www.thecarlyleclub.com. Admission is \$28.95 for adults; \$15.95 for kids age 4-12; free for age 3 and under.

Holiday Gifts Jewelry Workshop.

2-3 p.m. Free. Make four unique holiday gifts, stamp tags, and make your own gift boxes. Limited to 12 participants. At the Beatle Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

Artisans Holiday Marketplace.

3-6 p.m. At Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St. Entrepreneurs Class 2012, Fall Semester Showcase of Graduates' Micro-Businesses Graduation Ceremony Artisans Holiday Marketplace. Offer complimentary homemade appetizers and art desserts. Proceeds benefit EWI and our local artists and creative entrepreneurs. Holiday selection include one-of-a-kind jewelry, scarves, designer aprons, skin and beauty products, fine art, note cards, holiday ornaments and more. Free, but RSVP required. Visit ewint.org.

Kwanzaa Celebration.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. The Alexandria Black History Museum and Culture Kingdom Kids will host a Kwanzaa Celebration program exploring the history and significance of Kwanzaa at the Museum located at 902 Wythe St. Admission is \$5. Patrons needing special accommodation must notify the museum two weeks prior to the event. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Free Ice Skating Show. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The public is invited to watch figure skaters show off their

moves at Mount Vernon RECenter's Holiday Ice Show, where most experienced skaters, as well as beginners of all ages will perform together. Mount Vernon RECenter is located at 2017 Belle View Blvd. Contact Carl Kirtley, at 703-768-3224. or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/happy-holidays2012.htm>.

Civil War Christmas in Camp.

noon-4 p.m. Learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War by attending Fort Ward Museum's annual "Christmas in Camp" Open House. This popular family-oriented event features a patriotic Santa Claus, living history interpreters, Victorian decorations, craft activities for children, and tours of the historic fort. The suggested donation is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site is located at 4301 West Braddock Road. Call 703-746-4848, or visit www.fortward.org.

DEC. 8-30

5x5(x5) Exhibition. The Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery presents 5x5(x5), featuring 112 works by 68 artists working in a variety of media. Reception is on Thursday, Dec. 13, from 6-8 p.m.; juror talk with Stefanie Fedor at 7 p.m. At Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 8-9

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. Special pre-sale discount if tickets purchased before Dec. 1. Take a break from the fast pace of the season and enjoy the unique charm and history of Old Town at this SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 25

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Artisan Cathy Harl, left, showcases her latest works to shoppers Patricia Harl and Pat Libhart at last year's Holiday Market to benefit the city's women's programs.

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Shop 'Til You Drop

Dec. 9 Holiday Market to benefit Alexandria women's programs.

More than 30 female artisans will showcase their crafts Dec. 9 at the 14th Annual Women's Holiday Art Show in support of the City of Alexandria's Domestic and Sexual Violence Services.

"We appreciate everyone who comes out to support us," said Lisa Baker, director of the Office for Women. "It's a fun afternoon and a great way to get

some holiday shopping done and support a vital community need at the same time."

Sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for Women and Friends of the Commission for Women, the event will be held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St., 1-5 p.m. Holiday shoppers can enjoy refreshments as they browse a selection of high-quality, handcrafted pottery, clothing, jewelry and gifts in support of the city's programs for women.

The Holiday Market will also serve as a collection point for unwrapped toys and gifts for the children of clients of the Alexandria Battered Women's Shelter. Tax-deductible contributions are welcome. Call 703-746-3123 or visit www.alexwomen.com.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 24

popular holiday event. Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House and the historic Bank of Alexandria building by candlelight and enjoy seasonal decorations, entertainment and light refreshments. Special this year – a holiday taste of historic chocolate, co-sponsored by the Historic Division of Mars, Inc. Saturday from 6-9 p.m.; Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.historicalexandria.org. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$5 for children.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 8-9, 15-16

Historic Candlelight Tours. 5-8 p.m. Join "Mrs. Washington" as she hosts an evening of candlelight tours, fireside caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. Tours include merry music, and characters from the Washingtons' world guiding visitors through the first and second floors of the home, adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. Tickets may be purchased at the Ford Orientation Center (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily), or through MountVernon.org. Admission is \$22 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Call 703-780-

2000 or 703-799-8697 or visit www.MountVernon.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 9

Christmas Music. 9:45 a.m. The Plymouth Haven Baptist Church Children's Choir will present their Christmas music presentation in the Fellowship Hall, 8600 Plymouth Dr. Open to the public.

Holiday Evening with Raul Malo. 7:30 p.m. \$29.50. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Bell Ringing. 2-3 p.m. Bells will be ringing when Alexandria's Browne Academy musicians deliver their Handbells performance at the Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Refreshments will be served. Open to the Public. Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Concert. 4 p.m. New Dominion Chorale, conducted by Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge, will present J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard St. The Chorale will be joined by soloists from the Washington National Cathedral and a professional orchestra in a

performance of the Advent portion of Bach's work in a new English translation by Beveridge, founder and artistic director. Tickets are \$30, \$25 for seniors, \$20 for individuals in groups of 10 or more, and \$5 for students and children. Tickets are available online at www.newdominion.org or at the door. Parking is free. Visit www.newdominion.org or call 703-442-9404.

Holiday Market – Women, Art and Shopping. 1-5 p.m., Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St. Free. Just in time for holiday shopping, more than 25 local, female artisans will display their wares during an afternoon of fun, art and friends. Shop for pottery, handcrafted clothing, scarves, purses, jewelry and more, as well as complimentary refreshments. Sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for Women and the Friends of the Commission for Women, the proceeds will benefit the Alexandria Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs. This event is also a collection site for new toys and gifts for children of the clients of the Alexandria Battered Women's Shelter. Call 703-746-3123 or visit www.alexwomen.com and scroll down to the events section.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 26

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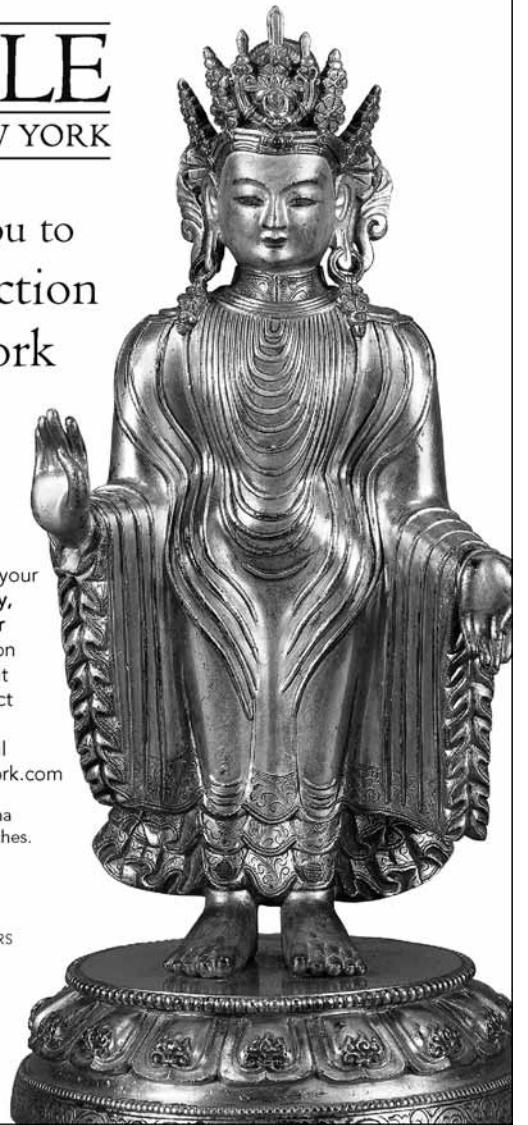
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Arlington-based band celebrates EP release at Vienna's Jammin' Java.

BY AMBER HEALY
GAZETTE PACKET

This Saturday marks a milestone for the Arlington-based band No Blitz. Having been together for a little over a year, the four-piece band is releasing their first EP, *Never Satisfied*, complete with a headlining spot at Jammin' Java.

The band prides itself on not dwelling too long on success, said singer/guitarist Ryan Wogh and bassist Dan Horner. Releasing the EP, which includes songs that Wogh has been performing for longer than the band's lineup has been formalized, means the band can get to work on their next album, for which 20-25 songs have already been written.

Wogh and Horner said the band, which also features guitarist James Cichra and Shane Steenberge, has a sound reminiscent of alt rock in the '90s, which Wogh laments is a "dying breed. Bands today are either doing an 80's pop thing, metalcore or in the screamo genre. We don't sound like anyone else."

They've been compared with bands like Foo Fighters and Rise Against, but Wogh's been listening to the album *Thrice* by Anthology, while Horner's had Gojira's latest on heavy rotation for the past few months. Listeners are invited to come by Jammin' Java to figure it out for themselves.

"It's more like we're hanging out and playing music," Horner said of the band's performances. The show at Jammin' Java is "an opportunity for us to play with two of the best local bands in one of the



Dan Horner, Ryan Wogh, James Cichra and Shane Steenberge of Arlington's No Blitz will celebrate their CD release Saturday, Dec. 8 at Jammin' Java in Vienna.

D.C. area's best clubs."

The EP features seven songs, all of which are available for download at the band's website, www.noblitz.com.

While the songs have been around for a while, Horner said each time the band performs them, there's something new to be discovered.

"You start pushing more and more" to create something more to a song as it becomes more familiar, he said. "Because of that, you write more and better songs," and the performances

take on new levels of meaning and creativity.

The show kicks off at 10 p.m. with *Fistful of Fifties*, followed by *Overdrive Superthruster*, with No Blitz finishing it off. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door.

And then? "It's on to the next big thing, the next gig, the next festival," Wogh said. The next show's already been scheduled, for Jan. 17 at the Angels Rock Bar in Baltimore, as part of radio station HFS's local musician showcase.

But if Saturday's no good, No Blitz is also playing at O'Shaughnessy's in Alexandria Friday night.

Details

Friday, Dec. 7 at O'Shaughnessy's
1324 King Street, Alexandria
Call 703-836-7885
Visit www.oshospub.com

Saturday, Dec. 8 at Jammin' Java
227 Maple Ave E, Vienna
Call 703-255-1566
Visit <http://jamminjava.com>

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 25

Chanukah On Ice. 6-8:30 p.m.
Arlington County Fire Chief James Schwartz will light the huge Menorah. Open Skating is from 6-8:30 p.m. The lighting will take place at 7 p.m. Visit www.ChabadAA.org or

call 703-370-2774. The Pentagon row Ice Skating rink is located at 1201 S Joyce Street, Arlington. Tickets are \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance. Ticket prices include skate rental. Food sold separately.
Children's Holiday Concert. 2:30-4:30 p.m. Maestro Kim Allen Kluge

and celebrity reader Liz Seccuro present *The Polar Express*, accompanied by music from the 2004 film. A reception filled with holiday cookies, candies and plenty of cider and hot chocolate follows the concert. There may even be a very special visitor. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Old Town, 228 S. Pitt Street. \$25. Call 703-548-0885 to purchase or visit www.alexsym.org.

THROUGH DEC. 9

Old Town Boutique District's Window Wonderland. Come out to Old Town Alexandria and view the festive Window Wonderland of holiday lights and decorations on display at our local boutiques. Shoppers are invited to vote for their favorite window décor via Facebook and Twitter. Throughout Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 10

A John Waters Christmas 'Command Performance' at the Birchmere. \$49.50. John will be signing copies of books purchased at the show. Visit www.dreamlandnews.com. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 27

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 26

3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Locks for Love. 7 p.m. at Lords & Ladies Salon and Spa, 605 Franklin St. Call 703-549-2662 or visit www.landlsalon.com. Hair needs to be needs to be taken off at least 10 inches to be donated for locks for love. Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 12

Author Series with Dennis Pogue. 7-8:30 p.m. Pogue will discuss his book, *Founding Spirits: George Washington and the Beginnings of the American Whiskey Industry* at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY/DEC. 12-13

Free Musical. 7:30 p.m. The Music, Drama & Liturgical Dance Ministries of the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church will present "Great Joy, A Gospel Christmas," at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Joseph Joubert will be the special guest artist. Free parking available. Call 703-683-2222 or visit www.alfredstreet.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Roaring '20s Holiday Party. Celebrate the holidays with Eventurous in Roaring '20s style at Two Nineteen Restaurant in Old Town Alexandria. The lavish night includes a Roaring '20s themed

costume party in historic speakeasy setting. Gourmet buffet featuring popular '20s era cuisine, custom era craft cocktails, a live blues band, an "Underground" poker room, Hand-rolled and premium cigars. Every ticket comes with a complimentary premium cigar. Those who purchase a ticket and arrive in "Twenties" inspired costume, will also receive a complimentary era cocktail (\$12 - \$16 value). Tickets must be purchased online prior to the event. Two Nineteen Restaurant is located at 219 King St. Guests can arrive at 6:30 p.m. Band and poker start at 8 p.m. Visit <http://roaring20sholiday-connectionsnews.eventbrite.com>.

Thursday Art Night: Decadent December — Chocolate & Shopping.

6-9 p.m. Celebrate the season with chocolate and shopping. Studios and galleries will be open until 9 p.m. for holiday shopping. Attend gallery receptions for 5x5(x5) in Target Gallery from 6 to 8 p.m., and Suzanne Vigil: Up Close & Too Personal and the All-Media Membership Show in The Art League Gallery from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Enjoy live music by The WAAC Band. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565 x2.

Card Creation Extravaganza. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Come to T.C. Williams High School to participate in a free, fun family session. Whether for the holidays or just to say "we're thinking of you," cards created in this workshop will surely put a smile on the recipient's face. Through a variety of craft techniques, your family will spend quality time together making cards to share with others. T. C. Williams Main Campus, 3330 King St. Call 703-824-6865 to register.

FRIDAY/DEC. 14

Mr. and Mrs. Cabot Claus. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cabot Creamery Cooperative's own Mr. and Mrs. Cabot Claus will sample "The World's Best Cheddar," hand out children's presents and pose for pictures with customers at Balducci's, 600 Franklin St., Alexandria.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 14-15

Four Bitchin' Babes 'Jingle Babes!' featuring Sally Fingerett, Debi Smith, Deidre Flint, Marcy Marxer. \$35. Visit www.fourbitchinbabes.com. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 14-16

Del Ray Artisans' 17th annual Holiday Market. Handmade work from local artists plus bake sale. Reception is on Friday, from 6-9 p.m. The hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday. Visit TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket.

SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Christmas Celebration. 10:30 a.m. Plymouth Haven Baptist Church located at 8600 Plymouth Dr. presents their Adult Choir Christmas Celebration entitled, *Agnus Dei*, and followed by dinner in the fellowship hall. The public is invited, RSVP required for non-members at 703-360-4370.

Holiday Jazz Fest. 2-3 p.m. Celebrate the holiday season with the Mike Gillispie Quartet at the Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will

be served.

Christmas Candlelight Service. 6 p.m. Alexandria Presbyterian Church invites the public to its annual Christmas Candlelight Service, "Light in Us Your Love's Bright Flame." This lessons and carols service will feature the adult and youth choirs, brass group and congregational carol singing by candlelight. Childcare will be provided, including special activities for children ages 3-6. A reception will follow immediately after the service. The program will begin with a brass quintet prelude at 5:45 p.m. Alexandria Presbyterian Church is located at 2405 Russell Road. Free. Call 703-683-3348 or visit www.alexandriapres.org.

TUESDAY/DEC. 18

Christmas Concert. 7:30 p.m. The award winning Alexandria Harmonizers will present "Sleighbells Ring At The Memorial." The concert will be at the historic George Washington National Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, for families and children. Seating begins at 6:45 p.m. This concert is free but admission is by reservation only. Parking is free. To make reservations call Opera NoVa at 703-536-7557 or email mcdm1@verizon.net.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 19

Birchmere Show: Chatham County Line 'Electric Holiday Tour.' 7:30 p.m. \$22.50. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 20

Carbon Leaf. 7:30 p.m. \$27.50. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit

www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Christmas Display of Lionel Trains. 10 a.m. Bring the Kids to visit Hollin Hall Senior Center to watch the operation of both HO layouts and the Lionel train setup by Joe Pallone. At 1500 Shenandoah Road. Call 703-765-4573.

THROUGH DEC. 20

Exhibition. Night Windows, an exhibition of 3D, mixed media constructions in lighted boxes, will be on display in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, located in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and during concert performances.

FRIDAY/DEC. 21

Pieces Of A Dream. 7:30 p.m. \$35. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

SATURDAY/DEC. 22

Bill Kirchen's Honky Tonk Holiday Show. 7:30 p.m. \$29.50. Visit <http://billkirchen.com/>. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 23

Christine Lavin & Uncle Bonsai 'Just One Angel' 7:30 p.m. \$25.00 Visit www.christinelavin.com or www.unclebonsai.com/. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

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OBITUARY

Helen Brading, 97, formerly of Alexandria, Va. passed away at the home of her daughter Connie Gray in Redmond, Va.. Stanley, her husband, preceded her death. Helen was active in Girl Scouts, Altrusa, Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Salvation Army, Alexandria Police Crime Watch, the animal shelter and education. Her two daughters, Connie Gray and Elinor Uihorn, 5 grandchildren and 9 great-children survive her. The twinkle in her eye and her humor will be missed. Services will be private. Memorial donations may be made to your favorite charity.

Legal Notices

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

What's Cooking Alexandria nonprofit Together We Bake officially launched its program to aid local women transitioning from the corrections system with an "Open Kitchen" reception Nov. 15 at Downtown Baptist Church. TWB co-founders Stephanie Wright and Tricia Sabatini (at right) are pictured with Alexandria Vice Mayor Kerry Donnelly, TWB program participants Ginger and NeCole, Downtown Baptist Church pastor Dan Carlton (in back) and Kari Galloway, director of Friends of Guest House.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 15

"regular citizen activists" along with some new residents who attended.

According to the agenda, there was supposed to be time for brief Q&A, but this did not happen. Why? If city hall wants to hear from citizens and begin some kind of discussion, then citizens should have had the opportunity to ask questions. One could read the poll results on the city website along with citizen comments. Per usual, citizens sat at various tables with the usual city staff members at each table acting as the facilitators and citizen writing out answers to three specific questions on post-its which were attached to large white paper boards. Sound familiar? The majority of concerns expressed by most of those citizens present was that we want more respect from city hall and that our views are heard. Isn't this just common sense and honesty for civic engagement that our elected officials already know we want along with City Manager Young and his staff? Alexandria does process "everything here in Alexandria" so that city staff and our elected officials can continue to pretend they're listening to us about issues we want to discuss and resolve.

This "process poll" was a waste of time. What's important is not the continued process Alexandria elected officials seem to think they need to do, but a change in attitude and behaviors from our elected officials and senior city staff as it relates to "listening and engaging" citizens with reasonable outcomes. Of course we are all not going to agree on everything, but it is rather frustrating to talk with department managers and the mayor/council who often ask good questions about various issues, but when it comes time to take a vote, several

council members back off and vote for something they have stated they have problems with. It will be interesting to see what the "new council" with only two new members will do. Let's hope the next council will show some "back bone" and stand up and vote for/against issues they verbalize at council meetings.

Only one citizen was involved in working with this "What's Next Alexandria," Alan Lomax, who apparently has some background in community organization. Why weren't more citizens involved and who wrote the "poll" questions, specific wording and decided to do a "political poll" being controlled by city hall? This was a "red flag" for me and I suspect for other citizens.

Did this first "Community Dialogue" succeed? No. I would suggest that Mayor Euille, City Manager Young and other city staff drop this "engagement issue," vote on its demise at council's first or second meeting in December, 2012. If our elected officials and city staff are really serious about engaging all citizens, then let the "regulars" and the new citizens meet with various department administrators, City Manager Young and his staff and developers if appropriate and begin a discussion with them regarding citizen/community concerns and hopefully work out sensible solutions. Eliminate the "middle guy", i.e. most advisory groups and some boards/commissions. Not everyone will be happy, but at least we can attempt to negotiate and resolve matters that are important to all residents who live in various neighborhoods throughout Alexandria. Or, just be honest and transparent with us and put your agenda "on the table" now.

Annabelle Fisher
Alexandria

Fishy Encroachment

Members of the Alexandria City Council are about to make a fishy decision, whether or not to allow the Fish Market to do away with 1970s-era bay windows in favor of a larger display window.

"It will give it a fresh look," said owner **Noe Landini**. "People will be able to see the raw bar inside and see the oyster shuckers shucking the oysters."

The legendary restaurant has been in operation since 1976, a time when lower King Street was a much more dangerous place. The building has a long and storied past, and has been the location of a variety of businesses over the years. It was originally a warehouse for farm feed, tobacco and cotton. During the Civil War, it may have been used to store gunpowder. In more recent years, it was a tire store.

"On the second floor, you can see old nails in the beams, which we've left in when we renovated," said Landini. "They were used to hang and dry meats."

Now the neighborhood is thriving, and the Fish Market is hoping to extend 1.5 feet into the public right-of way. Members of the Planning Commission didn't flounder or carp when they took up the issue this week, although the issue is now headed to the City Council.

New Town Center

Members of the Alexandria Planning Commission have approved a centerpiece of the new Potomac Yard neighborhood, which is described as a town center. Instead of being the location of a grand hotel, which was the original plan, the centerpiece of Potomac Yard will be the Institute for Defense Analysis.

"It's not good planning," said Planning Commissioner **Stu Dunn**. "The last thing we need is a government fortress."

IDA, as the outfit is known, supplies research to the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security. With 800 employees, it's one of the largest employers in the city. And it's expecting to increase to 1,000 in the near future. The organization needs to get out of Mark Center, which has recently been clogged with a more serious planning disaster — more than 6,000 new employees who are now at the Washington Headquarters Service as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process. The institute is planning to construct a 370,000-square-foot office space in Potomac Yard.

"The twin IDA office buildings create a signature building that will anchor the town center," wrote **Russell Kopp**, chairman of the Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee. "The IDA development will create the intended focal point at the end of the pedestrian link as envisioned in the planning for Potomac Yard."

One of the sticking points with the development is parking. The proposal calls for 580 parking spaces, one below grade level and three above grade levels. Some object to above-grade parking adjacent to the planned town square.

"This has too much dead space," said **Poul Hertel**, co-chairman of the Federation of Civic Associations. "This is an island community that's not integrated with its surroundings."

Windows to the World

The old CVS building at the corner of King and Royal streets has recently received a new lease on life, even though the landlord is still waiting to sign one.

"There's no tenant yet," said **Val Hawkins**, president of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. "But they are doing major renovations to the building to enhance its leasability."

The building was originally constructed as a bank, and the old safety deposit drop welded shut on the side of the building. In more recent years, it was a CVS drugstore until the retailer moved to a larger location formerly occupied by the Books-A-Million one block away. Hawkins said that his office had been talking to a bookseller who was interested in moving to Old Town, but that the deal fell through. Now the landlord of the old drug store and the Alexandria Economic Partnership are hoping the large new retail windows will attract a tenant for the marquee property, which is directly across the street from Market Square.

"They've had a lot of people look at it, but they haven't been able to do a deal yet," said Hawkins. "I think they're a very selective landlord, and from our perspective they're not in a rush to lease it to just anybody."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



View of the proposed new Jefferson-Houston School from the play field along Cameron Street.

Waiting for a Turnaround

FROM PAGE 4

the school's enrollment had plummeted from 486 in 2000 to 364 students today — and that's after adding sixth, seventh and eighth grade classes to the school.

"I'm very disappointed," said Bea Porter, whose children and grandchildren attended the school. "I don't know if it's the teachers don't care enough. I don't know if it's the students misbehave. I don't know what it is."

RESPONDING TO PRESSURE to reconstitute the school, Superintendent Morton Sherman has replaced administrators at the school and replaced half of its teachers. Last year, Rosalyn Rice Harris was hired to replace Kimberley Graves, who had been principal since 2006. More recently, Helena Payne Chauvenet was brought on as assistant principal and DeBerry Goodwin was hired as administrative officer.

Last year, Steve Wilkins was hired as "chief executive officer," but he left Alexandria to take a job in Georgia. Now, Sherman has replaced him with Mark Eisenhour, who has taken the position "principal on assignment" to help oversee the demolition of the school and the construction of a new \$44 million facility as well as work with the external transformation partner eventually selected to help oversee operations at the school.

"I think there have been a lot of efforts by a lot of different people over the years, but I'm not so sure that efforts were very well coordinated," said Eisenhour. "I think they sought to address the symptoms and individuals students who had difficulties but they never really looked at total core instruction at the building."

The issue of Jefferson-Houston came up several times during the late campaign, with parents across the school criticizing incumbent members for failing to transform the school.

One of the candidates who was particularly critical was Bill Campbell, who was elected and is now preparing to take his seat in January. On the campaign trail, Campbell suggested that school administrators try a radical suggestion — pair the school with Lyles-Crouch Elementary or Maury. That way, students would attend pre-K through third grade at Lyles-Crouch or Maury then come to Jefferson-Houston for grades four through five or six. Pairing the schools would diversify the demographics of Jefferson-Houston,

where 62 percent of the students are black and the vast majority qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Meanwhile, Campbell said he would have voted against the recent initiative to add 90 minutes to the instructional day at Jefferson-Houston.

"As is the case with a lot of things Sherman does, he did not present it well at all," said Campbell. "And not just the timing. We should have done a better job at explaining the rationale to parents."

THE DEADLINE for potential vendors to respond to the school system's request for proposals is Dec. 13, and Alexandria school officials are expected to select an "external lead partner" by Jan. 1. The partner will be expected to conduct a management review, which is expected to take at least a month. After that's completed, school officials are expected to submit a "corrective action plan" to the Virginia Department of Education.

"We acknowledge that the (Standards of Learning) scores, especially the last few years, those results have been dismal," acknowledged Eisenhour. "What I would say in response is that we are looking at the school from top to bottom."

This week, members of the Alexandria Planning Commission approved a master plan amendment clearing the way for demolition of the old school and construction of a 130,000 square foot new facility. Although the school has few than 400 students today, plans call for a facility that can hold 800 students. School administrators say they are planning ahead to handle a rapidly growing student population. But some neighborhood residents are skeptical.

"The enrollment issue is a shell game," said Leslie Zupan, president of the Old Town West Civic Association.

Zupan noted that Sherman already announced that he wants to build a new elementary school on the east side near Potomac Yard, so the new Jefferson-Houston wouldn't be to handle those students. And she was also skeptical that the enrollment projections will continue to spike if the economy improves. Members of the School Board disagree, arguing that two-thirds of the classrooms at the existing facility don't even have windows.

"Our children deserve a monumental, light-filled place," said School Board member Helen Morris, who lives near the school. "And I haven't heard any of the newly elected School Board members say we should backtrack on this."

WELLBEING



PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAM YOGA

Students prepare to practice yoga at Dream Yoga Studio and Wellness Center in McLean. Experts say confusion and misinformation around yoga can keep some away from the practice.

Understanding Yoga

Local yogis explain popular styles of yoga.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Joanna Mosely says she can't tell a downward facing dog from a baby cobra. She belts out a perplexed "huh?" when asked if she knew the difference between Ashtanga and Bikram.

"I have been wanting to try yoga, said Mosely who lives in Alexandria. "But I don't think I am flexible and I've just never gotten around to it."

Experts say confusion and misinformation around yoga can keep some away from the practice. "There are many misperceptions about yoga, and yet so much to be gained if folks can find the right yoga for them," said Luann Fulbright, of Dream Yoga Studio and Wellness Center in McLean.

How should one begin a yogic journey? "The first thing a person should realize is that there are many different types of yoga," said Joel Martin, an assistant professor of Kinesiology at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Some are geared towards providing a relaxing, non-strenuous experience, while others can be very strenuous — perhaps more strenuous than a typical resistance training routine. Since there are many different types of yoga, there is most likely some form that is suitable for just about anyone."

Laura Burch, a spokesperson for Arlington-based Yoga Alliance, a nonprofit education and support organization for yoga in the United States, said, "Some of the language can be confusing to people who are not familiar with yoga."

Among the most common styles of yoga in the United States, according to Yoga Alliance, are Ashtanga, Bikram, Hatha, Iyengar, Kundalini and Vinyasa. But how do you know which type is right for you? Understanding the different styles of yoga is a good place to start, say experts.

Dawn Curtis, of East Meets West Yoga Center in Vienna, says her favorite style is Kundalini. "It is often called the yoga of awareness. In the classes you can expect to encounter very challenging breath work, and there is vigorous movement within the postures. It is taught at the same level and students are encouraged to work at their own pace and to listen to their bodies. It is great for any age group."

Ashtanga yoga, Curtis continued, is also good for most age groups. "It is especially good for the very flexible," she said. "Most of the time, the Ashtanga rooms are heated, so a person must be able to tolerate the heat. It is a set series of postures. There is a primary series, an intermediate and a more advanced

series. You have to master the poses in a series first before they will move you up into the higher level of classes."

SIMILARLY, BIKRAM, which is also known as hot yoga, has a set series of poses. "There is a set of 26 postures in Bikram yoga," says Curtis. "The classes are always the same. They do not deviate. The rooms are generally heated to about 105 degrees. There are certain body types that have a harder time dealing with the heat. I would not recommend anyone who is pregnant to take a very hot class. This appeals mostly to younger people and those who want a workout."

Iyengar, which was founded by yogi master B. K. S. Iyengar, is good for those with injuries. "Iyengar is probably one of the most popular," said Fulbright. "It focuses a lot on alignment. It also focuses on healing and uses practices for therapeutic purposes. It is strict and the emphasis is on the postures."

Hatha, say experts, is actually a term that is used broadly. It is for everyone. "All yoga is Hatha yoga," said Curtis. "This is taught more commonly so it is was most people know yoga as. It is very therapeutic and good for people with injuries. What Hatha does is improve strength and flexibility. It is basic postures such as triangle pose, the warrior series, forward bends and back bends. What is nice about Hatha yoga is that students are encouraged to go at their own pace, avoid injury and have fun." Curtis says there are multiple levels of classes that increase in difficulty.

For those looking for a challenging practice, Curtis recommends Vinyasa. "Vinyasa, which is also known as flow yoga, is very popular in the yoga world," she said. "It is a continual movement from posture to posture. It is a flowing sequence, and is very orchestrated, almost choreographed. It is Ashtanga and Hatha yoga blended together. It is fast-paced and there is an emphasis on breathing with each posture that you're flowing through."

BEFORE TAKING A YOGA CLASS, Martin has a caveat, however. "First and foremost, consider [your] current health," he said. "[People] may want to consult a physician to make sure they don't have any medical conditions that could cause serious health complications from yoga, especially the more strenuous forms of yoga."

Burch says that since there is no regulation of yoga teachers and studios, anyone can adopt the moniker of yoga teacher. As a result, Yoga Alliance has developed minimum standards for teacher training. "Before taking a class, look at a teacher's training background to see if they have registered with us and met our standards," said Burch.

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ALEXANDRIAGAZETTE 5.12

Bishop Ireton Boys' Basketball Hoping to Surprise WCAC

Cardinals start season with wins against Episcopal, Fairfax.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Bishop Ireton boys' basketball team opened its 2012-13 season on Dec. 1 with a 19-point win against Episcopal, a program that last season went 23-4 and finished VISAA state runner-up.

Two days later, the Cardinals traveled into the world of public school hoops and promptly fell asleep.

Facing Fairfax, Bishop Ireton fell behind by as many as seven points in the first half and trailed, 40-36, with 5:20 remaining in the third quarter. But the Cardinals would respond as a Patrick Moseh jumper sparked a 25-4 run and Bishop Ireton pulled away for a 73-53 victory on Dec. 3 at Fairfax High School. "I thought Fairfax played very well," fourth-year Ireton head coach Neil Berkman said. "I thought we were more talented than they [were]. They were better coached than we were, their players played harder than we did and we gave them a great chance to win the game and the score was much closer than the margin indicated. ...

"I thought we had a huge letdown from our game on Saturday. We had no energy, we had no emotion, our communication was atrocious, we got out-rebounded tonight by a much, much smaller team ... and we got out-toughed. We got out-played and hats off to Fairfax." While Ireton lacked energy early, the Cardinals improved to 2-0 in what they're hoping is a breakout season. Ireton has finished near the bottom of the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference standings for years, but the Cardinals feature an experienced core that received lots of playing time during last year's eighth-place conference finish (10 teams).

"From a team standpoint, [our goal is to] surprise the conference," junior forward Dan Noe said. "We've been the doormat of that league for so long. We have our whole core returning. [We] finished [eighth] last year in the conference, so our goal is top five this year for sure and playing at American University in the semifinals at the end



Bishop Ireton junior Patrick Moseh scored a team-high 18 points during a 73-53 victory against Fairfax on Dec. 3.

of the year."

Noe, who transferred from W.T. Woodson to Bishop Ireton after his freshman season, was a key contributor in Ireton's second-half turnaround against Fairfax, scoring 10 of his 15 points in the third quarter. After a Fairfax bucket cut Ireton's lead to 46-44, Noe scored six straight points for the Cardinals to spark a 15-0 run.

"Danny is one of the toughest kids on our team," Berkman said. "He's a team captain. We expect tremendous leadership from him, which he provides. He's just solid as a rock. You always know what you're going to get from Dan: it's toughness, it's leadership, it's all the right things. Dan Noe is one of the reasons I coach."

Moseh led Ireton with

18 points. He also grabbed seven rebounds.

"Patrick should be one of our best players this year," Berkman said. "He's usually an energy guy off the glass. He's very difficult to guard because he's very physical. He can take the ball off the bounce, he can also shoot, he can score, he's very skilled and he's one of our better defenders." Senior guard Louis Khouri scored 11 points for Ireton and junior guard Taylor McHugh fin-



Bishop Ireton forward Dan Noe scored 10 of his 15 points in the third quarter during a 20-point win against Fairfax on Dec. 3.

ished with 10. Senior guard Davon Wiley added seven. Bishop Ireton hosted St. Stephen's & St. Agnes on Wednesday, which was after the Gazette Packet's deadline. The Cardinals will host Potomac School at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 7.

"For my team goal, I just really want to make a push and surprise everybody," Moseh said, "because we really put in the work [during] the offseason."

Registration Open for 28th MidAtlantic Erg Sprints

Registration is now open for The MidAtlantic Erg Sprints, the world's second-largest indoor rowing event that is scheduled to be held in the Gerry Bertier Memorial Gymnasium at T.C. Williams High School in on Saturday, Feb. 2.

This is the 28th year that Alexandria will host the event, which is essentially a land-based regatta where athletes race and compete against each other on rowing machines (also called ergometers, or "ergs"). The 2012 Erg Sprints featured the largest turnout ever, with a total of 1,572 athletes from 56 high schools, 38 rowing clubs, 10 colleges, and six fitness clubs competing, rowing 3,719,076 meters — or 2,310.9 miles — along the way. The event was organized and staffed by 210 volunteers — 160 adults and 50 students.

High schools represented in the 2012 competition included T.C. Williams, Bishop Ireton, West Potomac, Thomas Jefferson, McLean, Yorktown, Washington-Lee, Bishop O'Connell, Lake Braddock, James Madison, St. Albans, Gonzaga,

Georgetown Visitation, National Cathedral, Walt Whitman, Wilson, and Bethesda-Chevy Chase. Collegiate athletes also competed, coming from such schools as George Mason, the University of Virginia, Georgetown, George Washington University, the Naval Academy and Duke. Also competing were clubs such as Alexandria Community Rowing, Potomac Boat Club, Occoquan Boat Club, Oakton Masters Rowing, Prince William Rowing Club, Capital Rowing Club, Rock Creek Rowing, Baltimore Rowing Club, Annapolis Rowing Club, and the Atlanta Rowing Club.

Athletes interested in entering the competition can sign-up online at <http://ergsprints.com/register/>. Those who sign-up up by Jan. 11, 2013 will receive a registration discount.

The MidAtlantic Erg Sprints is an official satellite qualifying event for the CRASH-Bs. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each event and all individual event competitors will receive an Erg Sprints T-shirt.

For more information on the 28th MidAtlantic Erg Sprints, visit, <http://ergsprints.com/>.



Bishop Ireton head boys' basketball coach Neil Berkman talks to the Cardinals during a game against Fairfax on Dec. 3.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

SCHOOLS

Annual JAMtech Inspires Students

Alexandria-based firm Carney, Inc. is showing local high school students interested in technology — including online gaming, graphics, computer programming and social media — how to turn their passion into careers.

Carney, Inc, a federal contracting firm specializing in advanced solutions, presented its sixth JAMtech on Nov. 17 at T.C. Williams High School. JAMtech is a hands-on educational workshop that introduces students to technology used to develop digital games and applications. Participants of JAMtech are then eligible to apply for Carney's internship program for the opportunity to experience working in a professional creative technology company.



Area high school students learned the latest digital gaming techniques at JAMtech, held at T.C. Williams High School on Nov. 17. JAMtechT is a semi-annual workshop hosted by Alexandria-based firm Carney, Inc. From left are Michael Lam, 15, Langley High School; Tiffanie Lam, 17, Langley High School; Riley Saunders, 14, W. T. Woodson High School.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 6

Public Hearing. 7-9 p.m. Members of the Alexandria General Assembly delegation will hold a public hearing to listen to constituents' suggestions on priorities for the 2013 legislative session at Alexandria City Hall, 301 King St. Senators George Barker (39th District), Adam Ebbin (30th District) and Richard Saslaw (35th District), and Delegates Charniele Herring (46th District) and Rob Krupicka (45th District) will attend the public hearing.

Public Hearing. Along with its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 6, the Alexandria City School Board will hold a public hearing on the Potomac Yards Attendance Zones. The public hearing and meeting will take place at 2000 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. The agenda will be available www.acps.k12.va.us/board/meetings/2012-2013/. For more information, contact the Clerk of the Board at 703-824-6614.

FRIDAY/DEC. 7

Christ Child Project Christmas Store. 5-9 p.m. The Christ Child Project Christmas Store helps low income families of Alexandria provide Christmas gifts for their children. Families are chosen, registered with the help of Alexandria Social Services, Head Start, the Public Housing Community, and other programs which serve low income families in the city. The Christ Child Project Christmas Store is volunteer run. Contact Michele Smith at msmith@calex.org or 703-778-4937. Christ Church is located at 118 N. Washington St.

THROUGH DEC. 7

Free Medicare Counseling. Enrollment for Medicare D and Medicare Advantage plans will be available from now until Dec. 7. Changes made during this period will be effective Jan. 1, 2013. Free counseling will be provided in Alexandria through VICAP, the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program, and the

Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Appointments will be available on Nov. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and on Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Counseling appointments will be held at the St. Martins Senior Center located at 4650 Taney Avenue. Call 703-746-5999. Eligible seniors may utilize Senior Taxi for this counseling. For more information on Senior Taxi, call 703-836-4414, ext. 15.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Bike Collection. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wheels to Africa is having its annual bike collection again at T.C. Williams High School. The collection is sponsored by T.C.'s National Honor Society and the T.C. Bike Club. Wheels to Africa is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that collects bikes for African and needy American Communities. Wheels to Africa requests a \$15 donation per bike to help cover the cost of overseas shipping. Email d_duncan@comcast.net or call 703-919-0570.

MONDAY/DEC. 10

Community Meeting. 7-9 p.m. The City of Alexandria Departments of Planning & Zoning and Recreation,

Parks and Cultural Activities has scheduled a community meeting to discuss planning activities for the proposed Braddock Community Park. The meeting will be held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. For additional information, reference the Braddock Community Park meeting flyer at http://uploadedfiles/News/Recreation_News/BraddockCommunityPark10Dec2012.pdf.

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Low Vision Holiday Tea & Talk. 1:30-3 p.m. Join Joan Gilliard and learn strategies for enhancing daily living skills in the New Year. At Charles Beatley Central Library 5005 Duke St. Free parking. Call 703-746-1702 or 202-234-1010.

THROUGH DEC. 13

Free Foreclosure Prevention Clinics. Noon. Housing Counseling Services will host free Foreclosure Prevention Clinics in Conference Room 3 of the City Office of Housing, 421 King St. Suite 200. Meet individually with a housing counselor and get answers to your questions. Counseling will be offered in both English and Spanish. To register, call 202-667-7006.

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The Fireworks are Back!

PEOPLE



Under the direction of Brian Gendron, the Alexandria Choral Society entertains at The Taste of Scotland.



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Glenlivet Ambassador to the United States Ricky Crawford hosted an educational scotch seminar.

Sláinte! Taste of Scotland benefits Campagna Center programs

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 300 people turned out for The Taste of Scotland Nov. 30, the traditional kick-off to the Scottish Walk Weekend of events benefitting the programs and services of The Campagna Center.



Brad Yetman and Mark Vandewege get a taste of Balvenie scotch from Tyler Felthousen.

Held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, the event was hosted by the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center and featured a tasting of more than 15 varieties of scotch and an educational seminar presented by Glenlivet Ambassador to the United States Ricky Crawford. In attendance was Robin Naysmith, head of the Scottish Affairs Office at the British Embassy who joked to attendees that "every drop you drink tonight is contributing to the Scottish government."

A raffle drawing for a trip for two to the 2014 Ryder Cup in Scotland was won by Alexandria Chamber of Commerce chair-elect John Renner. "It's exciting to be here tonight," Naysmith said. "It's always fun to join with Scots and friends of Scotland to celebrate all that makes Scotland special."



Chris Bishop, Lauren Bishop and Geanna Reidy sample a Laphroaig scotch.



Campagna Center board member Bob Bell, right, makes a toast at the Taste of Scotland. Joining him are Monica Bell, Rick and Ann Dorman, Walter Clarke and John Bordner.

Will and Beth Ivory are joined by Wendy and Alex Santantonio in browsing the Holiday Marketplace.



Nancy Dunning was my friend. Thirty years ago, she envisioned Del Ray as a community full of active citizens, thriving businesses and excellent schools. Not only did she work tirelessly over the years to help create this community, but she inspired many of us to join in her effort. For those of you who did not know Nancy, read this beautiful tribute written by her daughter, Elizabeth. For those of you who did, join me in remembering her contribution to Del Ray and Alexandria.

—Jack Taylor, Alexandria Toyota



*Nancy
Dunning*

The Best Mom In The World

A Eulogy for Nancy Dunning written and read by her daughter, Liz

A lot of people, I think, have moments when they imagine that they have the best mom in the world. I was lucky enough, however, to be absolutely certain – for a long time – that I actually did. My mom was my best friend. We talked just about every day. And, anyone who knows her, knows a couple of things about my mom, one of which was that she was more or less always right. When I was a teenager, that pissed me off sometimes. I mean, seriously, when you're sixteen and supposed to be going through that phase where you know everything, it puts a crimp in it to live with someone who actually does.

But, another thing that you must know if you met my mom was that she wasn't smug about her omnipotence. Like any good superhero, my mom used her powers for good, not evil. To make other people – not just herself – feel good and be better. She taught my brother and I how to do that, too. I hope we were paying attention. I'm pretty sure we were.

My mom also taught me just about everything I know about optimism and joy. Those were things at which she excelled. It started, when my brother and I were kids, with crazy names for things. I bet that you thought that playground on Old Dominion was just the Beverly Hills Co-op. Nope. It was the Super Deluxe Playground. And, back when the Mt. Vernon school playground was that log-thing which is probably now illegal in most states, a trip to the Super Deluxe Playground was an adventure indeed. Every day was an adventure. Whether we were sneaking food into movies when I was younger, or she was singing hilariously bad opera while she made breakfast, my mom made clear that every day had something good in it, something to be happy about. Even if it was just that they'd just started selling Christmas Blend at Starbucks. These small events and details weren't small – they were big. They warranted a phone call. So did a great song on the radio. So did anything that made her smile. These were great calls to receive. Random, sometimes, but great. I mean, who doesn't want to know that she busted the person next to her at the last traffic light picking their nose in the car? Who didn't want to hear her joyful voice, her laugh? She loved to laugh and there isn't a better feeling than making my mom laugh. Because, if you really got her going – and there are lots of ways to do this – she'd just get to that level where she's crying because she's laughing so hard. That's when you know that you've really won. Bonus points are given if you do that while one of you is driving.

Her gift with joy, with optimism, gave her part of her gift with people. She had, what I jokingly called, her secret decoder ring. That was our short-hand – and there is always short-hand – for her ability to listen, really listen, to people when they talk. And, more than that, to understand what they're really saying and, who they are and where they're coming from. That's why she wasn't just people's neighbor, or real estate agent, or neighborhood activist, or columnist, she was their friend. It didn't take much to be my mom's friend. She didn't make you jump a lot of hoops. Or wear overalls and a baseball cap with the same aplomb that she did. (And thank god, because really? Who can pull off overalls and a baseball cap like my Mom? Nobody.) She wanted to learn more about people and know more people. So she lit people up when she talked to them.

And, as a consequence, people mostly did what my Mom wanted them to do, or what she asked of them. Because her ideas were smart. They were filled with the energy and the joy that she carried with her all the time. And they reflected an understanding and awareness of the thoughts and values of everyone involved. So, if you did what she wanted you to do, you were also doing the right thing.

But, mostly, she wasn't a superhero – complete with secret decoder ring – to me. She was my Mom. She was better at that than anything else. She told my brother, and me, and my Dad that she loved us at the end of every phone conversation. That's what our family does. And so, individually, knowing that the last words we said to each other were, "I love you," helps.

There wasn't a day of my life – and there won't be one – when I wasn't sure that my mom loved me, that she believed in me, that she was proud of me. And with or without a secret decoder ring, a cape, or a phone booth to change in, it truly takes a superhero to, in this crazy messed up world, love people so well and so much. So perfectly. It takes all that to be what I have – the best mom in the world.

On December 5, 2003, Nancy Dunning was murdered in her home in Alexandria, VA. Nancy's family, friends and co-workers have not forgotten her and celebrate her life daily. We will not give up and believe that the person who murdered her will be caught and prosecuted.

A \$100,000 reward available for the individual who comes forth with information leading to the arrest and conviction of this murderer.

If you have any information, we urge you to please call the Alexandria Criminal Investigations Section at 703-838-4711 or e-mail them at <http://alexandriava.gov/dunning>.



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Dated 1890 and signed in the original engraved plate by its surveyor, U.S. Army Engineer Peter Hains, for whom Hains Point would not much later be named, the long map that you see here was originally four feet in length and folded into a fat little book. The book offered a proposal for the first "National Road from Washington, D.C., to Mount Vernon."

The proposal suggested three potential routes (with several inter-connections) for a scenic parkway extending from Georgetown's canal-carrying Aqueduct Bridge, now replaced by Key Bridge, due south to Mount Vernon. Shown in red, the proposed roadways included an East Route that closely followed the Potomac River, a Middle Route that crossed the highlands above Shuter's Hill (site of today's George Washington Masonic Temple), and a West Route that roughly paralleled today's Quaker Lane. Topographic lines in 20-foot intervals clearly reflect the lay of the land. Perhaps most striking from a modern point of view is the fact that much of the

From the Virginia end of the bridge, the streetcar line entered Alexandria along the median of Commonwealth Avenue, turned east on King Street, then south again on South Royal Street, and crossed the wide mouth of Great Hunting Creek on a 1,500-foot-long wooden trestle roughly where today's George Washington Parkway covers the same distance, although mostly on filled land. The streetcar line continued along the Potomac as far south as Collingwood Road, where it turned southwest to make a beeline for Mount Vernon. The great circle at Mount Vernon's North Gate today was originally circumnavigated by streetcars beginning the return trip to Alexandria and Washington.

The length of the streetcar line required a power station near its halfway point, and that station was located where Belle Haven Road and Potomac Avenue intersect today, and area still bare on this map. The presence of electricity gave rise to new proposals for an industrial suburb south of Hunting Creek, to be known as New Alexandria. For reasons unknown, the industry never materialized, but New Alexandria became one of the nation's first "streetcar suburbs."

The streetcars ran from 1892 to the mid-1920s, when the call for a scenic parkway to Mount Vernon was revived. The first of its kind in the nation, the parkway was completed in time for the 1932 bicentennial celebration of George Washington's birth, more or less along the streetcar-line's route.



countryside below the city of Alexandria was cleared of trees for dairy-farm pasturage, affording long views of the Potomac River from the heights to the west—views now obscured in and by our verdant suburban neighborhoods.

The irony behind the map lies in the fact that the road that it proposed would never be built, at least not as proposed here, and not for another 40 years. Instead, the decision was reached to build an electric-streetcar line—one of the nation's first—along a roughly similar route, but one departing from Pennsylvania Avenue and 12th Street, N.W. In Washington and crossing the Potomac on what was still called the Long Bridge at 14th Street, N.W.

With the arrival of motorcar-commuting, suburban living became even more attractive and the hills above New Alexandria were shortly developed as Belle Haven, still one of Washington's loveliest residential neighborhoods. Belle Haven's developers knew shopping would be essential and spent the next 15 years persuading the National Park Service to allow the construction of an exit at Belle View Boulevard explicitly for the Shops at Belle View, completed in 1953. The rest, as they say, is holiday-shopping history!

Copies of the original map shown here are available at The Virginia Florist in Belle View.

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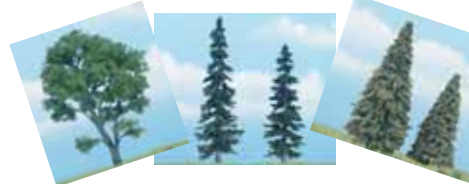
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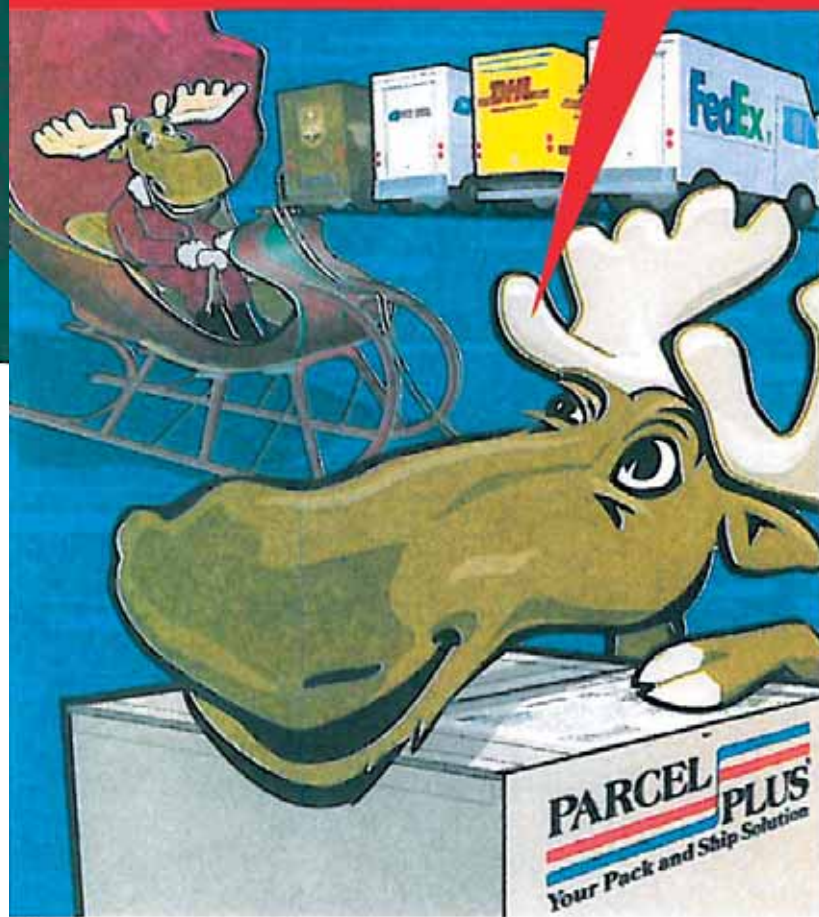
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