



Hundreds of residents filled the parking lot as Santa calls for the Del Ray holiday tree to be lit on Friday evening.



Kate Moran, with the help of neighborhood children, leads those gathered in holiday songs.

Tree Lighting In Del Ray

Thousands of luminaries lit the walk ways up and down Mount Vernon Avenue on Friday evening, Dec. 7. Neighbors and visitors gathered in the Del Ray Farmers Market parking lot at Oxford Avenue to watch Santa light the holiday tree. Kate Moran led those gathered in holiday songs. The tree was donated by Mike Anderson and thanks went out the Cathy Puskar for her help with decorating logistics.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Beauregard Seen as Human Rights Issue

Upcoming zoning decision on Beauregard plan pits tenants against City Council.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

As residents of the West End gathered this week to celebrate Human Rights Day, a spirit of defiance was in the air. Even though members of the Alexandria City Council have already approved the controversial Beauregard small-area plan, residents here are hoping that elected officials will hold off on rezoning the land until safeguards can be put into place to ensure low-income residents aren't displaced by redevelopment.

"We're frustrated and angry about what's going on," said Hector Pineda, president of the Beauregard Tenants Association. "And we're still in this fight."

Residents are calling on city leaders and JBG Companies to roll back rents to 2010 rates and freeze them in place, which would prevent low-income residents from being priced out of Alexandria. They're also asking that city leaders increase the number of dedicated affordable housing units from 800 to 2,473 — the number of existing market rate units that will be demolished under the current plan. The day after the protest, JBG flatly rejected those requests.

"That is completely impractical if we are to continue to maintain this property to satisfy resident needs and meet city of Alexandria standards," said Charles Maier, spokesman for the JBG Companies. "Most residents living in Mark Center know and understand that."

THE DEBATE about what should happen on the West End was at the center of the recent City Council election, and the issue was raised at every candidates forum. The

vote on the small-area plan happened during the heat of the Democratic primary, and one candidates forum at Cora Kelly Elementary School featured a heated exchange between audience members who were opposed to the plan and candidates who supported it. A political action committee known as Democrats for a Better Alexandria selected candidates who were willing to speak out against the plan.

"In many ways, this is an even worse plan than the waterfront plan," the group said in a written statement announcing its slate of endorsements. "We believe that any candidate who says he or she supports diversity and affordable housing and does not speak out

SEE DEBATING, PAGE 14

"We're frustrated and angry about what's going on. And we're still in this fight."

— Hector Pineda, president, Beauregard Tenants Association

Rising from the Ashes

Seminary reaches compromise to retain ruins of historic chapel.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

When God appears to Moses in the Book of Exodus, a bush is described to be on fire yet not consumed by flames. The same could be said for Immanuel Chapel at the Virginia Theological Seminary.

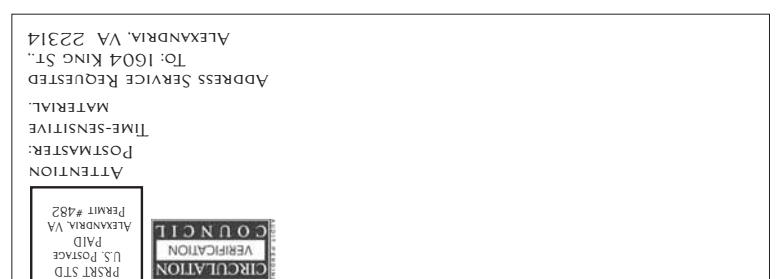
Back in October 2010, a fire destroyed the wooden roof of a historic chapel at the seminary originally

constructed in 1881. Although the fire left a majority of the solid masonry walls and tower intact, leaders at the seminary want to demolish most of the remaining structure to create what they call a "Prayer Garden." A new 20,000-square-foot chapel will be constructed to replace the historic structure.

"Two years ago, a lot of the seminary community was devastated by this fire," said Duncan Blair, a land-use attorney who serves as chancellor of the seminary. "And now we have come forward with what I think will be an award-winning memorial garden."

THE STORY OF THE chapel's rise from the ashes was not without controversy. When the seminary proposed its initial plan to demolish most of the chapel and construct a new one, many advocates of

SEE COMPROMISE RETAINS, PAGE 14





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Vaudeville actors Matthew Pauli, Abigail Wallace, Kerry Doyle and Lyndsey Pressley rehearse in the wings before performing on stage at the theatre preview.



Karen Kaufman is joined by friends Jackie Meuse, Catie Gage and Alyssa McCaslin at the Old Town Theatre reception on Monday evening.



Walter and Kelly Clarke with Taverna Cretekou owners Denise and Christos Papaloizou at the preview reception for the newly renovated Old Town Theater.

JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Curtain Up Everything old is new again at Old Town Theater.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

For nearly a century, The Old Town Theater served as a venue for entertainment ranging from vaudeville stage shows to silent films, puppet shows and contemporary Hollywood blockbusters. But after the marquee dimmed and the doors were boarded up earlier this year, the Alexandria landmark is once again ready for its close up.

"We're going to do some wonderful things here," said Rob Kaufman of PMA Properties and owner of the building. "Rather than films, there will be live entertainment including music, theater, dancing and magic in addition to lite gourmet fare — something for everyone."

Originally opened Aug. 12, 1914 by Ralph A. Steele and W. Harmon Reed as the Richmond Theater, the 8,500-square foot venue was acquired by Kaufman last December from Roger Fons, who operated the theater for nine years.

Kaufman immediately went to work restoring the historic structure, which served at times as a community hall and overflow classroom in addition to being an entertainment venue.

"This is a real gem," said Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks during a preview reception held at the theater Dec. 10. "Rob has done a magnificent job, as he always does, restoring the historic significance of the building."

In the course of Kaufman's renovations, several significant elements original to the building were uncovered, including an up-

stairs billiards and dance hall and grand central staircase with "The Richmond" spelled out in mosaic tile in the lobby.

"A lot of credit goes to Rob as a community developer," said Alexandria architect

Wayne Neale, whose own restoration vision can be seen in several buildings in the 1200 block of King Street. "He's figured out how to make it all work. He has a great entrepreneurial spirit."



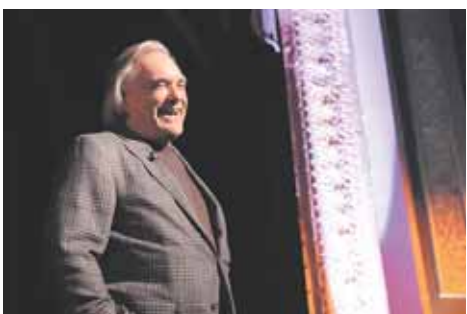
The Old Town Theatre was built in 1910 as a vaudeville theatre and dance hall. Rob Kaufman and Tom Kennedy have restored the theatre to the original footprint.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



King Street's Old Town Theater was called The Richmond Playhouse in the 1960s.

PHOTO COURTESY OLD TOWN THEATER



Rob Kaufman thanks everyone for coming out to the soon-to-be opened Old Town Theatre.

Kaufman's original plan was to lease the building to retailers, but an outpouring of community support to return the theater to its historic roots led Kaufman to team with Comedy Zone DC's Tom Kennedy, who will serve as operations manager for the venue. Under Kennedy's direction, the new Old Town Theater Production Company will produce weekly shows and special events.

"We really needed something like this," said Denise Papaloizou, who together with husband Christos co-owns the Taverna Cretekou Restaurant across the street from the theater. "Hopefully it will make things more lively in this part of Old Town. It's exciting to see the theater open again."

Following a brief performance reminiscent of the theater's vaudeville roots, Kaufman took to the stage to thank the community and city officials for their support.

"This would not have come together without the City of Alexandria," Kaufman said. "You often don't hear all the good work that goes on with the city but there was nothing but cooperation and a true team spirit on this project." The Old Town Theater officially opened to the public Dec. 12 with a performance by comedian and magician Kevin Lee, who has appeared on "Showtime at the Apollo", HBO's "Def Comedy Jam" and Jamie Foxx's "Uptown Comedy Club."

"I've still got a lot to learn about the theater business," Kaufman said. "But Tom is going to be a great teacher and together we want to make this the little theater that thinks big."

For more information, visit www.oldtowntheater1914.com.



Tom Kennedy and Jennifer and Rob Kaufman greet guests at the preview party of the soon to be re-opened Old Town Theatre.

Lee's Portrait Re-Dedicated in City Chambers

General R.E. Lee Camp #726 organized funding of painting's restoration.

BY NANCY JENNIS OLDS
FOR GAZETTE PACKET

It is the portrait across the room from George Washington's painting in Alexandria's City Council Chambers. This handsome oil painting bears the likeness of Robert Edward Lee, a son of Virginia and that of Revolutionary War hero "Light-Horse Harry" Lee III, a West Point graduate and superintendent of that institution, who ultimately made one of the most crucial and most difficult decisions in his life as a colonel in the U.S. Army when he resigned his commission to serve as the general for the Army of Northern Virginia in the Confederate States of America during the Civil War.

On Monday, Dec. 3, the members of the General R.E. Lee Camp #726, SCV (Sons of Confederate Veterans), and the General Samuel Cooper Chapter #105, MOS&B (Military Order of the Stars & Bars), and their guests, met at the Alexandria City Council Chambers for the re-dedication of General Robert E. Lee's portrait.

This year, the General R.E. Lee Camp #726 undertook the task of organizing the funding to restore the oil painting and its frame. Historical painter George Bagby



Vern McHargue, past commander of the General R.E. Lee Camp #726, SCV, emphasized General Lee's moral compass, the importance of "maintaining honor, duty and hope in his darkest hour." McHargue was recently a controller for finance and operations at The Heritage Foundation.

Mathews painted the Lee portrait in the late 19th century, and the portrait was originally presented to the City of Alexandria by the General R.E. Lee Camp #726 on Jan. 19, 1963. General Lee's portrait was displayed in Alexandria's City Council Chambers for almost 50 years without any viewer realiz

PHOTOS BY
NANCY J. OLDS



The portrait of General Robert E. Lee on display in the Alexandria City Hall City Council Chambers. The 100-year-old oil painting was painted by Virginia artist George Bagby Mathews (1857-1944) in the late 19th century. Although only 7 years old at the end of the Civil War, Mathews identified with the "Lost Cause" and concentrated on historical paintings and portraits of Confederate subjects.

SEE CEREMONY, PAGE 30

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NEWS

Positive Reactions to Huchler's Promotion

New deputy police chief praised inside and beyond city.

BY KAREN L. BUNE
FOR GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Police Department recently named a new deputy chief, David Huchler, to its ranks. Huchler, 44, is a 21-year veteran of the department and a respected choice outside the department as well. He served in each of the four bureaus: in patrol, criminal investigations, and the Office of Intelligence and Homeland Security. He also served as a special operations team member and a community oriented policing (COPS) officer. Most recently, he commanded the Traffic, Special Events and Parking Division of the Operations Support Bureau and is also the Special Operations Team commander.

Huchler oversaw the 2010 Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies regarding the accreditation process for the police department. He was selected and served as a fellow for the Police Foundation Fellowship Program in Washington, D. C. from November 2011 until May 2012.

"I've always had an affinity for police operations. We get to reduce crime and improve the quality of life," Huchler said. He always enjoyed working with and engaging the community. As deputy chief, he wants to continue to focus on three areas for greater opportunities: the city, the citizens, and the officers. "I believe it is important for the police department that we are training and educating and providing tools for officers to be successful in their jobs. This service to the community needs to be an engaged service where we partner with the community to improve the quality of life," Huchler said. He also believes it is important to maintain relationship through partnerships with other departments in the city. "We have a great working

"Dave was instrumental in working on a region-wide mutual aid agreement for SWAT operations for the Council of Governments police chiefs."

— Arlington County Police Chief Douglas Scott



Newly named Deputy Police Chief David Huchler.

relationship with them," he said.

From his experience with the SWAT community, Huchler has worked with other law enforcement agencies throughout the region. He understands how crucial those relationships are. "It's so important," he said. He pointed out that investigators maintain them on a daily basis. He realizes the importance of the flow of information, the ability to talk with one another and the availability of inter-jurisdictional training opportunities. "It's important I reach out to my counterparts in other agencies," he said.

IN HIS NEW POSITION as deputy chief, Huchler will have many opportunities to draw on his experience. "My challenge is to continue to keep that downward trend of crime and to continue to break that barrier. The Police

Foundation was a great experience for me. They do a lot of research on innovative police work," Huchler said. He acknowledged that having that relationship and that resource will enable him to utilize the learning and research as well as further develop and make additional progress in the advancing the police department. SEE PRAISE FOLLOWS, PAGE 15

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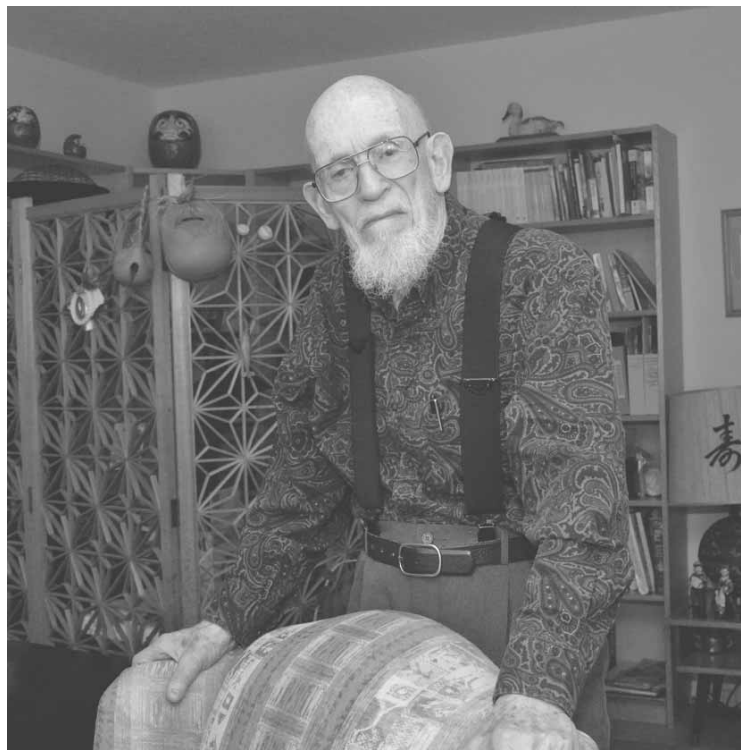
Don Mela

Don Mela, a long-time Alexandrian and community volunteer, died on Dec. 5, 2012, at 89 years old. He was predeceased by his wife, Doris and a son, Jonathan Lee Mela. He is survived by daughter Yonie Mela Dow; sons Samuel Sylvain Mela and David Jason Mela; and seven grandchildren: Lindsay Alexandra Dow, Md.; Joshua Harry Dow; Lawrence Michael Dow; Amelia Sara Turney-Mela; Sara Margaret Mela; Joseph Bradley Mela, and Jamie Patrick Ward.

Donald Ferdinand Mela was born in 1923 and grew up in Pelham, N.Y. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he also served in the Army Signal Corps during World War II. He and his late wife, Doris, had been Alexandria residents since the 1950s. Upon his retirement from the U.S. Department of Transportation in 1981, he went back to school, earning a law degree from George Mason University in 1984 and making a second career as a pro bono lawyer, providing legal aide for the economically disadvantaged. For more than 35 years, he and Doris were active volunteers for ALIVE (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically), a charitable nonprofit organization that provides for the housing, food, childcare, job-hunting, medical, and financial education needs of thousands of Alexandrians every year.

From 1960, Don was politically active in local elections and as a member of the Alexandria League of Women Voters. He was president of the Strawberry Hill Civic Association, served on the tax commission and was a member of the Alexandria Planning Commission from 1964 until 1977, and later on the Washington Street Guidelines Committee. In these latter roles he fought to preserve open spaces in Alexandria and prevent high-rise developments in Old Town, helping to enact building restrictions that have preserved the historical character of the city.

Testaments to his many active years of community service have included: Joan White Outstanding Volunteer Award from Volunteer Alexandria (1991); Burke Award for Outstanding Philanthropic and Humanitarian Service from the American Red Cross (1993); Annie B Rose Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alexandria Commission on Aging (1993); Lewis Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award from the Virginia State Bar (1997), and Outstanding Community Service Award from Alex-



Don Mela

his accordion playing at social gatherings, to entertain groups at hospitals and institutional homes, as well as raising money for Children's Hospital as part of the Shooter's Hill Ecumenical Carolers annual Christmas troupe. He continued to play the accordion section as the senior member of the Rock Hard Bagels Band at Beth El Hebrew Congregation until a few weeks before his death. He and his wife Doris were keen Scrabble players, music lovers and conversationalists, who enjoyed socializing with their many friends and neighbors.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish to honor Don's memory are asked to make a contribution to ALIVE, an organization that was near and dear to both Doris and Don. The address is ALIVE! Inc. 2723 King Street, Alexandria,

VA 22302. No memorial service has yet been planned. There will be an empty chair with an accordion when the Rock Hard Bagels play at Beth El Hebrew Congregation this Friday night Dec. 14.

Socially, Don was particularly noted for

andria United Way (2001). In 2011, Don was named an Alexandria Living Legend for his more than 50 years of civic service to the City.

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Bazaar Benefits Kenyan School

English students at T.C. Williams High School, inspired by a presentation from the former headmaster of the Losengeli School in Kenya, John Isindu, held a fundraiser in the school cafeteria on Thursday afternoon, Dec.

6. The students chose to showcase an international bazaar featuring food, music, costumes and dance from their native countries. Proceeds from the event will help pay for athletic uniforms for the 500 students who attend the Losengeli School.



Farida and Noorsabah Safi dress in a traditional Afghan costume for the bazaar.



Farida Barakzai, Asia Haidari, Suaad Hamed and Farida Safi.



Felicia Bangura and Grace Fungbahun serve up samples of the international cuisines prepared from the bazaar. With the students is Dr. Khalil Ahmed, an English instructor at the high school.



Amin Abnalhaver (Palestine) poses for a photo with a classmate Fabiana Burela Peralta.

COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

Saying Goodbye

They fought like cats and dogs. They pounded their fists of the dais at City Hall. On several occasions, they raised their voices at each other. Now, the lame duck members of the Alexandria City Council are headed for the exits, drawing a curtain on the most contentious group of elected officials in recent memory.

The council may be remembered most for having two elected Republicans, a rarity in Alexandria. That bipartisan divide led to several clashes on everything from taxes to transportation. Outgoing Republicans **Frank Fannon** and **Alicia Hughes** were often on the losing side of the debate, but they were willing to form a loyal opposition that provided a sense of conflict that does not exist when the Democrats have a monopoly on leadership. Now Fannon and Hughes are stepping aside after having lost the election.

"When a congressman doesn't get reelected, he goes home," said Fannon. "But when a councilman doesn't get reelected, there's nowhere for him to go."

Hughes and Fannon both hinted that voters might be seeing them again.

"One thing we all have in common," said Hughes, "is that we know what it's like to win some, and we know what it's like to lose some."

"The good thing about living in Virginia," said Fannon, "is that there's an election every year."

Idiot Rule Number 1

What's in a resolution?

Council adopts ceremonial resolutions at almost every meeting, proclaiming a "Good Weather Day" for a parade or celebrating the success of a municipal venture. But rarely do the documents have as much punch as the ones council members presented to themselves this week.

As part of the festivities honoring the outgoing members, members of City Council approved two resolutions that offered more than a list of civic engagement.

"WHEREAS, Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** has never been known to be the silent type, and has been known to begin his conversations with 'Number 1' and then sometimes never getting to Numbers 2 or 3."

And then there was this one:

"WHEREAS, Councilman **David Speck** is known for the 'Idiot Rule' — When making decisions, especially land-use decisions, there is always pressure to do the politically expedient or popular thing. The real test is to ask, will someone 20 years from now drive by a project or look at a decision and say, Jeez, what idiot approved that?"

Naughty and Nice

He's making a list. He's checking it twice. He's going to find out who's been naughty and nice.

No, it's not **Santa Claus**. It's City Manager **Rashad Young**. One of his year-end duties is to check attendance records for all 59 of the city's boards, committees, commissions and task forces. City code requires that all appointees attend at least 75 percent of meetings. Perhaps that makes Young the Grinch That Stole the Appointment, but somebody's got to do it.

"Each of the persons has been notified by letter of their attendance record," explained Young in a memorandum.

When all the arithmetic was completed, 17 people got the boot — including former Vice Mayor **Andrew Macdonald**, who attended only 70 percent of the meetings called by the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission. Three of the ejected members attended none of the meetings. Others attended between 20 percent and 70 percent of the meetings — not enough to fulfill their mandate.

"These persons may reapply for reappointment with other new applicants when the positions are advertised by the City Clerk," added Young.

Members of the Real Estate Board had the biggest commitment, with 25 meetings in the last year, while of the Building Board of Appeals didn't meet at all. Seventeen boards and commissions have yet to submit a roster of attendance reports.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

BUSINESS MATTERS

Blinded by Science

Two Alexandria landlords are vying for their properties to become the new home of the National Science Foundation, a prize the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership has identified as valuable goal for the city. But AEDP president **Val Hawkins** acknowledges it will be difficult battle.

"I don't want to say it's a long shot," said Hawkins. "But Arlington considers retaining the National Science Foundation as their highest economic development priority."

The foundation's lease runs out in 2016, opening the door to a potential move if the foundation can find a better deal. Hawkins says eight potential landlords are making offers to the foundation, which is seen as a major win for any jurisdiction because of the hotel stays related to the foundation — 60,000 room nights a year. And the foundation's highly education workforce earns top dollar, which could be spread around Alexandria and increase the tax base.

"I expect to see a lot of sharpened pencils all over the region," said Alexandria Deputy City Manager **Mark Jinks**.

The two Alexandria locations vying for the National Science Center are the Hoffman at Eisenhower and Carlyle Plaza II, which is owned by J.M. Zell Partners. Both of these locations had development special-use permits finalized in 2012, and both of them meet the specifications of the request-for-lease proposals.

"Basically it comes down to whether or not Alexandria can offer a better deal," said Hawkins.

Transient Money

Every year, City Hall collects about \$12 million from the transient lodging tax. That's a 6.5 percent charge levied on hotel and motel rooms, a rate that was increased from 5.5 percent in 2008. This week, city officials issued a report showing a 6.2 percent increase in the three-month trailing average of the transient lodging tax.

"This increase seems to reflect a modest rebound from the significant year-over-year decreases experienced this spring due to the drop in the federal government per diem, which lowered the average daily rate and revenue per available room collected by city hotels," wrote City Manager **Rashad Young** in his month financial report. "City staff currently anticipates that collections in this category will remain relatively flat throughout the remainder of the year."

Regardless of what happens with the fiscal cliff, President **Barack Obama** is expected to deliver an important boost to the transient lodging tax next year.

"Staff is anticipating a brief spike in collections early next year due to the January inauguration and inauguration-related events," Young explained. "The city experienced a similar inauguration-related spike in transient lodging tax and meals sales tax collections in 2009."

Attracting a Tenant

Councilman **David Speck** was not leaving City Hall without making a case for the city doing something to help attract a tenant to the abandoned food court, which is on a prime spot of waterfront real estate. During his last meeting as an interim councilman, Speck said the city could be doing more to help the landlord attract a tenant.

"There are three or four things that I think will make this space more attractive for potential significant users," said Speck. "There are people nosing around about it, but they are raising issues."

For one thing, Speck said that the area could use more signs to let people know the building is there. He says many people pass by King Street without even knowing about the area where the food court and Chart House are located. Then there's lighting, which Speck said could be improved. Adding visibility and attracting tourists could go a long way to landing a top-notch tenant for the location.

"People struggle to know what's back there," said Speck.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

BUSINESS



PHOTOS COURTESY ACVA

Pictured at the ACVA Superstar Awards are Jennifer Harris and Justin Thompson of the City of Alexandria Office of Communications, Sandy Modell of Alexandria Transit Co. (DASH), Christy Borrel of the Crowne Plaza Old Town and Holiday Inn & Suites Alexandria, Mayor Bill Euille, Tony Castrilli of the City of Alexandria Office of Communications, Allyson Teevan of DASH, Sandy Wargowski of the Alexandria Visitors Center and Mellenie Runion of Truly-Life Eco Gifts.

ACVA's 2012 Superstar Awards

Washington introduced as new tourism chief.

The Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association presented the 2012 Superstar Awards at its December Tourism Marketing Forum Dec. 7 at Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, using the occasion to formally introduce Patricia R. Washington as the new president and CEO of the city's tourism agency.

"I am excited to be in Alexandria," Washington said. "And these awards are great examples of how ACVA will work in partnership with the entire Alexandria tourism community to amplify Alexandria's appeal."

The Superstar Awards recognize individuals and organizations who have greatly contributed to the success of the ACVA over the past year. This year's winners included the City of Alexandria's Office of Communications, Sandy Modell and Allyson Teevan of Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) and the King Street



Jody Manor, ACVA Board Chair and owner of Bittersweet Café & Catering, Patricia Washington, ACVA President & CEO and Mayor Bill Euille

Trolley, Christy Borrel of the Crowne Plaza Old Town and Holiday Inn and Suites Alexandria - Historic District, Mellenie Runion of Truly-Life Eco Gifts and Sandy Wargowski of the Alexandria Visitors Center.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO BY SPOTTED MP

And the Winner Is ...

For the second year in a row, Walker Home at 1125 King St. has won the Window Wonderland decorating contest. Second place went to @Home Real Estate at 111 S. Alfred St. with fibre space at 102 N. Fayette St. taking third place honors. From left are ACVA president Patricia Washington, B. Giannini-Gambino Walker of Walker Home, Mayor Bill Euille, Alphonse Costanza of Walker Home, and Red Barn Mercantile's Amy Rutherford representing the Old Town Boutique District as the award banner was presented to Walker Home Dec. 11.

Designers Decorate Christmas Trees to Raise Funds

Georgetown Jingle supports MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's pediatric cancer programs.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

A few local designers are using their talent to bring holiday cheer to some local pediatric cancer patients. Arlington resident Allie Mann, a senior designer at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., and Alexandria resident Allison Priebe Brooks, owner of Queen Bee Designs, were among the tastemakers selected to participate in the Georgetown Jingle, a fundraising effort for pediatric oncology programs at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington.

The Georgetown Jingle was created in 2006 to raise money for the Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program at Georgetown University Hospital. Over the past

six years, the Jingle has raised \$1.5 million.

Members of the Washington area design community are each paired with a Georgetown patient ambassador who has undergone or is undergoing treatment at the hospital. Mann was assigned to patient ambassador Sophie, whose neuroblastoma is currently in remission.

"I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to meet my partner Sophie, her wonderful family, and share their story."

— Allie Mann

"I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to meet my partner Sophie, her wonderful family, and share their story," said Mann. "It makes you really take a step back and appreciate the gifts/blessings in your life, especially good health."

Sophie is a fan of Dr. Seuss, so Mann designed and created a Seuss-themed Christmas tree, and Sophie helped make ornaments.

"Sophie and Allie met in June and instantly hit it off," said Ashley Myler Klick, an Alexandria resi-

dent and event manager for Georgetown Jingle. "The Seuss tree is definitely one of the more popular ones at the hotel right now. Everyone loves Dr. Seuss."

Brooks, a jewelry maker, decorated a mantle using many of her own designs. "Georgetown Jingle is such a wonderful organization, and I am really proud to have done the display," she said. "We donated more than 30 necklaces, 10 pairs of earrings and 12 bracelets. All of it is going to help fight pediatric cancer."

The trees and other decorations are on display at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown. Additional events include a family fundraiser from 1-4 p.m., Dec. 16, followed by Jingle the Night Away from 7-11 p.m. For more information visit www.georgetownjingle.com.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGETOWN JINGLE

From left, Arlington resident Allie Mann, Barry Dixon of Barry Dixon Interiors and Alexandria resident Allison Priebe Brooks created Christmas decor for the Georgetown Jingle.

Fresh Ideas for Tree Trimming at Home

When it comes to holiday decorating tips, take a page from the Grinch: "What if Christmas he thought, doesn't come from a store, what if Christmas means a little bit more?" Christmas doesn't have to be entirely store bought. Get creative: "homespun" ornaments are the best kind.

❖ Take those so-so Christmas lights and jazz them up with ribbon or go for unconventional garlands, such as one

made from gumballs.

❖ Take old holiday cards and repurpose them as thoughtful ornaments.

❖ Change the tree topper this year. It doesn't have to be a traditional star or angel: Go for something different like a monogrammed letter for your family.

— ALLIE MANN, DESIGNER

OPINION

Holiday Revels with a Safety Net

A serious backup, but seriously, make a plan ahead of time.

There is a little life in the economy this year, and that is quite likely to allow some to be the life of the party. You know the drill, the five-to-seven or six-to-eight drop-in happy hour, you've been invited to five of them, and you could attend an infinite number of these between now and the second day of 2013. And there are many other varieties of holiday

festivities, many involving more than a drink or two.

So make a plan. Plan for a designated driver. Plan to celebrate at home. Plan to spend the night.

Plan to take public transportation. Plan to call a friend for a ride home. But if the best laid plans go awry, Washington Regional Alcohol program has a safety net for you.

The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Friday, Dec. 14, 2012 until Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013 as a way to keep impaired drivers off the road during this traditionally high-risk holiday period.

Residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-

200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$30 fare) safe ride home. Last holiday season, more than 2,000 people used the service.

Local taxicab companies will be providing this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

EDITORIAL More information at www.soberride.com.

Parents can encourage their young adult children who are over 21 to carry the number with them if they are celebrating. It's probably more important to talk to their underage revelers about moderation and contingency plans to avoid drinking and driving, or risking getting into a car with an underage driver who might have been drinking.

A Crisis of Governance and Leadership

This is the third in a series of columns, coordinated by former council member Lonnie Rich, that includes other past city leaders writing on governance and politics.

BY ANDREW MACDONALD

Alexandria's reputation for good governance has been severely tarnished over the last few years in large part because there has been too little debate about issues of real concern to the community. There is absolutely no reason to believe that the situation will change for the better with the re-election of Mayor Euille and the election or re-election of six Democrats, the majority of whom seem to share Mr. Euille's one-shoe-fits-all vision for Alexandria.

Nothing illustrates this situation better than the waterfront planning process. Citizens opposed to the current plan have now spent over \$150,000 fighting the city in court, and there is no end in sight. Who benefits from this mess? Is it the taxpayers who are footing the city's legal efforts to extinguish the rights of their

fellow citizens and neighbors? I think not.

It's bad news for City Hall that the Supreme Court of Virginia has accepted a lawsuit filed by three residents known as the "Iron Ladies," which claims, among other things, that city staff and elected officials knowingly violated the rights of citizens when they approved the waterfront plan last January. The lawsuit is good news, though, for residents deeply disgusted and angered by the lack of honest and thoughtful public discourse on the environmental, financial, and community benefits of development projects like the waterfront, the Beauregard Plan, and the \$500 million or more Potomac Yards metro.

City staff and elected officials attribute such conflicts to disagreement, misunderstandings, or misinformation, as if the problem lies with citizens. Engage us they say. Are you too busy to sit through an all-day Saturday council meeting just so you can speak for three minutes, be lectured to, and then be told that you have been heard? Well now you can simply tweet your views! You will still be ignored, but it will

be a lot less demeaning and time consuming.

Taxpaying citizens feel disenfranchised by their government. But instead of addressing the problem at its roots, City Hall's response has been to pretend they are listening when in fact their goal is to shut down debate. It's quite easy really. Create a commission, stock it with hand-picked appointees, hold lots of meetings, take testimony, and then do whatever it was that you were planning to in the first place. The newly expanded and reconfigured Waterfront Commission is just such a body, but there are many others. But hold on Mr. Citizen, we do listen.

Real dialogue has been largely squelched. Even the influential Planning Commission has lost its independence and is largely a foil for the City Council and its agenda.

The local election should have changed the leadership at City Hall, but it didn't. Too many voters had no idea who was running for local office or why. Hence, the national election swept in seven Democrats, five of whom ac

SEE CRISIS OF GOVERNANCE, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY JEANNETTE GALIE BURKLE

Supporting Rebuilding Together Alexandria

John Marshall Bank presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 on Dec. 5 to Rebuilding Together Alexandria to support its work improving the homes and lives of Alexandrians in need. Katharine Dixon, executive director of RTA, accepted the donation from Ted Johnson, Alexandria Regional Executive of the bank.

Dallas, Not Washington

BY KATHARINE DIXON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

Born and bred" in Alexandria, 70-year-old Elaine* loves the Del Ray home she has lived in for more than 50 years. Bought for \$15,000 with her husband, it holds many great memories.

Growing up, Elaine and her family lived in rental properties throughout the city, first on Powhatan, then Wythe, and finally on Walnut. She attended George Washington High School in the morning and worked for the Department of Agriculture in D.C. the latter part of the day.

When Elaine wasn't in school or working, she was hanging out at the roller rink on St. Asaph Street,



which is where she met her husband when she was 18. They later married a n d w h e n

she found out she was pregnant, she stopped working, choosing to stay at home and raise her son and daughter. When the children went to school, Elaine went back to work — this time at Sterling Hardware on Duke Street, where her sister worked. Elaine fondly remembers some "interesting" customers at Sterling, including a

SEE DALLAS, PAGE 26

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

**Published by
Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-917-6480 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.

OPINION

Multiple Benefits of Mentoring

This article was submitted by Leigh Hoyer and Luisa Reyes from Wright To Read, an educational program that promotes literacy through the tutoring and mentoring of elementary school students and through outreach to the Alexandria community.

Mentee Roxana Lara spoke about the value of having a mentor: "Sometimes you can't find the right words to say, or maybe you just can't find the right way to say it. But I want to give thanks to someone who helped me so much in life. I am very grateful for Ms. Kathy's tutoring and mentoring. Now I am reading much better. I see things much differently than before, thanks to her."

Kathy Stoner provided the mentor's perspective: "A few years ago, after yet another evening of watching mindless sitcoms and playing on the computer, I lay on the sofa, thinking that I could really be making better use of my time. I found Wright to Read, which sponsored reading tutors for Alexandria kids in grades 1-5. They assigned 8-year-old Roxana as my student. I went to the family's home to meet her and talk to her parents about doing weekly tutoring sessions at the local library. Her brother Carlos, who is 9 years old, looked at me shyly and asked, 'Can I come, too?'"

"And so we became a threesome, invading Duncan Library one evening a week. After Roxana and I had finished our reading lesson, the three of us played word games — at first, games for children, and when they got older, Boggle and Scrabble. Once a month



Roxana Lara with mentor Kathy Stoner.

we'd go on what the kids called 'field trips' — to museums, the Baltimore Science Center, bike rides, and ice skating. Roxana is 15 now and doesn't need help with her reading anymore. Together, we belong to a teen girls' book group sponsored by Wright to Read. Carlos is 16 and this summer I started teaching him to drive.

When I tell people that I'm a volunteer tutor, they comment on how great it is for the kids. But they have no idea how wonderful it has been for me as well. I look at Roxana and Carlos, fine young adults now, and feel proud to have played some small part in their growing up."

To contact Wright to Read, call 703-299-9854 or visit WrightToRead.org. To contact Alexandria Mentoring Partnership, 703-746-4475

Volunteer Opportunities for Seniors

BY JANET BARNETT
SSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Senior Services of Alexandria is teaming with Volunteer Alexandria to spread the word about volunteer opportunities for seniors in our community. Both SSA and Volunteer Alexandria are committed to inspiring and mobilizing people to volunteer and build a better community for all Alexandrians, including our seniors since they are a vibrant part of our city. Resource Center Director Mary Lee Anderson said, "Collaborating with Marion Brunken, Volunteer Alexandria's new executive director, has lengthened our reach to the many volunteers in our community who want to work with older people in a variety of capacities and for seniors to volunteer themselves."

Volunteer Alexandria has found an easier way for seniors to be involved in the community. The senior "button" on Volunteer Alexandria's website links users to a variety of volunteer opportunities for seniors including work in the arts, literacy, mentoring, coaching. This button also directs volunteers interested in working with many programs that help seniors, such as those provided at Senior Services of Alexandria.



To check out this new senior feature and see lists of volunteering opportunities visit <http://volunteeralexandria.org>.

As always, volunteers are vital to SSA's programs and services. Some of these programs include Meals on Wheels which features a dedicated, committed group of

volunteers who deliver meals seven days a week to homebound seniors and a newly launched Friendly Visitor program which matches socially isolated seniors to members of the community to help create some connections to relieve some of their loneliness. For more information on these two programs (and more), contact Senior Services of Alexandria at <http://www.seniorservicesalex.org>.

Save the date for the next SSA Speaker Series event that will focus on volunteer and employment opportunities for Alexandria's seniors. The date is Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 9:30 a.m. at Charles Beatley Central Library at 5005 Duke Street.

This will be a great session with local experts providing a wealth of information and answering your questions about some of the many volunteer options highlighted in the new senior feature of the Volunteer Alexandria website.

Crisis of Governance and Leadership

FROM PAGE 10

cepted the BRAC-133 boondoggle hook, line and sinker, four who voted to move the local election from May to November, and six who would have or did support the waterfront plan. It also swept out the opportunity to create a local government that should represent the views of the entire community.

The election was a loss for this city. Clever politi-

cal partisanship has created a one party system with no real democratic checks and balances. One Alexandria? That's a myth.

The crisis is real. It's a crisis of governance and leadership. Sadly, I see no prospect for change anytime soon.

Andrew Macdonald grew up in Alexandria. He served on the City Council from 2003-2007. He ran for mayor in 2012 as an Independent.



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Christmas



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NEWS



Santa (Kevin Rawlings) greets Gabriel and Jill Monostori and Jill's mother Marilyn on the green at Fort Ward.



Santa (Kevin Rawlings) presents a local newspaper to fort commander Wally Owens.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Christmas in Camp

Fort Ward Museum & Historic Sites held its annual Christmas in Camp on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 8. The camp depicts army life during the win-

ter of 1863.

Historian and writer Kevin Rawlings appeared as the patriotic Santa depicted in an engraving by artist Thomas Nast.

A Huge Thank You to My Clients and Friends We Are Making a Difference!

Over ten years ago, "The Girls" and I gave a small holiday party at Pop's Ice Cream Parlor. Many of you joined us in collecting toys for children with cancer at the National Children's Medical Center. I was thrilled to fill my car with toys and bring them to the hospital. Now years later, our party fills a bus with toys to last a year for the children in the unit, as well as two of the Center's affiliated clinics. Through your generosity, we have become the largest donation of toys, each year, to the cancer unit with support from a major toy company, a jewelry manufacturer, Coldwell Banker CB CARES Foundation and many local merchants.

Our gifts really make a difference to the children! After a difficult procedure or when they are particularly sad, their world can become a fantasy. Imagine going to a huge closet filled with toys and you can have anyone one you want! Through our giving, we have brought a smile to the face of many children growing up too fast and facing far too much for their young years. For those of you who couldn't join us this year, we missed you and look forward to seeing you next year. But please remember, the bus doesn't leave until January, so there is still time to drop toys at my office.

In closing, I thank you for your sensitivity to this cause, particularly knowing it is so close to my heart. You are the reason I love my work. Your kindness, your loyalty and the confidence you show with referrals, will always mean more to me than the business.

"The Girls" and I wish you the healthiest and happiest of New Year's.



*Linda Trinkle Wolf,
Sabrina and Samantha*

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Compromise Retains Ruins of Historic Chapel

FROM PAGE 1

historic preservation balked. Then the seminary revised the plan to demolish most of the ruins and construct a prayer garden. Once again, many resisted the idea.

“One awful thing happened to this building in the fire, and another one is about to happen if we remove 70 percent of what remains and it becomes a collection of random walls that are a prayer garden,” said Linda Serabian, a member of Immanuel Church on the Hill, in April 2011. “Take some of those pieces and incorporate them into a new building with new architecture to a building that will tell the story of what’s happened on this spot.”

When an earlier concept plan was presented to the Old Town Board of Architectural Review, Chairman Tom Hulfish made a personal appeal to Blair to revise the plan to retain more of the ruins. The board created a special subcommittee to find a solution, and a new concept plan was created that incorporated more of the ruins into the design. It eventually passed the board with a unanimous vote, and nobody spoke against the proposal when it went before the Planning Commission last week.

“It was a reasonable compromise,” said Chip Carlin, member of the Old Town Board of Architectural Review. “They successfully integrated significant portions of the old chapel to be retained and integrated into the site plan for the new chapel.”

CONSTRUCTION BEGAN on the Immanuel Chapel in 1879, although it was not consecrated until 1881. Along with a core group of key buildings, the chapel represented a mid-19th century building campaign that formed the heart of campus. It stood alongside other imposing Episcopal structures, including Aspinwall Hall, Bohlen

Hall, Meade Hall and Francis Scott Key Hall. The chapel was listed with the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

“The seminary’s core of early buildings stands as a tribute to the talents of their architects and as a document of the taste of the Episcopal Church at the time of their erection in the 19th century,” according to the National Register nomination.

Designed by Baltimore architect Charles Cassell, the historic chapel included a rosewood chancel rail that was given to the seminary by an African bishop. The Board of Architectural Review staff report describes the style of the building as “Ruskinian Gothic architecture as built on the collegiate scale.” Its steeply pitched roof, large lancet windows and two-story entry tower are considered to be a reaction against the Neoclassical style and the effects of industrialization.

“The use of the Gothic Revival style at the Seminary represented not just the application of a popular architectural style but the intentional selection of a style imbued with a deep sense of religiosity, most appropriate for a recently founded theological seminary,” according to the staff report.

ALTHOUGH THE CHAPEL is not in a historically protected area, it is one of eight buildings at the Seminary listed on the city’s 100-year-old building list. But the Board of Architectural Review did not have authority to require restoration of the chapel. At a minimum, city staff suggested, the iconic tower should be salvaged — if, for no other reason, than the cost of demolishing it may exceed the cost of stabilizing it.

“The walls seem to be in good condition,” said John Hynan of the Historic Alexandria Foundation in favor of restoring the historic chapel. “What is needed is essentially a new roof.”



Proposed site layout.



Design for memorial garden.

A report from Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, the seminary’s insurance adjuster, noted that the chapel “sustained extensive damage” and suggested that “all of the roofs, gutters, windows and interior finishes should be removed and replaced.” Ultimately, the adjuster’s report feared an imminent collapse and suggested razing the structure. But the Alexandria Code Enforcement engineers inspected the structure and found “no fire damage at the exterior brick wall” and that the “existing brick walls are sound.”

“The tower wall is neither cracked nor bowed,” city engineers concluded, “except there are some loose bricks hanging on the infill wall.”

MANY BUILDINGS in Alexandria have been burned and rebuilt using exterior walls, including much of the 100 block of

Prince Street. Now leaders at the Virginia Episcopal Seminary are ready to create a new chapel for the 21st century and incorporate as much of the old chapel as possible into the design.

“We support this project because we believe this building will be an asset to the neighborhood as well as fulfilling the mission of the seminary and our own as an Episcopal Church,” wrote members of the Immanuel Church on the Hill vestry in a letter of support.

Debating Housing and Human Rights in West End

FROM PAGE 1

against the Beauregard plan is not credible.”

With one exception, Allison Silberberg, all the candidates that opposed the plan lost the election — providing supporters with a mandate for action when zoning is on the agenda this spring. Supporters say it creates a historic number of dedicated affordable-housing units — more than have ever been created for any single plan in the history of Alexandria. But opponents say that’s not enough. They would like to see a one-for-one ratio of replacement, ensuring that the janitors, cooks and taxi drivers who live in the low-income garden apartments won’t have to leave Alexandria.

“They’re making money hand over fist,” said Wesley Aten, interim executive director of Tenants and Workers United. “They can afford to add these affordable housing units.”

LIKE THE STREET that bears his name, Confederate Gen. Pierre Gustave Toutant

Beauregard was difficult to manage. The hotheaded rebel had a hard time getting along with superiors, and now the small-area plan named in his honor has created its own Civil War in Alexandria. The 30-year plan covers a sweeping 400 acres west of Shirley Memorial Highway, including almost 200 acres of land slated for redevelopment. The vision of the plan is to create “a series of new urban neighborhoods” with housing that is connected by transit.

“This is one of the most significant transit-oriented smart growth plans the city has ever done,” said then-Councilman Rob Krupicka shortly before casting a vote in favor of the proposal.

If the zoning is approved, the plan will more than double the density of what’s there now — increasing the area from a low-slung 6 million square feet of existing development to 12.4 million square feet of new development. Upzoning the properties will significantly increase the value of the land, benefiting the land owners and de-



Opponents of rezoning gather for Human Rights Day to protest a plan that many say will displace thousands of low-income residents on the West End.

velopers. In exchange, city officials are getting \$154 million to build a new fire station, pay for transit infrastructure and create dedicated affordable housing units.

“The planned redevelopment is long term,

taking place gradually over the next 30 years,” said Maier. “As always, we will treat each individual fairly and honestly, and we will operate with complete transparency and city oversight.”

NEWS

Praise Follows Huchler's Promotion

FROM PAGE 5

Deputy Chief Blaine Corle welcomes Huchler to his new position. "He is a wonderful choice. He brings the skill set, personality and experience needed with that position. He has a strong background in special operations. He is a perfect fit. He is the type of guy everybody respects. I think he will bring a newer breed of leadership. People like him are the future of the agency," Corle said.

"David is a dedicated, conscientious, hard working police professional who has demonstrated exemplary leadership, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills his entire career. He cares deeply about our city and the safety of our citizens. He is an exceptional addition

"It's going to be a real exciting experience. I look forward to working with all the officers and the community."

— Deputy Police Chief David Huchler

to an already strong leadership team within the department," said former Alexandria Police Chief David Baker.

"I was happy to hear Chief Cook has selected Dave Huchler for deputy chief. I've known Dave for several years. He's been a strong leader for Alexandria and a great regional partner. Dave was instrumental in working on a region-wide mutual aid agreement for SWAT operations for the Council of Governments police chiefs. Arlington and Alexandria SWAT teams have supplemented and relieved each other's teams during prolonged incidents. It is because of sound leadership from people like Dave that chiefs and sheriffs have the confidence to use SWAT assets and their commanders in such sensitive and dangerous situations," said Arlington County Police Chief Douglas Scott.

Gavin Latney, director of Safety, Security and Emergency Management, at Inova Alexandria Hospital, has worked with Huchler on safety and security issues involving the hospital. "Dave has very good insight and vision that he shared when he used his expertise of what we needed to do and the

direction we needed to go and goals for the hospital. He really listens to what you have to say, and I think that is important in the new endeavor he is taking on. I'll look forward to working with him," Latney said.

Huchler is well regarded by patrol officers as well. "I found him to be very professional and fair. I think he will do well," Officer Seth

Weinstein said.

"It's going to be a real exciting experience. I look forward to working with all the officers and the community," Huchler said.

Karen L. Bune serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at George Mason University in Fairfax and Marymount University in Arlington. She is a criminal justice consultant.

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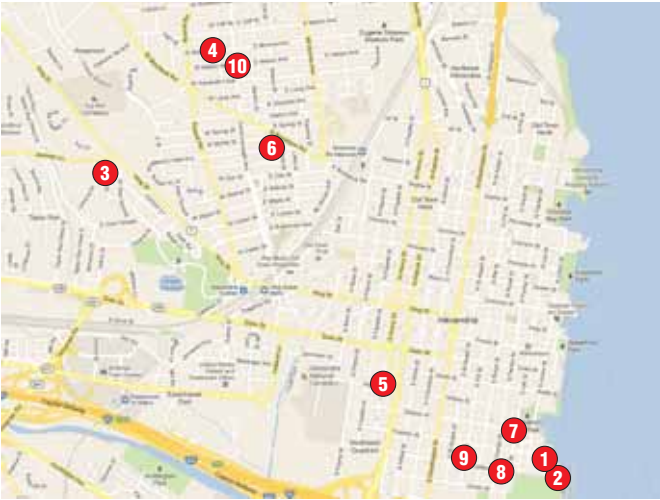
10 1 Nelson Avenue East, Alexandria — \$900,000



7 602 Lee Street South, Alexandria — \$964,000



8 209 Jefferson Street, Alexandria — \$920,000



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1 11 WHARF ST	4	..	3	..	2	ALEXANDRIA	...	\$1,730,000	...	Townhouse	0.03	22314	FORDS LANDING	10/26/12
2 6 ALEXANDER ST	4	..	3	..	2	ALEXANDRIA	...	\$1,550,000	...	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	22314	.....	OLD TOWN	.....	10/04/12
3 717 PUTNAM PL	6	..	4	..	0	ALEXANDRIA	...	\$1,330,000	...	Detached	.....	0.25	.....	22302	.....	GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK	...	10/26/12
4 105 MONROE AVE W	5	..	4	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	...	\$1,215,000	...	Detached	.....	0.12	.....	22301	.....	ROSEMONT AREA	.....	10/26/12
5 411 HENRY ST S	3	..	2	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	...	\$1,160,000	...	Townhouse	.....	0.05	.....	22314	.....	OLD TOWN VILLAGE	.....	10/26/12
6 24 MASONIC VIEW AVE E	5	..	4	..	0	ALEXANDRIA	...	\$1,100,000	...	Detached	.....	0.11	.....	22301	.....	ROSEMONT PARK	.....	10/05/12
7 602 LEE ST S	4	..	3	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$964,000	...	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	22314	.....	POMMANDER	.....	10/04/12
8 209 JEFFERSON ST	3	..	3	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$920,000	...	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	22314	.....	OLD TOWN	.....	10/31/12
9 708 PITT ST S	3	..	3	..	0	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$902,000	...	Townhouse	.....	0.05	.....	22314	.....	YATES GARDENS	.....	10/18/12
10 1 NELSON AVE E	3	..	2	..	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$900,000	...	Detached	0.15	22301	DEL RAY	10/24/12

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Decking the Halls Local designers share holiday decorating suggestions

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Looking for inspiration for decking the halls this season? Three local home design experts offer doable tips for capturing the magic of the holidays.

Courtney Thomas, of The Picket Fence in Burke, believes that the secret to a beautiful Christmas tree is layering: "If using a garland, put that on first," she said. "You can get creative with [garland]. Besides the traditional ribbon, we've used newspaper chains, twig garlands, felt shapes strung together and burlap. Nestle large ornaments deeper in the tree to fill in any holes.

Then use smaller decorations on the outer branches."

Consider forgoing store-bought ornaments. "Take old holiday cards and repurpose them as thoughtful ornaments," said designer Allie Mann of Arlington. "Change the tree topper this year. It doesn't have to be a traditional star or angel. Go for something different like a monogrammed letter for your family."

Incorporate tradition into holiday decorations. "Use ornaments handmade by your children through the years, the nativity set that has been in the family for generations or a new treasure that's on its way to becoming a family heirloom. [These] are just as beautiful as anything in the decor magazines and will definitely be more meaningful to your family," said Thomas. "It's always fun to unwrap those special pieces year after year."

When it comes to holiday décor, Angela Phelps, owner of Le Village Marché in Arlington says that mer-

cury glass is popular this year. "The good thing about mercury glass is that you can use it at other times of the year too, especially for New Years," she said.

Thomas adds, "Mercury glass also blends well with many decorating styles. Whether your decor is traditional or contemporary, a few mercury glass pieces will add some shine."

Greenery can be used during the holiday season and beyond. "A lot of boxwood topiaries and wreaths can be used throughout the year," said Phelps. "You can prolong the life by just changing out the ribbon and using them in the spring."

For those on a budget, Phelps suggests "going out and find[ing] greenery in your own yard or the woods. You can do a lot with red ribbon."

Combine old and new. "Place a tabletop tree in a vintage urn," said Thomas. "Fill a wooden tool caddy with some greenery and vintage ornaments to make a unique centerpiece."

Think beyond red and green.



When trimming a tree Courtney Thomas, of The Picket Fence in Burke, suggests nestling "large ornaments deeper in the tree to fill in any holes. Then use smaller decorations on the outer branches."

"There is no rule that says you can't use other colors in your holiday decorating," said Thomas. "You'll also get a richer look by adding various shades of colors. If you like red and green, mixing in

some burgundy or lime green will add another dimension to your decor. But don't mix too many different colors. It will look more cohesive if you stick to a couple dominant colors in varying tones."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE

Designers tout the versatility of mercury glass holiday decorations: "Whether your decor is traditional or contemporary, a few mercury glass pieces will add some shine," said Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke.



Designers say those on a budget can create holiday decorations with greenery.

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Contractors Call Holidays Ideal Time to Ponder Remodeling Projects

Local contractors say that the holidays offer an opportunity to consider home renovations.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

While the holidays can bring glad tidings and cheer, they can also spark an interest in remodeling, say some local contractors.

"During the holidays, people spend more time at home and notice more things like outdated bathrooms or kitchens," said Glen Miracle, president of NVS Remodeling and Design in Falls Church and Manassas.

Bob Murphy, president of Homes by Murphy in Fairfax Station, said, "I find that this time of year people think about remodeling projects and then postpone them until af-

ter the holidays."

Contractors say hosting holiday gatherings give homeowners a chance to reassess their living space. "We do have people who...realize that they will have crowds of people and family coming over and realize they need or want more space," said Murphy.

Evelyn Nicely, president of Nicely Done Kitchens in Springfield, said, "Large kitchen remodels are often inspired by small kitchen shortfalls: the turkey won't fit in your built-in oven or you have far too many leftovers for your too-small refrigerator," she said. "Or

maybe when you visited friends, you realized how outdated your space is, how much untapped potential is really in your home."

"We get more calls in January than in any other month because during the holidays people finally slow down, spend more time at home and realize all of the projects that they need to do."

— Glen Miracle,
president of NVS Remodeling and Design



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS

Local contractors say the holidays often generate ideas for home remodeling projects. "Large kitchen remodels are often inspired by small kitchen shortfalls," said Evelyn Nicely of Nicely Done Kitchens.

HOMEOWNERS OFTEN ASSESS their home improvement needs during the holidays and embark on them in the New Year. "We get more calls in January than in any other month because during the holidays people finally slow down, spend more time at home and realize all of the projects that they need to do," said Miracle. "Many of those projects will get started in the spring."

A survey by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry shows that spring

is a time of the year when homeowners embark on new projects. The association reports that last spring, seven out of 10 homeowners planned spring home improvement projects. "Right now people are interested in pursuing remodeling projects in part because the election is over," said Niki Golden, NARI spokesperson. "People do start thinking about remodeling projects, but I don't know that at a national level, it is tied to the holidays."



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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Historic Interpreters Jeff Dunkelberger (left) and Mike Botts show visitors the blacksmith shop. Mike asked everyone to stand back for a good reason.

Final Weekend for Mount Vernon by Candlelight

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 Washington's world guiding visitors through the first and second floors of the home, adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon.

Visitors will also meet a cast of friends and family of the famous founding couple. In the kitchen, the final stop on the tour, guests will hear about 18th-century holiday cooking, see Martha Washington's Great Cake, and be given a copy of the recipe to try at home.

Following the Mansion tour, guests are invited to stroll through the candlelit lanes, watch blacksmithing demonstrations, join in fireside caroling, and enjoy complimentary hot cider and cookies.

The Shops at Mount Vernon are open late during Mount Vernon by Candlelight. Twelve themed departments, including The

Christmas Corner, abound with a selection of gift items including holiday ornaments, estate jewelry, and a selection of gifts for children. No admission is required to shop. Mount Vernon's Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center will be closed during this evening event.

The Food Court at Mount Vernon is open during Candlelight Tours for fresh and convenient meals and special holiday treats. The Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant, with its early-American fare and colonial servers, offers the perfect complement to the Mount Vernon by Candlelight program. Reservations are suggested for this popular dining experience.

The final weekend for Mount Vernon by Candlelight takes place Saturday, Dec. 15 and Sunday, Dec. 16 from 5-8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the Ford Orientation Center or at www.MountVernon.org. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$14 for children under 12. Call 703-780-2000 or 703-799-8697 (TDD).



Lindsay O'Connell is one of the historic interpreters at Mount Vernon. With lantern in hand, she took visitors on a tour of the mansion and much of the estate.



A volunteer at Mount Vernon Estates teaches, then leads the audience in a Christmas Carol from Washington's time.

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/GAZETTE PACKET



Two Mount Vernon volunteers sing Christmas Carols for visitors walking around the estate.



The glow of lamplight adds to the ambiance.



Aladdin the Camel

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington Street. Open daily, through September 2013, this exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. See how Robert E. Lee's hometown was transformed literally overnight from a prosperous commercial port into a supply, hospital, and transportation center for the Union Army, and find out why Alexandria became a destination for African Americans seeking freedom. Explore the experiences of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this tumultuous time, through their own words, as well as

in period photographs and collections items. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery will host the juried show **"Bedecked and Bedazzled"** through Jan. 6 at Studio 18 of Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. In this show, the artists excel in holiday spirit and sparkle with jewelry, sculpture, clothing and wall pieces. The gallery is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., except on Thursdays when it is open from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Closed Dec 25 and Jan 1. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

The Marshall House Incident Exhibition: This exhibit at Fort Ward features objects from the museum collection to tell the notable story about the event that launched the Civil War in Alexandria. Open through 2012 at Fort Ward Museum (4301 West Braddock Rd.) is open

Tuesday - Saturday, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday, from noon - 5 p.m. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Art Exhibit. Alexandria artist Francis Seeger will display "People" in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. from Jan. 10-Feb. 24. Free. Features a number of the artist's larger figural paintings. Often appearing to be waiting for time to pass or expressing a touch of boredom, Seeger's subjects are captured with a bold, intuitive hand and vibrant palette. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. Daily exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. Through September 2013 at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.



A Broadway Christmas Carol

Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin announces A Broadway Christmas Carol, created by Kathy Feininger, will return to MetroStage for a third season. Performances will be Thursdays and Fridays at 8, Saturdays at 3 and 8, Sundays at 3 and 7, through Dec. 23. For ticket reservations call 800-494-8497 or visit www.metrostage.org. For information and group sales call 703-548-9044. MetroStage is located at 1201 North Royal St. in Alexandria.

THURSDAY/DEC. 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.
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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

- Gift Cards
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The Fireworks are Back!

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 21

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.

Do-It-Yourself. 1:30-3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn how to select the best lighting for daily living and safety. Free. 703-746-1702 or 202-234-1010.

Christmas Concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Old Country Buffet, 7820 Richmond Highway. Hear Maureen McDonnell perform with the Bob Gibson Big Band.

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.

Concert and Instrument Demonstration. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear music by Brass of Peace. Free. Visit www.brassofpeace.org or 703-256-2956.



Metropolitan Fine Arts Center's Frosty Follies jazz ensemble in a performance at Reston Town Center.

Alexandria's Frosty Follies Dancers In National Christmas Tree Program

Metropolitan Fine Arts Center's Frosty Follies jazz ensemble was selected to perform at the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C., on Sun., Dec. 23 at 1 p.m. This is their eighth year performing at the National Christmas Tree, with more than 40 dancers from MFAC showcasing their live tap dance. The center's Frosty Follies performances are designed to offer free, holiday entertainment to local communities. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metrofinearts.com.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children up to age 2 can explore the world through stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com.

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.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Santa on the Trolley. Children and pets can take photos with Santa on the trolley. Free. Visit www.dashbus.com.

Book Signing. Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and his wife Callista Gingrich will sign their new books at Shops at Mount Vernon from 4-7 p.m. Free to shop. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children up to age 2 can explore the world through stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 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.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 23

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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SINCERELY.... MARKOS PANAS

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 22

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, and RSVP is 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.

Tea with Santa. Noon-3 p.m. at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St. There will be crafts and activities and pictures with Santa. All proceeds benefit the Child & Family Network Centers. \$50/child; \$150/adult. Event suited for children ages 3-10. Visit www.cfnc-online.org or e-mail Alison Doherty at adoherty@cfnc-online.org for tickets.

Breakfast with Santa. 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. at Hotel Monaco, 480 King St. Hosted by Metropolitan Fine Arts Center of Alexandria and Fairfax Station. Tickets from \$35 to \$45/person. Visit www.metrofinearts.com.

THROUGH DEC. 16

The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol." 8 p.m. Ring in the holiday season with a return of the classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Complete with special effects, Victorian carols, and Tiny Tim, "A Christmas Carol" is a must for the entire family. Little Theatre of Alexandria is located at 600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com for showtimes or to purchase tickets. \$15 (does not include service fees).

Christmas Festival. 5:30 p.m. at Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Enjoy listening to familiar carols and modern classics by all of Aldersgate's music ministries including handbells, bass, percussion and more. Free and childcare is provided. Reception follows. Visit www.aldersgate.net or 703-765-6555.

Cameron McCune and Kailey Leinz of Burke will dance together in "Nutcracker in a Nutshell."



Ballet Arts Ensemble Presents 'Nutcracker'

The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax will perform "Nutcracker in a Nutshell," a condensed version of the classic holiday ballet, on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 3 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m., at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall at the Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus, at 3001 North Beauregard St. Tickets are \$22 in advance by calling 703-273-5344; they'll also be available at the door. Choreographed by Debra Savage, the show features company dancers from the Ballet Arts Ensemble and scores of young children from the Fairfax dance school, the Center for Ballet Arts. Visit www.thecenterforballetarts.com or call 703-273-5344.

TUESDAY/DEC. 18

Christmas Concert. 7:30 p.m. The award winning Alexandria Harmonizers will present "Sleighbells Ring At The Memorial" sponsored by the Masonic Federal Lodge No 1. 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; Memorial is Metro accessible (King Street stop). To make reservations call Opera NoVa at 703-536-7557 or email mcdm1@verizon.net.

All Wheel Jive. 9-11 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. \$10. Enjoy blues-flavored vocals, guitar and harmonica and Aussie Angus Mackay on standup bass. Visit www.gottaswing.com or 703-359-9882.

Winter Concert. T.C. Williams High School choir will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the high school.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 19

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

Music. 10:45 a.m. - noon at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Terminal B near Cibo Bistro and Wine Bar. Free performance by Carl Sandburg Middle School Symphonic Orchestra and Choralettes.

DJ Dance Party. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Enjoy dancing with DJ Dabe Murphy. \$6. Visit www.gottaswing.com or 703-359-9882.

Music. 8 p.m. at St. Elmo's Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear modern bluegrass artist Conor Mulroy. Visit www.stelmoscoffeepub.com or

www.conormulroy.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. The gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 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.

Light the Night Community Art Event. 5-7 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Free event. Donations of unwrapped toys and books for families in need in the area will be accepted. Visit www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children up to age 2 can explore the world through stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com.

THROUGH DEC. 21

Food Drive. Bring non-perishable food donations to the @home lounge, 111 S. Alfred St. Upon donation, patrons can feel free to enjoy a free cup of hot chocolate, warm up by the fire.

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

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children up to age 2 can explore the world through stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.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.

Performance. Metropolitan Fine Arts Center Frosty Follies jazz ensemble will perform at the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C. at 1 p.m. Free. Visit www.metrofinearts.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 24

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 23

THROUGH DEC. 23

“A Broadway Christmas Carol” A cross between the classic Charles Dickens tale and uproarious song parodies of favorite Broadway show tunes. From Thursday through Sunday, 8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday; 3 and 8 p.m. on Saturday; 3 and 7 p.m. on Sunday. At MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

Santa Claus is Coming to Old Town. Santa and Mrs. Claus are back in Old Town Alexandria to take pictures with children every Saturday and Sunday between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Presented by the Old Town Boutique District in partnership with the City of Alexandria and Bike and Roll Alexandria and with the support of area businesses. The cost for pictures is \$15 for a 5 x 7 print. Hours: Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except for Dec. 1 (Scottish Walk Parade day) when hours are 1-5 p.m.; Sundays, noon-5 p.m. At Bike and Roll Alexandria, One Wales Alley. Call 703-501-6289 or visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

THROUGH DEC. 25

The Christmas Attic’s Holiday Advent Calendar. The Christmas Attic, has partnered with area schools, churches, and community groups aimed to help produce its annual temporary exhibition featuring illuminated canvases of art for The Christmas Attic’s Holiday Advent Calendar Event. Each day at sundown, the store will reveal “advent art” featuring a variety of

local holiday creations. All art will be placed either in the windows or on the brick of the building on the front side facing Union Street. Visitors can picture the entire building being transformed into an advent calendar. At the closing of the Advent Calendar event, the canvases of advent art will be available for auction at a post-event celebration (to be scheduled). Proceeds from the auction will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic. At The Christmas Attic, 125 S. Union St. Call 703-548-2829 or visit www.christmasattic.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 26

“Downton Abbey” Marathon. 1-5 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Tea and biscuits will be served. 703-746-1702.

THURSDAY/DEC. 27

“Downton Abbey” Marathon. 12:30-5:30 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Tea and biscuits will be served. 703-746-1702.

FRIDAY/DEC. 28

“Downton Abbey” Marathon. 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Tea and biscuits will be served. 703-746-1702.

Robin and Linda Williams. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

SUNDAY/DEC. 30

TANK. \$55. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.

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

MONDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. This annual New Year’s Eve bash takes over Old Town Alexandria with 100 performances at 18 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, and children’s face painting and games. The afternoon Fourth Annual Fun Hunt is joined by all-new activities for families and dogs. Afternoon activities are from 2-5 p.m., including Fourth Annual Fun Hunt. Performances are from 7-11:15 p.m. Venues throughout Old Town. Midnight fireworks at Potomac River at the foot of King St. Call 703-746-3301 or visit firstnightalexandria.org. Admission is \$15 before Dec. 17; \$20 after. Children 12 and under and active military are free.

New Year’s Eve Benefit. 5 p.m. Join the Washington Area Parrot Head Club aboard the Cherry Blossom Riverboat to benefit the Lupus Foundation. The four-hour cruise benefits the Lupus Foundation and includes: Midnight fireworks display over the Potomac, two live bands (Nautical Wheelers and Smalltown) playing on two enclosed levels, full open premium bar (on cruise), champagne toast, heavy hors d’oeuvres, pre-cruise party and donation. Visit <http://lovenlucknycruise.eventbee.com/>. Pre-Cruise Party 5-8 p.m.; Cruise 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Departs Alexandria City Docks at 0 Cameron Street, Alexandria; \$135.

Performance. As part of “First Night Alexandria,” from 2-4 p.m. at Durant Center members of the TC Williams choir will be singing.

Choir Singing for Community Support

This holiday season, members of the TC Williams Choir will be seen singing throughout the community and not just in the T.C. Williams auditorium.

Members of the TC Williams High School choir will be caroling and canvassing Alexandria neighborhoods Dec. 15, seeking donations to provide scholarships for students traveling to out-of-town national competitions, for professional musicians invited to perform with the choir at high school concerts, for professional singers to lead master classes, and more.

Members of the choir will also participate in the Dec. 31 “First Night Alexandria” city-wide event to raise money.

Under the direction of Theodore Thorpe III, the choir has made its mark in the region over the past two years. In national choir competitions last year, the choir was awarded Grand Champion honors as the highest scoring ensemble at the OrlandoFest in Orlando, and won first place in the critically acclaimed iSing competition. Choir members have also been selected to perform in the “Christmas in Washington” national television holiday show for the President and First Family, and in the “Kennedy Center Honors” program.

Members of the choir were also selected last year to sing with cast members of the television show “Glee.” Choir members are frequently asked to sing the National Anthem at ACPs sporting events and community events, such as the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria annual gala.

Choir parents have organized a TC Williams Choral Booster Club to support this growing program within the high school. The Booster Club is organizing the upcoming fundraisers, asking the community to help provide opportunities for all the students singing in the choir.

❖ **Saturday, Dec. 15, 1-4 p.m.** Choir members will canvass neighborhoods, caroling up and down city streets and knocking on doors asking for donations.

❖ **Monday, Dec. 31, 2-4 p.m.** Members of the choir will be singing at the Durant Center as part of “First Night Alexandria.” Last year, the “First Night” organization donated some of its proceeds to the music programs at T.C. Williams. This is the first year the T.C. Williams choir will perform.

❖ **Tuesday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m.** The community is invited to T.C. Williams High School for the choir’s Winter Concert, in the high school auditorium and featuring a wide variety of music.

❖ **Friday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m.** Individuals can tune into the TNT network, channel 36, to watch “Christmas in Washington.” TC choir students will be performing with celebrities, as part of the student choir on stage.

To donate to the T.C. Williams choir, make checks payable to “TC Williams Choral Boosters” and mail to 3718 Seminar Road, Alexandria, VA, 22304. The Booster Club is applying for recognition of tax-exempt status and once granted, the tax-exempt status will be retroactive to the date of the Boosters’ incorporation. Contact Yvonne Folkerts at ybfolkerts@aol.com or Judy Fentress-Williams at jfwilliams@vts-edu.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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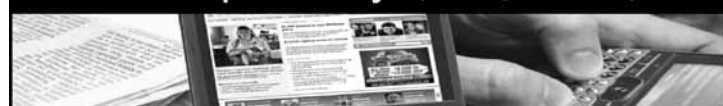
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OPINION

Dallas, Not Washington

FROM PAGE 10

former Redskins player who tried to convince her that the 'Skins should be "her team." And although Elaine was from the Washington Metro area, "D.C. never felt like home" so she picked the Dallas Cowboys instead as her favored team.

Elaine's husband, Thomas, worked for the Washington Post, but after he lost his job during a union strike, he went to work as a paramedic for Alexandria, eventually as a paramedic supervisor. At some point, Thomas worked on taxicab radios, being the ham radio operator that he was. And although he didn't like to travel, Thomas would not miss the annual ham field day wherever it was in the country. Elaine recalls Thomas telling her that he once reached someone in Germany.

Though her husband has since passed away, Elaine still lives in her home with a caretaker. And though not very mobile and dependent on oxygen, she loves sitting on her front porch, reminiscing about the days spent there playing Rummy with her neighbors many years ago.

To help protect her porch and home for years to come, Rebuilding Together is covering all expenses related to Elaine's roof damage, caused by Hurricane Sandy, and will provide volunteers to make other general home repairs in the spring.

This holiday season, consider donating to Rebuilding Together so that we may continue to keep vulnerable homeowners like Elaine living in safe and healthy homes.

Rebuilding Together Alexandria is an award winning, non-profit organization dedicated to repairing and revitalizing homes at no charge for homeowners in need, including elderly, disabled, military veterans and families. To date, in-kind donations of labor and materials have resulted in \$6 million worth of value on more than 1,550 properties. If you would like to apply, volunteer or donate, visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org or call 703-836-1021.

* It is RTA's organizational policy to not disclose full names.

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.
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NEIGHBORHOODS

Old Town

ANTIQUES FOR ALL (A Double Header) — Almost quietly, Old Town preservationists and collectors have become major players in the Washington Winter Show — perhaps the major antiques extravaganza in the Capital Region and a must go and see.

Old Town's key role has come seemingly overnight, but it hasn't happened that way. Try hard work, dedication and earning the respect of the folks who run this prestigious affair — and the generous welcome for Alexandrians who know a thing or two about antiques and how to raise funds and support for historic preservation.

It's not as if a bunch of Old Towners and their friends crept across the river late in the night and said "Move over Washingtonians." Alexandrians have played key roles with their friends in the Capital City for years.

More about this later. First I need to give you an overview of the Winter Show — not the least of when it happens and why. This year's version, perhaps the most ambitious yet, will take place the Katzen Arts Center at American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave, NW, from Jan. 10 - 13. Admission is \$20 and includes a show

catalogue. Events are by separate admission. Gobs of additional logistical information is available at 202-248-7159.

Theme of the show is "The Thrill of the Chase: Antiques of the Sporting Life" and the fun begins on Thursday, Jan. 10, when sponsors, benefactors and designers are invited to a private early viewing of the show wares starting at 6 p.m. A half hour later at 6:30 p.m. a Young Collectors reception will enjoy the usual goodies and more (cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a catered buffet dinner). Show hours on Friday and Saturday will be spiced by everything from lectures, appraisals and more.

I'd be derelict if I didn't mention another special event on Jan. 12 — a "Jazz Night" hosted by one of the "Townners I mentioned earlier, Amy Heiden, who will join you from 6 to 8 p.m. to sip and nip while enjoying the smooth sounds of the Levine School of Music Faculty Jazz Band.

Your hardworking reporter could go on and on telling you even more about the pleasures bundled into these evenings. But you'll have to find out for yourself because I want to mention some of the show's benefactors from Old Town and northern Virginia who have worked so hard with their

brothers and sisters in this tale if two cities.

Let's start with the show's co-chair and go from there. In no particular order following co-chair Mason Bavin are these friends of the show who should take a bow (this listing is by no means complete): Henrietta Burke, Sarah King Carr, Eleanore Denegre, Anna May, Lucy Rhame, Ashley O'Connor, Michaela Robinson, Jean Taylor Federico, Sumpter Priddy, Julianne Belevetz and Shannon Campagna, to name a few.

— BOB FELDKAMP

Taylor Run

SHERRY PARTY

Carrying on a tradition started by the late Marion Galland in the late '60s when she threw a party to thank all those who helped her win an election, Sherry Brown, Harlene Clayton, Vola Lawson, Lucy Thomson, Marian Van Landingham, Lois Walker and Krista Watters threw a party for several hundred active Alexandria women. Lucy, husband Arthur Peabody, and daughter Liz Peabody provided the venue.

Audrey Davis, of the Black History Museum, informed me that the current exhibit concerns

Kathleen Stafford, the artist whose life story is now seen in the film Argo. Sharon Annear and Lou Cook were there, as was Jean Neibauer. She told me that her son Patrick is coming home for Christmas from Boston with wife Betsy and children. Slava is attending university in New Jersey. Sandy Modell, head of DASH, was present. Audrey Fleming made me remember the Christmas party many years ago at which Marion Barry showed up wearing a dashiki.

Judges Becky Moore and Connie Frogale were there, as was Ellen Brown who is head of ALIVE. Karen Moran attended as well.

Every time I see Alice Morgan I feel I'm participating in history because Alice is the great niece of Maggie Lena Walker, first woman to be head of a bank in this country.

SHOOTER'S HILL CAROLING PARTY

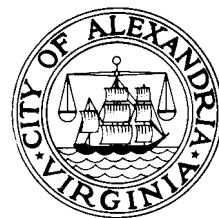
We'll go around caroling and raising money for Children's Hospital and enjoying a potluck dinner afterwards on St. Stephen's Day, Dec. 16. Caroling will leave from 310 Park Road at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

Legal Notices

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.



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, December 15, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the herein-after described items.

AN ORDINANCE making supplemental appropriations for the support of the government of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for fiscal year 2013.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the adoption of supplemental appropriations for the operation of the city government in fiscal year 2013.

Public Hearing and Consideration of the Union Street Corridor Study Recommendations.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. JACKIE M. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Low Vision Holiday Tea & Talk. 1:30-3 p.m. Join Joan Gilliard, Low Vision Occupational therapist, 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. Housing Counseling

Services will host free Foreclosure Prevention Clinics in Conference Room 3 of the City Office of Housing, 421 King St. Suite 200. The Clinics will begin at noon and are provided to help participants: identify financial options and services available to homeowners that have defaulted or are in danger of defaulting on a mortgage; avoid predatory lenders and foreclosure rescue scams that prey on homeowners facing foreclosure; 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.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Holiday Invitational Cheerleading Competition. 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend the annual Holiday Invitational Cheerleading Competition at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The competition features youth cheerleading teams from Alexandria neighborhood recreation centers and other teams from the metropolitan area. Tickets will be on sale from Nov. 19-Dec. 13 at the Charles Houston, Cora Kelly, Patrick Henry and William Ramsay recreation centers and at the Recreation Services Division Office, located at 1108 Jefferson St. Tickets purchased in advance are \$5 for ages 13 and older, \$2 for ages 5-12 and ages 4 and under are admitted free. Ticket prices at the door will be \$10 for ages 13 and older, \$5 for ages 5 to 12 and for ages 4 and under are admitted free. Call the Recreation Services Division Office at 703-746-5402 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

Red Cross Blood Drive. 7:30-11:15 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 West Braddock Road. Sign-up at www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-Give-Life.



Magic Show

Professor Fizzwiffle (Drew Owen) and his volunteer assistant Joseph, perform a trick with a magic gong at the Children's Holiday Magic Show at Bishop Ireton High School on Dec. 5.



Louis the Magician (Louis Meyer) and his volunteer helper try to perform a trick. But, the wand keeps "breaking." The show featured Ring 50 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/GAZETTE PACKET

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

SPORTS

TC Falls to West Potomac

Wolverines overcome 10-point deficit in the fourth-quarter against the Titans.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The West Potomac boys' basketball team was less than six minutes from dropping its Patriot District opener to the T.C. Williams Titans on Dec. 11 and falling to 1-3.

The Wolverines trailed, 45-35, and had scored just six points in nearly seven minutes. The Titans were on a 7-2 run and appeared in control.

"We knew we could win it the whole time," West Potomac sophomore Kwame Camon said after the game. "We just went hard."

Whether driven by an unwavering confidence or kept afloat by youthful naivety, the Wolverines didn't give up. The result was West Potomac overcoming a double-digit deficit to win a rivalry matchup.

The Wolverines rallied for a 54-51 victory on Tuesday night at West Potomac High School. Point guard Brandon Pressley made a pair of free throws to extend West Potomac's lead to three with 18.7 seconds remaining. At the other end, T.C. Williams missed a 3-point shot and a putback attempt in the closing seconds as the Titans fell to 1-2.

"We feel like we can beat anybody," Camon said, "or hang with anybody in the league."

After an offensive cold stretch, West Potomac caught fire in the fourth quarter, scoring 10 straight points in 74 seconds. Down by 10, Pressley drove to the basket, scored and was fouled with 5:28 remaining. The senior buried his ensuing free-throw attempt to pull the Wolverines within seven at 45-38. Moments later, Demornay Pierson-El came up with a steal and drove the rim for a layup, cutting the deficit to five. Camon



T.C. Williams boys' basketball coach Julian King talks to the Titans during their Dec. 11 contest against West Potomac.

scored and was fouled with 4:20 remaining. He made the free throw to pull West Potomac within two. Seconds later, Camon came up with a steal and laid the ball in the basket to tie the score at 45-45.

Back-to-back buckets by TC gave the Titans a 49-45 advantage, but West Potomac again tied the score, thanks to a putback by senior guard Caleb Williams and a pull-up jumper by Pressley. A Pierson-El free throw gave the Wolverines a 50-49 advantage and Camon made a pair of free throws to extend the lead to three.

T.C. Williams junior Jeremiah Clarke scored and was fouled with 30.7 seconds remaining, but came up empty on his free-throw attempt, leaving the Titans trailing 52-51. TC would not score again.

"They got tougher and we didn't," TC head coach Julian King said. "They were down 10, they're at home, they have nothing to lose and they just put it all on the floor and we didn't match their toughness and their intensity."

Camon, playing in just his fourth varsity contest, scored a game-high 21 points and grabbed nine rebounds. The left-handed shooting guard scored 12 of West Potomac's 25 first-half points.

"We went to him," West Potomac head coach David Houston III said. "... I could see early on he had the hot hand."

After Camon drove the basket and tied

T.C. Williams junior Jeremiah Clarke reaches for the ball.

the score at 29-29 with 4:32 remaining in the third quarter, West Potomac fans chanted "He's-a-sophomore!"

Camon said his offensive mentality is "just go as hard as I can and attack my opponent. I know if I'm coming at him full speed, I'm pretty much un-guardable."

Pierson-El scored nine points off the bench in his second game back from injury. Pressley and Javon Trice each scored eight points for the Wolverines.

Trice, a 6-foot-2 post, grabbed 11 rebounds. "That was what we asked him to do: just keep hitting the boards, keep hitting the boards, run these [TC] big guys," Houston III said. "... I'm really pleased with what he did."

Williams scored four points and grabbed nine rebounds for West Potomac.

TC committed 18 turnovers. With the graduation of point guard Daquan Kerman, a three-year varsity starter, King is still searching for a primary ball-handler.

"Going into the season, we knew that we'd have to have some people handle the ball by committee," King said. "Right now, as we go through the season — unfortunately this is a district game — we're trying

to figure out who is going to be our point guard."

Senior guard Javon Wilson and Clarke each scored eight points for TC. Mert Ozkaynak and Malik Carney each scored seven points and Landon Moss added six.

West Potomac improved to 2-2, including a 97-92 double-overtime victory at Herndon on Nov. 30. The Wolverines lost to Mount Vernon, 63-59, on Nov. 27 and Chantilly, 60-41, on Dec. 7.

"We're a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde team right now," Houston III said. "We had a great win against Herndon, we lost to Mount Vernon [in a] crazy [fashion] and then we lost to Chantilly. We're just trying to find ourselves right now, trying to figure out, which [we are]: Jekyll or Hyde."

The Wolverines will host Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14.

"It brings us a lot of confidence," Trice said of the win against TC, "and it definitely shows us what level we can play at."

TC opened the season with a 92-89 triple-overtime victory at Edison on Dec. 7 and lost to Good Counsel, 66-43, the following night. The Titans will host Wakefield at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

TC's Bunduka Wins 126-Pound Title at NOVA Classic

After a blow to the right ear left him hearing a ringing sound, T.C. Williams wrestler Ibrahim Bunduka used a timeout to compose himself. The senior trailed St. Stephen's & St. Agnes grappler Shaw Whitley, 4-3, in the third period of the 126-pound title match at the 2012 FinalAutoPrice.Com NOVA Classic and needed to make something happen.

"Coach [Chris Marshall] always told us never give up when you're in a close match," Bunduka said afterward. "I was just going through my head when we were doing drills where you have 30 seconds left [and] you've got to score quick ..."

Bunduka tied the score with an escape,

took the lead with a takedown and held on for an 8-5 decision and the 126-pound tournament championship on Dec. 8 at Fairfax High School.

"That's a testament to how hard his work has been up into this season and the last two years," Marshall said. "He's got a [full] gas tank and he doesn't know when to quit."

Bunduka's effort helped the T.C. Williams wrestling team finish ninth out of 32 teams with 111.5 points. Battlefield won the event with 194.5 points. Centreville and Fauquier tied for second with 180 points, followed by Paul VI (154.4), Lake Braddock (151.5), Mount Vernon (135), Annandale (131.5)

and McLean (115.5).

Bishop Ireton (52) finished 25th and St. Stephen's (37) finished 30th.

TC's Shiruna Ntenda placed third in the 160-pound bracket, pinning Battlefield's Chase Richardson. Kareem Morris finished sixth in the 170-pound division. Nassim El Gourchal finished sixth in the 220-pound class. Ireton's Jimmy Keegan took fourth in the heavyweight bracket. Nick Womach finished eighth in the 138-pound division.

T.C. Williams senior Ibrahim Bunduka acknowledges the crowd after winning the 126-pound title at the NOVA Classic.

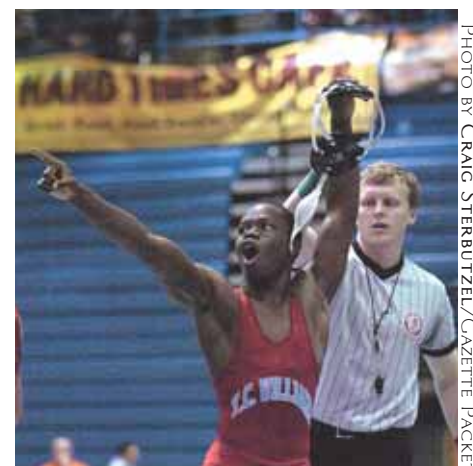


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

PEOPLE

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CAZETTE PACKET



Director of Alexandria Center for Children & Families Deborah Warren poses with members of her staff: Debbie Evans, Shannon McGregor and Claire Dunn.

Women, Art and Shopping

Pottery, handcrafted clothing, scarves, hats, jewelry, purses were just a few of items on display and for sale at the annual Alexandria Commission for Women and the Friends of the Commission annual holiday gift market. Proceeds from the market benefit the Alexandria Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs. Toys were also collected for clients of the Alexandria Battered Women's Shelter.



Emily McCarthy models one of the hats from her Penny & Paul line.



Jessica McLaughlin, Dana Woods and Laura Mandala



Deb Jacobs wears and displays a selection of her one-of-a-kind necklaces.



Tessa Read offers holiday stocking and festive aprons for sale.



Jewelry designer Cathy Harl with a selection of her work.

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Ceremony At The Alexandria City Chamber

FROM PAGE 4

ing that the members of the General R.E. Lee Camp #726 originally dedicated this portrait, so this time the R.E. Lee Camp provided a descriptive plaque beside the portrait.

The portrait shows Robert E. Lee attired in a butternut uniform with three stars on his collar as would reflect a Confederate general. George Bagby was only 7 years old when the Civil War/War Between the States ended, but he directed his artistic pursuits to generally portraying historical paintings of the "Lost Cause" and portraits of many of the Confederate leaders in that war.

Guests and speakers at the re-dedication ceremony were Vern McHargue, past president of the General R.E. Lee Camp #726, SCV, and Frank H. Fannon IV, councilman for the City of Alexandria.

McHargue paid tribute to the moral character of Robert E. Lee, reciting one of the principles that Lee passed down in his own words: "Do your duties in all things. You can not do more, you should never wish to do less." McHargue deplored the unethical behaviors and decline of this country over the course of 150 years, maintaining that Robert E. Lee's character "inspired devotion and emulation to his soldiers." Furthermore, after the war, R.E. Lee encouraged the South's citizens to accept the situation and



PHOTO BY NANCY J. OLDS

From left: 1st Lt. Commander Harry F. Day of the General R.E. Lee Camp #726, SCV; Commander and Webmaster Jim Becker of the General R.E. Lee Camp #726, SCV; Councilman Frank H. Fannon IV, and 2nd Lt. Commander, Adjutant and Treasurer Joseph Judson "J.J." Smith III of the General R.E. Lee Camp #726, SCV.

urged for reconciliation. True to his words, Robert E. Lee took the Amnesty Oath on Oct. 2, 1865 in Rockbridge County, Va. Unfortunately, this document did not provide

a pardon for Lee or restored his citizenship. Secretary of State William Seward had handed over Lee's application for amnesty to a friend as a souvenir. The lost document

was discovered by an archivist in the National Archives in 1970. In 1975, President Gerald Ford granted Robert E. Lee posthumous reinstatement as a citizen of the United States of America.

McHargue passed around a color copy of the Office of the Notary Public, Rockbridge County, Virginia Amnesty Oath that Lee had signed.

Fannon, the great grandson of an Irish immigrant and a fifth generation resident of Alexandria, drew another picture of life during the Civil War for Irish immigrants who left poverty and starvation behind in Ireland only to arrive in America, either through northern or southern ports, to be inadvertently swept up into the Civil War by conscription, or compulsory enlistment. Sometimes these immigrants were paid to take another enlistee's place.

Concurrently with the operations of the Civil War, Fannon emphasized how transportation had opened up in the nation with the first gold railroad spike driven in the 1860s, changing the course of destiny for this country. General Robert E. Lee, after the war, foresaw that this nation would need to recover from war and restore peace to all. Moreover, Robert E. Lee refused to consider leaving Virginia, the state of his birth. "I cannot desert my native state in the hour of her adversity. I must abide her fortune and share her fate," said Robert E. Lee.



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Enviably Yard

Three level colonial with four bedrooms and three and a half baths. Large yard. Fenced backyard has brick patio great for entertaining. Hardwood floors throughout. Eat-in kitchen with granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, and tile flooring. Even a double oven! Ideal location close to 395.

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Alexandria \$1,050,000



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Elegant brick Colonial is both grand and comfortable throughout with a gourmet kitchen and family room, large formal living room and dining room, an inviting sunroom, three-car garage. Loaded with lots of light and lovely architectural details!

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Alexandria/Liberty Row \$565,000



Gracious Living

There's attention to every detail in this sophisticated, "uptown" condo in sought-after Liberty Row. Elegant moldings, gleaming wood floors, cherry cabinets, granite kitchen. Luxurious bath with tub and oversized shower. Private patio with gorgeous columns. Garage parking. Close to GW Parkway and the Potomac River.

Joan Shannon
703.507.8655
www.mceneaney.com
MLS# AX7975498



Alexandria \$998,000



Delightful Home - Great Location

Welcoming in every way with its gorgeous foyer, handsome moldings, tall ceilings and wonderful spaces to dwell in and enjoy. There is room for all with five good-sized bedrooms upstairs, including an elegant master suite, a huge finished walk-out basement and a three-car garage. Owner access to private boat launch and picnic area on Little Hunting Creek!

Robin Arnold
703.966.5457
www.robinarnoldsells.com
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Old Town Alexandria \$799,950

Circa 1870



Completely renovated with off-street parking and a short walk to Metro. Bright, open floorplan with cherry hardwoods, two gas fireplaces, spacious brand new kitchen with granite counters and stainless appliances. Family room off kitchen with leading to the rear, fenced, paved garden. Four bedrooms up and a balcony overlooking the rear patio garden, two full baths.

Colleen Coopersmith & Margaret Benghauser
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Alexandria \$749,000



Elegant Rambler in Marlan Forest

A premier neighborhood setting for this mid-century four-bedroom, three-bath home. Just off the GW Parkway South of Alexandria, minutes from Old Town and DC. Large level tree-scaped back yard. Eat-in kitchen with white cabinets and appliances - many under factory warranty. Two masonry fireplaces in living room and lower level family room.

Wayne Holland
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Alexandria South/Wilton Woods \$789,000



Stunning Home

This beautiful, Crane-built, brick Cape Cod with attached garage has been wonderfully updated. Gorgeous wood floors on all three finished levels. Fabulous sun room. Incredible attention to detail throughout with crown molding, chair rail, built-ins and recessed lighting. Convenient location close to Metro, 495, Old Town, PTO, DCA, and the Pentagon.

Chris Hayes
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www.homesbyhayes.com
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Alexandria/Old Town Greens \$466,900

Commuter's Dream



Stunning, brick, townhouse-style condo in the sought-after Old Town Greens community. This two-level home offers an open floor plan, rich hardwood floors, marble surround fireplace, granite countertops, covered deck, and two master suites, each with en-suite bath. One stop light from DC and steps to National Airport and Historic Old Town.

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