



Veterans were selected to place a wreath honoring their branch of the military at the Dec. 15 ceremony at Alexandria National Cemetery.

Wreath Laying at Alexandria National Cemetery



Retired Sgt. Bill Jones, USMC, serves as the emcee at the wreath laying. He praised members of Cub Scout Pack 641 who raised \$1,500 to pay for 100 wreaths.



Retired Sgt. Bill Jones, USMC, tells the audience about how Tabitha Randazzo rescued the cemetery's flag from further damage during Hurricane Sandy, prompted by learning about civic duty in Girl Scouts. The family took the flag home, cleaned it, and returned it. Tabitha was honored with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A New Jefferson-Houston Arising

City leaders approve plan to demolish 1970 building to construct new \$45 million facility.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The name "Jefferson-Houston" presents a paradox — a hyphenated marriage of slave-owner Thomas Jefferson and civil-rights leader Charles Houston. For leaders of Alexandria City Public Schools, it presents a predicament — a school where test scores are so low state education officials have forced oversight from outside the public school system.

Now city leaders are ready to take a drastic step. Last weekend, members of the Alexandria City

SEE JEFFERSON-HOUSTON, PAGE 8

ALEXANDRIA DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING



The 130,000-square-foot facility is designed to attain LEED silver status for environmental sustainability.

Union of Pedestrians

Waterfront plan prompts changes to Union Street.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The first signs of change from the waterfront plan are about to sweep through Old Town, adding features city officials believe will make the thoroughfare more friendly to pedestrians who will walk along the redeveloped properties. Parking restrictions will create more room for people to maneuver without dodging parked cars. Turning restrictions will prevent drivers from making

left turns at Union and King streets. And a long-awaited pilot project will close the unit block of King Street to traffic, creating a pedestrian plaza.

"This will be wildly popular," said Vice Mayor Kerry Donley, referring to the pedestrian plaza. "Once you make this change, it will no longer be a pilot. You'll never be able to go back."

Perhaps the most drastic change will come a few years from now, when city leaders will transform Union Street into a "shared street." Council members approved the concept last weekend, although a formal proposal will need to be presented to the Planning Commission and City Council before it

SEE UNION, PAGE 3

A Loaded Debate

Mass shooting in Connecticut to spotlight gun legislation in upcoming session.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Last week's mass shooting at an elementary school in Connecticut has already prompted a debate about gun control in Virginia, where the upcoming session of the General Assembly is likely to feature a number of bills on both sides of the issue.

Advocates for gun control will seek to force individuals to report stolen firearms within 24 hours of the theft and limit the number of bullets allowed in ammunition clips. Advocates for wider availability of guns are likely to push to allow concealed weapons on college campuses and in airports.

"Democrats have felt a lot more emboldened to talk about limiting access to certain kinds of guns and certain kinds of ammunition," said Kyle Kondick, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "It does seem like the pro-gun rights people have not been as vocal as the anti-gun people, at least not yet."

SEE LEGISLATION, PAGE 20

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Classified Public Space

Although the original design for the new town square at Potomac Yard called for a 400-room hotel, members of the Alexandria City Council ditched that plan last week in favor of a new plan. Now the communal gathering place will be adjacent to the Institute for Defense Analysis, a nonprofit organization specializing in national security.

What will happen inside the new building? Don't ask. Much of it is classified.

The new facility is expected to serve as a catalyst for construction of the new town center because it will face the central park and become an anchor at the intersection of East Glebe Road and Main Line Boulevard. The twin towers will have 370,000 square feet of office space and 580 parking spaces, including three levels of above-ground parking. Some have criticized the use of above-ground parking at a public square, which is intended to serve as a transition between the shopping center to the north and the residential neighborhood to the south.

"It's dead space," said **Poul Hertel**, co-chairman of the Federation of Civic Associations. "The idea of creating a sense of place should not be forgotten."

The western building is designed with a horizontal emphasis while the eastern building is more vertical. Each building will have its own entry and lobby off of East Glebe Road, which would allow IDA to lease the east tower if the organization doesn't need all of the planned square footage. One potential problem that has yet to be resolved is gaining access to the shopping center, which is currently leased to Target. So far, attempts to gain access have not been granted.

"Let the word go forth," proclaimed Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley**. "Access is going to be granted, one way or another."

YouTube Sensation

Seasons may come and go. But YouTube videos will last forever.

That's the difficult lesson learned recently by Mayor **Bill Euille**, who has become something of a YouTube sensation. One video posted to the popular video-sharing site features the mayor dancing with schoolchildren at Jefferson-Houston School. When several students appeared before members of the City Council to support demolishing the school to construct a new one, the mayor tried to strike a deal.

"I'll support this," he said, "if you take down that video of me dancing with you."

But it takes two to Tango, and the kids failed to embrace the quid pro quo.

Iridescent Phantom

Parker Gray resident **Dino Drudi** has a way with words. When speaking before the Planning Commission recently, he criticized the transportation master plan for the new Jefferson-Houston School as unworkable. He was particularly disparaging of part of the document he said suggested that schoolchildren would bicycle in neatly aligned rows on their way to school in the morning.

"What is hope but an iridescent phantom that appears at night and disappears at dawn?" Drudi asked planning commissioners, who seemed baffled by the comment.

As it turned out, Drudi later acknowledged, he was quoting from one of his favorite operas, Giacomo Puccini opera "Turandot."

Hot Cruisers

Ever wish you could drive around in one of those fancy Dodge Chargers used by the Alexandria Police Department. Apparently some people do.

Last week, the police had two cruisers stolen on two consecutive nights. The first was stolen between Thursday night and Friday morning. It was later discovered in Prince George's County. The second was lifted either Friday night or Saturday morning, about three miles east of where the first car was stolen. That one was discovered in northeast Washington.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS

PILOT PEDESTRIAN SPACE



ALEXANDRIA DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

After a failed experiment with a pedestrian plaza on the 100 block of King Street, city leaders are ready to move forward with a new pilot project to create a pedestrian plaza on the unit block of King.

Union of Pedestrians

FROM PAGE 1

can move forward. The philosophy has been used in Europe for decades, originally designed as a way to create a greater sense of uncertainty for drivers and force them to reduce their speeds. Here in Alexandria, the redesigned portion of Union would have both the street and the sidewalk flush from building to building — doing away with curbs altogether from Cameron to Prince streets.

"This has been controversial and unpopular in the Netherlands," said Poul Hertel, co-chairman of the Federation of Civic Associations. "It's proven to be totally unsafe for pedestrians."

CREATING A PEDESTRIAN

plaza on the unit block of King Street has been a topic of conversation for years, and several council members said they were eager for the pilot project to begin. A similar pilot project was launched back in 2006 that transformed the 100 block of King Street into a pedestrian plaza. For 12 summer weekends, automobile were excluded in favor of flowers, benches and expanded outdoor dining. But retailers reported a drop in sales, and several complained that the pilot project lacked adequate planning and decorative landscaping.

"It will come back," Mayor Bill Euille predicted at the time. "When it comes back, it will come back with a lot of fanfare, and it will be done the right way."

Bicyclists will now have a designated space to make left turns onto Pendleton Street from the Mount Vernon Trail. A designated walking corridor will be created on

the east side of Union Street between Oronoco and Pendleton streets. New pavement markings will be added at the intersection of Union and Queen streets so bicyclists and motorists understand how to transition between bike lanes and shared lanes. Raised crosswalks will be added at the Wilkes Street tunnel and at the intersection of Union and Gibbon streets.

"We live in a changing world," said Jody Manor, chairman of the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association. "Cars are becoming less dominant."

SEVERAL SPEAKERS criticized the proposals during the public hearing, describing the recommendations as diverting attention away from problems

SEE UNION, PAGE 20



ALEXANDRIA DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

The shared street concept is that both the street and the sidewalk are flush from building face to building face from Cameron to Prince streets.

News

Two-minute warning



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PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Holy Cow owners "Mango" Mike Anderson, Donna Anderson and Bill Blackburn present ACT Executive Director John Porter with a check for \$1,000 Nov. 27 on behalf of the Del Ray gourmet burger restaurant. The restaurant donates 25 cents for every burger sold to an Alexandria charity of the customer's choice.

Bovine Intervention

Del Ray's Holy Cow, ACT partner for local charities.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

With checkbook in hand, Bill Blackburn sat down Nov. 27 to write the first check payable to ACT for Alexandria as part of a partnership between the community foundation and the recently opened Holy Cow gourmet burger restaurant in Del Ray.

"Well, it's good news for the people of Alexandria and bad news for us," Blackburn joked as he double checked the tally of burgers sold during the first two weeks of operation. "Looks like we sold 3,961 burgers. At 25 cents each, that makes \$990.25 for ACT charities."

Officially called "Holy Cow, Del Ray's Gourmet Burger Joint," the restaurant represents the latest venture for co-owners Blackburn and "Mango" Mike Anderson following last year's launch of Pork Barrel BBQ on Mount Vernon Avenue.

"One quarter itself doesn't make a difference but they add up," Anderson said. "People are in line fighting over what charity to donate to."

The Holy Cow menu features 10 signature gourmet burgers, regular and sweet potato fries, milkshakes and sodas. Veggie burgers and turkey burgers are also available.

"What makes us stand out from other burger joints are the gourmet toppings and unique ingredients," said chef Beth Henrickson, a former manager at

Evening Star Café. "We serve only 100 percent natural Angus beef and tried seven or eight different blends to get the perfect patty."

In addition to Henrickson's creations, customers are able to build their own burger with a range of choices for toppings and buns. When placing their order, customers then designate one of more than 75 local charities listed on the back of the menu to receive 25 cents for each burger sold.

"This is a wonderful way for parents to get kids involved in philanthropy," said ACT Executive Director John Porter, who was on hand to receive the check. "Kids learn about local charities when they decide who they want to give to each week."

Porter stressed that a charity need not be under the ACT umbrella to participate in the partnership.

"ACT will administer the distribution of funds but any Alexandria nonprofit is eligible and can contact me to see about being included on the list," Porter said.

For Anderson, who Henrickson credits with the idea behind the popular marshmallow dipping sauce that is served with the sweet potato fries, Holy Cow is more than just another restaurant.

"It's a worn out phrase 'giving back to the community,'" Anderson said. "It's almost a cliché. For us, this is more like paying it forward."

To contact Porter, call 703-739-7778 or email John.Porter@actforalexandria.org. www.holycowdelray.com.



Co-owner Bill Blackburn writes his first check to ACT representing donations made for each burger sold during the first two weeks of operations for Holy Cow on Mount Vernon Ave.



Holy Cow chef Beth Henrickson, right, reviews an order with Oscar Posas at the recently opened gourmet burger restaurant in Del Ray.

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THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

The Way We Were

A look back at 2012.

Dominated by a hard-fought City Council race and the ongoing battle over the waterfront, Alexandria citizens had no shortage of topics to debate over the last year. But a steady stream of proms and parades along with the generosity of residents during the derecho or Hurricane Sandy also provides a look back in pictures at the way we were in 2012.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET
EXCEPT AS NOTED



The February death of EMS Officer Joshua Weissman stunned the city.



The Neighborhood Pharmacy and the 2012 Heart of Del Ray award.



Violinist Midori performed with students from T.C. Williams High School in March.



American Legion Post 24's Steve Flamm at Alexandria National Cemetery on Memorial Day.



Pat Troy turns over Ireland's Own to longtime employee Scott Holdt.



Mike Oliver celebrates St. Patrick's Day.



Town Crier Benjamin Fiore-Walker at the George Washington Birthday parade.



Commander Mondre' Kornegay embraces Harry Covert upon his retirement from the Sheriff's department.



Opening of the Miracle Field of Alexandria.



A sidewalk on Cameron Mills Road shifts after a tree is uprooted in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.



Susannah and Hadley Brundt visit the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill pumpkin patch.



Sam and James visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus dressed during the Union Street Christmas in July celebration.



Roxana Hernandez's young son plays at the annual Arlandria Chirilagua festival.



YoKid organizer and instructor Kelsey Mitchell leads Annabelle Cape and other participants in October's YoKids Challenge at Mount Vernon Community Center.

PEOPLE



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior Samantha Williams, second from left, is joined by her mother Judy Fentress-Williams, T.C. principal Suzanne Maxey and T.C. administrator Patty Moran after being honored Dec. 11 by the Alexandria Rotary Club for her community service.

Titanic Success

T.C. teacher, student honored for community service.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Titan pride of T.C. Williams High School filled the Dec. 11 meeting of the Alexandria Rotary Club as both a T.C. teacher and student were honored by the organization for their community service. Samantha Williams, known as Sam to her friends, was presented with the student community service award for December while Viridiana Magee was recognized for her contributions as an educator.

As a senior at TC, Sam serves as a tutor in the Reach and Rise for Excellence Program and has been a longtime participant in the school's choral program. She attends Alfred Street Baptist Church where she is a member of the choir and is active in community service efforts on behalf of her church. In addition to service and singing,

Sam maintains an A average with four AP classes and continues to rank at the top of her class.

Magee, a four-year Spanish teacher in the T.C. foreign language department, serves as the liaison for the Caring Adult in the Building mentoring program and as co-sponsor for the Latino Youth for Excellence club. Additionally, she volunteers her time to teach adult computer literacy classes through the Tenants and Workers United organization and recently completed a Master's Degree in Educational Transformation from George Mason University.

"Thank you on behalf of the Alexandria Rotary Club for all you do to help T.C. Williams High School and their students," said Saint Stephen's and St. Agnes Head of School Joan Holden in presenting the award. "Our whole community benefits from your dedication to your students."



T.C. Williams teacher Viridiana Magee, center, is congratulated on being presented the Community Service Award by the Alexandria Rotary Club.

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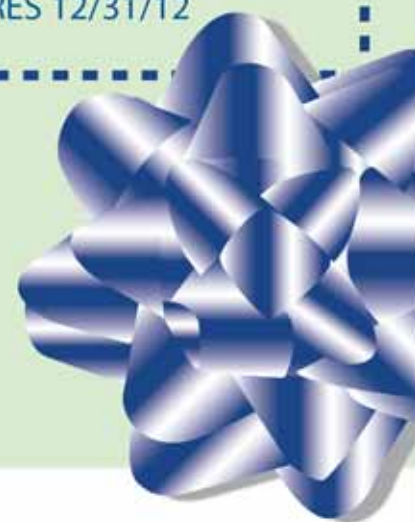
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Several neighbors raised concerns about moving the basketball court behind the Durant Center, which they say may create an invitation to crime because it's not visible from the street.

A New Jefferson-Houston

FROM PAGE 1

Council approved a plan to demolish the 1970 building and construct a \$45 million new facility expected to open in August 2014. Although the school currently has about 400 students today, the 130,000-square-foot school is designed to accommodate 800 students. Because the school system owns the open space to the west of the existing facility, students can continue to attend classes in the existing building while the new school is constructed. School leaders say the move will provide a state-of-the-art facility that will help turn around the failing school.

"I think we should rename the school," said Bill Campbell, a Parker Gray resident who was recently elected to the School Board. "Jefferson-Houston has too much baggage. Perhaps we could honor former School Board member Ferdinand Day or the original landowner of the site."

BACK IN 2009, school officials conducted an assessment of its buildings. That assessment determined maintenance at Jefferson-Houston was anticipated to cost about \$12.7 million in the next two decades. Instead of investing money in the building, members of the Alexandria School Board determined a new facility was needed. Enrollment projections show a steady stream of new students coming into Alexandria public schools, prompting school officials to build in capacity for twice as many students that currently attend Jefferson-Houston, which serves children from pre-Kindergrarten to eighth grade. Several speakers criticized the design of the facility as too large considering the needs of the school system, especially with plans to construct a new elementary school in Potomac

Yard.

"Most parents move out rather than have their kids attend the school," said Leslie Zupan, president of the Old Town West Civic Association. "How are you going to fill this school?"

The L-shaped building is oriented along North West Street and framed by a centrally located athletic field along Cameron Street. It will include a synthetic turf field, new play areas, a gymnasium and a white box theater — all of which will be available to the community. The building will be designed to attain a LEED silver rating for environmental sustainability. The design was criticized by some neighbors as unsafe because it moves basketball court and playground behind the Durant Center, which some say could create problems because those areas would no longer be visible from the street.

"It's not safe," said Bea Porter, a neighborhood resident whose grandchild attends the school. "The move would encourage a crime pocket as it's not visible from the street."

SCHOOLS HAVE been located on the property for almost 100 years. The old Alexandria High School was constructed in 1915 on Cameron Street at the visual terminus of North Peyton Street. Then, in 1922, the Jefferson School was constructed on North West Street at the terminus of Queen Street. Both of these buildings were demolished in 1970 to construct Jefferson-Houston Elementary School, a design that incorporated ideas that were popular at the time about "open classrooms" and "pod design." "The current school has a questionable design," said School Board member Blanche Maness. "It has strange looking classrooms, low ceilings and very few windows."



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/GAZETTE PACKET

Joseph Viar Jr. and Bonnie Christ check out the sign of the Inova Alexandria Hospital Cancer Center named in their honor following a dedication ceremony Dec. 12.

Inova Dedicates Cancer Center

Facility named for supporters Joseph Viar Jr. and Bonnie Christ.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Inova Alexandria Hospital held a dedication ceremony Dec. 12 to officially name its cancer center in honor of longtime Alexandria residents Joseph Viar Jr. and Bonnie Christ in recognition of a \$1.25 million Legacy of Life gift through Viar's estate.

"Joe has been a real visionary among supporters for the hospital," said Inova Alexandria CEO Christine Candio. "He has been an exemplary leader of the Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation board and his generous gift kicked off our \$10 million Legacy of Life Campaign."

Following Viar's announcement earlier this year of the donation through his estate to the hospital's cancer center, the dedication was planned to coin-

cide with the hospital's 140th anniversary.

"At the age of 71, my children are grown and my grandchildren are thriving," said Viar when announcing his gift. "The journey to today leads me to think about the kind of legacy I want to leave behind. After much thought, it came to me that I want to give a future gift to the hospital."

The Joseph Viar Jr. and Bonnie Christ Cancer Center provides a full range of cancer care, including surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy, as well as dietary, emotional and support services to more than 500 patients each year.

Additionally, the center is the first in Northern Virginia to offer Trilogy, a patented linear accelerator that treats early cancer conditions, as well as the first in the region to offer prostate seed implants to treat prostate cancer.

"Estate giving is an essential part of our fundraising and allows us to anticipate long-term funding potential," Candio said. "We are so pleased

that we have people like Joe in our community who support the hospital in such a way."

For more information about the Legacy of Life Campaign, contact Mary Myers at 703-504-7700.

"Joe has been a real visionary among supporters for the hospital."

— Inova Alexandria CEO Christine Candio



Mayor Bill Euille, state Sen. George Barker (D-39), Inova Alexandria CEO Christine Candio, Joseph Viar Jr., Bonnie Christ and state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) at the dedication of the Inova Alexandria Cancer Center.

BUSINESS

Collum's Future

Charlie Collum, left, celebrates his recent move to John Marshall Bank with Lonnie Rich, Joe Guiffre and John Marshall president Bill Ridenour at a Nov. 15 reception in his honor at Belle Haven Country Club. The former Burke and Herbert chairman and CEO has more than 50 years of banking experience in the Alexandria community. "Even at my age, I'm looking forward to the future," Collum joked. Visit www.johnmarshallbank.com.



By JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

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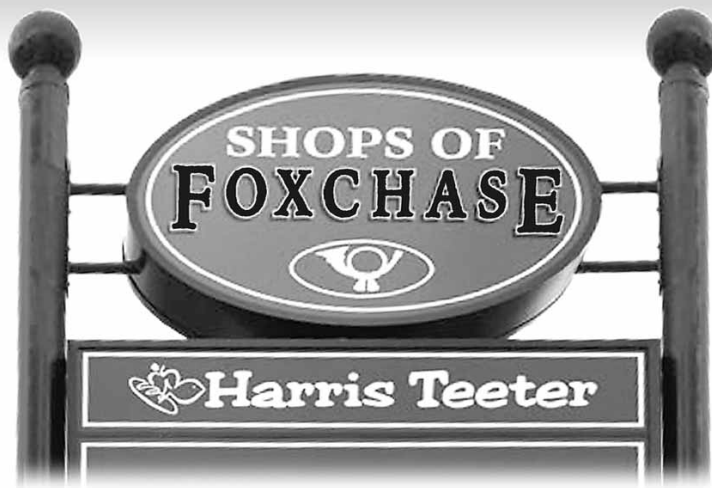
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*Cost for self-pay Fast Track Anytime flu shot is \$27.
**Available while supplies last. Flu shot is for patients who are not allergic to eggs, do not wish to see a physician and are at least 4 years old.
prale110112flu

Reminder: Shop Locally, Give Locally

Supporting the community.

With less than a week before Christmas, many people have not completed their shopping, and so we remind you of the importance of spending a significant portion of your shopping budget locally. At this point in the season, the high cost of expedited shipping might also serve as an incentive to shop in locally owned stores.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambiance available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them.

A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, continue to face tough challenges. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

With less than two weeks to go before the end of the charitable giving year, we also remind you of the critical local needs that are filled by a variety of local nonprofit organiza-

Alexandria: Where to Give Locally

ALIVE! 703-837-9300 www.alive-inc.org, Emergency Food Assistance, Emergency Financial Assistance, Shelter, Year-Round Preschool, Furniture and Housewares

Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, 703-237-0866, www.lcnv.org, Teaches adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and understanding English. Offers one-to-one tutoring programs for adult learners as well as beginning-level ESOL and Family Learning adult programs.

Senior Services of Alexandria, 703-836-4414, www.seniorservicesalex.org, Support services for elders enabling them to age with dignity

Tahirih Justice Center, 703-575-0070, www.tahirih.org, Legal Services, Public Policy Advocacy, and Education for Immigrant Women and Girls

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 703-746-4774, www.alexandrianimals.org, Pet adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education and community service and outreach

Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, 703-820-9001, www.scanva.org, Parent Education, Public Education-re: child abuse and Court Advocacy for Abused and Neglected Children

Rebuilding Together Alexandria, 703-836-1021, www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org, Home repair and maintenance for vulnerable veterans, elderly, disabled and families with children

ACT for Alexandria, 703-739-7778, www.actforalexandria.org, Nonprofit and Donor Services

Alexandria Community Services Board, www.alexandriava.gov/mhmrsa, Crisis Intervention Services, Elderly Needs, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

tions. With suggestions from readers, we have updated our lists. We welcome suggestions as we continuously update our local lists of com-

Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, 703-525-7177, www.aachhomeless.org

Carpenter's Shelter, 703 548-7500, www.carpentersshelter.org, Homeless Services and Programs including Education and Case Management

The Campagna Center, 703-549-0111, www.campagnacenter.org

Center for Alexandria's Children, 703-838-4381, www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org, Child Abuse & Neglect and Parent Support

Child and Family Network Centers, 703-836- 0214, www.cfnc-online.org

Community Lodgings, Inc, 703-549-4407

Transitional and Affordable Housing, Youth Education, Adult Education, Bilingual Staff Assistance

Computer C.O.R.E. 703-931-7346, www.computercore.org, Adult Education, Computer Training and Career Development, with classes in Alexandria, Fairfax, Herndon and Annadale

Hopkins House, 703-549-8072, www.hopkinshouse.org, Preschool academy, family budgeting and literacy, family education and youth summer enrichment camp, Early Childhood Learning Institute

Northern Virginia Family Services, 703-385-3267, www.nvfs.org, Employment and Job Training, Healthcare, Housing, Mental Health, Foster Care and Healthy Families(home visitations to new parents)

Volunteer Alexandria, 703-836-2176, <http://volunteeralexandria.org>, Volunteer Recruitment and Placement, Court-Referred Community Service Placement, Community Awareness Events, and Volunteer Management Training

For more, see <http://www.achsova.org>.

munity organizations. You can find a complete list on our website, www.connectionnewspapers.com

Last News Issue of 2012

This is the last regular edition of the Connection for 2012, and it includes the last of our 2012 series on immigration. Next week, delivered shortly after Christmas, is the

Children's Connection, devoted to the artwork and writing of area students.

— **Mary Kimm**,
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

When To Be Representative or Trustee?

Some lessons for serving and governing.

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

By LONNIE RICH

City Council members: What are you, representatives of the people or trustees for the people?

Answer: You are both, but not at the same time; and only you can figure out the time to be one or the other.

As a representative, your duty is to be responsive to what the majority would like for you to do. This is what an election more or less does is to choose on the basis of the most votes. What the people who voted for you want you to do is extremely important. What the majority thinks is always important, and most of the time your discern-



ment of the majority view will be determinative for you.

But what about those times when the majority view is questionable, like when passions are inflamed or views are short-sighted or uninformed, or when they are just plain morally

wrong. There are lots of examples of this — integration, busing, Vietnam war, gay rights, flag burning.

As a trustee, your duty is to do what is right in the highest moral and legal sense, regardless of what the majority believes in the moment. You are expected to say no to the majority and yes to the minority.

You will have the choice to be a representative or a trustee in almost every vote. You have to figure out the balance. I suggest that most of the time you will need to discern the majority view and go with it. You will be acting as a

representative of the people. However, sometimes, you will need to act for the people as their trustee.

And who are the majority and minority? It can be sliced and diced in many ways. It may be based on party, race, sex, neighborhood, business/residential, some particular issue or some other factor. In any given case, it may be hard to decide who is the majority and who is the minority. Once you have that figured out, you will still be left with question of representative or trustee.

Don't be tempted to be a representative all the time in an effort to ensure your re-election. It will only make you look like a weather vane, and a small one at that. On the other hand, do not be a trustee too often, because you will look like an arrogant autocrat; and you can't be right all the time; and the majority cannot be wrong all the time. As with most things, the answers lie in the balance. We elected you to figure this out.

Lonnie Rich served on the Alexandria City Council from 1991 to 2000. He is a law partner in Rich Rosenthal Brincefield Manitta Dzubin & Kroeger, LLP.

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Gazette Packet

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OPINION

From Learning ABC's ...

BY STACIA GLASS
MENTOR WITH CASA CHIRILAGUA

Meeting Paola has been a life changing experience. I began working with Paola in February 2011 and it started out as mainly teaching her the English language. We'd read stories and spend minutes on a page, even if it only had a sentence on it, because I would ask her to name each item shown on a page, the colors, and to count how many objects were in a picture, etc.

Paola caught on very quickly and her open, eager-to-learn attitude made it easy to talk with her and allow our relationship to grow. It didn't take long for me to find myself really looking forward to Tuesday evenings as the highlight of my week. I also began to see things and wish I could share them with Paola — anything from seeing an animal to shopping at Target made me think of her smiling face.

I remember the first activity we did together outside of tutoring was visiting a petting zoo, which was perfect because her favorite book to read with me was about a zoo and the animals there. From that time together, I really learned a lot about her life back in Honduras and I had something more to talk about with her parents as well, which helped me form a bond with them, too.

Since the afternoon at the petting zoo, Paola and I

have done many things together, like lunch outings, movies, swimming, and just playing with my cat (she is quite the animal lover). Also, I've read stories she has written about her parents, met and visited with her grandmother, and her dad even asked me if I would ever be interested in traveling to Honduras some day when they go to visit.

There's a line in the movie "The Blind Side," where friends of a mother (Sandra Bullock) make a comment about what a great thing she is doing for the boy she has adopted and how she is changing his life, and she responds, "No, he's changing mine."

Because of Paola, I can completely relate to that feeling and know exactly what she means — what a blessing this experience continues to be for me.

To contact Alexandria Mentoring Partnership, 703-746-4475



Stacia Glass, mentor, with 3rd grader Paola Reyes.



From left: Members of the Successful Aging in Alexandria Committee — Mary Lee Anderson, Kendall Hermsdorf, Angela Redfearn, Janet Barnett, Patsieann Misiti, Darrell Wesley, Margaret Orlando and Vanessa Greene.

Holiday Luncheon

Successful Aging in Alexandria hosted a festive holiday luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 13, for nearly 200 seniors at the First Baptist Church. The audience enjoyed holiday tunes, a meal, door prizes and a visit from Santa. Successful Aging in Alexandria includes representatives from the city's Department of Aging and Adult Services, the Department of Parks and Recreation, Alexandria's Fire Department and Senior Services of Alexandria.



From left: Participants in the Charles Houston Rec Center's "Krunch Bunch" — Mary Holmes, Patricia Mills and Lillian Harris.

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The builder also offers three other construction options to choose from, so you can have the waterfront home of your dreams.

5101 Burke Drive Alexandria, VA 22309

Spacious and Comfortable



Southern colonial with all the bells and whistles. 6+ BRs, 5.5 baths, 3 car garage, swimming pool, over 7000 sq ft on 1/2 acre. Wide plank HW on main/upper levels. Cooks kitchen w/ gas 6 burner stove, 3 ovens, 2 sinks and 2 dishwasher, pantry & breakfast bar. Main + Upper level master large play/bonus room. Custom millwork throughout ~\$1,295,000



1604 River Farm Drive Alexandria, VA 22308

Charm and History



Charming stone cottage in pristine condition on 1/2 acre. Fully Renovated and modernized while maintaining all the historical features. Featuring a new chef's kitchen, master retreat with stone bath. Wood and stone floors throughout. Three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, new 2 car cedar carport, lush landscaping and two flagstone patios. ~\$875,000



8316 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, VA 22308

European Luxury on the Water



Resort Living on a bluff overlooking the Potomac River from every room! Idyllic for relaxation with all the luxurious modern touches. Grand entertainment areas inside and outside w/ pool and cabana. Impressive bedroom suites, sun filled morning room and spa inspired lower level. 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths. \$2,950,000. Adjacent parcel of .34 acres also available for \$1,050,000.



9326 Old Mansion Drive Alexandria, VA 22309

May the joys of the season fill your home with many happy memories.

During the holiday season, my thoughts turn to those who make my business possible. A sincere thank you for trusting me with your real estate needs for the past 27 years.

photo by: nancy2010

Peaceful Hunting Creek Waterfront



New construction by Boucher Builders to be built along peaceful Hunting Creek with boating access to the Potomac River. Lot size of .35 acres with water frontage of over 98 feet. Several floor plans to choose from. Four bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, with two car garage. Upper level features study, loft space and wet bar leading out to deck which overlooks the water. Customize your dream home ~ starting at \$1,350,000



8728 Thomas Stockton Pkwy Alexandria, VA 22308

History and Luxury



Dating to the 1700's but converted to condos in 2008, the remodeled General Washington Club combines chic city living with historic character. This unbelievably unique residence presents colonial era materials coupled with elegant modern finishes on over 3,800 square feet on three levels. Three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and a 2 car detached garage. ~\$1,495,000



555 S. Washington St #101 Alexandria, VA 22314

Wellington Prestige



Prestigious street with custom colonials. Over 4600 finished square feet. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths on 3 fully finished levels sited on a half acre. Large kitchen opens to family room and spacious private deck. 2 car attached garage, brick on 3 sides, formal living and dining rooms + office. 3 fireplaces. Priced below assessment! ~\$1,099,000



7733 Lee Avenue Alexandria, VA 22308

Olde Belhaven Towne



Lovely sunlit brick townhome located across the street from the Belle Haven County Club. Four bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, large brick patio, fully fenced in front and back. Just steps to the Mount Vernon Bike Trail, 5 minutes to Old Town and only 20 minutes to DC ~\$585,000



6308 Barrister Place Alexandria, VA 22307



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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IN SUPPORT OF



During this holiday season, with so much to be grateful for, we ask you to join us in helping those less fortunate. In our efforts to make a long term difference, we have chosen two projects: We are collecting new and slightly used coats for infants and children in need up to eighteen years old. These may be dropped off until December 22nd.

We are also collecting toys for infants to age eighteen for the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders/Children's National Medical Center. The toys need to be new unless they are slightly used books or DVDs. Wrapping is not necessary. Toys can be dropped off at our office anytime until January 4th.

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8313 Mount Vernon Highway
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Area's best new home value just became even better! Brand new custom home now offering free finished lower level with full bath (\$35,000 VALUE!) for any offer accepted by 12/31/12. One time opportunity-contact us today! Special features include: high ceilings, open floor plan, gourmet kitchen with gas cooktop, custom cabinets and granite counters, family room with fireplace off eat-in kitchen, luxury baths, stunning master suite with private bath and huge walk in closet. Thermal windows & upgraded insulation. Side load two car garage. OPEN SUN 12/23, 1-4! GW Pky S; Sharp R on 235 N; house on Right.



5211 Polk Ave
\$1,065,000
Just Completed - Grand Opening!
Best of both worlds-new home size and amenities combined with "in-town convenience". Spacious new home with all the bells and whistles: high ceilings, gourmet kit, upgraded trim detail, gorgeous hardwood flrs, 4 large BR including luxury MBR. Fin basement, 4.5 baths and 2 oversize 2 car garage. Nothing like it in City for close to this price! OPEN SUN, 12/23, 1-4! From 395, Seminary Rd E; R-N. Pickett; R-Pegram; R-Polk.



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



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



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



8614 Camden St
\$525,000
Spacious Contemporary! One Level Living!
One of Stratford's largest contemporary models featuring striking open floor plan with 4-5 bedrooms & exceptionally large room sizes. Numerous updates include roof, thermal windows, water heater & electrical. Features include large deck with hot tub, private rear deck & covered parking.



2406 Wittington Blvd
\$599,000
Updated Charming Colonial!
The home you have been waiting for! Classic 3 level Colonial in prime Stratford Landing location. Features include: updated gourmet kitchen, 4 large BRs, "Andersen" thermal windows, updated baths, screened porch and side load 1 car garage. Walk to neighborhood pool! Unique opportunity!



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We would like to extend our gratitude for your patronage and continued support this past year and toward a successful partnership in 2013.

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to our Agents & our Community for your generosity toward the charities we supported this year! Your contributions of gifts, time, and donations (for food certificates) provided 53 "Giving Tree" children & their families a very

Merry Christmas, as well as those served by the "Toys for Tots" program.



"The Giving Tree"



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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

First Night 2012

Details

Dec. 31, 2012

Afternoon activities: 2-5 p.m.

Performances: 7-11:45 p.m.

Fireworks: midnight

Visit firstnightalexandria.org for the complete schedule of shows and activities and to buy admission badges. Plan your visit to Alexandria at www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

Admission is \$20. Additional fee of \$10 for reserved seating for Bonnie Rideout show. Children 12 and under and active military are free. See website for ticket sales locations or purchase online.

PHOTO BY VICTOR WOLANSKY PHOTOGRAPHY

A fireworks display over the Potomac River will ring in the New Year as the grand finale of First Night Alexandria, the New Year's Eve bash that takes over Old Town. The city's most musical evening features Argentinean tango, New Orleans funk, traditional Irish music, rocking rhythm and blues, classic country, acoustic folk, and jazz violin, to name just a few of the 116 acts found

at 21 indoor venues on Dec. 31, 2012. With these performances, plus children's entertainment, new afternoon activities and the all-ages, brain-teasing Fun Hunt, First Night Alexandria is the largest family-friendly and alcohol-free New Year's Eve event in the region. A First Night badge gives the wearer access to entertainment and activities at spots all around Old Town.

Afternoon Fun

Fourth Annual Fun Hunt. Clue sheets can be picked up at either the Torpedo Factory Art Center (105 N. Union St.), or Durant Arts Center (1605 Cameron St.). Completed clue sheets must be returned to the Durant Arts Center by 5:30 p.m. to be eligible for prizes. 2012 First Night Alexandria admission badge must be presented to pick up a clue sheet. 2-5:30 p.m.

Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. T.C. Williams Choir, 2-4 p.m.; The George Washington Middle School Chamber Orchestra, 4-6 p.m.

Jefferson Houston School, 1501 Cameron St. Moon bounce and

interactive games for children 12 and younger. 4-6 p.m.

King Street Garden Park at King Street and Diagonal Road. Pro Feed Pet Nutrition Centers in partnership with the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria presents Whisker Wonderland activities for children. There will also be treats and activities for dogs. 2-5 p.m.

Embassy Suites Hotel, 1600 Diagonal Road The T.C. Williams Chamber Orchestra. 2-4 p.m.

Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Storytelling by Miss Megan. 2, 3 and 4 p.m.

Olio Tasting Room, 1223 King St. Taste a variety of decadent treats made with Olio oils and vinegars, and take home a recipe. 1-4 p.m.

Sugar Cube, 1218 King St. The Sugar Cube will offer "Countdown to Midnight" free cookie decorating (one cookie per child). 2-5 p.m.

Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. The story of Galimoto will be read every hour on the hour, for those 3-8, and light refreshments. 2-5 p.m.

Morrison House Hotel, 116 S. Alfred St. T.C. Williams Jazz Quintet "Autumn Chill." 2-4 p.m.

The Paper Source, 118 King St. Free demonstrations including stamping, heat embossing, envelope making and kit making. 2-5 p.m.

Torpedo Factory Art Center, Art League Gallery and Alexandria Archeology Museum, 105 N. Union St. Art activities for all ages. 2-5 p.m.

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/CAZETTE PACKET



Guitarist Pete Farnum will lead blues and rockabilly group Rose Between Thorns in their farewell concert at the American Legion Post 24 ballroom, 400 Cameron St., during First Night Alexandria festivities. Together since 2006, members are retiring and moving away, making this their farewell show.

First Night 2012

Fireworks. First Night Alexandria's fireworks finale returns at a new location, with a display over the Potomac River at the foot of King Street at midnight. The finale will kick off at 10 p.m. with a performance by The Stairwells in the unit block of King Street where DJ Ray Casiano will spin music for a dance party in the street.

Food Trucks. New this year, the food truck craze descends on Alexandria. Popped Republic and the Red Hook Lobster Pound will be serving from noon until midnight on Union Street at the Torpedo Factory Art Center while DC Slices and Doug the Food Dude will serve from noon until 10 p.m. at the Jefferson Houston School.

Live Music and Entertainment. The main event begins at 7 p.m. with 116 live performances at 21 indoor

venues in Old Town. Stroll Alexandria's historic streets among venues, or hop on and off the free King Street Trolley to catch favorite acts. Museums, public buildings, and retail shops showcase regional and national talent. Dance the night away at the Torpedo Factory Art Center and the George Washington Masonic Memorial, or catch intimate concerts at venues including the Lyceum, Indus Imports and Imagine Artwear. New musical acts include: Bonnie Rideout makes a one-performance-only appearance. Patrons can purchase a special ticket that includes reserved seating (available with online purchase only) for her show. Janine Wilson Band will have listeners dancing to an assortment of roots rock. Nicole Belanus is a singer/songwriter with acoustic and folk-rock influences.

Family Fun. This family-friendly event is full of activities for children

throughout the night, including face painting, moon bounce, clowns doing balloon sculptures, and interactive games. Visit the Seaworthy Small Ships activity and sail model boats for free, or buy and build one. Join Hooray for Books' own Miss Megan for an evening of stories and songs. Visit the How-To Cowboy Joke Fest, sing-along and rhythm instruments with Mr. Don, and more. Alcohol-free venues keep it fun for all ages.

Headquarters & Free Trolley. This year's First Night headquarters is the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron Street, just blocks from King St-Old Town Metro Station. The Free King Street Trolley will operate until 1 a.m., and a dedicated trolley will make a continuous loop from the King St-Old Town Metro, to First Night headquarters at the Durant Arts Center, then to the George Washington Masonic Memorial and back to the Metro.

BY LOUISE KRAFT/CAZETTE PACKET



Anna, 3, takes the mic for her impression of a cow during an open mic session at the Jefferson Houston School during Alexandria's 2011 First Night celebration.

2011 First Night-goers Bryan, Rob, April and Austin Olesky set out together on their evening from the Jefferson Houston School.



BY LOUISE KRAFT/CAZETTE PACKET

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Christmas Music At St. Elmo's

Doris Justis, who is a regular at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub in Del Ray, will have a family-friendly Christmas Carol themed gig, from 8-10 p.m. on Dec. 22. Visit www.dorisjustis.com. She will also appear at St. Elmo's Jan. 25, Feb. 22, March 23, April 26, and May 25, 8-10 p.m.



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUCCLES/GAZETTE PACKET

Doris Justis, a part of the Metro D.C. folk scene for more than three decades, returns to St Elmo's on Dec. 22, to play Christmas songs, from 8-10 p.m. This will be a family friendly set and children are welcome.



St. Elmo's is ready for the holidays. Their trademark cups and clouds are surrounded by colorful lights and snowflakes.

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.

Tavern Toddlers. Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Mondays through the end of April 2013. Designed for walkers through 36 months and their caregivers. Tavern Toddlers features a weekly open playtime in Gadsby's historic ballroom. Gadsby's Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal St. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

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.stelmoscoffee.pub.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.



Art at the Center

Art at the Center's winter session will begin Jan. 7 and continue through March. Visit www.artatthecenter.org for full class descriptions and to register. Take advantage of early bird discounts through Dec. 21.

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.

Sweets with Santa. Sessions at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Occasionally Cake, 207 King St. Santa makes a visit while visitors can make an ornament and enjoy a sweets buffet of hot cocoa, truffles, mini-cupcakes and cookies. \$50/child. For reservations, 703-647-9638. Visit www.occasionallycake.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.

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 again 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. There will be holiday entertainment and activities inside the store for shoppers to enjoy on a variety of nights. 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 SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

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Make Plans for First Night Alexandria!

December 31

This annual New Year's Eve bash takes over Old Town with 100 performances at 20 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, and children's face painting and games. The afternoon's Fun Hunt is joined by all-new activities for families and dogs! Plus, a spectacular fireworks display on the river at midnight. Afternoon activities, 2 to 5 p.m. Performances, 7 to 11:45 p.m. Tickets \$15 in advance; \$20 after Dec. 17. Details on this and dozens of events at VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

Virginia Alexandria

VISITALEXANDRIA.VA.COM

703.746.3301

Visit us online for a complete calendar of events and sign up for our free Access Alexandria e-newsletter.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

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.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. See Robin and Linda Williams perform. \$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.

THURSDAY/JAN. 3

Ocean Orchestra & Washington Revels 'Singers A Celtic Solstice Celebration!' 7:30 p.m. \$25. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 4-5

Pat Mcgee Band Reunion. \$35. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-



Holiday treats at Occasionally Cake.

Sweets with Santa

On Sat., Dec. 22, Occasionally Cake of Old Town Alexandria is hosting Sweets with Santa. Visitors can make an ornament and enjoy a buffet of hot cocoa, truffles, mini-cupcakes and cookies. Cost is \$50 per child, and includes a Santa session, craft making and sweets buffet. Sessions are offered at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at 207 King Street in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-647-9638 to make a reservation or visit www.occasionallycake.com.

7500.

JAN. 4 THROUGH JAN. 27

Art Exhibit. "Shades of White" by Del Ray artisans at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. White isn't "just white." It has tones and hues ranging from blues to beiges to yellows and more. In addition, some white pigments chemically interact with others (e.g. lead-based v. sulfur-based) to create beautiful blues and grays. Curators: Betsy Mead and Hillary Mead. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more details.

JAN. 5 THROUGH JAN. 27

Art Exhibit. See "Between the Lines: Contemporary Drawing Now" at Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. An all-media exhibition focusing on current trends in drawing today. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

SUNDAY/JAN. 6

An Evening of Musical/Political Humor with Mark Russell. 7:30 p.m. \$49.50. Visit www.markrussell.net/. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Performance. Armonia Nova, an ensemble of historical instruments and voices, performs at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Donations welcome. Visit www.armonianova.org or 571-482-9052.

THROUGH JAN. 6

Net Worked: Horjus, Lister, and Pearson. Opening reception is on Sunday, Nov. 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. Free. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Christmas at Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon is decking the halls for Christmas at Mount Vernon, a special daytime program offered through January. Themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees), historical chocolate-making demonstrations, and 18th-century dancing will be offered. Visitors will

get a glimpse of how the Washingtons might have decorated and entertained during the holiday season. Tour the rarely-open third floor of the Mansion and learn how the Washingtons celebrated Christmas. During Christmas at Mount Vernon, visitors can meet Aladdin, the resident camel. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 7

Garden Sprouts: Let it Snow. 11 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Children ages 3-5 with adult can listen to the story of Snowflake Bentley and learn how snow is made. Walk the garden and then make a craft. \$5/child. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 182 3901.

THURSDAY/JAN. 10

Art Focus Group. 7:30-9 p.m. Color Mixing as Science and Art - Explore liquid watercolor for mixing colors and experimenting with application to a variety of

paintable materials. Classes are \$25 each or \$200 for the 10 class series. A school or group of teachers can share the registration for the full series. At 2804 Sherwood Hall Ln. Call 703-201-1250.

Music. Tommy Emmanuel will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

Opening Reception. 6-8 p.m. at Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. "Between the Lines: Contemporary Drawing Now" is an all-media exhibition focusing on current trends in drawing today. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

FRIDAY/JAN. 11

Opening Reception. 5-8 p.m. See work by local artists Pamela Underhill and Rusty Lynn at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. There will be dance and poetry by Tori Lane. Free. Visit www.Convergenceccf.net.

Growing Healthy Indoor Plants. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$10. Learn how soil, location and plant selection can fill a house with easy-care plants. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 183 3301.

JAN. 11 THROUGH FEB. 24

Art Exhibit. See work by local artists Pamela Underhill and Rusty Lynn at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Free. Visit www.Convergenceccf.net.

SATURDAY/JAN. 12

Garden Design: Session One. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Two instructors will present lectures on "What Kind of Garden Do You Want?" and "Garden Bones." \$35. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 182 3101.

Garden Sprouts: Gifts from the Gardens. 11 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Children ages 3-5 with adult

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 18

can learn how seeds, fruit and other natural materials can be made into ornaments. \$5. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 185 9501.

Family Fun: Snow Globe

Workshop. 2-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Make a snow globe in a jar with miniature figures and glittering snowflakes. \$6/person. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 182 3501.

SUNDAY/JAN. 13

Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. Francis Seeger will display "People" in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. 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.

Opening Reception. Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St., #312, showcases Clifford Wheeler's portfolio "Axes - Bold as Love, the Luthier's Art," at 2 p.m. 703-63-2205.

Grapes into Wine. 1:30-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$10. Learn about the history of wine production and go through the wine-making process. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 183 2901.

Tea, Glorious Tea! Tea Program. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$28. Learn all the different ways used tea bags



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.

or leftover brews can be used. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173.

MONDAYS/JAN. 14, JAN. 21

Two-part Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artist Betsy Mead will show how using two shades of white can lead to shades of black, brown, grey or blue. \$65/DRA member; \$75/non-member. Register at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/fusedglass.

TUESDAY/JAN. 15

Genealogical Society meeting. 1 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Features a presentation "Stump the Panel," about what to do when an ancestor disappears, leaving no paper trail. Free. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 16

Music. "A Gathering of 5-String Masters" features Bela Fleck, Tony Trischka and more at 7:30 p.m. at Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$49.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500. All Oct. 30 tickets will be honored. Refunds are available until Jan. 15 at place of purchase.

FRIDAY/JAN. 18

Slam Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Society is announces spoken word poetry events at the Athenaeum in Old Town. Admission is free for all, but attendees interested in competing in the poetry slam can pay an entry fee of \$10 for a chance to win a \$100 cash prize. Featuring live music, scheduled artists, and an open mic, SLAM ALEXANDRIA is hosted by Shelly Bell and co-sponsored by the NVFAA and Shelly B. Arts. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.

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Sunday

7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon
2:00 pm (en Español)

6:30 pm Mass (from Sept. 9
until mid June)

Weekdays

(Mass or Communion
Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

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Mass (English)

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Spotlight on Upcoming Gun Legislation

FROM PAGE 1

But the gun-rights lobby has traditionally had a very strong lobby in Richmond, especially now that Republicans are in control of both chambers and the governor's office. Last year, for example, the newly elected Republican assembly overturned a longstanding ban preventing individuals from purchasing more than one handgun a month. Many Northern Virginia Democrats say they often feel frustrated by the tone in Richmond.

"It's really hard to predict what the thinking is of some colleagues who would like to see a more heavily armed society," said state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30).

VIRGINIA HAS STRONG LAWS protecting the rights of its citizens to carry and use guns, a tradition that dates back to English common-law instituted when the commonwealth was a British colony. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence gives Virginia a score of 11 out of 100, describing the commonwealth as having "weak gun laws that help feed the illegal gun market, allow the sale of guns without background checks and put children at risk." But many Republicans say no change to the law could have prevented the shootings last week.

"Just because you pass a law doesn't mean you're going to stop it. I mean, there's millions and millions and millions of guns in America," said Del. Dave Albo (R-42). "So when somebody wants to pass a law that says no one can have a gun, does any rational person think that would work?"

One issue that comes up again and again each year is the so-called "castle doctrine," sometimes known as "stand-your-ground" legislation, that would protect individuals from being sued if they fatally shoot an intruder. That hasn't passed, but other measures increasing the

availability of guns have been successful. One overturned a longstanding ban against individuals purchasing more than one handgun a month. Another successful bill allows local government employees to bring concealed weapons onto government property.

"I've been very surprised by what I've seen in Richmond," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "We'll find out this session whether people have changed their point of view about this."

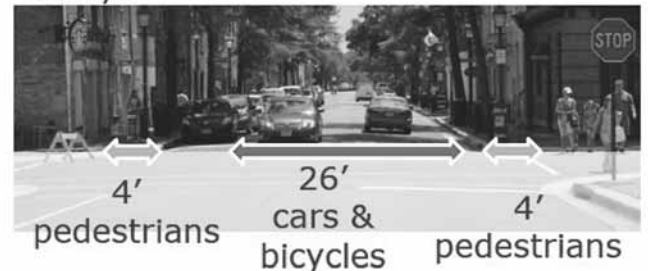
THE COMING SESSION is likely to see legislation that would require Virginia to give reciprocity to out-of-state concealed weapons permits. Legislators are also likely to debate a measure that would make it a Class 5 felony to provide false statements on a criminal history background check. Yet another potential bill would provide information from the background check to the U.S. Attorney General for a National Instant Criminal Background check. And more legislation is in the works.

"In light of last Friday's events, I feel morally compelled to introduce concrete legislation in the General Assembly Session in January," said state Sen. Donald McEachin (D-9). "Over the coming weeks, I will consult with my fellow legislators and announce specific plans that will help stem this horrific tide of gun violence."

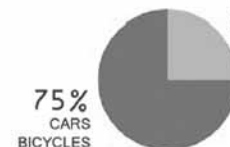
But the debate won't be limited to guns.

"To me, the one common problem in most of these cases you've seen recently, which is the guy who shot the congresswoman, the guy who was in the movie theater, the guy in Connecticut, was that they all had severe mental health problems," said Albo. "Is the reason we are seeing more of these because more people are being mainstreamed? I don't know, and I think that's a question that needs to be asked."

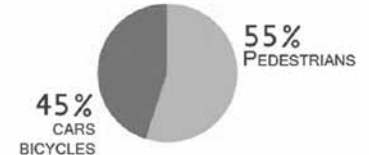
How is Union Street distributed today?



By space...



By volume...



Union of Pedestrians

FROM PAGE 3

raised by the Waterfront Work Group last year. When the group finished its investigation of the waterfront plan, several members said the traffic study was inadequate because it only looked at Washington Street, which is six blocks to the west. Because all of the redevelopment would be on Union Street, they called for a traffic study that would determine how much additional strain could be added without creating a burden.

"The Union Street Corridor Study is so typical of what passes for planning in Alexandria today," said work group member Bert Ely. "It proposes changes to Union Street that do not address the issues that triggered the study, and the recommendations are not integrated with recently proposed flood mitigation initiatives."

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PEOPLE



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Spearheaded by eighth grade history teacher Karen Ruberg, middle and upper school students from St. Stephen's and St. Agnes joined forces Dec. 13 to donate toys to the Firefighters and Friends annual toy drive.

That's What Friends Are For

Firefighters and Friends annual toy drive to help 4,000 area children.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

For 45 Head Start preschoolers, Christmas arrived a week early when they entered Pen Daw Fire and Rescue Station 11 Dec. 18 to select a toy of their choice from the thousands that had been collected as part of the 2012 Firefighters and Friends annual toy drive.

"For the first time we are letting a few of the kids pick out their own toys," said Capt. Willie Bailey, founder of the drive. "Words don't describe the way the kids' faces light up when they see a toy and realize it's theirs to keep."

Following the visit from the Gum Spring area students, representatives from a record number of organizations set about collecting toys for the children they serve.

"We have over 70 schools, shelters and nonprofits from Alexandria and Fairfax County participating in this year's drive," Bailey said. "I can't believe all the schools and nonprofits that reached out to us this year. You hear on the news that the economy is rough

— this is proof."

Now in its 16th year, the annual drive collected 4,000 toys with the help of local businesses and individuals, including students from St. Stephen's and St. Agnes middle and upper schools.

"We got the entire school community involved," said eighth grade history teacher Karen Ruberg. "Willie came and spoke to the middle school students and explained how older kids are often forgotten so we encouraged them to collect toys they would like themselves."

In addition to toys, more than 130 new bikes were collected for what has become known as Distribution Day along with cash donations that allowed Bailey to purchase gift cards for older teens.

"Every local company we reached out to for help didn't turn us away," said Bailey, who was presented with checks from Caldwell Banker Brokerage and the Fairfax-Arlington Elks Lodge just prior to the distribution of toys. "It's sad that the need is still out there but good that the citizens and business community step up and support it."

As has become custom, Primo Family Restaurant donated pizza and food for the dozens of firefighters and volunteers helping sort and distribute toys for children in need.

"We're going to be able to help a lot of kids with all the donations that came in," Bailey said. "We don't want a kid to go without a toy if we can help it."



Vennells Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Charles (Ben) and Gloria (Ann) Vennell were married on Jan. 1, 1953 in Harrisburg, Pa. Ben Vennell created, owned and operated the Hollin Hall Variety Store and also The Treasure Chest and The Needle and Thread Shop in the Alexandria area.

Ben and Ann Vennell owned the Variety Store for over 50 years and although they retired, the store is still a fixture in the community. The Vennell's have two daughters, whose families, along with their grand-children also live in the area.



Ring Those Bells

Santa (a.k.a. Charles Johnson) joins Pomeroy, a 12-year-old Pomeranian rescue, during the Alexandria Rotary Club's day of service Dec. 15 for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign in Market Square. The local Salvation Army chapter is hoping to raise \$200,000 during this year's campaign, which runs through Dec. 24. Visit www.salvationarmynca.org.

PHOTO BY
MIKE LANE

Decorating Contest Winners

Quietly last week, members of the Old Town Walled Garden Club walked the streets in the Old Town District taking notes on holiday décor for the annual contest. Winners were chosen on originality of design, design to scale of the use, use of natural materials such as boxwood, greens, fruits, flowers. Prizes were donated by Lords and Ladies, 605 Franklin Street; Helen Olivia, 128 N. Pitt Street, and Whistle Stop Hobbies, 130 S. Royal Street.



201 Duke Street received honorable mention.



207 S. Lee Street was awarded 3rd place.



Second place went to 314 Prince Street.



First place winner of the 2012 Old Town Walled Garden Club holiday decorating contest went to 209 S. Lee Street.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Wilson's Career-High 22 Points Lead TC Past Wakefield

Titans hit six 3-pointers in first half against Warriors.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Leading by three in the closing minutes, the T.C. Williams boys' basketball team scored eight points in the paint or at the free-throw line during the final 90 seconds to hold off Wakefield on Dec. 15.

"All people are going to remember is the way we ended the game. It wasn't pretty, but it was effective," TC head coach Julian King said. "I told [the Titans] that's the type of team we have. We don't have a beautiful, glamorous, fast-paced, overwhelming type [of] team that scores in bunches. No, we are a grind-it-out, play-tough, try-to-play-smart type of team."

While King spoke of the Titans as a gritty and methodical group, TC opened Saturday's "throwback" contest with a dominant display of perimeter-shooting.

The Titans made six first-half 3-pointers, including three by senior guard Javon Wilson, and never trailed at any point during a 56-48 victory against Wakefield at T.C. Williams High School.

Wilson finished with a career-high 22 points, including 12 in the first half. He scored six of the Titans' eight points during the final 90 seconds of the game.

"First half, I had a couple [3-pointers], so I was pretty excited — [and] then I had an and-one," Wilson said. "That got me going. My teammates kept cheering me on, kept telling me to shoot the ball."

Wilson wasn't the only one knocking

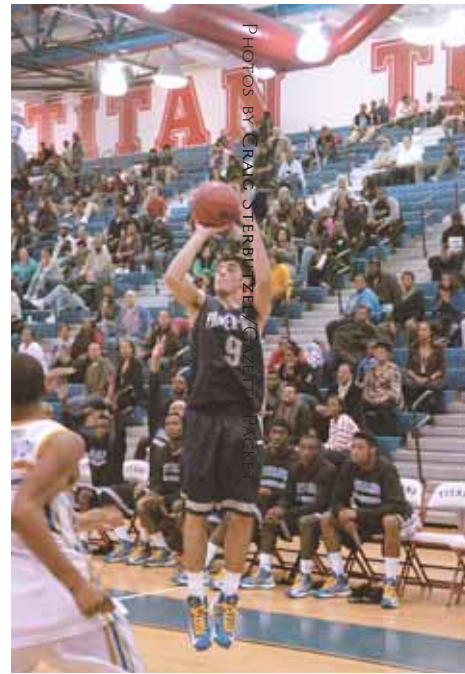


T.C. Williams senior guard Javon Wilson scored a career-high 22 points against Wakefield on Dec. 15.

down perimeter shots. Junior guard Mert Ozkaynak scored eight points in the first half, including knocking down a pair of 3-pointers. Senior guard Andre Suggs' 3-pointer gave TC an eight-point advantage with 1:43 remaining in the second quarter. The Titans led, 30-25, at halftime.

King said the Titans got open perimeter looks by reversing the ball and working inside-out. The coach also said he's made adjustments to put players in positions better suited to their skill sets.

"I think I kind of put Javon in a bad spot early on, trying to convert him into a point guard. He's really a [shooting guard]," King



T.C. Williams junior guard Mert Ozkaynak knocked down a pair of 3-pointers and finished with eight points against Wakefield on Dec. 15.

said. "Now I'm going to try to have those guys do what they do best. We have Andre Suggs at the point now and we're going to bring [sophomore point guard] Ariston Johnson along slowly."

Saturday's contest marked the third consecutive season T.C. Williams and Wakefield wore throwback jerseys to honor historically black schools in Alexandria and Arlington. TC dressed as the Parker-Gray Bulldogs and Wakefield suited up as the Hoffman-Boston Trojans.

TC led by as many as 33 points in the first meeting and cruised to a 63-40 victory in 2010. Wakefield head coach Tony Bentley

said the Warriors played "scared." Last season, the Titans beat Wakefield, 69-58. This year, led by senior guard Khory Moore's 22 points, Wakefield had a chance to tie in the closing minutes but fell short.

"I thought we played well in the second half," Bentley said. "We came out and executed a few things. ... We just couldn't get a bucket. We had good looks at tying it up, we had good looks at cutting it to one."

The victory came after TC had suffered losses against Good Counsel and West Potomac. The Titans improved to 2-2.

"It's huge for us because our morale was low," King said about the victory.

"How often do we lose this many in a row? We had two stretches last year we lost three in a row, but we had

some more senior-oriented guards and the leadership was a little better. This group, everybody has been thrust into expanded roles, so they have to grow into them."

TC's Jeremiah Clarke scored six points and grabbed five rebounds. Grant Dickinson scored four points and grabbed seven rebounds.

Wakefield's Ermias Nega finished with 14 points.

TC traveled to face Woodson on Tuesday, after the Gazette Packet's deadline. The Titans will host Lee at 7:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 21.

"It's huge for us because our morale was low."

— T.C. Williams boys' basketball coach Julian King

Defense Helps TC Girls' Basketball Edge Wakefield

Spivey, Simpson each score 11 points for Titans.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Top perimeter threat Angie Schedler sat on the bench, unable to play due to an ankle injury. Shots weren't falling and what was once a 10-point first-half lead had dwindled to two with less than a minute remaining in the fourth quarter.

The T.C. Williams girls' basketball team had a miserable offensive night against Wakefield on Dec. 15, reaching double digits in only one quarter against the Warriors. But thanks to a strong defensive effort, the Titans walked away with a victory.

TC's Rejoice Spivey made a pair of free throws with 57.9 seconds remaining and the

Titans held on for a 31-27 win during a "throwback" contest at T.C. Williams High School.

For the second straight year, the T.C. Williams and Wakefield girls' programs honored historically black schools in Alexandria and Arlington by wearing throwback jerseys during the game (the boys' teams have worn the jerseys for three years). TC suited up as the Parker-Gray Bulldogs and Wakefield dressed as the Hoffman-Boston Trojans. While both teams struggled offensively, TC found a way to win with one of its best players on the bench. Schedler suffered a sprained right ankle in practice on Dec. 10 and figures to be out a few weeks.

"You'll have those nights where shots don't fall," TC head coach Kesha Walton said. "We were missing a lot of layups, which was part of the problem, but we [bit] down more defensively — we weren't scoring, neither were they."

The 27 points were a season low for a Titans opponent. According to the Titans'

athletics Web site, TC's 31 points were the fewest the program had scored since losing to South County, 52-31, on Jan. 11, 2010.

"We just couldn't score," Spivey said. "We played good defense, but the shots weren't falling."

Spivey and Baylee Simpson each scored 11 points for TC. Simpson also grabbed seven rebounds. Simpson, who stands 5 feet 6, said she relies on technique and strength for rebounding.

"I think Baylee played very aggressive," Walton said. "That's pretty much her mentality: just get after it and just go hard non-stop."

TC opened the season with a 60-38 loss to Edison on Dec. 7 and defeated West Potomac, 56-39, on Dec. 11.

Walton added a trio of freshmen to the TC roster: guards Josie Brocato and Claire Vermillion, and forward Taya Sanchez.

The Titans hosted Woodson Tuesday, after the Gazette Packet's deadline. TC will travel to face Lee at 7:45 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21.



T.C. Williams senior Baylee Simpson scored 11 points and grabbed seven rebounds against Wakefield on Dec. 15.

Teaching Healthy Culinary Traditions

Nutrition experts say moderation, not deprivation, is key.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

The holidays start with a saucepan of mushrooms — usually portabella, crimini or oyster — sautéing in olive oil. Next, sliced onions sizzle in a bath of bubbling butter and wine until they're caramelized.

This is how Bonita Lillie starts her yuletide feast. Under the guidance of her deft hands, such rank and file produce become mushroom soup. Fresh minced pork and cheddar cheese become a re-creation of her mother's sausage rolls. She doesn't measure ingredients, count calories or add flavor-depleting substitutes. Only real food makes the cut in her Alexandria kitchen.

"I go with my gut and what feels right. I don't use recipes," said Lillie, a registered dietician and nutrition instructor at Marymount University in Arlington. "If you're cooking a family dish that you look forward to every holiday and you substitute a fat-free version of something, it won't taste right and you won't satisfy your memory of that dish."

During a time of year when it is not uncommon to wash down Bûche de Noël with eggnog or to pile one's plate with slices of crown roast beef drizzled with merlot cream sauce, Lillie and other local nutritionists, food enthusiasts and health gurus say don't engage in self-deprivations. They emphasize that moderation, minor modifications and keeping it real are the keys to maintaining family traditions in ways that are healthy.

"Fat, per se, is not evil," said Nichole Ferrigno, culinary director for Tiny Chefs in Great Falls, Alexandria, McLean, Oakton, Springfield, Arlington and Potomac. "It really becomes about the type of fat one is consuming. When we think of ... eggnog, peppermint cake and gingerbread, I would tell folks to have just a little bit of the real thing. I do not ever, ever recommend substituting real foods with processed look-a-likes."

READ LABELS and examine the contents, say experts, or better yet, buy foods that don't require labels. "[I]t is definitely better to eat real food," said Joel Martin, Ph.D., a professor of kinesiology at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Our bodies have been used to eating real food for thousands of years and only recently have artificial ingredients been introduced into our diets. In the long run, regularly eating these substitutes may cause numerous undesirable effects."

Ferrigno, a former restaurant chef, suggests swapping imitation for moderation. "Even when it comes to holiday indulgences, one can partake and still do so within the parameters of a healthy diet," she said. "The key ... is to stick with whole, unprocessed foods. By consuming the real thing, your body is satiated with just a small amount. When we consume arti-



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

When faced with an array of yuletide treats, dietician Jennifer Kay Nelson advises against "mindlessly grabbing cookies [and] candy ... here-there-everywhere."

cial ingredients, it takes much, much longer and many, many more calories to reach the same level of satiety."

Replacing one natural ingredient with another is a flavor-preserving option. "You could substitute ... an alternative sweetener like honey or agave nectar" for sugar, said Lenora Lawson, a chef instructor at The Art Institute of Washington's International Culinary Schools in Arlington.

In fact, minor ingredient tweaks can pack powerful taste bud punches. "When you're baking a cake, sometimes you can replace oil with applesauce in some cakes, and often it tastes better," said Lillie. She cautions, however, that "when you take out the fat in any dish, you have to replace it with herbs or other seasonings so that you don't lose the taste."

"When we think of ... eggnog, peppermint cake and gingerbread, I would tell folks to have just a little bit of the real thing. I do not ever, ever recommend substituting real foods with processed look-a-likes."

— Nichole Ferrigno, a local culinary instructor

ESCHEWING LARGE cookie cutters for their bite-sized counterparts and baking pies with graham cracker crusts instead of traditional fat-laden shells are tactics that Vienna-based culinary instructor Christine Wisniewski employs during the holiday season. "There are lots of ways to go about healthy-ing up the holidays," she said. "If the filling is the star of the dessert, fill and bake individual ramekins for a crust-free dessert and significant calorie and fat savings."

Most importantly, when faced with a dizzying array of yuletide treats on a tray or table, think before making a choice. "Be mindful, be appreciative and aware of what you are eating," said Jennifer Kay Nelson, director of clinical dietetics and an associate professor of nutrition at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. "Mindlessly grabbing cookies, candy, nuts here-there-everywhere often end up in unexpected pounds."

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The Fireworks are Back!



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

DASH-ing All the Way

Employees of the DASH transit system pose for a photo with Santa (aka DASH driver Charles Johnson) in front of the King Street Trolley Dec. 15 to kick off a day of free photos with Santa at Market Square. The free trolley operates daily, including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day from 11:30 a.m. to 10:15 p.m. every 15 minutes from the King Street Metro Station to the Potomac River waterfront.

Johansson Teaches Students about Hockey

Prior to becoming a Washington record holder in points and assists by a defenseman, Washington Capitals assistant coach Calle Johansson learned the basics of hockey playing the game in a parking lot with his father.

Responding to questions from a group of 160 third- through -eighth grade Blessed Sacrament School students, the anecdote was among stories Johansson shared during a recent Capitals Hockey School assembly.

While Johansson told the Alexandria, Va., students he began playing hockey at six years old, he encouraged students of any age to pick up the game.

During the assembly the Goteberg, Sweden, native drew on his experiences playing in 1,109 NHL games to instruct students on stickhandling, passing and shooting prior to joining them in a scrimmage.

The Blessed Sacrament visit marked the seventh Capitals Hockey School assembly of the 2012-13 school year, with 2012-13 marking the sixth consecutive year the Capitals have conducted the program.

Following each clinic the Capitals donate a set of street hockey equipment to the school. Last year more



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/GAZETTE PACKET

Blessed Sacrament School Principal Valerie Garcia accepts a Washington Capitals hockey school partner banner from assistant coach Calle Johansson and mascot Slapshot on Dec. 12. All equipment used in the Capitals' hockey school assembly was donated to the school by the Washington Capitals.

than \$13,000 worth of equipment was donated to 20 local schools through the team's Hockey School program and playoff pep rally contest.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Music in the Air

T.C. Williams High School orchestra members Alyona Brooker, 14, Chris Porter, 17, and Joann Michel, 16, perform during the Farmers Market in Market Square Dec. 15 as part of a fundraiser for the school's music programs.



Education coordinator Krista Sofonia (right) helps an inmate's family member as she selects gifts.

Children of Inmates Receive Holiday Gifts, Winter Coats

Thanks to the support of Toys for Tots and Operation Warm, the children of more than 50 Alexandria inmates received a holiday gift and, if needed, a new winter coat this season. On Tuesday, Dec. 11, family members and guardians picked up new toys and coats at the Alexandria Sheriff's Office headquarters on Mill Road. Each year, Toys for Tots provides the Sheriff's Office with donated toys so that children of inmates in the William G. Truesdale Adult Deten-

tion Center who cannot afford to purchase gifts will receive a toy during holiday celebrations. This year Toys for Tots of Quantico, under the direction of Marine Staff Sergeant Oscar Villegas, provided approximately 200 new toys, including stuffed animals, dolls, cars, trucks, balls and games.

Operation Warm donated 60 new coats as part of its Coats for Kids campaign, marking the second year in a row that Operation Warm has partnered with the Sheriff's Office.



An inmate's family member shows her 15-month-old daughter a doll donated by Toys for Tots.

NEIGHBORS

Taylor Run

ELECTION WRITE-INS

A certain amount of dissatisfaction with our current political setup raised its head in write-in votes for the recent election. A total of 73,657 votes were cast in Alexandria.

Most of these people went with the majority in supporting major party candidates. There were 130 write-in votes for President and 138 votes for Senator. Eight people wanted Hilary Clinton to be president, 36 voted for Ron Paul, and one for Sponge Bob SquarePants.

Someone looking into the distant past voted for Abraham Lincoln and another for George Washington. A monarchist put in a request for King George III. Nine people said no or none of the above. Disney characters are always popular in elections. There were votes for Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, Minnie, Daffy and Pluto.

There was one vote for Bruce Wayne, who is, my grandson tells me, better known as Batman. Votes in Alexandria that I question came for Lyndon LaRouche, Donald Trump, and Ellen DeGeneres.

SENATORIAL SUGGESTIONS

Someone wanted to vote for Bigfoot; some broadminded soul wrote "either party"; someone wanted Curious George and 14 people voted for Hank the Cat.

Two suggested Thomas Jefferson and one practical person asked for Exhumed James Madison. The Cookie Monster got one write-in vote, Jack Nicklaus got one, 12 voters desired "none of the above." There was one vote for Spiderman, two for John Warner, and one for Mark Warner, who is already a senator.

CONGRESSIONAL RACE

In the 8th District, Prince Agarwan, Big Bird, Mowgli, Thomas Jefferson, and Dana Lawhorne all got a vote. There were three votes for Rabbi Jack Moline. Twelve votes were cast for "none of the above." One vote was written in for "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

MAYORAL RACE

Five hundred eighty-nine people wrote in suggestions for replacing our Mayor, while there were 1,414 suggestions for different council members. One mayoral voter wrote "anyone but Billy or Andy," another one wrote "Any Democratic Socialist," while someone with a long memory wrote "Bring Back Nixon." Someone put in a vote for Pat Buchanan. Someone else wrote in George W. Bush. Six people expressed a wish for the return of Alexandria's Bill Cleveland. Three just wrote "Democrat" and one said "Republican." Someone wanted Dracula, another one Elmo, and 24 people voted for Frank Fannon for Mayor despite the fact that he was on the ballot for Council. Six people wanted that hardworking volunteer Carter Flemming. Hank the Cat got two votes for Mayor of Alexandria.

Two votes were submitted for Robert E. Lee. Twenty voted for "none of the above" for mayor. Pogo Possum, a charming cartoon character from the '50s, got one vote, as did Ronald Reagan and Gant Redmond. Particularly touching was one who just wrote "someone reasonable." Restaurateur Pat Troy got four votes, Boyd Walker got one, as did Warrior Princess Xena.

COUNCIL VOTES

Someone cast a vote for Gary Aiken, he of the original views on rape. Five people requested "any Republican candidate." One hundred thirty-three people voted for a blank. Three voted for Bugs Bunny and one for Butthead.

Six voted for Bill Cleveland to come back on City Council. There's a request for "C. Sense." Jiminy Cricket got a vote for Council. One person voted for Gerald Ford, another for Fritz the Cat, and another for "Hello Kitty." Vladimir I. Lenin got a vote.

Two votes were cast for "No Preference" and two for "No to Developers." One voter wrote in Arthur Peabody, former School Board chairman. Eight votes were cast for Del Pepper, one for Dr. Pepper and one for Sgt. Pepper, but not for his Lonely Hearts Club Band. One vote came in for Elvis Presley, 11 for "Republican" and one for "Republican Party." Some student of history cast a vote for Theodore Roosevelt. One voter wrote in "Victoria's Secret."

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

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Obituary



Geraldine C. Hager of Alexandria, Virginia formerly of Ft. Myers Beach, FL and Highland Falls, NY, left us to join her husband, father, and mother early in the morning on December 13, 2012.

Gerry, or DeeDee as she was known to her family, was born May 27, 1925 in West Point, New York. DeeDee was the only child of Eleanor and Paul Taneyhill. She grew up and went to school in Highland Falls, NY. DeeDee was the high school prom dancing partner for the famous actor Charles Durning, and she never lost her dancing chops.

It was in Highland Falls that she met and married John Hager, the love of her life, in 1948. Her husband worked as a contractor in New York before they retired to Florida in the late 1960s. Although she and Johnny were unable to have children of their own, after she retired from her federal job with the Social Security Administration, DeeDee enjoyed being able to take care of the Yancey grandchildren.

In 2006 DeeDee Hager moved to Alexandria to live with her cousin Phyllis Yancey. In the neighborhood she was known for baking a mean apple pie, an incredible key lime pie, a wicked dump cake, and for writing prolific thank you notes. Around town she was everyone's favorite patron, spreading kindness and laughter to workers at her bank, doctors' offices, dry cleaners, and hair salon.

DeeDee was a devoted member of St. Rita's Catholic Church. She is survived and will be desperately missed by her cousins Phyllis Yancey, Pat Aller, Bill Engle, Fred Engle, Bill Yancey, Annette Allgood, Mary Jo Morgan, their spouses and children, and her Beverley Hills neighborhood.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial for Mrs. Hager at 2pm on December 22, 2012 at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home. Mrs. Hager will be laid to rest in Southern Palms Memorial Gardens Cemetery, in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

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