



James Morrison and Bella parade down St. Asaph with Clan Morrison members.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

## Plaid Tidings of Joy

### 43rd Annual Scottish Walk Parade

**B**agpipes and tartans filled the streets of Old Town during the 43rd annual Scottish Walk Parade Dec. 7, the centerpiece of a week-end of holiday events that included a Heather and Greens sale, Holiday Marketplace, Children's Tea

Party, Designer Tour of Homes and Taste of Scotland cocktail reception.

"This is an amazing event," said Robin Naysmith, head of the Scottish Affairs Office at

SEE 43RD ANNUAL, PAGE 6

## Vola Lawson Dies at 79

Former City Manager was trailblazer for women, minorities.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
 GAZETTE PACKET

**I**n the midst of the turbulent race relations of the 1960s, a proper Southern Belle from Atlanta joined the Urban League in picketing Alexandria's City Hall, where the Confederate flag still flew proudly above Market Square. Little did the young bride know just how much her courage and leadership would help shape the next five decades of the city's history.

"It was a profound time of change for Alexandria," Vola Lawson would later say of her early years as a community organizer. "When I moved here with my husband David in 1965, Alexandria was a sleepy Southern



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Vola Lawson during her tenure as city manager.

town, very much a stronghold of the Byrd machine. But it was won

SEE VOLA LAWSON, PAGE 7

## Growing Debt

Alexandria's debt has more than doubled over last decade.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
 GAZETTE PACKET

**I**n the past decade, the city's debt has more than doubled from \$200 million to more than \$500 million — a burden that is becoming increasingly difficult

for the city to manage, especially considering plans for Alexandria to finance the construction of a new Metrorail station at Potomac Yard. If city officials decide to move forward with constructing the new Metro station, which could range from \$200 million to \$460 million, Alexandria will exceed all three of its self-imposed debt limits.

"Their hands are tied in a way, and that's what happens when you run up against those limits, which have served them well for years,"

SEE CITY'S DEBT, PAGE 8

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## Fun Side

Call it “extraordinary.” Call it the “fun side” of patronage. But don’t call it nepotism.

Last week, the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association gave an award to the City of Alexandria — the organization’s sugar daddy, which bankrolls the association to the tune of more than \$3 million a year. Just this year, the association received an additional \$200,000 to help rebrand the city “Extraordinary Alexandria.”

That kind of support did not go unrecognized by leaders of the association. Last week, Alexandria leaders left the city limits and headed south into Fairfax County to pick up their sleek glass award. Former City Councilman David Speck and association president Patricia Washington presented the tourism partner of the year award to the city of Alexandria, which was presented at the Mount Vernon Estate.

“There were other awards, but this is the top award,” said Mayor Bill Euille. “So we are very proud of that.”

## Revenge for 1814

Many people consider Vietnam as the first war America lost. But that’s not so. The War of 1812 was a disaster — literally and figuratively. Led by war hawks in Congress, President James Madison led an ill-fated invasion of Canada. Alexandria Gazette editor Samuel Snowden was solidly against the war.

“What pledge have we that a naval force will not be sent to lay our rich maritime cities under enormous contributions or raze them to the ground?” Snowden asked in 1812.

Unfortunately, that’s exactly what happened. The British Navy sailed up the Potomac River and set fire to the District of Columbia, burning down the Capitol and the executive mansion — later renamed the White House when it was painted to cover the burn marks. The only thing that stopped the British from setting fire to everything in the District of Columbia was a hurricane barreling throughout the region. Fortunately, city leaders in Alexandria were able to save Old Town by offering provisions to the invaders — an act that was widely interpreted as an act of cowardice in the sharp-tongued press of the era.

These days, things have changed. America and the United Kingdom enjoy a special relationship — one that will feature a bit of good-natured competition for the 200th anniversary of the British attack in 1814. This week, members of the Alexandria City Council issued a formal challenge to the British Embassy — put up or shut up. The proclamation, which specifies that it “in no way should be taken as a formal missive from any government,” issues a three part challenge to the Brits — produce a cricket team, produce a tug-of-war team and produce a yacht team. The teams will compete in August for the anniversary.

“Whereas there may have been some conflict between the residents of Alexandria and the British armed forces in history, I think the events as proposed will only go to strengthen the relationship we’ve had over the last 200 years,” Commander John Ned Kelly told City Council members Tuesday night, adding that his superiors would respond to the challenge “in due time.”

“Should we start practicing now for the cricket team?” asked Councilwoman Del Pepper.

“I thought Del was going to say she wanted to be part of the tea-drinking team,” responded Councilwoman Paul Smedberg.

## Landscaping the Transitway

Drivers along Route 1 in Alexandria are now seeing the broad outlines of the region’s first-ever dedicated lanes, part of a \$21 million project that will allow transit vehicles to operate in an exclusive right-of-way so they don’t get caught in traffic. But the project has uncovered some unexpected problems — utilities buried where nobody knew about them and contaminated soil from generations of heavy railroad use. This week, members of the Alexandria City Council authorized Lane Construction Corporation to issue up to \$1.4 million in change orders, making the total contract amount \$14.5 million.

City leaders say utilities and pollution are not the only reason for the added expense.

“Some of it is for landscaping,” acknowledged Emily Baker, director of the Department of Project Implementation.

The project design has 12-foot landscaped medians on either side of the transitway, a feature that city leaders say is a key element in transforming Route 1 in to an urban boulevard that’s welcoming for pedestrians and transit riders.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

# Let There Be Light

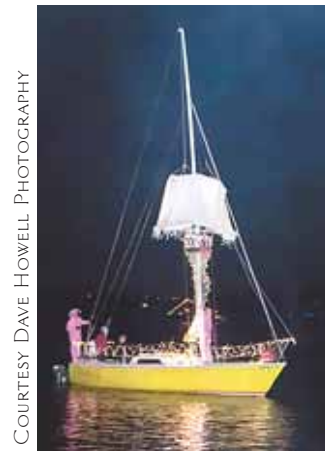
## ‘A Christmas Story’ wins Best in Show.

Crowds lined Alexandria’s waterfront Dec. 7 as nearly 40 boats cruised the Potomac River to take part in the 14th Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. The parade’s Best in Show went to Firefly, a 25-foot sailboat featuring a tribute to the classic film “A Christmas Story,” complete with a leg-shaped lamp and the crew dressed in pink rabbit pajamas.

The Colonel’s Lady snagged Most Animated with the theme “Moonwalking Dinosaur” after transforming the boat into a massive Tyrannosaurus Rex whose light-strung legs danced to music. The yacht Act of Grace took the prize for Thinking Outside the Christmas Box with a giant menorah protruding from its deck.

The complete list of 2013 winners: Best in Show - Firefly, Cpt. Dave Easter; Best Sailboat - Stargazer, Cpt. Susan Antoinette; Best Powerboat - Tar Keel, Cpt. Justin Chambers; Most Animated - The Colonel’s Lady, Cpt. Matt Martelli; Most Holiday Cheer - Morale Gear, Cpt. Jodie Knox; Thinking Outside the Christmas Box - Act of Grace, Cpt. Walter Weiss; Hardest Souls - Triple Trouble, Cpt. John Mein; Best Theme - Jobsite, Cpts. Darrell & Claudia Edgar; Most Spirited Crew - Unusual Attitude, Cpt. Jeffrey Leach; Best Spirit of America - Plan B, Cpt. Samuel Hepford; Best Try - Pistrix, Cpt. Doug Wood; Honorable Mention - Wii Fish, Cpt. Valerie Whitcomb; Honorable Mention - Big Blind, Cpt. David Hays.

The parade was emceed by WTOP’s Man About Town Bob Madigan and judged by Jody



COURTESY DAVE HOWELL PHOTOGRAPHY

**Firefly, a 25-foot yacht featuring a tribute to the classic film “A Christmas Story,” won Best in Show with a leg-shaped lamp and crew dressed in pink rabbit pajamas in the 14th Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights Dec. 7.**



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

**“Christmas Rocks” cruises the Potomac River during the annual Parade of Lights.**

Manor of Bittersweet Café and the Waterfront Market, Willem Polak of the Potomac Riverboat Company, Stephanie Landrum of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and Dee Beresford from the Old Dominion Boat Club Board of Governors.

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

— JEANNE THEISMANN

## Euille May Join McAuliffe Team

### Mayor headed to Richmond this week to interview for two positions.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille may be joining the new administration of Democratic Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe in the next few weeks, leaving the city of Alexandria and opening the door to a special election for mayor early next year. Later this week, Euille will be traveling to Richmond to talk to members of the transition team about two potential jobs — one in transportation and another job that the mayor said he was not yet sure about. That’s an indication that the McAuliffe team is interested in attracting the mayor, although a spokesman for the governor-elect declined to comment.

“I’m certainly intrigued by the interest on the part of the new governor to want to consider me for something, so I’m going to explore it and decide what to do after that,” said Euille. “I’ve enjoyed being mayor and certainly would want to continue filling out my term, unless I decide that doing something in Richmond and helping out more at a statewide level is not only to my advan-

tage but to the advantage of the citizens of Virginians.”

Euille was first elected mayor in 2003, and was elected to his fourth term last year. If he resigned, a special election could be called as early as January.

That would open the door to a high-stakes special election for mayor of Alexandria, a job that would probably bring a number of potential candidates. Some potential candidates are already thinking about a possible campaign.

“I would seriously consider running for mayor. Absolutely,” said former Mayor Kerry Donley, who did not seek another term on City Council last year for health reasons. “My blood pressure is under control, and I’m feeling good, and I miss being part of the creation of public policy and public service.”

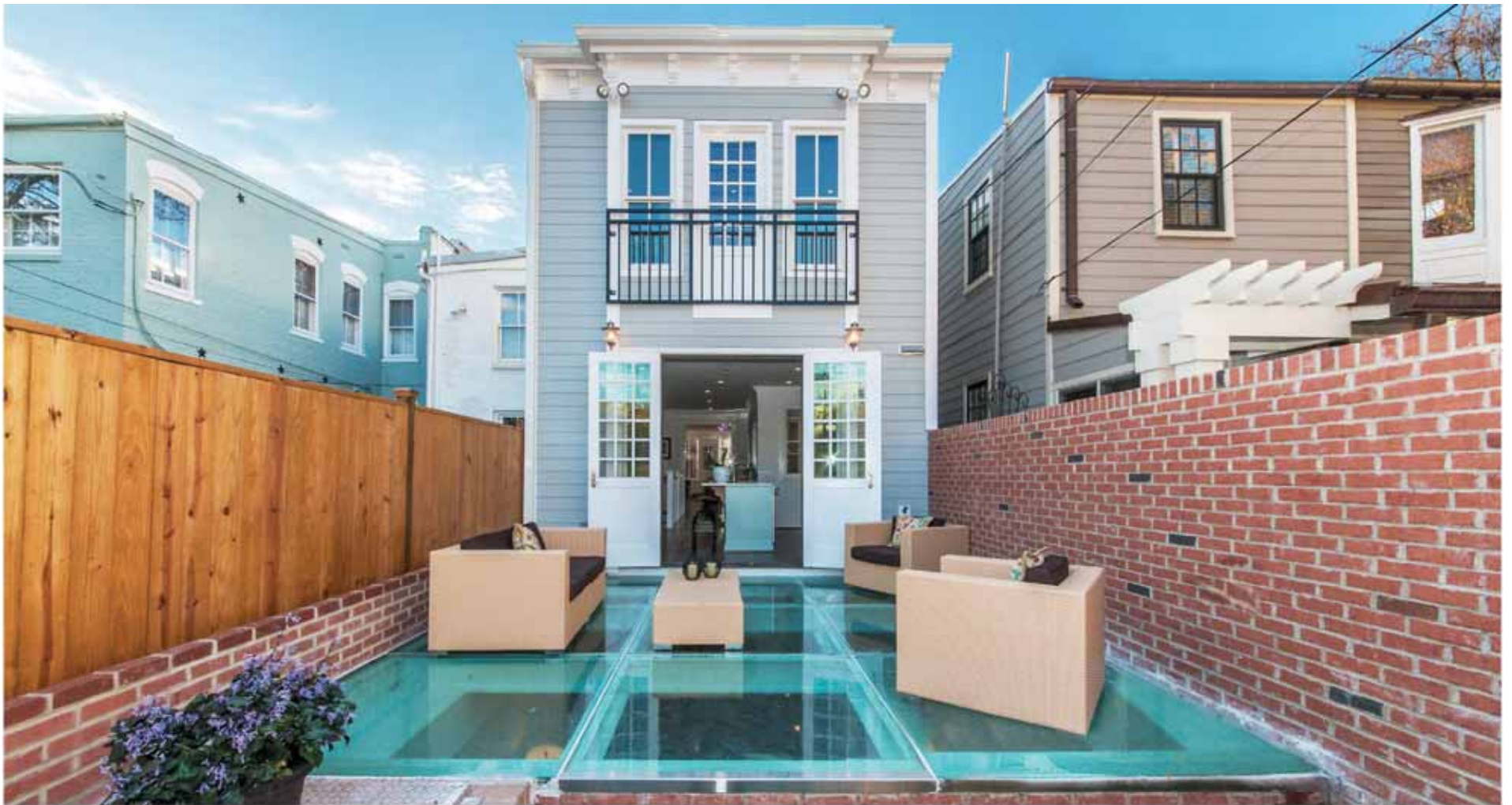
**IF EUILLE** submits a letter of resignation, the Alexandria Circuit Court would issue a writ of election that would kick off the process. The parties would then have five days to select their candi



Euille

SEE EUILLE, PAGE 31





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Santa lights the Del Ray Holiday Tree and residents pose for photos.



Children gather close to the stage during the singing of holiday songs led by The Rainbow Lady Kate Moran.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

## Del Ray Lights Up for the Holidays

Singing could be heard down the softly lit Avenue in Del Ray as thousands of luminaries glowed on the sidewalk and the annual Holiday Tree lighting neared on Saturday, Dec. 7. On stage in the Del Ray Farmer's Market lot, The Rainbow Lady from Rainbow Rock also known as Kate Moran, led friends and neighbors in a medley of holiday songs. The tradition was started 10 years ago by Moran's aunt, Nancy Dunning who never saw the first lighting of the Av-

enue due to her still unsolved murder.

At 6 p.m., the mayor and council members along with members of the Del Ray Business Association and Carpenter's Homeless Shelter joined The Rainbow Lady on stage to welcome Santa Claus for the annual tree lighting. This year's tree was donated by Mike Anderson and Bill Blackburn of Pork Barrel BBQ. Evening Star and Buzz Bakery donated cookies and hot chocolate to all those attending.

## New Approach to Mental Health

Reforms in wake of tragedy involving state senator's son.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Advocates for mental health services have been calling for improved services and increased funding for years, although the issue has been pushed aside year after year. But now that the son of state Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25) committed suicide after stabbing his father, a new sense of urgency is emerging in advance of the upcoming General Assembly session. This week, Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell proposed adding \$38 million over two years to the existing \$250 million budget for community service boards across the commonwealth.

"It makes you wonder why a crisis was needed to initiate the type of funding that we need," said Pamela Barrett, a member of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. "We are so far behind other states in mental health crisis response funding as it is, and it's something that the CSBs have been lobbying for and begging for for years."

**"These proposals will make a dent, but this is certainly not going to solve the problem."**

— Judith Deane, member,  
Arlington Community Services Board

McDonnell also issued an executive order 68 to convene a task force on improving mental health services and crisis response. The governor described his task force as a group of leaders in the mental

health and law enforcement as well as the judicial system and private hospitals. Within minutes of McDonnell's announcement, Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe issued a statement commending the governor, an indication he intends to follow through when he assumes the reins of power next year. But advocates for mental health remain skeptical.

"But the governor's budget proposals are just that — they are proposals. The General Assembly will have to approve them," said James Mack, chairman of the Arlington Community Services Board. "So while this is a step in the right direction, the General Assembly will have to act and Governor McAuliffe will have to continue the executive order."

**FOR NOW**, the issue seems to have newfound momentum — the result of a series of events that unfolded last month, when an emergency custody order was issued for the senator's son but a psychiatric bed could not be located before the order expired. That's why one of the reforms proposed by the gov-

ernor is allowing magistrates to extend the orders by two hours. Another proposal would extend temporary detention orders to 72 hours, a proposal that would cost about \$1.6 million a year. Funding is also proposed for the Western State Hospital,

where Northern Virginia jurisdictions send patients, which would be about \$680,000 a year.

"These proposals will make a dent, but this is cer-

SEE MORE FUNDS, PAGE 8

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A group of Scottish Highland dancers practice their dance steps before heading off down the parade route with the Washington Scottish Pipe Band of the St. Andrew's Society of Washington.

**43rd Annual Scottish Walk Parade**

FROM PAGE 1

the British Embassy. "The warmth and affection for Scotland is overwhelming and it is wonderful to be a part of this magnificent weekend."

More than 30,000 people lined the streets to watch this year's parade, which included over 120 Scottish clans, local dignitaries and costumed canines. ABC7/WJLA meteorologist Adam Caskey served as Grand

Marshal for the parade.

Sponsored by the Campagna Center, the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C. and the Scottish Affairs Office, proceeds from the weekend events go directly to support the center's programs for Alexandria's children. For more information, call 703-549-0111 or visit www.campagnacenter.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



The Kitten Band of York.



Rachel Essig waits with Brody for Clan Irwin to be called into the line-up.



Gadsby Tavern Museum Society member Danny Smith appears as Father Christmas in Gadsby Square.



The Shamrock & Thistle Pipes & Drums from Orange County, New Jersey.

PHOTOS BY  
LOUISE KRAFFT  
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# Vola Lawson Was Trailblazer for Women, Minorities

FROM PAGE 1

derful to live here during the next several decades because during this period of time, the city really changed into one of the most progressive places in the state of Virginia.”

A graduate of George Washington University, Lawson went on to become the city's first female city manager, only the third in the nation for cities with a population over 100,000. A lobby in that same City Hall where she first protested now bears her name, as does the animal shelter that she helped build. On Tuesday, Dec. 10, Vola Therrell Lawson died suddenly at the age of 79.

“Vola defined the best of what we strive to be as individuals and as a community,” said U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, a close friend who served as mayor during Lawson's tenure as city manager. “She was a passionate activist for what mattered to her and what should matter for all of us — the humane treatment of all living things, a government that works on behalf of all of its citizens and a mind that is always firmly attached to the heart that motivates it. She was very much what we as a community hope to become.”

Born Sept. 14, 1934 in Atlanta, Lawson was the first of five children. As a child, she lived with her paternal grandparents. Her grandfather was elected to the school board from the 4th Ward, home to the church where the late Martin Luther King Jr.'s father was pastor and a friend to the Lawson family.

“The most influential people on my life were my grandparents,” Lawson would say of her childhood. “Much of my beliefs about justice and equality came from them and their fight for desegregation. They taught me, ‘You ought to be able to do anything. It doesn't matter if you're a little girl.’”

As the parents of two young boys, Lawson and her husband helped start the tenant's association at Parkfairfax and worked to save a piece of land there as open space. Her husband ran the successful City Council campaign of Ira Robinson, who served from 1970 to 1973 as the first African



**Vola Lawson attended this year's Walk to Fight Breast Cancer.**

American city councilman since Reconstruction.

“She's been ever present since the beginning of my political time in the city,” said former mayor and state Sen. Patsy Ticer. “We picked her as city manager and I'm very proud of that. At that time there was a real push to get somebody from outside. Vola was an insider and didn't have all of the credentials that many thought she should have. But she clearly cared very much about the city and everything she did denoted that caring.”

Lawson began working for the City of Alexandria in 1971 as assistant director for the Economic Opportunities Commission, where she was in charge of community outreach and grant applications. In 1975, she was appointed director of Community Development Block Grants, channeling federal money for housing into Alexandria to help people buy or repair houses.

In 1981, Lawson was named assistant city manager for housing. When the city transferred the commercial and residential urban renewal projects from the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority to the city's own jurisdiction, she was responsible for the construction and completion of almost \$250 million worth of properties



**Vola Lawson and her beloved Willie.**

in the heart of today's downtown Alexandria.

In February 1985, when then City Manager Douglas Harmon left his position, Mayor Charles Beatley appointed Lawson as acting city manager. In September of 1985, after a nationwide search, the council chose Lawson as the new manager.

“Vola did an excellent job as manager of the city and won all kinds of awards that people didn't expect her to win,” said Ticer, who noted that the city received its first Triple A Bond rating under Lawson's tenure. “She took time to listen and understand the big picture. Vola was in a position to act on the needs of our citizens and when she couldn't act on them, she influenced the rest of us.”

Lawson served 15 years as city manager, increasing the professionalism and diversity of city staff. She was also responsible for forming the Alexandria Commission for Women and spearheaded the fundraising drive for the new Animal Welfare League of Alexandria facility on Eisenhower Avenue.

“Vola Lawson created a strong foundation for the Animal Welfare League,” said AWLA executive director Megan Webb. “She deeply cared about all animals and strongly

believed in the importance of our work. All of us at AWLA are honored to carry on her legacy to improve the lives of Alexandria's animals.”

Following her retirement in 2000, Lawson continued work on projects she cared deeply about. A breast cancer survivor who had a double mastectomy, she founded the city's Walk to Fight Breast Cancer in 1994 while she was still undergoing her own treatment. At the time of her death, she served on the board of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and the Alexandria Police Foundation, an organization she founded to help care for retired police canines.

After the death of her husband in 2002, Lawson returned to Parkfairfax, where her apartment overlooked the forested hill she and David worked to save back when they first lived in the community as newlyweds.

“I love being back in Parkfairfax,” Lawson would say. “It's been the beginning and the end of our time in Alexandria. David's buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery and I'll be there next to him some day. Sometimes I wish it were all starting over again. Those were such wonderful days. We were young and all of our lives lay in front of us.”

Lawson is survived by three sons, David Lawson (Gray) of Norfolk, Peter Lawson (Marion) of Del Ray, and McCarthur Meyers of Washington, and four grandchildren: Rachel, 18, David, 16, Josephine, 8, and Eleanor, 6. Other survivors include sisters Patricia Ward and Josephine Gustafson of Atlanta, and her beloved companions Willie and Faulkner, who were by her side at the time of her death.

“Vola's life was a blessing to the City of Alexandria,” said Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg. “She was a force of nature and knew how to make things happen. Her impact upon our city will be felt for generations to come.”

Funeral arrangements are still pending. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304.

## OBITUARY

### Linda Klaveness Wheeler

Linda Klaveness Wheeler, 75, died at home in Asheville, N.C., on Dec. 4, 2013, from complications of end-stage Lupus.

Mrs. Wheeler was born Nov. 8, 1938, in Santa Monica, Calif. She is the daughter of Capt. Francis Ashtore Klaveness, USN (ret.) and Esther Hefele Klaveness. She was a graduate of George Washington High School in Alexandria in 1956. From there she moved with her family to Yokosuka, Japan. She attended Sacred Heart College in Tokyo, Japan.



It was in Japan that she met her future husband of 56 years, Lt. Col. Thomas McDowell Wheeler, USMC (ret.). She was highly active as a Marine Corp spouse, involved in multiple clubs and organizations. The later parts of Lt. Col. Wheeler's career were in the Washington D.C. area, where they resided in the Mount Vernon area with their three children for almost 25 years.

Mrs. Wheeler was active with the Gunston Hall Docent Association (past president), the Virginia Historical Society, the Alexandria Historical Society and

the Alexandria French Club. In addition, she worked part-time for Plantation Flower Shop in Mount Vernon and Washington Square Antiques in Alexandria. She was also a member of Immanuel on the Hill Episcopal Church, Alexandria.

Her parents precede her in death. She is survived by her husband, children: Major Robert Francis Wheeler, USMC (ret.), David McDowell Wheeler (Becky), Lisa Klaveness Wheeler (Dr. Patty J. Wilson), and adopted grandchildren: Julie Marie Harrison (Benjamin) and Christina Rose Carter. She is also survived by her sister, Tinet Klaveness Crowell (Charles), nieces: Jennifer Wheeler Franzke, and Gisele Gros-Dubois Ford and nephews: Richard Wheeler, James Wheeler,

Michael Wheeler and Eric Gros-Dubois.

Funeral services will be held at the Old Post Chapel on Ft. Myer, Arlington, followed by internment at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

A Celebration of Life will occur Dec. 23, 2013, at Biltmore Commons Clubhouse, Asheville, N.C. Please contact the family for further details.

The family respectfully requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to CarePartners Hospice Foundation, P.O. Box 25338, Asheville, NC 28813 or at [www.carepartnersfoundation.org](http://www.carepartnersfoundation.org).

Groce Funeral Home on Patton Ave. is assisting the family. For an online register, visit [www.grocefunderalhome.com](http://www.grocefunderalhome.com).

# City's Debt Has More Than Doubled Over Past Decade

FROM PAGE 1

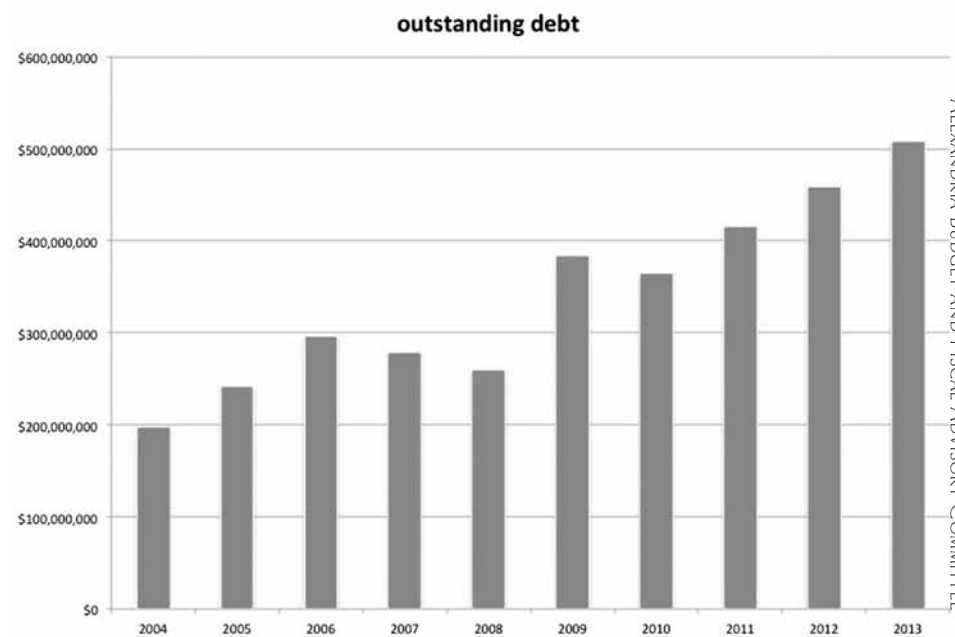
said Stephen Fuller, director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University. "What this will tell them is that they can't do it themselves, and that they need to find a private partner to work with."

According to a recently released comprehensive annual financial report, the city's growing debt is creating an increasing burden on taxpayers. Back in 2004, the city needed \$20 million to finance its debt burden. This year, taxpayers are on the hook for \$50 million in debt service. As a result, the ratio of debt service to general governmental expenditures has spiked from 3.62 percent to 6.55 percent. And that's a burden that would grow even more if city leaders take the additional debt burden associated with the Potomac Yard Metro station.

"There's a danger if we fall back into another recession, especially if it's primarily led by a mortgage crisis," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. "Then suddenly you would see a rapid turnaround in property values, and the assessed revenues coming into the city would decline significantly."

**IN THE LAST** decade, the per capita share of debt owed by every man, woman and child in Alexandria has more than doubled from \$1,500 to \$3,500. Even with the rise in salaries over the last decade, debt per capita as a percentage of per capita income has spiked from 2.7 percent to 4.3 percent. Critics say the city has been on a spending spree in the last decade, one that has included a \$110 million high school and an \$80 million police station.

"Do we have to build the Taj Mahal every time we have a capital project?" asked former Republican Councilman Frank Fannnon. "So I'm skeptical we are going to get the return on the investment if we spend



\$270 million on a new Metro station at Potomac Yard."

For years, city officials have used three benchmarks to analyze the size and scope of Alexandria's debt. One is debt service as a percent of general government expenditures. Another is debt as a percent of real property assessed value. The final benchmark is debt as a percent of personal income. With the Potomac Yard Metro, Alexandria is on track to exceed all three debt limits. Even if city leaders decide against funding the Metro station, Alexandria is facing a future with an unprecedented debt.

"This trend is evident regardless of whether the Potomac Yard Metrorail is included in the calculation, meaning that the city's debt ratios ... are worsening," according to the 2013 annual report of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee. "For the FY2014 budget, BFAAC observes

that some of the metrics are now hitting the limits without the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station included."

**EVEN WITHOUT** adding new debt from the Potomac Yard Metro station, the city still has a massive amount of uncertainty. Spending items that remain off the books for now include borrowing associated with the waterfront plan, the Beaugard redevelopment, potential federal mandates on up-

grading the combined sewer system and the six new schools planned by Alexandria City Public Schools.

"There's always some degree of uncertainty when dealing with anything in the future," said Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks in an interview earlier this year. "The real issue with the debt isn't the amount of the debt, it's the fiscal impact of the debt service."

Aside from debt, city leaders are facing other potential problems with the Potomac Yard Metro. A location and design has yet to be selected for the project, which is currently undergoing an environmental impact statement. Leaders at the National Park Service have determined that the proposed Metro station would be visible from the George Washington Parkway, which would violate a scenic easement. That means city leaders will go back to the drawing board, potentially figuring out a way to move the CSX tracks west or finding some other way to mitigate the scenic easement with trees or landscaping. Longtime supporters of the project are upset that the scenic easement doesn't apply in Crystal City because of an arrangement made many years ago.

"I guess the activists involved in that thought it was a good deal because they were able to get the Crystal City buildings scaled back," said Councilman Tim Lovain. "I guess at that time nobody thought anything would happen in Alexandria, but now it's coming back to burn us."

## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday by noon. Photos welcome.

### HOLIDAY NEEDS

**Toys, Gift Card Donations.** Every year the Domestic Violence Program organizes a holiday party for mothers and children who have been served by the shelter. They enjoy a holiday meal with shelter staff and friends and have their photos taken with Santa Claus. To donate to the Children's Holiday Party, bring unwrapped toys and gift cards to the Domestic Violence Program, 421 King St., Suite 400. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. All donations must be received by Monday, Dec. 16. Contact Neeley Hughey at 703-746-4911 or [Neeley.hughey@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Neeley.hughey@alexandriava.gov).

**Toy Drive.** Weichert, Realtors are holding a toy drive through Dec. 13. Drop off a new, unwrapped toy to any of the offices. They will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. Visit any Weichert, Realtors sales office or to find your local office, visit [www.weichert.com/offices/](http://www.weichert.com/offices/).

**Toy Drive.** Sheehy Auto Stores will hold a toy drive to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Runs Nov. 15 through Dec. 15. Donate a new, unwrapped toy to Sheehy Honda of Alexandria, 2434 Richmond Highway.

**Sponsor a Resident or Family.** The Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Holiday Sharing Program seeks sponsors for 83 senior or disabled residents and 109 families with children. Gifts may be delivered directly to recipients or brought to the City's Community and Human Services Center, 2525 Mount Vernon Ave. for distribution by staff. Contact Suzanne Kratzok at 703-746-5663, [holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov](mailto:holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov) or register at [www.alexandriava.gov/holidaysharing](http://www.alexandriava.gov/holidaysharing).

**Holiday Volunteers Needed.** The Department of Community and Human Services is also seeking volunteers to help sort and deliver gifts

at the Community and Human Services Center at 2525 Mt. Vernon Ave. on Dec. 16, 17 and 18 in shifts from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Volunteers are also needed for hosting collection bins for toy donations, sorting the toys on Dec. 20 and 21 and assisting parents to select toys for their children, also on Dec. 21 at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center, 2601 Commonwealth Ave. Contact Suzanne Kratzok at 703-746-5663, [holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov](mailto:holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov) or register at [www.alexandriava.gov/holidaysharing](http://www.alexandriava.gov/holidaysharing).

**Toy Collection.** From Dec. 9-13, drop off an unwrapped, new toy for Toys for Tots at entrance of the King Street Metro Station, 1900 King St. Hours are 6:30-8:30 a.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. Donations may also be dropped off at the Alexandria Transit store located across from the metro at 1775-C Duke St., and is open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday.

**Toy Drop Off.** Donate an unwrapped, new toy for Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority's "Santa Winter Wonderland" event by Dec. 16. Drop off site(s) are the ARHA offices at 600 N. Fairfax St. and 18 & Roth Street. If you want to donate and/or volunteer for this event contact Sandra Fowler at 703-549-7115 ext. 231.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**City Council Public Hearing.** 9:30 a.m. City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St.

**Foster Parent Orientation.** 12:30-2 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Free information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions and explain the requirements to foster and/or adopt. To RSVP email [Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-5858.

**Christmas Candlelight Service.** 6 p.m. at Alexandria Presbyterian Church, 2405 Russell Road. "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" will feature music by the APC adult and youth choirs, brass quintet and carol singing. A reception will follow. Childcare will be provided. Visit [www.alexandriapres.org](http://www.alexandriapres.org) or 703-683-3348.

## More Funds for Mental Health

FROM PAGE 5

tainly not going to solve the problem," said Judith Deane of the Arlington Community Services Board. "Northern Virginia jurisdictions put a lot of their own money into this, so in that sense we are better off than many other counties in Virginia. But we still have a lot of need."

Alexandria Community Services Board director Michael Gilmore said when he was director of the community services board that serves rural Bath County and Rockbridge County, the local funding for community services was about \$5 per capita when he left a decade ago. In Alexandria, by contrast, the local funding for community services is \$125 per capita. That's why a psychiatric bed might be much more difficult to find in the rural stretches of Virginia, where services are few and far between.

"Much of the state is dependent on bill-

ing Medicaid to cover the cost of the services they provide," said Gilmore. "But all five of the community services boards up here have much more local funding."

**THE PROPOSALS INCLUDE** expanding programs for child psychiatry and children's crisis response services as well as crisis intervention team programs, crisis stabilization services and discharge assistance programs. Other proposals include expanding mental health first aid programs, secure assessment centers and suicide prevention efforts. One initiative would spend \$1.8 million to create six secure crisis intervention team assessment centers where people can be held safely for evaluation and finding a bed without tying up law enforcement personnel.°° °

"That's only \$300,000 a center," said Gilmore. "I think it's going to cost a lot more than that."



# NEWS

## Ready for 'Secretary of Defense'

Hockey Hall of Famer Langway to speak at Alexandria Sportsman's Club.

BY KEVIN McCANDLISH  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE PACKET

On Tuesday, Dec. 17, just eight days before Santa Clause comes to Old Town, the Alexandria Sportsman's Club will receive a visit from another legendary icon known for donning red and white. As the Sportsman's Club holds its first Annual Washington Capitals Night and Family and Community Christmas Dinner (along with their Local Athletes of the Month Awards presentation), Hockey Hall of Famer and Washington Capitals great Rod Langway will join the organization for an evening of holiday celebration and answer questions on his career.

Upon his trade to the team in 1982, Langway catalyzed the Washington Capitals franchise from anonymity to a perennial force to be reckoned with. He captained the squad for all 11 seasons until his retirement, a stretch of time which included playoff appearances in every year that "#5" was with the team.

Langway was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall



Langway

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

of Fame in 2002 and into the World Hockey Association Hall of Fame in 2012 as an official "Legend of the Game." He rejoined the Capitals organization in 2012 as an ambassador for the club, a role which includes work with military groups and youth hockey organizations, as well as general fan interaction and outreach.

Over the course of his career, Langway's leadership, work ethic and toughness garnered him the nickname "The Secretary of Defense." It was a name which suggested that he likely had far fewer NHL opponents on his "Nice List" than Kris Kringle might; but on Tuesday of the week before Dec. 25, he'll be bringing joy to the local youth sports community just the same.

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at The Old Dominion Boat Club, 1 King St. The Dec. 17 meeting will feature a family and community holiday ham potluck dinner, and anyone with an interest in Alexandria youth and high school sports, or in hearing from Langway, is encouraged to attend. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m., and the program at 7:15. Email alexandriasportmansclub@gmail.com.

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**Thursday & First Friday of the Month:** 7:30 pm Mass en Español

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# OPINION

## Happy Holidays, Safely SoberRide 1-800-200-TAXI.

**H**oliday party season is well underway, along with winter weather advisories. It's up to individuals to make good decisions about celebrations that involve alcohol and how to handle transportation.

Plan to abstain. Plan to celebrate at home or someplace where you will be comfortable for some period of time. Plan to bring a designated driver. Plan to take public transportation. And if all of that fails, the Washington Regional Alcohol Project has a safety net for you.

WRAP, a local nonprofit organization, will offer free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout Northern Virginia during the winter holidays.

More than 10,000 died in drunk driving related accidents in 2010. Tens of thousands more were injured. Holidays lead to an increase in impaired driving, the Christmas and New Year season in particular.

### EDITORIAL

The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate nightly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Friday, Dec. 13, 2013, and continuing until Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During these times, area residents celebrating with alcohol can call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home. Callers will be responsible for fare amounts over \$30. Last December 1,927 people took advantage of this program. On New Year's Eve alone, 387 people call on SoberRide for a safe trip home.

SoberRide is offered in throughout the Northern Virginia and Maryland suburbs. In these areas, local taxicab companies will be providing this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who might otherwise have attempted to drive home after drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 58,576 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

We know that many young people over 21 are living at home with parents, or will be visiting for the holidays. Parents, be brave. Have a conversation with your children whether they are under or over 21. Be sure those over 21 have a plan, and are equipped with the SoberRide number.

SoberRide is not available for underage drinkers, but parents still should talk to their children about their plans, and tell them out loud that you expect them not to drive impaired and not to get into a car with an impaired driver. Tell them to call, and you'll come get them if necessary.

It's a good time for a conversation about the risks of drinking to excess beyond drinking and driving as well.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Please Think Ahead

To the Editor:

If accurate, Michael Lee Pope's aptly entitled article, "Terms of Complacency," in the Alexandria Gazette Packet [Dec. 5] reflects classic short-term thinking on the part of both local political parties. It is clearly not in the interest of either party to experience the stress of 2012 every 12 years as

will occur if the council term length is not modified. Moreover, failure to address the timing of the local electoral election schedule during the 2014 session of the General Assembly — the only body that can alter City Council's term length — effectively means that the next chance to alter the system will not occur until 2016 when larger matters may occupy Richmond's time.

This is the case because in 2015 Democratic council seat holders

addressing the need to ask Richmond to change to four year terms, effective with the 2015 council election, would then be worried that they appear to be perpetuating their stay in office. And, of course, Republicans elected to council in 2015 for three years would be looking at 2018 — a bigger turnout federal election year — as their next opportunity to gain seats instead of 2019 when only state legislators would also be on the ballot.

A return to completely separate council elections in May is not possible because of state law and it is likely that the local Democrats will continue to need primaries for council elections in June. Thus, a consistent June and November schedule each year with council elections falling in the year before Presidential elections and free of federal and gubernatorial contests would serve local voters best.

Therefore, I agree with Senator Ebbin that the upcoming General Assembly session is the best way to deal with this issue. Moreover, those present at the 2009 decision Saturday should recall that moving to four-year terms was an informal part of the plan but was not part of the formal motion since Council, by law, could not change the term length.

**John Howard Eisenhour**  
Alexandria

## Bad Form

To the Editor:

Bill Hendrickson raises some interesting points in his letter ["What Constitutes Old Town's Look?" Dec. 5], but, along with numerous mistakes, he cannot resist the urge to deliver passive/aggressive jabs that deflect an honest debate. The first mistake he makes is to suggest that a few individuals dictate architectural style, when in fact, developers choose a market-based style that is derived from customer preference. Even in the historic district, when the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) pushed for and approved a contemporary design, the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

## Snapshot

**Santa paid a visit to Alexandria Fire Station #201 on Prince Street on Saturday, Dec. 7. Santa stayed all morning and posed for pictures with visitors in front of the 1863 Amoskeag Steam Engine. The Amoskeag was built in March of 1863 and been in continuous service until 1917. The engine threw a stream of water 155 feet in six minutes and five seconds after starting with a cold boiler.**

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

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

Realtor said it would be less desirable, because the design would narrow the market substantially, and take at least six months longer to sell. As a result, the developer opted for a more traditional and sellable design. The second mistake made by Mr. Hendrickson is the assertion that faux colonial is intentionally inflicted onto the community by a few people, when in actuality, faux material and lack of detail causes buildings to look strange, bleak, and cartoonish, irrespective of the style. As an example, the Potomac Yard development was designed under the auspices of the Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee (PYDAC), of which Mr. Hendrickson was the chairman for many critical years. Although a well-respected architect known for the quality of his work and attention to detail originally designed Potomac Yard, the developers wanted cheaper construction, so the architect's intentions were "value engineered out" along with all the fine detailing and quality materials.

Mr. Hendrickson mentions the Peterson Institute, which is a glass building in the District of Columbia, and infers that this type of building would be appropriate for the waterfront. However, his description of the building and its setting is highly misleading, and so is the conclusion drawn from his argument. The Peterson Building is located directly across from the Brookings institute by DuPont Circle, and is nestled between two larger buildings with only the

front visible from street. Because the building is setback, it only becomes visible when standing in front of it. The four-story front is not larger than some townhouses. The block and street are definitely not historic, but rather an eclectic collection of styles overwhelmingly dating back to the Eisenhower era, and mostly eight stories tall. The Peterson building, by comparison is smallish and well hidden, definitely a background building.

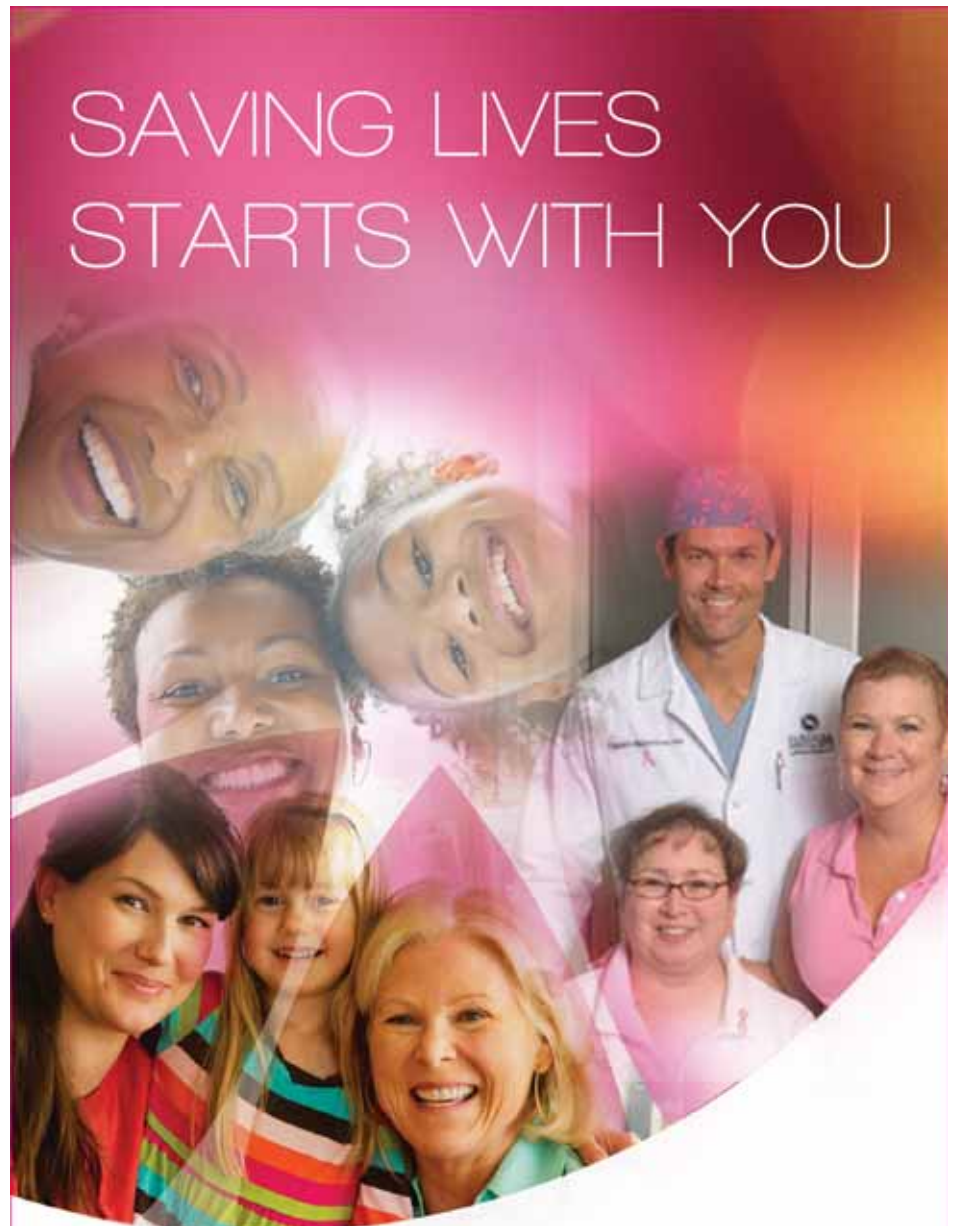
There is incongruence when he suggests that a much larger and visible version of the Peterson building is compatible with Old Town, but I suggest everyone should visit this building in its natural setting.

The behemoths envisioned for the Alexandria Waterfront require a more enlightened discussion because the presence of these very large buildings can easily preclude the preservation of the current welcoming colonial riverscape.

Then, there is the financial consideration. Ed Braswell, who was chair of the Planning Commission for over 30 years always said that chief financial officers design buildings. There is a lot of truth to that. I have been involved in city matters since 1994, and have only seen one building design that was not dictated by the CFO's considerations. Signature buildings are expensive showpieces, and are not produced by market forces.

**Poul Hertel**  
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



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## Alexandria City



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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

### Current School Board's Failings

To the Editor:

With state takeover looming, Alexandrians who drive by the Jefferson-Houston construction site report shock at the size of the new building's size. The real shock, however, is that the School Board willfully permitted this project to proceed though its anticipated relief for overcrowding in Alexandria schools is dubious.

The new \$45 million school is being built to accommodate 800-840 students, but according to projections given to the School Board last month, ACPS staff anticipates fewer than 400 students will enroll when the new school opens its doors in just 10 months' time.

In the 1970s Jefferson-Houston had nearly 700 students enrolled but has not returned to these levels in more than a decade, with student population plunging as low as 297 a few years ago.

A purposely ignored March 2011 budget memo from then-City Manager James Hartmann advised council that rebuilding Patrick Henry "would have much bigger impact" on ACPS capacity than a new Jefferson-Houston. ACPS pushed to jump Jefferson-Houston to the head of the CIP queue and council followed their lead for unexplained political reasons. No one on the current School Board has displayed the

courage or intellectual rigor to question this decision.

The recent addition of grades 6 through 8 boosted enrollments only slightly while bulking the building up, since middle school children require additional facilities like a gym. The annual state census reported only 64 middle school students enrolled at Sept. 30, 2013. The attempt to sell Jefferson-Houston as the more intimate alternative to Hammond or GW has obviously failed.

At the hearing on the Jefferson-Houston SUP exactly one year ago, Council was told that Potomac Yard development plus Virginia's waiver from No Child Left Behind legislation, which ended parental opt-out on performance grounds, would unequivocally fill the school.

The numbers have not materialized. The school was fully accredited and made Annual Yearly Progress under federal law in 2008. Officials then stood by while academic performance deteriorated so badly that the state denied accreditation in 2012. Parents of every hue are fleeing to Fairfax and Arlington counties because test scores have not returned to the levels of 2008. Recent math scores advanced slightly due to mandatory state intervention, but reading pass rates overall sank from 61 percent in 2011-12 to 41 percent in 2012-13, according to a recent Virginia Department of Education report. Seventh grade reading pass rates dropped from 73 percent to 43 percent in the same period.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

After the 2012 election the new School Board was given information from a 2010 ACPS inventory that showed surplus classrooms in east-side city schools, including both Jefferson-Houston and Cora Kelly as well as George Washington Middle School. The new Enrollment Work Group made similar findings this year and with ACPS administrative offices now being consolidated at Braddock Place the same month the new Jefferson-Houston opens, any remaining ambiguity about the availability of GW's third floor classroom space evaporates. The School Board has only one chance left to redeem itself. It can authorize a long-delayed comprehensive redistricting which will ensure the school will be fully occupied. Alternatively, they can devote the building to a new and entirely different academic use, one that brings prestige rather than scorn to the neighborhood and to Alexandria. It must be something so compelling that parents will clamor to apply.

What is not acceptable is yet another manipulative half-measure, such as splitting the school into two to gain Jefferson-Houston an unmerited accreditation that the state must grant to new schools. If this sort of superficial, short-sighted thinking prevails, it's time to consider whether Alexandria should return to an appointed rather than elected School Board.

**Leslie Zupan**  
Alexandria

## Time To Repair Relationship

To the Editor:

"We keep wondering why our citizens are so angry," quoting Planning Commissioner Mary Lyman and reported by Michael Lee Pope (Week in Alexandria, Dec. 5). The answer is an easy one: besides high-profile hotly contested projects such as the high-density waterfront rezoning and the WestEnd/Beauregard development plans, there are numerous more local situations where the city takes an adversarial stance against its citizens. Ms. Lyman was referring to stadium lights to be built for the six new tennis courts at T.C. Williams High School which would be just 140 feet away from the next residences and "light up the night." Perhaps the neighbors would have preferred investment in education instead and not in the over-the-top architecture of the new "\$100-million-state-of-the-art facility" encroaching on their peaceful backyards and destroying green space, not to mention construction noise and traffic?

Just a single edition of the Gazette Packet shows several instances of the city government's adversarial approach to its taxpayers. A letter from Jim Durham ("Lacking Civility"), describes the Traffic and Parking Board's leadership as conducting itself during a public hearing with "derision and disrespect" towards speakers and audience,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 23



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## A Scottish Snowman

In the past five years, Johna and Ron of Alexandria, along with their extended family from N.J. and Florida, attend the Alexandria Scottish Walk. This year was no different and they were so inspired by the parade that the following day they took advantage of the snowfall and built a Scottish Snowman.

Above, from left, are: Johna Woods, Ron Woods, Danny Logan, Anne Marie Logan, Kelly Logan and Dan Logan. The Logan family are from Indialantic, Fla.

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**8412 Washington Ave**  
 \$425,000  
**True One Story - No Stairs!**  
 Expanded Rambler on level lot in prime Mt. Vernon location. All major rooms including bedrooms on one level. Extensive major updates include: thermal windows, kitchen, baths, furnace, electric panel, siding, gutters-in short almost everything! Large back covered deck. One level living in "move-in" condition at remarkable price! **OPEN SUN 12/15, 1-4!** GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mount Vernon; L-Woodley; R-Washington Ave.



**1503 River Farm Dr**  
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**4300 Sheridans Point Ct**  
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# HOLIDAY GIFTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Spreading Holiday Cheer

Wine shops from around the region give their suggestions for bottles to bring to holiday parties.

BY AMBER HEALY  
GAZETTE PACKET

**H**oliday season means parties, hostess gifts, office Secret Santas and other occasions where many people bring a bottle of some spirit or other to spread good tidings.

So what to pick up? What's right? What kind of wine goes with what kind of food? And where to go for some good advice?

A handful of wine shops provide some advice for a happy party season.

### CHEESETIQUE

**2411 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria;**  
**2056 Campbell Ave., Arlington**

When buying wine, environment can be important, said Missy Pankow, front-of-house manager with the Cheesetique location in Del Ray.

"If you're going to a dinner, you'll want to bring something nice, unless it's a big party," where many bottles will be opened, she suggested. While the holiday season tends to be a time in which people are willing to spend a few more dollars on a bottle of wine perceived to be nicer or of better quality, that will be less impressive if a bottle's sitting on a table with a dozen or so other options.

"If that's the case, you might want to go for something easier to drink, like a California Cabernet," something that's easily



Missy Pankow, front-of-house manager at the Del Ray location of Cheesetique, lead a wine tasting last weekend to help customers get to know some new varieties.

recognizable and people will know what to expect with the first sip.

If a bottle is to be given as a hostess gift, and might not be opened right away, consider a smaller batch, like Prisoner by David Phinney, a Grenache blend, or a Grand Reserve Rioja.

"Everyone is in the mood to indulge a little bit," Pankow said. "Even when buying for themselves, they go for heavier reds," and sometimes even more expensive bottles, regardless of their normal buying habits.

Those looking to buy a Virginia wine should consider Viognier wines, as it's the official grape of the commonwealth, she said. Viognier is a crisp white wine with "great aromatics, and it pairs well with turkey. It's a winner all around."

Also, consider not just the main dish of a dinner but sides and desserts as well, she said. One of her favorite pairings is apple pie with Sauternes, a sweet French white

wine blend made from Sémillon, Sauvignon blanc and Muscadelle grapes. "There's nothing better," she said.

"It's one of the lesser known and under appreciated classes of wine," Pankow said.

Another great option for dinner is a good German Riesling, a slightly sweet wine that's popular during the holiday season.

"Wine by itself has so much going on, it can be hard to pair with food," she said.

### GRAPE + BEAN

**118 South Royal Street, Old Town;**  
**2 East Walnut Street, Rosemont**

At the two locations of Grape + Bean, a wine and coffee bar that offers tasting classes and food pairing workshops, shopping for a good wine this time of year starts and ends with bubbles.

"We have bubbles year-round, but we definitely load up on Champagne and sparkling wines this time of year, said David Gwathmey, the store's co-owner. "We've got

vintages 10+ years old, some to end wines that you don't usually see" that are great choices for discriminating palates.

There are also wines made from grapes grown in the Champagne region of France that are either bubbly or flat but just as good for celebrating. Those wines "give you a lot for the money" as they might have slightly smaller price tags with equally appealing flavors, he said.

Another way to go is a port or other kind of dessert wine. "This year, we've got a new range of Cohiba ports that a really special, rare, tawny port." Ports are fortified wines, typically from Portugal and served after dinner as a digestif.

A favorite of Gwathmey's is a Dona Matilde port wine. It comes in various ages between 10 and 30 years old, and the older the bottle, the smoother the taste.

But for a more traditional gift or bottle to have on the dinner table, consider "big red Italian wines," he suggested. "It's our most busy sales time of the year" for those varieties, including Chianti and varieties he called "Super Tuscans," which are not made in traditional styles and include the Barbaresco and Barolo.

Those looking to spend serious cash on a bottle of wine might have found their match with Super Tuscans, as they can run up to \$200 per bottle, Gwathmey said. While not diminishing the good quality and flavor of wines that aren't priced nearly that high, he said if someone wants to treat themselves, or their guests, to a fancier vintage, "it will show itself. It's a subjective thing, of course, but it really is great to try really fine wines."

To really knock the socks off party guests, or to commemorate special milestones in life, his establishment offers oversized

SEE HOLIDAY WINE, PAGE 21

### CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

#### ONGOING

**Photography Workshop.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union Street.

Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

**Book a Librarian.** At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St, for help with research or to better understand the library's databases and resources. Make an appointment by calling 703-746-1751.

**Computer Tutoring.** At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Individual assistance from a librarian. Call 703-746-1751.

**Encore Chorale.** Mondays 10:30 a.m.-

noon at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Register now for Encore Chorale's fall season. The group of singers, ages 55 and up, practice classical and holiday songs to prepare for December performances. \$150 tuition. Visit [encorecreativity.org](http://encorecreativity.org) or call 301-261-5747.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Portent" in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., from Oct. 24 through Dec. 8. The works attempt to visually come to terms with, reflect or represent the magnitude of natural events. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

**Theater Performance.** Through Sunday, Dec. 22, see "A Broadway Christmas Carol" at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7 p.m.; Thursday-Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. This show is a cross between the classic Dickens' tale and song parodies of more than 30 Broadway show tune favorites. \$50/adult; \$25/student or child. Visit

[www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org) for tickets.

**Theater Performance.** See The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol" from Dec. 5-22 at the theatre, 600 Wolfe St. Performances are Thursdays-Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays-Sundays at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. \$15. Visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com) or 703-683-0496.

**Tickets Now on Sale.** Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House Historic Park, Lee-Fendall House and Lloyd House by candlelight and enjoy decorations, entertainment and more on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 6-9 p.m. or Sunday, Dec. 15 from 3-6 p.m. \$20/adult; \$15/senior and \$5/child. Tickets can be purchased at [shop.alexandria.gov](http://shop.alexandria.gov) or 703-746-4242. Visit [www.historicalexandria.org](http://www.historicalexandria.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Fotographers at the Factory" Nov. 1 through Dec. 31 at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit celebrates FotoWeekDC. Hours are Thursdays 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; all other days from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Photographs will line the hall walls and in multiple studios. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents "Holiday Sizzle" in Studio 18 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit starts on Nov. 19, additional items will be added Dec. 9 and the exhibit closes Jan. 5. Free. Some items will be for sale. Visit [www.potomacfiberarts.com](http://www.potomacfiberarts.com) or 703-548-0935.

**African American Activists Exhibition.** Through Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing photo-documentary project created in 2006 by artist-photographer Nina Tisara to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria. This free exhibit is at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 601 Wythe St. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org) or call 703-746-4356.

**Art Exhibit.** "Small Works," juried by Irene Owsley will run Nov. 26-Jan. 5,

at the Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit

[www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "IMPART," a project that is a collaboration between The Art League and the Wounded Warriors at Ft. Belvoir. Features ceramics by eight artists showcased at The Art League in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit runs through Jan. 5. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

**"The Street Sense Project."** Thien-Kim Pham presents "Portraits of People Who Live and Work on the Streets" in studio 21 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit runs Dec. 5 through Jan. 6. A portion of the sales will be donated to a local charity related to the subject matter depicted in the piece. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780 for more.

**Art Exhibit.** "Small Worlds," a multimedia juried exhibition with a focus on artists who work in miniature or small scales will run Dec. 6-Jan. 12,



# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

## CLASSES

**Christmas Cooking Class.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14 at Osteria Marzano, 6361 Walker Lane, Suite 140. Chef Carmine Marzano will teach participants how to cook an Italian Christmas meal, then dine on the creations. \$85/person. RSVP to [info@osteriamarzano.com](mailto:info@osteriamarzano.com) or 703-313-9700.

**Life Drawing.** Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Just drop-in for the session and bring your supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for a schedule.

**Winter Class Registration.** Early bird registration for classes at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane will end Dec. 20. Call 703-201-1250 or visit [www.artatthecenter.org](http://www.artatthecenter.org) for a list of classes.

**Holiday Cupcakes.** Through Dec. 31, Occasionally Cake, at 207 King St. in Old Town is hosting cupcake decorating classes on Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m.; Saturdays, as scheduled and Sundays 3-5 p.m. Each class is two hours and instructors teach four different cupcake designs for take-home cupcakes. \$60 per person. Students 11 years old and younger must be accompanied by a paying adult. Call 703-647-9638 or visit [www.occasionallycake.com](http://www.occasionallycake.com).

## CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

**Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale.** Pick out a freshly-cut North Carolina Fraser Fir while enjoying some hot cider and cookies. Ten percent of the sale will go back to a designated PTA. Runs Saturdays and Sundays at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, through Dec. 15. Visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com) or 703-360-4220.

**Christmas Tree Sale.** Saturday, Dec. 14 from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15 from noon-4 p.m. in the parking lot adjacent to Trinity United Methodist Church, corner of Cameron Mills and Allison. Sponsored by the North Ridge Citizens Association. \$25-\$90 for a tree, \$16 for wreaths, \$20 for garland and \$25 for tree stands. Call Bruce Johnson at 703-548-9604.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 12

**2nd Thursday Art Night: Decadent December.** 6-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Do some holiday shopping while tasting chocolate and wine. There will be handcrafted ornaments, a DIY craft station and a musical performance by chamber choir Pro Coro Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) or 703-838-4565.

**Opening Reception and Meet the Artist.** 6:30-8 p.m. meet Thien-Kim Pham and see his exhibit "Portraits of People Who Live and Work on the Streets" in studio 21 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. A portion of the sales will be donated to a local charity related to the subject matter depicted in the piece. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780 for more.

**Spirit of the Season Concert.** 7 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants will perform. Free, but tickets are required. Visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at The

Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Rick Springfield performs. Tickets are \$69.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500 for tickets.

**Reception.** 6:30-8 p.m. meet some of the artists of "IMPART," a project that is a collaboration between The Art League and the Wounded Warriors at Ft. Belvoir. Features ceramics by eight artists showcased at The Art League in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 12-15

**Living Christmas Tree.** First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St., presents the Living Christmas Tree. Showtimes are Thursday and Friday at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday at 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. \$7/person. No children under 4. Childcare is available upon request. Visit [www.fbcalexandria.org/LCT](http://www.fbcalexandria.org/LCT) for tickets.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 13

**Music Performance.** See Mint Condition at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. 7:30 p.m. \$55. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

**Holiday Market.** 6-9 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

**A Christmas Medley.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Readings of holiday poems, stories and remembrances by Frederick Douglass, Frank O'Connor, William Shakespeare and others. \$10. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com](http://www.visitalexandriava.com) for more.

**Community Open House.** 2:30-4 p.m. at the Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Ave. The best decorated tree will be chosen. 703-845-5000.

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia will perform. \$10/advance; \$15/door. Visit [www.sonovamusic.org](http://www.sonovamusic.org) for tickets.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Grand Opening.** 8:30 a.m. at Potomac Yard Park, 2501 Potomac Ave. The park will officially open. Free.

**Breakfast with Santa.** 9 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road. Enjoy pancakes, crafts, photo ops and more. \$5/person. For additional information, contact Alicia Clarke at [alclarke@fcps.edu](mailto:alclarke@fcps.edu) or Erica Williams-Taylor at [elwilliamst@fcps.edu](mailto:elwilliamst@fcps.edu).

**Pictures with Santa on the Trolley.** 9 a.m.-noon at Market Square, 301 King St. Have your picture taken with Santa for free, and all children will receive a special gift from Santa, DASH and the King Street Trolley. DASH will also be collecting toys for Toys for Tots. Photography by Steven Halperson of Tisara Photography. Visit [www.tisaraphoto.com](http://www.tisaraphoto.com) for more.

**Wrap It Up Fundraiser.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Take your presents to a group of local students to wrap in exchange for donations. All proceeds go to ALICE'S KIDS ([aliceskids.org](http://aliceskids.org)). Bake sale and 50/50 raffle also. No gifts to wrap this year? Make a donation. Reservations required. For more information, call Dana at 703-819-9245 or e-mail [danamcguckin@icloud.com](mailto:danamcguckin@icloud.com).

**Holiday Market.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local

artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

## Garden Sprouts: Welcome Winter.

11 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Preschool children ages 3-5 with accompanying adult. Tour the garden to see the changes that winter brings. Learn why some animals stay and others migrate or hibernate. Make a winter landscape to take home and a pinecone feeder for the birds that remain. Code: 290 481 4402, \$6/child. Register on-line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) or call Green Spring Gardens 703-642-5173.

## Holiday Cheerleading Invitational.

11 a.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Features youth cheerleading teams from neighborhood recreation centers and the metropolitan area. \$10/age 13 and older; \$5/age 5-12; and children under 4 are free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation) or 703-746-5402 for information.

## Holiday Cheerleading Invitational.

11 a.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Features youth cheerleading teams from neighborhood recreation centers and the metropolitan area. \$10/age 13 and older; \$5/age 5-12; and children under 4 are free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation) or 703-746-5402 for information.

## Holiday Ice Show.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Watch as experienced skaters and beginners of all ages perform their routines. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/happy-holidays.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/happy-holidays.htm) or 703-768-3224.

## Civil War Christmas in Camp.

Noon-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Meet a patriotic Civil War Santa Claus, visit an officer's hut decorated for the season, talk with soldiers and tour the museum. \$2/person. Will also feature stories, activities and more. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or 703-746-4848.

**Book Signing.** Noon-2 p.m. at Killer E.S.P., 1012 King St. Lee Davis will sign copies of "Key Monster." Visit [killeresp.com](http://killeresp.com) for more.

## Family Fun: Winter Solstice Workshop.

2-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how people in the past celebrated the winter solstice. Then create an evergreen centerpiece, complete with beeswax candle, to warm and welcome friends and family to your table. Family-friendly programs for ages 5 and up; children must be accompanied by registered adult. Code: 290 481 5001, \$10/person. Register on-line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) or call Green Spring Gardens 703-642-5173.

## Ballet Performance.

3 p.m. or 7 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax will perform "Nutcracker in a Nutshell." \$25/person. Visit [www.thecenterforballetarts.com](http://www.thecenterforballetarts.com) or 703-273-5344.

## Gingerbread Firehouse Contest Judging.

Participants can create a gingerbread house that depicts a firefighting theme associated with an architectural structure. All entries will be judged at the Lloyd House and will be on display through Dec. 15. For more information or a list of the complete gingerbread contest rules and entry form, visit [www.historicalalexandria.org](http://www.historicalalexandria.org) or call 703-746-4554.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 15

**Holiday Market.** Noon-4 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



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Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

**Holiday Music.** 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Mount Vernon Flutes will perform holiday classics. Free. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com](http://www.visitalexandriava.com) for more.

**Handbell Performance.** 2 p.m. at Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The Brown Academy chorus will perform. Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or 703-746-1702.

**Colonial Handbell Ringers.** 2 p.m. or 4 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Listen to and sing along with the Colonial Handbell Ringers as they perform holiday classics. Free, but reservations required. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) or 703-746-4994.

**Ballet Performance.** 3 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax will perform "Nutcracker in a Nutshell." \$25/person. Visit [www.thecenterforballetarts.com](http://www.thecenterforballetarts.com) or 703-273-5344.

**Author Event.** 3 p.m. at Teatism, 682 N. St. Asaph St. Todd Coopee will discuss and sign copies of his book "Light Bulb Baking: History of the Easy-Bake Oven." Visit [www.teatism.com](http://www.teatism.com) for more.

#### MONDAY/DEC. 16

**Tavern Toddlers: Rhythm and Music.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Toddlers through 36 months can enjoy storytime, dancing, crafts and more. \$7/group of three. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern](http://www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern) for more.

**Shopping Night.** 7-9 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Support Good Shepherd Housing while doing holiday shopping. Visit [www.goodhousing.org](http://www.goodhousing.org) for more.

**Santa Railway Express.** 1:25 p.m., depart King Street Station and return at 3:30 p.m. Ride the train with Santa and Mrs. Claus. \$27.50, tickets sold exclusively at Whistle Stop Toy & Hobby, 1719 Centre Plaza. Visit [www.whistlestophobbies.com](http://www.whistlestophobbies.com) or 703-549-4912.

**Annual Basketball Match.** 7 p.m. at Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 W. Reed Ave. The Bellefonte Wizards will take on the DCHS Shooting Stars for the Gilmore Cup. Free.

#### TUESDAY/DEC. 17

**Library Tour.** 1:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Tour the new Fred W. Smith National Library for the study of George Washington. Led by Mount

Vernon tour guides and Library staff members, this new tour will offer access to the main floor of the center for scholarship about George Washington, Colonial America, and the Revolutionary Era. View rare books and manuscripts, special collections and art, research resources, and one-of-a-kind design details such as custom-created busts of the Founding Fathers. Tours are included in admission to the Estate, but are limited in capacity and are on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org) or 703-780-2000.

**Winter Choral Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The T.C. Williams concert, mixed and advanced choirs will perform. Free. Visit <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/> for more.

**Music Performance.** See Big Bad Voodoo Daddy at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. 7:30 p.m. \$39.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

**Holiday Music.** 7 p.m. The West Potomac High School choirs will perform in the Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. The audience will be invited to participate in a holiday sing-along culminating with the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. A silent auction will be conducted with the highest bidder winning the privilege of conducting the final song. Proceeds will benefit the West Potomac choral program. Free.

#### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 18

**Santa's Winter Wonderland.** 5-8 p.m., meet Santa at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. See a scale model of the City with features such as City Hall, Masonic Memorial and more, look at 20-foot-high trees decorated for the season and entertainment. Children ages infant to 17 can get a gift. To donate a new, unwrapped gift, contact Ian Hawkins at [ihawkins@arha.us](mailto:ihawkins@arha.us) or 703-549-7913. Donations should be received by Dec. 16.

**A John Waters Christmas.** 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear a compilation of Christmas music selected by director John Waters. \$49.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or 703-549-7500.

#### THURSDAY/DEC. 19

**Music Performance.** Carbon Leaf will perform at 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for tickets.

#### FRIDAY/DEC. 20

**Santa Railway Express.** 1:25 p.m., depart King Street Station and return

at 3:30 p.m. Ride the train with Santa and Mrs. Claus. \$27.50, tickets sold exclusively at Whistle Stop Toy & Hobby, 1719 Centre Plaza. Visit [www.whistlestophobbies.com](http://www.whistlestophobbies.com) or 703-549-4912.

**Holiday Market.** 6-9 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 21

**Holiday Market.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

**Holiday Food & Wine Event.** At Balducci's, 600 Franklin St. Join professional winemakers, importers, aficionados and gourmet chefs and sommeliers as they sample various wines, trade recommendations, and just share stories about their mutual passion for gourmet food and wine. Balducci's Food Lover's Market will have special holiday wine and food samplings. Free. Visit <http://www.balduccis.com/> for more.

**Author Event.** 3-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Brian Kilmeade will sign copies of his book "George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution." Estate admission is not required. Visit <http://www.mountvernon.org/specialevents> for more.

**Country-Western Dance.** Lessons start at 6:30 p.m., dancing from 7:30-10 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. A DJ provides music. \$10/NVCWDA member; \$12/non-member; \$5/child 18 and under. BYO refreshment, non-alcoholic. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or 703-860-4941.

#### SUNDAY/DEC. 22

**Holiday Market.** Noon-4 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

**Pictures with Santa.** 6-9 p.m. at Osteria Marzano, 6361 Walker Lane, Suite 140. Children can take a free picture while enjoying dinner. Visit [www.osteriamarzano.com](http://www.osteriamarzano.com) or 703-313-9700 for reservations.

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria's Grape + Bean offers tasting classes on a regular basis, in addition to hosting a wine bar and featuring a wide variety of wines from around the world.

## Holiday Wine Selections

FROM PAGE 18

bottles of Champagne, including one that costs upwards of \$700. "We sold one bottle of rare Champagne that was four feet tall," he laughed.

For those hard to buy for wine lovers, Grape + Bean offers classes ranging from wine and food pairings to discussions on varieties from a specific geographic region, he added.

### LE TASTEVIN FINE WINES 1309 King Street, Old Town

"As the weather gets colder, people are looking for full-bodied reds, for sure," said Tina Seashore with Le Tastevin Fine Wines. Côte du Rhone, Syrah, Grenache and blends featuring those wines are good options for holiday dinners and gifts.

But for those people who really like white wines, or want to give something a little unexpected, consider Rieslings, she said. This is a good option for people who don't like sweet wines but want something lighter than a red. It pairs well with turkey and other heavy meals and complements those flavors without overpowering them.

Champagne and other sparkling variet-

ies, including Prosecco and Moscato, are surefire hits as well, with flavor profiles ranging from dry to sweet, depending on preference.

"There are certainly other sparkling wines made with the fine little bubbles but they can be made with different grapes," meaning even those who don't like drier Champagnes can find a festive drink, Seashore said.

Her store tends to carry wines from smaller producers, but a few Virginia vintners make the cut, including Barboursville, Linden and Glen Manor wines.

It's not unusual for people to come into the store, "do a lap and come up and say I have no idea what to get," she said. To help those customers out, she's happy to open a bottle and sample it, and the store keeps a good number of open bottles on hand for just such purposes.

"I work with smaller producers, so there's nothing here you're going to find at Total Wine or Giant," which can make buying wine, already an intimidating experience for some, downright terrifying.

To make up for that, "at least half" the wines in the store are \$15 and under, with the rest in the \$15-\$30 range.



Alexandria resident and runway model, Tameka Young

EXTRAORDINARY

Alexandria

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It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan.



## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

# 'Tis the Season

**Greed, ghosts and redemption in LTA's 'A Christmas Carol.'**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

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

First published in December of 1843, Dickens never intended his novel to become a play, yet it was so popular that within a year there were eight theatrical versions playing in London and America. LTA has chosen the Donna Ferragut traditional adaptation of the Victorian play for this holiday season.

Taking on the central role of Scrooge is Fred Lash. Lash gives a passionate performance that transfixes the audience as he is transformed from despised businessman to generous humanitarian.

Valerie Chamness is the Ghost of Christ-

mas Past, with the incomparable Eliot Bales as the Ghost of Christmas Present and the silent Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

Charles Lourens is Scrooge's terminally cheerful nephew Fred with Gary Cramer as Bob Cratchit, Bob McGrath as Fezziwig and Griffin Melley as the innocent Tiny Tim.

The entire cast is remarkably talented and costumes by Ashley Amidon and Kristin O'Malley combine with the set design of Rebecca Patton to bring the Victorian streets of London to life.

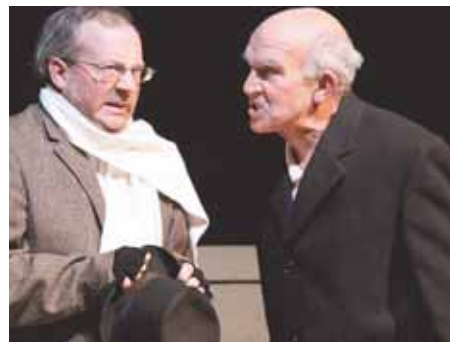
The power of the story still strikes a chord with audiences around the world and remains undimmed by time. While there may be bigger and flashier shows this holiday season, none will warm the heart more than The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol."

"A Christmas Carol" is playing through Dec. 22 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).



**Valerie Chamness is the Ghost of Christmas Past.**

**The Cratchit Family toasts the holiday.**



**Gary Cramer as Bob Cratchit and Fred Lash as Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" at LTA.**



**Hannah Runner (Martha) and Isabella Lovain (Hope) in "A Christmas Carol" at LTA.**

PHOTOS BY EDDY ROGER PARKER

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Special thanks to **Alexandria Gazette Packet**

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com).

The **Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities. Training and support is provided. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711, or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/lcombudsman/vol\\_ombud\\_program.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/lcombudsman/vol_ombud_program.htm).

The **Kingstowne Senior Center** in Alexandria needs volunteers to assist at the front desk on Fridays and instructors for classes in art, Spanish, and Tai Chi or QiGong/Khi Cong. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and link to Volunteer Solutions or e-mail [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Alexandria's Juvenile Court Services and Seaport Foundation seek **adult male mentors** for the new SOHO (Space of His Own) creative mentorship program. Seaport SOHO will meet throughout the school year, Wednesdays, 5:30-8 p.m., at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, 2 Duke St. Seaport SOHO will provide boys from fragile and fragmented homes with yearlong one-to-one mentoring through engagement in carpentry, fishing and sports activities. No mentoring or carpentry experience is required. Email [ashley.snyder@alexandriava.gov](mailto:ashley.snyder@alexandriava.gov).

The **Alexandria Tutoring Consortium** needs volunteers to tutor kindergartners and first-graders for 30 minutes once or twice a week through May in Alexandria public schools. Training and lesson plans provided. Call 703-549-6670, ext. 119, or visit [www.alexandriatutors.org](http://www.alexandriatutors.org).

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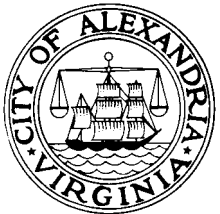


# LETTERS

## Legal Notices

### LEGAL NOTICE

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



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, December 14, 2013, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE making supplemental appropriations for the support of the government of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for fiscal year 2014.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the adoption of supplemental appropriations for the operation of the city government in fiscal year 2014.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owner of the property located at 2250 Mill Road (Tax Map #078.02-01-06) in the City of Alexandria, Virginia to construct and maintain an encroachment into the public street known as Dock Lane for a bay on the building and an underground transformer vault.

The proposed ordinance permits an encroachment into the Dock Lane right-of-way adjacent to the building located at 2250 Mill Road for a bay and an underground transformer vault. This encroachment is associated with the residential development approved by DSUP 2012-0028 at the same public hearing.

AN ORDINANCE to vacate a portion of the public access and emergency vehicle easement on the private street known as East Campus Drive located at 3001 North Beauregard Street and 3003 East Campus Drive (VAC No. 2013-0004).

The proposed ordinance vacates the public access and emergency vehicle easement on East Campus Drive at 3001 North Beauregard Street and 3003 East Campus Drive approve by City Council as Vacation No. 2013-0004.

PUBLIC HEARING for Consideration of Increase in Amount of Affordable Housing Predevelopment Funding Subject to Administrative Approval.

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

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FROM PAGE 14

not even listening properly. Jonathan Krall (“Support Compromise”) in his letter expresses disappointment “that the Traffic and Parking Board has chosen to mislead the public so as to create, out of thin air, an excuse to do nothing” about the current compromise proposal by city staff and citizens to make upper King Street safer by removing some parking spaces and creating a bike lane.

Since Ms. Lyman feels that it “comes down to a matter of trust”, perhaps the City Council could take the first step towards rebuilding trust by ruling, for once, with the residents? (The Planning Board basically abstained from expressing an opinion on the installation of stadium lights.) And by appointing board and commission members who not only approach their constituents’ concerns appropriately but have the big picture so that anger at their adversarial and disrespectful conduct does not come as a surprise. The next elections are not until 2015 so much can be done to repair the relationship between city government and citizens by then.

**Ursula Weide**  
Alexandria

## Parking Vs Traffic Board

To the Editor:

The Gazette’s article, “War of Upper King Street,” mis-characterized the debate as one between automobiles and bicycles. The debate is better described as one between parking and (safe) transportation. Even that characterization falls short, because there was broad-based support, including the Environmental Policy Commission who views the proposed pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements as critical to achieving Alexandria’s Eco-City goals, and the science teacher at T.C. Williams who knows that more students would bike and lead healthier lives if these safety improvements are made.

I invite the Traffic and Parking Board, which by its very name appears to undermine the current 21st century goal of moving people instead of cars, to publish the correspondence received prior to the Nov. 25 meeting. More than 100 letters and emails were submitted by interested citizens who voiced their opinions/support in print because they were unable to attend in person. To date, I have seen no mention of this vital tenet of American values, to pen one’s opinion. What per cent of the correspondence was pro, con, or neutral? How many different organizations or interests were represented? I can’t recall any recent topic that brought forth the diversity and number of citizens that expressed their opinion in support of this plan, which indeed had forged a compromise with staff and residents. (The parking reduction yet retaining 10 spaces.) In the case of the King Street (west of Russell) transit improvement plan, the sheer number and diversity of support for the city’s plan deserve to be heard.

The breadth and depth of that support, combined with the city’s engineering analysis that safety will be improved, are more than enough reason to implement the plan as proposed ... and, as for the Traffic and Parking Board, perhaps it should be renamed, the Parking vs Traf-

fic Board.

**Elizabeth Wright**  
Alexandria

## Appreciates Lighting Design

To the Editor:

Kudos to Alexandria’s Department of Parks and Recreation for wrapping the holiday lights around the tree trunks up and down King Street and all around Market Square. The “new look” is stunning. I have complained to my husband for years that the Christmas lights on King Street looked like someone had grabbed a string of lights and thrown them at the trees. He finally told me to keep it to myself because he was tired of listening to my criticism. Can you imagine my delight when I first saw the new design? I was ecstatic! Please extend my thanks to whoever is responsible for bringing Alexandria’s holiday lighting into the 21st century. Three cheers for all!

**Eloise T. Payne**  
Alexandria

## “Appropriately Scaled?”

To the Editor:

Bill Hendrickson, the chairperson of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, recently wrote a letter championing new modern architecture on the waterfront. It contained a very interesting quote which is worth repeating: “sensitive historic contexts can readily accommodate contrasting architecture when it is thoughtfully designed and appropriately scaled.” What a shame that neither Mr. Hendrickson nor any of the other proponents of the new waterfront plan ever understood what is meant by “appropriately scaled.”

The entire losing battle to preserve the waterfront as an historic site was about mass and scale. I with many others saw the danger of destroying the special ambience and character of that area with oversized buildings. Just as I feared, it is coming to pass.

Mr. Hendrickson sees the proposed design for the hotel on Union Street which would replace the Art League warehouse site as “bland and innocuous.” I have attended four different presentations on that building. It might qualify as bland since it is nothing but a large box with a kind of snout projecting on the Union Street side. It is in no way innocuous. It is five stories tall and an enormous size in contrast to the truly historic Colonial era structures nearby. If built as it has been presented, it will dwarf those structures. They will recede in everyone’s consciousness. In time no one will think of the area as a special place or of the remaining historic buildings as worth preserving.

In a decade or two, they may even be demolished because they will seem out of place. That is what happened to the building at 1427 F Street, known toward the end of its long history as the Ebbitt’s Grill. In the early days of the nation it was a tavern. The British soldiers who set fire to the White House drank there afterwards. It lasted into the late 20th century when it was deemed too small and insignifi-

cant to be saved.

Those who supported the new waterfront plan need to be more serious about making it work.

**Katy Cannady**  
Alexandria

## Problem with “Perpetual Review”

To the Editor:

In a recent letter to the editor, Bill Hendrickson argues persuasively for a more open-minded approach to architectural design in the old and historic district, particularly on the waterfront. He cites the proposed hotel on the Robinson Terminal North site, wryly suggesting that the question is not what “George Washington would build if he were alive today,” but rather how can we create a “piece of iconic architecture” that is “evocative of Old Town’s look” without putting up yet another “bland, faux-historic” building. Bravo.

In focusing on the process of architectural review, Hendrickson puts his finger on a fundamental problem relating to public decision-making in general relating to growth and development.

He attributes the lack of architectural innovation to the rigidity of “a small but influential group of people who weigh in on design issues.” We’ve seen the same dynamic in the endless review and litigation spearheaded by a small group of people that has blocked virtually all progress on the waterfront. And they’re not done yet. Despite the election of a City Council supermajority that favors the waterfront plan and the judicial rulings siding with the city, the so-called “Iron Ladies” are back in court to re-litigate a procedural issue ostensibly made moot by the vote of the supermajority.

Opposition to the waterfront plan is not really a political issue in the sense of Democrats versus Republicans, although the votes have been along party lines. Rather, a relatively small number of Alexandrians found common cause around their personal views of the common good involving a range of issues. Some involve the environment — too much development, not enough infrastructure (drainage, sewer capacity, etc.). Some are quality of life issues — too much noise and traffic, not enough parking. Others reflect personal preferences — more arts, parks and museums rather than hotels, restaurants, shops, and bars.

Regardless of one’s views on those issues, one thing seems clear: the process for resolving them is deeply flawed. This is not unique to Alexandria.

In a 2012 Washington Post editorial (“Clogging our ports with rules”) George Will lamented that America has changed from “a nation that celebrated getting things done to a nation that celebrates people and groups who prevent things from being done.” Will was writing about the port of Charleston, S.C. and the need to deepen its harbor by 5 feet to accommodate the larger ships that will be coming through the Panama Canal starting in 2015. He worried that environmental review and years of litigation could put Charleston “out of the game, with huge anti-competitive consequences for the burgeoning manufacturing

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 25



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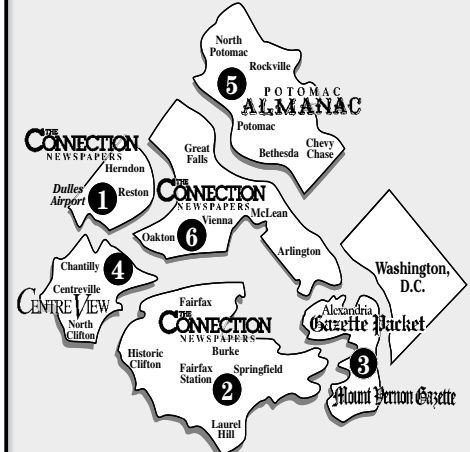
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**Obituary**

**Leonard Erwin Roberts (82)**

On Monday, December 9, 2013 of Alexandria, VA. Loving husband of Renee; cherished father of Jeffrey Roberts (Janet) and Marla Popkin (Randy Abrams); loving grandfather of Marshall Popkin. He will truly be missed by many relatives and family. Funeral service will be held at Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Dr. Alexandria, VA 22302 on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 12:30 PM. Interment to follow at King David Memorial Gardens. In Lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his honor to Agudas Achim Congregation. Please view and sign the family guestbook at [www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com](http://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com)

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J.C. is survived by his wife, of 63 years, Joyce Folts Smith, his daughter Cindy Smith-Page of Alexandria and his grandson, Clinton Page of Alexandria. He is also survived by his step-granddaughters Allison Lowry of Springfield and Ashley Rath of Arlington, and two great grandchildren.

Visitation will be held at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd, Alexandria, VA, on Tuesday, December 10 from 4-7 p.m. A Service will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, in the Chapel at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home. Interment will be held at a later date at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Front Royal, VA.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alexandria Adult Day Services Center and Capital Caring Hospice.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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## OPINION

# Help with 'Winter Wonderland'

By MCKENYA DILWORTH ABDALLA

The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority is all about building community and not just building physical structures. Keeping true to form and philosophy, ARHA is ready to serve thousands of children in need again this year at its annual Winter Wonderland in partnership with the City of Alexandria and the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs. Giving is a big part of building community and this is exactly what will be done during the Winter Wonderland.

It's a time to think of others and give generously to Alexandria's vulnerable, children in need. Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority sets an excellent example of servant leadership each year with its annual Winter Wonderland event held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

The event began four years ago with the debut of the replica of wonderland, complete with townhouses and workshops skillfully crafted by ARHA dedicated staffers. Thousands of children have benefited from the generosity of Alexandrians and the business community at large.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 23  
and exporting industries of the Southeast."

Philip Howard, founder of the nonpartisan Common Good, sounded a similar theme in a recent Wall Street Journal article ("Why It Takes So Long to Build a Bridge in America"). Howard says public decision-making has become a "kind of free-for-all" among multiple agencies "with courts called upon to sort it out after everyone else has dropped of exhaustion." This he says skews the process toward the "squeaky wheels instead of the common good."

Howard says the problem is that "no one is in charge of deciding when there has been enough review." To address this, Howard says that federal, state, and local governments should create independent agencies to decide how much review is enough — a one-stop approval authority to "cut through the knot of multiple agencies." He acknowledges that special interests, "especially groups that like the power of being able to stop anything," will argue this could lead to an abuse of the public trust. But Howard says giving people responsibility doesn't require trust. "I don't trust anyone, he says, "but I can live with a system of democratic responsibility and judicial oversight. What our country can't live with is spinning our wheels in perpetual review." Neither can Alexandria.

**Edward Lenz**  
Alexandria

## Protecting Individual Rights

To the Editor:

Dec. 15 is the anniversary of the adop-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**A Washington Redskins cheerleader at last year's Winter Wonderland.**

There is an anticipated increase in the number of children in need this year due to the sequestration which caused many families to play catch up with household expenses. Children will receive two toys plus stocking stuffers at the annual Winter Wonderland event on Dec. 18 from 5-8 p.m.

Please consider donating an unwrapped toy for this event. Drop off sites are the ARHA offices at 600 North Fairfax and 18 & Roth Streets. All donations are tax-deductible. To donate and/or volunteer for this event, contact Sandra Fowler at 703-549-7115 ext. 231.

tion of the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to our national Constitution, in 1791. George Mason IV of Gunston Hall, (George Washington's next-door neighbor on the Potomac; both considered themselves Alexandrians) is the person most responsible for its inclusion. He refused to sign the Constitution without a statement of our rights — and he also wanted it to provide for emancipation. When the Virginia General Assembly debated its adoption, he was among the foremost opposing it for those reasons. In a close vote Virginia like other states, voted to ratify the Constitution with the proviso that a Bill of Rights must accompany it.

This is also an appropriate time to remember Mason because his birthday, Dec. 11, 1725, should be widely observed; he was one of the most important Founding Fathers. Mason was the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights and of the Fairfax Resolves (ratified in Alexandria), which set the precedent of one colony supporting another in resistance to British tyranny. He was a major contributor to the discussions resulting in the creation of our federal republic.

Mason realized that at every level of government there was danger that the people's God-given rights would be violated, even by those whom they had elected. Although every state's constitution had a bill of rights, he disagreed with George Washington and other federalists that such protections were redundant in the federal constitution. His principled stand cost him his rightful place in history; federalists, angered by his effective resistance to adopting the Constitution, left him out of their accounts about the important people of this period.

Mason's foresight proved providential because today our rights — and even the

SEE LETTERS PAGE 31



# Wakefield Boys' Basketball Beats TC in Memorial Game

Warriors win despite shooting 9-for-30 from the free-throw line.

By JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

When the Wakefield boys' basketball team defeated T.C. Williams in February during the opening round of last season's regional tournament, it was believed to be the Warriors' first victory over the Titans since 1996 and propelled Wakefield to a postseason run that reached the state semifinals.

Nearly 10 months later, the schools met in the fourth annual Parker-Gray/Hoffman-Boston memorial game, during which the teams wear throwback jerseys to honor the historically black schools in Alexandria (Parker-Gray) and Arlington (Hoffman-Boston). T.C. Williams won the first three meetings, with each game played in the Titans' home gym.

Saturday's contest was a game of firsts for the schools located two miles apart. Wakefield hosted the memorial game for the first time. It was the first boys' game in the school's new gym. And when it was over, Wakefield had earned its first win while donning the Hoffman-Boston Trojan jerseys, helping prove last year's victory over T.C. Williams was no fluke.

Wakefield closed the game on a 6-1 run and beat T.C. Williams 56-51 on Dec. 7 at Wakefield High School. The Warriors held on despite standout forward Dominique Tham getting in early foul trouble and the team shooting 9-for-30 from the free-throw line. But while Wakefield's performance left room for improvement, it also gave the



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

**T.C. Williams junior guard Andrew Hill scored 15 points against Wakefield on Dec. 7.**

Warriors a 1-0 record and a confidence-building victory.

"It's always good to beat T.C. Williams," Wakefield head coach Tony Bentley said. "T.C. Williams is who you model your program after. ... We've never beat them in the Hoffman-Boston/Parker-Gray game, so that was an accomplishment. Beating them in the regional tournament was getting over the hump, so I think tonight we had the confidence we could beat them."

Re'Quan Hopson led Wakefield with 19 points and 12 rebounds. The senior forward's transition bucket, with an assist from Jalen Carver, gave Wakefield a 54-50 lead late in the fourth quarter. Hopson said he enjoyed the environment inside the Warriors' new gym.

"It was great," he said. "It kind of felt like T.C. [Williams' gym], but this one was more

enclosed, so it felt even louder and amplified. I liked it a lot."

How did this win compare to beating the Titans in last year's regional tournament?

"I think it's more of a big deal now," Hopson said, "because now we can say we did it more than once."

Wakefield led by 10 in the first quarter and held a 42-36 advantage entering the fourth. T.C. Williams battled back with 9-2 run, taking a 45-44 lead when sophomore guard Jordan Jones buried a 3-pointer with 5:34 remaining. Twenty seconds later, Wakefield guard Marqua Walton knocked down a 3-pointer to put the Warriors back in front. Walton's second 3-pointer gave Wakefield a 50-47 advantage, but T.C. Williams guard Andrew Hill tied the game with a 3-pointer from the left corner with 3:36 left on the clock.

Hill's 3-pointer was the Titans' last field goal, however, while the Warriors got buckets from Tham, Hopson and a pair of free throws from Carver to pull out the win.

"Once we made a run, Wakefield stayed tough and stayed true to the way they play," T.C. Williams head coach Julian King said. "And that kid (Walton) hit a couple big [3-pointers] and took the air out of us."

Walton finished with 11 points and seven rebounds.

"The facility, it's beautiful," he said. "... It felt really good to pull a victory for our first win in this new gym."

Wakefield's poor foul shooting kept the game close. The Warriors made just 9 of 30 attempts, including 7 of 22 in the second half.

"We were terrible from the free-throw line," Bentley said. "Someone said if we would have made our free throws we would have won by 20."

Walton, who went 1-for-2 from the line, expected repercussions from the team's performance from the line.

"All I've got to say," Walton said, "is on Monday we're going to be shooting a lot of free throws."

Carver finished with 13 points and went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line. Tham scored two points and grabbed six rebounds. The junior forward went to the bench after being called for two early fouls.

"He plays aggressive," Bentley said. "He picked up some stupid fouls. He's only a junior, but he's a veteran and he's got to learn we need him on the court."

Bentley praised junior forward Xavier Cooper, who finished with eight points and five rebounds.

"My guy tonight was Xavier Cooper," Bentley said. "[He] really shined for us tonight on the boards. ... He was a kid who

SEE WAKEFIELD, PAGE 27

## SPORTS BRIEFS



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

**T.C. Williams guard Tykera Carter scored 23 points during the Titans' 59-45 victory over Wakefield on Dec. 7.**

## TC Girls' Basketball Beats Wakefield

The T.C. Williams girls' basketball team improved to 2-1 with a 59-45 win over Wakefield on Dec. 7 during the Parker-Gray/Hoffman-Boston memorial game at Wakefield High School.

Tykera Carter, a transfer from Riverdale Baptist, led the Titans with 23 points. The senior guard is averaging 18.3 points per contest.

Rejoice Spivey scored 15 points against Wakefield and Grace Peterson added 13.

T.C. Williams opened the season with a 63-42 win against Bishop Ireton on Dec. 3. Angie Schedler led the Titans with 17 points. The senior guard also had five steals, five rebounds and two assists. Carter scored 12 points to go with four assists, three rebounds and three steals. Spivey finished with nine points and 10 assists. Peterson had eight points and eight rebounds and Josie Brocato added eight points.

The Titans lost to West Virginia's St. Joseph Academy 77-57 on Dec. 6. Carter led the way with 20 points. Spivey totaled 14 points and seven assists, and Peterson finished with 13 points and eight rebounds.

T.C. Williams will travel to face West Springfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13.

## Alexandria Aces Seek Host Families

The Alexandria Aces Collegiate Summer Baseball Club, coming off a 27-17 regular season record which took the team into the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League playoffs this past summer, are looking for host families for their upcoming 2014 season.

Thirty-five young men from all over the U.S. will come to Alexandria, next summer, to play wooden bat baseball at Frank E. Mann Field at Four Mile Run Park.

From early June, to early August, they will play 40 games in roughly 60 days. An Aces player hosted by a family next summer

might one day be playing Major League Baseball some time in the near future.

Host families are asked to provide a bed and access to a washer and dryer, and the Aces will take care of the everything else.

Those who would like to volunteer as a host family are asked to contact Aces' host family coordinator, Dave Cheney, at 703-370-2882.

## Bishop Ireton Boys' Basketball Starts 2-1

The Bishop Ireton boys' basketball team won two of its first three games, including a victory against Episcopal in the season opener.

The Cardinals beat the Maroon 50-47 on Dec. 2, followed by a 68-64 win against Flint Hill on Dec. 4. Ireton suffered its first loss of the season on Dec. 6, falling against Paul VI, 57-43.

Ireton will host Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12.



# SPORTS

## Wakefield Provides Wake-Up Call

FROM PAGE 26

didn't play much for us last year. He had [dreadlocks] last year. He cut his hair [and] everyone thinks he's a transfer. He played his butt off tonight and I was very excited to see him bang down low and get going." White, a transfer from Bishop O'Connell playing in his first game as a Titan, led T.C. Williams with 15 points.

"First game, I think we played pretty well together," he said. "We need to build more chemistry as a team — hang out more, get to know each other more so we can play better as a unit."

Jones scored 13 points for the Titans.

"Jordan Jones played a great game," King said. "He's only a sophomore. He's fearless."

Junior forward Jamison Clark scored 10 points for T.C. Williams and senior guard Mert Ozkaynak added eight. Wakefield will travel to face Anacostia at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11. T.C. Williams will host West Springfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13.

King said he hopes Saturday's loss is a wake-up call for the inexperienced Titans.

"You can preach over and over in practice that, hey, we're not working hard enough. We need to do this, we need to do that," King said. "Because they're going against themselves or they've had maybe a little success in scrimmages ... they don't really understand the speed of the game and the effort you have to put in the game until we actually arrive at the season, which, now I think they know. Now I think I may have their attention. Maybe we'll pick it up a little more in practice and pay a little more attention to detail."



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

**Sophomore guard Jordan Jones finished with 13 points against Wakefield on Dec. 7.**

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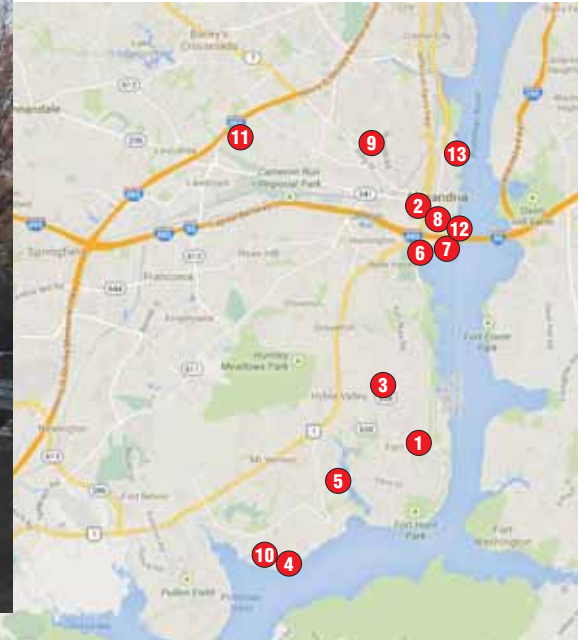
# Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

## Alexandria & Mount Vernon Top Sales in October 2013

**1 1205 Cedar Dale Lane, Mount Vernon — \$1,375,000**

IN OCTOBER 2013, 204 ALEXANDRIA HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,350,000-\$115,000 AND 124 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,375,000-\$87,000 IN THE MOUNT VERNON AREA.



© Google Map data



**3 1907 Whiteoaks Drive, Mount Vernon — \$1,250,000**



**2 322 Fayette Street South, Alexandria — \$1,350,000**



**4 4006 Belle Rive Terrace, Mount Vernon — \$1,250,000**



**5 3004 Cunningham Drive, Mount Vernon — \$1,250,000**

Address ..... BR FB HB . Postal City .... Sold Price .... Type ..... Lot AC . PostalCode ..... Subdivision ..... Date Sold

<b>1</b>	1205 CEDAR DALE LN	4	..	3	1	ALEXANDRIA/MV	\$1,375,000	Detached	0.51	22308	BOULEVARD ACRES	10/11/13
<b>2</b>	322 FAYETTE ST S	3	..	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,350,000	Townhouse	0.06	22314	OLD TOWN VILLAGE	10/21/13
<b>3</b>	1907 WHITEOAKS DR	5	..	4	0	ALEXANDRIA/MV	\$1,250,000	Detached	2.11	22306	HOLLINDALE	10/31/13
<b>4</b>	4006 BELLE RIVE TER	6	..	5	1	ALEXANDRIA/MV	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.70	22309	FERRY LANDING ESTATES	10/07/13
<b>5</b>	3004 CUNNINGHAM DR	4	..	4	1	ALEXANDRIA/MV	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.39	22309	WESSYNTON	10/31/13
<b>6</b>	1250 WASHINGTON ST #609	3	..	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,226,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22314	PORTO VECCHIO	10/16/13
<b>7</b>	720 FAIRFAX ST S	4	..	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,200,000	Townhouse	0.09	22314	OLD TOWN	10/31/13
<b>8</b>	701 PITT ST S	3	..	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,185,000	Townhouse	0.11	22314	YATES GARDENS	10/24/13
<b>9</b>	607 BRADDOCK RD W	4	..	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,180,000	Detached	0.29	22302	LINDSEY-NICHOLSON	10/24/13
<b>10</b>	9494 LYNNHALL PL	7	..	8	1	ALEXANDRIA/MV	\$1,165,000	Detached	0.42	22309	OXFORD	10/11/13
<b>11</b>	1226 PEGRAM ST N	5	..	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,150,000	Detached	1.54	22304	ALEXANDRIA OVERLOOK	10/31/13
<b>12</b>	27 ALEXANDER ST	3	..	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,129,500	Townhouse	0.02	22314	FORDS LANDING	10/23/13
<b>13</b>	324 Third Street	3	..	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,075,000	Townhouse		22314	PRINTERS ROW	10/30/13

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## Come Home to a Luxury Bedroom

Local designers unveil inviting spaces that are perfect for dreaming of sugarplums.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

**B**edrooms are no longer just for sleeping, at least according to some local designers. They're for relaxing and watching television, but they're also for reading and for eating a lazy weekend breakfast. In fact, some modern bedrooms are probably larger than their owners' first apartments. Three local tastemakers unveil master bedrooms that are so opulent and amenity-filled that it's surprising their owners ever want to leave.

Lavish textiles and luxury characterize a bedroom in Old Town Alexandria that was designed by Sydnye Pettengill of Sydnye Pettengill ASID Interior Design, Inc. in Alexandria. "The owner enjoys luxury and finer things," said Pettengill. "She wants to surround herself with that luxury in her home and private spaces. When I think of this bedroom, I think of Marie Antoinette and traditional French style."

Pettengill created an opulent but cozy bedroom with a custom-made headboard featuring an iron panel, custom-painted to coordinate with the pale green and rich gold hues in the bedroom.

"There is an abundance of custom-designed pillows and a cozy reading space," said Pettengill. "We did a custom shelf in the alcove behind the headboard that pro-

vides additional storage for books and tea. A chair is on the other side of the room and a beautiful piece of art."

The room is decorated with luxurious fabrics and trims. "The pillows are silks," said Pettengill. "We have sheer drapery that filters soft light, creating a romantic hideaway."

Visitors to one Potomac home take an elevator to the bedroom suite and emerge in its foyer. "You then walk into a set of double doors that is the beginning of their master suite," said Carole Lindenberg of Potomac Designs. "This bedroom was my inspiration and I called in Natelli Homes to build it."

The suite comes complete with a kitchen that holds a sitting area and breakfast table that allows for a leisurely morning of newspapers and brunch. "The suite also includes a library with a replica of President Lincoln's desk," said Lindenberg.

The library leads to the bedroom, which has a Louis VX-style fireplace and a sitting area with two Bergere chairs with match-



PHOTO COURTESY OF SYDNYE PETTINGILL

**Designer Sydnye Pettengill created an opulent, but cozy bedroom in Old Town Alexandria using silk fabrics in pale green and rich gold hues.**

ing ottomans, which are accented with French-inspired drum tables. Over the fireplace sits a flat screen television. "Years ago we used to put a mirror above them. Now we put TVs above them," said Lindenberg.

"There is a window wall with three dormer windows," she continued. "And there is an entrance on either side of the fireplace."

The expansive bathroom has two showers and a freestanding tub. "There is marble on the floor of the bathroom and matching marble on the walls," said Lindenberg. "The bedrooms are carpeted, the library has hardwood flooring with rugs, as does the foyer."

A master suite in a Great Falls home was reconfigured recently to include a bathroom with his and her vanities, a large walk-in shower and an enlarged walk-in closet.

"People want more space for their clothing, shoes [and] jewelry, where their beds are typically only display pieces during the day and then used for sleeping at night," said Beth Walters, the director of communications at Sun Design, Inc., which has offices in McLean and Burke.

Walters says the bathroom cabinetry is made from alder wood in a Blackstone finish, the counter tops are Caesarstone in a Yukon Blanco finish and the

floor is Timber Glen Contemporary tiling in a Thatch finish, while the walls are Time Levigato Rettificato porcelain tiling in white with river glass and stone mosaic tile accents.

## Holiday Décor: Make It Sparkle

Local designers offer suggestions for home decorating.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**his is the season for decking the halls. Whether your style is traditional and colorful, muted and demure or metallic and glittery, three local designers offer distinct holiday decorating ideas to spark your creativity.

Victoria Sanchez, who opened Victoria at Home, a home furnishings boutique and interior design studio on King Street in Old Town Alexandria earlier this month, said the décor begins with an aroma.

"Holiday scented candles immediately say 'holiday,'" said Sanchez. "Fresh greens tucked behind artwork and intertwined into tablescapes add a wonderful scent."

She recommends filling bowls with colorful holiday ornaments and displaying holiday cards to add a touch of nostalgia. "What I love most about the holidays is [that] each ornament and every tradition evokes memories of family, friends and

childhood," said Sanchez.

Designer Sharon Kleinman of Transitions by Sharon Kleinman in Potomac, said Christmas is no time for minimalism. "The Christmas season is the perfect time to go all out decorating the main areas of your home," she said. "I love the smell of fresh pine, so fill your home with it. Starting at the front entrance, hang a pine wreath on the door."

Kleinman recommends purchasing fresh wreaths. "Many local nurseries like American Plant and Benke's make some really beautiful ones," she said.

There are a multitude of uses for fresh winter foliage. "Place pine boughs, candles of varying heights and decorative accessories such as painted wooden toys [like] trains, toy soldiers, blocks or colored balls among the pine branches," added Kleinman.

Another idea, says Kleinman, is to wrap small boxes in colorful paper, top them with brightly colored bows and place them on the mantel. "Decorative stockings hung on

the mantel are traditional and a must in my book," she said. "Stair rails can be wrapped in pine boughs, ribbon and/or tinsel."

To add splashes of festive Christmas red to a home, Kleinman recommends "Placing pots of poinsettias throughout the house. Personalize your Christmas tree with homemade ornaments, sentimental items, colored bows and lots of tinsel."

When it comes to holiday tablescapes, Kelley Proxmire and Emily Wallace of Kelley Interior Design suggest adding a touch of shimmer. "Try breaking out of a set color scheme of red, white and green," said Wallace. "Try popular metallic finishes that could be used in fabric for pillows, gold accessories for the table [like] tiny vases [or] salt and pepper shakers and napkin rings with 'bling' metallic finishes."



PHOTO BY GEOFFREY HODGDON

**This holiday sideboard, designed by Emily Wallace of Kelley Interior Design, breaks from traditional red and green décor.**

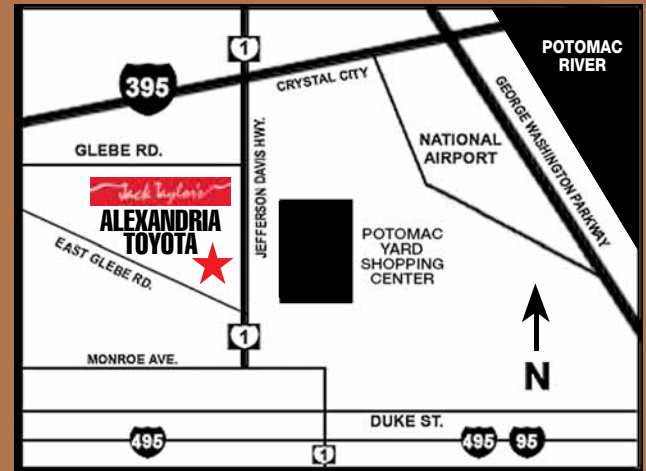
Mix decorative objects with foliage to create a warm and inviting table. "Incorporate 'organic' items of the season, like greens from pine trees, magnolias, pine cones, and some fruit," said Proxmire.

Unconventional items can be used as vessels for a wintery, holiday centerpiece. Wallace and Proxmire found a "tortoise shell-like urn ... for next to nothing at a consignment store" and used it to hold a centerpiece.



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**Let's Go Places**



# Euille May Join McAuliffe Team

FROM PAGE 3

dates, a process that would likely involve a firehouse caucus rather than a citywide primary. The registrar's office would need two or three days to prepare ballots. Once the ballots are ready, an election date could be set as soon as three weeks to allow for absentee balloting.

"That's the earliest it could happen," said Deputy Registrar Anna Lieder.

Other than Donley, other names that are being talked about include former Republican Councilman Frank Fannon and Democratic Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg.

"I would need to give it some thought," said Silberberg. "I don't have plans at this time, but we

shall see. I will give this strong consideration if Mayor Euille decides to switch gears."

Republicans say a special election offers them a dynamic that is more favorable to them than a traditional November election, when presidential elections or gubernatorial campaigns attract people to the polls who are unaware that city races are even on the ballot.

"Special elections are always a great opportunity for our candidates because it's just one thing on the ballot, so there's an opportunity to get your message out," said Chris Marston, former chairman of the Alexandria Republican City Committee. "So there aren't issues about sample ballots or who's in the president's party or who's not in the president's party."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 25

checks and balances of power provided by the Constitution itself — are being challenged. For example, editorial writers, columnists and elected officials, when discussing Obamacare's requirement for business owners to fund abortifacients in violation of their Christian beliefs — which their faith requires must also be exercised in the public sphere — regularly quote only part of the first amendment's provision about religion: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion." They omit "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The Founding Fathers' intention in that amendment was to

make clear that there should not be a national religion such as Anglicanism in England. Religious groups like Baptists, Methodists, etc., should not be prohibited from expressing their faith openly as they wished, nor should they be required to pay taxes to the government to support their state's official religion. (At that time, states had established churches.)

To honor its anniversary I hope citizens will reread and reflect upon the Bill of Rights and be mindful of our responsibilities as citizens of a free republic to keep it so for posterity.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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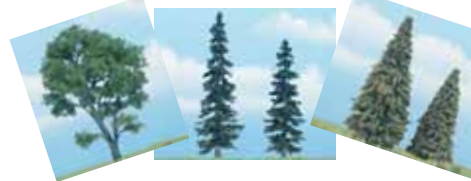
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