



PHOTOS BY CORIN REID/GAZETTE PACKET

American Heritage Girls Troop 1381 from St. Rita Church and School obtained 755 wreath sponsorships for Alexandria National Cemetery through Wreaths Across America. The wreaths honor the memories of fallen soldiers and the sacrifices they made for the country.

Wreaths Across America



The Navy wreath is presented by Lt. Cdr. Katarzyna Wyrozebski USN, speaking with coordinator Bill Jones.



A wreath represents each branch of the military.



Bill Jones (right), location coordinator, VFW Post 609, addresses the crowd at the National Wreaths Across America wreath-laying day on Dec. 14 at Alexandria National Cemetery.

Rising Poverty In the Classroom

Growing share of city's students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

In the last decade, the percentage of Alexandria students who live in poverty has grown from 50 percent to 56 percent. That's the largest percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch in the region, according to a recent analysis by the Washington Area Boards of Education. Leaders in education say Alexandria's sharp rise in classroom poverty is part of a national trend, driving by the economic downturn.

"School districts were delayed in their entrance to feeling the effects of the recession because of the delayed nature of revenues playing out in school districts," said Noelle Ellerson, associated executive director for policy and advocacy at the American Association of School Administrators. "So they're also a little bit late emerging from the pressures of the recession."

Last year, the Alexandria School Board directed the central administration to increase representation among under-represented groups in the city's talented and gifted program. They met their goals to

reduce the disproportionality among blacks and Hispanics, but barely made a dent in the share of talented and gifted students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. That's even after doubling the number of elementary school students who qualify.

"It's not representative of our demographics across the division," said GwenCarol Holmes, chief academic officer at Alexandria City Public Schools. "TAG-identified students tend to be higher income and white, but we want it to be reflective of our division's demographics."

THE CHALLENGE of educating students in poverty is vexing for school officials, who are struggling with ways to respond to the demographic trend. Some elected officials say the school system has

no control over economic forces that shape poverty in America. And while school officials have a duty to educate the students who live here, they are powerless to change the situation.

"It's a social problem outside of the school system," said School Board member Pat Hennig. "This is something that is a national problem."

Many school leaders say the best way to respond is to provide a safety net that's much broader than government services. That includes everything from expanded playgroups to students who are not already enrolled in preschool to creating a culture of

SEE INCREASE, PAGE 26

"It's a social problem outside of the school system."

— School Board member Pat Hennig

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Alexandria's Camelot

Everybody seems to have a Volia Lawson story.

The longtime city manager, who died unexpectedly last week, held a special place in the hearts and minds of countless Alexandria citizens. Her funeral at Christ Church this week was the closest thing the city will ever have to a state funeral. It ended with the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," part of an elaborately planned event that Lawson herself began planning in 2005.

Last week's City Council public hearing began with a series of tributes to the former city manager. Each elected official offered some kind of tribute to the woman who dragged the city government — sometimes kicking and screaming — into the modern era. She installed women into positions of power. She insisted on equal rights for gays. She demanded that the docket items sent to City Council members were factually correct and grammatically impeccable. She accomplished this while being an indefatigable lover of movies, a voracious reader and a best friend to animals large and small.

The best Volia Lawson story came from Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks, who was hired by Lawson. He recounted a story of intense conflicts surrounding the construction of the city jail. Contractors could not agree with architects who had reached a stalemate with city officials. At issue was software controlling the locks to the jailhouse doors, which would open unexpectedly. Everybody had their technical and legal reasons for why they were right. So the city manager listened to everyone. She asked questions. And then she responded in signature fashion.

"Gentlemen," said Lawson, according to Jinks. "I understand your point of view. But I'm not approving any more change orders for this building until you guys work it out."

With that, she stood up and walked out of the room.

"Needless to say," Jinks explained. "It got worked out."

Camel Friendly

Alexandria is not just a dog-friendly town. It's also a camel-friendly town.

Last weekend, City Council members considered a controversial proposal to allow lighting at tennis courts to be constructed to the west of the school along T.C. Williams High School. Opponents called it a camel's nose under the tent, warning that overturning the longstanding prohibition against outdoor lights at sports venues at the high school would open the door to a fully lit football stadium. Supporters said it was time to invite the camel into the tent, offer it some food and keep it warm.

"Times have changed. Things have changed. Technology has changed," said Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille, a graduate of T.C. Williams High School. "And it's not fair to penalize the students or the community for not having the opportunity to enjoy a quality of life with high school athletic events at night." Euille said he would be leading the effort to have a separate discussion, although it's unclear when that would happen. Meanwhile, neighbor after neighbor appeared at City Hall last week to rage against the dying of the darkness. They said neighborhood residents had a deal with Alexandria, and the city should not back out of the agreement. Some said the city's trustworthiness was at stake. Several said the issue was even bigger than that, especially because the development special-user permit granted to the schools would overturn a 40-year agreement between neighbors and the school system. "Is there any wonder that we rely on this DSUP to protect us from a clueless neighbor who is disrespectful, unresponsive, and will destroy the quality of life in our neighborhoods?" said Nancy Jennings, who lives nearby. "Yes, a deal is a deal. Please stop chasing after and persecuting us."

Midnight Meeting

The era of the smoke-filled room at City Hall is long gone. Alexandria is a clean-indoor city, and smoking is strictly forbidden. But that doesn't necessarily mean the government is transparent. This is the era of the locked door. Last weekend, Old Town businessman Bert Ely appeared at City Hall to tell council members what happened when he arrived late at night to speak at a Planning Commission meeting.

"The inability of members of the public to not be able to attend a Planning Commission meeting while the meeting was still in session effectively closed the meeting to the public," said Ely. "What had been an open meeting, by virtue of the locked doors and no way for the public to enter City Hall, had become a closed-door meeting."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

Empowering and Serving

More than money needed to help youths turn their lives around.



Lightfoot



Griffin



Ma'at

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

BY PHILLIP JOHNSON
GAZETTE PACKET

James Lightfoot wakes up early every Saturday morning. He doesn't work week ends, but ever since he got involved with the Offender Aid and Restoration movement, or OAR, in Alexandria. In the time that most people are still sleeping in their beds, Lightfoot and other volunteers are at the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center in Alexandria working with the youth that are incarcerated there. According to Lightfoot, he comes out every Saturday because he has no other choice.

"It's just something you've got to do," Lightfoot, a local resident and St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Alexandria parishioner, said on the way back from the Juvenile Detention Center. He has been volunteering his time in one way or another since he started with the Big Brother Organization in

1971. "You've got to give back. I know for a fact that it's so easy, when I was younger too, to make a mistake and end up in the system. We need to be there for them, because it could have just as easily been me or you in there instead."

Youth in the area, from northern Virginia to southern Maryland, are struggling to maintain focus and learn successfully. With many coming from single-parent households and facing the economic insecurities and varying levels of abuse that run rampant in many neighborhoods in the area, the children are often left to fend for themselves. The rising incarceration and delinquency rates are symptoms of this problem that often results in the children being either institutionalized or overmedicated.

"We have a lot of ideas about how to get involved and help people," Lightfoot said at an OAR volunteer and planning meeting at St. Joseph's.

SEE EMPOWERING, PAGE 29



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Redella Pepper, councilmember, and Steve Mason, store manager, Giant Food celebrate the reopening of the Alexandria Commons Giant Food with fellow associates.

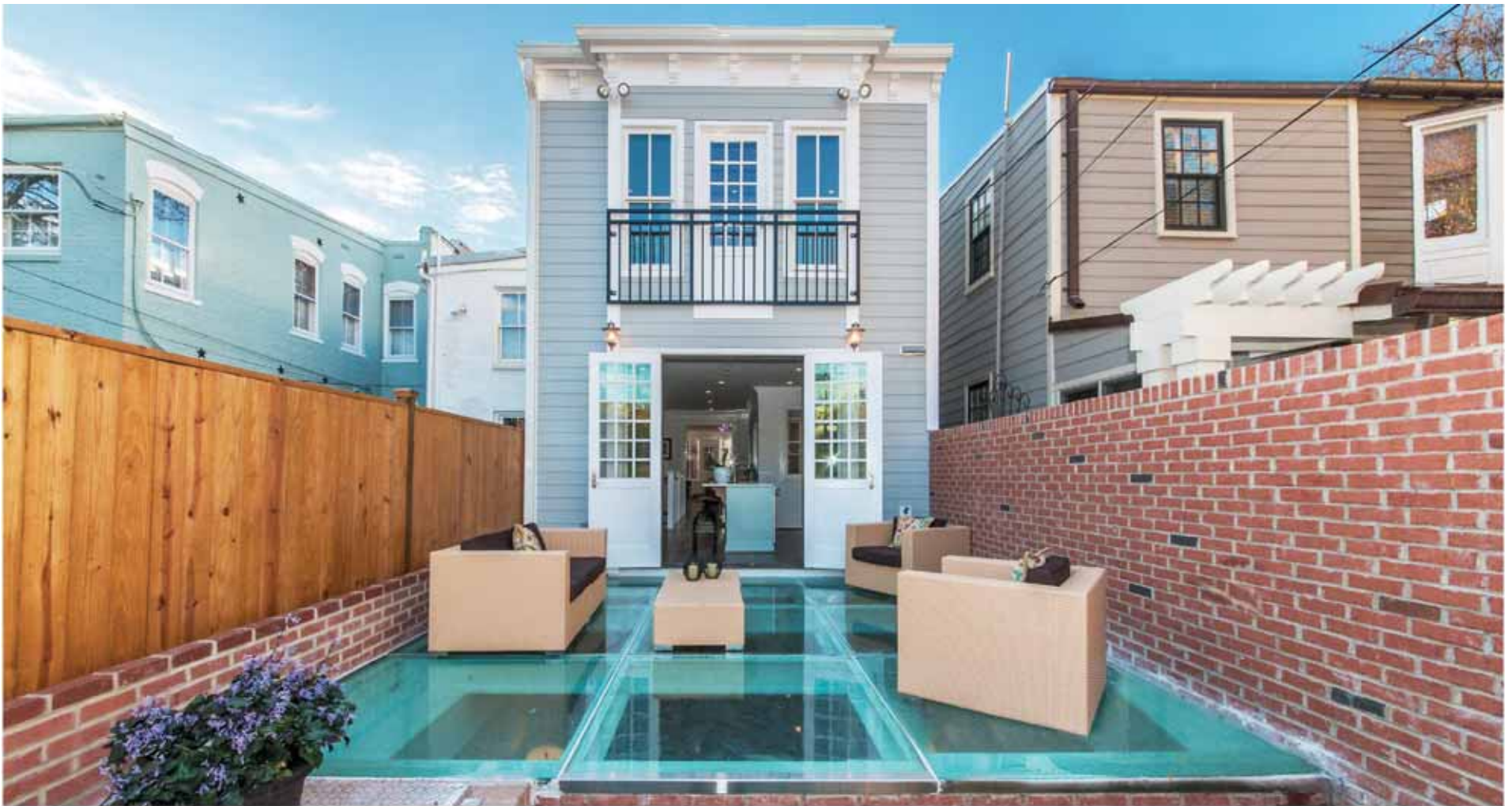
Giant Food Celebrates Reopening

The Alexandria Commons Giant Food located on 3131 Duke St. celebrated a grand reopening on Dec. 6 with community members, Giant associates, and shoppers.

The Alexandria Commons Giant Food now features upgraded and expanded produce department, a redesigned floral department, expanded natural and organic section, and a redesigned, customer-friendly bakery.



Kevin Timmons, district director, Giant Food (third from left) presents Jose Fratti, United Community Ministries Cynthia N. Hull Food Pantry, and associates, with a \$2,500 donation.



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NEWS

Students from St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Upper and Middle School pose for a photo Dec. 12 before packing up more than 300 toys collected on behalf of the Firefighters and Friends.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Santa's Helpers SSSA students donate to Firefighters and Friends.

Students from St. Stephens and St. Agnes Upper and Middle School donated more than 300 toys and gift cards as part of the 2013 Firefighters and Friends annual Holiday Toy Drive. "This will help us in making sure those less fortunate kids in Alexandria and Fairfax County will not go without a gift this holiday season," said Capt. Willie Bailey, founder of the nonprofit organization Firefighters and Friends. "This is the sixth year that they have assisted us with this worthy cause." Coordinated by SSSA history teacher Karen Ruberg, the students were instructed to choose toys appropriate for children of their own age. "Older kids are

the ones most forgotten at this time of year," Bailey added. Students spent part of the day Dec. 12 helping firefighters pack and load the collected toys that were slated for distribution to area charities Dec. 17 at Penn Daw Fire Station 11. Assisting Ruberg and the students in loading the toys were Charlotte Riggs, director of SSSA Middle School; Michael Johnson, Alexandria Recreation Department Community Outreach Specialist, and Brian Bundy of the Fairfax County Fire Department.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



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Wednesday, December 25
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10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 29
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Banning the Box

Should prospective employers be able to weed out applicants who have been convicted of a crime? That's a debate that's about to unfold in Richmond as members of the Alexandria Economic Opportunities Commission press legislators to "ban the box."

At issue is the box that appears on job application forms asking potential applicants if they have ever been convicted of a felony.

Members of the commission would like to see a new policy banning the box on all applications for state jobs with the exception of public safety or education positions. They say the practice is overly restrictive.

"The problem is that many ex-offenders never get to the interview stage for jobs because they have to check that box about criminal history," said Burke Brownfeld, a member of the commission. "We would like to get rid of the box, which we believe will give ex-offenders more job interviews and then hopefully lead to more jobs."

Bring the Noise

Neighbors on the West End of Alexandria have had it with the Virginia Department of Transportation, the state agency that wants to build a \$6 million wall along parts of the Shirley Memorial Highway.

The area has seen a massive influx of traffic in recent years with the construction of the Washington Headquarters Service and the high-occupancy toll lanes, two projects that have raised the decibel levels as record numbers of automobiles zoom through the area. Now neighbors are raising their voices against VDOT's plan to clearcut the area in an effort to build a sound wall.

"It's too high, too tall and too ugly," said Shirley Downs, who lives nearby. "And it will attract graffiti."

Many of the neighbors are opposed to the wall. But that's only part of the frustration.

Even more galling, they say, is the process that VDOT has gone about to build it. For example, the state agency is conducting an election of sorts, where only people who own property or live within 500 feet are allowed to participate. Owners carry more weight than renters, and people who live outside the radius can't vote.

"If you think the rollout on Obamacare was bad," concluded Downs, "this beats it."

Legislators are being asked to press VDOT to abandon the wall, potentially threatening the agency's budget if it does not comply.

Grading System Fail

Alexandria School Board Chairwoman Karen Graf says she will be pressing legislators to dump the controversial state takeover of Jefferson-Houston School as well as the new grading system that will rank schools A through F.

Speaking to the Alexandria legislative delegation this week during a public hearing, Graf said she was hopeful that the new administration would "defund" the Opportunity Educational Institution, the group charged with taking control over failing schools.

She also said the School Board disagrees with grading schools, a process she said will be misleading to parents.

"This is an antiquated way of looking at schools," Graf told legislators.

Earlier this year, the Virginia Board of Education created a formula for calculating the grades, which are based on standardized test scores. Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45) voted for the grading system earlier this year, but now says the process needs to be put on ice.

He says he wants to work with educators to make sure the formula for calculating the letter grades that incorporates student growth.

"I think we should delay it," said Krupicka. "We need to come up with something different."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Healthy Workplaces

On Dec. 10, Mayor Bill Euille issued a proclamation on Dec. 10 honoring organizations that were recognized by the Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network's Healthy Workplace Awards Program. Each organization submitted a written application describing specific healthy initiatives to promote healthy eating and exercise and to reduce stress. From left: Sam Whiteside and Tracy Dahl with the Motley Fool, Bonnie Polvinale and Janet Bezner with American Physical Therapy Association, Emily Davis and Leah Tasman with Whole Foods – Old Town, Hanna Felleke with Inova Alexandria Hospital, Steven Wilcox with the American Diabetes Association, Jim Scott CEO of Applied Policy and chair of the Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network's Healthy Workplace Awards Program, and Euille.

OBITUARY

Robert W. McCaslin

Retired FBI Special Agent Robert William "Bob" McCaslin, 96, died on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at his home in Old Town Alexandria.

Born on Aug. 1, 1917 to Herbert and Elizabeth (Walsh) McCaslin, he grew up on the family's farm atop Norway Ridge on the New York and Pennsylvania border. He graduated from St. Bonaventure University in Olean, N.Y., in 1939, and after post-graduate studies he joined the FBI as special agent in 1941.

Assigned first to the FBI field office in Little Rock, Ark., he later transferred to Newark, N.J., New York City, and finally to FBI Headquarters in Washington, where he met his future bride Wanda Larson, a bureau stenographer. The couple was married in 1953 in her hometown of Kalispell, Mont., and then settled in Old Town, where they raised three sons in the family's 19-century home, one of several historic properties Mr. McCaslin restored over the years.

A devout 60-year member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, where his wife was the longtime parish secretary, Mr. McCaslin served as both Eucharistic minister and lector.

He was past-grand knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 459, during which time he was instrumental in the founding of Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria. As president of the St. Mary's chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, he wielded hammer and nails and saw to the renovation and occupancy of numerous residential properties for the



poor and needy.

Upon his retirement from the FBI in 1977, Mr. McCaslin became active in local, state and national politics, serving as chairman of the Alexandria Republican City Committee. Every Election Day he was the first to arrive and last to retreat from Alexandria's City Hall voting precinct.

A daily fixture in Old Town until the time of his death, he enjoyed spending weekends at his country home in White Stone, Va. But mostly he relished the

company of his adoring family.

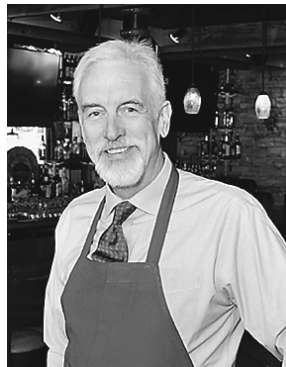
Mr. McCaslin was preceded in death by his wife, Wanda, in 1994; his brother, Dr. John "Doc" McCaslin of West Chicago, Ill.; and half-sister, Ida MacLean, of Elkland, Pa. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Tami McCaslin of Kent Island, Md.; his son John McCaslin of Old Town; his son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Alicia McCaslin of Old Town; his granddaughters Kerry, Melissa, Molly, Maddy and Lane; his grandsons Michael, Mark and Finneas; and several nieces and nephews.

A visitation was held on Sunday, Dec. 15, at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, Dec. 16, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 310 S. Royal St., Alexandria, Va. Interment followed at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions in Mr. McCaslin's name may be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church or Bishop Ireton High School, both in Alexandria.

Introducing 2014 Living Legend of Alexandria Nominees

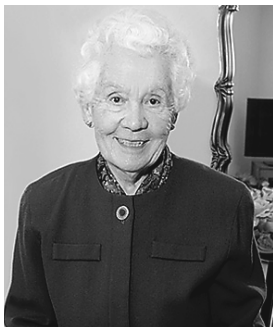
The board of directors of Living Legend of Alexandria announced the following individuals as 2014 Living Legend of Alexandria nominees. The Legends will be announced in January. Nominees and Legends will be honored at the Meet the Legends reception on March 20, 2014 at the Patent and Trademark Office. Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle the people making current history in Alexandria. The project was conceived in 2006 to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.



Mike Anderson's philanthropic contributions to the community date back to the 1980s when his Shooter McGee's "Alexandria Autumn 10K" raised more than \$50,000 for Special Olympics. Today, in an innovative partnership with ACT for Alexandria, Anderson gives back to more than 75 local nonprofits by donating 25 cents for every burger sold at Holy Cow restaurant.

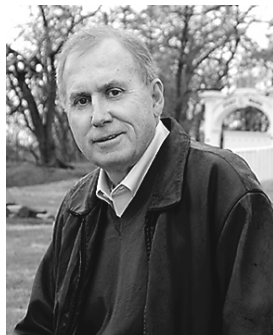


Char McCargo Bah has a passion for African American history and genealogy, most particularly in Alexandria. She had a pivotal role in the publication of "African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia - Beacons of Light in the Twentieth Century," which she co-authored with four other volunteers.



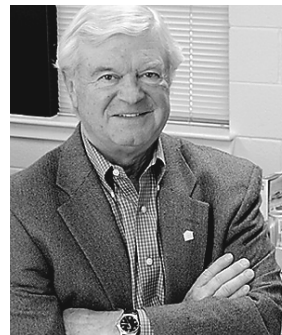
Rose Enevoldsen Berler served on the board of directors of the Alexandria Hospital Corporation from 1978-86 continuing

her affiliation from 1986-97 with what became the Alexandria Health Services Corporation. The first woman appointed to the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority she served as vice chair from 1974-79 and as chair from 1979-83.



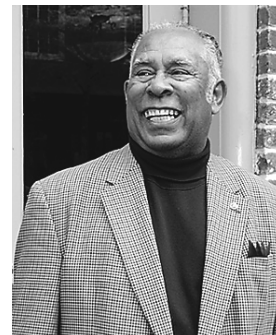
As a result of Glenn Eugster's efforts, Fort Ward Park is a better and more esthetically attractive site. The maintenance and

horticulture facilities are gone, more than 60 unmarked graves and numerous cultural artifacts have been identified and a formalized commitment to a park management process is in place.



One of his many philanthropic activities, Lee Fifer joined the board of the Carpenter's Shelter in 1994 when

it was on the verge of going out of business. His first assignment was to lead a fundraising effort where with the help of many others, he raised \$600,000 in six months. He chaired the board for 10 years and still serves to this day.



At the same time that he was building his own business, the Snack Bar Restaurant, Charles "Tony" Gee was encouraging other

local businesses to get started and to grow. While at his King Street location, he helped organize 84 Alexandria business owners and became the founding president of the Old Town Business Association.



Richard (Rick) Glassco has served as treasurer of ALIVE! (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically) for 23 years. Since

its founding in 1969, ALIVE! has grown from an all-volunteer organization to one with volunteers from 40 faith communities, approximately 14 employees and a \$1.3 million budget.



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

Gila S. Harris's volunteer work swung into high gear the year she retired in 1994 when the City Council appointed

her to the Equal Opportunity Commission, Alexandria's official anti-poverty agency. Harris is the longest serving member having been there 19 years. At the same time she became a significant fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.



For more than 30 years, Ramona K. Hatten has been involved in community service in Alexandria. She was an Alexandria

Redevelopment Housing Authority commissioner from 1982 to 1990 and instrumental in the formation of the Alexandria Resident Council (ARC) to assure public housing resident input into ARHA decisions affecting them.



Wayne Hulehan has been active in civic affairs since moving to Alexandria in 1971, receiving the Tommy Thompson Award for lifetime

service to Boy Scouts of the National Capital Area. Many of his charitable causes are related to the fight to cure cancer.



A member of the Alexandria Commission for Women from 1997 to 2013, Susan B. Kellom now serves on

the board of the Friends of the Alexandria Commission for Women. She served on the Alexandria Youth Policy Commission from 1997 to 2003.



By CAROL HOLANS PRATT

As music director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra for 25 years, Kim Allen Kluge contributes to the rich

cultural fabric of Alexandria through his outstanding artistic leadership and a strong connection to the local community. Passionate about music education, in 2003 he founded the Children's Arts Festival.



Perhaps best known for her tenure on the Alexandria School Board during 2002-03 and 2003-06 (when she became the first minor-

ity women to serve as vice chair), Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis was widely admired for her ability to steer the board through critical educational and personnel issues.



Known best for revitalizing the Del Ray business community with her business partner Scott Mitchell, through the

establishment of St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, Nora Partlow is often thought of as the "Mayor" of Del Ray. Besides making St. Elmo's a community gathering place, Partlow mentors her young employees and showcases and promotes local artists and musicians.

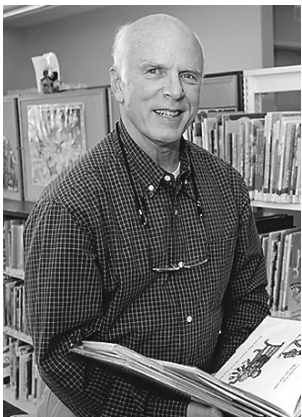
PEOPLE

ALL PHOTOS BY STEVEN HALPERSON/
TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY UNLESS AS NOTED



Gregory L. (Gregg) Murphy led the merger of Alexandria Hospital into the INOVA Healthcare System. This merger

gave Alexandria Hospital the financial stability to fund a new cancer center, a cardiac rehabilitation facility, and an \$80 million expansion of the out-patient surgery center and the Emergency Department which now serves nearly double the 50,000 patients it accommodated annually in the 1990s.



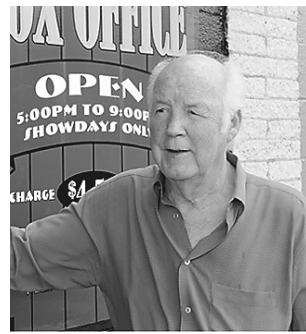
James S. (Jim) Roberts has been an indefatigable advocate for children's literacy since 1996 when he joined with

other members of Alexandria's faith-based communities to create the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium. Roberts was instrumental in seeing that children who struggled to master basic reading skills were matched with caring, competent volunteer tutors. He has served as treasurer and president of the board, a position he still holds.



Shirley N. Tyler worked to bring about what became the Four Mile Run Flood Control Project by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

She was appointed to the Alexandria School Board in 1973 and from 1980 to 1982 served as the first African American female chairperson. She was instrumental in creating racial harmony during the redistricting of Alexandria City Public Schools.



Since 32 years ago when Gary Oelze opened The Birchmere in Arlandria, it has been at

the center of business activity in the area. For the past 11 years Oelze and the Birchmere have hosted the Carpenter Shelter Cook Off.



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

For over 30 years, Tricia Rodgers has been a volunteer with programs that help to improve the lives of

Alexandrians. For the past three years, Rodgers has served as co-chair, and now chair, of the Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network (A-COAN), a group whose mission is to reduce the number of Alexandria children who are overweight and obese.



Converse (Connie) West successfully completed certification courses offered at the Alexandria Police

Academy and now regularly gives eight hours a week. He has logged more than 5,200 volunteer hours of service with the Alexandria Police Department, the equivalent of nearly three full-time years.



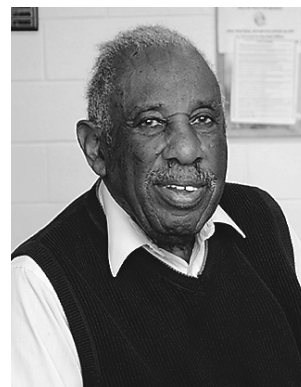
Frederic "Fred" Parker was ahead of his time when he and his brother, Jim, founded the Hard

Times Café in 1980 on upper King Street. It now serves as an anchor for what has become a very vibrant area of Old Town and draws chili lovers nationally and internationally.



James B. (Jim) Singerling's civic involvement in Alexandria has included serving on the board of the Alex-

andria Convention and Visitors Association and two terms on the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce board. He's served on the board of First Night Alexandria and held all officers' chairs on the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Board where he is now a trustee emeritus.



A veteran of World War II and a 34-year career with the CIA, **William (Bill) Willis** began volunteer-

ing at Carpenter's Shelter in 1981 and continues to do so today at age 90. In 1981, he also began volunteer service with ALIVE!, and served as its president in 1984-85.



A passionate "boater," **Lorraine Lloyd** wanted to showcase Alexandria's waterfront and seaport history.

In 2000 she volunteered to create and organize Alexandria's first "Parade of Lights" boat parade. Today's Parade of Lights is one of Alexandria's holiday hallmarks and has attracted regional and national media.



Jodie Smolik, director of the Winkler Preserve, helped save the 44.5-acre sanctuary and living class-

room from destruction. Working around the Thanksgiving holiday Smolik rallied the school community, parents and children, to come out in force against City Council's plan to approve a proposed ramp off I-395 which would have destroyed a third of the preserve.



Donnan (Donnie) Chancelor Wintemute's philanthropic achievements have had a major impact on

the quality of life in Alexandria. Along with currently serving as vice president of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra board of trustees, she was the 2013 honorary chair for The Historic Alexandria Homes Tour sponsored by Twig, the Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital.

BUSINESS NOTES

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

Area residents have known for years that when they buy gifts from **Ten Thousand Villages**, they are actually "giving twice." Not only do they find unique handmade items, they provide much-needed income to Third World artisans enabling them to feed, house, and educate their families. For several evenings this December, shoppers at Ten Thousand Villages will support favorite local charities, because Ten Thousand Villages will

donate a percentage of the evening's sales to nonprofit organizations working to improve the community and the world. Ten Thousand Villages is located at 915 King Street. Visit www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com or call 703-684-1435.

Thursday, Dec. 19, 7-9 p.m.: **Shelter House**, which works with homeless families in Northern Virginia and whose mission is to break the cycle of homelessness for families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. www.shelterhouse.org

Catherine M. Pennington, CPA, CGMA and **Karen E. Johnson**, CPA, CGMA, MBA are now

shareholders of Renner and Company.

Pennington has more than 30 years of experience in both public accounting and industry. She has spent 21 years in public accounting performing audits, tax planning and compliance, and accounting services. Her practice is focused on nonprofit organizations. In addition to her public accounting experience, she has spent seven years as a nonprofit controller and five years as a controller in real estate development and property management.

Johnson joined Renner and Company in

SEE BUSINESS NOTES, PAGE 25

LETTERS

Truly Extraordinary

To the Editor:

On Dec. 6 the Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association honored the City of Alexandria as the Tourism Partner of the Year. As our marketing campaign states, Alexandria is an “Extraordinary” place to live and visit. When we considered all the partners who had the biggest impact on tourism in 2013, the City — in securing the National Science Foundation — stood out.

Through their work with the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, landing the National Science Foundation was an economic development coup that will bring an estimated 90,000 visitor room nights a year to Alexandria, generating a substantial increase in visitor spending and tax revenue.

Visitor spending supports our thriving independent restaurant and retail scene and generates tax revenue that supports needed City services. These add up to a better quality of life for Alexandria residents. Tourism is already an integral aspect of Alexandria’s economy, which last year generated \$739 million in visitor spending, \$23.7 million in City tax revenue as well as 6,000 jobs, with every dollar invested in tourism promotion coming back four-fold in tax collections.

But generating tourism is not possible without the people and places that make for an exceptional visitor experience.

That’s why in addition to Tourism Partner of the Year, for the first time ACVA presented the ExtraordinaryALX Awards to members of the community whose excellence in service has contributed to Alexandria’s growth. Awards were given to Kimpton’s Morrison House, for being named to the “Top 10 World’s Best Service” list by Travel + Leisure magazine; Pat Miller, founder of Art on the Avenue and a top civic and business leader in Del Ray; Jody Manor, owner of the new Waterfront Market; Amy Rutherford, owner of Red Barn Mercantile, for her exceptional media savvy; Benjamin Fiore-Walker, Alexandria’s Town Crier; and the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra for the world premiere of “River Poem,” a tribute to Alexandria’s waterfront heritage.

We stand proudly behind these well-deserved awards, and the people who earned them.

Patricia Washington

President & CEO, Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association



Deferral Serves Public Safety

To the Editor:

I am writing to allay some of Ursula Weide’s concern [Letter, “Time To Repair Relationship,” Gazette Packet, Dec. 12] that the city is not doing a good job of listening to its residents. In the case of the Traffic and Parking Board they did listen and made the only decision possible based on the evidence presented both before and during the public hearing, that is, a motion to defer action on the King Street Proposal. The 18 residents who spoke against the installation of dedicated bike lanes on King Street were representing a broader community, a community that lives where the proposal would be implemented and a community that would be permanently affected by the results. Besides residents raising their concerns at the hearing, the board received and read numerous letters from residents. Also they were aware that a petition against the bike lanes was signed by 90 homeowners affected by this proposal, including 80 percent of the homeowners directly on King Street itself. And they were aware that the board of the Taylor Run Association, an association that represents 850 homes in this neighborhood voted 8 to 2 against the proposal. In other words, this board of citizens listened to the safety concerns of residents.

What is not widely known is that for the city to implement this proposal to install bike lanes on King

Street, from west of Russell Road to Janney’s Lane, the city will have to narrow traffic lanes. King Street is already a narrow two-lane state roadway with 13,000 motorists per day. This drastic change is being proposed even though only 11 bikes per hour were counted during peak rush hour (counts by residents are much lower). For the few bicyclists that use King Street, they can continue to use King Street, use the sidewalks (approved in Alexandria), or use alternate routes. While this proposal is based on the city’s Complete Streets Policy signed in 2011, this policy does not require dedicated bike lanes.

Most residents may know that the goal of this Complete Streets Policy is safe transport of all users within and through a community. What you may not know is that this policy does not consider the needs of the residents of the community itself. The policy mentions almost as an after thought that the policy will be implemented “while ... recognizing community context.” Complete Streets do not exist as an island, they exist in a community. For most other areas in the city where dedicated bike lanes have been installed they co-exist with residential needs since streets are wider and residential parking is not eliminated. This is not the case for this portion of King Street.

Did you realize the primary compromise in the “compromise” proposal you’ve been told will “make upper King Street safer” is the restoration of parking in one block that was proposed for removal in the original proposal? Does this

“compromise” make sense when the same reasons to “restore” parking in this one block exist in the other blocks?

Also largely unknown is the patchwork configuration of this proposal. Are you aware that there are two dedicated bike lanes for only four blocks? The rest of the configuration is a mix of shared (bike and motorist) lanes or a combination of one shared and one bike lane and the whole stretch is slightly over half a mile.

Besides safety issues for motorists dealing with this confusing configuration while traveling more narrow lanes, this proposal introduces a number of safety issues for the residents of this community. While there are safe alternatives for bicyclists, there are no alternatives to the permanent loss of safe contiguous parking and access to residents’ homes. Parking on distant, restricted or non-existent, poorly lit side streets, some with no sidewalks, then fighting King Street traffic to reach our homes, is not an answer.

The board recognized these safety issues affecting residents that the city had not adequately addressed, thus deferring a decision they know will have a major and permanent impact on the lives of residents in this old established King Street neighborhood. Be assured that the board did not “mislead the public so as to create out of thin air, an excuse to do nothing,” instead they studied and listened before making their motion. I think most residents of Alexandria would want the same consideration.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

Alexandria Gazette Packet

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to
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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter, 703-615-0960
mpope@connectionnewspapers.com
@MichaelLeePope

Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-224-3015
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

Steve Artley
Cartoonist
artley@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Julie Ferrill
Display Advertising, 703-778-9446
jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com

Tara Lloyd
Display Advertising, 703-778-9447
tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com

Kristin Janeiro
Display Advertising, 703-778-9448
kjaneiro@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Photography:
John Bordner, Deb Cobb,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus:
Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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Snapshot

Nov. 28: The Annual Turkey Bowl at Lee Street Park.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10
eration.
My hope is that this same recognition exists during further examination of this proposal.
The city should not only address the safety of those that move within and through the community, they should ad-

dress the safety of residents as well. At the very least, the city should not implement changes that make things worse for residents that will live each and every day with changes made.

Louise Welch
Alexandria

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Alexandria resident and runway model, Tameka Young

EXTRAORDINARY

Alexandria

Find holiday events, gifts and dining info at VisitAlexandriaVA.com/holidays

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www.TchoupitoulasFurnishings.com

PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Wreath-Looking

The Peebles family at the Scottish Parade were looking for that special one-of-a-kind wreath at Celine's Wreaths at Old Town Farmer's Market.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WINTER PROGRAMS

Guide Now Available. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' 2014 Winter Program Guide is now available. Individuals who did not receive the program guide can download a free copy at alexandriava.gov/recreation. To sign up for a free subscription visit alexandriava.gov/recreation or call 703-746-4343.

HOLIDAY NEEDS

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. Help make the 2013 holiday season brighter for those less fortunate by purchasing gifts or certificates for a designated Alexandria family, foster child or elderly/disabled resident. 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,

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 13



DASH

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- * **12/24: Christmas Eve - Weekday DASH Service Ends at 7 p.m.**
- * **12/25: Christmas Day - No DASH Service**
- * **1/1/2014: New Year's Day - No DASH Service**



The King St. Trolley operates 365 days a year from 11:30 a.m. to 10:15 p.m. between the King Street-Old Town Metro to the Waterfront.



Special thanks to 

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 12

holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov or register at www.alexandriava.gov/holidaysharing.

Holiday Volunteers Needed.

Volunteers for the Community Partners for Children toy distribution are also needed for activities such as 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 or register at www.alexandriava.gov/holidaysharing.

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

SoberRide Program. From 10 p.m.-6 a.m., through Jan. 1, Washington-metropolitan area residents can call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home. AT&T users can dial #WRAP for the same service. More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at www.soberride.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 20

Deadline. The 2014 Kluge Young Composers Competition provides an opportunity for young composers in Virginia to develop their talents. The winning composition, selected by Maestro Kluge himself, will premiere at an ASO performance. The 2014 Kluge Young Composers Competition is open to any composer 18 or younger who resides in Virginia. Compositions should be five to seven minutes in length and should use standard orchestra instrumentation and normal doublings. Submissions must be received by Dec. 20. For details on how to enter, visit www.alexsym.org/kluge-young-composers-competition.

TUESDAY/DEC. 24

Holiday Project. 10-11:30 a.m. at Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, 2729 King St. Join AARP Virginia and the Holiday Project and visit with the residents at a nursing home and assisted living resident. Contact Julie Royes at

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

A Christmas Poem

Display of stars stirs a child's imagination ...

Trees of lights throughout the city ...

No Big Dipper or Little Dipper ...

But lights so vast and glittering ...

Bare stems of branches throughout the city ...

Little lights of stars like snow flakes on branches ...

Laced in snow like cotton and glazed of ice ...

Warmth of display for the holiday and the brightness of Christmas ...

Through a child's eyes that we see ...

A gift we seek for this is Christmas ...

Wishing all a Merry Merry Bright Christmas ...

Of a heart full of love

—GERI BALDWIN

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Tuesday, December 31, 2013 | 8:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. | Semi-formal attire

Waterford at Springfield 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield, VA 22150

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PURCHASE BY DEC. 23RD FOR SPECIAL SAVINGS.

Enjoy 30% off ticket prices through Dec. 23, PLUS you'll be entered to win FREE, roundtrip VIP transportation to and from the event!



This festive evening is open to the whole family. Children and teens must have a parent present to attend. Children 5 and under attend FREE.

Purchase your tickets online at metropolitanarts.org today—discount code: NYE2013. Or, call 703.339.0444 for 50% off table sponsorships.

Proceeds benefit the MSA Academy Scholarship Fund.

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Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Closed Sundays.

BEAUTY

QUALITY

INTEGRITY

VALUE

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

yourlegacy@julieroiesphotography.com
on how to help. Visit
www.holidayproject.org for more on
the event.

City Offices Closed.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 25

City Offices Closed.

THROUGH FRIDAY/DEC. 27

Leaf Collection Program. The city's Department of Transportation & Environmental Services, Solid Waste Division is holding leaf collection services. There are three ways to recycle leaves: Raking leaves to the curb for vacuum collection; placing leaves in paper leaf bags for collection; or composting leaves and yard waste at home. The City is divided into five zones, each with a specific collection start date. Each zone will receive three passes. Do not

NEIGHBORHOOD

Taylor Run

Shooters Hill carolers will gather on top of the hill Dec 28, collecting donations for children's hospitals. We've done this for 50 years as our Christmas celebration in the Christmas season. Anyone who can come should show up at 310 Park Road at 5 p.m. Participants can attend our pot luck supper after we get through singing.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

mix brush or other items with leaves, as these items may injure City crews, damage equipment or private property, or cause delays. For more information on your leaf collection zone, your collection date or leaf bag locations, visit alexandriava.gov/LeafCollection or call T&ES' leaf collection hotline at 703-746-5323.

MONDAY/DEC. 30

Application Due. The City of Alexandria is seeking nominations for the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan Steering Committee established by City Council. The 12-member committee will provide guidance on the upcoming Eisenhower West Small Area Planning process, specifically focusing on the civic engagement process, agenda setting, outreach and communications, and some technical content elements. The City is seeking nominations of community and business representatives in the Eisenhower West area. Individuals are welcome to self-nominate. All nominees must complete and submit a brief application form to the Department of Planning and Zoning no later than 9 a.m. on Dec. 30. The nomination form and instructions can be found at www.alexandriava.gov/eisenhowerwest or requested from Radhika Mohan at 703-746-3855 or radhika.mohan@alexandriava.gov.

THROUGH DEC. 30

Trolley Service. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., on the hour, every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, near the Alexandria Visitors Center and Market Square at the corner of King and N. Fairfax streets. Take a trolley from Old Town Alexandria to Mount Vernon Estate. \$25/adult; \$8/child includes a

round-trip trolley ride and admission to Mount Vernon Estate. Tickets can be purchased at www.trustedtours.com or 202-832-9800. Trolley will run Nov. 29-Dec. 30.

TUESDAY/DEC. 31

Parking Adjudication Office

Closes. Vehicle owners who wish to contest a parking citation can begin scheduling hearings directly with the Alexandria General District Court on Jan. 2, 2014. Hearings must be scheduled in advance, and vehicle owners must fill out a District Court Affidavit. To request a hearing, or information about contesting a citation, visit alexandriava.gov/Parking, or call 1-866-353-0454. For questions about payments, or how to pay, visit alexandriava.gov/Payments, or call 703-746-3902.

MONDAY/JAN. 6

Submission Deadline. The City of Alexandria Office of the Arts and the Alexandria Transit Company have joined forces to host a poetry contest "DASHing Words in Motion." Writers who live, work or study in the City of Alexandria, including local first-time or established poets of any age are encouraged to submit original poems. Poems that celebrate words and transportation are required and a broad range of ideas and subject matter are encouraged. Additional information including submission guidelines and frequently asked questions about the contest can be found on the Office of the Arts' web site at www.alexandriava.gov/Arts, via e-mail at poet@alexandriava.gov, or by phone at 703-746-5588.



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of good friends
since moving to
the Hermitage."*

—John Mutchler

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Discover why many people like you have come to call the Hermitage home—the chance to experience a new lifestyle with an array of services and amenities. Just ask resident John Mutchler, who appreciates the freedom from home maintenance and the opportunity to participate in clubs and social activities. Our residents also rave about our superb dining service, our courteous and helpful staff, and an overall feeling of caring and security that comes with living at the Hermitage.

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For more information,
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Plymouth Haven \$1,375,000
8701 Standish Road, Alexandria, VA 22308
Handsome colonial with builder quality craftsmanship throughout! Features 6BR/6.5BA/2CG, special main level, professional chef's kitchen, main level master, separate apt & private yard!
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



Seminary Area \$1,095,000
909 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302
Overlooking the beautiful Seminary grounds, this brick 4BR/4.5BA center hall colonial features sparkling hwd fls, 2 fps + fabulous 1st fl family room & sited on 3/4 acre lot.
Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Seminary Ridge \$975,000
3921 Terry Place, Alexandria, VA 22304
Beautifully maintained 4BR/2.5BA brick colonial with generous room sizes, hardwood floors, fireplace, abundant storage + 2 car garage.
Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



Mt Vernon Grove \$839,000
9336 Boothe Street, Alexandria, VA 22309
Beautifully renovated colonial with designer touches throughout! Features 4BR/2.5BA, newly upgraded gourmet kitchen, oak hard wood floors & spacious backyard with two stone patios!
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



Carlyle Towers Condo \$925,000
2151 Jamieson Avenue 1806-07, Alexandria, VA 22314
Fabulous bright 3BR/3BA double unit w 35' glass balcony. Big kit has 2 entrances, 2 storage, 2 good gar spaces. See photos & floor plan at <http://tour.circlepix.com/home2/ZU6L4B>
Marie Louise Meyer 703-836-2080



Braddock Heights \$799,000
3337 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302
Newly built Colonial w/ 2CG. All new top of the line stainless appliances, granite & finishes. Conveniently located near Old Town, T.C. Williams, & commuter routes.
The York Group 703-409-3377



Mason Hill \$779,900
1722 Hollinwood Drive, Alexandria, VA 22307
New Price! Beautiful Center Hall Colonial in Mason Hill. This Home has been Updated Inside & Out. Chef's Gourmet Kitchen, Updated Baths, 3 Finished Levels, Deck & Walk Out LL.
Greg Doherty 703-408-5068



The Point At Twin Lakes \$699,000
219 Twin Lake Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
5BR/4BA. Owners will consider all reasonable offers for this 5000 sqft home on almost 2 acres less than 2 miles from VRE stop. Close to new biking/jogging path.
Kevin Harold Posey 703-628-5823



Bucknell Manor \$438,500
6720 Williams Dr, Alexandria, VA 22307
Beautifully renovated 3 level cape offering gourmet kitchen w/ granite & stainless appls, HW floors, finished LL w/ custom built-ins & large private fenced yard mins to Old Town!
Joy Deevy 703.930.5198



New Alexandria \$489,000
1212 Olde Towne Rd, Alexandria, VA 22307
Must see beautiful bucolic retreat. 3B/2Bath, expanded, updated and lovingly maintained brick ramblar. Extensive hardscaping and landscaping including a bubbling waterfall.
Lyssa Seward 703-298-0562



Ridge View \$424,900
4205 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310
4BR/2BA. Owners will consider all reasonable offers for this charming home less than 2 miles from Huntington Metro. Fenced backyard & across from Clermont Park.
Kevin Harold Posey 703-628-5823



Huntington \$299,999
2100 Arlington Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22303
A great value for Duplex with an over sized corner lot. Walk to Huntington Metro! Value priced. Backs to Huntington Park. Convenient access to the Beltway and min to Old Town Alex.
Fred Marcellus 703-340-2925

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Season's Greetings - Happy New Year



From Wes Foster and the Agents, Staff and Affiliate Companies of the L&F Alexandria / Old Town Historic Office - 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 - 703.683.0400



FIRST NIGHT



Musical entertainment will be featured throughout Old Town during First Night Alexandria festivities. Curtis Blues performed Mississippi Delta Blues at Bittersweet Café during last year's event.



Samuel Barrand, 8, and his brother Lucas, 4, visited from New York to enjoy last year's First Night fireworks.



Midnight fireworks over the Alexandria waterfront will celebrate the finale of First Night Alexandria.

PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER

New Year's Eve Alexandria Style

SEE MORE FIRST NIGHT ACTIVITIES ON PAGE 22

First Night makes Alexandria the place to be.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Billed as the largest family-friendly New Year's Eve party in the greater Washington area, more than 100 live performances will take place throughout Old Town as part of First Night Alexandria, a day-long event filled with entertainment and culminating with a fireworks finale over the Potomac River along the waterfront.

First Night participants can enjoy an afternoon scavenger hunt throughout Old Town before evening performances get underway as part of the celebration that extends from the George Washington Masonic Memorial to the waterfront.

The main event begins at 7 p.m. with live performances at 22 indoor venues in Old Town. Musical entertainment will feature rhythm and blues, New

Orleans funk, traditional Irish music, acoustic folk and more. New acts include WAMMIE-award winning Ruthie and the Wranglers, playing high energy roots rock, and Geoff Gallante, 13-year-old nationally recognized trumpet soloist performing an eclectic mix of classical, folk, hymns and spirituals.

This family-friendly event is full of activities for kids throughout the night, including face painting, a moon bounce, clowns doing balloon sculptures and interactive games. This year features an all-new Battle of the Bands for teens. After submitting online videos and receiving votes from the public, the top choices will compete on Dec. 31 for a paid contract to perform at First Night Alexandria 2014. Alcohol-free venues keep it fun and accessible for all ages – and children under 12 and active military are free.

For tickets or more information, visit www.FirstNightAlexandria.org.



FIRST NIGHT PLAYBOOK

For Children

At 2 p.m. stop by the Torpedo Factory and pick up a First Night Alexandria Fun Hunt clue sheet. It's not a timed event so you can do a couple of the clues and then stop by King Street Blues at 112 N. St. Asaph St. for a late lunch. Kids 12 and under eat free (one child with each adult meal of \$9 or more purchased).

If you aren't into scavenger hunts, there are art activities at the Torpedo Factory in both the great hall and Art League Gallery or explore Alexandria's past in the Archeology Museum on the third floor.

Once you've finished the Fun Hunt, stop by the Sugar Cube for holiday cookie decorating before heading to the Durant Center to drop off your clue sheet and enter to win one of the prizes during the kickoff at 6 p.m. If you arrive early there is a Pyramid Concert from 2-4 p.m. and an art and poetry reading.

Next door to the Durant Center is Jefferson Houston Elementary School where activities for the whole family begin at 2 p.m. and run until 10 p.m. A free shuttle will take you from Durant to the George Washington Masonic Memorial (after 7 p.m.) where there will be face painting, nail art, balloon sculptures and lots of music and dance. You can even see the midnight fireworks from the steps in front of the Memorial.

For Tweens/Teens

Start your New Year's off early with dinner at one of Alexandria's more casual restaurants (www.visitalexandriava.com has menus and addresses) then head to Downtown Baptist Church for entertainment for the whole family. The adults will want to catch Virginia Bronze handbell ensemble and Karen Ashbrook in the sanctuary while the tweens and teens go to the lower level for karaoke, ping pong and a big screen TV.

Across the street at the Lyceum you'll find the Not So Modern Jazz Quartet plus one and Jeoff Gallante, a 13-year-old nationally recognized trumpet soloist.

At Pompanoosuc Mills is WAMMIE winner Ruthie & the Wranglers. Society Fair is in the lobby of the building and a good place for refreshments.

The Durant Arts Center should be on your list of places to stop for the finals of the Battle of the Bands, a competition for teen bands. There will be cash prizes for all the finalists and the winner that evening will receive a paid engagement for First Night 2014. While the judges deliberate, Keira Moran and her band will perform one set.

Top off your night with the grand finale beginning at 10 p.m. in the unit block of King Street followed at midnight with a magnificent fireworks display on the Potomac.

For Couples

Come early and stop for a glass of champagne and dinner at one of Alexandria's restaurants then catch the first performance of the Vaughn Ambrose Jazz Trio at Principle Gallery in the 200 block of King Street at 7 p.m.

At 8 p.m. the Old Presbyterian Meeting House at 321 S. Fairfax St. features Al Petteway and Amy White whose music was featured on the Ken Burns documentaries "The National Parks."

Next head to St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 228 S. Pitt St. to see Musikanten and Anders Lundegard.

Your last stop before the finale will be the Torpedo Factory Art Center for Bill Kirchen's final set at 10:45 p.m. He'll play right up to the point where the fireworks begin on the river at midnight.

After the fireworks you have plenty of time for a bite to eat and another glass of champagne to top the evening.

Young Professionals

Out with friends and not into the bar scene? First Night Alexandria is the place to be. This all-invited performing arts festival has 22 indoor venues from 7 p.m. until midnight.

Start your evening at the George Washington Masonic Memorial where you have a selection of four bands to dance or just listen to — everything from traditional Irish and country to swing and a tour of music written or performed by artists from the DC region.

Across the street at the train station you can find something a bit more quiet with Robin Bullock, hailed as a Celtic guitar god.

In the 1000 and 1100 blocks of King Street you can hear GRAMMY nominated Ray Owen and blues singer Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark.

If you want to add a bit of spirituality to your evening, drop by the Alfred Street Baptist Church for "Watch Night" services at 7 and 10 p.m.

WAMMIE winner Ruthie & the Wranglers returns after a multi-year hiatus from First Night at Pompanoosuc Mills.

Jazz favorite Vaughn Ambrose will be at a new venue, Principle Gallery in the 200 block of King Street which positions you perfectly for the finale beginning at 10 p.m. in the unit block of King Street. Starting off quietly with the a cappella Stairwells, we'll crank it up at 10:30 p.m. with our favorite DJ, Ray Casiano who will take us up to the countdown the fireworks finale on the Potomac.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

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.

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 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 or 703-683-0496.

Art Exhibition. Through the end of December, see artist Oenone Hammersley's recent semi-abstract and wildlife paintings at Patrick's Home Decor, 106 N. St. Asaph Street. Call 571 970 6931. Visit www.oenonehammersley.com or www.patrickdesigns.com.

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 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.potomacfiberartsgallery.com or 703-548-0935.

Art Exhibit. Artist John Gascot of Studio 4, 218 N. Lee St., suite 101, creates an art exhibit to honor the life journeys of transgender individuals. It will be on display through January. Gallery hours are Thursday-Saturday, noon-7 p.m. and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.studio4oldtown.com for more.

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 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 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 for more.



Williamson

West Potomac Graduate Performing at Kennedy Center

Soprano Lisa Williamson makes her Washington National Opera debut in the world-premiere production of Jeanine Tesori's children's opera, "The Lion, the Unicorn, and Me." Williamson, the daughter of two military musicians, graduated from West Potomac High School. She now makes her home in Connecticut with her husband, Lt. Cmdr. Adam Williamson, the director of the United States Coast Guard Band.

"The Lion, the Unicorn, and Me" tells the story of the Nativity from the donkey's point of view, WNO Artistic Director Francesca Zambello brings this award-winning children's book to life. This holiday family opera runs through Dec. 22 at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater. Run time is approximately 90 minutes. Tickets \$44-\$64 at www.kennedy-center.org.

"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 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, at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Art Exhibit. See "No Room For Doubt," abstract works on wood, canvas and

paper by Kristen Hayes through Jan. 26 at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Free. Visit nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Art Exhibit. See "Primary Colors" art exhibit from Jan. 3-Feb. 2 at The Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists use the three primary colors without mixing them. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., through Sunday, March 23, 2014. This exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

CLASSES

Metro Club After-School Program.

From Sept. 9-June 2014, the Metropolitan School of Arts presents an after-school program for grades 1-6. The program is located at both the Lorton studio at Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way and in Alexandria at 5775 Barclay Drive. Programs will focus on the arts, including music, dance, theatre, yoga and academics, as well as designated homework time. The program will run Mondays, 1-6 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. Tuition runs from \$130-150. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

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 for a schedule.

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.

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 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.

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. Contact Ian Hawkins at ihawkins@arha.us or 703-549-7913.

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 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 <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 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 for more.

Light the Night. 5-7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Bring flashlights for light painting, and new unwrapped

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

At the Library

Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Call 703-746-1702.

Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Call 703-746-1705.

Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Call 703-746-1704.

Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Call 703-746-1703. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us

FRIDAY/DEC. 20

E-Reader Cover Craft Project. 2 p.m. at Beatley Central Library. Librarians will show how to turn a hardback book into a cover. Register at 703-746-1745 or e-mail Katie at kdow@alexandria.lib.va.us. Free.

SATURDAY/DEC. 21

Saturday Stories. 11 a.m. at Beatley Library. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free.

SUNDAY/DEC. 22

Classic Cinema. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library. Join for a screening of a classic holiday movie. Free. Call for title.

MONDAY/DEC. 23

Baby Time. 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Songs, fingerplays and bounces for babies up to 11 months. Free.

Story Time. 7 p.m. at Duncan Library. All ages can enjoy a reading of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas." Free.

TUESDAY/DEC. 24

Libraries Closed.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 25

Libraries Closed.

THURSDAY/DEC. 26

Mother Goose Story Time. 10 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free.

Story Time. 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free.

Holiday Social and Screening. 6 p.m. at Beatley Library. Watch a romantic holiday comedy. Free.

Blockbuster Thursday. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library. Watch a recent hit movie. Free. Call for title.

Old Fashioned Fun Night. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 6-12 can learn how to play Spoons. Free.

SATURDAY/DEC. 28

Paws to Read. 1 p.m. at Burke Library. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required. Call 703-746-1773 or e-mail mmcguire@alexandria.lib.va.us to register for a 15min slot.

SUNDAY/DEC. 29

Classic Cinema. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library. Join for a screening of a classic holiday movie. Free. Call for title.

MONDAY/DEC. 30

Baby Dance Party. 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children up to 12 months can groove to music. Free.

Year End Party with Rainbow Rock. 11:15 a.m. at Beatley Library. All ages can enjoy a concert by Alexandria's Rainbow Rock.

World Short Story Discussion Group. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library. Call 703-746-1779 for title.

TUESDAY/DEC. 31

Toddler Dance Party. 10 a.m. at Duncan Library. Toddlers can wear their dancing shoes and groove to music. Free.

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FirstNightAlexandria.org



ENTERTAINMENT

toys and books for donation to Rising Hope Ministries (www.risinghopeumc.org). Visit www.artatthecenter.org.

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 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 mountvernon.org/specialevents.

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 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.

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 or 703-313-9700 for reservations.

National Christmas Tree. Alexandria's Metropolitan School of the Arts' Frosty Follies will perform at 6:30 p.m. on the Ellipse in Washington, D.C. More than 40 dancers from MSA will showcase their live tap dance. Free. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 23

Breakfast With Santa. 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. at Union Street Public House,



Breakfast with Santa

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting Old Town before leaving for the big night. Join them for breakfast Monday, Dec. 23 and Tuesday, Dec. 24. Breakfast is table-service and the menu will include some all-time favorites like eggs Benedict and Belgian malted waffles. Six seatings starting at 8:30 a.m. and every half-hour through 11 a.m. \$13.50 per child (age 3-12) and \$22 per adult. Cost includes breakfast, milk, soda, coffee, tea, tax, gratuity, and a visit with Santa and the Missus. Purchase tickets at <https://usph.webconnex.com/santa>.

121 S. Union St. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus while enjoying breakfast. \$13.50/child; \$22/adult. Must purchase time slot in advance at <https://usph.webconnex.com/santa>.

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 or 703-313-9700 for reservations.

TUESDAY/DEC. 24

Breakfast With Santa. 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus while enjoying breakfast. \$13.50/child; \$22/adult. Must purchase time slot in advance at <https://usph.webconnex.com/santa>.

MONDAY/DEC. 30

Burlesque-A-Pades. Starring the Pontani Sisters, The Maine Attraction and more. At The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

TUESDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. Afternoon activities from 1-5 p.m., performances from 7 p.m.-midnight and fireworks at midnight from the Potomac River at the foot of King Street. There will be more than 100

performances at 22 indoor venues, dancing, children's games and more. \$15/before Dec. 15; \$20/after; children under 12 and active military are free. Visit www.firstnightalexandria.org for a full list of activities, performances and locations.

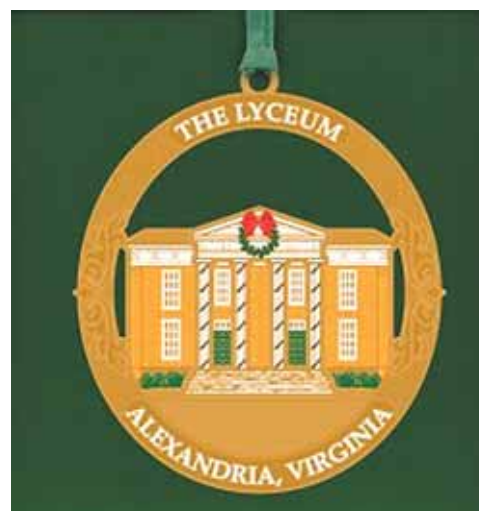
New Year's Eve State of Mind Benefit Gala. 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. at the Waterford at Springfield, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. There will be activities, live music, holiday buffet, silent auction and more for the whole family to enjoy. Hosted by the Metropolitan School of the Arts. \$120/adult; \$79/youth age 13-20 years; \$49/child age 6-12 years; free/child under 5. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org or 703-339-0444 for tickets.

SATURDAY/JAN. 4

Show. Doors open at 10 a.m., show starts at 11 a.m. at Old Town Theater, 815 King St. "Dezmo and the Secret Power of Knowledge" will be performed for children. \$15/person. Visit www.theoldtowntheater.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 5

Twelfth Night. 6 p.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St.



Alexandria's Ornament

The Lyceum (2013) ornament is the third in the Series honoring the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. During the Civil War, occupying Union forces seized the building and turned it into a hospital ward, serving both Union and captured Confederate wounded. Turned into a private home after the war, the building now known simply as The Lyceum was saved from demolition by Alexandria's City Council in 1969, to be renovated into the nation's first Bicentennial Center. Today, The Lyceum is Alexandria's general city history museum.

This year's ornament is available for \$18 at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, the Apothecary Museum, The Lyceum, Fort Ward Museum, the Alexandria Black History Museum, the Ramsay House Visitor Center and online at <https://shop.alexandriava.gov>.

ENTERTAINMENT

2013 First Night Alexandria Afternoon Activities

FIFTH ANNUAL FUN HUNT

2-5:30 p.m. Sponsored by Dominion Power. Clue sheets can be picked up beginning at 2 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center (105 N. Union St.). One 2013 First Night Alexandria admission badge is required for each clue sheet. Badges will be on sale at the Torpedo Factory. This is not a timed event. Completed clue sheets must be turned in at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., by 5:30 p.m. to be eligible for prizes.

DURANT ARTS CENTER

2-4 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. 2-4 p.m. Free. Moon bounce and interactive games for children 12 and under. ThinkFun game room for the entire family.

2 p.m. The George Washington Middle School Chamber Orchestra consists of sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. Under the leadership of Jonathon Jones, this orchestra has performed at numerous festivals and concerts over the past 15 years and has been honored with many first place rankings and/or superior ratings at District X, Kings Dominion and Music in the Parks Festivals. In April 2012, the Chamber Orchestra performed at the International Music Festival at the Kennedy Center where they received the Gold Award for their performance.

2:30 p.m. The Francis C. Hammond Orchestra is a program of about 130 students, with a proud tradition of excellence. Under the direction of Veronica Jackson, the orchestra received Superior and Excellent ratings at District Orchestra Assessment and at Orchestra Competition at Hershey Park.

3 p.m. The T.C. Williams High School choral program is comprised of about 100 students in four distinct groups: Advanced, Mixed, Concert and Show Choir. Directed by Theodore Thorpe, III, their repertoire covers many styles from classical to gospel, from different periods and ranges in difficulty.

3:30 p.m. The T.C. Williams Orchestra, directed by Dr. Tzu-Ching Tai, is comprised of three orchestras including the ninth grade Orchestra, the String Orchestra and the advanced Chamber Orchestra. Students in the orchestra program have performed with world famous violinist Midori during her orchestra residencies program and regularly collaborate with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra.

TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER

2-5 p.m. Not a scavenger hunt person?

Participate in a fun, art activity for all ages and skill levels, at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. Make a button, mask or crown to wear to the best parties all night. Artists Lisa Schumaier and Dawn Benedetto and their elves will be there to assist. This is a free event sponsored by Dominion Power.

ALEXANDRIA ARCHEOLOGY MUSEUM

2-5 p.m. Learn about Alexandria's potters at this fun, hands-on activity. Discover Alexandria's salt-glazed stoneware potters and their unique decorative patterns produced from 1813 through 1876. You'll be able to copy or create your own take-home designs on paper using markers, paint, or both at this drop-in activity. 105 N. Union St., 3rd Floor. Free.

THE ART LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

1:30-4:30 p.m. Make a sketchbook to take home, participate in a drawing activity or make a pencil sculpture. 105 N. Union St., 1st Floor. Free.

DOWNTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

3 & 5 p.m. (one hour show). Travel back in time and interact with Thomas Jefferson, Nellie Bly and Benjamin Banneker in a multimedia, musical, one-of-a-kind extravaganza for all ages. Through the magic of theater reflect on the old and bring in the New with the Alexandria premier of The Bea & The Bug. Created by Gale Nemec www.TheBeaAndTheBug.org. 212 S. Washington St. \$10 at the door, or in advance at www.galenemecbooks.com/the-bea—the-bug.html.

THE PAPER SOURCE

2-5 p.m. Demonstrations including stamping, heat embossing, envelope making and kit making. 118 King St. Free.

ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Noon. In keeping with its rich history as one of the oldest African American churches in the United States, annually on New Year's Eve, Alfred Street Baptist Church hosts Watch Night Services. The afternoon service will begin at noon and consist of music, led by the church's music and worship arts department, prayers, testimonies and an inspirational message. The church welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate the hope of the New Year. 301 S. Alfred St. Free.

SATURDAY/JAN. 11

Music Performance. See Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. 7:30 p.m. \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Dance Performance. Jane Franklin Dance presents "See" at 7 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. \$20. Visit janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

SUNDAY/JAN. 12

Gallery Talk. 2-3:30 p.m. Kristen Hayes will lead a talk about her exhibit "No Room For Doubt" at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Free. Visit nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

1-4 p.m. There will be a "race" track mapped out in the store for kids to follow and stops along the way to learn about other parts of the world. The story of Galimoto will be read at 4 p.m. There will be light refreshments. The age range for the book and activity is 3-8 years old. 915 King St. Free.

SUGAR CUBE

2-5 p.m. "Countdown to Midnight" free cookie decorating (one cookie per child). 1218 King St. Free.

OLIO

1-4 p.m. Olio Taste Testing Bash. Join the party at Olio and try their taste testing challenge. Taste four infused flavors of oils or vinegars, guess which are which — get them all right and win a prize, including discounts on bottles and other giveaways. 1223 King St. Free.

HOORAY FOR BOOKS!

3 & 4 p.m. Storytelling by Miss Megan. 1555 King St. Free.

KING STREET GARDEN PARK

2-5 p.m. Join friends from Barkley Square, the Animal Welfare League and others for a fun afternoon featuring: photos with pets and family; make a picture frame; kissing booth benefiting A Forever Home; and games and activities with Animal Welfare League of Alexandria such as find the microchip. 3 p.m. - Training demo by Kelli Parker. 1700 block of King St. Free.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

MASONIC MEMORIAL

Tours at 1:30 and 3 p.m. The George Washington Masonic National Memorial is more than a colossal memorial and museum. It is a tourist attraction and destination; research center and library; community center; performing arts center and concert hall; banquet and celebration site; and meeting site for local and countless visiting Masonic lodges and organizations. However, first and foremost, it is a memorial to honor and perpetuate the memory, character and virtues of the man who best exemplifies what Freemasons are and ought to be, Brother George Washington. 101 Callahan Drive. \$8 charge for adults; children 12 and under are free.

SATURDAY/JAN. 18

Opening Reception. 6-9 p.m. artist John Gascot of Studio 4, 218 N. Lee St., suite 101, creates an art exhibit to honor the life journeys of transgender individuals. It will be on display the whole month of January. Gallery hours are Thursday-Saturday, noon-7 p.m. and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.studio4oldtown.com for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 23

Dance Performance. 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. See "I Missed It" by Jane Franklin Dance Company. \$20. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

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-Thomas A. Edison

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Alexandria has requested authorization from the Marine Resources Commission to repair four existing weirs and an existing weir structure in Cameron Run Adjacent to 3600 -4000 Eisenhower Avenue in the City of Alexandria.

Send comments/inquiries within 15 days to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 2600 Washington Ave, 3rd floor, Newport News, Virginia 23607

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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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.

I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.
-Arthur Wing Pinero

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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MullinsMemorial.com, Cape Coral Breeze



Robert "Bobby" Deane Via, 58, a Cape Coral, FL resident since 1986, formerly of Alexandria, VA, passed away Wednesday, December 11, 2013 in Ft. Myers. He was born June 21, 1955 in Alexandria.

Bobby was a faithful and loving son, a wonderful father and husband and a friend to all who knew him. He loved golf, family and his faithful dog Dingo. Better known as the unofficial "Mayor of Cape Coral", Bobby was blessed with countless friends. All you had to do was meet him and you had made a friend for life. Bobby was an unabashed ladies man as well as a man's man. He had a smile and a laugh that would light up any room. He was a tremendous cook, mechanic and master conversationalist with a great sense of humor. Bobby loved life like there was no tomorrow. He will be missed. So where ever you are, please raise a glass to Cape Coral's prodigal son for one last toast. Cheers Bobby!

He is survived by his beloved wife of 31 years, Christina C. Via of Cape Coral; one loving son, James "Deane" Via also of Cape Coral; his mother, Joyce T. Bernstine of Lakewood, OH; his father, Robert E. Via and wife Marilyn of Colonial Beach, VA; a sister, Torey Via Worrone and husband Jeff also of Lakewood, OH; a niece, Tully Lee Worrone of Lakewood; a sister-in-law, Tresa A. Caplanis of Woodbridge, VA; a brother-in-law, Mike W. Caplanis of Stephen City, VA; as well as Dingo!

Bobby was preceded in death by his step-father, Dr. Richard L. Bernstine.

A Celebration of Larger Than Life, Life will be held 2:30PM Saturday, December 21, 2013 at the Chapel By The Sea, 11580 Chapin Lane, Captiva, FL 33924 with Pastor George Morris officiating. A casual dress reception will immediately follow at the Captiva Island Yacht Club, 15903 Captiva Dr., Captiva, FL 33924.

If you will be attending the services, it is requested that you bring any photos of Bobby that you may have to be placed on a memory board as a gift to the family.

Memorial contributions in memory of Robert "Bobby" Via are suggested to the National Foundation for Transplants, 5350 Poplar Ave., Suite 430, Memphis, TN 38119 or the American Liver Foundation, 39 Broadway, Suite 2700 New York, New York 10006.

Friends are invited to send condolences via the on-line guest book which can be found at www.MullinsMemorial.com.

Mullins Memorial Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Cape Coral, is entrusted with final care.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Front, from left, are Sofie Drexler, Jessica Lopez, Leslie Lytle, Abigail Henshaw, Nicole Bires and Claire Fergusson. In back are coaches Bob Henshaw and Katie Henshaw (member of SSSAS Robotics Team and mentor to the girls.)

They're Robotics Champions

All girls robotics team wins first place Champions Award at Virginia State Lego League Competition.

Since August, a group of middle school girls have been meeting bi-weekly to prepare for a robotics competition as part of a home-based team — the Dynamite Twisters — to participate in a science and engineering program, First Lego League. First (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League is an international robotics program that helps young people discover the fun in science and technology while building self-confidence, knowledge and career and life skills. These Alexandria girls competed at a regional tournament at George Mason University in November and were advanced to the state tournament. This year, there were over 20 regional qualifying tournaments in Virginia and D.C. At the state tournament at James Madison University on Dec. 7-8, the Dynamite Twisters were recognized as the first place division one team receiving the first place championship award.

The team, comprised of girls from Burgundy Farm Country Day School (Sofie Drexler – 6th grade), George Washington Middle School (Leslie Lytle – 7th grade) and Saint Stephen's and Saint Agnes School (Nicole Bires, Claire Fergusson, Abigail Henshaw and Jessica Lopez – all in 6th grade) competed in four areas at the state competition: research, core values, robot design and robot performance. Their research project included the development of an app (Treesurance – available on the google play store) to assess the risk of a tree falling in a storm which they presented to



Leslie Lytle and Claire Fergusson set up the robot for competition.

teachers at their schools, the ACPS School Board and the Seminary Ridge Civic Association. To create their app they collaborated with city arborist John Noelle and obtained a sponsor, the Care of Trees. Their robot design was regarded highly at the state competition and they obtained a high mission score (429) as the robot completed tasks on a mission table. Only five of the more than 100 teams at the state competition obtained a score of over 400 on the robot performance rubric.

BUSINESS NOTES

FROM PAGE 9

2007. She is a Certified Public Accountant, and also holds the designation of Chartered Global Management Accountant. She specializes in working with small businesses and professional firms in the areas of business tax return preparation and accounting assistance. She is experienced in performing compilations and reviews for her small business clients, and is proficient in U.S. GAAP as well as other comprehensive bases of accounting. She provides individual tax return preparation and tax planning services for the owners of small businesses as well.

Increase in Students from Impoverished Families

FROM PAGE 1

parents reading to children at home. Some of those can be provided by nonprofit organizations, but other strategies are beyond the reach of government.

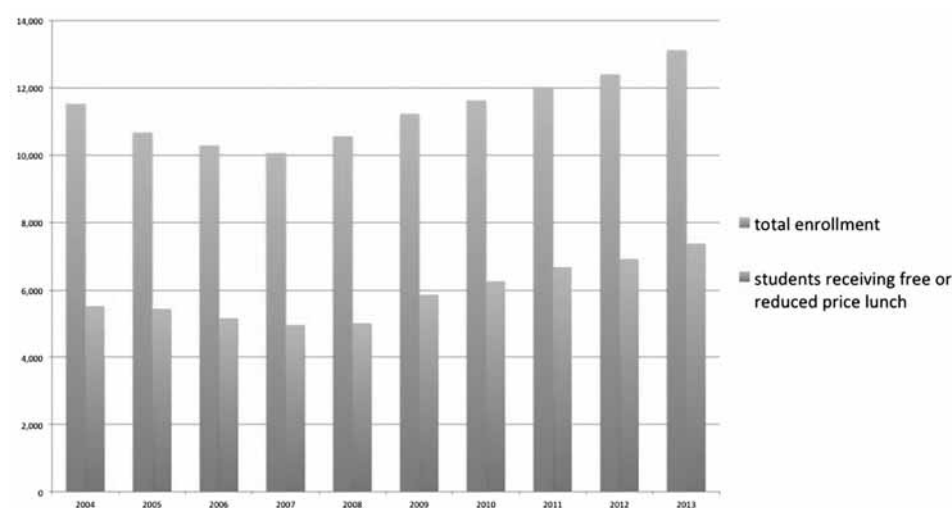
“Frankly, the whole city needs to rally around support for the kids as far as their academic achievement goes,” said Sheryl Gorsuch, former School Board chairwoman. “The quality of life they live at home is the biggest predictor of achievement, and whatever we could do as a city is going to help.”

ONE WAY school officials are trying to handle the problem is reaching out to schools that have a high percentage of students who live in poverty with the Young Scholars program, which will be implemented this summer for the first time. Targeted schools include Patrick Henry Elementary School and James K. Polk Elementary School, two schools with some of the high-

est rates of students who qualify for free and reduced price lunch. The idea is that teachers would be able to nurture youths to recognize high-order thinking and problems solving.

“The teachers will look for students problem solving in unique ways or being creative in ways that other kids are not,” said Holmes. “Instead of being remedial reading or remedial math, it’s more of an exploration type of program.”

For Alexandria, it’s a bigger problem than any other jurisdiction in the region. But some other localities have similar demographics. Manassas Park City has 55 percent of students who live in poverty, and Manassas City has 51 percent. Every other jurisdiction has less than half of its student enrollment living in poverty. Some jurisdictions, such as Falls Church, have very few. That means the city’s efforts to open up the talented and gifted program will have in-



SOURCE: ALEXANDRIA COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

creased significance in the coming year.

“This really calls into question what kind of selection criteria we are using,” said

School Board member Bill Campbell. “Is it as objective as we need it to be or is it based on who you know?”



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Remembering

Cub Scouts from St. Rita parish participated with the “Friends of Rocky Versace” in the annual wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery, “Wreaths Across America,” on Saturday, Dec. 14. Forty-four of Alexandria’s Vietnam War Fallen Heroes are buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The scouts placed the Christmas wreaths on all 44 graves.



George “Barry” Lockhart, F.C. Hammond H.S. Class of 1965, USAFA Class of 1969; USAF Captain, KIA North VN 21 Dec 1972.



Ralph Byron “Barney” Pappas, F.C. Hammond High School Class of 1958; Marine Captain, KIA VN 30 Mar 1967.

Deck the Halls

Vintage ornaments recapture holiday magic for Old Town resident.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Christmas tree as we know it today dates back to the 16th century. But until the mid-1800s, they were mostly decorated with edibles like fruits and nuts. That’s when German entrepreneurs based in the glassblowing center of Lauscha had the idea to begin producing decorative tree ornaments made out of blown glass. When F.W. Woolworth imported the first of these baubles into the U.S. in the 1880s, the American love affair with Christmas tree ornaments began.

“I don’t believe I have an ornament that is any newer than the 1950s,” said Christine Bernstein, an Old Town resident who decorates her tree solely with the hundreds of vintage ornaments that she inherited from her mother. “Some are made in the U.S., some in Europe and some even from Japan but they all hung on our family tree when I was growing up.”

Bernstein grew up in Pittsburgh, where her parents were married in 1943.

She has called Alexandria her home since she was a young bride in 1979.

“I give my nice Jewish husband a lot of credit for helping this come together,” Bernstein said of her husband Dan. “We celebrate both Christmas and Hanukah but



PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER

Old Town resident Christine Bernstein displays boxes that hold the vintage ’40s and ’50s ornaments that adorn her 12-foot Christmas tree.



An ornament from the 1940s that Alexandria resident Christine Bernstein inherited from her mother now hangs on her tree in Old Town.

he really helps me preserve my family traditions when it comes to decorating our Christmas tree.”

For the last five years, the Bernsteins have erected a 12-foot Christmas tree in their living room, with Dan Bernstein devising an 80-pound counterweight system to prevent the tree from toppling over. Vintage glass garland and a family heirloom crèche on the fireplace mantle complete the holiday decorations.

“The tree is such a showplace that we don’t need to do much else,” Bernstein said.

More than 2,000 white lights adorn this year’s tree, a 7-foot wide Fraser fir that soaks up about two gallons of water a day.

“Neighbors love stopping by to see the ornaments,” Bernstein said. “It preserves a tradition for me and helps my contemporaries recapture their own childhood holiday magic.”

Chanukah



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Before Chanukah came to a close, Gideon Frishman (at left with Marv Ribyat) emceed a Chanukah celebration in the main dining room of The Fountains at Washington House in Alexandria. For the benefit of the multi-faith audience, the resident volunteer explained the meanings behind such traditions as the lighting of the Menorah, the Dreidel, potato latkes and donuts. He then led everyone in the singing of Chanukah songs on his guitar, accompanied by neighbor Bill Keil on the keyboard.

T.C. Boys' Basketball Looking To Overcome 0-3 Start

Junior guard Hill emerging as Titans' leader.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

During a recent T.C. Williams boys' basketball practice, the Titans went through a drill in which the defensive team attempted to rebound a perimeter shot and start a fast break to the other end of the floor.

During one rep, the defensive team, wearing red practice jerseys, failed to execute and received push-up punishment from head coach Julian King. Meanwhile, junior guard Andrew Hill was on the offensive team, wearing a gray jersey. When the red team dropped for push-ups, Hill joined them on them on the floor and started pumping out push-ups in a sign of support. Following Hill's lead, other "grays" began to drop and do push-ups, as well.

T.C. Williams is off to a 0-3 start and looking for answers. After a season-opening 56-51 loss to Wakefield on Dec. 7 in the Parker-Gray/Hoffman-Boston memorial game, the Titans lost back-to-back home games against West Springfield, 58-51 on Dec. 13, and Edison, 70-49 on Dec. 14. The home loss to West Springfield is believed to be the Titans' first in more than a decade.

While the team is trying to improve, Hill has emerged as the team's leader. In his first season at T.C. Williams, Hill, a transfer from Bishop O'Connell, is averaging 15.3 points per game and has shown a strong work ethic.

After Hill had volunteered to do push-ups with his teammates, King singled out the junior in practice, informing the rest of the Titans that Hill has been the team's best player, yet he is still out-working everyone else.



T.C. Williams boys' basketball coach Julian King talks to the Titans during their Dec. 7 game against Wakefield.

"He is emerging as our leader, first by example," King said. "I'm trying to get him to become a little more vocal, but it's tough because he's one of the new guys here and he's a nice guy and doesn't want to overstep his bounds. Hey, at this point in time, we need everything we can get. Hopefully as the season goes on he'll continue to be a leader by example and start to be a little more vocal because I think they will follow him."

"It's just a matter everybody learning their roles and accepting their roles. His role is, and I made it known tonight, that he is our leader."

King said sophomore guard Jordan Jones and senior guard Mert Ozkaynak can also be leaders. Ozkaynak has been plagued by foul trouble. Jones, who is averaging 11.7 points per contest, is still learning his way.

"I think [Jones is] going to have a great career here," King said. "He's fearless, but there's still a lot he has to learn. Right now he's playing off emotion and talent. Once we get him to calm down a little bit and just figure his way through certain situations, he's going to be fine."

Some of the Titans' struggles have to do with inexperience, with most of the team's athletes being new to the varsity level.

"No. 1 is just being mentally and physically ready to play at the start of each game,

T.C. Williams junior guard Andrew Hill is emerging as the team's leader, averaging 15.3 points per game.

because we've gotten off to bad starts," King said when asked what he wants the Titans to do differently. "It's almost like we're in shock once the ball tips and we're saying, 'oh, shoot, they're playing at a faster speed than we're used to.' Because most of them coming from JV, is it a different pace for them. It's a faster pace, it's more physical, you've got to be a little more decisive in your thinking process."

Toward the end of Monday's practice, King had the Titans doing push-ups or run-

ning for each mistake.

"It's a learning experience for us," King said. "So the thing I'm trying to get to them is let's exhaust ourselves at practice and try to be able to make decisions when we're fatigued and do certain things when we're fatigued so that way the game is going to be a little bit easier than trying to jump up to the next level. We should already be at that level."

T.C. Williams will host South County at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 20.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

SPORTS BRIEFS

Aces Seek Host Families For 2014 Season

The Alexandria Aces Collegiate Summer Baseball Club, coming off an exciting 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 United States will come to Alexandria next summer to play exciting 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 sometime 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 everything else.

Contact Aces' host family coordinator, Dave Cheney, at 703-370-2882.

T.C. Girls' Basketball Lose Back-to-Back Games

The T.C. Williams girls' basketball team suffered consecutive losses after a 2-1 start.

The Titans lost on the road to West Springfield, 54-53, on Dec. 13 and lost at home to Edison, 72-61, on Dec. 14, dropping their record to 2-3.

T.C. Williams won the Patriot District championship last season, snapping West Springfield's run of three consecutive district titles. Edison is the defending Northern Region champion.

The Titans will be back in action on Friday with a home game against South County at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 20.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Kurt David Anderson was recently elected to the Student Senate at Hampden-Sydney College. Kurt, a freshman, is a graduate of Episcopal High School and is the son of Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. Dave Anderson of Alexandria.

Catherine Ray, 16, of Alexandria, will graduate Magna Cum Laude Dec. 19 with an undergraduate degree from George Mason University's School of Physics, Astronomy and Computational Sciences.

Alexandria City Public Schools Director of School Nutrition Services **Becky Domokos-Bays** was elected vice president of the School Nutrition Association. Domokos-Bays currently

serves as chair of the association's Nutrition Committee and is a past president of the School Nutrition Association of Virginia. Installed in July 2014, she will serve on the association's executive team for three years, becoming president of the School Nutrition Association for school year 2016-17. Domokos-Bays earned a doctorate in adult and continuing education and a master's in human nutrition and foods from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She earned a bachelor of science degree in dietetics from Marshall University.

Alexandria resident, **Marisa Righi**, was recently selected to be part of the University Program Board's Programmers-In-Training program at James Madison University. Righi is a sophomore marketing major.

Art Educator Releases Two Books

Stories offer children and parents innovative ways to explore art.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Elizabeth Augenblick Smith, 10, spent a recent Saturday afternoon gluing strips of brightly hued tissue paper to create a collage. There were no rules or guides to follow. Smith was allowed to create her project in her own vision and felt supported. Her project wasn't part of an art class. She was at a launch party and book signing for two books written by her art teacher, Kathryn Horn Coneway of Art at the Center in Mount Vernon.

"The thing I like most about classes at Art at the Center is you choose what you want to do and there's no right or wrong about it," said Elizabeth. "I really liked that it was collage and you could tell how much work went into it. I like [the fact that] now I know a published author."

Elizabeth's project was based on one of the books, "Collette: A Collage Adventure," which tells the story of a bottle of glue that wants to get in on the artistic action at a studio. The other book released at the party is called "Oops Paint" and is aimed at toddlers and preschool children. It introduces stamping with everyday objects through a fun story of a family accidentally dropping things in paint.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHRYN HORN CONEWAY



Mount Vernon-based art instructor and author Kathryn Horn Coneway signs copies of her new books during a recent launch party at Art at the Center.

The books were inspired by Coneway's work at Art at the Center and incorporate her art education philosophy of giving children opportunities to explore art in a supportive environment without judgment. Both books conclude with a letter for parents that offers tips for getting started with art at home.

"I want the books to be starting points for people to start creating together," said Coneway, who has worked as an art teacher, an artist-in-residence and an art therapist. "The best feedback I get is when people tell me they read 'Collette' and want to get some

scraps and make collages, or that they read 'Oops Paint' and start noticing everyday objects and imagining shapes and patterns they might print."

Elizabeth's mother, Amy B. Augenblick, of Great Falls, said the books are an extension of the classes at Art at the Center. "Children are given the freedom to create art without being told 'this is the way you have to do it.' Their art projects are not treated as a craft from Pinterest," she said. "They are given the freedom to create their own art in support, nurturing environment."

Elizabeth Rees, the mother of three chil-

dren ages 10, 7 and 3, attended the launch party and said all of her children have taken classes at Art at the Center. She appreciates the books' underlying messages.

"The 'Oops Paint' book is especially good for younger kids as an introduction to the possibilities of paint and stamping," said Rees, of Mount Vernon. "'Collette' is a more complex story line, but the beautiful collages engaged all of my children. The mix of simple ideas to try along with a creative storyline helped make a book that was enjoyable for kids and could also be used in art instruction. Both books beautifully reaffirm the idea that any direction in art can lead to interesting results and that anyone can be an artist."

Rees, the associate rector at Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, took a parent-child class with her 3-year-old daughter. She has also found professional inspiration in the books and art classes. "I get to experiment and create and learn and follow wherever my creativity leads right along with the kids," she said. "I'm a priest and I've had several sermons take shape from my time there. Art at the Center is one of my favorite places to be."

Art at the Center will hold drop-in classes in December based on the themes of the books. For more information on the classes or books, visit www.artatthecenter.org.



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Alexandria Gazette Packet



Empowering and Serving

FROM PAGE 3

"But we need to focus on giving our time and service instead of just writing checks. If we could just do something to empower those coming out, give them some of the tools they need — to do for self — then I think that would be more important than any amount of money we could donate."

Offender Aid and Restoration of Arlington County, Inc. (OAR), founded in 1972, has been working to support inmates and ex-convicts in Northern Virginia for decades, but, according to Lightfoot and the rest of the committee, there is a great need for the youth to be more involved.

"We understand that they are busy," Lightfoot said, referring to high school and college students in the area. "But we need to find a way to express to them how important we think this is."

Apparently the message has been received.

"It was a situation I couldn't ignore," Ihkeem Ma'at, founder and CEO of Braveheart Entrepreneurship Youth Camp, said in a phone conversation. "As I was in the midst of my success I knew I had to do something to provide these kids with an outlet for empowerment — to express themselves."

Ma'at, 37, has been running a nonprofit in Southeast D.C. for the past five years. Growing up in an urban community in the District, he noticed that there was an extreme need.

"They need to learn valuable skills, like discipline and the ability to do for self," Ma'at said.

One of the goals of his program, which is an afterschool and summer academy, is to get the youth, ages 8 to 12, used to managing their moods and time, taking initiative in their communities and becoming good calculated risk takers.

Those are goals that have been highlighted by studies on the subject for the past few years. According to a study done in 2005 by the Canadian Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Review, on any given day over 120,000 adolescents and children are held within juvenile justice facilities across North America and in the U.S., ethnic minority, particularly black and Hispanic, youths comprise 32 percent of the general population and approximately 60 percent of the

youth within detention and secure settings.

There are also growing rates of mental illness, that often goes untreated or unnoticed. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 70 percent of youth in juvenile justice systems have at least one mental health condition and at least 20 percent live with a severe mental illness. The more serious consequences of these problems tend to show themselves once the adolescents reach the ages of 12 to 18.

It's important to pay attention and make sure you take stock of the children's challenges at an early age, according to Skie Griffin, a childcare professional in Alexandria. "We all know what the statistics are, so it's our job to teach the kids to better cope with the challenges of their environment," Griffin said. Griffin, who works at Rose Hill Christian Academy, notices that there are some who have greater difficulty focusing than others but, through patience and creativity, all kids can benefit from structure and discipline.

"One of the most important ways to help is to get the parents involved," she said.

Both Griffin and Ma'at expressed the importance of parents and the surrounding community. "In a lot of the children's lives there are stresses, sometimes mental issues that need to be dealt with, and their parent(s) don't always have time to address them," Ma'at said. "Medicine is sometimes necessary, but I feel like the combination of things has led to a situation where it's now the first and only option — but drugs can only do so much. Effectively, and indirectly, what we do in our entrepreneurship camp helps to provide that empowerment and mentorship that they need."

As the youth and adolescents go out into the world, those skills of entrepreneurship and networking become more important.

"These kids have overcome more than many have in years of living," Ma'at said.

"If we can do our part in surrounding them with a positive environment, that means parents, teachers and community members, who support and identify with them culturally and spiritually, we will have made a good difference."



**Judy Yoon Daley, RN,
Patient Care Director**



**Terrence Davis, Security
Department**



**Lynda West, Board of
Lady Managers**

Fashion Show Benefits Inova Alexandria Hospital

The Board of Lady Managers of Inova Alexandria Hospital held its annual Luncheon and Fashion Show on Nov. 1 featuring models from Inova Alexandria Hospital and

The Board of Lady Managers. The event raised a record \$24,000 to support the board's current pledge to purchase new anesthesia machines for the Surgical Services Department.

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NEWS

At Holiday Invitational

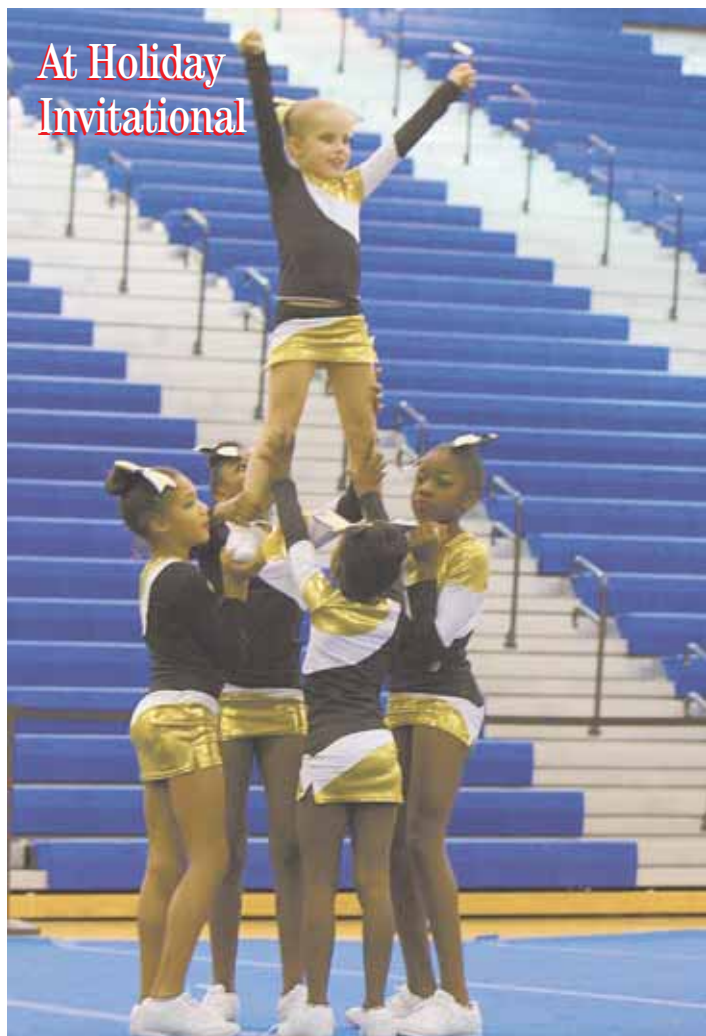


PHOTO BY RENEE RUGGLES/CAZETTE PACKET

A strong performance earned the Charles Houston Bulldogs a second place trophy in the Youth Level 1 division at the Dec. 14 Holiday Invitational Cheerleading Competition.

Garden Club Awards Holiday Door Decorating

Old Town Walled Garden Club judges surveyed the doorways north, south, east, and west in the Old and Historic District of Alexandria to select the winners of the annual Holiday Door Decorating Contest. This year's judges carried on a 46-year-old tradition of awarding prizes for tasteful door decorations made from natural garden materials. Winners will receive prizes donated by Greenstreet Gardens on Braddock Road, BRABO Tasting Room on King Street, Joe Theismann's Restaurant on Diagonal Road and Le Tastevin on King Street.

First place, receiving a \$100 gift certificate from Greenstreet Gardens, was the homeowner at 612 South Fairfax St., whose fresh, original and thematic design the judges deemed outstanding. The evergreen wreath was nestled inside a shallow Nantucket Basket and featured lemons and yellow-berried cedar with a bright yellow bow that incorporated handmade needlepoint lemon ornaments. The homeowner carried the lemon yellow theme to a second Nantucket basket filled with lemons and greens on the nearby garden gate, and into the home's window box that featured more greens and lemons.

Second place, winning a \$75 gift certificate to BRABO Tasting Room, went to the home at 205 North Columbus St. The bright yellow lemons and orange kumquats atop magnolia, fir and yellow-berried cedar greenery positively popped off this pair of sym-



First place winner is 612 South Fairfax St.



314 Prince St.

metrical wreaths on a double door. The transom above the door featured pineapples and lemons and completed the ensemble.

Third place, winning two entries at Joe Theismann's Restaurant, went to the home at 323 North Royal St. This door featured a Williamsburg-inspired fruit board above the door complemented by a boxwood and magnolia wreath decorated with apples and citrus fruits. A pine



205 North Columbus St.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CAZETTE PACKET

323 North Royal St. 3 - 323 North Royal

swag framed the door, tying the design together with holiday greenery.

The judges gave honorable mention to the home at 314 Prince St. The Victorian oval glass in this door front framed a lovely wreath with a Scottish tartan plaid bow. Red berries juxtaposed against blue-berried cedar and bright red apples gave cheery color to this traditional evergreen wreath adorned with pinecones.

VIEWPOINTS

"What was the best gift that you ever gave someone?"



Jenn S.: "After I got my first job, I splurged on my whole family. I was 23."



Jaime O.: "I promised my three younger brothers that I would take them to a movie, two days in a row."



PHOTOS BY RENEE RUGGLES/CAZETTE PACKET

Tom H.: "When I was younger, I made my mother a stool at Boy Scout Camp. I was doing woodworking for a merit badge. She still has it."



Jen Athanas finishes up another accessory handbag at the holiday market last Saturday. Athanas creates accessories from recycled, reclaimed, vintage and new materials. Her may be seen in her studio #320 in the Torpedo Art Center.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria potter Kari Kelly shows some of her pieces made from a sea-foam green clay at last Saturday's Del Ray Artisans Gallery. Kari works with her husband photographer Steve Johnson out of their Tierra y Fuego Studio. To see more work visit www.tierrayfuegostudio.com

Artisans Host Holiday Market

This is the last weekend for shopping at the annual Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market at the Colosanto Center in Del Ray. This week's market features artists: Tessa Barsic, Kimberley Bush (Karma Krafts by Kimberley), Rita Cohen, Marcel Deolazo, Katie Kelly (WineLinks), Kathy Lawler & Chris Feddersen (LaughterPieces), Kim Joy, Nancy Kline, Genevieve Lynn (Jade River Studios), Diana Manchak

(Designs in Clay), Linda Goetz Mierke, Hilary Rednor (Hilary Rednor Jewelry), Dorothy Weiss (Dorothy Weiss Designs) and Paula Wulff (WulffWerks).

The market hours Friday, Dec. 20, 6-9 p.m. (reception), Saturday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 22, noon-4 p.m. The Nicholas A. Colosanto Center is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray.

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