



PHOTOS BY CORIN REID/GAZETTE PACKET

More than 3,500 toys were collected for needy children in Northern Virginia.



Union Street Public House Restaurant bartender Bruce Witucki gives a final check to bicycles prior to distribution to local children Dec. 17.

Michelle Burns, wife of Redskins special teams coach and Alexandria native Keith Burns, helps pack toys to distribute to schools and nonprofits throughout Northern Virginia.



To the Rescue

Firefighters and Friends collect more than 3,500 toys for area children.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Christmas came a few days early for more than 100 children from local Head Start programs as they picked out toys during the annual Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue toy drive Dec. 17 at Penn Daw Station 11.

"Thank you for what you are doing here," said Alexandria police officer Bennie Evans, who attended the event with his wife Deana. "Keep do-

ing what you are doing for these kids because it matters."

Evans is the father of Cameron Evans, a T.C. Williams student who committed suicide last month. Donations raised for the family were used to help the firefighters buy toys for Alexandria children in need.

"It's not easy to be here today," said Deana Evans, who stressed the importance of being aware of mental health issues. "But Cameron touched so many lives in this community during

SEE FIREFIGHTERS, PAGE 17

Anticipation

Superintendent search, school takeover and threat of eminent domain.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

In looking ahead for what Alexandria will be facing in 2014, a number of issues have carried forward from last year:

❖ **New Superintendent:** Now that taxpayers have handed over \$300,000 to let former school Superintendent Morton Sherman out of his contract early, School Board members are looking for another chief administrator to run the city's 19 schools. City residents can participate in a survey until Jan. 19, and School Board members are expected to make a selection in the early months of the year.

THE YEAR
AHEAD

❖ **Jefferson-Houston School:** After years of failing test scores, state leaders are poised to take control of Jefferson-Houston School, which offers Kindergarten through 8th grade under the newly created Opportunity Educational Institution. The takeover will coincide with the opening of a \$45 million new facility currently under construction. City leaders say they will fight the takeover, although they declined to participate in a lawsuit challenging the law.

❖ **Potomac Yard Metro:** The coming year will see the completion of a long-awaited environmental impact statement for

SEE LOOKING, PAGE 23

More Challenges For Metro Station

Series of setbacks have delayed Environmental Impact Study of Potomac Yard station.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The future is uncertain for the Potomac Yard Metro station, a long-planned stop on the blue and yellow lines between the Braddock Road station and the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport station.

City leaders are now faced with three challenges that could jeopardize construction of the station. One is concerns raised by the Na-

tional Park Service, which says too much of the station would be visible from the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Another problem is the potential need to acquire property from CSX, which would increase the cost of the station by the tens of millions of dollars. Then there is the amount of debt Alexandria would take on to build the station, which would violate the city's debt ceiling.

"No one is talking about pulling

SEE MORE, PAGE 6

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The Way We Were

A look back at some of the people and events that shaped Alexandria in 2013.

From the opening of an adults-only sushi bar that created a national stir to the visit of a Medal of Honor recipient, it was an eventful year for Alexandria. As 2013 comes to a close, here's a look back at some of the people and events that made the year one to remember.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO BY JAMES BORDNER

After a two-year hiatus, fireworks returned to usher in the New Year as part of First Night Alexandria.



In February, the USO of Metropolitan Washington opened its doors on the world's largest Warrior and Family Center at Fort Belvoir.



Mardi Growl revelers raised funds in March for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.



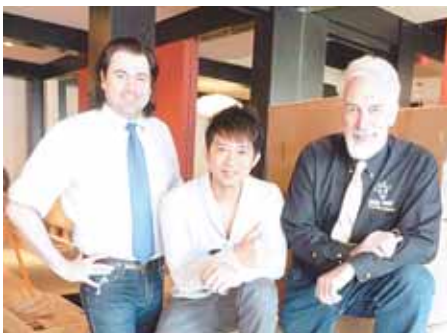
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Finleigh Seifert celebrated her first St. Patrick's Day

Peter Knetemann, right, took over as president of the Alexandria Rotary Club.



June kicked off Opening Day for the Miracle League of Alexandria.



April saw the opening of Mike Anderson and Bill Blackburn's adults-only sushi bar.



Just four months after being shot in the head during a routine traffic stop, Alexandria police officer Peter Laboy attended the Valor Awards with his wife Suzanne.



Alexandria Cupcake owner Adnan Hamidi served up his specialty at the Alexandria Food Festival in June.



Maestro Kim Allen Kluge led the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra in celebrating the city's 237th birthday in July.



Former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, second from left, attended a performance of "Daughter of the Struggle" at MetroStage in August.



Longtime restaurateur Bryan Watson turned over the reins of Bugsy's restaurant in October.



Todd Robins, left, and Andrew Harter enjoyed a "shutdown sandwich" at Pork Barrel BBQ Oct. 4 during the government shutdown.



Members of the Rotary Club of Alexandria posed for a photo with the late Vola Lawson, a breast cancer survivor and founder of the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer.



Commander Jim Glassman welcomed Medal of Honor recipient Army Staff Sgt. Ty Carter to American Legion Post 24 in Old Town.



T.C. Williams graduate and ESPN commentator LaChina Robinson made a return visit to her hometown during the Thanksgiving holiday.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

'Task Force Smile' To Help Critically Ill Military Children

Effort begins with
Walter Reed.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
GAZETTE PACKET

For more than a decade, Alexandria resident and Realtor Linda Wolf has been collecting toys for hospitalized children in the Washington D.C.- metropolitan area. An independent volunteer and toy collection organizer at National Children's Medical Center for 11 years, she moved her efforts over to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) with a program she started, "Task Force Smile," under the non-profit America's Adopt a Soldier. "Task Force Smile" will start at Walter Reed, but the plan is for it to ultimately reach all military hospitals treating critically ill military children.

"The long term goal is to raise \$1.6 million, which will fund toys, toy bins, storage, and transportation of the toys to all military hospitals nationwide caring for our critically ill military children," said Mary Keeser, president of America's Adopt a Soldier. "We realize this level of fundraising will take some time so we will be focusing our near term efforts on our local military hospitals, with WRNMMC as our initial project."

Keeser said AAAS named Wolf as director of Task Force Smile, and in 2014, the program is concentrating on Walter Reed's pediatric patient rooms and clinics, the intensive care units and the oncology and hematology clinic.

As a new program, there is no official timeline or set deadline for donations. As she always has, Wolf will be accepting do-



From left: Dr. Philip Rogers, Walter Reed National Medical Military Center; Dr. Arthur Lyons, Pentagon; Dr. Margret Marino, director of Children's Unit at Walter Reed National Medical Military Center; Linda Wolf, director of Task Force Smile, and Mary Keeser, director of America's Adopt A Soldier.

nations at any time.

Wolf said that providing as much joy as possible to critically ill children was always a priority for her, but she is especially excited about the transition to help critically ill children of military families.

"We are committed to bring smiles to the faces of these children that are going through such difficult times," Wolf said. "As a country, we are safe because of the sacrifices made by our military families. Their children need to be our priority. 'Task Force

Smile' gives us an opportunity to say 'thank you' in a meaningful way."

Six weeks ago, Wolf officially teamed with the already established non-profit organization, America's Adopt a Soldier so that the program is integrated into an established military and family support organization. Grouping with a 501(c)(3) organization will also make all donations to Task Force Smile tax-deductible.

"Last year when we filled a truckload of toys, I knew I had to become a part of a

501(C)(3). That was the beginning of my partnership with America's Adopt a Soldier," Wolf said.

Wolf began her project as an independent volunteer and fundraiser for National Children's Medical Center, each year collecting toys from clients and friends and delivering them to the cancer unit. She made the switch to WRNMMC when she realized how much more military children would benefit from her toy donations.

Conversations with one mother whose terminally ill son had doctors at both Children's Hospital and WRNMMC played a major role in the decision to move her project.

"I have been doing this for Children's National Medical Center for 10 years, and then I met a young woman who was my inspiration to do it," Wolf said. "She was a military wife stationed in Germany and her son was diagnosed with leukemia. Mother and son were flown back to the States, praying for a miracle. Most of his treatment was at Walter Reed, before his family lost him months later."

Wolf said that while Walter Reed's medical staff is absolutely exceptional, they are a government entity and thus cannot solicit donations. As a result, there are not as many games and toys for sick children as there are at private centers, like National Children's Medical Center.

"Regardless of the situation, we want the children to be able to laugh like children should, even when they are undergoing life-saving and likely uncomfortable procedures," Wolf said. "My goal is to have enough toys to last a year for the children coming to the unit, for the children in the

SEE HELPING, PAGE 15

Ceramic Therapy for a Wounded Warrior

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
GAZETTE PACKET

"At my worst, I had double vision, my memory was shot and I couldn't focus on most any task," recalled Staff Sgt. Jonathan Meadows. His wife Melissa, a nurse, said that after Jonathan's medevac from Afghanistan earlier this year, "He acted like an advanced Alzheimer's case."

Like many Wounded Warriors from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Meadows suffers from traumatic brain injury. He is currently an active-duty patient in the TBI unit of the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. Meadows is a member of the Connecticut National Guard, and he and his wife are from Ledyard, Conn.

His treatment at Fort Belvoir includes vision and speech therapy, treatment to improve his memory and physical training. All of that is helping, Meadows said, but he surprises everyone when he identifies the key to his ongoing recovery — ceramics.

"All the problems go away when I'm work-

ing with clay," Meadows said. "It opened the door for recovery for me."

Meadows came to ceramics through the efforts of Blair Meerfeld, chairman of the ceramics department at the Art League of Alexandria. Meerfeld convinced Fort Belvoir officials to offer ceramics as one of their therapeutic activities, largely by demonstrating his potter's wheel before clinic patients.

Meadows signed up for Meerfeld's class and quickly got his hands on the clay. "At first, I made a little pig, then a three-legged elephant and a turtle," he recalled. "All of a sudden, overnight, I started making more complex subjects. I had never done anything in clay." One of Meerfeld's fellow instructors, Carla Amerau, was surprised at Jonathan's innate skill.

"It is amazing to me that less than a year ago, Jon showed up to take our class having never worked with clay," said Amerau. "Today he is producing amazing, emotionally powerful sculptures. They are works of art that creatively express his religious faith, life experiences and personal traumas."

"Jon's enormous talent is not something

we taught him," added Amerau, a Mount Vernon resident. "It was probably always there. Our class just allowed him to express his ideas and feelings in a creative way."

The Art League is featuring Meadows's work, and ceramics from other wounded warriors, in a special exhibit at the Torpedo Factory through Jan. 5. Several of his pieces were on display for a special reception hosted by the Art League on Dec. 12.

Among the dozens of people crowding the gallery that evening was U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, Meadows's congressman from Connecticut's 2nd District. Also there was Jose D. Riojas, chief of staff to the U.S. secretary of veterans affairs.

"Jon's sculptures amazed many people at the show," Amerau said afterward, "and one woman told me his sculpture made her cry."

Meerfeld, also at the reception, spoke of how the League instructors benefited from working with the Wounded Warriors: "It's therapy for us too."

The Art League is holding another reception for its Wounded Warrior exhibit at the Torpedo Factory on Jan. 5 from 2-4 p.m.

Art assists
veteran's recovery.



The Art League of Alexandria featured ceramic sculpture by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Meadows, left, at a reception highlighting Wounded Warrior art on Dec. 12 at the Torpedo Factory. At right is Jose D. Riojas, chief of staff to the U.S. secretary of veterans affairs. U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, center, is Meadows's congressman from Connecticut's 2nd District.

Local Performing Arts Studio Expands in BIG WAYS to Serve Community Better

Introducing the New Metropolitan School of the Arts

By: Jacqueline Doherty

Metropolitan School of the Arts adds the area's first exclusive secondary school for performing arts—and more—to its line up.

Exclusive secondary school for the performing arts

On September 3, 2013, the sun gleamed overtop the historic brick buildings onto the dew covered grassy quad of the newly constructed Metropolitan School of the Arts in Lorton, VA. The glistening effect was a perfect welcome for the twelve incoming high school students who shape the inaugural class of The Academy. (The former Metropolitan Fine Arts Center moved their Fairfax Station location on Silverbrook Road to the Workhouse Arts Center on Ox Road in June 2013 in preparation for the launch of the Academy).

The Academy at Metropolitan School of the Arts is a fully accredited secondary school serving performing artists in grades 7-12. "Our goal is to be the fourth arts centered boarding school in the United States, modeling after Interlochen, Walnut Hill and Idyllwild," states Melissa Dobbs, President and Founder. "We are at the very beginning stages of our long term plan, but the train has left the station. We are on the path to fulfilling this vision for our community."

Accredited academic curriculum customized for young artists

Each morning, students engage in classic school subjects like math, science, history, English and foreign language. Metropolitan School of the Arts has a contract with a virtual school that delivers a customized academic curriculum for each of their twelve students. The curriculum is taught and administered by on site teachers and academic experts. "We currently offer four different math classes, three languages, four science courses and three English classes," says Academy Director, Nicole Zuchetto. "Our academic program provides a mastery-based, progressive learning environment that provides the flexibility and rigor required by the unique needs of performing arts students. We offer a blended program that integrates arts and academics into a unique educational experience that speaks directly to the hearts and minds of young artists." In addition to the college prep courses, honors and AP classes are options as well.

Professional arts training for the serious student

The comprehensive arts program includes a weekly private piano and voice lesson, daily dance class in ballet, modern and/or jazz, yoga, music theory, group chorale and acting fundamentals. If that seems like a lot, students also participate in a OneVoice workshop with Robbie Schaefer from famed music group, Eddie from Ohio. In this workshop, students learn to use their gifts to make positive contributions to their world through the power of giving, sharing and love. Theater Chair Matt Bassett explains, "We are a training program for serious young artists. We dive deep into the process of the performing arts so students leave here equipped with the skills they need for the professional world." Performing opportunities are also available for students throughout the year.

Local and national support from highly regarded professionals

Local and national artists are catching wind of the great things happening here in Northern Virginia. Guest teachers are making their way onto the Metropolitan School of the Arts campus. In February, MSA plans to welcome Tim Federle, Broadway performer and author of *Better Nate than Ever*, for a workshop and seminar.

What are the students saying?

Lexi Rhem, a sophomore, explains, "We're not like any other school. We are all motivated students who work hard on our academics so we can work hard and focus on our passion and what we love. I am so thankful to have this opportunity." Cayli Dobbs, a freshman, says it all, "This school has changed my life. Period."

Interested in being a part of history?

Auditions for the upcoming school year are approaching. "We plan on accepting 50 students for the 2014-2015 school year, however, that number will depend on the number of applicants we receive and the audition process," says Dobbs. Auditions will be held in February 2014. If you are interested in auditioning, please contact Nicole Zuchetto, Academy Director, at 703-339.0444 x 3, or e-mail nzuchetto@metropolitanarts.org.

NEW PROGRAMS for the NEW YEAR

New Kingstowne studio location!



"We're not like any other school..."

In September of this year, Metropolitan School of the Arts opened an 11,000 square foot, state of the art performing arts studio location in the Kingstowne neighborhood of Alexandria, VA, next to Jungle's Gym, behind Kohl's and Walmart. They moved from their former location of 14 years in the Landsdowne shopping center in order to offer additional programming for the community.

Studio Director Lesley Shearer says, "The studio programs have grown faster than anticipated since opening in 2001. This is attributed to our wholehearted dedication to providing the highest quality performing arts training to each student who enters the door." Every year, the studio has added additional members to its teaching staff and has upgraded facilities by purchasing new pianos and regularly renovating the studios. Metropolitan School of the Arts

offers training to over 1,000 students each week at two locations in Alexandria and Lorton, VA.

More classes and lessons in more studios

Metropolitan School of the Arts now offers over 300 weekly classes and music lessons in 9 state of the art dance studios and 6 state of the art music studios spanning over 20,000 square feet of training space. The studio programs include everything from youth and adult dance classes in ballet, tap, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, Irish, hula and social dance to music lessons for all ages in piano, voice, guitar, violin, fiddle, and drums. Theater classes in acting and music theater are also offered alongside a fully comprehensive adult fitness program offering yoga and barre fitness classes. The studio ballet program is affiliated with the Royal Academy of Dance in London, whereby students have the opportunity to participate in internationally accredited ballet examinations. Shearer explains, "Now, we can offer more simultaneous classes and lessons to busy families to save hours of commuting time between activities."

Qualified faculty and staff for all ages and levels

Metropolitan School of the Arts has over 70 faculty members in dance, music theater and fitness. Many of the faculty members have master's degrees in their field of work and all have professional performing credits, national and international producing or directing experience or similar backgrounds. Metropolitan School of the Arts students have gone off to perform on Broadway, national tours, local and regional theater, professional dance companies (Mark Morris) and have been accepted into the most prestigious colleges and universities, including Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, New York University (Tisch), Pace University, Elon University, Marymount Manhattan, Fordham University and The Juilliard School, among others. The studio accepts students from beginning through advanced levels and ensures that students are matched to teachers who best relate to them and meet their individual needs and goals.

A new after school program with a twist

In response to a colossal request from community members, Metropolitan School of the Arts recently introduced MetroClub. MetroClub is an arts focused after school program (based in the Alexandria location) that includes safe and convenient transportation from select area schools. Each day, students engage in an enriching arts lesson in dance, theater, music, visual art or yoga. Healthy and nutritious snacks are offered and focused academic support is built in so members work on their homework (and sometimes finish it) before the day is over. The emphasis is on learning to enjoy the arts and to have fun in a safe and encouraging environment. MetroClub currently offers space for 20 students per year.

ENROLL TODAY! Metropolitan School of the Arts is now accepting registrations for the current session. Registration for summer camps and classes begins February 1. For more information, please visit the school website at metropolitanarts.org or call 703.339.0444.

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More Challenges for Potomac Yard Metro Station

FROM PAGE 1

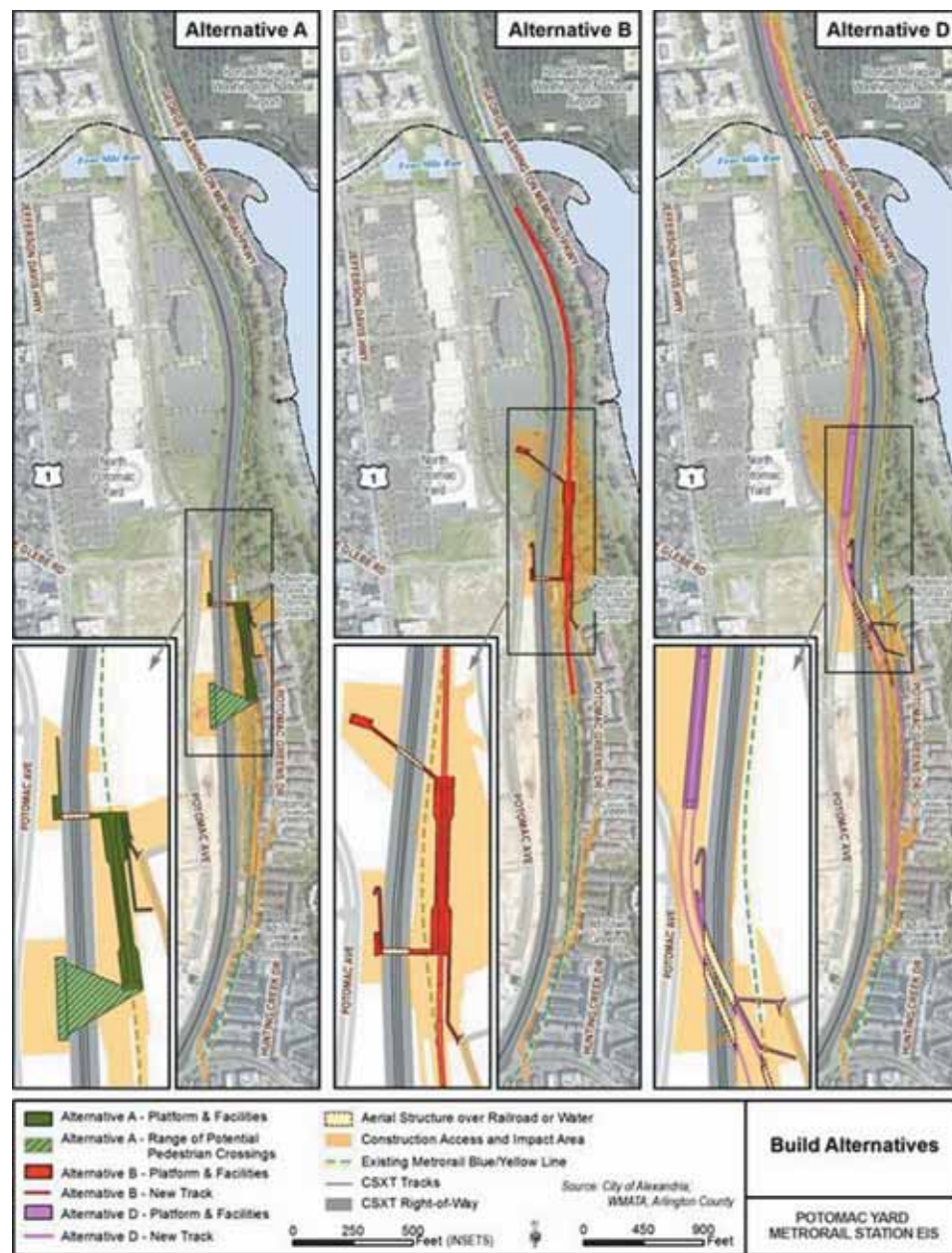
the plug and not moving forward,” said Mayor Bill Euille. “The entire planned development at Potomac Yard will not happen without a Metro station.”

Three locations are currently under consideration in addition to a no-build scenario. Alternative A is the southernmost location, estimated to cost \$194 million. It would be located adjacent to the Potomac Greens neighborhood. Alternative B is a short distance north, behind the Target department store. Its estimated cost is \$249 million. Alternative C was an underground station that has been rejected as logistically impossible. Alternative D is a \$459 million above-ground design similar to the ones now under construction in Tysons Corner. And then, there’s the no-build option, which some say would be the best way to go.

“If they build a Metro station and the seven million square feet of development at Potomac Yard, 50 percent of the traffic generated goes out onto Route 1,” said Katy Cannady, chief critic of the station. “For whatever reason — they work in the wrong place, they hate the Metro — the other 50 percent will keep on driving.”

POTOMAC YARD is a 300-acre brownfield in the northeast corner of the city, just south of National Airport. Since prehistoric times, the area has served as a north-south trade and transportation corridor. From 1906 to 1987, Potomac Yard served as a major point of freight transfer between northern and southern rail networks. Today, the site is divided into two main parcels: Potomac Yard and Potomac Greens. These parcels are adjacent to a 120-foot wide active railroad corridor, which includes a Metro line that began operations in the 1980s. The North Potomac Yard Small Area plan approved by City Council in the summer of 2010 calls for a Metro Square neighborhood built around the selection of Alternative B.

“This neighborhood is the transit hub of North Potomac Yard, where the Metrorail station, dedicated high-capacity transitway, and local and circulator bus services will converge,” the plan explains. “Two important public spaces define the character of the neighborhood, including the square



Three alternative locations currently exist for a proposed Metro station at Potomac Yard.

park at the center of the neighborhood, and a possible internal pedestrian connection.”

City officials have focused most of their attention on Alternative B, largely because a 2010 memorandum of understanding with Delaware-based CPYR. That agreement says the developer would kick in \$49 million if Alternative B is selected. That’s

because the design would allow direct access from land owned by the developer to a new Metro station. But new concerns raised by the National Park Service may have cast a shadow over that agreement.

“My guess is that we will end up with a hybrid of a couple of the different options we have on the table right now,” said Councilman Justin Wilson. “As part of that process, the developer proffer would have to be renegotiated.”

SOME ARE HOPEFUL that city officials will be able to strike an agreement with the National Park Service that does not force council members to go back to the drawing

board. One potential scenario might involve working with CSX to get a cost estimate that would put a dollar amount on how much the city would have to spend to acquire land from the railroad company. That’s expected to be in the tens of millions of dollars. Once that figure has been put in writing, city leaders can take it to Park Service leaders to cut a deal.

“The hope is that if this is as expensive as we think it is, when the National Park Service sees that and realizes that’s the only alternative they would say, ‘OK, let’s work something out,’” said Councilman Tim Lovain. “National Park Service does land swaps.”

Whatever happens, some kind of solution to the National Park Service concerns must be found before the environmental impact study can move forward. That means the planning for the station has been indefinitely delayed while city leaders negotiate with federal officials over the scenic easement. Another potential sticking point involves National Park Service land adjacent to the station, which carries legal restrictions. Meanwhile, the National Park Service has asked the city to explore the option of moving CSX tracks west so that the new Potomac Yard station would not violate the scenic easement. City officials estimate that would delay the project about four years and add \$50 million to \$100 million to the cost.

“First there’s the cost of moving the tracks, then there’s the cost of acquiring the land, then there’s construction inflation every year there’s a delay,” said Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks. “The first phase is getting CSX to agree to study it, and we should know by February whether they would agree to study it or not.”

FINANCING THE STATION creates yet another problem for the city. Because Alexandria taxpayers will have to finance the station without federal or state money, City Council members will have to assume some financial risk. Alexandria leaders are expecting Potomac Yard to generate \$1 billion worth of revenue in the next three decades, an expansion of the tax base that would help fund construction of a Metro station that could open its doors as early as 2018.

“Sure there’s a risk, and it’s a big project so it’s a big risk,” said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. “That’s why it’s important that the city recognizes the risk because that allows the city to control it.”

Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet Dies at 61

Longtime Old Town resident Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet died Dec. 18, 2013 at her home in Alexandria. She was 61 years old and had battled breast cancer in recent years. Born Julie Louise Crenshaw Nov. 30 1952, she was the wife of Townsend “Van” Van Fleet.

Visitation will be held at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S. Washington St., on Friday, Jan. 3, from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Funeral services will be held the following day, Jan. 4, at 11 a.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, shown last summer with her husband Townsend “Van” Van Fleet, died Dec. 18 at her home in Alexandria.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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.” Submission guidelines can be found at www.alexandriava.gov/Arts, via email at poet@alexandriava.gov, or by phone at 703-746-5588.

Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation

Work Group meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at City Hall, 301 King St. Get an overview about the proposed Metrorail station and the environmental planning process. Free. Visit alexandriava.gov/potomacyard for more.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 8

Public Hearing. A meeting on the new transportation management plan will be held at City Hall, 301 King St. Free. For more information about TMP SUPs and the text amendment, visit www.alexandriava.gov/6556 or email megan.cummings@alexandriava.gov.

NEWS

Santa's Helpers

BFSPA makes holidays bright for area children.

More than 100 children from Alexandria's rec center programs attended the Black Fire Service Professionals holiday toy party Dec. 21 at the Hilton Mark Center.

"I went to a party like this as a kid growing up in D.C.," said Capt. Thurston McClain, who founded the event 13 years ago. "I don't have kids of my own so this is my way of giving back to the community."

As an employee organization within the city, the BFSPA has yearly provided gifts for over 100 children and strives to see that no child in Alexandria goes without a gift for the holiday season.

"I would like to thank Don Simpson and Simpson Development, Mayor Bill Euille, Clyde's Restaurant, Velocity Bikes, The Pro Bicycle Shop and the Hilton Mark Center for helping make our toy drive a success," McClain said. "And a special thanks to our friends at the Association of African American Financial Advisors. The BFSPA relies heavily on the generous donations of our community partners to make each year's toy drive successful."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO BY DARRELL WHITE

Santa gives out toys at the 13th annual Black Fire Service Professionals Holiday Party Dec. 21 at the Hilton Mark Center

OAKCREST SCHOOL

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OPINION

Looking to Hear from Readers in New Year

As local, weekly newspapers, the Gazette Packet's mission is to deliver news readers need close to home, to help readers enjoy great local places and events, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

To succeed at any of that, we need your help.

If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something newsworthy or something that might make a good feature story, let us know. We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished a feat like running a marathon or having an art show. Send us a photo and tell us about it.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc.

To have the best chance of getting an event included in our calendar ahead of time, email us the details of the event (who, what, where, when, why) at least two weeks ahead of time. Email to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Events generally must be open to the public

and either free or at nominal cost to be included in calendars.

After your events, email us a photo and a note so we can consider including it in our coverage. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

EDITORIAL

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Connection Newspapers are published by Local Media Connection LLC, an independent, locally owned company. The publications and websites include the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Centre View, the Potomac Almanac and individual Connection papers and websites serving McLean, Great Falls, Vienna/Oakton, Oak Hill/Herndon, Reston, Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Arlington, Centerville, Chantilly/Fair Oaks, Alexandria and Mount Vernon.

The publications and websites have won hundreds of awards for news and community coverage just in the past few years, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Integrity and Community Service for coverage of efforts to prevent and end homelessness, and Best in Show for information/art for coverage of local parks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City Did Not Listen

To the Editor:

Ursula, I was wrong and you were right when you said the city doesn't listen. In my letter, ("De-

ferral Serves Public Safety," Gazette Packet, Dec. 19) I wrote to let you know of one case where the city listened. The Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board heard the safety concerns of residents on King Street at a public hearing Nov. 25. Based on what they knew

and heard, they recommended the city defer action on the King Street Proposal for bike lanes, "in order to achieve greater compromise with the various interests of the community."

Residents asked what next. The "what next" was a Christmas sur-

prise. On Friday afternoon, the week before Christmas, a letter was hand delivered to residents on King Street signed by Richard Baier, director of Transportation and Environmental Services for Alexandria. The four-page letter states "a delay of this decision to further study and discussion is not recommended." Basically the city chooses to ignore the board's recommendation and the safety concerns of residents most affected by this decision. Instead the director directs staff to remove contiguous parking and access to resident's homes in order to install bike lanes on King Street.

The letter implies that residents are asking for an exception to Alexandria's Complete Streets Policy. We are not. We are not because this policy does not require dedicated bike lanes, only safe transport within and through a community. Further, of the master plans, goals, and policy the letter referenced to support this decision, I've yet to find a requirement for "dedicated" bike lanes.

Requiring dedicated bike lanes is not realistic in some locations and the residents on King Street contend that installing dedicated bike lanes on four blocks of this

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVEN C. ARTLEY

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10
section of King Street will not improve safety. The city's letter states that a crash analyses for this area for the last 5 years identified one crash involving a pedestrian, none involving a bicyclist, and 12 involving vehicles. There's not a lot of room for improvement, but there's a lot of room to make it worse. Besides implementing a confusing patchwork bike lane configuration, the city is allocating 30 percent of a 30-foot roadway (i.e. King Street) for bicycles when that roadway, a major thoroughfare to/from Old Town, handles 13,000 vehicles each day. The peak number of vehicles is over 1,000 per hour, the peak number of bicycles is 12 per hour. The decision set forth in the letter seems like a solution in search of a problem rather than a solution to a problem. There are actual, real roadway problems with King Street which this decision neither addresses nor solves.

Further, this decision intentionally does not address the safety concerns of the residents of this community. Separation of roadway safety and residents' needs are necessary for the decision to be made by Mr. Baier. The letter states, "As the design of this project

pertains to the safety of roadway users, the process does not include a recommendation or approval for action by the Alexandria City Council." A wise decision by the city would have integrated these needs. My hope was that the city would listen and consider the safety concerns of those residents that will live with the impact of this decision each and every day. They did not listen.

The letter states Mr. Baier "walked, drove, and rode my own bike up and down King Street to make sure I experienced the roadway from the perspective of all street users." I would suggest Mr. Baier, or other city representatives, experience it from a resident's perspective as well.

Louise Welch
Alexandria

Importance of Compromise

To the Editor:

Some residents of Alexandria seem to believe that just because things have been a certain way they are entitled to them remaining that way forever. Some near T. C. Williams High School whine

that the city promised not to put lights on athletic fields. Not only should the proposed tennis courts have lights but so should the football stadium. My children played many soccer games in the dim of twilight. Other schools in the area are located near residences and they have lights. It was a promise that should never have been made.

There are those who oppose a bicycle lane on King Street Hill moaning that their apparent inalienable right to parking on the street will be taken from them. I live on upper King Street where there is no on-street parking.

Then, there are those residents of Old Town who oppose development in the waterfront area. It is in the interest of the entire community to retain our local character, but times change and status quo almost always leads eventually to decay.

Part of living in a community is compromising your own interests for the benefit of the community as a whole, which ultimately makes it a more desirable place for you, as well.

Charles P. Brinkman
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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***Classes begin on Saturday, January 25th and end on Saturday, February 22nd. They will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm - 9:30pm and on Saturdays, 9:00am - 5:00pm during the day.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

Focus on Education

To the Editor:

This is in response to articles in the Gazette Packet dated Dec. 19, 2013. One article spoke about poverty in the classroom, it was funny that it did not mention Jefferson Houston Elementary. All I have heard people talk about is how many underprivileged students this school has and how many receive the free and reduced lunches. The article talked about how the problems at school are all a social problem outside of the school. Well, maybe in school the teachers need to be teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic instead of taking on the social problems that the children encounter outside of the school. Maybe instead of having teachers that nurture way too much, they should be focused on education. Education is the key to having our students become our future leaders, doctors, lawyers, etc. The children, all of the children, irregardless of background or financial status deserve the best education there is

Yes, the children deserve to have a good home life and a good life outside of school. I give my children and grandchildren all that I can, but I am not an educator, I am a parent, I am responsible for making sure my children get to school, do their work, be good people. I need the school and its teachers to teach the children reading, writing, and arithmetic so they can grow and become the people they are meant to be. We need the Opportunity Educational Institution to come in and help with restructuring this school. We need to make this school work for our students. If the current staff cannot make the difference we need then we need new blood. We also need to keep our school diverse, we need all children from all walks of life to help round out our students and to help them learn that all people are different, and yet all people are the same.

Bea Porter
Alexandria

VIEWPOINTS

“What is your New Year’s resolution?”



Rebecca O, (holding son Evan) with her mom, Nancy: “To get organized.”



Joseph Gueron was taking a quick break from writing. His resolution for 2014 is to get published.



Wayne Gooden, a personal fitness trainer, believes that “you start resolutions in October... and stay in that mindset.” By New Year’s, it’s become part of a routine.



Geri Baldwin: “2013 was an awesome year for me, I had a chance to meet many people and the highlight was when I received a letter from President Barack Obama. My New Year’s resolutions: Pursue my goals in writing, art and music ... Continue to love people and enjoy life.”

SUBMITTED PHOTO

A Waterfront Parable

To the Editor:

The design for the waterfront, while subject to many interpretations, thoughts and reactions, has been unchanged almost since it was first conceived by the small group of self-appointed overseers who met clandestinely in 2006 to plot an invasion. In the vast spaces between the collective ears a hollow pinging grew in force as it radiated out into the peaceful calm of Old Town — the waterfront will save us!

From the start this small group’s sweaty vision was grandiose, inspired by the looming towers of National Harbor across the great river, named by the original settlers as Potomac, or “river of swans”; and while the swans have long since flown, the nearby vales of Mordor cast a immense clinking and ringing sound into the night air, as the souls and pockets of ordinary humans are drained dry to profit a few.

Gazing early at this seemingly profitable paradigm, the Overseers sought the Tour-

ists. Their sightlines were clear, unobstructed by the realities of the unique landscape populated by a close knit community of diverse peoples dedicated to the place they call the Historic District. A place of kindness, knowledge, taste, charity, and walkability. The people know this has hallowed ground, and a birthplace of democracy, with its natural purity chosen by swans.

The Overseers’ grand vision mushroomed in the dark and seduced the worst and the semi-worst alike so that soon it was sanctified by putting it on paper and handing it to the select group of servants who Plan and Zone. They knew that the Old Towners’ waterfront was a treasured place. Engagement was necessary, but only with crossed fingers behind your back. After all, the servants had the Plan, and it was cast in concrete.

Advancing like the Hydra they marched, snipping the thoughts of the Old Towners’ down to little more than toothpicks on the carcass of the Beast. Under the guise of Change the phantom Tourists descended chanting a mantra of “hotels, restaurants,

retail — mixed use — high density.” Seeking help, the memory of the swans flew off in search of The Planimeters; alchemists of note whose said instrument measured the true worth of Change.

The heroic Planimeters knew the mammoth effort before them, but guided by the wisdom of the Founders they set forth, going from house to house like Revere in the night, to raise a light on this Stygian darkness.

And lo, they prevailed till met by the devious Planners, helped in their smoggery by the Magicians of Law and the Imperators of the Dais. So the long fight began, and the watery edges of the Old Towners’ beloved home grew even more imperiled.

And so it remains today, the faulty sight of a few, handed off to a small group of diggers now caught in a web of profit, taxmen, and tourists. The false prophets on the Dais can bow to Tourism, but for the sake of the Founders now weeping in Heaven, the people of Old Town will not abandon their fight!

Kathryn Papp
Alexandria



Don Beyer, associates, representatives from Meals on Wheels Association of America and SSA volunteers deliver meals.



Christmas Day elves deliver meals and holiday gifts and cards made possible by the Fraternal Order of the Eagles and Ruth Brannigan’s class at Mt. Vernon Community Elementary School.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Holiday Cheer Spreads to Homebound Seniors

Senior Services of Alexandria’s elves were spreading holiday cheer to homebound Alexandria’s seniors. Beyer Subaru teamed up with Senior

Services as part of its “Share the Love” campaign to deliver meals on wheels to seniors. The “Share the Love” campaign runs through Jan. 2 and if residents buy or lease

a new Subaru, Beyer Subaru will donate \$250 to a variety of charities including Meal on Wheels.

SSA’s volunteer elves also delivered holiday

meals on Christmas Eve and Day. The Ron Bradley Foundation’s support allows SSA to deliver special holiday meals.

Last year: A typical collection of donated toys.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Helping Critically Ill Military Children

FROM PAGE 4

intensive unit, and children in the chemotherapy and hematology unit.”

Task Force Smile’s goal for NWRMMC starts with toys and ends with revamped patient rooms and playrooms.

“I want to redo the playroom,” Wolf said. “We have a local Alexandria artist who is nationally known and he has offered to help us put murals on the wall. We also want to put play stations in all the patient rooms and also in the pods where children get their infusions.”

She said that she plans to start “Task Force Smile” playroom renovations as soon as possible in 2014, and that other volunteers that have joined Task Force Smile will help make her this possible.

“As Americas Adopt A Soldier director of Task Force Smile, I will be joined by other volunteer members to work with the staff at WRNMMC to initiate the projects,” Wolf said. “We would love to make a real difference in 2014.”

She added that Task Force Smile will start its first project as soon as money is available, but she has her sights loosely set on the spring.

“I hope by spring we have collected enough money to start checking off our list,” Wolf said.

Wolf said she is confident that linking with America’s Adopt a Soldier will help her reach her goal to ultimately improve all critically ill military

children’s hospital experiences. She said she can think of no better place to start her quest, either.

“Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is the one hospital in the world that has the most advanced technology and treatments and all critically ill military children from around the country come to WRNMMC,” Wolf said. “The playroom needs to be done right, and we will work as a recognized charity supporting WRNMMC to ensure it is the best possible environment for our military children.”

Keeser said America’s Adopt a Soldier was honored to accept Task Force Smile as part of the organization and to appoint Linda Wolf as director of Task Force Smile.

“Having known Linda for many years, and knowing how driven she is towards the success of her project, we were honored to embrace her project,” Keeser said. “We at America’s Adopt A Soldier are honored to embrace this most important project to ensure our critically ill Military Kids receive a Toy – we collectively named the project: ‘Task Force Smile’ and to appointed Linda as the volunteer director of Task Force Smile. Our initial plans, under Linda’s leadership, are to develop distribution PODs for these toys within these clients, ensuring every critically ill military child receives a toy through our year-round project.”

To donate, visit www.americasadoptasoldier.org/ and click on “Make a Donation.” Note “Task Force Smile” on the purpose line.



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Spiritual Wellness in the New Year What is it and how does one achieve it?

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

As we begin a new year, many are focused on their spiritual health and well-being. In fact, the National Wellness Institute names spiritual wellness as one of the seven dimensions of overall wellness. It's essential in life, say experts.

Lisa Jackson-Cherry, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Counseling at Marymount University in Arlington, who specializes in pastoral counseling and pastoral integration, believes spiritual well-being doesn't always have to do with religion. It's about being connected to something greater than one's self. "It doesn't have to be a higher power," she said. "It can be your community or nature, but the key piece is that there is a connection to something other than yourself."

Elizabeth Rees, the associate rector at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Mount Vernon, said, "I would say at its heart, spiritual well-being is knowing ourselves to be loved and cherished by God and then living into that truth."

Kathy Judd, Alexandria-based meditation teacher and director of No Place Like Om, said, "Spiritual health and well-being is when you ... feel just as, if not more, con-

nected to what you can't see as to what you can. It's about knowing that there is an animating force that drives the show and seeing all the ups and downs of our human experience as just like that — a show."

WHILE SPIRITUAL WELLNESS can mean different things to different people, experts said there are common factors that can help one achieve it, such as engaging with others. "When we think about spiritual health or well-being, we think about people being at peace with themselves and others," said Jackson-Cherry.

"In my opinion," she said, "once people become connected with other people and not so consumed with themselves or their own tragedies or pain and they give of themselves to others, share their gifts, often they experience contentment."

"Community is a big one, and also what you pay attention to and consume," Judd said. "If you're constantly tuned in to the news cycle and people who are negative and arguing, you're going to see the world from a certain viewpoint. ... If you take time to be in nature, read uplifting things, eat [the right] foods, and surround yourself with a community of people who are loving, supportive and want to bring out the best in you, you'll have a very different experience of the world."

Rees believes self-love is also a component of spiritual well-being. "In adult education here at St. Aidan's, we've been listening to the talks of [scholar, author and public speaker] Brené Brown and talking about what she has to say about vulnerability. I have definitely found in my own life that when I dare to share the truth about my struggles with the people around me, it creates a new space for growth and depth."

"Until we learn to love and forgive ourselves, it's almost impossible to love and forgive others," she said. "For me, the Christian story in general, and the Church community in particular, is the place where that comes together and makes sense."

Jackson-Cherry said, "When I'm working with clients, I find that people who have the healthiest spiritual well-being are people who have a sense of purpose in life or have a meaning in life. They might not have achieved it, but they are working toward it. Having a sense of purpose or meaning in life leads to contentment."

So how does one find a sense of purpose and meaning in life? "We've talked about this question a lot," said Rees. "What comes up most frequently is the idea of finding ways to live in the present, slowing down and finding God present in the moment. ... Hearing where other people are finding God, and taking the time to look for God

acting in my own life and share that with others makes me much more aware of God all around, and helps me to remember that God is also acting in and through the people around me."

Judd said there is work involved in achieving spiritual well-being. "It takes practice, just like anything else," she said.

LIVING IN THE MOMENT is also a factor that can lead to contentment and spiritual well-being. "I think trying to ... find as much love and joy in it as possible is a huge piece," Judd said. "Also, worry less about what others think and be more willing to live and love greatly. Developing gratitude, as something that runs through all of our life, not just as something that comes when life seems to be going really well, is important too."

Rees said keeping a journal is a useful tool in developing gratitude. "One spiritual exercise that helps me sometimes is to practice gratitude by prayerfully journaling about the things for which I am grateful," she said. "Sit down and write 100 things for which you are grateful. You start with the big and obvious things, but then also find yourself digging deep for the small but ever-present graces of life. ... Journaling in general can be a great for spiritual well-being."

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NEWS



Alexandria Police Officer Bennie Evans, right, listens as his wife Deana remembers their son Cameron, a T.C. Williams student who committed suicide last month. The family donated funds in Cameron's memory to support the local toy drive.



Eagle Scouts Nate Smith and Mikel Severeid of Troop 1865 help distribute books as part of the Firefighters and Friends toy drive.

Firefighters Collect 3,500 Toys

FROM PAGE 1

his life and we wanted to be here to let you know that what you are doing is important."

Started nearly two decades ago by Alexandria native Capt. Willie Bailey, this year's drive collected more than 3,500 toys, bikes and gift cards for needy children in Alexandria and Fairfax County.

"I'm excited to be here again and happy to help out in any way I can," said Troop 1865 Eagle Scout Mikel Severeid, who has raised thousands of dollars over the six years that he has been volunteering in the toy drive. "There are so many kids who are less fortunate than me. It makes me feel good to help them have something at Christmas."

With Ronald McDonald on hand, toys were distributed to representatives of 72 schools, shelters and nonprofits. Jazz, the Dream Dog Foundation mascot, gave away

hundreds of donated books.

"Every school from Alexandria City showed up to pick up gifts for children who otherwise would not receive a gift for the holidays," said Bailey, a Del Ray resident.

"There were numerous businesses in Fairfax and Alexandria assisting us with purchasing and distributing the toys today. We can't save the world but we believe no child should go without a gift during the holidays so we are doing what we can to make sure that doesn't happen."

Fairfax County Fire Chief Richard Bowers praised the work of

Bailey and the community volunteers.

"I am so proud of this community and the outreach effort on behalf of those children who are less fortunate," Bowers said. "This is what it's all about — the kids. So thanks to all of you for stepping up and standing out to make this a happy holiday for everyone."

"We can't save the world but we believe no child should go without a gift during the holidays."

— Firefighters and Friends founder Capt. Willie Bailey



Members of Delta Sigma Theta gather for a group photo prior to volunteering at the toy drive distribution event.

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

ONGOING

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.

“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.

Solo Artist Preview Exhibit. Runs Jan. 9-23 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, on the waterfront in Old Town Alexandria at 105 N Union St. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org. The Art League’s Solo Artist Preview Exhibit premieres one piece by each of the nine solo artists on the 2014 exhibition calendar, which include photographers, collage artists, sculptors, and painters. A panel of outside jurors select the solo exhibits at The Art League in a process that happens two years in advance.

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. 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.

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.

Art Exhibit. See a solo photographic exhibit “Darkness Visible” by Timothy Hyde at Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Runs Jan. 7 through Feb. 16. Hyde’s photography examines the mysteries hidden in the shadows. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Theater Performance. Arts on the Horizon presents “Under the



Joe Crookston



Tiffany Thompson

Live Music

Focus Music presents contemporary folk singer-songwriter Joe Crookston with Tiffany Thompson on Sunday, Jan. 19, 7 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Ohio native Joe Crookston is the classic traveling troubadour, accompanied by guitar, banjo or fiddle, plus an amplified foot-stomping box. Now based in Ithaca, N.Y., he has released his third CD, “Darkling and the Bluebird Jubilee.” Since 2008, D.C.-based Tiffany Thompson has toured as a solo artist, fusing story-telling folk and pop songs with an often jazzy sound. Visit www.joecrookston.com or www.tiffanythompsonmusic.com. \$18/\$15 for advance sales and members, visit www.focusmusic.org/concerts_alexandria.php

Canopy,” a 20-minute interactive, nonverbal show for children up to age 4. Performances are Feb. 12-14, 16, 17, 19-21, 23 at 10:30 a.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. \$5/ person. Tickets at www.artsonthehorizon.org or at the door.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., through Sunday, March 23. 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.metroartcenter.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.

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.

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/ for more.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic will perform. This is a rescheduled concert from Dec. 8. \$20/adult; children 18 and under are free. Visit www.wmpamusic.org or 703-799-8229.

SUNDAY/JAN. 5

Twelfth Night. 6 p.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Armonia Nova, an ensemble of historical instruments and voices celebrates 12 years of Twelfth Night concerts with more than a dozen seasonal early music gems from England, France, Germany and Spain. Constance Whiteside, medieval/baroque harps; Craig Resta, vielle & baroque violin; Corey McKnight and Jay White countertenors. Donations welcomed. Visit www.armonianova.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 6

Second Thursday Music. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Hear music by The Noctonals. \$10. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Choral Evensong. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Enjoy music on the Feast of the Epiphany. Free. Optional donation will benefit St. Paul’s Lazarus Ministry. 703-549-3312 for more.

TUESDAY/JAN. 7

Salon-Style Series. 6-8 p.m. at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St. Catherine B. Hollan will discuss American silver. Free, food and drink for purchase. Visit www.morrisonhouse.com or www.torpedofactory.org for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 9

Opening Reception. 6:30-8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, on the waterfront in Old Town Alexandria at 105 N Union St. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org. The Art League’s Solo Artist Preview Exhibit premieres one piece by each of the nine solo artists on the 2014 exhibition calendar, which include

photographers, collage artists, sculptors, and painters.

FRIDAY/JAN. 10

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.

SATURDAY/JAN. 11

Dance Performance. 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs “Mouse of Amherst,” adapted from the book “Mouse in House” by Elizabeth Spire. \$15/ adult; \$10/child. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

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

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.

SUNDAY/JAN. 12

Performance. Doors open at 1:30 p.m., show at 2 p.m. at Grace Episcopal School, 3601 Russell Road. Families can enjoy a performance by Rocknoceros. \$5/person. Visit rocknoceros.com for more.

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.

Dance Performance. 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs “Mouse of Amherst,” adapted from the book “Mouse in House” by Elizabeth Spire. \$15/ adult; \$10/child. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

Opening Reception. 2-4 p.m. meet the artist of “Darkness Visible,” Timothy Hyde at Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Runs Jan. 7 through Feb. 16. Hyde’s photography examines the mysteries hidden in the shadows. Visit

www.torpedofactory.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 15

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick’s Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Dance to music by The Grandsons. \$10.

FRIDAY/JAN. 17

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jackson Edwards (of the WeatherVanes) will open for Junior Brown. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

SATURDAY/JAN. 18

Dance Performance. 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs “Mouse of Amherst,” adapted from the book “Mouse in House” by Elizabeth Spire. \$15/ adult; \$10/child. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

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.

Dance Performance. 7 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs “The Trickster,” a multidisciplinary work in collaboration with percussionist Tom Teasley. \$20/person. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

SUNDAY/JAN. 19

“From Board Game to Book.” Noon-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Stacy Rausch teaches participants to create a one-of-a-kind art book using a board game as the cover with traditional book-binding methods and materials. The fee (all supplies included) is just \$48 for Del Ray Artisans members, \$53 for non-members. Register at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Focus Music presents folk singer-songwriters Joe Crookston with Tiffany Thompson. \$18/door; \$15/advance or member. 703-380-3151.

MONDAY/JAN. 20

Talk. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Michael Mark Ludlow will discuss “19th Century Conspicuous Consumption: Artistic Examples of Alexandria’s Unique Cast Iron Downspouts.” Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

Dance Performance. 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs “Penelope’s Pesky Pen,” inspired by a children’s book by Frank Dormer. \$10-\$15/person. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

Dance Performance. 7 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance performs “The Trickster,” a multidisciplinary work in collaboration with percussionist Tom Teasley. \$20/person. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111 or get tickets at the door.

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 Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

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.

SUNDAY/JAN. 5

Superhero Sunday. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library. Watch a movie about superheroes. Call for title.

MONDAY/JAN. 6

Little One-Ders. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more.
Baby Time. 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Songs, fingerplays and bounces for babies up to 11 months. Free.
Baby Rhyme Time. 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Central Library. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free.
Read, Sing & Play Baby. 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children up to 11 months can enjoy stories and more. Free.

TUESDAY/JAN. 7

Stories and Songs. 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free.
Mother Goose Time. 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free.
Time For 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free.
Tuesday Tots. 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and more. Free.
Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children age 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free.
Baby Rhyme Time. 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Central Library. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free.
Author Talk. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Chris Dietzel will discuss and sign the book "The Man Who Watched the World End." Free.
Game Night. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 8-12 can play games against friends or meet new people to play against. Free.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 8

Mother Goose Time. 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free.
Time For 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required.
Baby Rhythm & Rhyme Time. 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children ages 0-18 months can enjoy music, movement and more. Free.
Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children age 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free.
Spanish Story Time. 1 p.m. at Beatley Library. All ages and abilities can enjoy stories and more in Spanish. Free.
Mystery Book Club. 2 p.m. at Burke Library. Call for title.
Hitchcock Film Series. 6:30 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library. Watch a movie and then discuss it at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub. Free.
Author Talk. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Ninad Jog will discuss and sign the books "Ninny Natter" and "The Tiny World of Vinod Saney." Free.
Lego Family Night. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Families can enjoy building together and more. Free.
Pajama Story Time. 7 p.m. or 8 p.m. at Duncan Library. Children can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free.

THURSDAY/JAN. 9

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.
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.
Little One-Ders. 11:15 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children

ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more.
Story Time. 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free.
Survival at the Edge of Space. 4 p.m. at Burke Branch Library. Learn how high altitude pilots and astronauts survive at the edge of space and beyond.
Blockbuster Thursday. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library. Call for title. Free.
Knit Nite. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Students in grade 4-12 can learn to knit and complete projects under the guidance of experienced knitters. Free.
Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children ages 3-7 can come dressed in their favorite outfit/pajamas and listen to stories. Free.

FRIDAY/JAN. 10

Homeschool Game Hour. 10 a.m. at Duncan Branch Library. Educational game time for homeschool children ages 5-10. Free.

SATURDAY/JAN. 11

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

SUNDAY/JAN. 12

Music Performance. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library. Lee Istrail and Telegraph String Band will perform. Free.

MONDAY/JAN. 13

Little One-Ders. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more.
Baby Time. 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Songs, fingerplays and bounces for babies up to 11 months. Free.
Baby Rhyme Time. 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Central Library. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free.
Teen Movie. 4 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library. Children in grades 6 and up can watch a movie. Free.
Read, Sing & Play Baby. 4 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children up to 11 months can enjoy stories and more. Free.
Interfaith Book Club. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Discuss nonfiction works that strive to find common ground through recognizing and celebrating common values. Free.
Let's Talk Books. 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Discuss "Beautiful Ruins" by Jess Walter. Free. 703-746-1703.
Duncan Poetry Society. 7 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Read and discuss song lyrics from musicians and writers from the late sixties and early seventies. Free.

TUESDAY/JAN. 14

Stories and Songs. 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Duncan Library. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy stories and more. Sign up half-hour before. Free.
Mother Goose Time. 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free.
Time For 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free.
Tuesday Tots. 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and more. Free.
Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children age 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free.
Baby Rhyme Time. 11:30 a.m. at Beatley Central Library. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free.
Paws to Read. 5:30 p.m. at Duncan Library. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required.
Science Night. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library. Children ages 8-12 can learn how things work, from building bridges to treasure hunting maps. Free.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 15

Mother Goose Time. 10:15 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy games, rhymes and more. Free.
Time For 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library. Children age 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free.
Baby Rhythm & Rhyme Time. 11 a.m. at Burke Branch Library. Children ages 0-18 months can enjoy music, rhymes and movement. Free.
Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Branch Library. Children age 2 and up can enjoy stories and more. Free.
Afternoon Book Discussion. 2 p.m. at Burke Library. Discuss "Salvage the Bones" by Jesmyn Ward. Free.
Paws to Read. 5:30 p.m. at Burke Library. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required. Call 703-746-1773 or email mmcguire@alexandria.lib.va.us to register for a 15min slot.

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Top Sports Moments of 2013 in Alexandria

The year 2013 provided several memorable moments in local sports. For T.C. Williams, the football program qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 1990 and the girls' basketball team won a district title. For St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, the boys' soccer team won a state championship and field hockey coach Marsha Way reached 500 career victories. Bishop Ireton's boys' basketball team reached the WCAC semifinals for the first time in school history.

Here is a look at the top moments in Alexandria sports for 2013.



GAZETTE PACKET FILE PHOTOS

T.C. Williams receiver Tyrice Henry catches a pass during the Titans' first playoff appearance in more than two decades.

T.C. Williams Football Snaps Playoff Drought

The T.C. Williams football program possesses a trio of state championships and gained national recognition through the 2000 Disney movie "Remember the Titans," starring Denzel Washington. But after the Titans reached the playoffs in 1990, neither past gridiron glory nor Hollywood fame helped the Titans reach the postseason for the next 22 years.

T.C. Williams sniffed the playoffs in recent years, but fell just short in 2009 and 2010. In 2012, the Titans closed the season with a four-game winning streak and entered 2013 with a talented defense and expectations of ending the drought.

Then the Titans went out and did the job.

T.C. Williams qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 1990, finishing the regular season with a 7-3 record, including a 38-2 season-opening win over Oakton and a 24-14 victory against rival West Potomac in the regular-season finale.

"[My] fondest memory was, by far, the victory over West Potomac," T.C. Williams head coach Dennis Randolph wrote in an email. "It was a great ending to the regular season with a win that gave us a [rivalry] victory and enabled us to finish 7-3. Best record at TC in a long time."

Why was the 2013 team able to snap the program's lengthy playoff drought?

"The reason we were able to make the playoffs and finish 7-3 was the hard work put in by the senior leadership," Randolph wrote. "Starting in the weight room, 7-on-7 competitions, spring camp, and the spring

and summer 'green' days was critical. Many of our seniors led the way all through the activities mentioned above. For any team, especially football, senior leadership is the key."

The Titans entered the 6A North region playoffs as the No. 9 seed and traveled to face South County. T.C. Williams held a 21-14 lead with 6:11 remaining in the second quarter, but South County outscored the Titans 37-6 for the remainder of the contest, winning 51-27.

SSSAS Boys' Soccer Wins State Championship

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys' soccer team in 2013 reached the state final four for the fifth consecutive season. The previous four trips resulted in just one appearance in the state championship game, which the Saints lost in 2011.

"It was our fifth trip to the final four," SSSA head coach Bo Amato wrote in an email, "and we were starting to feel Buffalo Bill like."

The Buffalo Bills reached the Super Bowl four straight seasons during the 1990s but came up short each time.

St. Stephen's defeated Collegiate 3-0 in the state semifinals on Nov. 6 and beat Cape Henry Collegiate 1-0 in the state final on Nov. 8. The Saints finished the season with a 19-2-2 record and won the IAC championship.

"[My] fondest memory was the relief of our coaching staff at winning, not joy, we were just relieved to win and remove the curse of just falling short," Amato wrote. "It was spectacular to see the joy on the faces of players, school admin, parents. The reason we won is because the players acted like athletes of the '70s: hard work, determination, coachability, team before individual gain. Freshmen to seniors, there was no arrogance, the group of men played and practiced as one."

"It was a spectacular year, one that as a coach you really should consider retiring because it will never be better than that, well maybe an undefeated season, but frankly this was better than that because every game for the most part was a one-goal game into the final 10 minutes."

The state championship game was played in Richmond, but the Saints had a supportive following.

"The biggest memory of the year was that we had 200 people from students, parents, relatives and school staff and admin make the drive to Richmond on the Friday in heavy traffic to cheer on their beloved school on a freezing evening," Amato wrote. "We have never had that many people watch our games before. The reason they went to watch versus other years was because the lads on the team were gentlemen and liked on campus, their parents are class, as well. Not often you have great parents and players on a team. Normally, the odd parent moans about playing time and positions.

These parents let the coaches do their best and supported us and their children to the max."

SSSAS Field Hockey Coach Reaches 500 Wins

Marsha Way, in her 35th season coaching the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes field hockey program, reached 500 career victories when the Saints defeated Good Counsel 2-0 on Sept. 10.

The school held a celebration for Way's accomplishment on Sept. 24, after the Saints had defeated Pennsylvania's Mercersburg Academy 5-1.

"Coach Way is a really unique coach because I respect her so much as a person that when I step out on the field I want to play well for her almost more than for myself," senior captain Kathryn Cavallo said on Sept. 24. "She's always positive, always really pushing you to be the best person that you can be. ... She's definitely helped me become a stronger leader in my personal life, as well."

SSSA finished the season with an 18-4-1 record. Along the way, the Saints captured Way's 22nd Independent School League season championship and her 21st ISL tournament title.

When asked about her fondest memory of reaching 500 wins, Way wrote: "Seeing so many of my former players come back to celebrate the achievement with me and this year's team."

Bishop Ireton Boys' Reach WCAC Semifinals

After years of finishing near the bottom of the WCAC standings, members of the Bishop Ireton boys' basketball team entered the 2012-13 season hoping to surprise the conference.

When the postseason rolled around, the Cardinals took advantage of their opportunity.

Bishop Ireton, seeded No. 8 in the WCAC tournament, defeated No. 1 Gonzaga 67-58 in the quarterfinals on Feb. 23. The win earned Ireton its first trip to the WCAC semifinals in school history.

The Cardinals beat Gonzaga despite blowing a 10-point lead.

"I think it's a program-changer and I hope recruits out there see it and I hope we realize that anything is possible," Ireton head coach Neil Berkman said last season. "We've been coming close the entire year and haven't been able to get over the hump and when they erased our 10-point lead at half-time and tied it up, everybody was like, 'Here we go again,' including the coaches."

"We got over the hump with some toughness and some gang rebounding and making big plays at the big time. Going through the wars every day in the WCAC just made our team resilient."

Bishop Ireton finished the season with an

18-15 record — the program's first winning season since 1986.

"My fondest memory was celebrating with our players, coaches, staff, parents, and fans," Berkman wrote about reaching the WCAC semifinals. "It was a terrific moment for our school and program. Our team persevered through numerous close defeats and it was extremely gratifying to exhibit that resilience and finish the major upset. We were able to achieve the only No. 8 beating a No. 1 in WCAC history (and knocking off the No. 1 team in DC and nationally-ranked Gonzaga) because our entire team bought into the consummate team concept. We continued to compete every possession and put together an entire quality 32 minutes. It was a special moment for Bishop Ireton basketball: first semifinal appearance and our school's first winning season in 26 years!"



The T.C. Williams girls' basketball team won the 2013 Patriot District championship.

T.C. Girls' Basketball Are District Champions

The T.C. Williams girls' basketball team in 2013 reached the Patriot District championship game for the third consecutive season. This time, the Titans took home the title.

T.C. defeated Woodson 58-35 in the Patriot District final on Feb. 15 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. It was the Titans' first district championship since 2009.

"The best memory of winning the district title was definitely cutting down the nets with my team," T.C. Williams guard Angie Schedler wrote in an email. "We know how hard we worked every day and when we accomplished a goal like that, it proved to everyone else that we were definitely one of the most hard-working teams. We were able to win the title because we came together and fought hard for 32 minutes. We started the game off right and continued it throughout the entire game, as well as shutting down their top shooter."

Against Woodson in the district final, Schedler's defense helped limit Woodson sharpshooter Keara Finnerty to 10 points two days after she scored 40 against West Springfield in the semifinals. Schedler scored 14 points against Woodson. T.C. guard Rejoice Spivey led all scorers with 29 points.

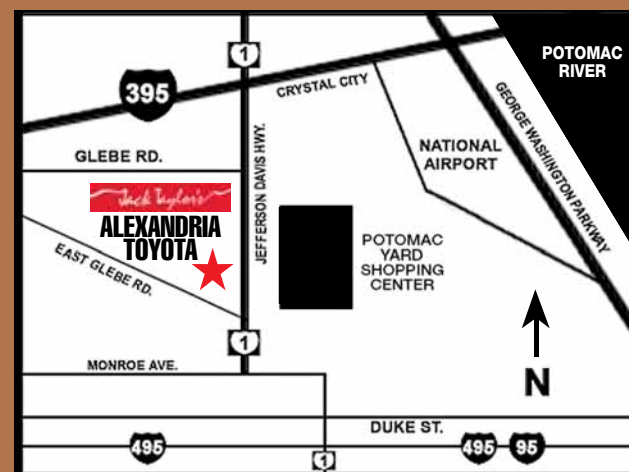
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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Green Paradise Alexandria, LLC trading New Grand Mart, 6255 Little River Tnpk, Alexandria, VA 22312. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Lydia Lee, member, LLC
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY

Stanley H. Stearman, 84

died after a short illness Friday, December 13, 2013 at The Villages, FL. He had a Shoe Department in VA for many years. After his retirement he worked at Nordstrom's in Pentagon City. Survivors include his wife Udis (Taffi); daughter's Bonni and Jodi; granddaughter Ashley Anne; and brother Lewis of Alexandria, VA. Services will be held at King David Memorial Gardens, Falls Church, VA on Thursday, January 2, 2014 at 11:30AM. The family will be receiving guests Friday through Sunday in Columbia, MD.

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.

108 Personal Services

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Richard E. Gutting, Jr.

Richard E. Gutting, Jr. died December 24, 2013 in Alexandria, VA. He was 70. Mr. Gutting graduated from Stanford University and Stanford Law School in 1968 to pursue a 45-year career of law, government service, writing and teaching. He was President of the National Fisheries Institute and partner with the law firm of Redmon, Peyton and Braswell. Mr. Gutting also served as general counsel for fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, counsel for the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation of the U.S. House of Representatives and as legal advisor to the President's Council on Environmental Quality. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Jimmie B. Cook, his son David J. Gutting and his wife Monica of Santa Rosa, California, his daughter Gretchen E. Curtis of Menlo Park, California, four granddaughters Alondra Gutting of Santa Rosa, CA, Linnea Gutting of Santa Rosa, CA, Natalie J. Curtis of Menlo Park, CA, and Stella M. Curtis of Menlo Park, CA. He also leaves one sister Anne L. Gutting of Huntington, NY. His family thanks Richard's many friends and neighbors for the extraordinary love and support as he battled his final illness. Services will be private. Expressions of sympathy may be made in the form of a donation to the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, P.O. Box 25036, Alexandria, VA 22313 www.alexandriaseaport.org

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Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection



ALEXANDRIA DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

Developer Carr Hospitality wants to build this hotel at the northeast intersection of Union and Duke streets.

Looking at the Year Ahead

FROM PAGE 1

a proposed new Metro station at Potomac Yard. The station could cost anywhere from \$200 million to \$500 million, depending on the location and design that emerges from the environmental impact statement process — if city leaders decide to move forward with it. The new debt would cause the city to exceed its own debt limits, and the National Park Service has raised concerns that a station would violate a scenic easement from the George Washington National Parkway.

♦ Sewage Solution: In the next few years, Old Town will be required to do something about the 10 million gallons of raw sewage the city dumps into the Potomac River each year. The problem is the “combined” sewer system that was installed in the 1800s, cutting edge in its day but outdated now. The system mixes storm-water runoff with untreated sewage. One option would be digging up 540 acres of Old Town streets, which would cost about \$200 million and take years to complete. A more likely option is building underground storage units similar to ones in the District of Columbia, which would cost anywhere from \$100 million to \$200 million.

♦ Eminent Domain: In 2014, Washington's Birthday won't be merely a celebration of the hometown Founding Father. It will also be the deadline for some kind of agreement between city officials and leaders of the Old Dominion Boat Club. Back in November, members of the Alexandria City Council adopted a motion setting a 90-day deadline for a resolution of a long-running conflict. If no agreement is struck, City Council members have indicated they are willing to move forward with steps to take a parking lot at the foot of King Street using the power of eminent domain.

♦ Waterfront Hotel: Now that that the controversial waterfront plan is cleared of most of the legal hurdles standing in the way, developers are eager to benefit from the increased zoning. The new zoning approved by members of the Alexandria City Council almost triples density at three waterfront sites compared to what's there now.

One of the developers is Carr Hospitality, which is seeking approval to develop a 120-room hotel at the Cummings property, which is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Union and Duke streets. Members of the Board of Architectural Review have been critical of the project, although members of the Planning Commission may have a more favorable opinion when it comes before them early in the year.

♦ Another Election: The 2014 mid-year election will feature two congressional races. One is 11-term U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), a former Alexandria mayor who was first elected in 1990. In the last election, Moran had three challengers: Republican Patrick Murray, Independent Green Party candidate Janet Murphy and independent candidate Jason Howell. Moran won with 65 percent of the vote. The other race on the ballot this year will be U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, an Old Town resident and former governor who was first elected in 2008. That was the year he beat former governor Jim Gilmore with 65 percent of the vote. The Republicans have decided that they will choose their Senate candidate using a statewide convention rather than a primary.

♦ Hold Your Wallet: Members of the Alexandria City Council have directed City Manager Rashad Young to deliver a budget that does not raise the tax rate, launching the annual budget season that will heat up in February. That's when the city manager will present his proposal, which will be amended by City Council members before they approve a final spending plan in May. The last budget had a historic four-cent increase in the tax rate, the largest tax hike in recent memory.

♦ New Prosecutor: In January, longtime Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Sengel will step down after almost two decades in office. He will be replaced by Bryan Porter, son of former T.C. Williams Principal John Porter. Sengel was appointed commonwealth's attorney in February 1997, when John Kloch became a Circuit Court judge. He ran for office later that year and won, eventually serving four four-year terms at the city courthouse.



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McEneaney Associates is proud to support Hopkins House

McEneaney Associates proudly presented gifts to the children of Hopkins House on Friday, December 20th. These gifts were donated by McEneaney agents and staff.



Pictured from left to right: Tyler Hallman, Dave Hawkins (Santa), Clay Burke and Elizabeth Lucchesi

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