



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner introduces SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet at Hooray for Books on Small Business Saturday.

Hooray for Small Business

Celebrating community role of small businesses.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

On 2012's Small Business Saturday, President Barack Obama visited One More Page Books in Arlington and set a trend for politicians in the Washington area: small Northern Virginia bookstores are the place to be on Nov. 29. That tradition continued in Hooray for Books! on this year's Small Business Saturday when U.S. Small Business Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet, U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, and local politicians converged to emphasize their patronage of the King Street bookstore.

"It was very crowded," said owner Ellen Klein, "but it was very nice to get that sort of



Hooray for Books owner Ellen Klein talks with U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, Mayor Bill Euille and Chamber of Commerce President John Long.

acknowledgement."

Klein says her store tries to interact heavily with the community, notably including a day on the riverboat Cherry Blossom with children's book author Chris Van Dusen. One of the store's most popular programs is arranging visits from authors either to the store or to local schools, a service Klein reminds parents that larger retailers don't usually provide.

Miguel Ayala from the Small Business Administration said that these kinds of activities from small businesses are what establish the atmosphere of a city.

"They create the natural character and charm of a neighborhood," said Ayala. "When we are able to help people start a business, it's beneficial not just to themselves but to the community."

Ayala said there are financial advantages to shopping small as well.

"With any small business, restaurants in particular, there's a higher ratio that goes back into the local community," said Ayala. "They pay locally for their bills. They pay locally for their groceries. When there's a corporate entity involved, that money goes up and doesn't turn around as quickly."

Klein said that Alexandria locals are usually dedicated to helping small businesses.

Hooray for Books! is currently in undergoing an expansion and renovation of the store and just concluded a fundraising campaign on indiegogo.com to help finance a new cash register, computer system, and supplies to furnish the new expanded store. The campaign raised over \$5,000.

"More and more, parents want to buy local," said Klein. "We can't do stuff like that without community support."

Emergency Assistance

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul faces overwhelming increase in local need.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul does its best work in person. While those in need reach out to the charity run out of St. Mary's Church on Royal Street, the two volunteers working at its nearby headquarters go out and visit the petitioner at his or her home. The organization offers up to \$200 of emergency assistance. A visit to the home can allow the volunteer to identify how to best put that money to use.

But visiting those in need of assistance in their own homes has another effect for the volunteers at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It makes poverty in Alexan-

dria extremely personal.

"We look around Alexandria and we think of it as a rich community," said Nellie Ortiz, a volunteer with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, "but I will never forget what is behind some of those closed doors."

Ortiz remembered one visit to a building where everyone inside was living in little closet-sized rooms. In another, a grandmother was taking care of five grandchildren by herself. But more than desperation, Ortiz and the other volunteers say they also see something powerful in many of these cases: faith.

"It's amazing to find people who need so much who believe that

SEE LOCAL NEEDS, PAGE 3

Commission Allows Extended Hours

Harris Teeter to operate 24 hours.

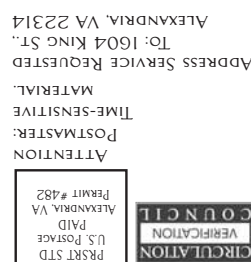
BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Planning Commission voted to approve extending Harris Teeter's operations to 24 hours. At the Dec. 2 meeting, the commission accepted the Alexandria city staff recommendation that extending the hours would not impact neighbors. The grocery store at 500 Madison St. in Old Town North

was approved by the commission in June 2011 and opened on Oct. 21 of 2014. Originally the hours were set between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., but the standard operating hours for Harris Teeters in the Washington region is 24 hours. Kenneth Wire, an attorney representing the development, said this was his own oversight and apologized to the commission.

Before the store's grand open

SEE PLANNING, PAGE 3





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'I Was the Dirty One'

Details emerge in preliminary hearing on Carolyn Cross murder case.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

In a preliminary hearing for the murder of Carolyn Cross on Dec. 1, accounts from witnesses detailed a tragic murder scene and the disturbing near-suicide of her alleged killer.

Cross was getting ready to be picked up by her daughter, Clarissa Davis, to go to the airport. Her pink bag was packed and there was a cup of hot coffee from 7/11 on the counter. It was early in the morning of Sept. 7 and when Cross didn't answer her phone, Davis went upstairs to check on her mother. Davis found her lifeless on the floor of the living room with a plastic bag secured around her head by duct tape.

Alexandria Police Officer Emil Takeuchi was on housing patrol and was the first to respond to the scene. Takeuchi testified that the blood splattered on the floor and on the wrench, as well as a knocked over computer screen, immediately indicated that there had been a struggle.

A few hours later, Officer James Young testified that he responded to an attempted suicide call at the adjacent building. He identified Dawit Seyoum, seated at the defense table in a green jumpsuit, as the man he found lying in the hallway of his family's apartment.

According to Young, there was blood in the living room, dining room, and bathroom. On the walls of the bathroom, written in what appeared to be blood, were the words "I was the dirty one." Paramedic David Fox, who'd also been at the scene of Cross' murder and had confirmed that she was deceased, arrived at Seyoum's residence and attended to his wounds.

"The cuts were not life threatening or actively bleeding," said Fox. "He was able to stand and walk to the stretcher."

After Fox and the other paramedics escorted Seyoum to the Alexandria Hospital, Young searched the apartment again. Young

testified that there was blood all around the apartment, which was when he began to suspect this was more than an attempted suicide.

"I was looking for a body," said Young. "There was a lot of blood. To be as lucid as he was and to still have it together, it didn't seem like all that blood could have come from him."

After searching the apartment again, Young went to the hospital where Seyoum was being treated. According to Young, Seyoum said he needed to speak to the police officer alone. Once the nurses left, Young said Seyoum confessed that he may have murdered a woman in the building next to his. Young then handcuffed Seyoum to the bed and contacted the police supervisor.

Detective Wil Salas responded to Young's call and said that Seyoum had confessed to the murder as well. According to Salas, Seyoum described the murder scene and the weapons without being given any details by the police.

"[Seyoum] said he was angry at the world, that he was an angry person," said Salas. "He said it was all his fault, he was responsible, and he'd take the death penalty."

According to Detective Thomas Buckley, who also interviewed Seyoum, the suspect was subdued but alert. He would look up during the questioning, then back down and around the room.

During the preliminary hearing, Seyoum sat in silence, eyes downcast through the proceedings. According to Buckley, Seyoum had told him that he'd gotten into a fight with his mother and said the next person who intimidated him was "going to get it."

"[Seyoum] says he hears voices, specifically his mother's," said Buckley, "says he hears them every day and that they call him names."

Seyoum's next court date will be a grand jury hearing on Dec. 8.



Dawit Seyoum, charged with the murder of D.C. corrections official Carolyn Cross.

Local Needs Growing

FROM PAGE 1

God will provide," said volunteer Amelia Dillenschneider. "They're not desperate, even though they need help, and it's rewarding to see that kind of faith."

The organization was founded in 1833 in France to aid residents of the Paris slums. Since then the organization has spread to 139 countries worldwide. The objective of the organization is to look at the community and to provide help to anyone, of any faith or background. Each church determines what kind of assistance would be most helpful. Soup kitchens are a popular choice, but the group from St. Mary's identified emergency financial assistance as the greatest necessity.

The Society limits itself to helping those within the boundaries of its parish, which covers most of Alexandria. Daniel Gill, president of the St. Mary's branch of the Society says even with their limited scope, there this is already a heavy strain on their resources. Where Gill said they used to receive six to eight calls in a week, he estimated they receive that much in a single day. Being entirely volunteer run, with virtually no overhead costs, is helpful but Gill says their organization is still overwhelmed with demands for help, many of which are referred to them by other Alexandria charities facing similar problems.

"At \$200 each time we help someone, we've gone through almost \$100,000 this year," said Gill. "In the 10 years I've been [working with the Society], this is the high water mark."

The funds for the Society come almost entirely from the "poor-box" in the church, though occasionally a pastor will provide their organization with some general obligation funds.

"Increased rent pricing and the absence of affordable housing is causing significant problems," said Gill, "but the largest amount of our funding goes to utilities."

"Especially since they divided the water bill into two, in some cases it's doubled," said volunteer Maria Sabio, referring to Alexandria's water utilities being split between sewage, which is



St. Mary's Lyceum, the headquarters of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

handled by the city, and other utilities managed by the private utility company Virginia American Water.

"Most people we work with don't understand that their sewage bill is equal to their water bill, sometimes exceeds it," said Gill.

Dillenschneider was new to the group; recently recruited by Ortiz. After her first meeting, Dillenschneider said she was contacted and was told that there was a case available to be worked on. In one family, the mother had recently died and the father and been injured. Not long after, the daughter was injured as well, which left the son as the only family member able to work and provide for the others.

"In a family, everyone supports each other," said Dillenschneider. "[This] family has three kids and they all live in one bedroom, renting the apartment. We couldn't help them with the rent, but we were able to give them a food gift card and paid their electricity bill."

The volunteers agreed that one of the key problems was that people within the city don't often recognize that there are people in need within their community. While Gill said the success stories are often the people that they don't see come back later in need of more help, Ortiz said, that while the work is rewarding, she's still haunted by some of the cases she's worked on.

"I worry about those people, that grandmother and those five children," said Ortiz. "I worry about what will happen to that family."

Planning Commission Allows Harris Teeter's Extended Hours

FROM PAGE 1

ing, Harris Teeter's notice to surrounding residents indicated that the store would be open 24 hours. When a citizen inquiry was filed regarding whether this was approved in its Special Use Permit. The property developer filed an amendment to the permit that requested the hours be extended and the store was allowed to operate for 24 hours while it underwent the amendment process.

The store anticipates fewer than 10 customers per hour in their extended operat-

ing time. The extended hours in the morning and evening primarily allow employees to stock the store's shelves. According to the staff report, Harris Teeter's delivery and loading hours would not be extended. The loading operations for the store will remain between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends. The staff recommended approval of the amendment, but the move was met with criticism from some on the board.

"To say 'well, we didn't pay much attention to that', I think is amazing," said Vice



A sign at Harris Teeter advertising their 24 hour service

Chairman Stewart Dunn. "If you filed an application with 24-hour service that would have been a very different conversation... We ought to tell the applicant to go for a period of time, say six months, and if they want to come back after that time and still want [to extend their hours] we can look at this."

No residents spoke against the extension of the Harris Teeter hours. The only opposition to the amendment was to the exception that its pharmacy would not be open

SEE EXTENDED HOURS, PAGE 28

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Decorate Those Doors

Members of the Old Town Walled Garden Club will be strolling down the streets of the Old and Historic District of Alexandria the week of Dec. 7, identifying the most striking door decorations in town, and choosing the winners of the 47th Annual Holiday Door Decorating Contest. The first, second, and third place winners will be awarded prizes from Patina Polished Living on Franklin Street, Metro Stage on North Royal Street, and Trastevere Antiques & Collectibles on Cameron Street, respectively. Contest rules are as follows: Except for bows and ribbons, decorations must be made from natural materials by the homeowners themselves; purchased professional arrangements are not eligible to win. Judging criteria include originality of design, scale, color, contrast, and attractiveness from the street.

"It is the hit of the Christmas season to see which of my neighbors has won the wreath making contest," said Betty Spar, a former judge for the contest. "Some are so spectacular ... amazing. It definitely kicks off the Old Town holiday season."



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The 2013 3rd place winner featured a Williamsburg-inspired fruit board above the door complemented by a boxwood and magnolia wreath decorated with apples and citrus fruits.

"Last year, the club received an email message from someone from out of state who was planning a trip to Alexandria. She wanted to know when the contest winners would be announced so she could see the winning doors while she was in town," said Cathy Cotell, president of the Old Town Walled Garden Club.

For more information, contact the Old Town Walled Garden Club at OTWGClub@gmail.com.



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PEOPLE

Working toward English Literacy

Campagna Center program helps immigrants.

BY SHIRLEY L. RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Good morning ladies." Marcia D'Arcangelo stands in the large central room greeting teachers and students as they walk by, headed for their English classes. She is director of the New Neighbor EEL program in Alexandria funded by the Campagna Center.

"We have nine different levels here. We recently added a new entry level of literacy when we discovered some people didn't know the basics of the English language, like the alphabet," D'Arcangelo said.

D'Arcangelo says the classes range from "cradle to grave" beginning with 18-month olds, 3 and 4 year olds and adult classes. She says, "A lot

PEOPLE AT WORK

of people come from other countries where they are not used to being separated from their young children so this is perfect. The parents can attend the adult classes while the children are learning just down the hall." She adds that most of the adults used to come from Latin American countries but now it is about one-third Latin American, one-third Middle Eastern and one-third a mixture of everything else. "We have students from all the continents except Antarctica. Those penguins just can't get with the program." This year there are 161 adult students from 38 countries speaking 22 different languages.

D'Arcangelo pops into the four-year-old class. Weona Chambers has been teaching since 2000 and explains she just got her GED. Chambers leans down to the table, "Now here is your name Jeniece — just trace over the dots."

D'Arcangelo reaches over a tiny head to a table scattered with letters. "Can you find this letter?" she asks.

The class is working on alphabet recognition. In the baby room upstairs, the children are sprawled on the floor in front of a two-foot book with the picture of a car. Mai Noor, who teaches the babies, came here from Sudan. She starts with a routine and simple words so the children get used to hearing English.

D'Arcangelo enters the Level 4 class to a discussion of Thanksgiving. In English, of course, "we always speak English to the children and their parents although we can translate if needed." The instruc-



Marcia D'Arcangelo, director of the New Neighbor EEL program funded by the Campagna Center, stops in to visit the four-year-old group which is working on recognition of letters.

tor, Paula Tosini, asks if they have a holiday like Thanksgiving in their countries — from Bolivia to Japan. All nod "no," but they are all celebrating the American holiday. Tosini wonders if they are serving a traditional meal. Faces wrinkle with the struggle to find the right words. Gabriel says they are having rice and tortillas, salad and stuffing and a pumpkin pie. "I am doing the cooking." And the room laughs with him.

D'Arcangelo says, "We have a community here among the teachers and the students. We help with social services and immigration issues, too."

The advanced level class is waiting to begin. Patricia DePuy points to a map and says, "We have students from all over the world. Every year there is a country you've never heard of." She said some of the countries are in conflict with each other so she tiptoes around issues and just lets the students decide what to discuss. DePuy added, "This is like a little United Nations." The program runs from 9:30-noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday and is held in Christ Church's Fowler house on Columbus Street where space is donated. The cost for adults is \$120 per semester and \$125 for children with a semester running similar to the school calendar.

The scope of D'Arcangelo's responsibilities extends from hiring, budget, curriculum, awareness, teacher orientation, to publishing a newsletter and coordination with other program directors at the Campagna Center. "There is so much that goes on behind the scenes to make this program a success." Previously she spent 23 years in the education field with teacher training and development. Later she started as a volunteer with Campagna Center, gradually assuming this position. Along the way she did other things. "I won't tell you, well, OK. I was a dancer with the Perry Como traveling show for 12 years." But she says the importance of education was a tradition in her family. "My grandfather came over at 12 years old as an Italian immigrant. He was plunged into the system with no support. It's something that has been emphasized my whole life and I wanted to be a part of making it better for other people in the same position. What we do here is wonderful."



Patricia DePuy and Marcia D'Arcangelo pinpoint new countries, previously unheard of, where immigrants have come from to join the New Neighbors EEL program held in donated space at the Christ Church's Fowler Center.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET



Margaret Caple, Pearl Turner and Barbara Norton arrange the caps on a table to display to the ABR crafters.

Annie B. Rose Crafters

Dozens and dozens of brightly colored knitted caps filled the table beside a Christmas tree in the lobby of the Annie B. Rose House on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 2.

On Tuesday's at 3 p.m., the Annie B. Rose Crafters meet in the community room to work on an arts and crafts project. Throughout the fall, the women

have been knitting hats for children receiving treatment for cancer at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. The collection of hats was on display for all the group to see before program director Barbara Norton packed them up for shipment to the Memphis hospital. Past group projects include knitting blankets for patients at the Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare facility and knitted hats for the children at the Jefferson Houston Recreation Center.



Georgia McCain adds another pile of knitted caps to the box for shipment.



Tuesday afternoon's project was decorating Christmas stockings.



Program director Barbara Norton talks with Frances Vidal. Norton has been working with residents of the Annie B. Rose House and the Charles Houston Recreation Center for the past 30 years.



Pearl Turner adds a few more knitted caps to the box for shipping.

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Promoting Small Business

Alexandria City Councilwoman Del Pepper stands with Chamber of Commerce staff Members Shari Simmans-Bolouri and Maria Ciarrocchi at Pork Barrel BBQ in Del Ray Nov. 29 as part of the national Small Business Saturday shopping promotion. The chamber handed out more than 250 shopping bags, maps, coffee and pastries at their stands at Market Square and Pork Barrel BBQ. The promotion was held in association with the Small Business Saturday Coalition — a partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and American Express.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Keller Williams Realty team and volunteers numbering over 75 spent Tuesday, Nov. 26, sorting and repacking the fixings for 435 Thanksgiving meals at the Keller Williams offices on S. Washington Street.

Raising the Bar on Giving

For the 4th year, Keller Williams Realty has reached out and given back to the community at Thanksgiving. Throughout the year the realty team has been raising money and donations for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner drive. Last year 310 families received a complete Thanksgiving meal that included a 12-14 pound turkey, pumpkin pie, a bag of din-

ner rolls, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, corn, yams and cranberry sauce. This year the team received a sizable donation from Senior Services of Alexandria and raised more than \$12,000 enabling them to provide 435 families with Thanksgiving dinners. The Thanksgiving Charity Event is a partnership between Keller Williams Realty and ALIVE!

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NEWS

Church Holds Prayer Vigil

Hundreds gather at Alfred Street Baptist Church for Michael Brown, Jr.

By MARISSA BEALE
GAZETTE PACKET



ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, pastor at Alfred Street Baptist Church

Alfred Street Baptist Church, an African American Baptist Church founded in 1803, held a special prayer vigil on Nov. 25 for Michael Brown, Jr., the African American 18-year-old male who was fatally-shot in Ferguson, Mo., on Aug. 9, by Police Officer Darren Wilson.

The vigil was held in the wake of the recent announcement that the Ferguson grand jury would not indict Wilson for his actions. Hundreds gathered in the sanctuary to spend time in prayer for the family and friends of Michael Brown and to hear an encouraging word, especially since it was two days before the Thanksgiving holiday.

"Thanksgiving is not just a day, but a decision to bless the Lord with everything, despite your situation and circumstance," said the Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, addressing the question of how the con-

gregation might give thanks with a heavy heart. And while he provided an answer to that question, he discussed the inequality that continues to plague the American justice system.

"Race still matters in America," said Wesley, echoing the sentiments of many across the nation. A chorus of "amens" rang out from the congregation as he said there are still too many reports of

blacks being killed by police. He called out members of the black community, saying that there is not enough love for each other among themselves. The violence taking place in Ferguson was an example of this, as buildings, some minority-owned, were being destroyed.

His sermon focused on the Book of Habakkuk, the eighth of the 12 minor prophets of the Hebrew Bible.

"This book has the words of a man who is angry with God," preached Wesley. "He is living in a land where people are treated unjustly, and he wrestles with what it means to worship a God who is just, while living in a nation that is unjust."

But rather than become discouraged and despaired in the face of injustice, the congregation was encouraged to speak out against the injustice and to maintain faith and hope.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

HOLIDAY GIVING

The Christ Child Project

opportunities for involvement include: adopting a child/children, shopping for gifts, pricing at the store, and working during the store hours. Food elves are needed for the Ingathering of Gifts, Sunday, Dec. 7 and for volunteers working in the store on Dec. 12. To volunteer, contact Carolyn Carbaugh, cscarbaugh@verizon.net or call 301-292-2102. Visit www.HistoricChristChurch.org.

Holiday Sharing Sponsors

Wanted. The Alexandria Department of Community and

Human Services (DCHS) invites the public to help make the 2014 holiday season brighter for the most vulnerable community members – low-income families, foster children, and elderly and disabled residents — through the annual Holiday Sharing program. Contact Suzanne Kratzok at 703-746-5663 or holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov for more.

Volunteer Alexandria is partnering with the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Resources to support the 24th annual Holiday Sharing program. The program provides new, unwrapped gifts and toys for children ages 1 to 13 in the Alexandria community. Groups are encouraged to hold parties or happy hours as enjoyable ways to get friends and co-workers together to donate. To participate, groups can create their own collection bins or have them delivered by a volunteer. To view a list of items needed and where to drop them off, visit www.volunteerallexandria.org and

click on the Holiday Volunteering tab. Volunteers are still needed to sort and distribute gifts on Dec. 19 and 20. Visit www.volunteerallexandria.org. To sign up for a collection bin, email Marion Brunken at mbrunken@volunteerallexandria.com.

Toy Drive. Runs through Dec. 12. The Weichert family of Companies recently announced the start of its 36th Annual Toy Drive. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices. The toys will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. Visit www.weichert.com/offices/.

Toy Drive. Runs through Dec. 15 at Sheehy Honda of Alexandria, 2434 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Drop off new, unwrapped toys to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 26



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OPINION

Be Part of Children's Gazette Packet 2014

Annual edition showcases youth art and writing.

During the last week of each year, The Gazette Packet devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

We welcome student's original ideas. Here are some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

- ❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? What is the best or worst thing that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about news, traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.
- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.
- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

Email submissions for the Children's Gazette to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail to Children's Gazette, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Dec. 10. The Children's Gazette will publish the week of Dec. 27, 2014.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help Shape Eisenhower West

To the Editor:

The exciting improvements in store for the Potomac River waterfront are grabbing headlines, but other significant planning efforts are also underway in Alexandria. Eisenhower West was identified by City Council in 2013 as our city's next significant planning opportunity.

Geographically, Eisenhower West is the part of our city west of Holmes Run and south of Pickett

Street. The area is home to a great diversity of uses — from recreational areas like Ben Brenman Park to commercial facilities like Covanta and Restaurant Depot and residential communities like Cameron Station and Summers Grove. From a regional perspective, Eisenhower West is well-located along the Capital Beltway and includes the Van Dorn Metrorail station. But the area remains locally disconnected by limited north-south connections across the railroad tracks. It's time to make Eisenhower West a connected hub in Alexandria.

Planning efforts began earlier this year with the establishment of the Eisenhower West Steering Committee, consisting of various commission members, community representatives, and business representatives. Since February, we have been meeting regularly to help city staff with the planning process. We have also held three large public community meetings, focused on identifying issues and assets in the area, creating a vision for the area, and locating future centers of activity and connections. Several more meetings are planned throughout the winter

and spring, with the goal of an adopted plan and guide for the future growth of Eisenhower West by the end of 2015.

Even though meetings have begun and the planning process is underway, now is a great time to get involved. Stay tuned for announcements about how to participate in the planning process through the city's new online civic engagement platform, AlexEngage. There are also continuing opportunities to participate in person. The next community meeting will be held on Dec. 8, at Beatley Library, and will focus on the future framework of streets and potential land uses. Come early for the open house at 6:30 p.m., meet the project team working on the plan, and stay for the presentation and interactive workshop at 7 p.m.

For more information, please visit the Eisenhower West website at www.alexandriava.gov/EisenhowerWest and subscribe to updates at www.alexandriava.gov/eNews. I look forward to seeing many members of the community online or at a meeting soon.

Mindy A. Lyle
Chair, Eisenhower West Steering Committee
Member, Alexandria Planning Commission

Schools Need Independent Audit

To the Editor:

Your Nov. 13, 2014, article on SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

the costs of the tennis courts at T.C. Williams understated the scope of the problem. The article stated that the cost of the tennis courts is \$1.2 million. In fact, the original appropriation in 2012 was \$490,000, and \$220,000 was added for lights in 2014 (after ACPS testified that it had inadequate funding until 2017). However, there was an additional \$400,000 budget “transfer” in November 2012 and another \$545,000 budget “transfer” in October 2014. The total funding for the tennis courts as of today is \$1.67 million.

Would the board have pursued state-of-the-art courts and lights so vigorously if they knew it cost \$1.67 million? Would council have voted for it? Where does all this money come from? Who knows? The chair of the School Board and superintendent made clear that cost is no object.

There were some ambiguities about costs when the tennis court lights went before council for approval in 2013, and council pointedly refused to ask about cost. They wanted state-of-the-art courts with lights, so they voted for it and worried about how to pay for it later. Did they manage the funding so the public would not know the real cost until after the vote? Sure looks that way.

This is not the first time ACPS has told the public that a project did not cost very much, and then use the add/delete process to move money around under the radar to cover the real cost with little public knowl-

edge. The new field at Hammond was budgeted for \$1.6 million in 2011. The actual final cost? Well over \$2 million, and the final cost remains unknown since it got mired in so many disputes. Like the tennis courts, ACPS “moved money around” and magically found at least \$400,000 to cover the cost. Where did it come from? Who knows?

ACPS has an uncanny ability to find hundreds of thousands of dollars (amounting to millions) for these big ticket projects, yet School Board member Justin Keating noted at a recent board meeting that kindergarteners are in trailers; students take tests in hallways; some classrooms have no windows; playgrounds are in disrepair. ACPS is already over-enrolled so a new school may be in our near future. Yet the board glibly spends millions in unnecessary facilities. No wonder Keating referred to profligate spending on a pet project as unconscionable in light of ACPS’ real educational needs.

Board Member Hennig further noted that this “found money” is suspiciously what was needed for this pet project down to the penny. Obviously, there is other school money laying around waiting to be raided for pet projects without the bother of public knowledge or council oversight. The city has been pleading the Poverty Act for several years now, cutting some services and reducing jobs. Yet the schools are able to stash away millions quietly.

Lighting Parker Gray stadium at T.C. Wil

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

liams is controversial, especially in light of the sordid history of the site and the

commitments the city made to people it had wronged over generations. The lights were pitched as costing about \$750,000 — a nice chunk of change. Yet no required upgrades and soft costs were included (including a whopping \$100,000 in education money for ACPS to hire a lawyer to advocate for the application). ACPS testified that required upgrades to support lighting the stadium will be at least \$3.5 million.

Neither ACPS nor the city treat that staggering sum as a relevant consideration, nor consider better cost effective alternatives.

In 2012, several ACPS employees lost their jobs in the wake of an audit showing that they “moved money around” inappropriately. It is true there has been turnover on the board and in ACPS but it appears they are still engaged in the same accounting schemes for pet projects in lieu of educational requirements. At a board meeting in December 2013 discussing lighting the tennis courts, one member stated that they should “slide that sucker in, don’t say too much and get it done.” That

strategy was apparently adopted.

The time has come for an independent audit by a third party of ACPS finances to restore public and council confidence in ACPS stewardship of its funds.

Frank Putzu
Alexandria

City’s Priorities?

To the Editor:

Not only can North Old Town now boast a new monstrosity — the Harris Teeter with its garish gigantic red neon illumination — but this new red light district is going 24/7. This in a neighborhood with quite a few individually owned restaurants, some of them cozy fixtures of decades, three blocks away from the waterfront. Already during a hearing at City Hall, another onslaught on local culture, food trucks, was opposed not only by restaurant owners but also by many of their patrons. I shudder to think what high density development the City Council may be planning for the lot right next to HT, to be vacated in the foreseeable future by our community-oriented small neighborhood Giant and the adjacent ABC store. Large corporations will not invest unless they expect — and are promised — major returns on their investment. Considering the size of this red light establishment, the City Council must have big plans. More luxury high-rise condos? More hotels? More of what exactly on our historic waterfront?

The recent “Small Business Day” as supported by the city was nothing but a farce. City planners are happily rushing towards a brave new world — one in which a diminished Old Town will not only lose even more of its unique and invaluable historic cachet but be increasingly dominated by faceless large corporations, developers out

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 30

“The poor are likelier to be sick. The sick are likelier to be poor. Without interventions, the poor will grow sicker and the sick will grow poorer. And that has troubling consequences for all of us.”

H. Jack Geiger, MD

Recipient of the 2014 Frank A. Calderone Prize in Public Health

The Virginia General Assembly’s refusal to expand the state Medicaid program, as allowed under the Affordable Care Act, leaves approximately 5,000 residents of Alexandria without Medicaid coverage and at continued high risk for poor health and premature death. Moreover, the state’s decision not to expand eligibility further exacerbates existing coverage and access disparities among racial and ethnic groups.

The majority of people who would be newly eligible for Medicaid coverage are adults (21-64 years of age without children) working full or part-time. The Medicaid benefits denied to the uninsured residents of the City are very similar to the health care benefits many of us have come to take for granted.

Lack of access, or limited access, to health services significantly impacts both individual and population health. Research clearly shows that individuals without health insurance are much less likely to participate in preventive care and are more likely to delay medical treatment or forgo it altogether.

Low-income individuals face many barriers to accessing health services but the biggest one is lack of insurance coverage. Experience has shown that lack of health insurance coverage for very low-income individuals can result in: (a) unmet essential health care needs; (b) delays in receiving appropriate care; (c) inability to obtain preventive services and essential screening; and, (d) unnecessary and expensive hospitalizations. Moreover, after a chronic condition is diagnosed, the uninsured are less likely to receive follow-up care and consequently are more likely to have their health decline.

Receiving needed care is especially important for the uninsured since they are generally not as healthy as those with private or public coverage. Evidence from national studies demonstrates that health insurance coverage reduces mortality, improves mental health, and increases financial security and self-reported health, especially within low-income populations.

The individuals below applaud the recent action by the Mayor and City Council to appoint a Special Advisory Panel to examine the health care needs of the uninsured in the City and to develop recommendations that can reduce their coverage gap and improve their access to essential health care services.

We call on the entire Alexandria community to rally behind this Advisory Panel and the City Council in support of an effort that will truly manifest our City’s generosity and compassion on behalf of the most economically disadvantaged among us.

The Reverend Dr. Gregory L. Adkins
David and Janet Beckmann
Frank Bax and Mary Morrow-Bax
Rose Berler
Ed Bilanchone
Henry Brooks
Ellen Brown
Nancy Carson
Judy Carter
Michael J. Chamowitz, JD
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Mary Anne Weber
Marina Lee Weiss
The Reverend Dr. Howard-John Wesley
Susan White
Wendell Williams
Mary Wigginton
Donnan Wintermute
Joyce Woodson
Julie Wright

If you believe the City’s low-income, uninsured residents deserve increased access to preventive and essential health care services, please thank the Mayor and City Council for establishing a Special Advisory Panel to recommend appropriate actions.

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Special thanks to **Alexandria Gazette Packet**

OPINION

Improving Academic Achievement

BY DR. ALVIN L. CRAWLEY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



the role of state SOL assessments.

Frequent Monitoring: different assessments identifying students who need help and assigning intervention, and students who require increased challenge.

Ongoing System of Staff Training: training staff in areas of most need and ongoing differentiated support.

Supportive Learning Environment: school is a safe, clean, welcoming and intellectually stimulating learning environment.

High Levels of Family and Community Involvement: sense that all have a responsibility to educate students and support the success of students academically and socially.

While on the surface, these 10 characteristics look fairly straightforward, their alignment can be quite complicated. Any and all in isolation have merit. However, in the absence of alignment and accountability systems, an approach to each area in isolation results in a fragmented system of delivery that rarely moves school divisions like ours forward. Approaches in isolation are often referred to as random acts of improvement versus aligned acts of improvement.

Our central office departments and schools have been working to produce education plans that have a unified rather than a fragmented approach. We are moving to respond to our biggest challenges around these essential characteristics with realistic targets set for improvement. In a series of School Board work sessions this year, all principals will have the opportunity to engage the School Board in thoughtful discussions about their school level results and specific goals and actions that have been set to address student academic challenges. They have also incorporated their staff workplace survey results administered last school year in their schoolwide plans. In a recent article on the Pygmalion Effect, researchers discuss the finding that students will essentially rise to our expectations.

If we are to increase student achievement, those expectations must include strengthening relationships with students and their parents; supporting teacher growth; and student development of skills associated with rigor-critical thinking, writing, analysis, solving and application. We continue to forge forward by celebrating our successes while confronting and addressing the fact that all of our students are not achieving at high levels. As superintendent, I believe that we can and will do better. Together, we will work to make Alexandria City Public Schools a high performing school division.

Academic achievement is not accidental but rather the result of a sustained focus on rigor, relevance, engagement and coherence. At its best, academic achievement reflects a relentless determination to reach and teach all students. Sustained achievement results are typically rooted in three key areas.

There has to be coherence between WHAT is taught, meaning the curriculum; HOW it is taught and assessed, meaning instructional approaches and strategies, and ways of demonstrating understanding; and WHY, which is relevance to real life application. In absence of coherence, many students simply work to receive passing grades while others may disconnect from school altogether.

We continue to show progress in a number of academic areas. For example, we have recently received national College Board recognition as 1 of 6 Virginia school divisions with an increased number of students across various racial and ethnic groups taking and passing Advanced Placement exams.

However, we can see the challenges when we look at the summative performance of our schools and division priority data. Fifteen of 16 schools are accredited, but four of them are accredited with warning in one or more of the four core areas of instruction-reading, math, science and social studies. Black males are suspended at rates disproportionately higher than other student racial groups.

Our federally defined gap group data points to underachievement for students with disabilities and those eligible for free or reduced lunch. Clearly we can and need to do better. In response, we have begun exploring and skillfully applying the following characteristics of high performing schools (based on Washington State's Nine Characteristics High Performing Schools 2007, second edition) including the requisite strategic actions needed to integrate them into the fabric of our school division, school house and classrooms.

Clear Focus: everyone knows what we are doing, how to do it, and why.

Expectations for All Students: belief that every student can learn. Strong Instruction Program: rising achievement of all students.

Effective School Leadership: nurture an instructional program and school culture.

Collaboration and Communication: strong teamwork among teachers, staff and parents.

Alignment with State: staff understands

Correction

In last week's People at Work column, "Creating a Floral Centrepiece," The caption for the photo at the top of the article should have read: Scott Marchand adds an accent of circus roses. Amanda Dorko, who is an employee at Patina, watches as the arrangement takes shape. The owners of Patina are Kimberly Weiler and Amanda Merkins.

WELLBEING

Battling Holiday Bulge

Nutritionists offer tips for avoiding weight gain.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

With the merriment of the holidays comes food, friends and fun. But from office parties to family dinners, opportunities for overeating and weight gain abound. In fact, the National Institutes of Health reports that the average American gains an extra pound every year that he never loses. Those pounds add up over a lifetime of holidays, but a few local nutritionists offer the skinny on weight-gain culprits and strategies to keep them at bay.

The ubiquitous holiday office party is one of the top challenges: overflowing with decadent sweets, rich entrées and often alcohol, it's the one time of year where colleagues and friends can bond over food.

Sitting next to someone who has healthy eating habits can make you think twice about the foods you choose to put on your plate, however. That is just one of the techniques that Potomac, Md.-based nutritionist Sharon Goldberg offers clients who want to avoid overindulgence.

"You should always stand far enough away from the table so that food is not at arm's reach," she said. "Wait until all of the food is on the table and try to eat the healthy options first. If you eat more of a broth-based soup, for example, there will be less room for

fat-laden dishes and you'll be less likely to eat them."

Keeping track of what you've consumed by leaving a small amount on your plate will also lead to eating less, said Goldberg. "If you can see the fatty foods that you've already eaten you'll be less likely to eat more."

Someone in the office will inevitably display homemade chocolate truffles in a communal area for all to eat, or keep her candy dish overflowing with red and green confections. Keeping a private stockpile of healthy foods that you enjoy will help combat the temptation to splurge, said Andrea Newman, a nutritionist based in Mount Vernon.

"Another thing you'll want to do is avoid lunch rooms and other places as much as possible when they are filled with fatty food," she said. "If you don't see it, you'll be less likely to crave it."

If you do decide to splurge, she continued, you can make up for it by taking the stairs instead of the elevator, going for a walk during work or adding time to your workout.

Shopping is a major part of the holiday season, but it is an activity that can leave you tired and hungry, said Mary Jane Glaser, an Alexandria-based nutritionist. "After a few hours of shopping, a lot of people are starving so they decide to hit the food court," she cautioned. "First, eat a healthy and filling snack before you go shopping and pack some healthy snacks to eat while you're shopping."

Keeping a food journal, weighing yourself frequently and trying on a slim-fitting outfit at least once a week to ensure you can still wear it comfortably are other tools Glaser recommends in the battle against holiday bulge.

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Toys are accepted every Friday-Sunday at the first Alexandria's Holiday Market starting Dec. 5 at 300 John Carlyle Street and at many locations within Alexandria THROUGH December 19. For a complete list of participating partners visit www.VolunteerAlexandria.org and click on Holiday Sharing. **THANK YOU** very much for your support!

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Contact us at mail@volunteeralexandria.org or 703-836-2176
www.VolunteerAlexandria.org

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The Long & Foster "Giving Tree" program began 24 years ago by the Agents of the Alexandria Old Town office. This program is our way of giving back to the Alexandria Community. Each year the Alexandria Public Schools are requested to identify a number of families in their system that are in great need and a Holiday Wish List is provided for each child. Contributions consist of toys, games, books, clothing, and monetary donations to provide food certificates for the family.

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Mary Bourke 703.906.5825
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Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764
ALEXANDRIA / Carlyle Towers \$ 424,900 OPEN SUN. 1 - 4

2181 JAMIESON AVE #604 Move In Ready - largest 1 BR/sitting area with floor to ceiling windows. Enclosed balcony off living room, separate dining, neutral kitchen, upgraded carpet/pedding. Ample closets/1 storage unit. Garage parking. www.brianandjerry.com



Laura Biederman 202.309.1350
HERNDON \$ 450,000

Renovated oversized kitchen with granite/stainless and baths. Come by for another look at this brick front townhome backing to woods. Spacious dining area, light/bright living room with fireplace and sliding glass door to deck. Finished basement. Near 267 + Silver Line Metro.



Cindy Nelson 703.965.7562
VIENNA \$ 675,000

Delightful 4BR/2.5BA sited on a cul-de-sac. 23 acre lot with mature trees. Amazing 2 level deck, patio, shed, newer siding, windows. Hardwoods thru-out ML. Eat-in kitchen with newer appliances, granite. Neutral paint. Steps to W&OD trail, schools, shops.



Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764
ALEXANDRIA / Old Town \$ 545,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

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Ann Logsdon & Emily Capelli 703.568.8433
FAIRFAX CITY \$ 398,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

10328 SAGER AVE, #312 Rarely available 1BR/1den in Providence Square. Light, bright unit features open floor plan, custom plantation shutters, fully equipped kitchen with granite counters and low, low utilities. 2 garage spaces convey.



Mary Taylor 703.785.5619
ALEXANDRIA / Old Town \$ 565,000 OPEN SUNDAY 12 - 2

1443 DUKE ST Charming 2BR townhome with original pine hardwoods, beautiful architectural detailed moldings thru-out. Gas fireplace in living room, spacious dining room and kitchen, with granite, opens to brick patio. Short walk to Metro and Whole Foods.



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739
ALEXANDRIA / Canal Place \$ 389,900

Rarely available 2BR/1BA condo in pristine condition just 1 block from the Potomac. Hardwoods thru-out, new kitchen with SSA and breakfast bar. Updated bath, newer HWH, windows. Great location with serene views. Walk to Metro, shops, eateries / 1 light to Reagan.



Anne Hambley 703.946.7266
ALEXANDRIA / Old Town \$ 759,900

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ENTERTAINMENT



Michael Sharp, Peter Boyer, and Tracey Stephens play all the characters in “A Broadway Carol.”



Peter Boyer (Scrooge) and the Cratchits (Tracey Stephens and Michael Sharp) in MetroStage’s Annual “A Broadway Carol.”

PHOTOS BY COLIN HOVDE

‘A Broadway Christmas Carol’

Holiday tradition returns to MetroStage.

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
METROSTAGE PRODUCING
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Five years ago it was decided that MetroStage needed to establish a holiday tradition. “A Christmas Carol” was taken (Ford’s Theatre). “Nutcracker” with major New York companies and the Washington Ballet was already booked. So “A Broadway Christmas Carol,” originally developed at Round House Theatre in Silver Spring and running for seven sold out seasons until 2004, seemed the perfect choice. A small cast, a musical featuring Broadway show tunes, a classic story with a twist and ultimately a very funny play with a heart and a

soul and a lot of silliness and madcap antics seemed to be the perfect way for this theatre to usher in the holidays.

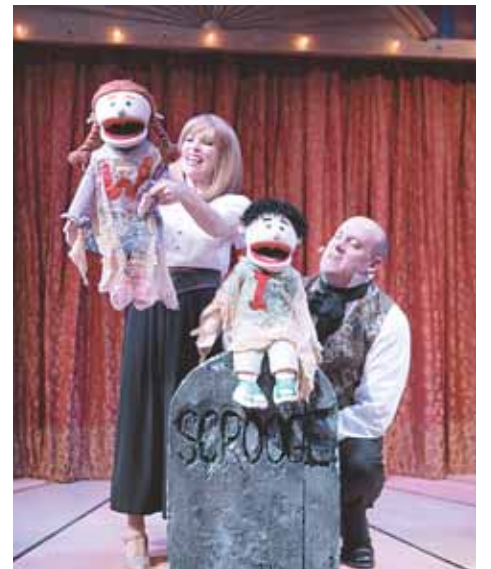
In its fifth season at MetroStage, “A Broadway Christmas Carol” is definitely a certifiable, indisputable tradition. Patrons return every year introducing more friends and family to this alternative holiday entertainment. Adults love identifying the 34 Broadway shows represented in the score (there is a cheat sheet in the lobby for after the show in case you couldn’t identify a song or two) and children can enjoy it on a completely different level given the fast paced rollicking fun and lightning fast costume/character changes. One young man declared it “awesome” as he came out to the lobby at intermission last weekend.

This is a holiday entertainment that is wickedly funny and captures the heightened



Tracey Stephens returns as Bob Marley (in the body of Mae West).

spirit of the holidays while at the same time telling a story with a very serious message of love, kindness, and generosity among family and friends, and an old miser’s ultimate redemption. And it is told (and sung) by some of the best vocal talents in the area and played by one of the best pianists in the business. The combination of comedy and storytelling performed by exceptionally talented actors with incredible vocal ranges



Want (Tracey Stephens) and Ignorance (Michael Sharp).

will prove the talent, the comic timing, and the exceptional vocal prowess of this cast. A little something new is added to the script every year, and this year is no exception.

If you know one Broadway tune or hundreds, your spirits will soar and you will be primed and ready to take on the holidays after spending a few hours at MetroStage with the Crachits, Fezziwigs, Belle, Fred, Marley and the rest of the Dickens’ gang.

NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER

CALENDAR

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Mount Vernon Virtual Tour.

Website users can now transport themselves to George Washington’s Mount Vernon in a click of a mouse or touch of a screen through a new virtual tour. Featuring 29, 360-degree panoramic images, more than 200 points of interest, and dozens of in-depth videos highlighting architectural details, objects and anecdotes, the tour recreates the

experience of being at the estate in an unparalleled way.

www.mountvernon.org/virtualtour

Tavern Toddlers. Weekly open playtime continues every Monday throughout holiday season. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, North Royal Street, Alexandria. Caregivers, toddlers (walkers through 3 years) and visiting relatives are welcome to play, read, dance and color in the historic ballroom. No reservations required. Each week costs \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, and additional people are \$3. A three-visit pass costs \$18. On Monday, Feb. 16 Tavern Toddlers will be closed due to President’s Day. www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-746-4242

Art Exhibit. Through Jan. 2 at 1717 King St. and 300 S. Washington St. BB&T Bank hosts an exhibition of portraits of African American and women Living Legends of Alexandria at its Old Town branches. Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com.

“Beyond the Board” Art Exhibit.

Through Feb. 22. Prudential PenFed Realty, 4900 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans’ presents “Beyond the Board.” A portion of artists’ sales go to the PenFed Foundation, supporting active military families, veterans and their families. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/shows/gww/ for more.

New Exhibit. Mount Vernon invites

visitors to explore George Washington’s design for the grounds of his estate, through a new exhibition, “Gardens & Groves: George Washington’s Landscape” at Mount Vernon through Jan. 12, 2016. Gardens & Groves is the first museum exhibition to focus specifically on Washington’s landmark achievements as a landscape designer combining rarely-seen original documents, artwork, and books with period garden tools, landscape photography, and a scale model of the Mount Vernon estate. Included in admission \$18/adult; \$17/senior citizen; \$9/child age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Alexandria Cars & Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at

Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina’s, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

George Washington’s Mount

Vernon has joined Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello and James Madison’s Montpelier to expand the “Presidents Passport,” Virginia’s premier presidential trail. As an added bonus to this year’s program, visitors to the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King St. showing or purchasing a ticket to any of the three presidential estates will, upon request, receive for free Alexandria’s “Key to the City” pass, which grants access into nine historic sites and

ENTERTAINMENT

museums in Alexandria—a \$26 added value. Visit www.PresPassport.Monticello.org.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon to 5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum 4301 West Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Dinner for the Washingtons. Noon at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/ for more.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

WEDNESDAY/NOV.26-SUNDAY/DEC.28

Broadway Christmas Carol. Runs through Dec. 28 at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Enjoy the show Wednesday-Thursday, 8 p.m., Fridays, 8 p.m., Saturdays, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50. Visit www.metrostage.org for more.

DECEMBER

Tree Sale. Weekends through December, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Enjoy music, warm drinks and cookies by the fire, while surrounded by frasier fir trees. Sales benefit of community outreach programs and local schools. Choose to have 10 percent of the sale amount go to St. Aidan's Day School or a local, public elementary school. St Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28 -TUESDAY/JAN. 6

Christmas in Mount Vernon. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 3200 Mount Vernon

Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon decks the halls with themed Christmas trees on the estate and festive greenery in the Mansion. Visit www.mountvernon.org/christmas for more.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3-MONDAY, JAN. 5

"Friend Me" Exhibit. Through Monday, Jan. 5. Opening reception Thursday Dec. 11, 6:30-8 p.m. The Art League Gallery, Studio 21, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Jeweler Whitney Staiger melds together her friends' public avatar with an aspect of their private selves on her handmade brass cameos in a solo exhibit. www.theartleague.org 703-683-1780.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

Live Music. 7:30 at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone perform. \$45.00. Visit peternoone.com or www.Birchmere.com for more.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC.4-6

Sleepy Thompson Basketball Tournament. Thursday-Saturday, 3 - 9 p.m. at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. This longstanding tournament matches boys varsity teams from eight schools for three days of high school basketball. Visit www.sssas.org for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 5-6

Live Music: Dar Williams. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 23



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Women's Holiday Art Market

Sunday, Dec. 7 from 1-5 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St. Wrap up your holiday shopping early, courtesy of the Friends of the Alexandria Commission for Women. Select from an outstanding array of handcrafted gifts created just for you, by over 40 local female artisans. Jewelry, pottery, scarves, purses, clothing, paintings, photography, canine treats, and more, will be available at this benefit for the programs supported by the Friends of the Alexandria Commission for Women and the Commission for Women. Gift cards for the Operation Elf program would be welcome. Free – includes light refreshments, wine for adults and an elegant raffle. Call 703-746-3132 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/AlexHolidayMarket>.

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Special Holiday Menu includes:

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LTA Stages 'A Christmas Carol'

Charles Dickens' classic story to run from Dec. 5-20.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol," from Dec. 5-20. The story follows Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, who travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present and future to find the true meaning of the holiday. Complete with special effects, Victorian carols and Tiny Tim, "A Christmas Carol" is a must-see for the entire family.

Director Rachel Hubbard said the play is near and dear to her heart, and her goal was to convey the timeless message of this well-loved classic. "Each of us has the opportunity to be redeemed from a life of inward focus to one of outward focus," she said. "We, like Scrooge, may pause to reflect on past happiness, consider for a moment those less fortunate than we, and determine to become more charitable, caring, and socially conscious in the year ahead."

She added, "I would be delighted if the audience, while enjoying 'A Christmas Carol,' allows themselves a moment for personal reflection on the glorious memories of Christmases past, the joys that can be found in the present, and the optimism for a better and brighter future."

Producer Eddy Roger Parker said "A Christmas Carol" has become sort of a tradition at LTA, and for many people it is a family tradition. He said the play's central message centers on redemption and hope. "And that is something we all need to hear especially these days," he said.

Parker, who is co-producing along with Jayn Rife, said "I wanted to help tell that story." The underlying message of the play, he added, is "that there are two roads that we can go by but it's never too late to change the one we're on."

Mike Baker Jr., who plays the role of



Robert Heinly (Marley) and Michael Baker (Scrooge) star in LTA's "A Christmas Carol."

Scrooge, said that having done the "Musical Scrooge" at LTA before, he was able to act and sing as a means of portraying the complexities of this character. "The ghosts are the equivalent of today's therapists," he said. "They help [Scrooge] make sense of who he is. It is never too late to change, counsels Marley, and I agree."

He said, "If just one audience member opens his or her heart freely, then the 17 performances were worth it for me."

Melanie Bales plays the role of Mrs. Cratchit, a woman devoted to her husband and family, and determined to see the good in those around her.

"However, when confronted with the attitudes of her husband's employer, Ebenezer Scrooge, she is utterly dismayed," said Bales. "She cannot comprehend that someone could actually be so miserably awful to others."

She added, "She truly admires Bob Cratchit's ability to work under those conditions for so many years and seeks to make up for his unpleasant work environment with a happy, loving home life."

Ben Gossart, who plays the role of Peter Cratchit, one of the older more responsible children, said, "This is a very feel-good show, and I hope that this show truly brings out the Christmas spirit in everyone."



John Shackelford (Gentleman One) stars in LTA's production of "A Christmas Carol."

He said that a challenge of working on "A Christmas Carol" is finding the perfect chemistry between the adult and child actors. "It's a little weird for us kids at first, but eventually you throw yourself into it and it becomes very natural."

Eva Gary plays the role of the Spirit of Christmas, a sort of bridge from the year 2014 to the 1840s. "I hope the audiences will come away from the play feeling 'glad tidings of comfort and joy,'" she said. "I hope the play helps them to let go of the stress that the holiday season can sometimes bring and embrace the warm generosity of Christmas."

John Dabeck, who plays the dual roles of Dick Wilkins and Alfred Topper, said, "My characters are both fun loving and kind. Dick is more of a family man whose focus is to support his family and make them happy."

He also said, "I hope the audience really enjoys the show and takes away a sense of love and Christmas spirit. We've all worked really hard and the greatest payment would be to have families come in, see the show, and leave with a sense of happiness and joy from the world we brought them."

Larry Grey plays the role of Mr. Fezziwig — a happy, foppish man, with a love of family and friends, and sense of fun and fair-



John Dabeck (Topper) and Clare Baker (Lillian) star in LTA's production of "A Christmas Carol."

ness. "When the Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge to revisit his youthful days, he is taken back into Fezziwig's world."

He added, "Fezziwig is also a capitalist, but he moderates profit maximization with kindness, generosity, and affection for his employees ... Everything he does is motivated by his love of people and desire to make the dark world of the times a little brighter."

Grey said that the final encounter with the Ghost of the Future showed Scrooge that in order for others to care about someone, that person must first care about others. "That is the message I hope the audience gets," he said. "Life must be lived, and lived for others."

Penelope Gallagher, who plays the role of Fan, Scrooge's little sister, said: "I hope that audiences find the show reminds them of the true spirit of Christmas — being kind to people, loving your family, and just being a good person."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria, is staging "A Christmas Carol" from Dec. 5-20, 2014. The show runs Thursdays-Fridays at 8 p.m.; with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3 and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 703-683-0496 or visit thelittletheatre.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT



GAZETTE PACKET FILE PHOTOS

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



Children gather close to the stage during the singing of holiday songs led by The Rainbow Lady Kate Moran at Del Ray's 2013 holiday celebration.

Del Ray Lights Up for the Holidays

The annual Holiday on the Avenue will take place on Saturday, Dec. 6. 6-9 p.m. Discover the holiday spirit with a visit to Del Ray for the annual holiday tree lighting and a special appearance by Santa Claus, who will lead carols and sit for photos with children. The celebration continues with an evening stroll down Mount Vernon Avenue, which will be illuminated by thousands of candles called "luminarias." In the true spirit of the holidays, the community will be collecting items such as canned goods, diapers and towels for the Carpenter's Homeless Shelter. Visit www.visitdelray.com for more.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 19

Vernon Ave. Dar Williams, honoring the 20th Anniversary of "The Honesty Room." \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or www.darwilliams.com.

Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend & Parade, 9 a.m. onwards at Campagna Center, 418 South Washington St., Alexandria. Tour historic Old Town homes decorated for the season, wander through a marketplace full of unique seasonal gifts, purchase greenery for your holiday decorations, enjoy fine Scotch at the Taste of Scotland, and take in the sights and sounds of the unique Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Proceeds will benefit educational programs that provide vital pre-K education, after school programs, tutoring and mentoring, family support services and English classes, all serving 1,700 Alexandrians daily. For schedule of events and to purchase tickets visit www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Scottish Walk Parade, 11 a.m. Old Town Alexandria, parade begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets. More than 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, reenactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march through the streets of Old Town. Visit www.campagnacenter.org/events/scottish-christmas-walk-weekend or www.visitalexandriava.com/events/44th-Annual-Campagna-Center-Scottish-Walk-Parade/983

A Soldier's Christmas at Carlyle House, Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. The Christmas event will feature reenactors from the First Virginia Regiment, as well as costumed interpreters from historic Carlyle House who will highlight colonial life in Alexandria during the holidays at the time of the American Revolution. Visit carlylehouse.org.
Holiday Open House, 4-7 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. During the Torpedo

Factory Art Center's Holiday Open House, artists will keep their studios open late for visitors to find handmade gifts. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Boat Parade, 5:30 p.m. near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Enjoy the 15th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/holidays for more.

Holiday on the Avenue, 6-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon and E. Oxford avenues. Discover the holiday spirit with a visit to Del Ray for the annual holiday tree lighting and a special appearance by Santa Claus, who will lead carols and sit for photos with children. Visit www.visitdelray.com for more.

Holiday Concert, 7 p.m. Convergence, 180 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Exciting holiday concert featuring the Alexandria and George Mason University Potomac Arts Academy Encore Chorales. Free. www.encorecreativity.org

Dance in the Gallery: A Demonstration of Scottish Country Dancing, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Northern Virginia branch, presents a demonstration of social dancing of Scotland. www.nvfaa.org

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Nutcracker in a Nutshell, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites, Old Town Alexandria. Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria and Lorton will present their pint-sized, 30-minute version of the Nutcracker for younger audiences, along with a breakfast. Tickets are \$38 for children, 10 and younger, and \$48 for adults. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org for tickets.

Music in the Gallery, 2 p.m. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. The Mount Vernon Flutes perform holiday classics. www.nvfaa.org

Holiday Concert, 3 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Celebrate the holiday season as Washington Metropolitan

Philharmonic, Maestro Ulysses James and the NOVA Community Chorus directed by Dr. Mark Whitmire join forces to present Holst's charming and festive fantasy of well-known carols. Contact 703-998-6260.

"Advent Cantata," 4 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. Presented by New Dominion Chorale, works by Benjamin Britten and Thomas Beveridge. General admission \$30; \$25 seniors; \$5 students, children; \$20 groups of 10 or more. Free parking. Call Margaret Volpe at 703-442-9404, visit www.newdominion.org or email info@westernpresbyterian.org.

MONDAY-TUESDAY/DEC. 8-9

Musical Audition, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Audition to be a Beverly Hillbilly. Children ages 13-18 are welcome to audition. Visit www.mvcc.org for more.

MONDAY/DEC. 8

A Peter White Christmas, 7:30 p.m. The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$49.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9-10

Live Music: Aaron Neville, 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Christmas with Aaron Neville. \$59.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

TUESDAY/DEC. 9

Santa Will Visit, 1-3 p.m. at CVS, 1636 Belle View Blvd, Alexandria. Guests will receive a free photograph with Santa and goodies. Call 703-768-7044 for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 11

"Friend Me" Opening Reception, 6:30-8 p.m. The Art League Gallery, Studio 21, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Jeweler Whitney Staiger

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ENTERTAINMENT



Scouts from Troop 600 at Stratford Landing Elementary School carry the lead banner for the Campagna Center in the 2013 Scottish Walk parade on Saturday morning.



Gadsby Tavern Museum Society member Danny Smith appears as Father Christmas in Gadsby Square during the 2013 Scottish Walk festivities.

44th Scottish Walk

The Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., partners with the Campagna Center and the City of Alexandria to host the annual parade. The iconic Scottish Christmas Walk Parade takes place on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 11 a.m., when more than 45 Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans will parade through the streets of Old Town, joined by pipe and drum bands from around the region, as well as terriers and hounds. More events Friday and Saturday include a Taste of Scotland (Dec. 5), Deck the Halls with Santa (Dec. 5), Heather and Greens sale (Dec. 5-6), Holiday Marketplace (Dec. 6) and the Campagna Center's Holiday Designer Tour of Homes (Dec. 6). Free for parade, holiday marketplace and heather & green sales; \$110-290 or Taste of Scotland; \$35 for Designer Tour of Homes; \$20-\$35 for Deck the Halls with Santa. Visit www.scottishchristmaswalk.com for more.



A group of Scottish Highland dancers practice their dance steps before heading off down the 2013 parade route with the Washington Scottish Pipe Band of the St. Andrew's Society of Washington.

GAZETTE PACKET FILE PHOTOS

melds together her friends' public avatar with an aspect of their private selves on her handmade brass cameos in her first solo exhibit. Exhibit runs through Monday, Jan. 5. www.theheartleague.org 703-683-1780.

Whiskey Store Tour 2014. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Featuring Tab Benoit with Tommy Castro and Samantha Fish. Tickets \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Second Thursday Live: The Aloha Boys. 7 p.m. Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. \$10 admission. The Aloha Boys have played Carnegie Hall, The Birchmere and The Kennedy Center. They bring the warm aloha spirit on a cold day. www.nvfaa.org

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 13-14

Historical Candlelight Tour. Saturday, 6-9 p.m. and Sunday, 3-6

p.m. at various locations in Old Town. This holiday event blends chocolate and history through special tastings, seasonal decorations, period music and tours highlighting chocolate through time. Visit www.historicalexandria.org for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

Civil War Christmas. Noon-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Visitors will meet a Civil War-era Santa at this family-fun holiday event exploring how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. Visit apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar.

Holiday Concert. 8 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org for more.

Annual Tree Trim. 2-5 p.m. at The Gum Springs Historical Museum, 8100 Fordson Road, Alexandria. The public is invited to this annual tree

trim. Call 703-619-6967 for more.

Nutcracker in a Nutshell. 3 and 7:30 p.m. Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. A condensed version of the classic holiday ballet performed by The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to any of the performances for the U.S. Marine's Toys for Tots program. Tickets are \$25 and are available in advance at www.thecenterforballetarts.com or 703-273-5344. Tickets will also be available at the door.

SUNDAY/DEC. 14

Colonial Favorites. 2-4 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Colonial English Handbell Ringers will return with their annual concert at the Lyceum, featuring a group of 12 performers. Visit

www.alexandriahistory.org for more.

TUESDAY/DEC. 16

Chocolate Class. 12:45 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Learn how chocolate goes from cocoa bean to beverage in the 18th century. Participants will participate in the process and taste a final product. Tickets are \$8 per child. Call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 19

Carbon Leaf. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 20

Kwanzaa Celebration. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. The

museum's annual program explores the history and significance of Kwanzaa. Learn about the principles of Kwanzaa, a seven-day cultural celebration. Tickets are \$5. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org for more.

Art at the Center. 5-7 p.m. at 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Enjoy light painting. Bring a book or toy to donate to Rising Hope. Call 703-201-1250 or visit www.artatthecenter.org for more.

Christmas Illuminations. 5:30-9 p.m. Sip hot chocolate while watching fireworks over the Potomac. Advance ticket purchase is suggested. Tickets are \$30 adults, \$20 youth (6-11), children five and under are free. Visit MountVernon.org for more.

Orchestra. 7 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic Memorial Theatre, 611 King St. The Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia presents "Holidays in Paris." Visit www.sonovamusic.org for more.

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HOME SALES

In October 2014, 186 Alexandria homes sold between \$2,700,000-\$118,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$2,700,000-\$425,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price ...	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision
700 PITT ST S	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,700,000	Townhouse	0.22	22314	OLD TOWN
208 SAINT ASAPH ST S	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,535,000	Detached	0.12	22314	OLD TOWN
407 PRINCE ST	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,150,000	Townhouse	0.09	22314	OLD TOWN
201 DUKE ST	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,750,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	OLD TOWN
125 QUEEN ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,375,000	Townhouse	0.04	22314	BRANDT TOWNHOUSE
1250 WASHINGTON ST S #711	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,355,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22314	PORTO VECCHIO
12 ROSEMONT AVE W	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,275,000	Detached	0.15	22301	ROSEMONT
2504 CREST ST	5	5	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,275,000	Detached	0.25	22302	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
1306 JANNEYS LN	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,125,000	Detached	0.77	22302	JANNEYS LANE
226 UNION ST N	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,100,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	QUEENS ROW
2512 DEWITT AVE	5	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,075,000	Detached	0.18	22301	ABINGDON
602 BATTERY PL	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,050,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	FORDS LANDING
512 FONTAINE ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,000,000	Detached	0.17	22302	JEFFERSON PARK
908 FIRST ST N #DUNCAN	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$997,652	Townhouse	0.00	22314	OLD TOWN COMMONS
151/2 SPRING ST W	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$985,000	Detached	0.10	22301	TEMPLE PARK
1220 PRINCE ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$985,000	Townhouse	0.05	22314	OLD TOWN
411 PITT MEWS	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$950,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	PITT MEWS
902 GREEN ST	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$898,560	Townhouse	0.08	22314	HUNTING CREEK
706 IYLES LN	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$890,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	POTOMAC GREENS
733 ANNIE ROSE AVE	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$881,500	Townhouse	0.04	22301	POTOMAC YARD
1511 PORTNER RD	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$859,000	Townhouse		22314	OLD TOWN COURT
833 ALFRED ST N	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$850,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	OLD TOWN COMMONS
904 OVERLOOK DR N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$835,000	Detached	0.15	22305	BEVERLEY HILLS
1720 CARPENTER RD	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$830,000	Townhouse	0.02	22314	POTOMAC GREENS
1707 CRESTWOOD DR	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$825,000	Detached	0.13	22302	DYES OAKCREST
311 QUEEN ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$825,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	OLD TOWN
717 ANNIE ROSE AVE	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$820,000	Townhouse	0.04	22301	POTOMAC YARDS
710 N OVERLOOK DR	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$820,000	Detached	0.16	22305	BEVERLEY HILLS
917 CRESTWOOD DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$795,000	Detached	0.22	22302	BEVERLEY ESTATES
305 CLOVERWAY DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$788,000	Detached	0.21	22314	CLOVER
314 HEARTHSTONE MEWS	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$780,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	HEARTHSTONE
3547 GODDARD WAY	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$765,000	Townhouse	0.04	22304	QUAKER RIDGE
804 GRAND VIEW DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$757,500	Detached	0.16	22305	BEVERLEY HILLS
20 E. WINDSOR AVE	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$755,000	Detached	0.13	22301	DEL RAY
3507 OLD DOMINION BLVD	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$730,000	Detached	0.16	22305	BEVERLY HILLS
266 MURTHA ST	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$725,000	Townhouse	0.03	22304	CAMERON STATION
250 MURTHA ST	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$725,000	Townhouse	0.04	22304	CAMERON STATION
506 HIGHLAND PL	2	1	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$710,000	Detached	0.12	22301	GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK
2700 VALLEY DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$710,000	Detached	0.15	22302	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
3337 KING ST	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$699,000	Detached	0.28	22302	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
105 HOWELL AVE E	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$695,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.07	22301	DEL RAY
600 SECOND ST #304	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$695,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	LIBERTY ROW
828 SLATERS LN #104	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$685,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	OLD TOWN CRESCENT
173 CAMERON STATION BLVD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$682,500	Townhouse	0.03	22304	CAMERON STATION
208 CLIFFORD AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$675,000	Detached	0.10	22305	EMMA P HUME
806 PARKWAY TER	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$670,000	Detached	0.20	22302	TIMBER BRANCH PARK
4 LINDEN ST E	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$655,000	Townhouse	0.08	22301	ROSEMONT
65 ARELL CT	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$645,500	Townhouse	0.05	22304	QUAKER VILLAGE
921 COLUMBUS ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$640,000	Townhouse	0.06	22314	HUNTING CREEK
540 SECOND ST #204	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$635,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	LIBERTY ROW
2418 SANFORD ST	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$619,900	Detached	0.18	22301	GROVES
5060 GRIMM DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$605,500	Townhouse	0.03	22304	CAMERON STATION
807 SECOND ST	3	1	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$605,000	Townhouse	0.04	22314	VIRGINIA VILLAGE
2207 MAIN LINE BLVD #101	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$604,000	Attach/Row Hse		22301	POTOMAC YARD
1122 POWHATAN ST	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$603,500	Townhouse	0.06	22314	OLD TOWN
2121 JAMIESON AVE #2101	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$600,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22314	CARLYLE TOWERS
1135 COLONIAL AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$595,000	Townhouse	0.03	22314	WESTOVER
113 MARTIN LN	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$594,000	Townhouse	0.04	22304	CAMERON STATION
5044 GRIMM DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$593,500	Townhouse	0.03	22304	CAMERON STATION
5460 FILLMORE AVE	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$590,000	Detached	0.43	22311	SHIRLEY FOREST
35 MOUNT VERNON AVE	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$585,000	Townhouse	0.05	22301	ROSEMONT
662 S COLUMBUS ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$582,000	Townhouse		22314	WASHINGTON SQUARE
2114 EARLY ST N	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$579,900	Detached	0.18	22302	BRAD LEE HOMES
4656 KINSEY LN	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$578,500	Townhouse	0.05	22311	STONEGATE
3016 BRYAN ST	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$570,000	Detached	0.19	22302	PARK RIDGE
532 NELSON AVE E	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$569,990	Townhouse	0.07	22301	LINDEN GARDENS
910 POWHATAN ST #303S	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$568,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	900 N WASHINGTONST CONDO
401 STANTON PL	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$565,000	Townhouse	0.04	22304	EDSALL RD T/H
1023 PITT ST N	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$563,000	Townhouse		22314	WATERGATE OF ALEXANDRIA
209 PAYNE ST	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$561,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.02	22314	OLD TOWN
1218 QUAKER HILL DR	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$557,900	Townhouse	0.04	22314	QUAKER HILL
621 SAINT ASAPH ST N #109	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$555,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	PORTNER HOUSE
6009 NAGY PL	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$553,000	Detached	0.28	22312	LINCOLNIA HILLS
4604 STRATHBLANE PL	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$548,500	Detached	0.19	22304	SEMINARY VALLEY
327A ASHBY ST	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$546,500	Duplex	0.06	22305	DEL RAY
1602B HUNTING CREEK DR #B	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Townhouse		22314	OLD TOWN GREENS
511 LURAY AVE E	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$535,000	Townhouse	0.04	22301	DEL RAY
41 ANCELL ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$535,000	Townhouse	0.05	22305	WARWICK VILLAGE
1115 CAMERON ST #215	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$535,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	THE PRESCOTT
2913 SYCAMORE ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$527,100	Townhouse	0.04	22305	WARWICK VILLAGE
318 E. BELLEFONTE AVE	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$525,000	Duplex	0.10	22301	DEL RAY
2943 HICKORY ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$525,000	Townhouse	0.04	22305	WARWICK VILLAGE
1003 BASHFORD LN	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$525,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.03	22314	WESTOVER
2151 JAMIESON AVE #1008	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$520,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22314	CARLYLE TOWERS
218 ELLSWORTH ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$516,000	Townhouse	0.04	22314	QUAKER HILL
466 GLEBE RD W	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$514,000	Townhouse	0.03	22305	BEVERLY HILLS MANOR
19A WINDSOR AVE E	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.07	22301	DEL RAY
2915 LANDOVER ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.04	22305	WARWICK VILLAGE
2940 SYCAMORE ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.06	22305	WARWICK VILLAGE
1235 PORTNER RD	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.01	22314	VIRGINIA VILLAGE
624 PAYNE ST S	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.05	22314	JEFFERSON HOMES
2181 JAMIESON AVE #1206	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$507,500	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22314	CARLYLE TOWERS
102 GREINA GREEN CT	2	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$499,000	Townhouse		22304	BRIGADOON
506 BELLEFONTE AVE E	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$496,000	Duplex	0.07	22301	DEL RAY
419 CAMERON STATION BLVD	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$492,000	Townhouse		22304	CAMERON STATION
5814 PEARSON LN	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$487,500	Townhouse	0.03	22304	SUMMERS GROVE
1800 CLIFF ST	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$480,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.06	22301	DAVIS TRACT
2121 JAMIESON AVE #404	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$479,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22314	CARLYLE TOWERS
1250 WASHINGTON ST S #507	1	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$465,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22314	PORTO VECCHIO
27 CARRIAGE HOUSE CIR	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$464,000	Townhouse	0.03	22304	COLONIAL HEIGHTS
613 ARMISTEAD ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$453,000	Townhouse		22312	BEAUREGARD HEIGHTS
621 SAINT ASAPH ST #304	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$450,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22314	PORTNER HOUSE
5014 BARBOUR DR #221	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$449,000	Townhouse		22304	CAMERON STATION
690 ARMISTEAD ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$445,000	Townhouse		22312	BEAUREGARD HEIGHTS
154 INGLE PL	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$444,500	Townhouse	0.05	22304	DUKE STREET SQUARE
2308 SIBLEY ST	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$434,000	Townhouse	0.05	22311	WESTRIDGE OF ALEXANDRIA
1304 ROUNDHOUSE LN #502	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$425,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22314	OLD TOWN VILLAGE

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Keller Williams Old Town preparing holiday meals.



Volunteer Alexandria and Senior Services team to deliver emergency backpacks to seniors.

Brightening Start of Holiday Season for Seniors

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

The holiday season can be a lonely time, especially for seniors who may not have a local support system of family and friends. With this in mind, Senior Services of Alexandria came up with several community projects during Thanksgiving week which were designed to provide a sense of security and well-being. Our Meals on Wheels volunteers and partnerships with other local non-profits and businesses helped make the start of the holiday season brighter for more than 500 Alexandria residents.

SSA began the week by working with Volunteer Alexandria to deliver 80 emergency preparedness backpacks to Meals on Wheels clients, and our volunteers also

shared helpful tips on how to get ready for an unexpected crisis. Thanks to the generosity of an SSA Board member, the Old Town Keller Williams Realty team was able to expand the number of complete Thanksgiving meals delivered on Tuesday to low-income families in our city. SSA was proud to be able to support this community-wide effort. And even though local government offices were closed on Thursday and Friday, SSA's volunteers delivered a traditional holiday meal on Thursday and a special lasagna dinner on Friday to all of Alexandria's Meals on Wheels clients. These special meals were made possible through the generosity of the Ron Bradley Foundation. The seniors also received handmade holiday greeting cards created by students from Burgundy Farm Country Day School, whose middle schoolers deliver meals on a regular basis.

All it takes are groups working together to make a difference in people's lives during this holiday period, and all year round.



SSA's volunteers deliver holiday meals to Alexandria seniors.

If you would like to help serve Alexandria's senior community, you can find out more

about volunteering at SSA's website: www.seniorservicesalex.org or by calling 703-836 4414 ext 10.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bows, Baskets and Bikes

The Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association held its third annual Bows, Baskets and Bikes event Nov. 20, bringing together area event planners and hotel partners to help build bicycles for needy families and announcing its new partnership with Volunteer Alexandria. Held in the auditorium of Historic Christ Church, the bike building program is one of many community service projects now available to meeting delegates through the ACVA and VA partnership. For more information, call 703-652-5369 or visit www.MeetAlexandriaVA.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

Reserve Toys for Tots Program. Call 703-660-0100 for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

Workforce Investment Board. 8 a.m. Arlington Employment Center. Contact Dennis McKinney, 703-746-5874.

Alexandria Transit Company Board. 5:30 p.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Contact Alexis Quinn, 703-746-5637.

Alexandria Community Services Board. 6:30 p.m. William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center Contact Donielle Marshall, donielle.marshall@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-3523.

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee. 7 p.m. City Hall, Room 2000, 301 King St. Contact Mildrilyn Davis, 703-746-4990.

Commission for Women-Executive Committee. 7:30 p.m. Dos Amigos Restaurant. Contact Lisa Baker, 703-746-5030.

Making Memories: Card Marking Extravaganza, 6:30 p.m. at Cora Kelly Elementary, 3600 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Through a variety of crafty techniques, families will spend quality time together making cards to share with others. A light dinner, childcare and interpreter services are provided free with registration. www.acps.k12.va.us/face-centers/

"Finding the Balance: Designing Budgets

with Diversified Funding Sources." 9-10:30 a.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts invites nonprofit organizations to attend a free workshop. Reservations are required. Call the Office of the Arts at 703-746-5588. See www.alexandriava.gov/Arts for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Foster Parent Orientation. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions and explain the requirements to foster and/or adopt. Call 703-746-5858 for more.

School Open House. 2-4 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit www.burgundyfarm.org for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

The Christ Child Project. Historic Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria. Food elves needed for the Ingathering of Gifts. To volunteer email Carolyn Carbaugh at cscarbaugh@verizon.net or call 301-292-2102. Visit www.HistoricChristChurch.org.



More than 5,000 runners registered for the annual Turkey Trot in Alexandria.

Thousands Turn Out for 2014 Turkey Trot



Marathon runner Michael Wardian arrives with his dog Rosie to run in the annual race.

Two days out from Thanksgiving, more than 5,000 people had registered for the annual Turkey Trot in Alexandria. This year, Susanna Sullivan set a new women's course record of 27:12. Emily Harrison had held the record since 2011 with her time of 27:14. Colin Leibold came in first overall in 24:32. Leibold was followed in seconds by Baisa Moleta, Dere Deme, Girma Bekele and Kieran O'Connor. The 2014 grand marshal was George Washington Middle School and T.C. Williams graduate Chip Puskar. Race sponsors included Jen Walker Realtor, Jack Taylor Toyota, R&B Inc., Browne Academy, Bisoux Salon, St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, Carney, Alexandria Pet Care, Paws Go, John Reynolds, The Mobile Pages, Mind the Mat/Pilates and Yoga, Alexandria Bavarian Services, Brandt Ramsey & Associates, Baby Love Disco, Bubble Laundromat, Del Ray Artisans, Alexandria Hyundai, Larabar, Hadeed Carpets, HSBC, Alexandria First Church of Christ Scientist, Del Ray Pizzeria, The Neighborhood Pharmacy, Evening Star Café, Total Environmental Concepts and Friends of Duncan Library.



The Puskar clan begins gathering before the annual Turkey Trot on Mt. Vernon Avenue. Pictured are: Keith Simpson, Connor Simpson, Mia Simpson, Stacy (Puskar) Simpson, Cathy Puskar, 2014 Turkey Trot grand marshal Chip Puskar (aka Charles Esten aka Deacon Claybourne), Cynthia Puskar, Chase Puskar, Taylor Puskar and a photobombing turkey.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
GAZETTE PACKET

SPORTS BRIEFS



PHOTO BY PHOTORUNNET

T.C. Williams senior Anteneh Girma qualified for Foot Locker nationals with a sixth-place finish at the South regional meet on Nov. 29 in Charlotte.

TC Senior Girma Qualifies for Foot Locker Nationals

As the competition gets stronger, T.C. Williams harrier Anteneh Girma continues to turn in top-10 caliber performances.

This time, the Titan senior earned a trip to San Diego.

Girma placed sixth with a time of 14:59 at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships South regional meet on Nov. 29 in Charlotte, N.C. The top-10 finish earned Girma a spot in the national meet on Dec. 13 in San Diego.

Girma's postseason run started with a fourth-place finish at the Conference 7 meet on Oct. 30 at Burke Lake Park. The Titan boys also placed fourth as a team, earning a spot at regionals.

At the 6A North region meet on Nov. 5,

Girma turned in a top-20 time in the history of Burke Lake, placing second with a time of 14:50.

Girma ran with the leaders early in the 6A boys' race at the VHSL state meet on Nov. 15, and eventually placed sixth with a time of 15:36.

TC Boys' Basketball to Host Opener

The T.C. Williams boys' basketball team, led by new head coach Bryan Hill, will host its season opener against Wakefield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5.

The teams will wear throwback uniforms as part of their annual Parker-Gray, Hoffman-Boston game.

Wakefield has won its last two meetings with T.C. Williams, beating the Titans in the 2012-13 Northern Region tournament and early in the 2013-14 regular season.

All-Conference Football Honors

Several members of the T.C. Williams football team received all-conference honors, according to a post on the school's athletics Web site.

Senior quarterback Darius Holland received first-team all-conference honors as a utility player.

Junior running back Mahlique Booth, senior receiver Isaih Clarke and junior kick returner Tavaris James earned second-team honors.

Holland, receivers Chris Gannon and Colson Jenkins, defensive linemen Ryan Thaxton and Chadi Abdalla, linebackers Teyan Williams and Tyrice Randall, defensive backs James and Chris Waddell and kicker Zach Eisenhour garnered honorable mention.

LIVING LEGENDS

Fifer: Focusing on Key Community Needs

Co-founder of Alexandria Volunteer Bureau, now Volunteer Alexandria.

BY JOSEPH S. SHUMARD

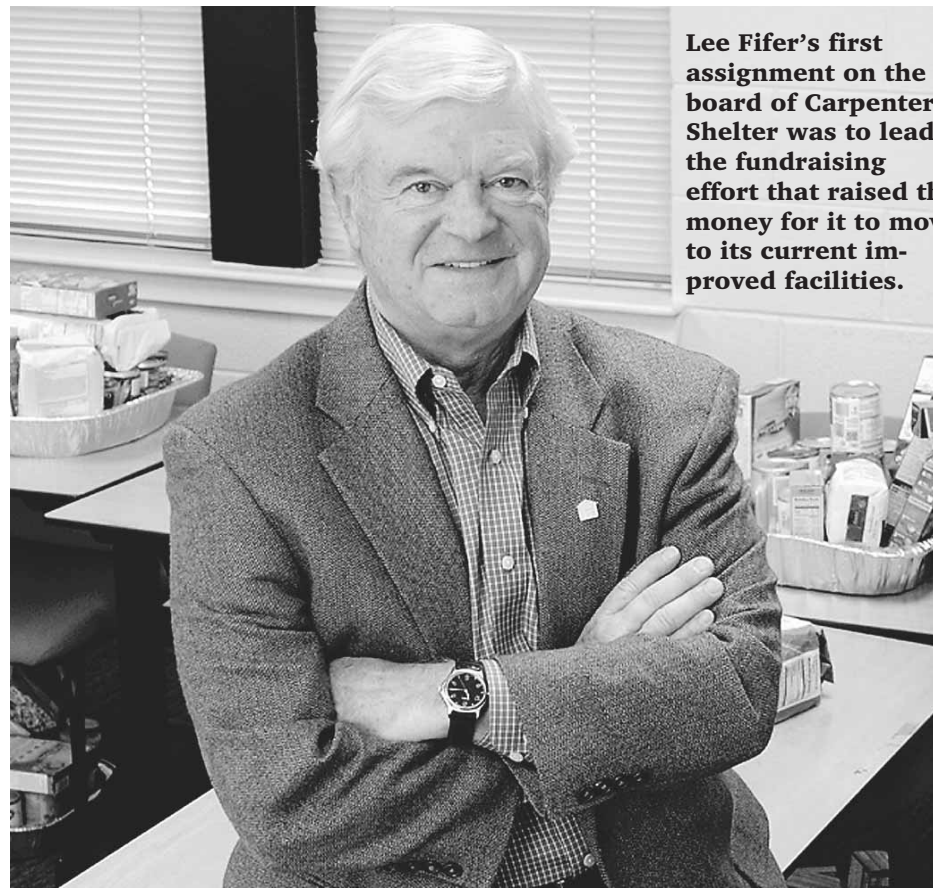
When you ask Lissette Bishins, executive director of the Carpenter's Shelter, about Lee Fifer, she will tell you that he "is a lifelong Alexandrian who is a passionate advocate for those in need. His touch is all over Alexandria. He loves this city and the people in it; he is philanthropic and drives others to follow his lead."

Although recently retired, his professional career started when he joined the law firm of Boothe, Prichard and Dudley (now McGuireWoods) in 1972. He maintained a practice focused on land use and environmental law, real estate law, affordable housing and sports law. He managed numerous residential, commercial, industrial and institutional projects including regional malls, corporate parks and planned communities and has guided projects that have produced thousands of residential units. Fifer co-authored the first affordable housing ordinance in Virginia and has authored subsequent enabling legislation.

Fifer has made significant contributions to the Alexandria community. He has been chairman of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce (1987), chairman of the board of governors of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, and served on the vestry and strategic planning committee of Christ Church.

Fifer, along with Bill Perkins of the Old Dominion Printing Company, helped found the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau in the early 1980s. Fifer served as chair for five years, helping to hire its first executive director, Marian Van Landingham. Two years ago he was a co-chair of the "Spring for Alexandria" Philanthropy Summit organized by Volunteer Alexandria, the successor to the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau.

In the early '80s, then Mayor Charles Beatley appointed Fifer to the Mayor's



Lee Fifer's first assignment on the board of Carpenter's Shelter was to lead the fundraising effort that raised the money for it to move to its current improved facilities.

PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON

Multi-modal Task Force, which studied transportation issues, including Metrorail. Fifer subsequently served on the board of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, which focuses on transportation issues for Northern Virginia. For almost 20 years he was the general counsel of this organization and is a life member of the board.

Fifer's irrepressible interest is in housing. He is a founder and former chair of AHOME (Affordable Housing Opportunity Means Everyone) and the AHOME Foundation. This regional organization, started in 1985, promotes workforce housing development and affordable housing. Fifer served on the board and was treasurer of the George Mason Foundation for nine years helping to establish a master's degree program in real estate development at George Mason University. For more than four years he served on the board of HomeAid, the charitable organization associated with the

Northern Virginia Building Industry Association. It helps homeless shelters and similar charities with building projects.

In 1994, the Carpenter's Shelter, one of only a few establishments for the homeless in Alexandria, was on the verge of going out of business. It could not pay its staff or

Living Legends: The 2014 Project

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle the people making current history in Alexandria. The project was conceived in 2006 to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.

Platinum and Gold sponsors this year are the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Alexandria Toyota, Club Managers Association of America, Dominion, Goodwin House, Inc., Gregg & Monica Murphy on behalf of Senior Services of Alexandria, Linda Hafer, Renner & Co. and Nina Tisara.

For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.org or contact Info@AlexandriaLegends.com. Watch for information about the 2015 Meet the Legends Reception on March 19.

its rent; its spaces needed improvement as well. It was about then that Fifer joined the board.

His first assignment was to lead a fundraising effort, where (as he will tell you) with the help of many others, he raised \$600,000 in six months. That gave Carpenter's Shelter the money it needed to move and improve new facilities and carry on its business. He was chairman of that board for 10 years and is still serving on it to this day.

The impact of Lee Fifer on life in Alexandria should probably be measured in truckloads. His generosity and service are almost overwhelming ... and legendary.

Extended Hours for Harris Teeter

FROM PAGE 3
for 24 hours.

"Importance of extended hours on a pharmacy cannot be overestimated," said resident Kathryn Papp. "I have friends that come home from the hospital with pharmacy problems and the doctor has told them to get onto medicine immediately. For cardiac issues, time is life."

While many on the board were unhappy with the mistake, the general consensus was that the extending of the hours would not

have a negative impact on the community.

"It would be very unfortunate that this mistake was made," said commission member Mary Lyman, "but we should not let a procedural error do away with neighborhood benefit."

The commission voted to approve the extended hours at Harris Teeter's with only Dunn voting against it.

"The hallmark of good process is applicable whether the subject is popular or unpopular," said Dunn.

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Sunday 7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm	Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass en Español

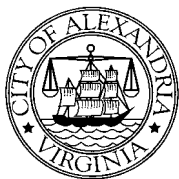
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements



Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: Request for Proposals No. 00000480, Consulting Services for Review of Targeted Reimbursement Processes and Procedures
Closing Date and Time: January 8, 2015, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

For general inquiries contact Cynthia Davis, Contract Specialist at 703.746.3921.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

26 Antiques

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

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY

CARY, NC: Lillian McCarter Wright Andrews, wife of the late Col. John Taylor Andrews, Jr, passed away on November 15, 2014 in Cary, NC at age 95. Daughter of Rose Wheeler Wright and William McCarter Wright, M.D., she was born in Baltimore, Maryland on October 23, 1919. Her father died when she was five, and her mother kept the family together by running a rooming house during the Great Depression. After a brief time in Los Angeles, in search of employment and the California dream, Lillian married John, a young army officer, on May 23, 1941 and became an "Army wife" for the rest of her life. Although the two were separated for three and a half years during World War II, they eventually traveled the globe (eight states, Germany, and Japan) for the next thirty years.

Lillian was a full-time mother and homemaker. Later, in the 1970s, after studying journalism, she wrote a column for the local press. She also volunteered regularly at her church, the National Symphony, and the White House. During the Presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, she and other members of the Martha Washington chapter of the Republican Women's Club in Alexandria, VA., were among the staff that answered White House phones and sent congratulatory notices. As President of that chapter, Lillian hosted elegant coffees in support of her favorite GOP candidates. She loved Ikebana, bridge, and entertaining. She was also fiercely loyal to her children and grandchildren and delighted in their company. All remember her warmth and youthful spirit. In the last few years, after Alzheimer's disease made it difficult to walk, she still was inclined to dance.

Besides her husband John, Lillian was predeceased by her sisters Martha Myers, Harriet Wright, and Hathaway Rinehart, and a brother, Michael Wright. She is survived by her children, John Andrews, III (Linda), of Atlanta, GA; Susan Lederer (Lyle), of Sanford, NC; Pamela Andrews (John Little), of Belmont, MA; George Andrews (Jan Carey), of Salida, CO; former daughter-in-law Mary Andrews of Longmont, CO; ten nieces and nephews, ten grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Interment will take place in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. A Memorial Service to celebrate her life has yet to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to an Alzheimer's organization of their choice. Suggestions include the Cure Alzheimer's Fund (<http://www.curealz.org/>) or the Alzheimer's Association - Eastern NC Chapter (www.alznc.org).

Online condolences to the family at www.ApexFuneral.com

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Kathleen (Kitty) Virginia McDonald, 91, of Mechanicsville, Maryland, died peacefully, at home, on Thursday, November 27, 2014.

Kathleen was born on May 20, 1923 in Richmond, Virginia. She was the daughter of Thomas L. and Nannie C. Hall. She attended school in Richmond where she met and married Wilmot (Buddy) G. McDonald, Jr. in 1946. They moved to Washington, D. C. in 1950, where they both studied Photography. They moved on to Alexandria, Virginia in 1953 where they remained until 1997 when they moved to Maryland to live with their granddaughter. She had a great love for many animals but especially enjoyed cats and kittens.

Kathleen loved children and spent the majority of her life caring for children whose own parents were required to work to support their families. She loved and treated these children as her own. All are grown now but many of the families remained friends with Kathleen and enjoyed commemorating with her from time to time.

Kathleen is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Barbara A. and Donald L. Wright of Rhoadesville, VA; two granddaughters, Donna J. and her husband, Craig Belcher of Mechanicsville, MD, and Tracie L. and her husband, Billy Garner of Rhoadesville, VA; two great granddaughters, Desiree M. Wright and Delaney M. Garner of Rhoadesville, VA; one niece, Mary W. and her husband, Joe Wilson of Fredericksburg, VA; and her close friend and care provider, Catherine Rathbone of Valley Lee, Maryland. In addition to her husband and parents, she is preceded in death by two brothers and three sisters.

Family will receive friends on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Brinsfield Echols Funeral Home, 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, Maryland 20622. A memorial service will follow, beginning at 12:00 p.m. Interment will be held at Mount Comfort Cemetery in Alexandria, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial contribution in her name may be made to St. Mary's Animal Welfare League, P. O. Box 1232, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650.

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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.



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The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.
-William Van Horne

OPINION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Snapshot

10:44 a.m., Nov. 28: Friends and neighbors gather at Lee Street Park for the annual Turkey Bowl flag football game.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 13

front. I just wish more of the solidly Democratic voters beyond the Old Town would understand where the Democratic City Council is taking them.

The trend towards inequality continues — feed the 10 percent at a premium and they will come.

Ursula Weide
Alexandria

Enough Arch-O-Speak

To the Editor:

If you have ever suffered through a hearing before the Board of Architectural Review (BAR), whether it be for the Old and Historic District or the Parker Gray District, you may have been surprised at the strange rhetoric used by many of the board members, especially the architects. I call it "arch-o-speak" (short for "architect-speak"). /In addition, if you have ever read an introductory paragraph of one of/ George Will's newspaper articles, you will instantly recognize this way of presenting information — whereby one needs to assimilate the definitions /of several new words before getting to the crux of the matter.

As an example, a friend attended a recent BAR meeting where an architect for one of the city's developers made the statement that his development had/ the "rhythm, undulation and /modulation that blends with the fabric of Old Town." The first three words would aptly describe a rock concert, a jazz session, or maybe even a

smoothie operator's technique, but not an Old Town development — especially one that decidedly does not blend in with the historic fabric of our historic city. Besides giving me goose bumps, I hope someone in the community can translate all that into down-to-earth plain /English. /

Additionally, what's up with "fenestration?" Can't the BAR members just say "windows?" This was really highlighted in another outlandish statement used during one of the board's recent hearings that "Wolfe Street has a clearly established rhythm, and balanced fenestration." / Are we talking about family planning, or streetscapes here? If this was not enough, another board member described/a number of developments that might have an "articulated design" or even better yet, "perhaps one in need of more articulation." What does this mean — speech lessons for buildings?

Lastly, at another hearing one of the board members commented that "buildings should be in harmony with their context." That / kind of left me wondering if they weren't referring to the tao of buildings? In my opinion, if one can't express themselves in an understandable way to the general public, then obviously the clarity of their message gets completely lost in the shuffle. It would certainly be more useful if all our BAR members (especially the architects), spoke in terms that all of us lay persons might understand. However, maybe that is the intent — to /obfuscate with architect-speak while trying to put lipstick on a pig.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

BULLETIN BOARD

ONGOING

Be Heard at the City's monthly Public Hearings. A schedule of the meetings can be found at www.alexandriava.gov. Voice opinions, speak about something on the docket or just speak about something you are concerned about. Sign up in advance to speak through the city's website. Anyone is welcome at the public hearings.

Public Space Recycling. Alexandria has placed more than 80 bright blue recycling containers next to public trash cans in the commercial districts along Mount Vernon Avenue and King Street.

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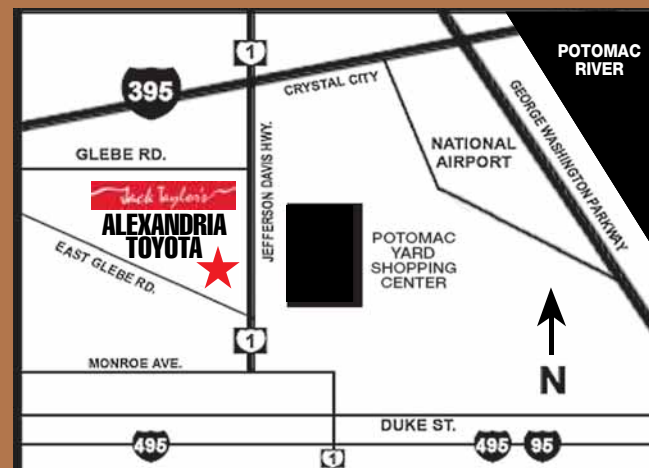
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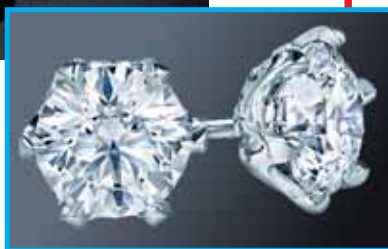


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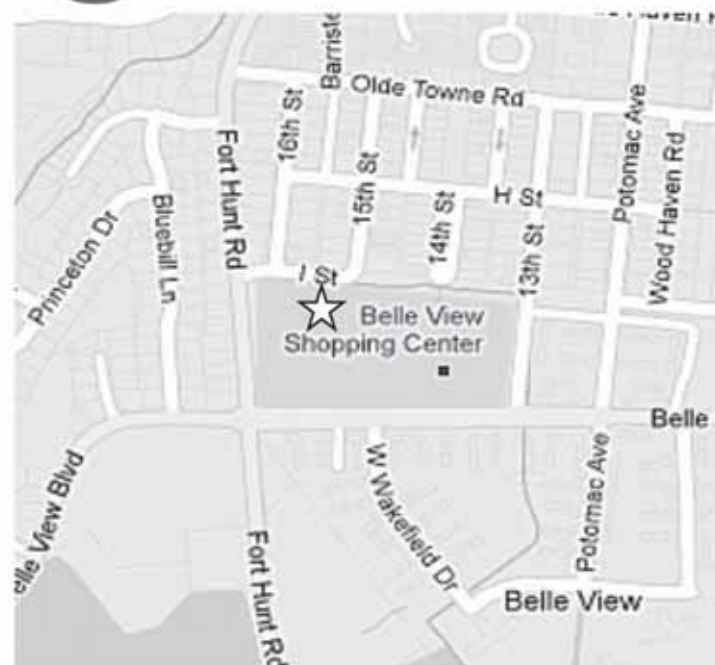
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