



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Chief Earl Cook reassures citizens at Cora Kelly Recreation Center.

Assurances, but No Answers

Residents express appreciation for increased police community engagement.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Chief Earl Cook's meeting with residents from the area near Four Mile Run, the site of Alexandria's most recent of four unsolved murders, had a different tone from Cook's presentation on the same topic to City Council last week. The murder of Eduardo David Chandias Almendarez isn't an abstract problem facing the city; for residents attending the meeting at the Cora Kelly Recreation Center, it raised questions about local safety.

The police community meeting on Dec. 14 didn't offer much by way of new information on Alexandria's four unsolved murders, but Cook did reassure residents that the police were still keeping the city protected.

"We have increased our police presence in the greater community and in your community," Cook told the audience. "Officers are out tonight and every day since the homicide. We ask everyone to keep due diligence. Fortunately... we've seen a drop in crime, but statistics aren't what's important when someone has lost their life."

Without a suspect in custody, the police could still not confirm whether or not the homicide was gang motivated, but Cook did say that his "guesstimate" is that they were probably gang related.

"The gang problem is regional," said Cook. "[These guys] are not that territorial and they move rapidly."

Cook would not comment on whether it was con-

nected to the earlier homicide of Jose Luis Ferman, found in Beverley Park, or the two earlier homicides in the Braddock neighborhood. Cook also said he could not comment on whether the victims in the two most recent cases were killed on-site or whether the bodies were disposed there later.

Despite the limited information he could provide on the details of the homicide, Cook did stay to answer every question about procedure and respond to each of the concerns from citizens. The bleachers of the center's gymnasium were full, and at least one-third of those assembled at the police community meeting were Spanish-speaking. An English-Spanish translator service was offered and frequently used.

Adriana Schellhaas from Casa Chirilagua said many of the community's parents attended the meeting.

"It was good to see the parents here," said Schellhaas, though in the future she encouraged the police to break the meeting into smaller groups, partially to help the prospect of speaking up feel less daunting.

"You hear unsafe things, and the fact that these [murders] were so close... the neighborhood has been quieter than usual."

Residents in the local neighborhoods are still on edge, but say they feel safer.

"I appreciated that Chief [Cook] answered all of the questions respectfully," said Aidan Bohlander. "It was a respectful, thorough, and thoughtful meeting."

SEE MEETING WITH, PAGE 5

Appeal Denied

Council upholds BAR approval of Robinson Terminal South buildings.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The most recent bout of developer EYA and a group of Waterfront residents went in the developer's favor, but it wasn't a knockout, and the citizens showed they weren't going down without a fight.

The fight centered over an appeal of an Old and Historic Alexandria District Board of Architectural Review (BAR) decision approving Buildings 1, 2, 3, and Townhouses. Collectively, these buildings are EYA's planned replacement for the abandoned factory at 2 Duke St. called Robinson Terminal South. A petition filed by James "Hal" Hardaway with 53 signatures called the BAR decision

"arbitrary and capricious," saying that the exterior architectural features of the structures do not conform with the city's standards.

The central premise of the appeal was the same that's been at the center of most developer vs. citizen fights in Old Town: that the scale and character of the building is inappropriate for the historic neighborhood.

"This is not appropriate for Old Town and the Historic Waterfront," said Townsend "Van" Van Fleet, comparing the construction to urban renewal efforts in the 1960s. "Historic properties were razed to create modern buildings of absolutely no consequence."

Some in the city objected to that comparison.

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 25

To the Rescue

Firefighters provide toys for area children.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Christmas arrived early for more than 250 children from local Head Start programs as they picked out toys and visited with Santa and Superhero Flash Max during the annual Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue toy drive distribution day Dec. 15 at Penn Daw Fire Station 11.

"We distributed over 3,000 toys to 65 schools, shelters and nonprofits in the City of Alexandria," said Fire Station 11.

SEE FIREFIGHTERS, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

ACT Executive Director John Porter, right, congratulates Capt. Willie Bailey on the success of this year's toy drive.





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205 Wolfe Street
903 Bernard Street*
410 Lee Street S
12 Walnut Street W
1023 Royal Street N #309
320 Pitt Street S
3622 Tupelo Place
6104 Woodland Stream Drive
412 Virginia Avenue
4017 Garland Street N
1310 Cleveland Street
1322 Bayliss Drive
4612 24th Street N
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618 Pitt Street N

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310 Myrtle Street W
420 Oronoco Street
3721 Fort Worth Avenue
4109 Garland Street N
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3909 Terry Place
5 Linden Street W
1103 Quincy Street
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4004 Fort Worth Avenue
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9412 Macklin Court
506 Woodland Terrace
431 Summers Drive
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City Officially Launches Fire Station 210



PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/ GAZETTE PACKET

Fire Chief Robert C. Dubé (left) with Mayor William Euille.



Fire Station 210's Captain Jason Wehmeyer.

After the long and troubled saga of Fire Station 210's origins, the station officially had its ribbon cutting ceremony early on Dec. 12. Officially, the fire station had been open since April, but had suffered from understaffing issues.

"[This station] will continue to grow and change," said Mayor William Euille, appointed as an honorary fire chief at the ceremony by actual Alexandria Fire Chief Robert C. Dubé. "We're delighted to see it come to life; protecting residents, visitors, and businesses. We're truly blessed to have such dedicated firefighters, medics, and support staff."

Jason Wehmeyer took over the new station as captain. Wehmeyer had been captain of other companies before, but had been working in training recently. According to Wehmeyer, taking over a new station like 210 is as much an opportunity as it is a challenge.

"It's good to be back out on the street," said Wehmeyer. "The area around here has residential, commercial, and interstate. It's a good mix of old and new challenges. Our first order is going to be building relations with mutual aid in Fairfax."



Firefighters and City Council unbuckle a hose, the Fire Station equivalent to a ribbon cutting.

In the meantime, Wehmeyer said he's mostly trying to become familiar with the neighborhood that he and the rest of 210 are now tasked with protecting. — VERNON MILES



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Scouts from the American Heritage Girls Troop 1381 gather with their troop leaders and friends after placing wreaths in the Alexandria National Cemetery on Saturday afternoon.

Wreaths Across America

Volunteers gathered at the Alexandria National Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 12, to place wreaths upon 1962 headstones. Scouts from the American Heritage Girls of St. Rita's Troop VA 1381 obtained sponsorship for 1,168 of the wreaths. This is the fourth year that the Scouts have participated in soliciting sponsorships of the wreaths.



Jane Bremberg looks for a headstone to place a wreath.

To Grandmother's House

If you're Katherine Keith and it's not past Dec. 30, stop reading. This is supposed to be a surprise party.

But for the rest of Alexandria, My Grandmother's House is hosting an event on Dec. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Carlyle Club to gather supplies and raise funds for families in need in rural Virginia. The space was an in-kind donation from the Carlyle Club and the event will feature live music.

My Grandmother's House is a small non-profit, started in Alexandria less than a year ago. In its first six months, My Grandmother's House has given away 8,000 diapers, 59 cradles, and \$19,700 in baby and toddler clothes. In addition to equipment and toys, families in need receive two days' worth of food, diapers, and clothing.

The charity is run by the aforementioned Keith, her daughter Anne Bryant, and Bryant's friend Caitlin Mack. Bryant says a few years ago, her mother retired and spent time in the Northern Neck region of Virginia, and discovered that many of the new mothers in the area didn't have access to the resources mothers in Northern Virginia have.

"There's too much stuff up here, not



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/ GAZETTE PACKET

Katherine Keith and Caitlin Mack load up My Grandmother's House's mobile facility.

enough down," said Bryant. "[Those] moms and kids desperately need these resources."

— VERNON MILES

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Annandale \$949,000
4011 Gallows Rd. Almost 1 Acre inside Beltway! Already subdivided and approved by Fairfax County and ready to build, this private and level lot is part of a former dairy farm and fringed with mature trees. Bring your own builder, or work with ours. We have plans ready for a 3-level, 4 bedroom colonial with a three-car side load garage which can be built in the mid-\$900,000, including land! Call Mary Hurlbut for details, 703-980-9595.
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Alexandria \$694,900
5503 Teak Court. 4+ Bedrooms, 3.5 Bathrooms on 3 levels. Large lot on cul-de-sac with mature trees. 2-car garage, less than 1.5 miles to Ft. Belvoir; updated kitchen, hardwoods. Overlooks golf course.
Leslie Atkinson 703-967-1471



Chatham Square/Old Town \$925,000
422 Euille St. Elegant 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath town house with attached 2-car garage just a few blocks from shops, restaurants on King Street and the riverfront. Four finished levels, family room with fireplace, gourmet eat-in kitchen and spacious Master suite with luxury bath. Rooftop terrace with city views!
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Alexandria/Old Town \$1,725,000
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301 S. Reynolds St. #209. CUTE AS A BUTTON! And all fixed up pretty, for a bargain price. Adorable 2 level, 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath town house-style condo with loads of personality. Fresh and new kitchen and baths. Washer/dryer in unit. Gleaming wood floors. Covered parking. Easy Walk to Metro and shopping. **Julie Hall 703-786-3634**



Del Ray \$1,099,000
3 West Howell Ave. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home with a fabulous 2 level addition, new front porch and off-street parking. Gourmet kitchen with large island and breakfast room. Adjoining family room with French doors to the fenced yard with new patio. Upper level with 3 bedrooms including the Master suite with luxurious en suite bath. Lower level recreation room with access to the yard. **Christine Garner 703-587-4855**



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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Holiday Entertaining

“Santa” Steve Czechansky walks up and down the sidewalk at Centre Plaza on Quaker Lane, popping into the small stores on the strip to play Christmas songs on his accordion. He squeezes the bellows in and out as he finds the button for the C major chord. He says, “It is just for fun.” Czechansky has been playing the accordion since he was 7 years old “as the first male child in a Polish family.” He says he plays with a partner in a group called Buttons and Bellows.

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Meeting with Residents

FROM PAGE 1

I generally feel safe.”

“It was very informative,” said Lucy Willis. “It gave the community a sense of what [the police] are doing.”

Willis has lived in Alexandria since 1976 and said the crime situation isn’t nearly as bad today as it was throughout the ‘80s.

“I feel safe today,” said Willis. “Considering what we had in the past, we don’t have a lot of crime.”

Willis and others at the meeting echoed a sentiment that had been

shared at community meetings since the first homicide in early June in an affordable housing neighborhood, and warned citizens not to assume residents of affordable housing are involved in criminal activities. While Cook encouraged citizens to report suspicious activity, he also emphasized Willis’ point on uniting rather than dividing the local community.

“Don’t make assumptions about your neighbors,” said Cook. “Reach across the fence and talk to them.”

OBITUARY

Helen J. Evans

Helen J. Evans, 88 of Alexandria, died at her home on Dec. 10, 2015. She was born June 13, 1927 to the late William and Margaret Peevely of Speedwell, Tenn. Helen was a long time resident of Alexandria and lived in the Rosemont neighborhood for over 50 years. Coming from a farming family she enjoyed tending to her vegetable garden every summer. Helen is also known for her love of children that extended beyond her own and enjoyed socializing with her neighbors.

Including her parents, she is preceded in death by her loving hus-

band of 54 years, Clarence Evans and her daughter, Norma Gail Stentzel.

Helen is survived by her three daughters, Ann Lewis; Mary Hutchinson (Steve); Donna Marr (Robert), and her two sons, David Evans (Elaina) and James Evans (Karen); her two sisters, Pauline Ausmus and Kathy Cheek. She is also survived by her 12 loving grandchildren.

Family and friends celebrated Helen’s life at Cunningham Turch Funeral, 811 Cameron St., on Monday, Dec. 14. Interment followed at Mount Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria.

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Communion service at 7pm

To learn more about our Christmas celebration, visit www.mcleanbible.org/christmas.

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH

PEOPLE

Lawton 'Plays the Kettle'

BY SHIRLEY L. RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Emily Lawton pushes down the three piston valves in different combinations on her alto horn, pitched in E-flat and used in British style bands. She is "playing the kettle" as the glass doors automatically swing open but customers stop for a minute to listen before grocery shopping. The mellow rounded tone floats through the Safeway parking garage with "Away in a Manager." Lawton turns the page to "I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" and shoppers walk past the shiny red Salvation Army kettle located in front of the grocery store. Lawton said, "I don't really know how many people donate because I am concentrating so much on playing my music."

PEOPLE AT WORK

It is 2 p.m. In a few hours Lawton will be at Dulles airport heading back to England after four weeks in the United States volunteering for the Salvation Army. She said, "I have been coming here to do this for four years." She explained she came to America the first time as a Salvation Army volunteer at Christmas as something different to do, to make a difference and to see the world." This year she arrived Nov. 17, but she added that the Salvation Army started collecting this year on Nov. 9. The tradition began in 1891 when a Salvation Army captain sought to find a way to feed 1,000 San Francisco homeless and put out a kettle.

Lawton said she works from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. six days a week as a volunteer, with a few breaks of course. She moves from place to place playing her horn in a different location each day as assigned. "People tell me they like the horn better than the bells." Lawton has been at the Giant on Telegraph Road, the Safeway on Van Doren and on Fort Hunt and the Giant on Beacon Hill. Today she is bundled up outside the Safeway at Braddock Shopping Center. Lawton said sometimes it gets cold but, "we wear heavy coats, and some days it is quite nice and warm."

She said in England the Salvation Army doesn't have the red kettles but instead they have Salvation Army bands that go around and play and, "we have



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Emily Lawton, playing the alto horn on her 11 a.m.-6 p.m. shift with the Salvation Army, selects "Away in a Manager" for the grocery shoppers entering the Safeway.

like a case for donations; oh I don't know what to call them. We call them tins. They are just like this." She makes a small circle with her fingers.

Lawton has been playing the alto horn for about five years.

She said she played brass when she was younger but gave it up for a while and then started again, but with the alto horn. When Lawton arrives back in England? "When I get home, I am going to play with the Salvation Army band." She turns the page in her book of music. "I don't really have a favorite," she said. Lawton straightens her blue felt hat with the Salvation Army insignia and "Winter Wonderland" greets the next visitors.



In three hours Emily Lawton will be at Dulles Airport waiting for a plane to take her back to England. For the last four years she has come to Alexandria to volunteer with the Salvation Army for several weeks playing her alto horn beside the "big red donation kettle."



Emily Lawton "plays the kettle" outside the Safeway at Bradlee Shopping Center. She is here from England to volunteer with the Salvation Army in Alexandria. She says the first time she came it was something different to do and she wanted to see the world and help people.

Let It Snow

Snow Buddies help during winter months.

BY IONELA LUTAI
VOLUNTEER ALEXANDRIA

Are you ready to be jolly? Would you like to help seniors and low-income families during this winter season? If so, consider becoming a Snow Buddy. Volunteer Alexandria, in collaboration with the City of Alexandria, implements Snow Buddies, a program in which volunteers register to help others by shoveling snow when winter decides to throw on its white coat.

Last year, 30 Snow Buddy volunteers helped more than 35 families who needed snow removal assistance during the snow season. "Snow Buddies has been great!" said volunteer Eric Dillon. "The best part is the seniors. All of them offer me something warm to drink or say 'thanks' in person and it truly shows their gratitude."

If interested in volunteering as a Snow Buddy, register at www.VolunteerAlexandria.org and search Snow Buddies. Once registered, you will be matched with a senior or family that needs assistance.

"Snow days for my peers are



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Volunteer Alexandria's Snow Buddies help those in need during the winter months.

like holidays where everyone stays warm and drinks wine, but I know these days are anything but little vacations for my seniors," Dillon added. "These events adversely affect their lives. Hopefully, I'm being a part of the solution for them."



Carl E. "Forthe" Carson IV and Megan Marjan Napoli

Carson, Napoli Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Eugene Carson III and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Paul Napoli announce the engagement of Carl E. "Forthe" Carson IV of Alexandria, to Megan Marjan Napoli of Wilmette, Ill. The groom-to-be is a 2006 graduate of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Episcopal High School and Appalachian

State University. The bride-to-be is a graduate of New Trier High School in Wilmette, Ill. and DePauw University. Mr. Carson is a senior sales engineer for Keyence Corporation and Miss Napoli is an associate buyer for Target Corporation. Both reside in Minneapolis, Minn. The couple plans to marry September 2016 in Chicago, Ill.

Firefighters Provide Toys

FROM PAGE 1

dria and Fairfax and Prince Georges counties,” said Capt. Willie Bailey, who founded the toy drive 16 years ago. “Prior to the distribution to school representatives, we escorted and gave 250 toys to local preschool kids.”

Bailey, a resident of Del Ray and councilman-elect for the City of Alexandria, said that 500 new coats were also given out to children in need. “This was done with the support of numerous local businesses including the police and Sheriff’s Office,” he said.

Fairfax County Fire Chief Richard Bowers was on hand to help with the toy distribution, which also included bikes, gift cards and books.

“This is a very special day,” Bowers said. “It’s incredible to see the community come together like this. It gives the children a start and place to look for a finish in life.”

Volunteers included firefighters Mike Furman as Superhero Flash Max and Dave Saunders and his son Hunter as Santa and his elf. GO TEAM Sit Means Sit volunteers were on hand with therapy and comfort dogs.

“It’s wonderful seeing Will continue to give back to the community,” said ACT Executive Director John



Sit Means Sit therapy dog volunteers Ted Madsen (with Skjold), Tiffany Singleton (with Thor) and Sonny Madsen (with Freyja) lend a helping paw at the toy distribution.

Porter. “From backpacks in August, coats in October and toys in December, Will continues to be concerned about those in need in Alexandria and Fairfax County. He’s amazing.”

Bowers concurred.

“We have Santa, a superhero — everything a kid wants in life in one place at one time,” Bowers said. “Will does a great job and makes this a special day for everyone.”

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMAN/GAZETTE PACKET

Historic Christ Church

~ Sunday, December 20, 5:00 P.M. ~
Children’s Christmas Pageant & Yuletide Feast

The pageant will be held in the church. Doors open at 4:30 P.M. After the pageant, all are welcome to enjoy the Yuletide Feast, a catered dinner, in the Auditorium. Suggested donation of \$20 (or \$5 per person). You may bring your favorite holiday treat to share for dessert.

Thursday, December 24 • Christmas Eve Services

3:00 P.M. ~ Worship with Communion & Carols

5:30 P.M. ~ Worship with Communion & Carols

8:00 P.M. ~ Festive Worship with Communion, Choir & Carols

10:30 P.M. ~ Festive Worship with Communion, Choir & Carols

Friday, December 25 • Christmas Day Service

10:00 A.M. ~ Worship with Communion & Carols

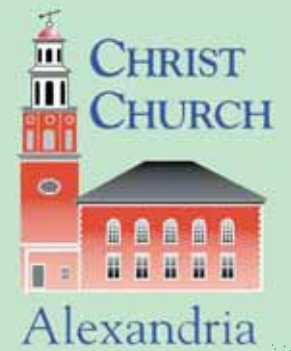
Thursday, December 31 • New Year’s Eve Service

10:00 P.M. ~ Prayer service

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

1st Place winner - 323 North Royal St.

Door Decorating Contest Winners

Members of the Old Town Walled Garden Club completed the judging for the annual door decorating contest last week. Winners were chosen for originality of design, scale, color, contrast, and attractiveness from the street. This year's winners are: first place – 323 North Royal St., second place – 212 South Lee St.

and third place – 205 North Columbus St. Honorable mentions were presented to 314 Prince St. and 611 South Fairfax St. The first, second, and third place winners were awarded prizes from Blackwall Hitch on Cameron Street, The Market Square Shop on King Street, and Sonoma Cellar on King Street, respectively.



2nd Place - 212 South Lee St.



3rd Place - 205 North Columbus St.



Holiday Sweets

A table just inside the door of Great Harvest Bread Co. at Centre Plaza is spread with large packaged gingerbread men, Christmas tree cookies and candy cane crunch cookies based off the oatmeal cookies with freshly milled whole wheat flour. "We're proud of that," said Megan Hurst who owns the bakery with her husband Brad. The front door swings open and her two young daughters burst into the bakery with Ashley headed for the "St. Nick-er-doodles," her favorite. "They are our "giant cookies," Hurst said. On the wire racks behind the counter sit the Hanukkah breads (although sold out for the day), holiday stollen with honey, cinnamon, rum flavor, almonds, hazelnuts, apricots and more and well as the pumpkin spice or pumpkin chocolate chip bread, the Kentucky bourbon bread and pumpkin cream cheese bars.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

In the kitchen of Alexandria Pastry Shop in its 28th year at Bradlee Shopping Center, Uber Lovez is making 18" gingerbread houses with a metal form specially created. "We sell about 100 of these a season," said owner Tom Lally (left). He said one woman has been ordering these undecorated for 15 years and decorates them with her son. The kitchen refrigerator is full of 700 assorted mini French pastries ordered for a holiday party although "most of our business is retail." Metal trays of cookies, macaroons, freshly made crème brûlée "waiting for the burnt sugar topping" and small key lime tarts line the wall of the kitchen. The large glass case in the bakery is filled with white stocking cookies, red bells, red sprinkle stars, red and white candy cane cookies while the Buche de Noel (chocolate sponge cake with chocolate ganache) is lined up in the case around the corner.



Jessica Rapier, the managing director, said Buzz Bakery is a classic Americana bakery, "the things your grandma would have made." She said many of the holiday specialties are her sister and mother's recipes. Travis McClary, a bakery employee, points to the rum bundt cake that comes in a mini-size box as well as a full size bundt cake. "It is pretty amazing, very rum-flavored with a lot of party in that cake," according to Rapier.



In the kitchen at Bittersweet bakery on King Street, a special order of mixed cupcakes is being loaded for a corporation with the company logo on the top and an "asap" on the order. They sit beside yellow cupcakes with iridescent pink pearls and sugar, another special "pick up" order. Diana Mejia, an employee for 19 years, said, "we try to make something different for the customers every single year." Mejia added, "The carrot and red velvet cupcakes are the best sellers." She pulls out a tray of Christmas cookies decorated like Christmas ball ornaments from the rack of stockings, tiny gingerbread men, candy canes and Christmas trees. They will have icing added before they are added to the display of Christmas cookies. The long glass case in the front of the store is filled with tiny yellow cupcakes frosted in pink with upright green wreaths, chocolate cupcakes with cream cheese icing and red sprinkles. For your favorite canine there are peanut butter carrot cupcakes with a dog bone on top.



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OPINION

Season of Giving Never Has To End

Why ending childhood hunger should be your New Year's resolution.

BY AMY JOHNSON, JENNIFER KONISH
AND NICK ARENT

The holiday season is one of our favorite times of year because it's all about the best things in life. It's a time for celebrating, bringing age-old cultural traditions to life, and spending time with family and friends. It's about being thankful for all of the things we are fortunate enough to have in our lives and reminding people how much we love and appreciate them. Oh and we suppose the delicious food that accompanies all of these things makes them that much more enjoyable!

During the holidays there are still a number of people who are struggling to make ends meet and many who don't have enough to eat, but luckily, it is also the season of giving. Around the country, the holidays inspire hundreds of thousands of people to give to the poor. Caring individuals get involved by donating to hunger-relief organizations such as the Capital Area Food Bank — the largest non-profit serving the Washington metro area — serving at soup kitchens, and finding other ways to contribute to the improvement of our communities. Especially when it comes to sharing food, we make sure that everyone has something to eat. The holiday spirit unites us, brings out the best in us, and motivates us to make a real difference in the lives of others.

This year, let's make it our New Year's resolution to keep this level of engagement con-

tinuing into 2016 by tackling one of most tragic problems facing our country — childhood hunger.

About 400,000 children here in Virginia alone are at risk of going hungry and it's a problem we can't afford to put off for another year. Despite all the pies, casseroles, hams and turkeys that will be enjoyed over the next several weeks, over 15.5 million kids across the country are food insecure. According to No Kid Hungry "three out of four public school teachers say students regularly come to school hungry" — another alarming statistic. In a country as prosperous as our own, it is absolutely unacceptable that there are any children who don't know where they are going to get their next meal.

The bottom line is that when kids are hungry, they struggle to learn, and kids who struggle to learn, struggle in life. With stomachs growling, hungry children sit through class unable to focus and get the most out of school. Fatigue and weakness as the result of poor nutrition make it difficult for them to stay awake or participate in physical activities like recess and PE. They are more likely to suffer from hyperactivity, miss school, and experience other behavioral problems which creates a negative learning environment for all students — even their peers who are not food insecure. Perhaps the scariest thing about childhood food insecurity is the inability for a child to reach their full potential because of the dramatic damage hunger does to their brain. Over time, hungry students fall behind their peers academically and many of them never catch up making it far more difficult for them to find good jobs and take care of their children once they grow up. The medical sector is beginning to reprioritize its resources to see healthy food as the important intervention it is. For example, the American Academy of Pediatrics recently

recommended for the first time that pediatricians screen all children for food insecurity.

If we want to make sure every child gets a fair shot in life, we need to make sure our elected officials and decision-makers properly fund and improve existing food assistance programs such as free/reduced price school meals, SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) and WIC. Research shows that these programs help students to perform better in school and in life — but they don't go far enough. First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe is an excellent example of how politicians from both sides of the aisle should be making this issue a priority and continuing to develop new solutions.

Congress is currently considering legislation to reauthorize the Child Nutrition Act and to make changes to a number of food assistance programs. This legislation will influence funding for programs like the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program which allows the Capital Area Food Bank and other organizations to provide nutritious meals to food insecure children when school is out of session. If you are as concerned about childhood hunger as we are, you can contact your elected officials and urge them to take action by calling the congressional switchboard at 202-225-3121.

We will start 2016 with one in six kids across Virginia waking up at risk of going hungry throughout the year. With your help — by making ending childhood hunger your New Year's resolution and taking action on this issue throughout the year — we can work toward a future where we wake up on New Year's Day to a country where every child's basic needs are met so that they all have a fair opportunity to be successful in life.

Amy Johnson and Jennifer Konish are the NOVA Kids Cafe Coordinators with the Capital Area Food Bank. Nick Arnt is a Campaign Organizer with Virginia Fair Share.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Silberberg Needs Support

To the Editor:

Those of us who, for the past six years, have harped on the lame-duck City Council in 2009 for moving city elections to November might well take an object lesson from last month's results. City Council was the only contest on the ballot in most of the city, yet turnout was huge. Perhaps the election of two Republicans in the last-ever May election in 2009 had more to do with the Democrats presenting a slate for at-large positions ... all white with only one woman. With Mayor Euille unopposed, black Democrats had no compelling cause to turn out and women had no good reason to ticket split. Two blacks and two women seem to be the political "equilibrium." In the two succeed-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13



STEVE ARTELY/GAZETTE PACKET

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From left: Sam Hicham and Kamrul Ashfakh, Beyer Subaru; Mary Lee Anderson, SSA's executive director; Nicole Izes and Anil George, Beyer Subaru.

Sharing the Love

BY MARY LEE ANDERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

In celebration of the eighth annual Subaru "Share the Love" Campaign, management and employees from Beyer Subaru delivered Meals on Wheels to Alexandria seniors, and also brought special gifts to help start the holiday season. Beyer Subaru has selected Senior Services of Alexandria as its Community Partner for this year's "Share the Love" event.

SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Beyer Subaru's support for SSA and its Meals on Wheels Program began several years ago. When Don Beyer first returned to Alexandria after completing his role as ambassador to Switzerland, he called SSA. He wanted to find a volunteer opportunity for his employees and Meals on Wheels had a special place in his heart. Ever since, Beyer Subaru staff have delivered meals each month and the dealership highlights the program every year through the "Share the Love" Campaign.

The campaign runs through Jan. 2, 2016, and Beyer Subaru will donate \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased to

the customer's choice of charities, including its hometown charity, Senior Services of Alexandria. In addition, there are four national organizations designated by Subaru — ASPCA, Make-A-Wish, Meals on Wheel Association and National Park Foundation.

With Subaru retailers also making their own donations to local charities, total donations will be well in excess of the \$15 million committed by Subaru of America.

"We are thrilled to once again partner with Senior Services of Alexandria for the Subaru Share the Love campaign. It brings great joy to our employees and customers to have such a meaningful impact on the lives of our Alexandria seniors," said Stephanie Beyer.

Beyer Subaru of Alexandria is located at 7416 Richmond Highway in Alexandria. For more information about the Share the Love Campaign, visit Subaru.com/sharethelove.

Senior Services of Alexandria is a non-profit organization that has as its mission, "to foster independence and self-sufficiency, enabling seniors within the City of Alexandria to age with dignity." For more information about its programs and services, visit seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414.

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—William Longgood



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Zara practices her jumps at the Alexandria Police Department's K-9 agility training course in Old Town.



One of eight police dogs on the Alexandria force, Zara is a Belgian Malinois who was originally brought to the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter.



Alexandria Police Officer Steven Escobar practices commands with his partner, Zara.

PHOTOS BY SHELLEY CASTLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Shelter Dog Finds Higher Calling: Police Work

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Every once in awhile an animal arrives at Alexandria's Vola Lawson Animal Shelter who seems destined for something big. A dog called Zara, who showed up in September 2013, was one of those animals. Zara — a Belgian Malinois, a breed resembling a German shepherd — had a brown and black coat and large, alert ears pointed skyward.

Turned in by an individual who provided little information about her, Zara obviously was a young dog with boundless energy. "She was very high-energy, very intense and focused on playing with toys," recalled Abbie Hubbard, deputy director of the shelter, which is operated by the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. "She was very responsive to stimuli — and possibly too much for a family to handle."

AWLA So Hubbard and her shelter colleagues floated an idea: Could Zara be of help to the Alexandria Police Department? A call was made. The force's dog trainer and another officer came to visit Zara. After much consideration, they decided to take a gamble on her.

A year later, after intense training, especially from Officer Steven Escobar, a 15-year veteran of the force, Zara graduated from Basic K-9 School. She now is his official partner, riding with him on patrol in the police cruiser every day, indispensable to his work. "It was an experience at the beginning — Zara wanted to go, go, go," Escobar said. "But she responded well to her training, and now she helps me handle burglaries, robberies and calls about suspicious packages all over the city."

One of eight dogs now on the Alexandria police force, Zara is Escobar's second K-9 partner; his first one, a laid-back German shepherd, died last year. Escobar worked closely with Zara in her months of training and found that above all, she was motivated by play. Using toys — and edible treats — Escobar taught her to respond to the command of "seek" by running down a path where a criminal might have fired a weapon, using her laser-sharp sense of smell to follow a fresh scent trail and root out a discarded gun. Zara also has learned to "track" — putting her nose to the ground



Former shelter dog Zara trains for action with her partner, Officer Steven Escobar.

to trace the scent of a criminal who is fleeing police.

When a burglary is in progress, Zara goes in first. Her training leads her to zero in on the criminal and bite his right arm until he is subdued and Escobar can take over.

Learning how to sniff out explosives proved challenging for the dog. "We tried training her with a towel scented with explosives, but she just couldn't get it," Escobar said. "Then our head trainer realized that a toy might get her attention, so he started using a scented tennis ball. She caught on right away." Now, on a command of "locate," a leashed Zara walks right up

to a suspicious package that has been reported by the public, sniffs it and the area around it for a possible bomb, and then keeps moving if there is nothing to fear. So far, Escobar said, she has not sat down by such a package — the signal that a bomb might be hidden inside. She has been right every time.

Escobar says he has bonded with Zara, who's now 4 years old, and that his family has, too. She goes home with him every night and transforms into a pet, at least for a few hours. "It doesn't take long before she's nudging me to go back to work," Escobar said.



Zara ascends a wall on the police K-9 agility course.

Zara recently was certified by the U.S. Police Canine Association, and she continues to train for eight hours weekly, including running an agility course at the K-9 kennels near the city's Lee Recreation Center. She has become a rock-solid partner to Escobar. "Really, the dogs we work with take most of the risk when we're responding to calls," he said. "I feel much more secure having Zara with me — it's just safer for everybody."

Operated by the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter is at 4101 Eisenhower Ave. Visit www.alexandrianimals.org or call 703-746-4774.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10
ing elections which they swept, the Democrats scrupulously avoided making that mistake again.

Philosophy and party have become increasingly aligned. It is hard nowadays to find a liberal Republican or a conservative Democrat. The base in each party will not stand for it. What we might deride as "crony capitalism" is today what the Democrat Party practices and most of its voters prefer. Development deals are a local-level example of that phenomenon. Republicans here should understand that's the hand they've been dealt. And independents, like me, have to work to get better deals than the crummy ones our "get-to-yes" at any cost City Council has been giving us lately.

Only a minority of Democrats in the wider electorate seems willing to hold out for better deals and say "no" to bad ones, but with the right Democrat candidates and enough independent and Republican crossover votes in the Democratic Primary next time, we can make sure Mayor Allison Silberberg isn't the only Democrat willing to say "no" to bad development deals.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Thanking Public Safety Staff

To the Editor:

I continue to hear disturbing reports of police brutality throughout our country, I cannot help but think of the men and women of our own police, sheriff and fire departments. I wonder if they realize how grateful our city is for their dedication and commitment. To quote the words used at one of the funerals of a fallen police officer, "Here they are and here they stay. They live in danger every day so we can live in peace."

As a resident of Alexandria for over 20 years, I have had the need to call on our public servants. When my dogs barked in the middle of the night and my gate was open, within minutes of my call, the police were at my home with a police dog while the officer on the phone instructed me to lock my bedroom door and stay on the phone with her until they arrived. When there was a severe drug problem on my street, the officers of the drug unit worked tirelessly to eliminate the problem permanently, while giving our street extra security. When the house next door was on fire, minutes after my

call, police and firefighters were on the scene. "Yes, here they are and here they stay" protecting our freedoms and keeping us safe.

Our police, firefighters and deputy sheriffs live a very different life from most of us. They put their lives at risk every day, on and off duty. I cannot imagine being responsible for protecting so many people. I cannot imagine being the family that waits for a call from their loved one at the end of their shift to say they are safe while also fearing the call might come from someone else, with a different message. I cannot imagine getting a call telling me there is an emergency and report immediately or walking into gunfire or a burning building to save a child. I cannot imagine living my life in a constant state of readiness. Yet, this is the daily life of our

police, sheriff and firefighters. They live this life to secure our lives. However, with all of their dedication, our public protectors get less pay and often, fewer benefits, than so many people in the private sector. How many of our protectors can even afford to live in the city they protect? How many of them can afford to own their own home?

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14



St. Paul's Church

warmly welcomes you to join us in celebrating the birth of Christ at one of our many Christmas service offerings:

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4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Children & Family Service with Angel Choir, Youth Ensemble, and the Heralds
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6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with St. Cecilia & Women's Choirs and Brass
10:30 p.m. Prelude
11:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Adult Choir & Brass

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

Sunday, December 27

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

Have you ever stopped to say “thank you” to these brave individuals when you see them on the street? It is a difficult time in our country. We desperately need these dedicated individuals to now we are grateful for their courage, commitment and selflessness. Please take the time to say thank you when you see them on the street. Most of all, keep them, and their families in your prayers. We are so fortunate to have such outstanding police and fire departments and deputy sheriffs in our city.

We do not want to lose any of them.

Linda Trinkle Wolf
Alexandria

Define Compromise

To the Editor:

I am as disappointed with your reporting [“BAR Fight,” Dec. 10] of the recent BAR meeting on the Old Colony site as I am with the BAR and the developers. The article implies the community is unwilling to compromise and that the developers have offered valid compromises. The concept of compromise seems to be very different to the developers and the BAR than to the community and most reasonable people.

Compromise assumes two or more truly different positions based on points of view. Clearly, the developer and the BAR believe compromise is between two somewhat close concepts between one oversized design and another. The community has indicated that compromise means a three-story structure between the concepts of a four-story building and the current state.

What I saw at the BAR meeting was a panel that looked at a TV screen providing a perspective that in real time would have required the viewer to stand about 75 yards away — while the issue at hand is what the perspective is from 60 feet away. If you only view the former perspective, compromise will look a great deal different than if you view it from the latter perspective which will be the one the neighbors will see every day, all day.

What we have is here is a choice between real and false compromise.

Jon Sheiner
Alexandria

Council’s Shortcomings

To the Editor:

An election comes and goes. The mayor gets voted out (yea), but all the council members get re-elected. Why?

Build a new fire department, pass on a federal grant to staff it for two years and now you are budgeting it out of the city budget. Those two years would have given the city time to rethink and adjust its budget as it continues to just talk about addressing infrastructure needs. Pass on land for Samuel Tucker Elementary School, and then turn around and buy land for the school. CSX bridge, pass on a state grant that would



PHOTO BY JIM LAROCO

Springtime for Christmas

Cherry blossoms bloom at the corner of Duke and Holland Lane, across from the Whole Foods.

have paid for a new bridge and then begin a harassment campaign against the railroad company to paint and do quick fixes to the bridge.

Recent homicides, gang violence cyclical? Let me make like an ostrich and stick my head in the ground. Obviously everyone forgot about the gang-related homicide where the feds took it over recently. Never seemingly making news, gang tagging at Four mlle Run Park, a stabbing incident, and drugs in the trash cans, all within the last couple of years.

The one thing that was well overdue was the council and mayor’s pay raise and adjusting benefits for their staff. The opposition to this was uncalled for. Yes on the surface it seems like a hefty pay raise, but was well overdue. The pay raise one should question are various city positions whose pay is similar to neighboring jurisdictions. Why the school superintendant needs pay almost equal to a Fairfax when we are a fraction the size is ridiculous. This is one perfect example of where pay hostility should be and not at the council attempting a pay raise.

Ruben “Bill” Duran
Alexandria

Ethical Lapses

To the Editor:

Regarding the Alexandria City Council’s claim of transparency in its dealings with the citizens, I submit two examples of recent major ethical lapses on their part:

Increased property taxes: During the entire campaign, no member of the current council supported or mentioned a five cent increase to our property taxes in 2017. Even more disheartening was the discussion at the recent council retreat when members of council “war gamed” the public’s reaction to a tax increase — i.e., “if we do the

whole five cent increase now, then by the time the next election rolls around in three years, the citizens will have forgotten about it, and it won’t be an issue.” This type of leadership does not engender any confidence in our elected leaders.

Pay Raises: In addition to the tax hike, the council also neglected to mention that they were planning a considerable pay raise for themselves. However, a barrage of citizen phone calls and emails to the council along with the firefighters venting their displeasure totally derailed the council’s attempt, resulting in the issue being “tabled” for the time being. Although the Alexandria City Council is underpaid for the time spent carrying out their civic duties, some of that time is totally unnecessary. With better scheduling and management of issues presented before them, the meetings could be of much shorter duration, especially when most of the issues are a “fait accompli.” Before any pay raise is implemented, I would suggest that a citizen’s task force be convened on this matter, with representatives appointed by a number of the civic associations. The task force would be charged with developing a process for checks and balances in pay raises for the City Council. No government entity should be entirely responsible for awarding themselves a pay raise. In that regard, the fox guarding the hen house comes to mind.

Townsend A. “Van” Van Fleet
Alexandria

Trump Hate With Love

To the Editor:

I ran for City Council in 2003 as a Republican, and since that time, I have rarely voiced my opinion in public. Recent events, however, compel me to again cast my views into public life, if only for a particular purpose, explained below.

If Hitler were alive today, every one of us

would oppose his words, policies, and actions, I believe. And yet somehow we are living with a fascist and not enough of us are speaking out.

Donald Trump wants to forcibly deport 11 million Hispanics living in the United States. Round them up and deport them, split apart families, etc.

He wants to bar any Muslim from entering the U.S. Tourists. Businessmen. Immigrants. Orphans. Anyone. He wants to create a database of Muslims.

If you take the word “Hispanic” and “Muslim” in the sentences above and replace them with the word “Jew” you will have Hitler’s program. Round them up. Export them. Monitor those that remain. Exclude them from daily life. Stigmatize them.

Mr. Trump wants to deny citizenship to those born here, despite the fact the 14th Amendment makes that the law of the land. He wants to impose a religious test on entry to the U.S., which is against international law and the 1st Amendment.

He apparently believes it’s OK to beat up protesters at his rally, in fact he seems to encourage it. He bullies opponents from Fox News to John McCain, whom he called “not a war hero” because he was captured.

Incredible!

Speak up, please, my fellow Americans. Let your friends know it’s not OK to accept bigotry and hate in the United States. What unites us is far more important than what divides us. Don’t let fear and bullies become the future of our country.

Stand up! Speak out!

If every one of us reaches out to 10 others, and convinces them to spread the message for love and against hate, we can achieve amazing things. Like a spider web, the message will grow and increase.

We need to exercise our common concern to discredit this megalomaniac, while we still have a voice to do so — before it’s too late.

John Reardon
Alexandria

In Appreciation Of George Mason

To the Editor:

The Bill of Rights, one of the most important bulwarks of our freedoms, was the product of the wisdom and determination of George Mason IV of Gunston Hall, a proud native Alexandrian. This forceful statement was adopted on Dec. 15, 1791, when the Virginia legislature provided the decisive vote. Although it is the best-known section of the Constitution, many founding fathers, including George Washington, opposed its inclusion. George Mason IV deserves our honor and thanks for his many important contributions to our local welfare as well as that of our state, nation and the world.

When the British closed the port at Boston, he immediately realized that the American colonies must unite to resist British tyranny. He initiated assistance in word and deed by writing the Fairfax Resolves, adopted in Alexandria, the county seat, on July 18, 1774. He also set an example for

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers participate in the Hume Park revitalization.

All I Want for Christmas ...

BY KATHARINE DIXON
CEO, REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

My mom says that we can stay here for a while since our rent won't keep going up. That way you know where to find me next year too.

Dear Santa,

In case you are trying to find me, I wanted to let you know that I'm living in a new apartment this year. I even have my own bedroom. We don't have a chimney, but I know you will find a way to come in. Don't worry, I will leave cookies.

My mom seems so happy this year. We get to play more since we don't have to spend as much time in the car to get home. Before, mom and I would sing and talk on the long ride home. We still talk and sing; but now that we live closer to her work, I have more time to play outside. I go to the park near my house which has a fun playground.

Ana is my best friend. She lives near me and we go to the playground and bus stop together. I'm hoping that Ana and I can be friends forever.

Ms. Smith is my teacher this year. I'm glad I haven't moved to another school again. Having just one teacher has made it easier for me to learn. My grades are better too. I really love learning about history but PE and lunch are also cool. I go to an after school program where I get to play and do my homework.

I know that you have lots of kids to visit this year, but I'm hoping that you can find room in your sleigh for a bike. It doesn't have to be new or fancy, but Ana and I want to bike to the park. The park was just fixed up!

Your friend,
Grace

We serve many "Graces" throughout the year — children and their parents who want a safe place to call home that is near where they work and part of a community. We know that having affordable housing is good for children, families and the whole community. It creates stronger, more stable neighborhoods and ensures children get better educational opportunities.

As the New Year approaches, I hope that our generous, diverse, and vibrant Alexandria community can find new ways to come together in support of children like Grace. At Rebuilding Together Alexandria, we look forward to partnering to create new and innovative ways to keep low-income residents housed. To learn more about the importance of affordable housing or how to volunteer with us, visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org. Happy holidays.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Three Restaurants For Takeout Today

Short on time during the holiday season?

By HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

It's the middle of the holiday season, and free time is short. Often, spare time is downright nonexistent, in fact, and the thought of sitting down to a home-cooked meal is but a dream. Here are three remedies that are sure to lend a hand during breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Breakfast: Stomping Ground

2309 Mount Vernon Ave.

A low-key, walk-in establishment that's new to the Del Ray scene, Stomping Ground will give you everything you need to get revved-up in the morning. Fair warning that you'll want to sit down and relax with a café au lait (with both dairy and nondairy options), but if you're really set on grab-and-go, they can do that for you too.

The first thing you'll notice about Stomping Ground's menu is the biscuits. As a sandwich, served with gravy, by themselves — biscuits serve in many functions here, and you would do well to take part in the trend. Slightly crispy on the outside and wonderfully tender and crumbly on the inside, these biscuits will allow any Southerner to hark back to their childhood (or their grandmama) and will introduce any Yankees to the Real Deal right away.

For something hearty and portable, the Farmers Frittata sandwich is always a solid bet. Made with seasonal ingredients, its filling change from time to time but the won-



derful eggy flavor remains. Need fuel for the whole day? Give the Classic sandwich a try; its filling of fried chicken and pimento cheese will give you the protein (and caloric) boost you need to see you through the hours ahead.

Lunch: District Taco

701 S. Washington St.

District Taco has become a bit of a legend in the D.C. area. Beginning as a food truck in 2009, it has since expanded to half a dozen brick-and-mortar locations, including one in Old Town, which opened one year ago. Serving Yucatan-style Mexican food from morning till night, it's an excellent place to drop in, pick up a taco or two, and head back out to face the busy day ahead.

The restaurant opens early enough in the day (7 a.m.) for diners to enjoy breakfast — and indeed, District Taco does have an all-day breakfast menu for just such an oc-

casion — but at lunchtime, your best bet is a burrito. Take a long look at the proteins and toppings before making your decision. The list is lengthy and enticing, but the wise diner knows that not everything under the sun can fit into a single burrito, so choose wisely. Some local favorites: Barbacoa shredded beef, al Pastor rotisserie pork (marinated with guajillo chilies and chopped pineapple), or vegetarian. Add some veggies and top the masterpiece with one (or more) of District Taco's salsas at its salsa bar, and you'll be in good shape until dinnertime.

Dinner: Oriental Bistro

3221 Duke St.

Though it sports a proper dining room as well, Oriental Bistro (formerly Oriental Star) is a gem of a place to order takeout or delivery on a busy evening. It's true: Chinese food can be a bit, shall we say, typical

when it comes to a delivered-food choice, but Oriental Bistro bears this mantle proudly and surpasses expectations.

When perusing the menu, one tidbit that stands out is the "mock meat." Plant-based eaters, rejoice: Now you, too, can enjoy Mongolian beef, Hunan pork, or sweet and sour shrimp. But omnivores will also be quite at home with this menu, which offers all of the takeout staples and more.

Order the fried rice (with your choice of protein) and you'll have at least two meals taken care of; select the General Tso's Chicken and you'll be treated to a spicy, slightly sweet entrée that's teeming with flavor. Order a couple of spring rolls and your meal is complete. With that, you can get back to the business (or busy-ness) of the holidays.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.



(Left) Café au lait at Stomping Ground in Del Ray. (Above) For breakfast, lunch, and dinner, District Taco on Washington Street has a burrito waiting in the wings.

CALENDAR

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.

ONGOING

"A Christmas Carol." Through Dec. 19, 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. The Little Theatre of Alexandria performs the classic Victorian tale of Ebenezer Scrooge who travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market. Through Dec. 20, various times at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray's annual Holiday Market offers handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists (including pottery/ceramics, photography, jewelry, fiber, paper crafts and glass). Find different artists each weekend. Free to attend. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/

holidaymarket.

Alexandria's Holiday Market.

Through Dec. 23, various Times at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Visitors can enjoy live entertainment, traditional European food and sweets, wine and beer, while shopping for arts and crafts. Free. Visit www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com.

Green Spring Gardens Art Show.

Through Dec. 27, gallery hours at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist Carol Higgs works in batik, oil, watercolor, and collage. Painter Joan Wolfe works with acrylic and Erik and Caroline Hottenstein use watercolors. Free. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

"A Broadway Christmas Carol."

Through Dec. 27, various times at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Created by Kathy Feininger and directed by Michael Sharp, this MetroStage holiday tradition is a cross between the classic Dickens' tale and Broadway parodies. Tickets are \$50. Visit www.metrostage.org.

Tag on 3rd: Gallery 311 Opening Exhibit. Through Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-6

p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The Associates' Gallery is re-opening in a renovated space on the Torpedo Factory's third floor, studio 311. The exhibit will honor Robert Rosselle, a sculptor who died in July. He occupied Studio 311 for many years, and two of his sculptures will take center stage in the group's new show. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

"Not-So-Modern" Jazz Quartet

Performance. Thursdays through Dec. 31, 7:30-10 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Not So Modern Jazz Music plays music from the glory days of traditional jazz, including tunes from traditional Dixieland and the Swing era. Free. Visit www.stelmoscoffeepub.com for more.

"Nature's Journey." Through Jan. 2, at American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. Darlene Kaplan will exhibit more than 60 of her original oriental brush paintings in a one-person art exhibition. Free. Visit www.darlenekaplan.com for more.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery:

"Winter Wonderland." Through Jan. 3, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory Art Center—Studio 18, 105 N. Union St. Artists working in textile focus on "sparkle and shine, clean and white." Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Christmas at Mount Vernon.

Through Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Visit George Washington's estate and see Aladdin the camel on the grounds, in honor of the camel that Washington paid to visit Mount Vernon in 1787. Stroll through Mount Vernon's modern buildings and view sparkling holiday decorations, featuring 12 dazzling Christmas trees, and historical chocolate-making demonstrations. Also visit the rarely-open third floor of the Mansion. All is included in the general admission price which is \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth ages 6-11, and free for children 5 and under. Visit www.mountvernon.org/christmas for more.

"George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation."

Through Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. This exhibit will detail the history of Thanksgiving at Mount Vernon. On October 3, 1789, Washington issued his Thanksgiving proclamation, designating for "the People of the United States a day of public thanks-giving." Admission to the exhibit is included in Mount Vernon ticket prices. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$9 for children, and free for children ages 5 and younger. Visit www.mountvernon.org/thanksgiving.

"Printed Matter."

Through Jan. 17, at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Printed Matter features a mix of works (printed media, such as xerography, book arts, and graphic design) created using traditional techniques as well as newer or reimagined ones. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital Art Show. Through Jan. 31 at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St. The artwork is on display in

ENTERTAINMENT



Exhibit Inspired by Jefferson's 'Notes on the State of Virginia'

Artist Suzanne Stryk's exhibit titled "Notes on the State of Virginia" was inspired by the book of the same name published by Thomas Jefferson in the 1780s. Stryk travelled the state, met with local experts and guides, and created her assemblages based on her reflections. "Notes" will be on display at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Dec. 17-Jan. 31. The opening reception will be 4-6 p.m. on Dec. 20, and Stryk will give an artist's talk on Jan. 31 at 3 p.m. Admission to all events and to the exhibit is free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

"Sacrament"

waiting areas and examination rooms as a part of Del Ray Artisans' Gallery Without Walls program. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

"Art Uniting People." Gallery hours at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. "Art Uniting People – A Celebration of Recovery, Creativity and Mental Health," is an art exhibition presented every year to showcase the artwork by local individuals. Free. Visit www.artunitingpeople.wix.com/artunitingpeople.

"Ancient Art of Movement." 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

Flamenco Show. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit www.latascausa.com.

French Movie Night. Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit

www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html.

Journey to Be Free: Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery. Through March, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A new exhibit tracing the 150-year history of the long-forgotten Freedmen's Cemetery, its rediscovery and how the new Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial was created at the site. Call 703-746-4356.

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812. Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Alexandria Cars and 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.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary

exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

National Inventors Hall of Fame Exhibit. Through November 2016 at The National Inventors Hall of Fame-USPTO campus, 600 Dulany St. The exhibit features the stories of Inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame who served their country during World War II and returned home to help build the nation with their innovations. Free. Visit www.inventnow.org.

Dinner for the Washingtons. 12 p.m. 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 pm. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free, 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.

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9:00am
10:30am
2:00pm (español)

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Weekdays & Saturday Morning: 9:00 am (Rosary at 8:30 am)

En Español:
Monday, 6:30 pm; Thursday, 7:30 pm; First Friday, 7:30 pm
Eucharistic Adoration:
(Silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament) First Friday: following 9:00 am Mass; Wednesday: 6:00 pm; Thursday and First Friday: 7:00 pm

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ENTERTAINMENT



“Caught and Found,” Rusty Lynn (above) and “Totem,” Pamela Underhill (right)

Convergence Hosts ‘No Holds Barred’

“No Holds Barred” is an exhibit featuring two artists working in sculpture, Rusty Lynn and Pamela Underhill. “No Holds Barred” will be on display at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Jan. 8-Feb. 27. The gallery is open on Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The reception and artist talk will be held 6:30-9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 15. Patrons may also attend a workshop on box sculptures. All admission is free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.



IMAGES COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS

Art for Life. Third Thursday of every month. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Hyatt Regency Crystal City has partnered with the National Kidney Foundation for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers 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.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring 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.

Community Yoga. Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Suite 100. No experience required to participate in

weekly community class. Suggested \$10 donation. Visit www.532yoga.com.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/DEC. 17-18

Carbon Leaf. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Richmond-based folk/rock band Carbon Leaf will celebrate the release of “Love Loss Hope Repeat Reneaux.” Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

DEC. 17-JAN. 31

Suzanne Stryk: “Notes on the State of Virginia.” Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Suzanne Stryk’s art exhibit includes a series of assemblages inspired by Thomas Jefferson’s book “Notes on the State of Virginia.” Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 18

Holiday Wine Tasting. 7-9 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The Factory Society, the official young-professionals group of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, hosts an after-hours holiday wine tasting. Attendees will have an opportunity to talk with resident artists in their studios and watch them work while meeting and networking with other young-professionals. Wines and light desserts will be paired with each studio along the tour. Tickets are \$30. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/holidaywine.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 18-19

Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon. 5:30-9 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200

Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Enjoy choir performances, fireworks, visit with re-enactors, learn 18th-century dance moves, learn how chocolate was made in the 18th century, and more. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org/christmas for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

Brunch with Santa. 9-11:30 a.m. at The Pub by Wegmans, 7905 Hilltop Village Center Drive. Families are invited to a breakfast with a special brunch menu and a visit from Santa. Free to attend. Call 571-527-2465 to make a reservation.

“Downton Abbey Christmas Tea.” 1 p.m. at The Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Discuss what may happen in the show’s final season over a traditional tea. Take a private tour of the house showing the connections between the people and places of Downton Abbey and those of the Lee-Fendall House. Tickets are \$50 per person. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 20

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra: Family Holiday Concert. 3 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Select musicians of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra perform holiday classics. Tickets are \$20 and \$5 for youth. Visit www.alexsym.org for more.

Suzanne Stryk: “Notes on the State of Virginia” Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Celebrate Suzanne Stryk’s art exhibit which includes a series of assemblages

inspired by Thomas Jefferson’s book “Notes on the State of Virginia.” Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Carol Sing and Pageant. 5:30 p.m. at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Cider and desserts will follow a children’s nativity pageant. Free. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com.

A Sinatra Christmas. 7 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Rob Zappulla performs Frank Sinatra’s versions of Christmas classics. Tickets are \$28. Dinner additional. Visit www.carlyleclub.com for more.

SUNDAY-THURSDAY/DEC. 20-24

Art Pop-Up Shop. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The “Made in Alexandria” Pop-Up Shop will feature 28 local artists selling art and crafts. Everything priced under \$100. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com for more.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY/DEC. 22-24

Meet Santa. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Children get approximately five minutes to meet and take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. A \$20 fee reserves a time slot, professional photos with be available for purchase. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 23

Charles Esten. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. “Nashville” star and musician Charles Esten will perform. Tickets are \$55. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/DEC. 23-24

“I Am Anne Hutchinson/I Am Harvey Milk.” 8 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. The Alexandria Harmonizers will act as the chorus for musical interpretation of the lives of civil rights leaders Harvey Milk and Anne Hutchinson. Kristin Chenoweth, of various Broadway musicals and “Glee.” Tickets are \$49-99. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 24

Water Skiing Santa. 1-2 p.m. at Old Town Alexandria Waterfront, between King and Oronoco streets. Attend a holiday-themed watersports show along the Potomac. Free. Visit www.waterskiingsanta.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 26

Southside Johnny. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Southside Johnny is joined by The asbury Jukes. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 27

Kwanzaa Celebration. 2-5:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. This “Kujichagulia,” or self-determination, celebration will feature Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright. Free. Visit ow.ly/V30mp.

Hank Williams Night. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Musicians perform in the 19th annual tribute to Hank Williams. Tickets are \$29.50 plus a service charge. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

TUESDAY/DEC. 29

Mint Condition Holiday Show. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. R&B group performs. Tickets are \$65. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 2 p.m.-12 a.m. at venues throughout Old Town and Alexandria. This 21st annual New Year’s Eve celebration will feature more than 175 performances at 29 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, children’s face painting and games. The afternoon’s Seventh Annual Fun Hunt is accompanied by all-new activities for families and pets. There’s an old fashioned carnival at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray. First Night’s fireworks finale returns with a spectacular display over the Potomac River at midnight. Tickets are \$20 before Dec. 14, \$30 after. Admission for children 12 and under, seniors, military, and volunteers are free. Visit www.firstnightalexandria.org.

Seldom Scene. 8 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Blue grass band Gourd Heart will perform with Seldom Scene and Only Lonesome. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 1

Mo’Fire. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. MO’Fire and In Gratitude perform a tribute to Earth, Wind & Fire. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 2

Bill Kirchen. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Musician Bill Kirchen is

ENTERTAINMENT

joined by Too Much Fun and Commander Cody. Tickets are \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 5

“Twelfth Night of Christmas.” 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Addison Academic Center–Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. The Evening School of Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary invites the public to a Twelfth Night of Christmas celebration. Free, but registration required. Visit www.vts.edu/evening.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 6

Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Grant Hellmers, Organist-Choirmaster of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, will direct the adult choir in a Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany. Free. Call 703-549-3312 or email grant@stpaulsalexandria.com for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 7

Civil War Ball Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Civil War Ball on the Jan. 23, learn the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel and more from an expert. Tickets are \$12 per class, \$30 for the entire series. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

FRIDAY/JAN. 8

“True Colors: Like a Rainbow” Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at

The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Meet the artists of the “True Colors: Like a Rainbow” exhibit. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/True.
The Cecilian Players. 8-10 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Concert consisting of works by Debussy, Ravel, and Shostakovich. Free. Call 703-836-7480 for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 8-9

Ricky Skaggs. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Bluegrass musician Ricky Skaggs is joined by Kentucky Thunder. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

JAN. 8-31

“True Colors: Like a Rainbow.” Gallery hours at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans’ artists use colors of the rainbow for inspiration. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/True.

JAN. 8-FEB. 27

“No Holds Barred.” 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is named for the “don’t hold back, just let go” approach artists Pamela Underhill and Rusty Lynn employ in their artmaking. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

Panel Discussion: “Take a Turn Down Mercy Street.” 1 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.

George Combs, manager of Alexandria Library’s Special Collections Branch, author Michael Lee Pope, and Callie Stapp of The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum will introduce you to the history behind the new PBS series, “Mercy Street,” which is based in Alexandria. Free. Call 703-746-1721 or email admin@nvfaa.org to RSVP.

Winter Warmer Ladies Tea. 3-5 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Choose from a variety of 18th-century desserts, drink tea, and visit with “Dolley Madison.” Tickets are \$35. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

“Twelfth Night: A Celebration of Epiphany & Winter Solstice.” 6 p.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Armonia Nova performs using historical instruments including baroque harps and early viols. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.armonianova.org for more.

Maceo Parker. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Saxophonist Maceo Parker performs. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Meigs Hodge. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Traditional and contemporary blues guitar and vocals. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Civil War Ball Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Civil War Ball on the Jan. 23, learn the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel and more from an expert. Tickets are \$12 per class, \$30 for the entire series. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

more.

Holy Holy. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Band Holy Holy will perform featuring Tony Visconti and Woody Woodmansey performing David Bowie’s “The Man Who Sold the World.” Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 15

“No Holds Barred” Opening Reception. 6:30-9 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Celebrate the exhibit named for the “don’t hold back, just let go” approach artists Pamela Underhill and Rusty Lynn employ in their artmaking. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 15-17

Eddie From Ohio. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Local folk band will give a show entirely based on requests from the audience. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 16

Family Art Workshop: Shape Tape Art. 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Parents and children ages 4-9 are invited to make art using tape, acrylic paint, and a canvas. Tickets are \$30, \$5 for each additional child. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com/mommy-me-holiday-workshops.
Celebration Gala. 6-11 p.m. at Holiday Inn, 625 1st St. This Black Tie Gala will celebrate the installation of the new Pastor of Historic Shiloh Baptist Church, Reverend Taft Quincey Heatley.

Tickets are \$60. Visit www.shiloh-bc.org for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 16, 23-24, 30

Jane Franklin Dance: “Niche.” 7:30 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Alexandria dance company Jane Franklin Dance performs “Niche,” which follows an unremarkable couple with a new house, big careers, and odd neighbors. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Visit www.janefranklin.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 17

Celebrate Community 5K & 1K Fun Run/Walk. 8-11 a.m. at Eisenhower Ave. This event will honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with an additional food drive for ALIVE. Registration costs will be \$15-25, and \$20-25 on the day of the race. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 21

Morris Day and The Time. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Listen to live R&B. Tickets are \$69.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.
Civil War Ball Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Civil War Ball on the Jan. 23, learn the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel and more from an expert. Tickets are \$12 per class, \$30 for the entire series. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

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FROM PAGE 14

others by sending food stuffs overland to the Bostonians at his own expense and inviting others to join him in doing so. George Washington and other Virginians did, thus providing the first example of intercolonial cooperation against the British and preventing the Bostonians from being starved into submission. Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights was adopted by our General Assembly on June 12, 1776. It included the lines: "That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent natural Rights ... among which are the Enjoyment of Life and Liberty, with the Means of acquiring and possessing Property, and pursuing and obtaining Happiness and Safety." Jefferson's most famous lines in our Declaration of Independence are a close paraphrase. It also served as the basis for our Constitution's Bill of Rights, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen adopted in 1789, and the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

Mason wrote the first constitution for the State of Virginia, which served us well for almost 200 years. It was an important model for the U.S. Constitution, the oldest written constitution still in active use in the world, distinguished for its separation and balance of powers, a doctrine Mason adopted after careful study of contemporary thinking and the best features of all governments until his time. Mason was the genius who set the framework for our country's Constitution, and his tenacity in insisting that a Bill of Rights be included ensured that a citizen's rights are protected at all levels of government.

Mason recognized the moral and practical obligation of the nation to ensure freedom for all people and end slavery at the earliest opportunity. He advocated education and gradual emancipation of slaves. Because the proposed Constitution postponed freeing the slaves for 20 years and lacked a Bill of Rights, although he favored a stronger central government, he voted against its adoption, and thus incurred the enmity of his great friend and closest neighbor, George Washington.

Although Mason did not have a college education, he recognized the importance of continuing education by reading and thinking deeply throughout his life, for the benefit of his family, city, state and nation. It is very appropriate that we have an elementary school in Alexandria and a university and regional library in Fairfax that are named for him. The south-bound span of the 14th St. Bridge is also named for him.

In his personal affairs he set an example of practicality, order and honor. Mason was a faithful and active Christian, a loving husband to his childhood sweetheart and father to his nine surviving children, and a warm friend and host. His home, Gunston Hall, located off Route 1 at Lorton, is open to the public; there is also a museum on the property.

His birthday is Dec. 11 (1725) and Bill of Rights Day is Dec. 15 (1791). Alexandria should declare and celebrate George Mason Week to honor this exemplary citizen.

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

Food Needs in Alexandria

BY CATHERINE SMEALLIE
AND CAROLINE
FRIEDRICHS

There are many hungry people in Alexandria. Nearly one out of every five of us live in a household struggling to make ends meet according to Toward an End to Hunger in Alexandria, a report prepared for the Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network in 2014.

Melanie Gray, director of Outreach and Mission at Christ Church, said that "many people who come for food are senior citizens, people who have jobs but don't make enough to feed their families and people who are just getting by. They are all races, ages and backgrounds."

Fortunately, there are services to help hungry people in Alexandria. Alexandria has food banks, food pantries, and emergency food kitchens. Food banks are organizations that distribute foods to charities in a region. The new Alexandria Food Center run by ALIVE (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically) is an example of a food bank. Food pantries provide food directly to individuals who need it. Food for Others, the Salvation Army, Christ Church, Christ House, and the Carpenter's Shelter (among others) provide food pantry services. Emergency food kitchens, like Christ House and the Carpenter's Shelter, provide prepared meals.

Emergency food providers receive their supplies from a variety of places including food banks, food donations from individuals and organizations, and donations of money. There is always a need for donations and volunteer assistance at all of Alexandria's emergency food providers. Donations tend to increase at holiday times, but are needed year-round.

Alexandria's emergency food providers agree that they can make use of almost all donations. However, there are certain foods, including canned meats, peanut butter, low sodium items, and canned fruits and vegetables (see the accompanying Top Ten list) that are in the greatest demand. Charlotte Martinsson of ALIVE said, "People should try to imagine what it would be like to have empty cupboards, hungry children, and a rent bill coming due— and think about the type and amount of food that would be most beneficial in that situation." The only donations that cannot be used are expired foods and open packages. Donations are crucial for all emergency food providers. Any questions should be directed to the providers below.

Emergency Food Providers in Alexandria

❖ ALIVE!, www.alive-inc.org, 703-837-9300

❖ Food for Others, www.foodforothers.org/

❖ Christ Church Lazarus Ministry, www.historicchristchurch.org/get-involved/let-us-help/lazarus-ministry, 118 North Washington St.

❖ Grace Episcopal Church's food pantry, www.gracealex.org/Programs/New-Outreach-Mission/Food-Programs/, 3601 Russell Road

❖ Christ House Emergency Assistance food pantry, www.cdda.net/programs_christhouse.php, 131 S. West St.

❖ Washington Street United Methodist Church/Sara's Open Table, <http://wsunc.com/mission-and-ministry/open-table/>, King and Washington Street

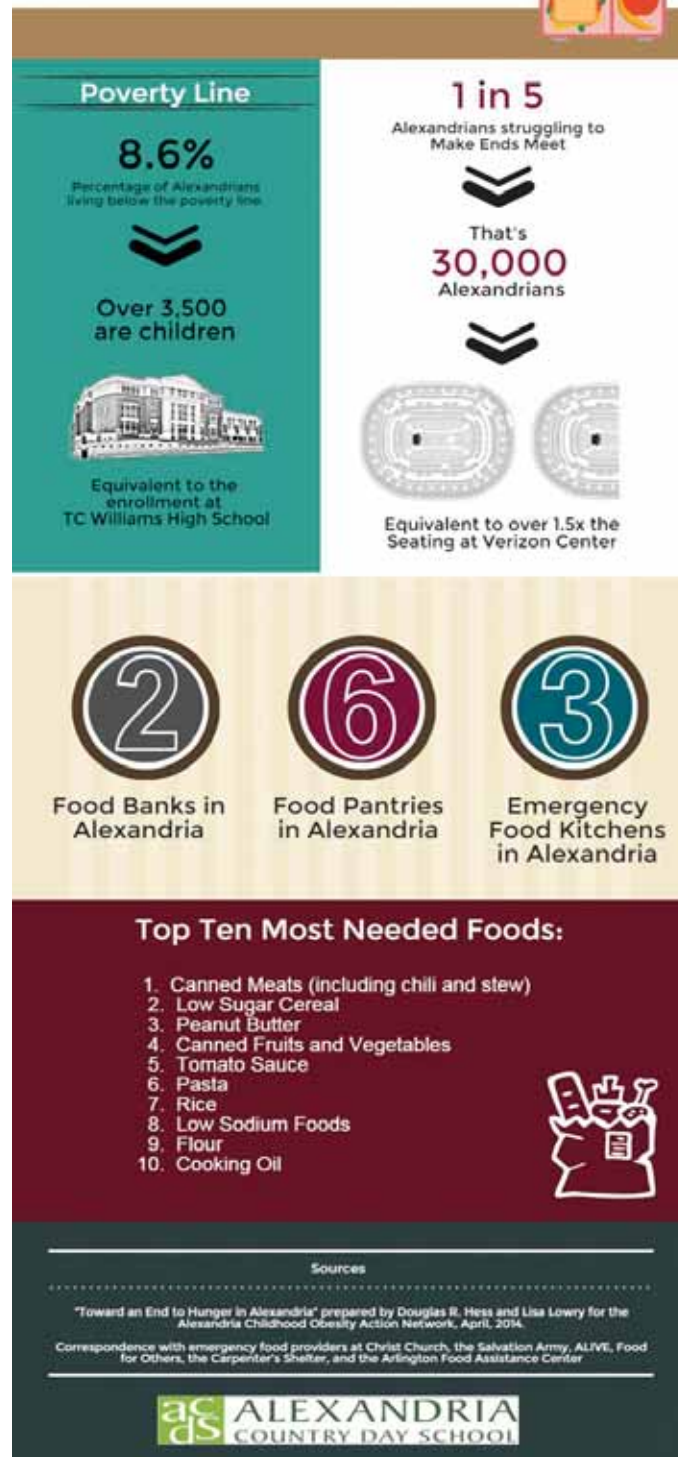
❖ Carpenter's Shelter, www.carpentersshelter.org/, 703-548-7500

❖ The Salvation Army, <http://virginiasalvationarmy.org/ncac/>, 107 East Bellefonte Ave.

This article was written by Catherine Smeallie and Caroline Friedrichs, members of the Alexandria Country Day School student service leadership group MUSCLE (Motivating You to Serve your Community through Leadership and Education), with help from their teachers Elizabeth Lockwood, Evelyn Chaleki, and Jessica Hernandez Basta and other MUSCLE members.



The Middle School student service leadership group at Alexandria Country Day School would like you to understand the Alexandria, Virginia food needs.



BULLETIN BOARD

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.

THROUGH DEC. 30

Leaf Collection Program. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/leafcollection.

THROUGH DEC. 31

Accepting Nominations for 2015 CIVIC

Awards. The City of Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission is accepting nominations for the 30th annual awards program. The award recognizes residents who have provided a service in recreation or park needs. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

THROUGH JAN. 1

Holiday SoberRide. 10 p.m.-6 a.m. Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program, the SoberRide program will provide free cab rides up to \$30. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

FRIDAY/DEC. 18

Nomination Deadline. The Office of Historic Alexandria seeks nominees for the The Fort Ward Interpretive Plan Committee, who will oversee the development of an interpretive plan for the park that identifies important themes and stories associated with the park and to recommend programs that explaining the meaning of the park's unusual cultural, historic and natural resources. Send nominations to Nicole Quinn at nicole.quinn@alexandriava.gov.

Lessons in Giving

Conversations, modeling behavior and hands-on actions can help teach children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKETE

Matthew Mamalian's holiday shopping list included some items that might seem atypical for a 12-year-old middle school student: shampoo, socks, soap and a few snacks. He, along with several friends from his Sunday school class, packed the items in shoeboxes wrapped with holiday paper and tucked a handwritten note of encouragement inside each box.

"We were all laughing and having fun packing them," he said. "We also learned that there are people who really need these things because they don't have a lot else."

The project was part of Interfaith Works' holiday giving program, an effort by the local nonprofit organization to meet the needs of the homeless. The holiday season can be a time for children to learn the principals of benevolence, say child development experts. Involving children in charitable activities, modeling altruistic behavior and making a link between compassion and a higher power are all effective ways parents can teach their children the value of giving to the less fortunate.

"Children need to have empathy modeled for them and they need a script to follow or

ideas for carrying out charitable acts," said Christine Pegoraro Schull, Ph.D., professor of Early Childhood Education at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. "Children aspire to be kind and to be good citizens, but they don't necessarily know how to do these things."

Involving Matthew and his siblings in philanthropic efforts through Potomac Presbyterian Church is one of the ways that their mother, Cyndy Mamalian, makes a connection between gratitude, charity and a higher power. "I think it's important for them to think beyond themselves and live out their faith," she said. "You need to put your faith into action, and that is about caring for other people."

Janet Dunlop, Matthew's Sunday school teacher and a member of the Mission Committee at Potomac Presbyterian Church, melds volunteer projects with class discussions to teach her students about gratitude and charity. This holiday season, as the middle-school aged children clipped wrapping paper and tied ribbons around shoeboxes filled with deodorant, toothpaste, snacks and other essentials for the homeless, she gave them a description of those who are on the receiving end of their project.

"Many young people growing up in

Potomac don't have much experience with homelessness," said Dunlop. "When my husband and I arrive at the shelter with these boxes, the people there are so happy to receive them. So, this is also about helping the children see another aspect of life and trying to instill in them a life-long ideal of service."

Charitable giving for adults often means donating old clothes at the end of the tax year or writing a check to a nonprofit organization. However, children might find it difficult to understand how these abstract actions make a difference. That's why psychologists and educators recommend giving children first-hand experience in caring for others.

Jenny Trope, Ph.D. and her children raised money to purchase grocery store gift cards that they are distributing to homeless men and women they encounter this winter. "It gives the kids a glimpse of what it's like to be alone, hungry and stuck outside when it's cold," said Trope, who is also a marriage and family therapist based in Arlington.

Such hands-on projects, coupled with a conversation about why it's important to take action to aid people in need of a helping hand, could drive home the message. "Children aspire to be kind and to be good

citizens, but they don't necessarily know how to do these things," said Schull.

A study by the United Nations Foundation and the Women's Philanthropy Institute at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis found that talking to children about giving is highly effective for encouraging philanthropy, and increases a child's inclination to give by 20 percent.

"Conversations are critical. Talking about giving in combination with modeling is what actually increases children's giving," said Debra J. Mesch, Ph.D., director of the Women's Philanthropy Institute. "We ... know that these conversations need to be focused on why and how giving ... makes an impact on individuals in need, rather than simply talk that is more general, such as giving is the right thing to do."

The dialogue can include concrete examples of how a charitable action will benefit others, say mental health experts. "Around the holidays when you're struggling to survive, when you've lost everything and every decision you make is about meeting your absolute, basic needs, like how you're going to take a shower, it's a nice surprise to get a wrapped box of soaps, toothpaste, socks, snacks and a personal note," said Nikki Stanaitis, LCSW-C of Interfaith Works.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

DECEMBER

12/30/2015.....Children's Connection

JANUARY

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Mamo Scores Career-High 28 in Loss to Lake Braddock

**Titans drop
Conference 7 opener
to Bruins, fall to 1-3.**

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams boys' basketball team entered the fourth quarter of Tuesday's Conference 7 opener against undefeated Lake Braddock with a four-point lead despite the absence of standout guard Tavaris James, who sat out due to illness.

**"We're a
work in
progress.
I really like
our team."**

**— T.C. Williams
boys' basketball
coach Bryan Hill**

By the end of the contest, three Titans had scored in double figures, led by a career-high 28 points from junior guard Fahmmi Mamo.

In a postgame interview, head coach Bryan Hill said TC has "improved exponentially" early in the season.

While T.C. Williams had reason for optimism Tuesday, the Titans failed to secure a victory in Burke, thanks primarily to a career-best performance from 6-foot-8 Lake Braddock senior James Butler.

Butler, a Navy signee, scored 46 points, including 18 in the fourth quarter, and the Bruins improved to 5-0 overall and 1-0 in the conference with an 83-77 victory at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

The undersized Titans had no an-



T.C. Williams junior guard Fahmmi Mamo scored a career-high 28 points against Lake Braddock on Tuesday.

swer for Butler, who was a force in the paint. T.C. Williams' tallest player, 6-foot-5 center Andrew Tovsky, fouled out with 6:30 remaining and Lake Braddock leading 64-62. Butler, who surpassed his previous career-high of 35 points, continued to capitalize on the Titans' lack of height, scoring in the post and on putbacks.

"TC, once the big boy got in foul trouble and they just tried to surround [Butler] a little bit, and it was tough," Lake Braddock head coach Brian Metress said. "I thought we ran offense well, we threw passes to him and we got him in all sorts of different matchups."

After a jumper by T.C. Williams guard Jordan Jones cut Lake Braddock's lead to 68-66 with 5:08 remaining, Butler scored Lake Braddock's next 11 points.

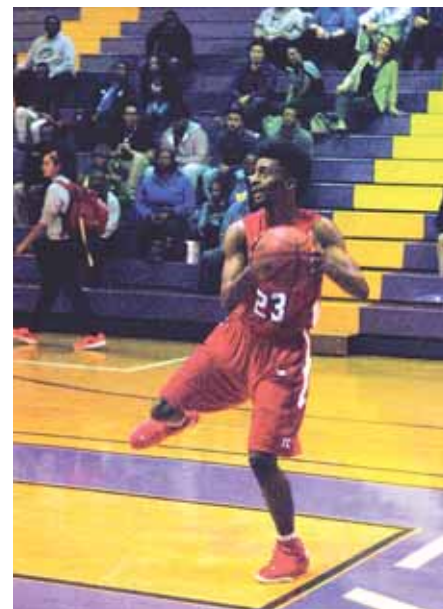
Butler's final field goal gave the Bruins a

79-72 advantage with 1:15 remaining.

"A guy has a big game like that, it's what it is," TC head coach Hill said. "It's basketball, it's what happens." Butler's effort overshadowed a big night for Mamo, who finished with 28 points. The second-year varsity athlete scored 17 in the first half and knocked down a trio of 3-pointers.

"I thought his effort was the best yet, the best that I've seen," Hill said. "He's really, really going to continue to blossom and grow — [he's] just a junior. He played the point guard for us today and I thought he did a great job. I challenge him all the time. He's a fantastic student — all honors classes, like a 3.7 grade point average, a really good kid. It's best to have a kid like that on your roster." Jones scored 16 points for the Titans, including 12 in the second half.

"Jordan Jones really has done a great job



T.C. Williams senior Jordan Jones finished with 16 points against Lake Braddock on Tuesday.

being a senior leader for us," Hill said. "... I'm really thankful to have him back this year."

Freshman guard Jaquan Johnson knocked down four 3-pointers and totaled 14 points. Junior forward Teyan Williams scored nine points and junior guard Gabriel Harold added seven.

The loss dropped TC's record to 1-3 overall and 0-1 in the conference. The Titans will travel to face West Potomac at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18.

"We're a work in progress," Hill said. "I really like our team. The kids have bought in and they're really working hard. I'm not necessarily happy with the loss, but I'm happy with the effort and the willingness to continue to fight and compete and improve as a team and I think as the year endures, we'll show up and be right there."

SPORTS BRIEFS

TC Girls Win Conference 7 Opener

The T.C. Williams girls' basketball team defeated Lake Braddock 40-27 in both teams' Conference 7 opener on Tuesday night in Burke.

Bhrandi Crenshaw led the Titans with 12 points. Trinity Palacio finished with nine points, and Grace Asch and Keyana Roberts each had seven.

The Titans will host West Potomac at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18.

SSSAS Boys Win 4 of 5

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys' basketball team won four of its first five games this season, including a 2-1 showing at the Sleepy Thompson Tournament.

During the tournament, the Saints defeated

Woodberry Forest 55-48 on Dec. 3, lost to Atlantic Shores 69-66 on Dec. 4 and beat St. Anne's-Belfield 57-52 on Dec. 5.

SSSAS improved to 4-1 with a 58-53 win over Millwood on Dec. 11.

The Saints will travel to face H.D. Woodson at 3:45 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19 in the DMV Tip-Off Classic at North Point High School.

Bishop Ireton Girls Start 5-2

The Bishop Ireton girls' basketball team is off to a 5-2 start.

The Cardinals lost to Bishop O'Connell 57-54 on Tuesday in Arlington. Prior to the defeat, Ireton had won four of its first five, including a three-game win streak to open the year.

Bishop Ireton will host Paul VI at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

T.C. Williams' Bhrandi Crenshaw scored 12 points during the Titans' 40-27 victory over Lake Braddock on Tuesday.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

Council Upholds

FROM PAGE 1

"No historic structures were demolished for this docket item," said John Von Senden, chair of the BAR for the Old and Historic District. "What you see before you reflects the give and take of a design dialogue that happens over those couple of years. People have quoted the waterfront plan and our BAR guidelines, but the waterfront master plan encourages modern design."

Von Senden noted that the city's guidelines noted specifically that direct copying of historic buildings is discouraged and that new designs shouldn't be summarily dismissed. Al Cox, Alexandria's Historic Preservation manager, noted that Alexandria's historic waterfront featured several very large buildings that were industrial in character.

But the citizens weren't alone in the fight. The original BAR decision had been narrowly approved in a 4-3 vote. Wayne Neale represented the BAR's minority view on the decision.

"This is the most significant project to occur in a very long time," said Neale. "This project will stand for 100 years or more. We should strive for not just squeaking by with a majority vote."

Neale suggested that the City Council remand the project back to the BAR with recommendations to review the exterior designs to be more compatible with the local architecture and to make the waterfront

view more in keeping with Alexandria's past. Specifically, Neale requested more variety in roof lines and more brick than glass in the structure.

"Does it look like Old Town? Does it feel like Old Town? It really doesn't. It's not there yet," said Neale. "With those two recommendations, I am confident that it will come back to you in better form."

The citizens found support from Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, whose successful campaign for mayor had partially been centered around ensuring that new construction fit the historic character of Alexandria's neighborhoods. Silberberg's critics, most notably incumbent Mayor William Euille, called her stance anti-development. Much of the tension from that election was still very present at Saturday's meeting.

"We're faced with a situation where our own BAR, on one of the votes, is [split] 4 to 3," said Silberberg. "We all want to get this right, but there's still a lot of concern This is a serious, pivotal moment."

Silberberg originally proposed following Neale's suggestion to remand the decision back to the BAR. However, the City Council was only allowed to either accept the BAR decision, overrule it, or approve it with modifications. Silberberg then motioned to modify the BAR's decision to include elevation changes, but it received no second from the rest of the County Board. Instead, City Council Member Justin Wilson moved to uphold the BAR's decision and approve the buildings. It was passed, with all but Silberberg voting in favor.

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-Arthur Wing
Pinero

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-11-08

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors for Service/Recognition Awards.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-11-08 Intervention (RTI) Tool for Elementary Mathematics for Alexandria City Public Schools. Proposals will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, December 5, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8140, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Francine Morris
Buyer

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-12-01

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Special Education Consulting Services in the ACPS school district.

Emailed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-12-01 Special Education Consulting Services will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, January 8, 2016. Proposals received via email shall be transmitted with a date and time stamp. Any email response received where the senders date and time are after this specified time shall not be considered. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
ACPS Senior Buyer

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY

Otto Harrison Shupe, 76, of Fries, Virginia passed away Thursday, December 10, 2015 in the Holston Valley Hospital, Kingsport, Tennessee. Harrison was born April 19, 1939 in Virginia to the late Otto Bruce and Cenie Katherine Sexton Shupe. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Susie Underwood Shupe. Harrison and Susie both lived in Alexandria for many years before moving to Fries.

He is survived by son Michael (Sharon) Shupe of Fries, VA; Daughter Heather (Daniel) Osborne of Clintwood, VA; six grandchildren: Lori and Eddie Shupe, Kylie, Seth, Micah and Luke Osborne; step grandchildren Keshia Carpenter, Darren Felts; sisters Luann (Buddy) Mays of Kingsland, Georgia; Sharon (Donald) Sharp, Debra (Mike) Thomas, Sheila (Alan) Rogers all of Columbia, Tennessee. Several other relatives and many friends survive.

The funeral service will be held Monday, December 14, 2015 at the Liberty Hill United Methodist Church, 40 Crusader Lane, Fries, VA at 4:00 PM. Interment will follow in the Liberty Hill Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 2:00 PM until time for the service.

Flowers will be appreciated or donations can be made to Camp Jacob, 2723 Camp Jacob Road, Clintwood, VA 24228 or Atkins Memorial UM Church, 199 Atkins Lane, Fries, VA 24330 or the donor's choice.

A guestbook is online at www.vaughanguynn.com



Dana McLeod 1955 - 2015

The wise and wonderful lady with the incredible laugh and a smile that just lit up the room, the sensitive friend who really listened, the spirited role model whose courage amazed us all, the protective big sister every little brother needs, the brilliant and caring teacher/director every young theatre performer should experience at least once. Peacefully, in the early morning hours of Nov. 16th 2015, Dana McLeod passed away in the loving care of the staff at Mt. Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Dana had fought an incredibly brave battle with MS for twenty years and though the disease changed the course of her life, it would never define her. A former actress, dancer and musical theatre performer, she played roles as varied as Harpo Marx, Louise in the musical "Gypsy" and even Yosemte Sam. She also danced at Radio City Music Hall in a special holiday extravaganza.

When performing was no longer an option, she became a teacher, director and choreographer spending many years working in the children's theatre program at the Alden Theatre in McLean, Virginia.

Dana faced her final days with grace, strength and even humour. So moved by Dana's unbreakable spirit, one nurse on her palliative care team said, "I feel so blessed to have met you." Dana left this world with a beautiful look of peace and total contentment on her face. We think she knew how much we loved her, what a difference she had made in our lives and how we all felt so blessed to have known her.

She is survived by her mother and step father, Marilyn and Ken Murton, and her brother Kenneth John Murton of Toronto, Canada.

Our deepest gratitude goes to Nora Miller, Margo Harris and the incredible staff at Mt. Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center who brought Dana home in her final days with open arms and a hero's welcome.

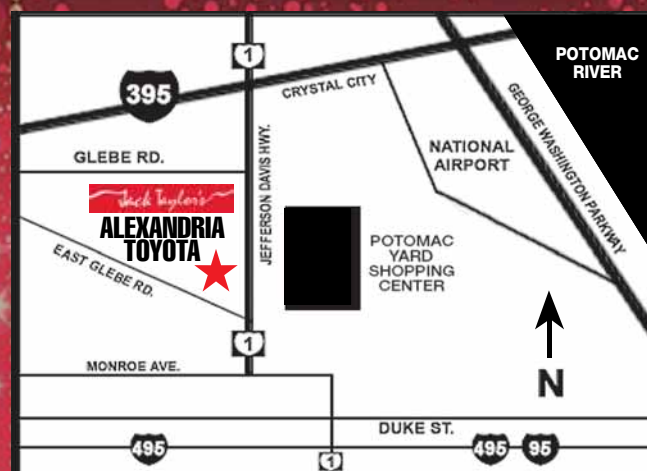
To Janet, Retta, Carolyn and Mary Beth who truly redefined the word "support". And to the amazing people at Inova Fairfax Hospital and Capital Caring you are forever in our hearts.

A Remembrance of Dana's Life will be held on Sunday May 15, 2016 at the McLean Community Center in McLean, Virginia at 2:00 p.m.

Donations in Dana's name may be made to the National MS Society, Greater DC - Maryland Chapter, 1800 M Street, NW, Suite B50 North, Washington DC 20036

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**WE WILL
MEET OR BEAT
ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S
CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS**

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**ROTATE & BALANCE
SPECIAL**
\$59⁹⁵

INCLUDES: Rotate and balance all 4 wheels and inspect brakes and tires.

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**15% OFF
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WITH FREE INSTALLATION**

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**20% OFF
ANY ACCESSORIES**
• Apparel • Window visors
• I-pad adaptors • All weather floor mats
• Toyota bedliners

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**30000 MILES FACTORY
RECOMMENDED
SERVICE**
\$159⁹⁵

Synthetic \$10 More
INCLUDES: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. AX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/15.

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Old Town Alexandria

Gracious rooms with tall ceilings and warm wood floors, a stainless kitchen with adjoining breakfast room, a luxurious master suite, an au pair/in-law suite with kitchenette and a charming sheltered garden with two off-street parking spaces add to the delights of this classic, renovated, five-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath, early 19th century residence within steps of mass transportation, boutique shops and inviting restaurants of Old Town.

Lauren Bishop

202.361.5079

www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



\$1,795,000



Beverly Hills

\$1,375,000

Complete renovation in sought-after George Mason school district. 6-bedrooms, 4-baths. Sunlight flooded expansive kitchen & family room are the heart of the home. Two fireplaces and a main-level bedroom & bath. Spacious master suite. Fully finished lower level. 216 Woodland Terrace

Jen Walker

703.675.1566

www.JenWalker.com



Rosemont

\$565,000

Gorgeous 3-level, all-brick townhouse in Rosemont. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Rich hardwood floors throughout, updated kitchen, finished lower level family room or guest suite. Deck & back yard overlooks park. Walk to King St Metro & Old Town only one block away. 100 Mt Vernon Avenue

Jen Walker

703.675.1566

www.JenWalker.com

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this Holiday Season.

www.hopkinshouse.org
www.bgcgw.org/alexandria



Alexandria

\$512,000

Set on a 1/3-acre lot on a cul-de-sac, this well-maintained 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath home is sunny and spacious. Designer kitchen is open to the family room with fireplace. Newer energy-efficient windows and HVAC. Easy Metro or Fort Belvoir commute. 6403 May Boulevard

Elizabeth Lucchesi

703.868.5676

www.LizLuke.com



Hollindale

\$749,000

This gorgeous custom colonial is sited on a beautiful half-acre lot. It has a dramatic family room with a 2-story wall of windows, large eat-in kitchen with an island and table space, and separate dining room. Handsome crown, chair and panel moldings throughout. Wonderful screened porch.

Robin Arnold

703.966.5457

www.RobinArnoldSells.com



Watergate at Alexandria

\$510,000

Fabulous community and location for this great 2-bedroom, 2-bath townhome. Large living room with wood-burning fireplace walks out to patio. Generously sized bedrooms have great closets. Attic with storage. Energy-efficient double pane windows. Underground parking conveys.

Chris Hayes & Gordon Wood

703.944.7737 | 703.447.6138

www.HayesWoodHomes.com



Jefferson Park

\$950,000

Fieldstone and frame, 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home. Deceptively large with grand rooms. Fireplaces in the living room, great room & the master bedroom. Attached garage parking for two cars. Beautiful garden, large patio for entertaining, roof deck.

Sarah Elliott King

703.864.5050

www.SarahEKing.com