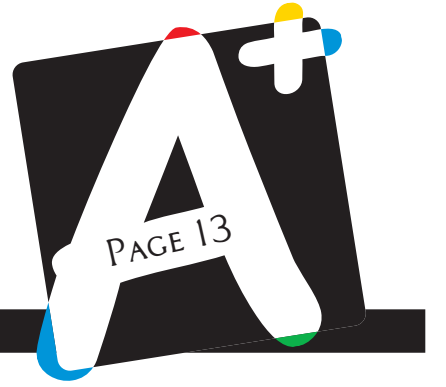




# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

## Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 17, 2016



PHOTO BY "MANCO" MIKE ANDERSON

### Visit from Spanish Galleon

El Galeon docks along the Alexandria waterfront Nov. 13 under a night sky illuminated by a Super Moon that won't be seen again until 2034. The full size replica of a 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish galleon visited the city from Nov. 9-14 as part of an East Coast journey to educate visitors about early European sailing techniques and technology. See story, more photos, on page 14.

## Deepening Boundaries

Community expresses concerns about lack of diversity in proposed redistricting.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) need to redistrict. The lines separating the school districts have been in place for 17 years, and the demographics of the city have shifted dramatically in that time.

Even with redistricting, the Long Range Educational Facilities Plan says the schools' ideal target range is between 90 and 110 percent capacity. But among parents, teachers, and students at the Nov. 14 public forum on redistricting held at George Washington Middle School, there were deep concerns  
SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 28

## Scourge or Salvation?

BID moves forward with mixed reception from business owners.

BY VERNON MILES  
THE CONNECTION

Depending on whom you ask, by early 2017, Alexandria's businesses along King Street could see the beginning of a revitalization of Old Town retail or the burden of another unnecessary tax. A proposed Business Improvement District (BID), discussed in the city for over 10 years, is finally making progress towards City Council consideration in the fall and potential implementation in early 2017.

The idea behind a BID is a shared risk and shared reward. The BID provides public space and events management, advocacy for local businesses, and streetscape improvements beyond what is provided by the city. The BID would serve as a point of contact for disseminating information on new policies and proposals that affect businesses within its district.

"We can do something more coordinated and beautiful with streetscapes," said Stephanie Landrum, president and CEO of  
SEE BUSINESS, PAGE 30

## Salute to Veterans Chamber honors veterans in business.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Charlie Euripides, a Korean War veteran and longtime owner of the Royal Restaurant, received a standing ovation as he was presented with the 2016 Distinguished Patriot Award at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Salute to Veterans reception Nov. 10 at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate.

"I am deeply humbled and grateful for this honor," said Euripides as he accepted the award from Chamber board chairman Robert Shea. "This means so much to me and my family."

In addition to Euripides, the Chamber of Commerce recognized four businesses that are veteran owned

or have demonstrated leadership in hiring veterans and transitioning service members. Also honored were @home real estate, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, Mr. Handyman of Northern Virginia - Arlington to Haymarket, and Sonoma Cellar.

Keynote remarks were provided by Barbara Carson, associate administrator, Office of Veterans Business Development of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"Veteran entrepreneurs are a driving force in our economy," said Carson. "Nearly one in every 10 American businesses today is owned by a veteran and veteran-owned businesses collectively employ more than 5 million workers and generate receipts in excess of \$1.2 trillion. The SBA is proud to join

SEE SALUTE TO VETERANS, PAGE 6

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# Remembering the Fallen Ceremony honors local veterans.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he service and sacrifice of local veterans was honored during a Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center. Hosted by the Friends of Rocky Versace, the ceremony included a reading of the 67 names of Alexandrians who were killed or reported missing in action during the Vietnam War. James Spengler, director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, recited the name of his brother, Army Capt. Henry Spengler, a 1959 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and classmate of Humbert “Rocky” Versace.

Participating in the ceremony were St. Rita Cub Scout Pack 522, St. Rita American Heritage Girls Troop 1381, and members of the Anna Marie Fitzhugh Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Special tribute was paid to Versace, a posthumous Medal of Honor recipient, by his West Point classmates, who placed a wreath honoring all those who have served.



**James Spengler, director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, recites the name of his brother, Capt. Henry Spengler, a West Point graduate and classmate of Rocky Versace who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1972.**



**Members of the West Point class of 1959 prepare to place a wreath in honor of Humbert “Rocky” Versace and all Alexandria veterans at the Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center.**

PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER



**Paul Berman of Buglers Across America prepares to play Taps to close the ceremony.**



**Members of the Historical Trumpets and Flutes of the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps perform patriotic music to open the Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center.**



**St. Rita American Heritage Girls Troop 1381 leads the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.**

## Gracias, Dhonnobad, Shukran, Amesegenalehu

**Alexandria’s uninsured express thanks for free health fair.**

BY EDEN BROWN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he expressions of gratitude for the free health fair, organized by the Alliance for Alexandria’s Uninsured, moved many of those who volunteered at the fair. “Gracias Bendiciones a todo generosas que aludan a ser realidad este programa. La Comunidad hispana agradecida,” said a Spanish-speaking woman at the

fair. Translation: “Thanks and blessings to all of the generous people who helped to make this program a reality. The Hispanic community is grateful.”

Another woman wrote on her exit interview: “Gracias por ayudar con informacion y servica para mantenemos saludables.” “Thank you for helping with information and services so we can keep healthy.”

“Those two quotes for me represent the sum total of why we do these fairs,” said Richard Merritt, a founding member of the Alliance for Alexandria’s Uninsured and an organizer of the Fair.

The health fair on Nov. 4 was financed without any city funding and totally through the contribu-

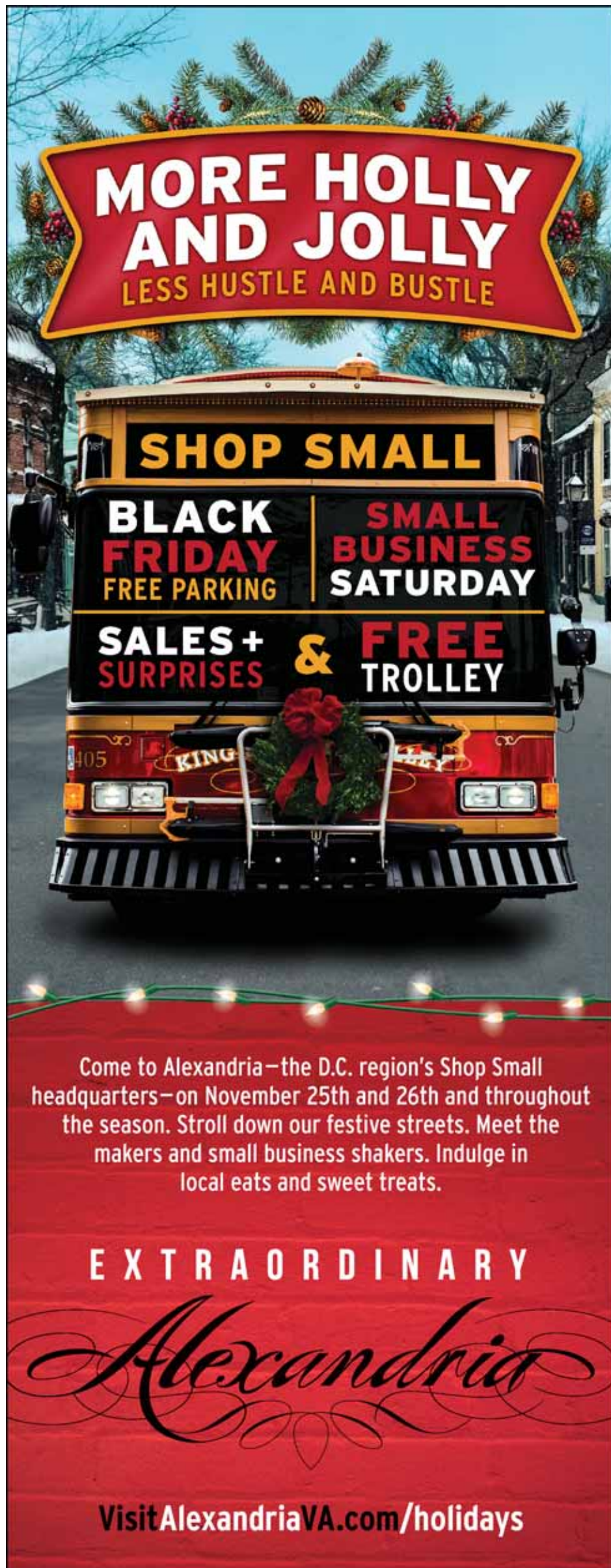
SEE UNINSURED’S GRATITUD, PAGE 8



**Richard Merritt, Councilman Tim Lovain, Dan Hawkins, and Dr. John Klousia at the health fair. Merritt said, “Without Tim Lovain’s budget amendment, the Alliance wouldn’t have had the money to expand primary care in the city and would never have even attempted to organize another fair.”**

BY STEPHANIE CAFFARELL





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PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

At the Oct. 28 groundbreaking for the National Industries for the Blind headquarters building at Potomac Yard are, from left, NIB board chair Jeanne Morin; NIB president and CEO Kevin Lynch; Mayor Allison Silberberg; and NIB board vice chair William Carty.

## Vision for the Future

**National Industries for the Blind breaks ground in Potomac Yard.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria-based National Industries for the Blind held a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 28 to formally begin construction on a new 100,000-square foot headquarters building at The Exchange at Potomac Yard.

"This is an exciting day for us," said NIB president and CEO Kevin Lynch. "This new building will ensure that we can continue to perform our mission well into the future."

Founded 78 years ago, NIB is a nonprofit organization and the nation's largest employment resource for people who are blind. Currently located at Braddock Metro, the company has been in Alexandria since 1994.

"The mission of NIB cannot be overstated," said Mayor Allison Silberberg. "With the unemployment rate of working age blind Americans at 70 percent, this is a noble mission and it is an honor to have you here in the City of Alexandria."

The new headquarters building will stand seven stories tall with NIB occupying 53,000 square feet of office space. An additional 40,000 square feet of office space will be available and 7,000 square feet of retail



**Alexandria Deputy Sheriff Todd Stubblefield, right, with Keith Tyson of Blind Industries and Services of Maryland, who sang the National Anthem.**

space will be located on the ground floor.

Expected to open in mid-2018, the building will incorporate universal design elements and provide an expanded training facility utilizing advanced accessibility technologies.

"This is a historic milestone for NIB, our employees and the associated nonprofit agencies we support," Lynch said. "Our investment and commitment to creating new employment opportunities for people who are blind is truly coming to fruition with the start of construction."

The NIB building will be located directly across from the Potomac Yard Metro Station, scheduled to open in 2020, and next door to the future site of the Institute for Defense Analyses.

Partnering with NIB in the construction of the new headquarters are MRP Realty and The JBG Companies, who are co-developing The Exchange at Potomac Yard. The Exchange at Potomac Yard is an approximately two million square foot development that includes more than 500 units of residential apartments and a 65,000-square foot Giant grocery store.

"Today represents the culmination of many years of planning," said NIB board chair Jeanne Morin. "But now we are positioned for many years of success. For NIB, the best is yet to come."

For more information, visit [NIB.org](http://NIB.org).

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

### Correction

The Nov. 10 edition of the Gazette Packet incorrectly identified Jan and Jay Test as owners of 117-123 S. Union Street. The buildings are owned by Vicki Warren under the 121 South Union Street LLC. The Test family operates Union Street Public House Restaurant as tenants of the building.



# Coach Addresses School Board

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

It's been two weeks since Coach Bryan Hill was dismissed as head coach of the T.C. Williams boy's basketball team. Hill was allegedly removed from his position for driving a student home from practice in a personal vehicle and for holding practices on Sunday, both of which are prohibited by the Virginia High School League (VHSL). According to Tom Dolan from the VHSL, illegal practices could come with a fine of up

to \$200. Dolan said whether the local school district pursues disciplinary action is up to their discretion.

At a School Board meeting on Nov. 10, Hill asked to have the ban on coaching and his do-not-contact order with team members removed; the room was full of supporters. Hill said he recognized that the policy had been violated, but said there were exceptions and alternatives that the school system had never explored. Parents said that some students from the team are taking algebra, a subject Hill teaches and tutors at

TC. Hill also said he had not received proper notice from the schools about his termination.

According to Virginia Code and School Board Policy, teacher contracts regarding termination do not apply to coaching positions. Loss of supplemental pay requires reasonable notice to be given, but the definition of reasonable notice in this scenario is not specified in the statute.

Parents of basketball students and other athletic representatives from around the region attended the meeting and spoke in support of Hill.

"It's not about wins and losses, it's about

building character," said Edwin Buckner, former athletic director at Ballou High School in D.C. "Coach Hill [has built character] for young black men in this area. We talk about the importance of setting a good role model. That's what Coach Hill does. He is a person that raises young men to be productive citizens."

Hill and other parents on the team have accused School Board member Bill Campbell of using his influence as a School Board member to pressure the schools into letting go of Hill. Alexandria City Public Schools and Campbell have maintained silence on the issue.



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(Left to right) Ted Johnson, Erik Dorn, Shannon Catlett, Charlie Collum, Pam De Candio and Kerry Donley



## PEOPLE

# Salute to Veterans

FROM PAGE 1

the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce in honoring these local veteran-owned businesses, just as we are proud to celebrate the success of veterans, reservists, members of the National Guard and service-disabled veterans as they start and grow their small businesses.”

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner provided each recipient with a personalized congratulatory letter and flag and former Gov. Jim Gilmore, an Army veteran, attended the celebration

which was sponsored by Cotton & Company.

“The Alexandria Chamber is deeply proud to honor these businesses and distinguished patriot and thank them for their service both on and off the battlefield,” said Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Joe Haggerty. “Their commitment to our country and Alexandria should never be forgotten and we greatly appreciate their continued service to strengthening and enhancing our community.”



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Distinguished Patriot recipient Charlie Euripides, third from right, with fellow members of American Legion Post 24. Pictured are Post 24 commander Doug Gurka, Henry Dorton, Jim Glassman, Charlie Euripides, 2015 Distinguished Patriot recipient Warden Foley and John Bordner.**



PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER

**Charlie Euripides, a Korean War veteran and owner of the Royal Restaurant, is applauded by Chamber of Commerce board chair Robert Shea as he accepts the 2016 Distinguished Patriot Award at the Salute to Veterans ceremony Nov. 10 at Mount Vernon Estate.**



**Former Virginia governor and Army veteran Jim Gilmore, left, with American Legion Post 24 commander Doug Gurka.**



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Air Force veteran John Bordner, left, with Lawson Moore and award winner Elizabeth Myllenbeck of Sonoma Cellar.**

## Shining Stars SSA honors program volunteers.

Senior Services of Alexandria honored individuals who have made a significant contribution to various SSA programs at its annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon Nov. 3 at the Durant Arts Center.

Volunteers of the Year for each program include: Meals on Wheels – Bobbie and Patrick O’Brien; Friendly Visitor – Alexandra Johnson; Groceries to Go – Carolyn Cain; and Education and Outreach – Steve Cordle. Meals On Wheels volunteer coordinator Dolores Viehman was presented with the Superstar award from Director of Community Outreach MaryAnne Beatty.

Mayor Allison Silberberg and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne were on hand to congratulate the honorees and lunch was provided by Jeffery’s Catering with desserts from Giant Food on Duke Street.

For more information about SSA services and programs, call 703- 836-4414 or visit



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Meals On Wheels volunteer coordinator Dolores Viehman, left, is presented the Superstar award from Director of Community Outreach MaryAnne Beatty at the SSA Volunteer Appreciation luncheon.**

[www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org).

— JEANNE THEISMANN



**Volunteers and staff of Senior Services of Alexandria gather with city officials at the SSA Volunteer Appreciation luncheon Nov. 3 at the Durant Arts Center. From left: Sheriff Dana Lawhorne; Friendly Visitor of the Year Alexandra Johnson; Education Volunteer of the Year Steve Cordle; Meals on Wheels Volunteers of the Year Bobbie and Patrick O’Brien; Groceries to Go Volunteer Carolyn Caine; SSA Executive Director Mary Lee; Mayor Allison Silberberg; and SSA Board Chair Lynwood Campbell.**



## BUSINESS

# The Ultimate Barber Opens at Potomac Yards

**T**he man behind the shears is John Hall, 42; he has just opened The Ultimate Barber at 2712 Jefferson Davis Highway.

On the walls, Hall has yearly awards to his credit: for best barber, for best barbershop, for best men's haircut and even a business hall of fame.

Reliability and consistency is his mantra. That means being on time and giving the look his clients want. It means being aware of culture and hairstyles, military requirements and trends, a classic look or design worn by athletes.

The Ultimate Barber is equipped with Wi-Fi and other amenities.

See [www.theultimatebarber.com](http://www.theultimatebarber.com).

— RIKKI GEORGE



**"Everyday [at The Ultimate Barber] is a grand opening," says employee Patrice Wright. From left are Monikk Miller, receptionist; Patrice Wright, manager; and Melanie Thomas, barber. Women are a growing influence in the field of barbers, according to John Hall, owner of The Ultimate Barber.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ULTIMATE BARBER  
**John Hall with customer Jokera McNeil. Women are finding barbers an alternative to salons for price reasons.**

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## NEWS

# Uninsured's Gratitude

## Results

FROM PAGE 3

tions of several generous donors in the community. It was staffed by more than 100 volunteers from the community. Most were recruited with the help of Volunteer Alexandria.

Susan Nolan, a health insurance navigator at Enroll-Virginia! said their screeners counseled approximately 164 people at the fair. Approximately 40 percent were referred to Neighborhood Health, 35 percent to Enroll-Virginia for ACA assistance. Enroll-Virginia saw approximately 25 people; 15 of those did applications for eligibility and nine of those selected a health insurance plan. Two parties did not select a plan because they thought it was too expensive. Because the application process can be lengthy, the others took a flyer to review the health plans in greater detail on their own.

DoctorsTelemed, a telemedicine solution managed by the Medical Society of Northern Virginia Foundation (MSNVAF), whose mission is to expand access to healthcare to patients at the time of need, was at the fair. In June 2016, CareFirst awarded the MSNVAF a grant to provide free telemedicine consults for low-income, uninsured patients who live and/or work in Northern Virginia. According to Claudia Tellez, MSNVA executive director, the organization registered 25 patients to use DoctorsTelemed at the health fair. They also agreed to meet with the Global Health College to offer free telemedicine services to the student body, many of whom are minimum wage working adults.

Of the 102 people The Kidney Foundation screened, 24 had an abnormal result. According to the foundation, this doesn't confirm these people have chronic kidney disease, but the 24 participants were recommended for follow up because these people need to be further tested, primarily by Neighborhood Health since most of them had neither health insurance nor a primary care physician so they could get the tests to diagnose chronic kidney disease (CKD). One participant was taken to an urgent care center based on a consistently high blood pressure.

Laura Jessick, of Friends of Guest House, said she talked to two women who attended the health fair when they came to a class that evening. One, Kristen Sedlar, a 19 year old who is pregnant, was motivated to go to the fair because she had not been to see a doctor in a while and wanted to make sure she was healthy: up until now, the care she has received was for the baby. She was

Preliminary fair data, according to fair organizers:

- ❖ Dental screens offered by the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic and assisted by the Northern Virginia Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic (175 screens);
- ❖ Hearing and Vision screens offered by the Alexandria Host Lions Club (120 screens);
- ❖ Glucose and Cholesterol tests provided via the Kaiser Permanente Mobile Health Van (137 screens);
- ❖ Kidney Health Screens provided by the National Kidney Foundation (102 screens);
- ❖ Flu vaccinations were provided for free by Walgreens (127 flu shots);
- ❖ More than 50 people came to the Breast and Colon Cancer Awareness Table;
- ❖ Nineteen women have been scheduled to have their mammogram done;
- ❖ More than 40 people came to the Ryan White / HIV Counseling Table and were referred to Nova Salud (per Nova Salud, 30 people were tested);
- ❖ More than 100 people stopped at the Neighborhood Health Eligibility and Enrollment table, 86 assisted 51 Eligibility Appointments scheduled, 25 of those schedule for a Medical Dental exam;
- ❖ The Kathy Wilson Foundation screened 13 children;
- ❖ More than 180 people came to Neighborhood Health and a total of 105 appointments for either Eligibility or Medical/Dental were provided.

very happy that there were testing/labs offered on site; she got her blood work done and is expecting the results soon. She had another test done and was informed that she had an infection and needed treatment. She was overjoyed to get a new toothbrush and a flu shot. She said, "I would encourage many people to go to the next health fair: I was able to make sure I was healthy and get resources. I felt good when I left the fair knowing that I'll be able to be a healthy mother."

Olenia "Kay" Haley was effusive in her appreciation: "I'm an older woman that has faced many obstacles in life," she said, "and I've recently been struggling to secure steady employment with good pay. Without a job or money I have very few resources to utilize for health services. I've been worried about a number of different things and I'm on waitlists but can't afford to see a doctor outside of a clinic. The fair was very informative and gave me the opportunity to make sure I'm healthy. it was like a quick free physical exam."

Merritt, asked if the fair would be repeated next year, replied, "If you had asked me that before the election, I would have said I'm not sure. But now, I feel we will need more expressions of community concern and compassion, like the health fair, for our most vulnerable residents, not less."

See [www.accessalexandria.org](http://www.accessalexandria.org).

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# OPINION

# Holidays Are for Giving

Give thanks and share locally; tens of thousands of families around us are in need.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

## EDITORIAL

In Alexandria, 8,618 students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals. That's 59 percent of the 14,677 students enrolled.

Nearly 8 percent Alexandria residents live below the poverty line, a harrowing \$24,000 for a family of four. More than 25 percent of female-headed households with children live below the poverty line in Alexandria.

These are children living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

Many nonprofits in the county need your help to provide a holiday meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thou-

sands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again after Thanksgiving, so please let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Alexandria: Where to Give Locally

- ❖ **ALIVE!** 703-837-9300 [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org), Emergency food assistance, emergency financial assistance, shelter, year-round preschool, furniture and housewares.
- ❖ **Literacy Council of Northern Virginia**, 703-237-0866, [www.lcnv.org](http://www.lcnv.org), Teaches adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and understanding English. Offers one-to-one tutoring programs for adult learners as well as beginning-level ESOL and Family Learning adult programs.
- ❖ **Senior Services of Alexandria**, 703-836-4414, [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org), Support services for elders enabling them to age with dignity.
- ❖ **Tahirih Justice Center**, 703-575-0070, [www.tahirih.org](http://www.tahirih.org), Legal services, public policy advocacy, and education for immigrant women and girls.
- ❖ **Animal Welfare League of Alexandria**, 703-746-4774, [www.alexandrianimals.org](http://www.alexandrianimals.org), Pet adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education and community service and outreach.
- ❖ **Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia**, 703-820-9001, [www.scanva.org](http://www.scanva.org), Parent education, public education-re: child abuse and court advocacy for abused and neglected children.
- ❖ **Rebuilding Together Alexandria**, 703-836-1021, [www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org](http://www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org), Home repair and maintenance for vulnerable veterans, elderly, disabled and families with children.
- ❖ **ACT for Alexandria**, 703-739-7778, [www.actforalexandria.org](http://www.actforalexandria.org), Nonprofit and donor services.
- ❖ **Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless**, 703-525-7177, [www.aachhomeless.org](http://www.aachhomeless.org).
- ❖ **Carpenter's Shelter**, 703 548-7500, [www.carpentersshelter.org](http://www.carpentersshelter.org), Homeless services and programs including education and case management.

- ❖ **The Campagna Center**, 703-549-0111, [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org), Center for Alexandria's Children, 703-838-4381, [www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org](http://www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org), Child abuse & neglect and parent support.
- ❖ **Child and Family Network Centers**, 703-836-0214, [www.cfnc-online.org](http://www.cfnc-online.org)
- ❖ **Community Lodgings, Inc.**, 703-549-4407, Transitional and affordable housing, youth education, adult education, bilingual staff assistance.
- ❖ **Computer C.O.R.E.** 703-931-7346, [www.computercore.org](http://www.computercore.org), Adult education, computer training and career development.
- ❖ **Hopkins House**, 703-549-8072, [www.hopkinshouse.org](http://www.hopkinshouse.org), Preschool academy, family budgeting and literacy, family education and youth summer enrichment camp, Early Childhood Learning Institute.
- ❖ **Bethany House**, 6121 Lincoln Road #303, Alexandria, VA 22312, 703-658-9500, [www.bhmv.org](http://www.bhmv.org), Bethany House provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding D.C. metro communities.
- ❖ **Volunteer Alexandria**, 123 N Alfred St., Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-836-2176, [handsonconnect.volunteerallexandria.org](http://handsonconnect.volunteerallexandria.org).
- ❖ **Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center** raises funds to support the special and emergency needs of individuals who are receiving services for mental illness, substance use disorders, and developmental disabilities from the city's Department of Community and Human Services. Send donations to Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center, 720 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314. Donations can be made online at [Razoo.com](http://Razoo.com).
- ❖ **Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia** transforms the lives of lower-income families in need by providing affordable homeownership opportunities in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. Learn more at [www.habitatnova.org](http://www.habitatnova.org).
- ❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact [alnorthervna@gmail.com](mailto:alnorthervna@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org>

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Bikeshare Isn't Mass Transit

To the Editor:

In last week's edition of this newspaper there was an article featuring Capital Bikeshare and it's expansion issues. As part of this examination a lengthy comparison was made to public transportation and its financial dynamics, especially the role of public subsidies.

This was a knowing and deliberate distortion of a Federal letter from the IRS released on Sept. 27, 2013. This letter's purpose was stated as: "This is in reply to your letter dated June 21, 2013, requesting that the Internal Revenue Service 'adopt bike share as a qualifier for the Transportation (Commuting) Benefits program under the Fringe Benefit Exclusion Rules for transit.'" This Federal opinion of the status of bike share programs as a category of transit types is as follows: "... transportation on mass transit facilities whether or not publicly owned. A bike share program is not a mass transit facility."

Note: mass transit is defined as public transportation in an urban area, i.e. bus and rail

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

## Alexandria Gazette Packet

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## OPINION

# Tackling Sewage Issue

BY ALLISON SILBERBERG  
MAYOR OF ALEXANDRIA

I write as a lifelong environmentalist and as the Mayor of Alexandria. All of us have a deep and abiding obligation to our land, water, and air. It is not a burden, but rather an honor. I take this honor seriously, and I believe our conscientious citizenry does as well.

In our beloved, historic city, our combined sewage system dates back to the early 1800s. Over 800 cities in our country have the same system. Usually, our sewage goes to the treatment plant. But when it rains, 95 percent of our sewage goes to the treatment plant, and the remaining 5 percent combines with rainwater, overflows the system, and goes to the Potomac River by way of four outfalls.

The city has known about this issue for decades. I have lived here since 1989, and when I was briefed about it as the new vice mayor in 2013, I was appalled like many are now in our community. My reaction then and now is focused on moving us as fast as we can to get this fixed.

In 1994, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) gave the city a permit to allow the outfalls to continue as long as the city started the process of abatement, albeit unfunded. DEQ required the city to fix three of the four outfalls first. The fourth outfall, which is at Oronoco, was not included in the directive.

I am proud of the fact that this City Council in 2016 has taken actions to finally move us forward. Here are three measurable actions to point out.

First, on May 14, this council voted unanimously to submit a plan of action with regard to the three outfalls that were mandated. This council did not stop there. Jack Sullivan, a citizen who served on the city's task force, had been outspoken about the need to address Oronoco. The council and I agreed, and we requested that the city manager take a good look at how we could accelerate a plan for Oronoco. I definitely wanted to include Oronoco.

If anyone questions whether one person can make a difference, one need not look any further than Jack Sullivan. In addition, I appreciate the whole task force's dedication.

Second, on Sept. 28, Councilman Paul Smedberg and I met with our state legislative representatives, and we all agreed that we would seek funding from the state legislature for all four outfalls, not

just the three. After all, we deserve our fair share of state funding.

The first three outfalls will cost up to \$188 million. The outfall at Oronoco will cost about \$130 million and could go up or down, depending upon the solution. Together, these projects will cost over \$300 million. Our city's annual capital budget is typically about \$120-150 million. But fix these outfalls we must.

Third, on Nov. 9, the council voted unanimously to accelerate the timetable for Oronoco by 14 years versus the previous schedule. Therefore, we are doing more than what is required, and are committed to doing so because it is right.

While addressing Oronoco is in the future, we are taking interim steps to mitigate the issue, including requiring new development to create separate storm and sewage lines.

Given the magnitude of these projects, our plan of action is reasonable as well as consistent with other cities that are grappling with a similar issue.

As children, we are taught to leave a campsite better than the way we found it even if we did not make the mess. That is a lifelong lesson and one that is applicable here.

It is not whether we will tackle this but rather how we will tackle this in terms of the construction and financing. Fixing the outfalls is not as easy as putting a pipe in your kitchen. And make no mistake. These projects will cause aggravation for many of our citizens.

It could have been far worse. One of the original ideas was a far more disruptive digging project in the historic district. I voiced deep concerns about whether our historic homes could take it. Is there a way to get this done without so much disruption to our homes and businesses? Our staff kept working and came up with a better idea.

Correcting these outfalls will be mammoth infrastructure projects. While it is complex, we will get this accomplished. With each outfall, we will learn how to get this done better. With each year, engineering ideas will come forward. I have asked the city manager to see what other cities have learned.

This is a shared goal of our community. It will be a tough task, but we must see it through. As always, I welcome your input and guidance to help us accomplish our goals. While this will not be easy, we must begin and together, we will tackle this. Future generations will thank us.

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

systems. This type of distortion, pursued with great persistence by city staff to bolster the expansion of a financially ailing program is troublesome in light of the recent election media reporting and often purposeful dissemination of both broad scale and narrow false statements or arguments.

The fact that city staff would dismiss and hide an IRS letter of ruling, which they have been fully aware of since its dissemination, primarily because it denied their

own opinion, shows both poor judgment and arrogance.

The Gazette Packet's editors and writers need to be more rigorous in their fact checking and vetting in order to provide more politically neutral and fact-based reporting. Especially as the fact that Capital Bikeshare numbers, analysis and opinions are wildly changeable and contradictory, while cash strapped cities, like Alexandria, are required to use them to pick up the tab.

**Kathryn Papp**/Alexandria

## Fulfill CIP Proposal

To the Editor:

Our Alexandria City Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Alvin Crawley, should be commended and supported for his FY 2018-2027 Proposed Capital Improvement Program Budget (CIP) which proposes solutions to the continuing capacity crisis at all grades in our public schools.

The changes from last year's CIP in the critical area of secondary school capacity are dramatic. This year's proposed CIP offers a comprehensive solution for the capac-

ity crisis at T.C. Williams by including a new building for the Minnie Howard campus. In contrast, last year's approved CIP included only a 10-classroom addition at Minnie Howard — a project publicly described as a "Band Aid" and inadequate.

One positive aspect of this year's approved CIP was that the Minnie Howard work was to be done over the current and next fiscal year. Next year's proposed CIP, however, would not start architectural and engineering work for the new school on the Minnie Howard campus until July 1, 2018. Actual construction will begin, at the earliest, in the summer of 2020 and

will be completed in 2024 at the earliest.

The proposed CIP projects the 2020-2021 school year enrollment for grades 9-12 (TC and Minnie Howard) at 4,425 or a deficit of 876 (TC King Street's capacity is 2,766 and Minnie Howard's capacity is 883).

These projections compel the request for funds for trailers, but also confirm that a summer 2020 start for construction at Minnie Howard is too long to wait.

If the new secondary school at Minnie Howard has a 9th grade and optimistically assuming that it opens in 2024 (three years after the 2020 construction start identified in the proposed CIP), the new school will serve today's second graders.

The School Board and City Council should work together to close the gaps in the proposed CIP and enable the architectural and engineering work on the new Minnie Howard building to begin on July 1, 2017 (a full year earlier than now proposed) or as soon thereafter as possible. No public infrastructure investment yields as much to a community as a new school because the return on investment is in human capital — the education and welfare of our children.

Closing the gaps which allow the start of architectural and engineering planning work for Minnie Howard in 2017 will show that our elected officials are serious about supporting Dr. Crawley's bold vision. We encourage the board and Dr. Crawley to move the funding in the proposed CIP "to the left," to close the gaps. The board will vote on the proposed CIP in December. Dr. Crawley's proposed CIP for the secondary schools and modernization of the elementary schools may cause elected officials and city and ACPS staff to say, "We can't do everything at once." However, because of the capacity crisis at T.C. Williams we can and must do several big construction projects simultaneously.

The proposed CIP creates significant project oversight responsibilities over the next several years. We elect a School Board, not a Construction Board. The secondary school capacity crisis may compel new and different contracting and project oversight arrangements to get the work done. The Minnie Howard project is an opportunity for collaboration between ACPS and city staff, the retention of outside experts, or both.

Dr. Crawley pointed the way forward to solve the capacity crisis. We should follow his lead promptly and begin architectural and engineering work for TC's new Minnie Howard campus in the summer of 2017.

**Yvonne and Brian Folkerts  
Nancy and Marc Williams  
Brooksie Koopman  
and Mark Eaton**

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**310 Mansion Dr** Stunning estate on coveted Mansion Drive. This extraordinary residence features six bedrooms, five full bathrooms, two powder rooms, a grand kitchen, a main level bedroom suite and an expansive lower level. This gorgeous home is ideal for large scale entertaining. This exquisite property features private tranquil grounds with a waterfall and koi pond, a large terrace with outdoor kitchen and custom built jacuzzi surrounded by a beautiful variety of professionally landscape designed gardens.

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## UNDER CONTRACT



### Alexandria \$929,900

**414 Pitt Mews** Captivating 3 Bd 3.5 Ba Pitt Mews End TH w/\$105k+ upgrades & GARAGE...Gourmet kitchen incl Wolf 5-burner cooktop & hood; Miele D/W, window seat...Master Bedroom w/exposed beams & huge, sunny loft....super upgraded baths....wood burning FP....1 Block King St., 4 Blks to river. Call listing agent to view.

**Philip G. Matyas - 571.332.0963**

## NEW LISTING



### OPEN SUNDAY

### Old Town \$925,000

**422 Queen St** Historic placqued Old Town charmer (Circa 1820) in an amazing location. Semi-detached with 2 sides of windows 2/3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Updated kitchen, Off-street Parking for 1 car, lovely private garden and patio.

**Leslie Atkinson - 703.967.1471**

## PRICE REDUCTION



### Old Town 899,000

**911 Cameron St** Historic circa 1820 plaqued 2 bedroom, 2 bath semi-detached home with expansive gardens. Living room tall ceilings, beautiful moldings and a fireplace. Formal dining room and adjacent kitchen with brick floors, and an oversize window looking out to the private garden. Upper level with 2 bedrooms and a sitting room. Prime location just 1 block off of King Street!

**Christine Garner  
703.587.4855**

## First Open Sunday 1-4pm



### Old Town \$892,500

**701 Arch Hall Lane** Spacious & bright, this NV Homes end townhome features 4 bedrooms/3 baths (including in-law/guest suite w/ full bath on lower level); 2 car garage; updated kitchen & new HVAC; fireplace; wood on main level. In quiet enclave close to Metro, Parkway, shops & restaurants. Tour @ 701ArchHallLn.com.

**Cindy Baggett 703.593.1418  
Leslie Rodriguez 703.400.3010**

## OPEN NOVEMBER 20



### Old Town Yates Gardens \$835,000

**924 S. St. Asaph** You'll love this charming stone front townhouse in the southeast quadrant. Two large BRs, 2 full baths, finished lower level, updated kitchen, two FPs. The bonus is a stunning FR addition with built-ins, 11 foot ceilings and French doors to a deck and private brick patio. Open 2-4, Sunday.

**Mary Hurlbut  
& Michael Seith  
703.980.9595**



### Old Town \$799,900

**116 Wolfe St** Stylish renovation to this c. 1790 historic plaqued home. Excellent location steps to King Street & riverfront. 4 fully finished levels + charming patio garden.

**Diann Hicks Carlson  
703.628.2440**

## Open Sunday 1-4pm



## PRICE IMPROVEMENT

### Alexandria \$769,900

**418 E. Luray** Beautifully renovated brick colonial, just a short stroll to Braddock Rd Metro features 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms. Stunning kitchen offers open floor plan with breakfast bar, stainless steel appliances and granite counter tops. Fabulous sunroom addition makes a perfect home office or family room. Finished lower level, walkout to fully fenced backyard with spacious deck for entertaining and convenient off-street parking. [www.HomesofAlexandria.com](http://www.HomesofAlexandria.com)

**Bobi Bomar - 703.927.2213 Ellen Patrick - 703.328.9430**



### Old Town \$668,000

**304 South Fairfax St.** Charming in-town cottage, well located, with 2 bedrooms, original plank floors, fireplace and patio garden. Renovated kitchen/bath.

**Diann Hicks  
Carlson  
703.628.2440**



### Park Ridge \$619,000

**1659 Francis Hammond Pkwy** Price, Location, and Charm, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home with 2 finished levels and an attached garage has it all! Expanded with a light filled dining room and sitting room addition that is open to the kitchen. Living room with fireplace, finished lower level with recreation room, full bath and storage. Large fenced yard with brick patio. Only 3 blocks to MacArthur Elementary and 1.2 miles to the King St. Metro.

**Christine Garner - 703.587.4855**



### Alexandria \$515,000

**6808 Derrell Ct** Wonderful Single Family Brick Home with Large Fenced Yard. 3 large Bedrooms, 2 Baths Hardwood Floors, 2 Wood Burning Fireplaces and a Great All Weather Sun Porch Addition.

**Mary Smith - 703-626-9207**

## NEW LISTING



## Open Sunday 2-4pm

### Alexandria \$395,000

**220 Duncan Ave #A** Fabulous Del Ray condo with private first floor porch! Beautifully updated 2 bed condo with new kitchen, new bath, laminate floors in living spaces, carpet in both bedrooms. Private entrance on this first floor unit. Off street parking. Shared washer/dryer in basement. Storage Unit. Close to Braddock Road Metro, DC, The Avenue.

**Michelle Zelsman - 202.390.8714**

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# NEWS



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Crewman Carlos Quento on the riggings of El Galeon.



Sole Gea gives a tour of El Galeon to Alexandria city leaders.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

## Port of Call

**S**hips sail in and out of Alexandria's marina every day, but over the weekend a special visitor dominated the harbor view. El Galeon sailed in for a brief stay on the waterfront before heading into D.C. and then down towards San Juan. The ship, built in 2009, is a re-creation of the 16th century Spanish naval vessel that acts as a roaming museum to the Spanish exploration and colonization of the Americas.

Sole Gea, who has sailed on the ship for four years, said her favorite part of the job is traveling around and meeting new people at every harbor. The sailing is the most difficult part, Gea said, with eight-hour watching shifts every day and turbulent seas that easily rock the ship. Particularly on a rounded ship like El Galeon, Gea said it's very easy to get seasick. Carlos Quento and Marcos Barea also serve on the crew and also said the best part of sailing around was visiting new locations, though they agreed the work out at sea was often rigorous.

— VERNON MILES



El Galeon docked at the Alexandria Waterfront.

## Homicide in Nursing Home

**A**n assault in a nursing home resulted in the death of 82-year-old Hunter Alexander, a resident of Sunrise of Alexandria. At 12:30 on Oct. 24, Alexander was assaulted in Sunrise of Alexandria by a 72-year-old male. Alexander was transported to the hospital but died from medical complications. However, no charges have yet been filed for the assault.

According to Crystal Nosal, public information officer for the Alexandria Police Department, assaults at nursing or retirement homes where medical is-

sues can lead to confusion are not uncommon.

"We are deeply saddened by this loss to our family," said Sunrise of Alexandria in a statement. "We immediately notified all proper authorities when the incident occurred three weeks ago, and the police commenced an investigation right away. It would not be appropriate to discuss further details, as we must respect the privacy of those involved. We remain focused on providing our cherished residents with a safe, nurturing home."

— VERNON MILES

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### Heather & Greens Sale

Presented by McEneaney Associates

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The Campagna Center, 418 South Washington Street

### Taste of Scotland

Presented by The Goodhart Group

6:30-8:00 p.m. Patron Hour

8:00-10:30 p.m. General Admission

The Atrium Building, 277 South Washington Street

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

### Heather & Greens Sale

Presented by McEneaney Associates

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Campagna Center, 418 South Washington Street

### The Scottish Christmas Walk Parade

Presented by Mazda North American Operations

Begins at 11:00 a.m.

Begins at South St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets

### Holiday Home Tours

Presented by Christine Garner

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

### Deck the Halls with Santa

Presented by TTR Sotheby's International Realty

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Norton Hall

228 South Pitt Street



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For detailed event information, please visit our website:  
[www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend](http://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend)



## Meet your Parade Grand Marshal: Nellie Brooks Quander

Nellie Brooks Quander is an accomplished Alexandria native with a storied career as a leader in education. Nellie was appointed to several Alexandria public school administrator positions early in her career, including the Assistant Principal at Cora Kelly and Principal at Jefferson-Houston Elementary Schools. In 1972, Nellie became principal at Fairfax County's Hybla Valley School. While in Fairfax County, she served as Coordinator of Elementary Curriculum, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and an Area Coordinator. During the desegregation of the Alexandria public schools Nellie was the first African American to be appointed to an administrative position in a school that had been historically all

white. Nellie was the first African American woman in Virginia to be initiated in to the Delta Kappa Gamma Education Society International, and was the first African American woman to be elected as president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals. In 1978, Virginia Governor Gerald Baliles appointed Nellie to serve on the State Board for Community Colleges.

Nellie has been a member of the Alfred Street Baptist Church for more than 67 years and continues to support the church and its work. Nellie is the only daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Houston G. Brooks. She married Welton Quander of Fairfax County and they had two children, Sherrie Michele Quander and Welton Andrew Quander Jr. Nellie and her four



brothers have been named to the Charles Houston Hall of Fame. Her brother Leo A. Brooks achieved the rank of General in the United States Army and his two sons, Leo A. Brooks, Jr. and Vincent K. Brooks have also achieved the rank of General in the United States Army. They are the first African American Family to have father and sons achieve this distinction. The Quander family is also thought to be the oldest African American family on record in the United States.

### Junior Friends Committee

**Jennifer Gniady & Casey Kincheloe**  
Weekend Co-Chairs

**Kathy Kratovil & Brooke Terry**  
Taste of Scotland

**Jennifer Bradley & Anne Marie Van Atta**  
Scottish Walk Parade

**Casey Sanford & Tehan Scully**  
Heather & Greens

**Katie Coleman & Ashley MacFarlane**  
Holiday Home Tours

**Lindsay Houff & Nicole Selby**  
Deck the Halls with Santa

**Lisa Barnes**  
Marketing

**Allison Goodhart DuShuttle**  
Public Relations

**Sonya Besteiro & Bethany Latham**  
Event Donations

**CD Cook & Catherine Lenz**  
Decorations

**Suzanne Carlough**  
Junior Friends Chair

**Katelin Moomau**  
Junior Friends Vice-Chair

**Laura Hartman**  
Junior Friends Chair Ex-Officio

**Danielle Kozlowski**  
Graphic Designer



This year's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend raffle takes you on a getaway to Historic Charlottesville. Surrounded by wine, fine dining, boutique shopping and history—vacation in style in the heart of one of Virginia's most coveted college towns.

- An elegant two-night stay with breakfast at The Oakhurst Inn
- Five-hour winery tour and lunch for two in a Bentley with Top Shelf Transportation
- Round of golf for four at the luxurious Keswick Hall & Golf Club
- Delectable dinner for two at Orzo Kitchen & Wine Bar
- Includes a Stella & Dot Getaway Bag filled with Charlottesville goodies

Raffle tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased from The Campagna Center, members of the TCC Board, Junior Friends, Supporting Friends and at Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend events.



## About The Campagna Center

In its 71<sup>st</sup> year, The Campagna Center continues to inspire children and youth to become capable and confident individuals that succeed in school and in life. It helps adults and families become self-reliant in order to participate fully in the life of this vibrant community we all share.

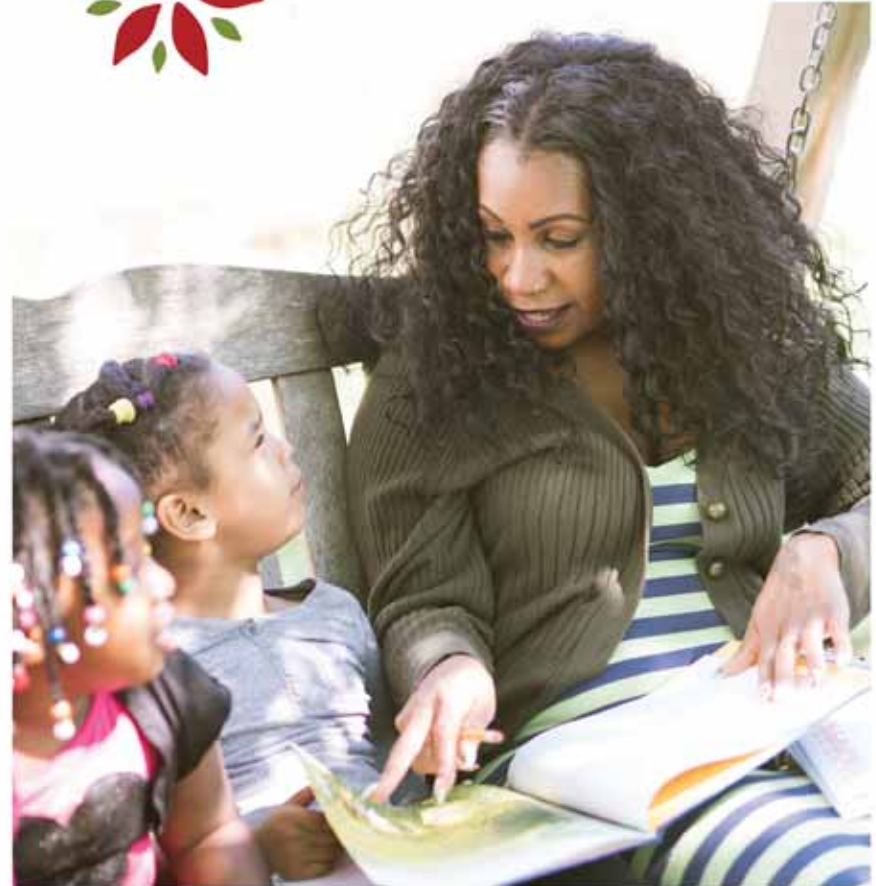
**During our 2015–16 Program year, we served 2,086 children, teens and adults across all programs:**

- 601 children ages 0 – 5 in **EARLY CHILDHOOD** programs
- 935 in grades K– 5 in our **CAMPAGNA KIDS** afterschool program
- 206 middle and high school teens in our **BUILDING BETTER FUTURES** program
- 344 adult immigrants, refugees and their children in our **NEW NEIGHBORS** program

This year The Campagna Center celebrates the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our New Neighbors English Language Learner and Family Literacy program. New Neighbors teaches English to immigrants and refugees, while launching them into new lives through a range of vital resources:

- Nine levels of rigorous classroom instruction that emphasize grammar and conversation
- Early literacy experiences for children under five where English is spoken and family literacy program is introduced
- Guest speaker series focusing on jobs, housing, healthcare, citizenship, children's education, and computer skills

Since its inception, New Neighbors has operated with a talented volunteer faculty in classroom space donated by Historic Christ Church. Through the gift of language, the teachers help eager adults learn how to communicate with potential employers, healthcare professionals, and their children's teachers. The teachers introduce students to the breadth of cultural opportunities that exist here in the nation's capital. New Neighbors empowers our adult students to share the bounty of their talents and experiences with us all, enriching the entire metropolitan area, while giving life to their dreams as reflected in Joao Ponte's story.



Soon after Joao arrived in Alexandria in 2012, he realized the need to develop confidence in his English. He was nervous about pronunciation and dreaded hearing the phrase, "I don't understand you." At the



suggestion of his mother, a former New Neighbors student, Joao enrolled and advanced quickly. Ever passionate about making confections, Joao tinkered with secret family recipes handed down by his Peruvian mother and grandmother. One day in his advanced-level class, when Sara Dougherty-Jones asked her students to share their long- and short-term goals, Joao shared his dream of becoming a full-time confectioner. The

enthusiasm of his classmates and co-teacher Don Schlichtmann for Joao's creations, combined with his hard work to overcome his fear of speaking or exchanging emails with strangers, led Joao to take the next step toward that goal.

Emboldened by his classmates' encouragement and with the help of Sara, his teacher, Joao obtained counseling for starting a small business. Using a local printer, they created ingredient lists and signage for the rollout of Joao's chocolates at Tommy's Market in Duck, NC. Joao named his business "El Punto de Nia" in honor of his sister, Estefania. Though his business is still in its infancy, Joao is well on his way to making his dream a reality. To learn more about Joao's desserts visit his Facebook page – El Punto de Nia.



## Scottish Christmas Walk Sponsors

The Campagna Center acknowledges with deep gratitude its sponsors whose financial support makes this joyous Weekend possible. Funds raised provide educational opportunities to more than 2,000 infants, children, teens and adults. Please support these sponsors whose generosity makes Alexandria a wonderful place to live and work. Commitments by the Sponsors and Host Committee members recognized below were received by November 9, 2016.

### PREMIER SPONSOR

**PASSPORT AUTO**



### GOLD SPONSORS



### SILVER SPONSORS



### BRONZE SPONSORS

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Hudgins Law Firm, P.C. • Speck-Caudron Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors • Craig and Leslie Stevens

## Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend Host Committee

The Ahrold Family • Elaine Johnston and John Anderson • Arlington Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. • Erika Baum • Mrs. Duane Beckhorn • Karen and Jay Beckhorn • Sally and Billy Brierre • Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC • Burson Taylor Snyder • Kristin and Mason Butler • Chris and Jim Byrnes • Suzanne and Garrett Carlough • Susan Chomicz • Anne Marie and Chuck Chotvacs • Kris and Tom Clark • Curcio Bergeron • Janice and David Curtin • Karen and Randall Davis • Lee and Ted Ellett • Fitness Together Alexandria • Carrie and Jim Garland • Julie Germany • Joe Haggerty • Mary Rood and Thomas Herlehy • Brittany and Geoff Hill • Christy R. Hollywood • Lindsay Hutter • Diane and John Hynes • Caroline and Frank Jolly • Monika L. Jones • Anne and Don Kelly • Danielle and Matthew Kozlowski • KWC Certified Public Accountants • Bethany Latham • Laura and Tom Lawler • Maribeth and Jeffrey Lowe • Tammy and Cedric Mann • Nancy and Chris Marzilli • Sarah and Peter McElwain • McLaughlin Ryder Investments • Kathleen Mullaney, DDS • Kristen Nunnally • Nancy and Jack Perkins • Joan Renner • Renner and Company CPA, PC • Lee Sanders • Stearns Home Loans • Jan and Jay Test • Jeanne and John Warner • Bridget and John Weaver • Windjammer Environmental, LLC • David Wysong

### SUPPORTING PARTNERS

City of Alexandria • St. Andrew's Society of Washington

### MEDIA PARTNERS

Alexandria Gazette Packet • Mount Vernon Gazette • Mount Vernon Voice





# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

## Holiday Calendar

**Volunteer Alexandria** is looking for volunteers to host a **Thanksgiving or Christmas food drive**, donate a food basket for a single adult or family and donate grocery stores gift cards. [www.volunteeralexandria.org/](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org/)

### THURSDAY/NOV. 17

**Ten Thousand Villages Sip and Shop.** 7-9 p.m. at Good Shepard's Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Select gifts and support the mission of Good Shepherd Housing, while supporting the artisans around the world.

### NOV. 10-DEC. 31

**116 King Holiday Pop-Up.** At 116 King St. The shop will feature 28 upscale fashion and lifestyle brands, including 13 brands under the umbrella of The Skinny Dip, a fashion collective founded by Sara Rossi and Taylor Ivey, as well as 15 additional brands with products ranging from women's apparel and jewelry to men's clothing, children's items and other gifts. Sponsored by the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. [www.116king.com](http://www.116king.com)

### NOV. 16-DEC. 17

**Holiday Community Toy Drive.** Volunteers will be needed to deliver and pick-up toy bins from various locations. Volunteers will be needed on Friday evening, Dec. 16 and Saturday, Dec. 17, to unload, sort, and inventory toys. Spanish speakers encouraged. [www.volunteeralexandria.org/](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org/)

### NOV. 21-DEC. 9

**Toys for Tots.** At Sheehy Honda, 2434 Richmond Highway. Collecting new, unwrapped toys as part of the company's annual Sheehy Cares Toy Collection to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 24

**Thanksgiving Day Service at Historic Pohick Episcopal Church.** 9 a.m. at Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org) or call 703-339-6572.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 25

**This year, the Alexandria Singers will present its holiday drive and pops concert, "Reflections" on Dec. 9, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. and Dec. 10, 2-4 p.m. and 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. See [www.alexandriasingers.com/](http://www.alexandriasingers.com/)**

FILE PHOTO BY  
LAURA MAE SUDDER



FILE PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

## Tree Lighting Festivities

**The City of Alexandria Tree Lighting Ceremony at Market Square will kick off the holiday season on Friday, Nov. 25 at Market Square, 301 King St. The event will include a welcome by the town crier, the mayor, other city officials and a visit by Santa.**

**Tree Lighting Ceremony.** 6-8 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. At this official kickoff to the holiday season, the city tree is lit on Market Square and a welcome by the town crier, the mayor and other city officials, a visit by Santa and holiday performances. 703-746-4343, [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov)

**Black Friday.** 50 boutiques kick off the holiday shopping season with deals on merchandise, including home décor, chic fashions, gourmet food, toys and gifts for dogs. The City of Alexandria is offering free parking at parking meters as an incentive for shoppers on Black Friday. Store offers vary, with some boutiques opening at 6 a.m. and offering discounts throughout the day. [VisitAlexandriaVA.com/blackfriday](http://VisitAlexandriaVA.com/blackfriday).

### NOV. 25-JAN. 6

**Mount Vernon Holiday Tours.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Tour the Mansion, watch historic chocolate-making demonstrations, and meet Aladdin the Camel. Join daily "Camel Talks" and learn more about the rare animals at George Washington's home during the holiday season. Hear from costumed friends and family of the Washingtons tell stories of Christmas traditions of the past. Mount Vernon is open every day of the year, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day. 703-799-5203 or [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org). Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free.

**Holiday Ornament Making.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Hwy. On

select weekends, make a Mount Vernon holiday wooden ornament. For children ages 5-10, accompanied by an adult. Included in admission. Supplies limited. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free.

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 2-4

**Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market.** 6-9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend. [DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016)

### SUNDAY/DEC. 4

**Gardeners Holiday Open House.** 12-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. A holiday-themed garden featuring holiday decorations and seasonal displays, live music, holiday breads and ornaments for sale, plus free refreshments. Free admission. Sponsored by Friends of Green Spring. For children, a holiday puppet show by Bob Brown Puppets at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. \$4/person for puppet show, advance registration recommended. For more information, call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring).

### SUNDAY/DEC. 4

**Gardeners Holiday Puppet Show.** 1-2 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Register in advance for this festive, holiday puppet show by a professional troupe. Registered children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$4/person. Register online for the 1 p.m. show at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 2904894301 or register for the 3 p.m. show using code 2904894302. You may also call 703-642-5173. Sponsored by the

Friends of Green Spring.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 6

**Excursion to Lewis Ginter: GardenFest of Lights in Richmond.** 2-10:45 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. The GardenFest of Lights features botanic displays and more than a half million lights arranged in botanical themes throughout the gardens, including an orchid and model train display. Comfortable shoes and appropriate weather-related clothing recommended. \$112 per person includes motor coach, driver tip, entrance fee, garden tour and semi-private buffet dinner. Trip cancellation deadline is Nov. 21. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 2904914101 or call 703-642-5173.

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 9-11

**Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market.** 6-9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend. [DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016)

### SATURDAY/DEC. 10

**Natural Holiday Ornaments Workshop.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Class by horticulturist and Green Spring decorating veteran Nancy Olney and her team of volunteers will share crafting skills. \$38/person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 2904831101 or call 703-642-5173. For ages 16-Adult.

**Winter Solstice Workshop.** 1-2 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how people in the past celebrated the winter solstice and create an evergreen centerpiece, complete with beeswax candle. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$10/person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 2904815001 or call 703-642-5173. For ages 5-Adult.

**Holiday Choral Concert.** 3 p.m. at Washington Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St. The Encore Chorales of Langston Brown, Alexandria, Potomac Arts Academy and Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads invite the community to a free Holiday Choral Concert. For more information, visit <http://encorecreativity.org>, call 301-261-5747 or email [info@encorecreativity.org](mailto:info@encorecreativity.org).

**Civil War Christmas in Camp.** noon-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. \$2 suggested donation per person; \$5 per family. 703-746-4848 or [www.alexandriava.gov/fortward](http://www.alexandriava.gov/fortward)

**Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours.** 4-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Travel through centuries of local history as you learn more about Alexandria during the holiday season at Carlyle House, Gadsby's Tavern Museum and the Lee-Fendall House. \$25 adults; \$20 seniors (65 years and older) and active military; \$5 children (ages 6-17). 703-746-4242 [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov)  
**Friendship Firehouse Ornament Decorating Workshop.** 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Decorate and take home ornaments inspired by

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 20



# Le Refuge Restaurant

## OPEN FOR THANKSGIVING

Three Seatings: 12:30, 2:30 or 4:30 P.M.  
~ Offering a 3 Course Menu ~  
Including the Traditional Turkey Breast  
Call Early for Reservations!



## Fall Specials

- Split Pea Soup
- Venison Medallions
- Beef Wellington
- Rack of Lamb
- Bouillabaisse
- Dover Sole
- Coq au Vin
- Cassoulet



127 N. Washington St., Alexandria • 703-548-4661  
Smoke-Free Restaurant  
www.lerefugealexandria.com



## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

FROM PAGE 19

firefighting. For children ages 4-10, and their caregivers. No registration required. 703-746-4994 or [www.alexandriava.gov/friendshipfirehouse](http://www.alexandriava.gov/friendshipfirehouse)

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 10-11

**Mount Vernon By Candlelight.** 8 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Character-guided tours of the first and second floors of the Mansion, 18th-century dancing and fireside caroling. Learn more about holiday traditions in 18th-century Virginia. Rain or shine. \$24 adult; \$16 youth (ages 2-11). 703-799-5203 or [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

### SUNDAY/DEC. 11

**Floral Workshop: Williamsburg Centerpiece.** 2-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Florist Chuck Mason will teach how to make a Williamsburg-style Christmas centerpiece complete with greens, fruit, and dried material. \$38 for the program plus \$25 supply fee. Register online for the program at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 2904302901 and also register for the supply fee using code 2904302902 or call 703-642-5173. For ages 16-Adult.

**Wreath-Making Classes.** 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Work with one of Mount Vernon's horticulturists to decorate a wreath with dried botanicals representative of plants grown on the estate. For ages 16 and older. \$35 (includes general admission). Cost includes supplies. 703-799-5203 or [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

**Family Gift Distribution.** Volunteers are needed to check-in sponsors, organize bundles of gifts, check-out families, and provide transportation for families if needed. Spanish speakers encouraged. [www.volunteeralexandria.org/](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org/)

### Colonial Handbell Ringers

**Concert.** 2 and 4 p.m. at 201 S. Washington St. The Colonial Handbell Ringers, 10 "ringers," in period costume, will be playing a full five-octave set of 80 handbells. Audience participation in the sing-along encouraged. 703-746-4994 or [www.colonialringers.com](http://www.colonialringers.com)

### DEC. 12-16

**Early Childhood Holiday Store** at 418 S. Washington St. Volunteers are needed to help set up and staff the holiday store. [www.volunteeralexandria.org/](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org/)

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

**Holiday Open House.** At Alexandria Library, Duncan Branch, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Enjoy the music of the Irish Breakfast Band at the Duncan Open House and enjoy light hor d'oeuvres, fellowship with neighbors, and children programs for a celebration of the holiday season. 703-746-1781.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 16

**Holiday Choral Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Encore Chorale. 1801 Quaker Lane. The programs, co-conducted by Jeanne Kelly and Jeffrey Dokken, will feature holiday and seasonal pieces. [encorecreativity.org](http://encorecreativity.org) or 301-261-5747

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 16-17

**Christmas Illuminations.** 5:30-9 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Fireworks choreographed to holiday music, with fireworks beginning around 9 p.m. Tour the estate while listening to local choirs, visit with re-enactors from the First

This year, the Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "A Christmas Carol," Dec 2-17 at 600 Wolfe St. Box office: 703-683-0496 or [asklta@thelittletheatre.com](mailto:asklta@thelittletheatre.com).



FILE PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

Virginia Regiment in winter encampment, and learn 18th-century dance moves from costumed guides in the Greenhouse. "George and Martha Washington" will also be on site. Colonial artisans demonstrate the 18th-century process of creating chocolate. Warm up by a bonfire, visiting the blacksmith shop, or enjoy some hot chocolate or cider. Additional food will be available for purchase. Christmas Illuminations takes place rain or shine. \$34 adult/\$24 youth with Mansion tour. \$30 adult/\$20 youth without Mansion tour. 703-799-5203 or [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 16-18

**Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market.** 6-9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend. [DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016)

### SATURDAY/DEC. 17

**Holiday Gift Wrapping.** Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, at 3651 Jefferson Davis Hwy. and collect donations. [www.volunteeralexandria.org/](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org/)  
**Friendship Firehouse Ornament Decorating Workshop.** 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Decorate and take home ornaments inspired by firefighting. For children ages 4-10, and their caregivers. No registration required. 703-746-4994 or [www.alexandriava.gov/friendshipfirehouse](http://www.alexandriava.gov/friendshipfirehouse)

### SUNDAY/DEC. 18

**Mount Vernon By Candlelight.** 8 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Character-guided tours of the first and second floors of the Mansion, 18th-century dancing and fireside caroling. Learn more about holiday traditions in 18th-century Virginia. Rain or shine. \$24 adult; \$16 youth (ages 2-11). 703-799-5203 or [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

### FRIDAY/DEC. 23

**Holiday Gift Wrapping.** Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, at 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. and collect

donations. [www.volunteeralexandria.org/](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org/)

### SATURDAY/DEC. 24

**Waterskiing Santa.** 1 p.m. at the waterfront near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Waterskiing Santa and his wakeboarding reindeer, plus flying elves, the Grinch and his friends, Frosty the Snowman and Jack Frost. 703-746-3301 or [www.waterskiingsanta.com](http://www.waterskiingsanta.com)

### SUNDAY/DEC. 25

**The Holiday Project - Share the Spirit of the Season.** Volunteers are needed to Share the Spirit of the Season by visiting with patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and long term care facilities. Sing carols and distribute cards and gifts. [www.volunteeralexandria.org/](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org/)

### SATURDAY/DEC. 31

**First Night Alexandria.** 2 p.m.-midnight at venues throughout Old Town and one at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St. More than 150 performances at 25 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, children's face painting and games. The afternoon's Eighth Annual Fun Hunt is accompanied by all-new activities for families and pets. There's a venue at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray filled with activities for children 10 and younger, and dancing in the street at the east end of King Street beginning at 10 p.m. 703-746-3299 or [www.firstnightalexandria.org](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org)

## FOOD AND DRINK

**Old Town Farmers Market.** 7 a.m.-noon, Saturdays year round. Local farmers and artists have been selling products there since 1753. Located at Market Square, 301 King St. Call 703-746-3200 or email [oldtownfarmersmarket@alexandriava.gov](mailto:oldtownfarmersmarket@alexandriava.gov).

**Del Ray Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays year round. Features fresh vegetables and fruits in season, meats, eggs, fresh pasta and sauces, Amish cheese, yogurt, bakery goods and more. Located at the corner of East Oxford and Mount Vernon avenues. Contact [pmiller1806@comcast.net](mailto:pmiller1806@comcast.net) for more.

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# EAT, DRINK & GIVE THANKS!



## Traditional Thanksgiving Buffet

\$21.95 Adults/\$7.95 Kids 12 and under



Contact us  
about Holiday  
Catering  
& Event  
Locations!

Food  
fit for a king  
on a family budget

## The Best in Family Dining

An Alexandria community fixture for more than 100 years, the Royal Restaurant offers the best in Greek, Italian and American cuisine. Enjoy burgers, steaks, prime rib, chicken, seafood, pasta and full salad bar complete with special children's menu items.



734 North Saint Asaph Street,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

703-548-1616

[www.RoyalRestaurantVA.com](http://www.RoyalRestaurantVA.com)

~ Award-winning wine menu ~  
Major credit cards accepted



## BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU DINNER



Thursday,  
Nov 17th 2016  
2-Course Prix-Fixe  
Menu with a glass of  
Beaujolais Nouveau  
\$29.95 per person

**FONTAINE**

Caffe & C  perie

Lunch • Dinner • Weekend Brunch  
119 South Royal Street, Alexandria VA 22314  
703.535.8151 • [www.fontainecaffe.com](http://www.fontainecaffe.com)

## Thanksgiving Dinner at Murphy's Grand Irish Pub

Sit back, relax and let Murphy's do the cooking and cleaning this year. Join us November 24th, 2016 for a Thanksgiving feast, great football and live music by Rocky Goodman starting at 8:30pm. Bring all your friends and family for a day filled with fun and laughter.

Offering our famous 3 Course Thanksgiving Dinner with  
all the trimmings for only \$19.95 starting at 1pm.

Murphy's hours on Thanksgiving will be from 11am-1am



Murphy's Grand Irish Pub - Alexandria  
713 King Street • Phone: 703-548-1717  
<http://www.murphyspub.com>

## THANKSGIVING

## Brunch Buffet



Thursday November 24th 11:30 AM until 3:00 PM

Enjoy a Traditional Harvest Feast of

- Cheese blintzes with fruit compote, omelets, pancakes, waffles made to order, bacon and sausage, scrambled eggs
- Assorted rolls, bread and a selection of pastries, Cheese and charcuterie display
- Autumn Salad Bar, Green Bean with mushrooms and red onions, Honey dill glazed carrots
- Mashed sweet potatoes with marshmallow
- Mashed Yukon gold with sour cream and chives, Sage bread stuffing
- Carving station with: Turkey with gravy / Short rib
- Assorted dessert display

\$38.00 Adults \$17.00 Kids 12 and under

Includes soft drinks, tea, coffee and 1 Mimosa OR 1 Bloody Mary

See Hostess for Reservation or call us at 703-647-2000

Tax & Service not included. A gratuity of 19% will be added to groups of 6 or more.

From the Founder of  
**Au Pied de Cochon**

A Fine French Bistro  
with Affordable Prices

## Open Thanksgiving Day

Offering a Special  
Thanksgiving Prix Fixe Menu



**Yves' Bistro**

235 Swamp Fox Road, Alexandria, VA  
703-329-1010

Open Mon-Fri 8:00 am-10:00 pm

Sat & Sun 9:30 am-10:30 pm

Across from Eisenhower Metro & AMC Theatre





# Station 206 Firefighter Wins Best Chef Contest

**Cooking with an eye to sudden interruptions.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**E**ver wonder what firefighters on 24-hour duty eat for dinner? It turns out that there are a number of gourmet cooks among the 10 fire stations in the City of Alexandria. The Alexandria Gazette Packet in conjunction with the city Fire Department recently held a contest for the best chef to be featured in its monthly “In the Kitchen” column. Fire stations were asked to nominate their best cook. On Oct. 26 the finalists from each station were chosen including:

## IN THE KITCHEN

Arash Hematti and Kristina Holt from Station 206, Mike Lyons and Kevin Black from Station 210, Randal Parker from Station 203 and Tiffany Matthews and Francisco Castaneda from Station 204. Stations were given until Monday, Nov. 7 to complete their survey to allow all shifts to participate.

The winner is Kristina Holt who chose chicken corn chowder as her featured meal. At 5 p.m. she has prepped the white onions, the carrots and sweet red pepper and pulsed garlic with olive oil in her small food chopper. She aims for dinner at about six. Holt said, “We are a very busy station so we try to get as much ready as we can in case we get a call in the middle of dinner or when we are cooking.” As a result there are a lot of crock-pot meals or easy casseroles. But she says at holidays they cook something special like beef tenderloin, mussels, lobsters. “This recipe is my mother’s except I have changed it from the canned cream of .... soup and added the vegetables all fresh.”

Holt has picked apart a whole roasted chicken and will add it at the end. She sautés the vegetables in a large pot with a little butter and olive oil for about 10 minutes. “I don’t usually use butter and never when I’m cooking at home.” Then she shakes flour out of the sack, “maybe a little less than a cup, to make a roux. Next I pour in an 18-ounce box of low-sodium chicken broth. I may need more than this box. I don’t measure anything; I just eyeball it.”

She peers into the pot as she stirs to check the thickening. In go two bay leaves, a little bit of cumin (she doesn’t like too



**Kristina Holt from Station 206 on Seminary Road is winner of the City of Alexandria best firefighter chef contest. She shows off a bowl of her one of the favorite meals: chicken corn chowder.**

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET



**Kristina Holt has sautéed the vegetables and added flour to make a roux. She will add a box of low-sodium chicken broth — maybe a little more — and then some heavy cream.**



**Battalion Chief Mark Dalton stops in early to taste the chicken corn chowder simmering on the stove.**



**Kristina Holt has prepped the peppers, onions and carrots and chopped the garlic with oil for a dinner at about 6 p.m.**



**The firefighters fill up a bowl with chicken corn chowder, grab a roll and gather around the table in the kitchen. Kristina Holt says they like to eat together. “It’s not true at all of the other stations.”**

much) a little cayenne, white pepper, salt and some Old Bay Seasoning. “I started using it because a coworker loves it. At the end I will taste to see whether I need to add more because of the jalapeno pepper that I added this time that will make it a little spicy.”

The heat is turned down to low so the veggies cook until they are just a little soft. “It will be a creamy white color, but I always add too many carrots and it is an orange color now.”

The soup is thickening. She adds the carton of heavy cream and continues stirring. The chowder is almost finished so she adds the two packages of frozen white sweet corn. Tonight she has supplemented the chowder with crescent rolls which will make a hearty meal. The garlic goes in at the very end so it will retain the flavor and then finally the chicken.

Battalion Chief Mark Dalton pops through the kitchen door. “This is his favorite,” she said. “Chief, here’s a spoon. Come and taste.” She decides it needs something. “What do you think?” Holt decides to add a sprinkle more of salt. “I’ll probably add some more Old Bay. It would be really good to have this chowder with crabmeat but we can’t afford to buy it.”

The medic unit is just coming back from a call. “The West End is always busy. One day last week we had three cardiac arrests on one day.”

She says because they are located close to the interstate

there are a lot of calls and they are also at the border of Arlington and Alexandria so get a lot of requests for mutual aid. Holt adds they are up most nights 3-4 times and have to learn to sleep when they can. Currently they are also training to be a tech response company. “We have to be able to

go to car extractions, building collapses, trench response, rope rescue.”

It has been just about an hour, and the chowder is ready. Holt calls into the speaker, “Dinner — get it now. Come on.” Tonight she has set out seven bowls. Firefighters grab a bowl and head to the stove to ladle out a portion and grab a roll. Holt says everyone puts in \$10 each day to cover lunch and dinner. Dalton says that some of the stations have good cooks and good shoppers while some have bad cooks and shoppers and some have excellent cooks who blow the budget.” Holt estimates she spent about \$30 on the ingredients for the chowder.

Holt said she started cooking when she was a child and she and her brother made a lot of their meals. She started working in a restaurant when she was 14 years old and then worked in a number of different restaurants where she picked up her skills. “And I’m a picky eater but my taste buds have expanded.”

She has been a firefighter for 10 years and just recently moved from ladder trucks to engines where she rides on the left side in back. She says she grew up with firefighters; her neighbor was the chief. Holt said, “I like this job — being out in the community.”



# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

## CALENDAR

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

**Young at Art Exhibition.** Through Nov. 17, gallery hours at Durant arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Calling all senior artists. This annual event is cosponsored by Senior Services of Alexandria and Goodwin House Foundation. The Call for Art is Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$20 fee to submit up to three works of art. Visit [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) or call Mary Lee Anderson at 703-836-4414, ext. 111 or Jeanne Jacobs at 703-824-1345.

**School of Rock.** Through Nov. 19 at West Potomac Theater, 6500 Quander Road. Presented by the Beyond the Page Theatre Company (BTPTC) at West Potomac High School. Show times vary: Nov. 4, 7 p.m.; Nov. 5, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Nov. 11 - 5 p.m.; Nov. 12 - 7 p.m.; Nov. 18 - 7 p.m.; Nov. 19 - 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. [WestPoTheatre@gmail.com](mailto:WestPoTheatre@gmail.com) or 703-718-2585.

**Art Exhibit: "Serenity in Chaos."** Through Nov. 20, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The theme of this show reflects the artist's unique view of the photographic medium. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit: "H2O/Waterworks."** Through Nov. 27, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. A visual exploration of humankind's relationship to water, or lack thereof, through 2D and 3D media. They express water's effect on us and our effect on water, for enjoyment, health, political, ecological and environmental outcomes. Free. Visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits).

**Post-Graduate Residency Program.** Through Nov. 27, gallery hours at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The Torpedo Factory Post-Graduate Master's of Fine Arts Residency is a competitive program, housed in Studio 12, where four emerging artists create and sell work, interact with the public, and network with other working artists. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**November Artist Showcase.** Through Nov. 30 at Broadway Gallery Fine Art and Custom Framing, 5641-B General Washington Drive, featuring the abstract and wildlife art of local artist, Buck Nelligan. Email [bev@broadwaygalleries.net](mailto:bev@broadwaygalleries.net).

**"Sound of Butterfly" Art Exhibit.** Through Dec. 4, 3-4:30 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 21, 105 N. Union St. Photographer and multimedia artist Soomin Ham explores grief through the "Sound of Butterfly." See [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

**Thursday Mornings with Kathryn Coneway.** Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. The themes in the book, "The Artist's Rule," will be a foundation to share experiences with creative practice. Each session will begin with a quiet time and exploration of materials before transitioning to a discussion of the themes and practices outlined in the chapter. Participants should purchase a copy of "The Artist's Rule" and read the introduction and first chapter prior to the first meeting. Registration is \$50. Visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening) for more.

**Convergence: "Various Small Fires."** Through Dec. 17, gallery

hours at Convergence Gallery, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. the Convergence Arts Initiative presents: 'Various Small Fires,' a site-specific installation and exhibit by Isabel Cureux. Various Small Fires explores how each small event in our lives creates who we are. Mental illness, divorce, "biraciality," and religion will be presented in innovative ways to garner a feeling of solidarity with others who have experienced these things, and present a new way to understand them for those who have not. Free to attend. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org) for more.

**"Raising: Motherhood in Modernity."** Through Dec. 18, gallery hours at The Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Elements of motherhood and the good and bad of being a parent can be found in the ceramic pieces Jessica Gardner created for the exhibit "Raising: Motherhood in Modernity." Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu) for more.

**116 King Holiday Pop-Up.** Through Dec. 31, at 116 King St. The shop will feature 28 upscale fashion and lifestyle brands, including 13 brands under the umbrella of The Skinny Dip, a fashion collective founded by Sara Rossi and Taylor Ivey, as well as 15 additional brands with products ranging from women's apparel and jewelry to men's clothing, children's items and other gifts. Sponsored by the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. [www.116king.com](http://www.116king.com)

**Art Exhibit: Color Disorder.**

Through Jan. 8 at Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Katie Baines and Amy Chan's acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print work on display. Sat., Nov. 13, 4-6 p.m. is opening reception. 703-548-0035, [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

**Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery:**

**"Geometry Glitz."** Through Jan. 8, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. 2016. In this show, our artists have the sparkle and shine of the holidays for inspiration, with an additional focus on geometry. Explorations may focus on points, lines, and other flat shapes, such as circles and triangles, or 3-dimensional shapes, such as spheres and cubes. Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

**Bagels and Bach Concert Series Returns.**

Through Jan. 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Enjoy classical music from Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association's Youth Orchestras while eating a light brunch. Advance registration: resident \$10/Nonresident \$15. Children under 5 years old are free. For more information, contact Cheryl Ann Colton at 703-746-5565 or e-mail [cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov)

**Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.** Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit [www.dcmilitarytour.com](http://www.dcmilitarytour.com) for more.

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**F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre**  
 603 Edmonston Drive  
 Rockville, Maryland  
 Tickets: [www.balalaika.org](http://www.balalaika.org)  
 or call 240-314-8690

**3:00 pm, Sun., Nov. 20**  
**Kenmore Middle School**  
 200 South Carlin Springs Rd.  
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 Tickets: [www.balalaika.org](http://www.balalaika.org)  
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**The Children's Connection 2016**

This keepsake, award-winning issue will be filled with the artwork and writings of local children starring their families, friends, pets, schools and more. Our family readers are your best customers, who take time to savor this edition during the holidays and beyond.

**Be Part of the Children's Connection**

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

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens, or other creative efforts.

To submit material, identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school if applicable, name of teacher and town of school location. E-mail to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please send all submissions by December 16.

**Publishing December 28**  
**Advertising & Materials Due: December 16**  
**For More Information: Call 703.778.9431**

Alexandria Gazette Packet CENTRE VIEW CONNECTION Mount Vernon Gazette POTOMAC ALMANAC





# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

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**The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History.** Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Goldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) for more.

**Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit.** Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/fortward](http://www.alexandriava.gov/fortward) for more.

**Alexandria's Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War.** Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama "Mercy Street," with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum) for

more.

**"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.

**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](http://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](http://www.fortward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**Dishing up Wares for a Holiday**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The Potomack Company, 1120 N. Fairfax St., offers a special auction, Alexander Calder Works, from a Friend's Collection, on Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. Includes four works of art in different media by Calder never before on the market. The art has belonged to the family of Calder's friend and neighbor, Andi Schiltz, since being gifted by the artist.**

**Harvest Spread** through Nov. 30 at 105 N. Union St., ground floor Studio 19. Artists riff on an abundance of raw material, creatively cooking up a

table fully dressed for the holidays from the centerpiece down to the dishes. For more information, call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit

[scopegallery.org](http://scopegallery.org), or [torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope](http://torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope)

**National Inventors Hall of Fame Exhibit.** Through November 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](http://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](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Second Thursday Music.** Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

**THURSDAY/NOV. 17**

**Historic Pohick Church Christmas Mart.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Pohick Episcopal Church is located at 9301 Richmond Highway. For more information see [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org) or call 703-339-6572.

**Preschool Scholarship Gala.** 7-10 p.m. at Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. The inaugural Chairman's Hopkins House Preschool Scholarship Gala is an event to raise critical funds to provide preschool scholarships to deserving low-resourced, working and military

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 25



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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

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families. Tickets are \$250. Visit [www.hopkinshouse.org](http://www.hopkinshouse.org) for more.

**Living Legends of Alexandria Host Beaujolais Nouveau Party.** 7 p.m. at 901 Pitt St. The event features a wine tasting, holiday shopping, music, food and an opportunity to view the 2016 Living legends Exhibit and meet Living Legends. Tickets are available for purchase at <https://llawine.eventbrite.com>. Proceeds from the event will support Living Legends of Alexandria and the Family Legends Project. For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit [www.AlexandriaLegends.org](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.org) or contact [AlexandriaLegends@outlook.com](mailto:AlexandriaLegends@outlook.com)

**Simply Three.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are \$25. Call 703 549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

**Community Dance with the Mount Vernon Swing Band.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. \$4. Call 703-765-4573 or email [Mary.bilowus@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Mary.bilowus@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Art Auction.** 11 a.m. at The Potomack Co., 1120 N. Fairfax St. A special auction, Alexander Calder Works, from a Friend's Collection. Highlighting the sale is Calder's dynamic and colorful oil painting, *Cornucopia*, 1955, from the year of Calder's three-month voyage to India with his wife. This work is registered in the archives. [Lucie@potomackco.com](mailto:Lucie@potomackco.com) or 703-684-4550.

**THURSDAY-FRIDAY/NOV. 17-18**

**A Thousand Cranes.** 7-8 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Burgundy Farm Country Day School's 7th grade students, present the true story of Sadako Sasaki a Hiroshima survivor who developed leukemia as a result of the radiation. Amid the legend that 1,000 folded paper cranes grant sick persons their health. [dennisandelizabeth@cox.net](mailto:dennisandelizabeth@cox.net) or 703-660-8515.

**FRIDAY/NOV. 18**

**Various Small Fires artist reception.** 7-9 p.m. Torpedo Factory, at 105 N. Union St. Convergence Arts Initiative is working with the Torpedo Factory to highlight Isabel Cureux's "Various Small Fires," an artwork exhibit that explores how each small event in our life creates who we are.

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 18-19**

**The Little Mermaid.** 7:30 p.m., at Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre presents Disney's The Little Mermaid. \$12 admission, for more information contact Pam Peckar at 703.360.0686 or email [admin@mvcct.org](mailto:admin@mvcct.org).

**SATURDAY/NOV. 19**

**Benefit 5K Race.** 8:30 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Community benefit for the neediest children. \$25 pre-race, \$30 day of the race. Pre-race Packet Pick Up Friday, Nov. 18 3-7 p.m. Contact Lee M. Britton, NCSSW 703-660-2000.

**Family Volunteer Day** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Address and directions will be sent by e-mail after you signing up. To sign up your family, please choose the 'Sign up as a team' option and list all of your family members with their ages. For more information, go to Volunteer Alexandria <http://www.VolunteerAlexandria.org>.

## APPETITE

# Three Beverages for a Wintertime Brunch

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**mid the Thanksgiving prep work and holiday shopping sprees, sometimes it's best to stop for brunch and order a beverage to treat yourself. Here are three great spots to visit.

### Shooter McGee's, 5239 Duke St.

A mainstay in the Foxchase area for more than three decades, Shooter McGee's brunch is the perfect way to kick off a weekend or prep for a full afternoon of football. Shooter's brunch stretches from late morning through mid-afternoon each Saturday and Sunday, offering plenty of time to pop in for a meal as schedules permit.

While the food itself isn't to be missed — try the fried egg sandwich or the French toast slam — another interesting facet of Shooter McGee's brunch lies in the bloody Mary bar, a create-your-own concoction. Your server brings you a glass with meted-out vodka and then the world is your oyster. A veritable

buffet of bloody Mary offerings stands before you. Choose from various tomato juice blends and then add in any blend of a plethora of spices and hot sauces. Top everything off with some olives — or celery, or what-have-you — and you're ready for brunch.

### Taqueria Poblano, 2400-B Mount Vernon Ave.

The Sunday brunch at Del Ray's Taqueria Poblano is legendary — from the huevos divorciados to the breakfast burrito. But before diving into the food, consider the beverage options to get your Sunday started.

You could try the sangria or a margarita — both fine options — but the tequila sunrise is where Taqueria Poblano really shines. A blend of tequila and orange juice, it's a simple cocktail on its surface, but one that this taqueria's bar has perfected into a perfectly mixed beverage that will launch your meal on the right foot. Don't care much for tequila? Don't worry. This sunrise manages to cut the tangy tequila taste while maintaining its punch, the end result being a great pairing

to nearly any brunch food order.

### Chadwicks, 203 Strand St.

Chadwicks' champagne brunch is one of the worst-kept dining secrets in Alexandria. What used to be 95 cents a glass has now evolved into a several-dollar affair, but a glass of champagne is still cheap enough for frugal sensibilities, and a bottle won't run you much more. Want to get fancy? The mimosas are heavy on the bubbly while also donning a veneer of orange juice. But the champagne is the star of Chadwicks' weekend brunch show.

Once you've ordered a round of bubbly, it's time to scope out your dining choices. Huevos rancheros are always a winner — with tortillas topped with eggs, cheese, salsa, guacamole, and more, you can't go wrong — or try the eggs Idaho, which are scrambled with potato skins and bacon. Then lift a glass and toast to a successful holiday season.

*Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

**Community Holiday Shop.** 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane in Mount Vernon. A local tradition that includes 50 artisans, orchids, chutneys, cakes, and pies, upscale resale, handmade quilt raffle, and a homemade lunch shop. For more information, go to [mvuc.org](http://mvuc.org).

**Quilt Raffle.** 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. The quilt "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood" will be raffled (\$1/ticket) at the Holiday Shop in Mount Vernon. The Holiday Shop includes 50 artisans, a room of orchids, chutneys, cakes, and pies, upscale resale, and a homemade lunch shop spread out over two building and manicured grounds. [Mvuc.org](http://Mvuc.org).

**Beyond the Battlefield Walking Tour.** 10 a.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. A guided walking tour of Civil War sites in Historic Old Town. The tour will last approximately 2.5 hours and cover a route of 1.75 miles. Advance tickets are \$15 through the museum's website, or \$20 the day of the program. [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org), 703-548-1789.

**CaAsia Lane Booksigning.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Misha's Coffee Shop, 102 S. Patrick St. Come out and meet CaAsia Lane, veteran and local author of two new books that share her story of survival after personal tragedy along with her leadership nuggets through dance ministry. Free, cost of book. [cskim@serenityes.com](mailto:cskim@serenityes.com) or 202-498-5218

**Photography Workshops.** 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Discuss photography with Sharon Farmer, the first African-American Director of White House Photography, and George Tolbert, the first African American official U.S. Senate photographer, to provide tips and techniques. Participants are encouraged to bring images on a thumb drive or CD to garner tips on how to improve those images. The

Exposure Group African American Photographers Association, Inc. is co-sponsoring this event. \$5.

**Cider Tasting Festival.** 7-9:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. The cider tasting highlights Celebrate Virginia Cider Week, Nov. 11-20. All week participating restaurants and retail stores to taste and purchase Virginia Cider. A passport can be picked up at the Alexandria Visitor Center, The Lyceum, and participating businesses. For list of participating sites and details about the passport and contest, visit [alexandriava.gov/Historic](http://alexandriava.gov/Historic).

**Country-Western Dance.** 7-9:30 p.m. at the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. The dance is sponsored by the The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. For more information go to [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or call 703-860-4941.

**Choreographers Collaboration Project.** 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Modern dance performance. Admission at door, \$15 adults, \$10 seniors and youth, 12-17; free for under 12. 703-683-2070; [ccpdance@gmail.com](mailto:ccpdance@gmail.com); or [ccpdance.org](http://ccpdance.org)

**The Migration Project: Performance and Art.** 7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The Migration Project explores stories of relocation. Featuring Jane Franklin Dance-Emily Crews, Carrie Monger, Matthew Rock, Amy Scaringe, Brynna Shank, Rebecca Weiss, and Visual art by Rosemary Feit Covey and Dawn Whitmore.

**Prowl for Owls after Dark.** 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Listen for and learn about local owls and perhaps see a barred owl. Meet at the Visitor Center and dress for the weather. Wear shoes or boots suitable for standing off-trail. \$8. 703-768-2525.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 20

**Carpenter's Run for Shelter.** 8 a.m. at USPTO Building, 600 Dulany St. Run for Shelter, featuring a 5K, 10K and Fun Run is a great way to get your entire family involved and giving back to the community this fall. Race to end homelessness.

**Spirituality in Nature.** 1:30-4:30 p.m. at United Methodist Church, 109 S. Washington St. Meet along the Potomac watershed to walk and do guided spiritual exercises together. Meet at the Dyke Marsh trailhead which is close to the Belle Haven Marina. [office@fairlingtonumc.org](mailto:office@fairlingtonumc.org) or 804-837-9850.

**The Little Mermaid.** 3 p.m., at Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre presents Disney's The Little Mermaid. \$12 admission, for more information contact Pam Peckar at 703-360-0686 or email [admin@mvcct.org](mailto:admin@mvcct.org).

**James Madison at Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant.** 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, 134 N. Royal St. John Douglas Hall takes on the persona of James Madison in appearance, in content, and syntax. Check-in is at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. For more information, visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

## TUESDAY/NOV. 22

**Black History Museum Exhibition.** Opening at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Before the Spirits are Swept Away: African American Historic Site paintings by Sherry Zvares Sanabria. 703-746-4356

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 23

**Boney James Jazz Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jazz with the tenor sax, Billboard named him their No. 3 Contemporary Jazz Artist of the Decade. [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com)

## THURSDAY/NOV. 24

**Turkey Trot.** 9 a.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. A Thanksgiving morning tradition, this fast, flat, USATF-certified 5-mile course through the heart of Del Ray. Registration is \$5-25. Visit [www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com](http://www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com) for more.

**Thanksgiving Day Service at Historic Pohick Episcopal Church.** 9 a.m. at Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org) or call 703-339-6572.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 25

**Tree Lighting Ceremony.** 6-8 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. At this official kickoff to the holiday season, the city tree is lit on Market Square and a welcome by the town crier, the mayor and other city officials, a visit by Santa and holiday performances. 703-746-4343, [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov)

**Black Friday.** 50 boutiques kick off the holiday shopping season with deals on merchandise, including home décor, chic fashions, gourmet food, toys and gifts for dogs. The City of Alexandria is offering free parking at parking meters as an incentive for shoppers on Black Friday. Store offers vary, with some boutiques opening at 6 a.m. and offering discounts throughout the day. Visit [AlexandriaVA.com/blackfriday](http://AlexandriaVA.com/blackfriday).

## NOV. 25-JAN. 6

**Mount Vernon Holiday Tours.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Tour the Mansion, watch historic chocolate-making demonstrations, and meet Aladdin the Camel. Mount Vernon is open every day of the year, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day. 703-799-5203 or [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org). Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free.





### At Reginoal Playoff

T.C. Williams Senior running back Jaren Hillian leaps over a West Potomac defender but it wasn't enough to stop the Wolverines who went on to a 26-0 first round Virginia 6A North region playoff victory over the Titans. TC finished the season 5-6 and made the playoffs for only the second time since 1990 under first-year coach James Longerbeam.



Senior cornerback Daniel Davis intercepts a West Potomac pass.

PHOTOS BY JEFF MCQUILKIN/GAZETTE PACKET

## It's a Wrap at 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Alexandria Film Festival

After hosting more than 40 films and as many filmmakers over a four-day weekend, in three locations, the Alexandria Film Festival closed out its 10th year on Sunday, Nov. 13.

Opening night on Market Square kicked off with the screening of "Nighthawks on the Blue Highway" with filmmaker Michael Streissguth and followed by a live performance by "The Nighthawks," the blues band

profiled in the film. In a not-soon-to-be-forgotten moment, Mayor Allison Silberberg jammed with the band, playing the classic "Mess Around" with band member Mark Wenner. The evening was sponsored by Elizabeth Lucchesi and the LizLuke Team.

Friday's line-up at Beatley Library featured a series of films focusing on veterans to honor the holiday. "Charlie and Sam" featured 97-year old Charlie Edwards, World War II aviator, who was on hand to take questions from the audience.

At Saturday's "Foodie Showcase," attendees feasted on "The Culture of Collards," "50 Years of Farming: For Love and Vegetables," Food Frontiers," and "Tea in the Land of Thunder."

Sunday's programming began with the award-winning short by local student filmmaker, Jackson Harvey, "A Squirrel's Guide to Saving," and ended with a preview of the second season of the PBS hit drama "Mercy Street," to air on WETA on Jan. 22. Executive producer of the series, Lisa



Mayor Allison Silberberg jams with The Nighthawks, playing the classic "Mess Around" with band member Mark Wenner.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Wolfinger and Audrey Davis, director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, were on hand to take questions.

2016 Festival honors included: Best of Fest Award – "Girl Flu," by Dorie Barton; Special Jury Award – "The Sand Box," by Jennifer Kramer; Audience Award – "The Ken Burns Effect," by Tia Shuyler; and Best Foreign Language Film Award "The Whole World," by Julian Quintanilla.



TISARA PHOTO

### Anniversary and Grand Re-opening

Gold Works, at 1400 King St., is celebrating its 27th anniversary and grand re-opening. Open house hours are Nov. 18, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Nov. 19, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and 12-4 p.m. Above are Kathryn Brown, owner David Martin, Regina Gillespie, Huynh Nguyen, and Sarah Bryen. See [www.goldworksusa.com](http://www.goldworksusa.com).



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# Decking the Halls, Stuffing Bellies

**Cooking schools offer crash courses in holiday dishes.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

**E**ver since Bernadette Lott can remember, she's had a sweet tooth as big as a sugar cane field. Describing herself as a hard and fast confection lover of the extreme type, she thinks her predilection for all things candy-coated probably started with her grandmother, who pretended not to notice when she devoured spoonfuls of sugar while the two were baking.

"I must have been three or four, standing on a stool in the kitchen, craning my neck to see," said Lott.

In fact, baking was a hobby she honed at her grandmother's hand, which later became a practical skill. She learned that to satisfy her ravenous sugar cravings, be they for shiny glazed lemon tarts or gooey chocolate trifles moistened with rum, she needed to learn to bake.

"I think my first word was cake," Lott said. "I love to bake, but I also do my fair share of tasting."

It's no wonder that for Lott and other foodies, the holidays offer a chance to legitimize an obsession with baking marathons that might appear to be chocolate-covered insanity.

Dozens of local chefs and culinary enthusiasts are rolling out a slew of holiday cooking classes this season. Want to make your own lemon rugelach? Considering letting your children take over the gingerbread baking? Interested in assembling a buche noel? From the informal classes that Lott runs out of her Alexandria, Va. kitchen to formal cooking schools with classes taught by professional chefs, there's instruction for students at both ends of the skills spectrum.

Even as adults, life-long friends can relive their childhood sugarplum fantasies. At the start of the holiday season, Terri Carr and Elaine Agran gather in Carr's Potomac, Md. kitchen to preserve a baking tradition that spans more than three decades. For four days and four nights, the two friends lose themselves in a shrine of softened butter, flour and sugar, emerging with several thousand sugar cookies that they package and ship to friends, family and colleagues.

"We take turns. One of us sleeps while the other one bakes," said Carr, of Terri's Table, a cooking school she runs out of her home.

This year, Carr's holiday classes are focused on Thanksgiving, teaching students to make both main and side dishes, and ending with such as a crunchy and deeply nutty pecan pie.

At the end of her classes, Carr sets a festive table around which her apprentices gather, raising a chorus of oohs and aahs and noshing on the fruit of the holiday labor until the last crumb is devoured.

"These cooking classes help people get into the holiday spirit," said Toni Lipe of Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna, Va. "They learn to make things that they can wrap in paper and ribbon and give as gifts."

Students at Culinaria enter a holiday cookie paradise of softened butter, vanilla and coconut, and spend hours cutting, rolling and decorating, emerging at the end of class with boxes of rugelach, almond macaroons and other confections.

"The classes are filled with laughter and chatter,"



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRI CARR

**Terri Carr bakes, decorates and packages holiday cookies, in her Potomac kitchen which she sends to friends and family.**

said Lipe. "It's like a party, such a wonderful experience."

In Lott's lessons — students discover her through word of mouth — she demonstrates rich buche de noel and fudge-filled, whiskey-soaked chocolate bundt cake recipes. A limited class size allows her to guide students through the process, from melting chocolate over simmering water to adding a good dousing of liqueur to the mixture and beating it into a fluffy batter before sliding it into the oven.

"Some of my best holiday childhood memories were baking with my family," said Lott. "I love being able to share that love with other people so that they can create their own memories."

During her lessons, students rummage through a treasure trove of cookie cutters in shapes ranging from angels and wreaths to starfish and rosebuds. After mixing flour and nutmeg with lemon zest and vanilla extract, then chilling, rolling and cutting the dough, their effort bursts forth in the form of highly spiced citrus, ginger cookies.

"I still like nibbling the cookie dough as much as I did when I was a little kid," said Claudia Yost, a recent student.

Even the youngest gourmands can add calorie-laden joy to the world this season. Diminutive cooking-in-training use seasonal bounty to create child-friendly versions of traditional Thanksgiving fare at Tiny Chefs cooking school. They use yeast, flour and sweet potatoes to create warm, fluffy doughnuts, encased in sugar that crunch slightly to the bite.

"Cooking during the holidays, and at any time, builds memories and gives them skills that they can use when they're responsible for preparing dinners later on down the road," said Katie Raguindin of Tiny Chefs. In the gingerbread house-making class, instructors support children's imaginations, encouraging the wackiest, most creative designs, propelled by a rainbow of colored icing and decorative candies. "We're giving them a nice way to participate with the holiday cooking," said Raguindin. "It's a good family activity, and they can remember for years to come that they got to cook with Mom and Dad for Christmas dinner."

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# Residents Seek More Diversity through Redistricting

FROM PAGE 1  
that the redistricting hadn't done enough to balance the diversity of the schools.

The boundaries shift for a number of reasons. Instructional Capacity, the number of students assigned to a school and accounting for the number of classrooms and resource rooms available, is one of the top criteria for a boundary shift. Student safety, transportation, sensible boundary lines and diversity are all other criteria that are considered when a boundary is changed. For ACPS, diversity is broken up into ethnicity, gender, English Language Learners (ELL), and Free and Reduced Meals eligibility. But while the redistricting options help balance school enrollments, some say very little is being done to make the schools more diverse.

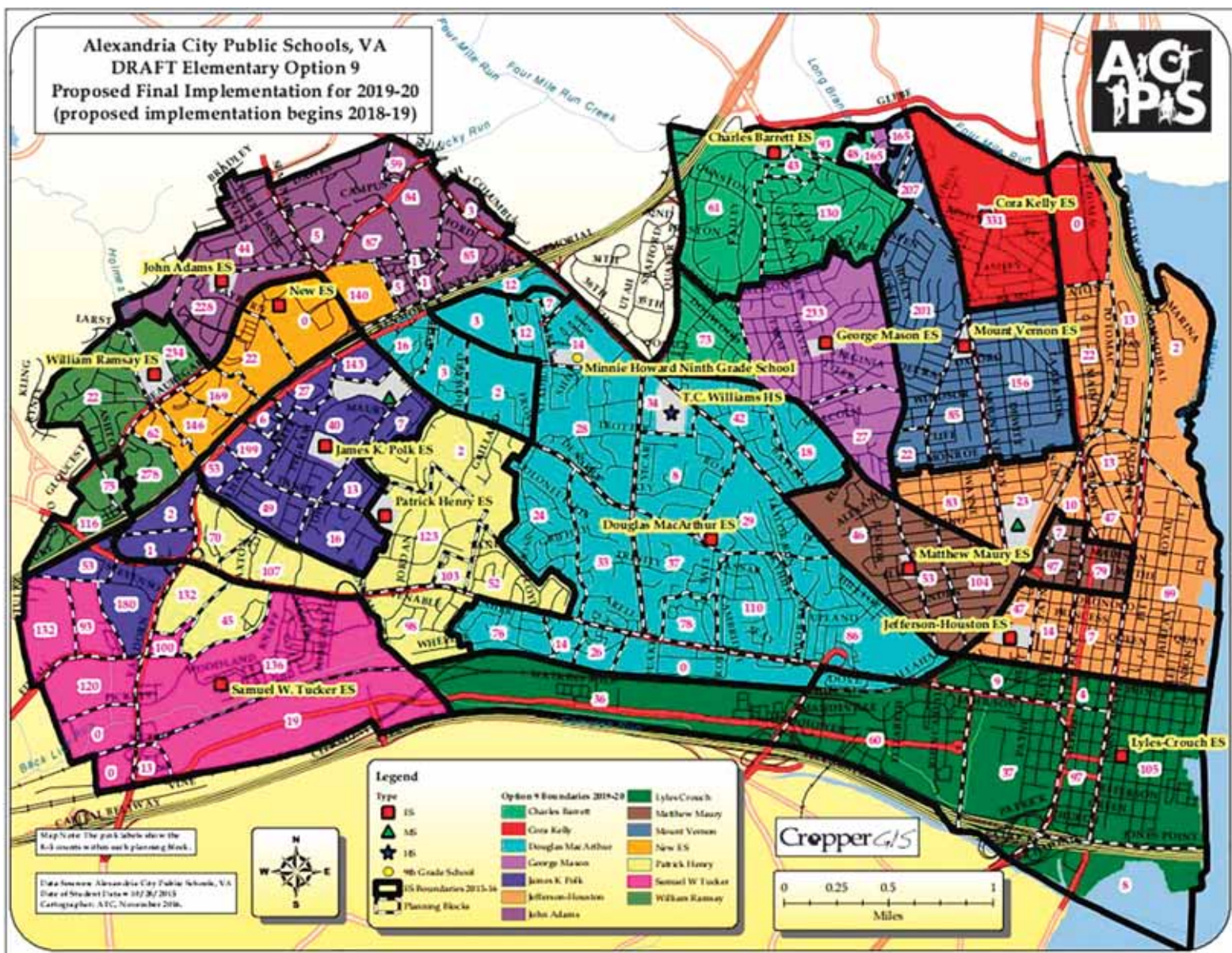
"If we're looking at your options, there's not much difference," said Dianara Faget, an ACPS parent. "We're getting a new school, but we all funnel into the same high school, so it should be balanced. The schools should have the same diversity. Most of the schools don't budge, and that's not fair to the kids. It's a bubble."

Some of the students attending the presentation had a stronger reaction to the current and proposed school boundaries.

"They're racist," said Rhylee Honeycutt, a student at Hammond Middle School.

Nyla Fox, also a student at Hammond, said the boundaries basically segregate the schools and that none of the maps seem to change that in any substantial way. Both students said they have concerns that certain schools seem specifically separated based on socio-economic lines.

Fifty-four percent of ACPS students qualify for Free and Reduced Meals (FARM), but William Ramsay Elementary, Patrick Henry Elementary, Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology and the unnamed new elementary school all have near or above 70 percent FARM students. With the exception of a potential two percent decrease for Patrick Henry, none of those schools will see any reduction in percentage of FARM eligible students. Ramee Gentry, a member of the School Board and head of the Redistricting Committee, said adjusting the school districts for capacity can create an imbalance in diversity and other factors, so unusual shapes on the school district plans like a section of North Old Town attached to Matthew Maury Elementary School in Del Ray are part of the



**Elementary school redistricting Option 9, a variation on Option 8 with minor adjustments based on community feedback. Aaron Cropper, senior GIS developer/analyst at Cropper GIS, said that Option 9 will have the least amount of impact on Alexandria students.**

plan's attempts to balance its diversity levels.

The data shows significant racial disparities between schools, though this is largely reflective of the geographic locations of the school. While Hispanic students only compose 35 percent of ACPS elementary school student population, Cora Kelly is 70 percent Hispanic. However, according to City-Data.com, the Arlandria neighborhood in which Cora Kelly is located is 56.9 percent hispanic, the densest concentration of Hispanic populations in Alexandria. All three options proposed at the Nov. 14 meeting have Cora Kelly's Hispanic population increasing to 72 percent. Cora Kelly also has a disproportionate concentration of ELL students. While 43 percent of ACPS students are ELL, currently 66 percent of Cora Kelly's students are ELL. None of the presented options decrease that population at Cora Kelly.

Mary Renee, a teacher at Cora

Kelly, said those disparities can have an effect on the classroom.

"This disparities between the schools are so deeply ingrained that it can affect the curriculum," said Renee. The only way for schools to continue to receive Title I funding, financing for schools with a high percent of students from low-income families, is to continue to score higher in testing. Renee says that puts a much heavier emphasis on test scores at Cora Kelly than at other schools, leading to things like recess and lunch being cut to 15 minutes each and former Principal Brandon Davis being reassigned after telling only families of failing students that their children could opt out of testing. Renee said it was disappointing that none of the presented options do more to balance those discrepancies.

Other parents expressed concerns that Jefferson-Houston, a school that remains unaccredited despite recent improvements in

testing scores, isn't receiving a broad enough range of students.

"I think for Jefferson-Houston there needs to be more of a shakeup," said Jennifer Topping, a parent districted for Jefferson-Houston whose child attends Charles Barrett Elementary. "There needs to be more students and more diversity at the school."

While Jefferson-Houston is 67 percent black, much higher than the 28 percent average in ACPS, the neighborhood surrounding Jefferson-Houston is 68 percent black. Trisha Barry says her daughter is slated to go to Jefferson-Houston, but after the school lost its accreditation she had concerns about the school's quality.

"If kids are opting out, we need to look at the school," said Barry. "We want to believe in the schools but we want to make sure our daughter has a good education."

Barry said if the school is not accredited by the time her daughter is old enough to attend, the

family might move a few blocks away to attend Lyles-Crouch.

As the process moves forward, Topping and other parents said they are still waiting to hear from the School Board whether or not grandfathering will be allowed in the new school districts. For others, there's a lingering uncertainty that the School Board seriously considers public input. Several said the School Board voting against the recommendation of the Patrick Henry Advisory Group in June cast doubts about ACPS transparency.

"We want to see the plans that will actually go forward," said Stacey Rudolph, an ACPS parent. "After the final maps are picked, there's no further public review. So the vote could be on something completely different. It seems like there's another agenda. It feels like they're going to do what they want. I'm worried about a repeat of [the Patrick Henry process]. It's a false sense of transparency."



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Danvic, LLC trading as Calabash African Cuisine, 514C South Van Dorn St., Alexandria, VA 22304. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On Premises; Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Obed Attakpah, Member NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

## 21 Announcements

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

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**ABC LICENSE**  
Olio LLC trading as Olio Tasting Room, 1223 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Penny Willmann, owner NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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

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## 21 Announcements

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

RFP No. 00000647, Interpretive Plan for the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area

Non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference: December 2, 2016; 10:00 a.m., prevailing local time, Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22304.

RFP Closing Date and Time: December 30, 2016, 4 p.m., prevailing local time

For general inquiries contact Kaylin Gaal, Contract Specialist at 703.746.4286.

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

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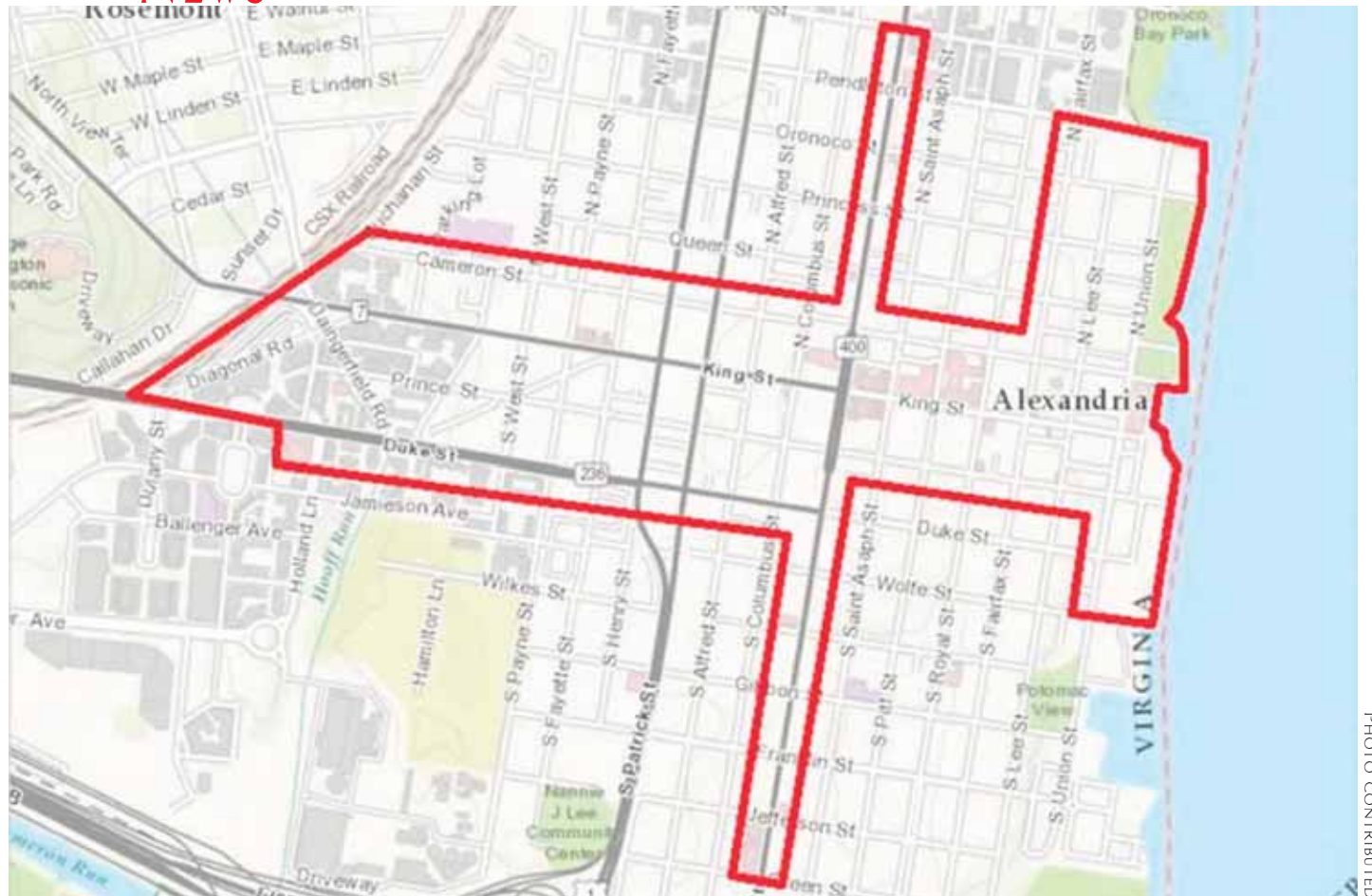


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Boundaries for the proposed Business Improvement District.

## Business Improvement District Moves Forward

FROM PAGE 1

the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. “It’s the type of projects the city won’t be able to prioritize against schools or public safety.”

Every business between the King Street Metro Station and the Waterfront, with Cameron and Duke streets forming most of the north and south boundaries, will be a part of the new BID. The BID also extends along parts of Washington Street and includes the areas of the Waterfront between North and South Robinson Terminals. The BID is funded by a tax on all commercial properties within that district; 75 cents for every \$100 of assessed value. An estimated \$2.2 million will be collected by the city and transferred to the BID.

For over 10 years, BIDs have been operating in parts of Arlington and D.C. Over the years there have been several attempts to launch a BID in Alexandria, but over the last year the idea has been building steam.

Throughout the fall, the AEDP and city staff will be doing outreach to local businesses and property owners that will be affected by the new BID. In a random door-to-door survey, most of the business owners along upper King Street said they had never heard of the new BID. Among those that had heard of the BID, there was mixed support and uncertainty.

“It’s up to us to pick up the tab,” said David Martin, owner of Gold Works and a driving force behind the winter lights along King Street, “not just for beautification, but for tree wells and sidewalks. These are improvements the city has stopped paying for years ago. There’s a lot of thought going into this, and we need to make sure the whole community is involved.”

“I’m very much in support,” said Kelly

Ferenc, owner of Bishop Boutique and a member of the Old Town BID Exploratory Committee. “I hope it drives more economic growth and allows small businesses to grow.”

“I think the upper King Street businesses share the idea that this would be helpful,” said Melanie Kapinos, manager at Ten Thousand Villages. “This would encourage people to come and see the treasures of Alexandria.”

Many business owners along King Street said they hope the BID brings much needed improvements to the streets. Ellen Klein, owner of Hooray for Books, said she hopes the new BID can bring in more planted trees, bike stands, and other exterior improvements. Klein said she wasn’t concerned about the taxes, believing the cost would be recouped by more joint markets brought into the store from around the region.

“I’m in favor of the BID,” said Carol Supplee, owner of Imagine Artwear. “It was new and scary then, but now every business district worth its salt has one, and we’re still dealing with the same issues we talked about 10 years ago. We have empty storefronts, we need more high quality businesses, and we need to keep our streets clean. Sure, we’d pay a little more, but we’d pool out money and hopefully do more with it.”

Others weren’t so sure. Robert Shelton, owner of Killer E.S.P., agreed that there was lots of work that needed to be done on the streets, pointing to the uneven sidewalks and badly damaged curbs. Shelton said stores along King Street would benefit from things like increased signage allowances and additional bike racks.

“We can still be Old Town and still have a modern flair,” said Shelton, comparing Al-

exandria with historic cities in Europe that have managed to find a balance between history and modern amenities. “But what are we getting from the city? If I have to pay extra, I want to really know what I’m getting out of it and I want to know what are we paying for now.”

The main complaint from business owners was that the BID would be another tax increase on a small business community that already feels overburdened.

“I’m not in favor of more taxes,” said Roger Vasilas, owner of The Lamplighter. “The City has tried to raise taxes on us for stuff like this before, for plants and benches.”

“It’s a great idea,” said Donna McIntyre from Today’s Cargo, “But that’s a lot of money for a struggling business.”

But other business owners say the cost of inaction will be higher.

“It’s necessary,” said Danielle Romanetti, owner of fibre space and a member of the Old Town BID Exploratory Committee. “It could impact whether or not we sign the lease here. There’s too much empty retail on King Street.”

Romanetti also said many businesses overestimate what the cost of the BID will be.

“That is \$750 for us, and we’re one of the largest spaces on King Street,” said Romanetti. “That’s such a small amount.”

Romanetti says her store spends more than that each year on taking care of the plants outside the store and putting up decorations on the street, activities a BID would take over.

Outreach to local businesses and stakeholders regarding the new BID will continue through the fall, with City Council public hearings and consideration of ordinance in the coming months.



**11**

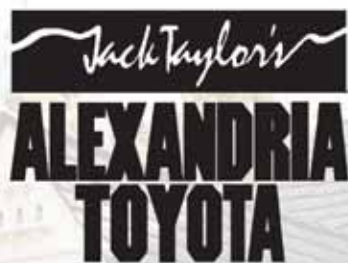
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