

# Alexandria Gazette Packet

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NOVEMBER 24, 2016



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Garrett Golubin, second from right, poses for a photo with members of Team Golubin United Against Arthritis at last year's 5K Jingle Bell Walk/Run for Arthritis at Pentagon Row. This year's event will take place Dec. 3 and hopes to raise more than \$110,000.**

## Jingle Bell Rock

**5K to raise arthritis awareness.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**I**t is the leading cause of disability in the United States, with more than 53 million Americans being affected by some form of arthritis. Still in his 20s, Garrett Golubin became one of those statistics when he was diagnosed with spondyloarthritis two years ago.

"People think of arthritis as an old person's disease," Golubin said. "But there are more than 300,000 children in the United States afflicted with some form of autoimmune disease. It is also the leading cause of disability in veterans."

As he learned more about the disease, the Alexandria resident became an advocate for awareness and is once again raising funds for the Arthritis Foundation through the upcoming Jingle Bell Walk/Run 5K to be held Dec. 3 in Pentagon City. "Last year's event was the best event on record for the foundation in the DC Metro area," Golubin said. "We raised over \$100,000 and had over 1,000 participants. These numbers doubled those of the previous year. Our goal this year is to raise \$110,000."

Golubin was recently named board chairman of the fundraising leadership committee in the DC Metro region while his sister, Courtney Golubin, is serving as corporate chair for this year's Jingle Bell Run. Parents Greg and Cindy Golubin and



**Garrett Golubin, right, was presented with the Energizer Award by 1991 Washington Redskins Super Bowl champion Mark Schlereth for his efforts to raise awareness for Juvenile Arthritis at the Arthritis Foundation's national convention in Denver earlier this month. Schlereth was a keynote speaker at the conference and is affected by arthritis.**

The Golubin Group of TTR Sotheby's International Realty are corporate sponsors of the event and are again fielding the Golubin Group United Against Arthritis team.

"I became involved with the Arthritis Foundation to help those in similar and worse conditions who don't have a voice and are in need of a better future," said Golubin, who was presented with the Energizer Award at the foundation's national convention in Denver earlier this month.

According to the Arthritis Foundation, over 400 children are diagnosed with juvenile arthritis in the Metropolitan D.C. area each year. The disease affects children of all ages, genders, races and backgrounds and at this time, there is no cure.

"These are diseases that have severe impacts on those involved," Golubin said. "There can be severe comorbidity with symptoms like blindness and organ damage that can lead to death. But through events like the Jingle Bell 5K, I want to continue to raise awareness and funds to help veterans and particularly our children prevent, control and ultimately one day cure arthritis."

Visit [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org).

## Off-Roading

**Outdated parking policies lead to selective on-street bans for new properties.**

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**hen it comes to parking, not all residents of Alexandria are equal. As development continues to spread through Old Town Alexandria, several recent projects have been approved with a restriction on new residents having access to on-street parking.

Robinson Terminals North and South, as well as the Edens project at 530 First Street, were all approved on conditions that the residents of the new buildings not be granted on-street parking permits because the sites had sufficient off-street parking. At a Nov. 12 meeting, the Development Special Use Permit for Ramsey Homes was approved with a condition that would keep residents from parking on the street.

The bans for on-street parking is not part of any policy for the neighborhood or long-term plan for the city. Each site's parking sta-

tus is reviewed individually. For some on the City Council, the condition is the latest in what seems to be an unnerving trend. Councilman Paul Smedberg raised the issue at the Nov. 12 City Council meeting.

"This is backwards," said Smedberg. "We need a plan in place first before we determine whether or not people get on-street parking or not. We've talked about this for years. It is not equitable, it is not fair, and until we have a policy in place I do not think we should be making these one-off determinations. I just don't. It's not right. Here we are again making another one-off."

According to Carrie Sanders, deputy director for Transportation and Transit, the trend towards removing on-street parking privileges from new developments is rooted in the city's outdated parking code. Apartment complexes are considered commercial properties, not residential ones. While

SEE EXAMINING, PAGE 20

## Armed Robberies Across City

**F**our armed robberies occurred across Alexandria over the weekend. On Nov. 17, a suspect stepped into the Wells Fargo Bank on the 300 block of N. Washington Street, stole cash and fled. The same day, a suspect robbed a convenience store on the 800 block of Franklin Street.

On Nov. 18, a group of suspects stole items from a victim while one brandished a firearm. Alexandria Police Department has since detained four suspects.

On Nov. 19, a suspect robbed the Subway at 2300 Eisenhower Ave., brandishing a firearm and stealing cash. Alexandria Police Public Information Officer Crystal Nosal said police believe the suspect was the same who robbed the same Subway on Nov. 12.

Nosal said robberies tend to increase towards the holidays, when victims are more likely to be carrying larger amounts of cash or spend more at shops and restaurants.

— VERNON MILES

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# There's No Place Like Home

Score local gifts on Small Business Saturday.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**Y**ou've made your list and checked it twice. If you aren't already one of the 57 percent of shoppers who have started their hunt for holiday gifts, circle Nov. 26 on your calendar for the seventh annual Small Business Saturday.

Alexandria will again serve as the Washington region's Shop Small headquarters for this year's Small Business Saturday. Locally owned boutiques throughout the city will offer special promotions and the Chamber of Commerce will be handing out specially branded shopping bags filled with promotions from local businesses.

"Our local businesses are thrilled to do this," Simmans said. "From restaurant gift cards to tickets to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, the Small Business Saturday promotions help keep shopping revenue here in the city."

About 100 random bags will contain gift cards to local eateries or attractions, including A la Lucia, Pork Barrel BBQ/Sweet Fire Donna/Holy Cow and Port City Brewery.

Each bag will contain maps with 70 lucky shoppers receiving a collectible plate from George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate.

The Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Visit Alexandria, the Old Town Boutique District, the Del Ray Business Association and the West End Business Association to combine promotions, including an expanded Random Acts of Holiday Cheer with surprise giveaways from an Elf Prize Patrol that will continue each Saturday through Christmas Eve. Pop-up musical performances will be provided through the Alexandria Arts Alliance with hands-on activities at the Mobile Art Lab.

"We are excited to be promoting Alexandria and our businesses as the place to 'shop small' for big rewards," said Chamber CEO Joe Haggerty. "The majority of our member businesses are independently owned and face unique challenges in competing for shoppers. Programs such as this provide cross-marketing opportunities and establish Alexandria as the ideal location where shoppers can find one-of-a-kind treasures as they begin their holiday preparations."

For more information on holiday events visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com).



**Councilwoman Del Pepper, right, joins Shari Simmans and Maria Ciarrocchi of the Chamber of Commerce at last year's kick off to Small Business Saturday. The Chamber will again be handing out goodie bags with surprise gifts at Market Square from 9 a.m.-noon and in front of Pork Barrel BBQ from 12:15-1:15 p.m. on Nov. 26.**



**Private tasting events with Sonoma Cellar owners Elizabeth and Rick Myllenbeck, second and third from left, makes for a fun gift for wine-loving friends and supports local businesses.**



**The Christmas Attic is ground zero for shoppers during the holiday season, where nutcrackers are always popular.**

## Sites of Conscience

New exhibit comes to Alexandria Black History Museum.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**R**obert Sanabria had over 650 paintings, mainly of concentration camps, slave quarters and insane asylums, and no idea what to do with them. His wife, Sherry Zvares Sanabria, a former Torpedo Factory artist, died in 2014 and left him with the paintings that had been a lifelong art project dedicated to what she called "sites of conscience."

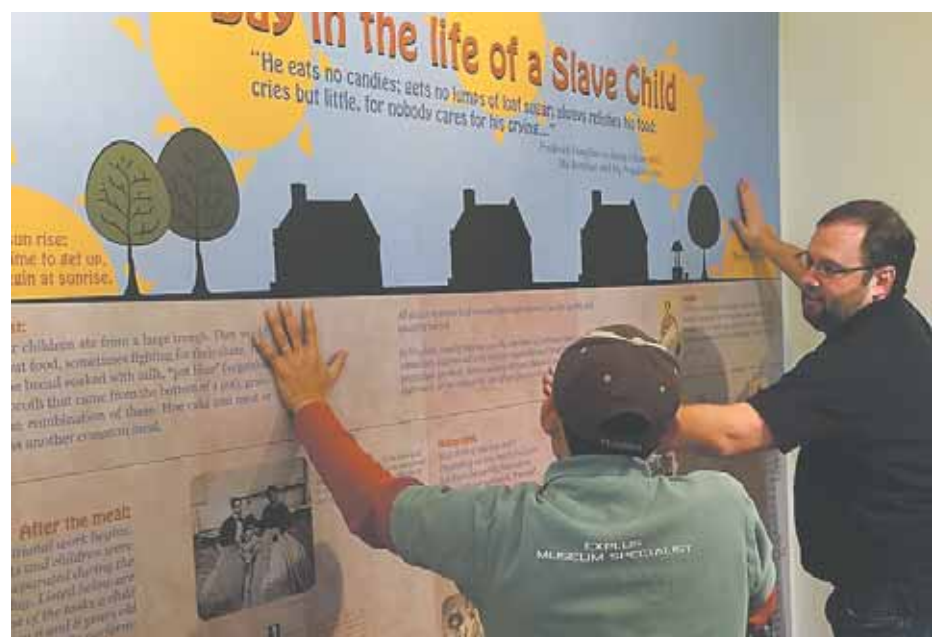
But through a mutual friend of the Sanabrias and the museums, Sherry

Sanabria's artwork is the centerpiece of a new gallery at the Alexandria Black History Museum. The museum will feature Sherry Sanabria's paintings depicting sites that played a role in American slavery alongside displays about life for black Americans living under slavery.

"The paintings here are African American heritage sites across the United States," said Audrey Davis, director of the museum. "These are places that were painful but should never be forgotten."

The addition of the Sanabria paintings also marks a major transition for the Black

SEE NEW EXHIBIT, PAGE 8



**Tung Le (left) and Peter Heydt help set up the new exhibit at the Alexandria Black History Museum.**

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET



# THANKSGIVING



## Preparing Thanksgiving Baskets

Alexandria, Va. Esther Chapter #23 Order of the Eastern Star members help to prepare Thanksgiving baskets. From left are Deborah Ford, Aquila Biddle, and Tawanna Locke.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
MCARTHUR MYERS



Universal Lodge #1 Junior Warden McArthur Myers drops off Thanksgiving food to Alexandria Boys and Girls Club. Marin Neal received the food on behalf of the organization at 401 N. Payne Street.

## Goodwin House Residents Share Memories of Thanksgiving

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**R**esidents at Goodwin House on Fillmore Street in Alexandria shared memories of Thanksgiving traditions. Goodwin House, a faith-based, mission-driven, nonprofit organization, offers all levels of living from residential living to assisted living, memory support and nursing care.

The discussion ranged from how to keep a big dinner hot, the wisdom of pineapple in sweet potatoes, is turkey bone soup really any good — you use everything on the farm — and how to, or whether to, eat oysters.

**Mary Jane Nugent:** “My mother wasn’t a good cook, and I always thought Thanksgiving dinner came in a box delivered to your front door. I didn’t know, and it seemed very complicated. We didn’t have any grandparents close so it wasn’t a big affair. When I got married I cooked a turkey and I found it’s



not so hard after all. My fondest memories have been here with our four children. I don’t really have any favorite Thanksgiving food, but do you remember that lime jello with the pineapple? I used to go to the train to pick up the oysters, but I didn’t like them. I ate tuna-noodle casserole.”

**Virginia Mittauer:** “I remember driving to my grandmother’s in Elkhart, Ind. When we opened the door, the first thing I saw was the big round dining room table covered with dried noodles that she made every holiday. She made the dough and sliced the noodles and they were drying on the table. She always had tons of pies, vegetables and relishes. The table was groaning with food. At 2:00 we went to support the local high school boy’s football game. Later when we lived here in Beverly Hills the football game tradition continued when all of the guys in the neighborhood assembled by osmosis and played a game of football. Now my daughter and her husband, who are good



cooks, do interesting things like shrimp or steak. They had a lot of disasters with deep fried turkeys, like the thermometer breaking inside and having to throw away the turkey.”

**Amoret Bell Bunn:** “I grew up in West Virginia, and my brother went to military school there but they didn’t take Thanksgiving off. So we celebrated on Sunday instead. There was a football game in Roanoke and my aunt went to join friends, stayed overnight and went Christmas shopping the next day. My brother took the train, called the Huckleberry Express, from Blacksburg to Roanoke. Another thing we did was order a keg of oysters sent from Chesapeake Bay and keep them cold in the basement. We would mix up corn meal mush to feed them and you could hear the oysters slurp, slurp — sucking it up. Later we went to my husband’s in North Carolina for Thanksgiving and for 20 years at our friends’ place outside of Warrenton. So I’ve never had to cook a turkey.”



**Bettye Walker:** “My mother wasn’t a good cook either but my dad could cook. He would decorate, too. He used to make turkeys for each place at the table out of prunes, raisins and guinea feathers. I always think I’ll do it, but I’m too lazy. My husband loved scalloped oysters. We used to argue over whether to have oyster stew or to have them scalloped. But I didn’t grow up with oysters; I was inland. This year I’m having the chef make an Irish potato casserole.”



**Judy Davis:** “Well my family has gone from traditional to ordering in, to barbecue, to potluck. Now to everyone’s delight we make reservations at Chadwicks. This year we have expanded to nine. I am not a traditionalist. I like everything, and last year I had barbecue. The way we do it, there is freedom of choice. Children grow up knowing tradition is good, but whatever makes you happy. We don’t care what we eat as long as we’re together.”



## Serving the Poor a Thanksgiving Meal

While many people will celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with family, others have no one to spend it with — much less a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings. That’s why for more than 20 years, Christ House in Alexandria has been serving a Thanksgiving dinner to the poor. This Thursday, Nov. 24, at 1 p.m., Bishop Paul S. Loverde will be at Christ House giving them his blessing, joining them in prayer and song, and serving their meals.

Up to 75 guests will receive a free meal, prepared by a professional chef who’s been cooking Thanksgiving at Christ House for 21 years.

“Keep the Christ House staff and volunteers in your prayers who turn the Thanksgiving holiday into a merciful holy day,” said Art Bennett, president and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington. This will be Bishop Loverde’s last year serving at Christ House as Bishop of the Diocese of Arlington. He retires next month.



**Bishop Paul S. Loverde serving at last year’s Thanksgiving dinner at Christ House.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/GAZETTE PACKET

## Ivy Hill Thanksgiving

A timely “thanks” to “Grandma” at Ivy Hill Cemetery.





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## PEOPLE

# All Ages Love Comic Books

Store combines exotic plants and comics since 1974.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The front window of Exotic Planterium and Card and Comic Book Collectorama on Mount Vernon Avenue is crowded with plants of all varieties. Dennis E. Webb, owner of the store since 1974 said, “I try to keep plants that aren’t grown so much around here like this Penwiper from a small island off Africa. It got the name, I think, because it has dots all over the leaves — looks liked you wiped a pen on it. I got this from a customer who stopped by.”

Webb said, “I have been growing plants since I was a little boy and I studied Ornamental Horticulture at Virginia Tech. But, I’ve always liked comics, too.” He says after college his mother gave him some spare space in her antique shop down the street. “So I put plants in the window and comics in the middle and added X-ray specs and all kinds of funny gadgets. There were a lot more gadgets back then.” In a year he ran out of room so he moved to the current shop.

Webb says he had a whole section of books but comic books were the main thing people were buying up so he went in that direction. He inches down the narrow aisle to the back of the store where the comic books intermingle with gadgets to fill every spare inch on the walls, floor and in the cardboard boxes on the table. “My rarest comics are those Superman right on the wall, some from the 1940s. For a while the X-Men were the favorites.” He reaches into a large bag on the floor and pulls out a newly arrived X-Men. “This could be near mint. See it is shiny and has hardly any creases.” Webb uses the Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide to look up the value of his comics. His finger scrolls down the page. “For instance, look at this one. This Action Comics Superman 1st issue is listed at \$155,000 for good condition and — he double checks his spectacles — \$2,500,000 for near mint condition.” He says he thinks the most he ever got for a comic book is about \$200. “It was an old Blue Beetle character.”

Webb opens his book of trading cards in plastic envelopes. “Here are the original Batman cards from 1966. They sell for about \$5. The first James Bond is here at \$3.50. People come in looking for things like that.” He turns the page to Westerns. Paladin cards were the most popular — remember ‘Have Gun, Will Travel?’” And he stops at a page of black



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Dennis E. Webb has been growing plants since he was a small boy and has always liked comics, too. Every shelf, wall and floor space is intermixed with cardboard boxes of comics, gadgets, and potting mix at Exotic Planterium and Card and Comic Collectorama. Webb has owned his store on Mount Vernon Avenue since 1974.**

and white Laurel and Hardy cards. As he browses through the book, he points to the Wacky Packages. “These were the only non-sports cards that were made over and over. They made fun of products like ‘Blunder Bread’ and ‘El Polluto cigars.’”

Back in the corner sits a collection of alternative comics, “all kinds of unusual things like Cathair Apocalypse about talking cats with their own lives or Creepholes or Blood Thunder.” Webb says he sells comics to all different ages. “Older people come in bringing their kids and say, ‘that’s what I used to read’ and buy something for them. Then the kids come back.” But he says kids don’t read comics like they used to with so many things to do. “They were so much bigger in the ‘80s and ‘90s.” He points high on a shelf to a cardboard re-creation of his store constructed by a customer as a project for his elementary school. One-inch pots are lined up along his front window. “See the comic books on the wall in back and there is even a picture of me inside the store.”

Some days Webb is unpacking his orders, checking to be sure the comics have all of the pages, pricing them and arranging them in order. He

records his sales in a ledger, the old-fashioned way. These days his schedule is a little unpredictable since he is caring for his 91-year old mother and a handwritten card on the front door explains “the store may not be open until 1 p.m. on some days.” Still some days it is crowded with “nice people moving away and giving me plants” or looking for that special missing collector’s card.



**Dennis E. Webb’s trading card selections range from the original 1966 Batman, shown here, to Old Westerns, the formerly most popular X-Men, and the first James Bond, selling at \$3.50.**



**The store’s front window is crowded with unusual plants that aren’t grown locally such as the Penwiper, a member of the Kalanchoe genus. Dennis E. Webb says this plant is grown in an island off Africa and he thinks it got its name from the spots on the leaves that look like they came from wiping a pen.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Alexandria resident Sir Stuart Matthews stands in front of a new building on the campus of England’s University of Hertfordshire that has been named in his honor. Matthews, a longtime resident of Alexandria, is a graduate of the university.**

## Head of the Class

UK university honors local resident.

When Sir Stuart Matthews graduated from Hatfield Technical College in the United Kingdom 60 years ago, he never dreamed he would one day return to see a building named in his honor.

“This was quite a surprise,” said Matthews, a long-time Alexandria resident, when he learned of the honor. “It is humbling to be recognized in this way.”

Now known as the University of Hertfordshire, the College Lane campus officially opened a new \$148 million student center with a dedication ceremony Oct. 31. The centerpiece of the project is a building known as The Oval and named in honor of Matthews.

The Oval will serve as a sports and social facility as well as an information point for students. Services include the Student Centre, Careers Service, Campus Pharmacy and Medical Centre and Student Union.

The Sir Stuart Matthews Centre is in recognition of Matthews and his long-standing contribution to the aviation industry which began at Hatfield Technical College. Matthews also helped build the Comet, the world’s first jet airliner.

“I want to take the opportunity to say how proud I am to have graduated from Hertfordshire and to have this building named after me,” Matthews said at the dedication of the building. “I was one of the very first students here 60 years ago when it was Hatfield Technical College and it’s hard to believe that the university has become what it is today.”

— JEANNE THEISMANN



**The Oval student center at the University of Hertfordshire in England is named for Alexandria resident Sir Stuart Matthews.**



# Cider City Sipping cider's history.

From hand-cranked wooden presses to the tap at an Old Town pub, hard cider has a long history in Alexandria. As part of Cider Week, a series of events themed around cider hosted by the Office of Historic Alexandria, a lecture and tasting on Nov. 17 in the Lyceum examined the role hard cider played in Alexandria's history.

Steven T. Bashore, director of Historic Trades at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, said cider's history in the United States can be traced as far back as the arrival of the Mayflower, where a wooden piece of the cider press is recorded as being repurposed to repair damage to the ship. Settlers brought seeds and saplings with them to be replanted in the American colonies, including one orchard at Jamestown in 1656.

"Apple orchards are part of the colonial landscape of early America," Bashore said. Locally, Bashore said the apple orchards and cider press were prominent features at Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Cider was brought in from Mount Vernon and other local farms to Alexandria, the largest nearby city to trade in.

Early in Alexandria's history, Bashore said rum was the drink of choice. Colonel John Fitzgerald, owner of the Fitzgerald Warehouse at the foot of King Street, was a prominent local distiller of rum. Bashore said records at Mount Vernon show that Washington was a customer. Port cities like Alexandria were the centers of rum distillation as the sugar was brought in



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

**Philip Halsey from Potter's Craft Cider pours samples for guests.**

SEE CIDER CITY, PAGE 8

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# New Exhibit at Alexandria Black History Museum

FROM PAGE 3

History Museum. The previous exhibit, The Blessings of Liberty, has been on display since 2006. The exhibit covered black history in Alexandria from its founding to 1830. The plan was to have a several part series covering black history throughout the centuries up to the present, but Davis said funding dried up and the exhibit remained on display for 10 years. The museum was also beginning to face expiring loans on many artifacts on display from Mount Vernon and other sites. Davis said the timing of being approached to put the paintings on display could not have been better for the museum.

While the paintings focus on black history throughout the United States, Davis said the paintings will be accompanied by displays that specifically look at plantation slavery and urban slavery in Alexandria. One lesson learned over the years with the previous display is that the museum has more visitation from parents bringing their children than expected, so the new exhibit is also more interactive and child-friendly. One chart shows the height at which a child

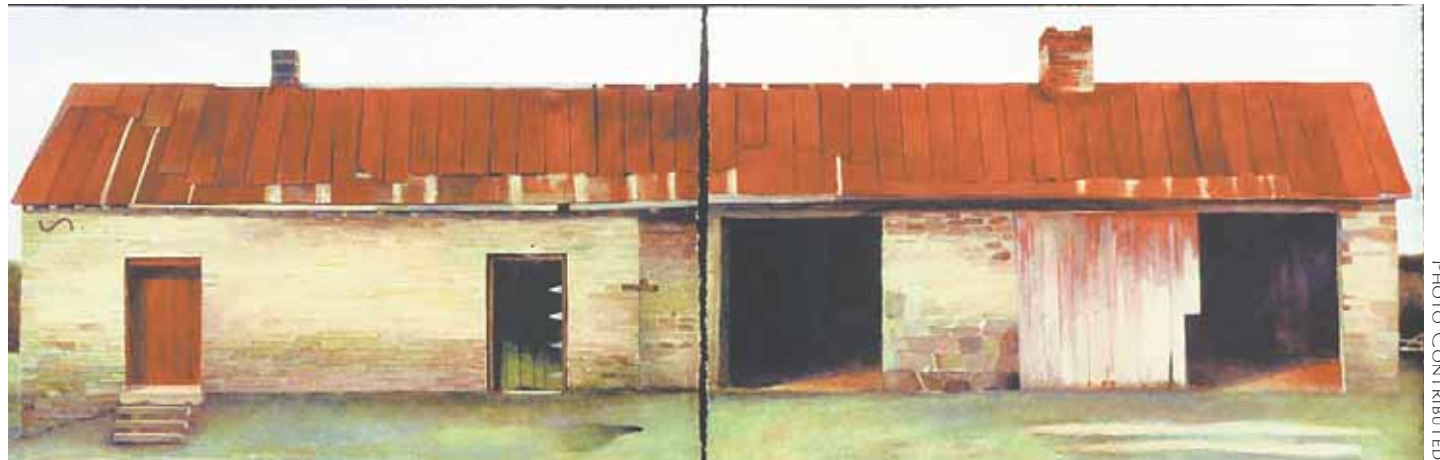


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Painting by Sherry Zvares Sanabria.

was considered grown enough to take on adult work. A bucket nearby will show how tiring carrying water around the farm would be, a task generally assigned to children. The museum will also look at the daily life and cultural aspects of being a child growing up in slavery, like the Topsy-Turvy doll that can alternatively transform from a black girl into a white one and back again.

Davis said having a new gallery on display will also give the museum time to begin research and fundraising for the second phase of The Blessings of Liberty. The second phase will look at Black History in Alexandria during the Civil War and through Reconstruction. "It's a look at what have we lost and what will we lose?" said Davis, noting that it's a lesson particularly relevant

today with the planned demolition of the historic Ramsey Homes next door.

For Robert Sanabria, the gallery is also an opportunity to remember his wife.

"It's unusual in its direction and very well done," Robert Sanabria said of his wife's work. "I want her to be protected and preserved, not only her work but her reputation."

## Cider City

FROM PAGE 7

by ship. However, after independence, relations with Britain made sugar harder to get, leading to whisky, beer, and cider ultimately replacing rum as the drink of choice in America.

— VERNON MILES

**Steven T. Bashore, director of Historic Trades at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, gives a lecture on the history of cider in Alexandria.**

PHOTO BY  
VERNON MILE  
GAZETTE PACKET



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## BUSINESS

Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg and BurgerFi Alexandria owners (from left) Dave Landry, Chris Landry and Tim Kelly at the ribbon cutting for the restaurant's grand opening.

PHOTO BY  
CHRISTINE NOWACK



## New Dining Option

### BurgerFi opens restaurant in Old Town.

There's a new dining option in Old Town. BurgerFi, a fast food restaurant that boasts menu choices made from scratch with locally purchased produce, hosted a public grand opening at newest location at 111 N. Pitt Street Alexandria recently.

An official ribbon-cutting ceremony with Mayor Allison Silberberg kicked off the weekend on Veteran's Day with guests enjoying free fries for "Fry day Friday."

A portion of the grand opening's proceeds were donated to A Wide Circle, a nonprofit organization designed to end poverty and help ensure that every child and adult has the chance to succeed and the opportunity to live well.

Once home to the pub Ireland's Own, BurgerFi's Old Town Alexandria location is one of the larger restaurants in the national chain, featuring local craft beers and wine — both on tap — and a pet-friendly courtyard patio dining area.

Local owners Dave Landry, his son Chris and their business partner Tim Kelly opened their first BurgerFi almost four years ago. For more information visit [www.burgerfi.com](http://www.burgerfi.com).

— MARILYN CAMPBELL



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# OPINION

## Celebrate, Shop, Dine Locally

Every day can be  
“small business day.”

There is a joy to participating in community traditions and celebrations during the holidays, from walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to shopping in local stores, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that is otherwise unmatched.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon. An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, also called Shop Small. This year that day is Nov. 26.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive, and communities depend on those businesses as well. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, advocating for improvements, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally owned retailers. But local families will literally spend millions of dollars to shop and exchange gifts during the next month in a variety of places.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will shop online. Many will answer the call of the big box. But local shoppers should be sure to do some celebrating, shopping and dining locally. We promise it brings more joy.

Be sure to go to some of the hometown Christmas events coming up. Visit our holiday calendars to find more.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

### Go Local

Attend some hometown holiday events

❖ **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.

❖ **Mount Vernon Candlelight Tours**, Nov. 25-Dec.18: A candlelit tour, complete with characters, caroling, and 18th-century dancing on select dates. Tour the Mansion in all its holiday glory and learn about Mrs. Washington's infamous festive cooking. Tickets are required and may be purchased online at [www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/mount-vernon-by-candlelight/](http://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/mount-vernon-by-candlelight/)

❖ **46th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk**

**Weekend and Parade**, Dec. 2-3, presented by the Campagna Center. Scottish Christmas Walk Parade, Heather and Greens Sales, Taste of Scotland, Holiday Home Tours. [www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend](http://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend)

❖ **Mount Vernon Christmas Illuminations**, Dec. 16-17: Fireworks over the Potomac River are accompanied by visits from George and Martha Washington. Enjoy music from local choirs, snuggle by the bonfire, and sip some hot cocoa during this Christmas event. Special tickets are not required; general admission fees do apply.

### Children's Gazette

During the last week of each year, The Gazette devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. It is a keepsake edition for many families. The annual Children's Gazette is a tradition of well over a decade.

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

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

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. To be published, we must have first and last name of the student. Please include the student's age and/or grade, school attended and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide submissions by Friday, Dec. 2.

Email submissions for the Children's Gazette to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com).

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A Money-Losing Program

To the Editor:

The Gazette Packet article about Alexandria's money-losing bike share program is emblematic of our anti-entrepreneurial, tax-and-spend City Council. Why in the world did these people decide they should use our tax dollars to create and operate an unprofitable-by-design government-owned bike share company? Why didn't they challenge the private sector to develop one or more bike share programs, perhaps using electric bikes?

And their excuse? Our Dear Leaders say public transport must be government owned. How foolish. If that were the case, then there would be no taxi companies in America, no shipping companies, no water taxis, no Greyhound buses, no Uber and no airlines, all of which are private sector companies providing transportation services to the public.

Surely our City Council knows the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria  
**Gazette Packet**

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

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## OPINION

# 'A Hate-Free Zone'

The members of the Alexandria City Council have issued the following statement on Nov. 18:

Alexandria, Va., is a city of kindness and compassion.

We are a thriving community of engaged residents with strong ideals of peace, community service, and both shared and diverse cultures.

Our city declares itself to be a hate-free zone. We are an accepting and embracing community where we treat each other with human dignity and respect. There is no place for intolerance in our community. This is a core value of our city.

In recent times, many of our neighbors, families and children have expressed fear and apprehension, and there has been an increase in hateful and dangerous speech and acts nationwide. Recognizing everyone's First Amendment right to freedom of speech, we are also dedicated to freedom from fear.

People of diverse culture, race, color, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and persons with disabilities live and work together in Alexandria and bring pride and prosperity to our community.

On behalf of the City of Alexan-

dria, the Alexandria Human Rights Commission, and the people we serve, we reaffirm our responsibility to ensure that each person within our jurisdiction is accorded equal protection under the law, including the rights enshrined in the Constitution of the United States and the Virginia Constitution, and those set forth in the Alexandria Human Rights Code.

We proclaim that we remain committed to diversity and to fostering an atmosphere of inclusiveness that respects the dignity and worth of every person without regard to race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, immigration status, marital status, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or familial status, and we declare that we denounce hate speech, hate crimes, harassment, racial bias, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-immigrant activity, and harmful bias and discrimination in all forms.

**Mayor Allison Silberberg**  
**Vice Mayor Justin Wilson**

**Councilmembers:**

**Willie F. Bailey Sr.,**

**John T. Chapman,**

**Timothy B. Lovain,**

**Redella S. "Del" Pepper,**

**Paul C. Smedberg**

## Promoting Principles Of Inclusiveness

The Alexandria City School Board issued the following statement to ACPS staff and families:

The Alexandria City School Board, in accordance with ACPS 2020, strives to support students and staff in the pursuit of excellence. For every student to succeed, the School Board governs budget and policies that are used in our day-to-day work. ACPS policies over the past two years have been updated to capture our inclusive and diverse culture, striving to promote and protect the principles of inclusiveness and equity throughout our school division.

On behalf of the students and families in ACPS and the citizens of Alexandria City, the Alexandria City School Board would like to reaffirm:

\* Its policies on non-discrimination (AC), educational philosophy (AD) and anti-harassment (GBA-JFHA) to foster an atmosphere of inclusiveness and prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, ancestry, disability, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression or sexual

orientation;

\* Its commitment to ensure that all students and school personnel, including all immigrants, are treated with dignity and respect;

\* Its work to continue building bridges of understanding and mutual respect among the diverse members of our community;

\* Its vow to oppose intolerance and fear that threatens the diversity, safety and strength of our schools; and

\* Its pledge to ensure that all students and school personnel within our city limits are accorded equal protection under the law and that discrimination on the basis of national origin is prohibited.

Education for all is a defining promise of American democracy. The School Board took an oath to uphold the United States Constitution in our work for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As an extension of our oath, we encourage you to celebrate the inclusiveness and diversity that contributes to the strength, safety and quality of life of everyone at ACPS.

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## OPINION

# Warming Souls and Homes as Winter Weather Sets in

BY BREANNE  
DRISCOLL  
REBUILDING TOGETHER  
ALEXANDRIA



**A**s the days get shorter and the nights cooler, you probably will turn on your heating system or add an extra blanket to your bed to stay warm. But many neighbors, especially low-income homeowners, struggle to pay high heating and energy bills during the colder months, as they need to use their limited income to pay for other necessities, such as food and medicine. Where do they turn when their heating system does not work or they are unable to keep the cold drafts at bay? Here at Rebuilding Together Alexandria, we are working hard to help your vulnerable neighbors prepare their homes for the winter.

Recently, 40 volunteers spent a Saturday morning weatherizing and making energy efficient repairs to 20 homes in Alexandria owned by low-income residents. Sponsored by PGAL, their employees joined volunteers from Westminster Presbyterian and a handful of other dedicated people, all armed with weather-stripping, window plastic, compact fluorescent light bulbs, caulk, outlet insulators, foam tube insulation for hot water pipes, and tools to carry out these modifications. These upgrades will help homeowners save on energy costs in the coming months, keeping the cold air out



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**PGAL volunteers on Energize Alexandria, Oct 29.**

and the warm air in. Neighbors helping neighbors is what this was all about.

During this time of year, low-income homeowners contact us for emergency repairs as well, and in the last few weeks alone, we have repaired or replaced several heating systems and hot water heaters. To facilitate these emergency situations, Andrea Viñas, Rebuilding Together Alexandria's program manager, deals directly with each homeowner, previews ev-

ery home, and tracks each repair needed. She recently received a call from one of our homeowners, Mrs. N., an 87-year-old widowed woman who lives alone. She has mobility and hearing issues and has suffered from a stroke. She relies on the kindness of her neighbors and even the fire department knows her address by heart. After recently being discharged from the hospital and being able to come home with home care assistance, her hot water heater began leak-



**Volunteer James Foley weather-stripping a door.**

ing. After receiving a quote from a contractor, Mrs. N. knew she would not be able to afford the estimated \$800 repair. Andrea was quickly on top of it. During the call, Mrs. N. exclaimed, "I've never seen anything done so fast! They just came to look at it the other day and told me that it [water heater] could not be repaired. Then later a truck came to bring a new one."

Do you have a neighbor like Mrs. N. who could benefit from our free home repair services? We encourage you to introduce them to us. For more information, call 703-836-1021 or visit [www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org](http://www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

private sector is where wealth is created from which tax revenues flow? On the other hand, maybe they don't.

Worse: No privately owned company will offer a bike share program if it has to compete with a city-owned enterprise. It's an unfair competition. It's impossible for a tax-paying, private company to compete with a tax-subsidized government-owned enterprise.

The money-losing, city-owned bike rental

program is an example of how our City Council discourages private sector business formation in Alexandria. This, along with their plans to acquire evermore of your income to fund their far more extravagant visions, not a single one of which has ever been put to a public vote, makes Alexandria a needlessly expensive city in which to live, especially for those entering the workforce, the elderly, our teachers and police.

**Jimm Roberts**  
Alexandria

## Ignoring Own Advisory Groups?

To the Editor:

A great number of Alexandria's citizens have already voiced their concerns as to the City Council's decision to move the Appomattox statue from its current position at the intersection at Washington and Prince to a little grass patch fronting the Lyceum. This would more than likely reposition the statue facing east, and not south, which is

where the sympathies of Alexandria were directed.

However, the real issue is that the City Council paid little attention to the advice of the appointed citizen task force, which recommended that the statue not be relocated. Unfortunately, the City Council unanimously struck down this portion of the overall recommendation of the task force. Obviously, this begs the question of why task forces are appointed at all if their recom-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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# SHARING



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S AND ST. AGNES SCHOOL

On the day before Thanksgiving 2015, students at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School make sandwiches for the homeless.

## Thinking Beyond Serving Meals

Experts advise finding age-appropriate ways for children to give back.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

During this season of giving thanks, opportunities for expressions of gratitude can seem ubiquitous. It's also a good opportunity to demonstrate philanthropy for children, from food and toy drives to serving hot meals in soup kitchens.

"Charitable organizations rely on the incredible support of volunteers who dedicate time and provide supplies," particularly at this time of year, said Yvonne Esipila, volunteer and outreach coordinator for Interfaith Works, a nonprofit organization that serves the homeless and the poor. "Without volunteers we would not be able to offer many of the services that are performed or delivered daily."

Youth volunteerism can be complicated, however, when it comes to matching skills and abilities with opportunities and interests. For example, feeding the homeless might seem like an ideal way to give children a real-world view of those in need. However, hot stoves and sharp knives can pose dangers to young children. The key is finding the right fit before committing.

"We have a variety of opportunities for our ever-increasing diverse pool of volunteers," said Esipila.

An example of children volunteering for the same cause, but with different activities matched with their varying skill levels, is a kindergarten through eighth grade, effort by students at Norwood School in Potomac, Md., to support Manna Food Center. Leanne Gill, a spokeswoman for the school, says all students can donate healthy food items, but that older students get more involved.

"A group of our eighth graders visits the Manna warehouse ... to help sort through and organize food donations," said Gill.

Older children are often better suited to participate in food preparation efforts without the need for close supervision. For example, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

(SSSAS) in Alexandria holds an annual tradition the day before Thanksgiving called Saintsiving. High school students volunteer to make sandwiches for the clients of Martha's Table, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that provides meals to low-income and homeless residents of the region.

"Last year we had a record turnout, and our volunteers made 4,600 sandwiches in just one hour," said Mandi Sapp, communications coordinator at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.

When children are too young for solo food preparation, Esipila recommends that families make food together and bring it to shelters.

"Great opportunities [include] ... making bagged lunches at home as a family activity, wrapping them and taking them to our shelters," said Esipila. "They can even include a small encouraging note."

They also need more than food. Providing social opportunities for the homeless people, who might not otherwise have them is a much-needed volunteer service appropriate for families with children of all ages, added Esipila. "Creating crafts with or playing Bingo with or planning and hosting a birthday party for the homeless are always appreciated."

Charities also need basic supplies like soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, which many homeless people desperately need, added Esipila. "Consider holding a mini-drive to collect these items," she said. "We also welcome other creative ideas that volunteers may have. My goal is to inspire a lifetime of service."

Sometimes giving means bringing joy. Sapp cites a volunteer effort by fourth grade students at the SSSAS that brings smiles to the faces of sick children. For the past 23 years, students have baked cookies, cakes, brownies and other treats at home and brought them to school for a bake sale. Proceeds are used to purchase toys for patients and their siblings at Children's National Medical Center in D.C.

## Fairfax Water

### PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER RATES AND PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2016, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges and the 2017 Annual Budget. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2017, include the following:

1. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$10,240 to \$16,020.
2. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,150 to \$1,240†.
3. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$10.10 to \$12.20†.
4. An increase in the Base Commodity Charge from \$2.68 to \$2.81 per 1,000 gallons of water.
5. A decrease in the Turn-Off / Turn-On Charge from \$52 to \$44.
6. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge.
7. An increase in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 104% to 105%.
8. A decrease in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$46 to \$35.

Revenues are expected to be \$171.3 million in 2017. Water sales are expected to provide \$149.2 million. Approximately \$22.1 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2016	2017
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 53,877	\$ 55,808
Power and Utilities	10,417	10,572
Chemicals	6,342	7,566
Purchased Water	4,512	5,576
Supplies and Materials	5,173	5,248
Insurance	1,176	1,201
Fuel	567	625
Postage	632	654
Contractual Services	10,473	10,671
Professional Services	748	910
Other	2,305	2,484
Subtotal	96,222	101,315
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,616)	(9,305)
Total	\$ 86,606	\$ 92,010

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$41,129,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$25,733,000

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at [www.fairfaxwater.org/rates](http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates). Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water  
Public Hearing Comments  
8570 Executive Park Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.



# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

mentations are regularly ignored? It appears that these task forces are merely a pro forma method of dealing with sensitive issues, but not a factor in decision-making.

Another instance of ignoring a task force recommendation was in 2009, after two City Council members (Justin Wilson and Tim Lovain) lost their seats. These individuals then recommended that the municipal election be moved to November. To vet this recom-

mendation, the mayor at that time (Bill Euille) appointed a citizen task force, which subsequently recommended that the municipal election should not be moved from May to November. However, Council members Wilson and Lovain persisted in moving the election date and, to no one's great surprise, these members are back, thanks to a novel form of gerrymandering.

Unfortunately, I could cite other examples of task force recommendations that were ignored. In a city

such as Alexandria, where the population is extremely well educated and experienced (especially in the roles that government plays), this begs the question of why the City Council never seems to heed the advice of members who were selected for experience and expertise. What's up with ignoring the task force recommendations, Alexandria?

**Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet**  
Alexandria

## Traffic Calming Does Work

To the Editor:

I read with dismay, but not surprise, your Nov. 3 article about increased vehicular traffic on King Street between T.C. Williams High School and the Masonic Temple ("Outrage over Traffic Calming"). I live just off that stretch of King Street, and although traffic has slowed, the "congestion" is only slightly increased, such that it

takes me, at most, two minutes longer than before to pass T.C. Williams when I drive west to work during morning rush hour.

As a person who lives in the neighborhood, I feel this "delay" is far outweighed by the benefits of being able to bike safely to and from Old Town, which I do frequently, and to cross King Street with my dog on the way to Chinquapin Park without sprinting for our lives.

The worst traffic on King Street remains east of Janney's Lane, between Highland Street and the King Street Metro Station. Unfortunately, I find myself contending with that congestion often when, after work, I travel by car to Old Town, bringing dinners to my mother. The traffic on that part of King Street is caused by an inevitable bottle-neck because that stretch can never be wider than one lane. No amount of traffic calming (or reversal of such) on King Street west of that point, can change that situation, except that it might cause a few very impatient people to decide not to commute through our neighborhoods at all.

Finally, I find the car-centric attitude of so many Alexandrians to be discouraging. I would like to see "traffic" — in the sense of vehicular congestion — viewed as part of the bigger picture that includes the various other means people use to get around in the neighborhood — as well as the right not to live next to a street where people routinely drive 50 miles an hour because the too-wide road, served, without justification, as a virtual superhighway.

**Eliza Savage**  
Alexandria

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

**The Alexandria Archaeology Museum** seeks an educator to assist in presenting 45-minute hands-on programs to groups of four to seven middle school students. The program focuses on the people, artifacts, and historical records from a late 19<sup>th</sup> century African American archaeological site, once located on the 400 block of S. Royal St. Contact Ruth Reeder at [ruth.reeder@alexandriava.gov](mailto:ruth.reeder@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4399.

**Volunteers Needed.** The City has an ongoing need for volunteers. Visit [handsonconnect.volunteeralexandria.org](http://handsonconnect.volunteeralexandria.org) for a complete list of opportunities.

**Make Difference in a Child's Life.** Volunteer with The Child & Family Network Centers (CFNC) and help to provide caring, high-quality, free early education and related services to at-risk children and their families. Volunteers work alongside teachers in one of 10 classrooms across Alexandria. Read and engage in conversation with children. Support teachers in everyday activities. Visit [www.volunteeralexandria.org](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org).

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## This holiday season could be the best time for your family to discuss concerns about a senior you all love

For care tips during the holidays and when they're over,  
please call The Kensington Team, who is always ready to help

**T**he holiday season is a great time to share the joys of togetherness and tradition. But for families whose aging relatives are showing signs of decline, the holidays can also be stressful and even, sad.

If you notice that a senior family member seems more overwhelmed than overjoyed during the holidays, then use this opportunity to pay close attention to signs of concern, such as depression or confusion. While family is all together, talk among yourselves to consider the benefits of assisted living at The Kensington, such as:

- Best-in-class professionals to deliver excellence in care and service
- Licensed nurses on-site 24/7 to preserve wellness

- Daily activities to keep isolation and loneliness at bay
- Housekeeping and maintenance to provide relief from homeowner demands
- Transportation to excursions to create routine opportunities for fun and enrichment
- Exquisite dining to make mealtime enticing and nutritious
- Safety and security measures to give you and your loved one peace of mind
- Two unique levels of memory care to make every moment count and each day as joyful as it can be

*For more information about care and lifestyle options, call and tell us about your family's needs.*



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**Information Center: 1212 W Broad St, Falls Church, VA | 703.992.9868 | [www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com](http://www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com)**





# ENTERTAINMENT

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

**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.

**Dishing up Wares for a Holiday 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)

**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.staidansepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening](http://www.staidansepiscopal.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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Holiday Market

**Mosaic Jewelry by Nancy Kline is featured at the 21st Annual Fine Art & Fine Craft Holiday Market at Del Ray Artisans, each weekend in December leading up to Christmas. The Holiday Market is at Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Market hours are: Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016).**

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)  
**Art Making as Meditation with Kathryn Coneway.** Second Wednesday of each month, 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. Children able to participate in silence are welcome to come with a parent’s quiet supervision. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Email [info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org](mailto:info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org).

**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 Coldsmith 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.

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

**French Movie Night.** Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe and Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit [www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html](http://www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html).

**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.

**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.

**The Monday Morning Birdwalk** takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free, requires no reservation and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park’s entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

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

## CAMPS, CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

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

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

**Community Yoga.** Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Suite 100. No experience required to participate in weekly community class. Suggested \$10 donation. Visit [www.532yoga.com](http://www.532yoga.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).

**Thanksgiving Day Service at Historic Pohick Episcopal Church.** 9 a.m. at Pohick Episcopal



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## ENTERTAINMENT

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 or [alexandriava.gov](http://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. 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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Holiday Market

**Stephen Lally's pottery will be featured at Del Ray Artisan's Holiday Market. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016).**

p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. 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.

**Holiday Teddy Bear Teas.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. On select weekends, bring a favorite stuffed animal friend to have "tea" with "Lady Washington." This special experience will also include a hands-on seasonal activity.

For ages 4-11, accompanied by an adult. Refreshments provided. \$5 in addition to general admission. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free. 703-799-5203 or [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 25-26

**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

## SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND & PARADE

Presented by  
The Campagna  
Center  
Children. Families. Community.

**Heather and Greens Sales**  
The Campagna Center, 418 South Washington Street  
Friday & Saturday, December 2 & 3 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**The Taste of Scotland**  
The Atrium Building, 277 South Washington Street  
Friday, December 2 from 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

**The Scottish Christmas Walk Parade**  
Begins at South Saint Asaph and Wolfe Streets  
Saturday, December 3, begins at 11 a.m.

**Holiday Home Tours**  
Saturday, December 3, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Deck the Halls with Santa**  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street  
Saturday, December 10 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For more information visit  
[www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend](http://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend)

The Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend is presented in partnership with Passport Auto Group, The Scottish Government, The Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., the City of Alexandria, and the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center.

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## Holiday Market

**Fabric aprons by Jen Athanas, Jen-A-Fusion Fashion Accessories are one of the features at The Holiday Market is at Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016).**

holiday traditions in 18th-century Virginia. Rain or shine. \$24 adult; \$16 youth (ages 2-11). 703-799-5203, [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

simple exercises, this workshop will explore opening and nourishing the sacred energy centers of the body. 703-360-4220

**SATURDAYS/NOV. 26-DEC. 24**  
**Random Acts of Holiday Cheer.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Throughout Alexandria, random Acts of Holiday Cheer will delight holiday shoppers with surprise giveaways from the Elf Prize Patrol, pop-up musical performances through the Alexandria Arts Alliance, and hands-on activities at the Mobile Art Lab.

**SATURDAY/NOV. 26**  
**Collective Delusion.** 8 p.m. at Alley Cat, 2 S. Whiting St. Local band plays rock songs from '70s to present. Free. Visit [www.CollectiveDelusion.net](http://www.CollectiveDelusion.net).

**Small Business Saturday.** The Chamber purchased special bags to be filled with take-aways, maps of participating businesses, coupons, and other items from Chamber members. Provide gift cards to be placed in random bags or take away items for all bags. Bags will be given away at the Market Square in Old Town and the Holy Cow! In Del Ray. [sbolouri@alexchamber.com](mailto:sbolouri@alexchamber.com)

**MONDAY/NOV. 28**  
**Veterans in Alexandria: Talent Ready to Serve, Ready to Work, and Ready to Grow.** 6:30 p.m. at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Members \$32 (nonmembers \$37); after November 25 members \$37 (nonmembers \$42)]. Program only at 7:15 free to members; \$5 for nonmembers. Reservations required. Call Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or email [agendaalexandria@aol.com](mailto:agendaalexandria@aol.com).

**TUESDAY/NOV. 29**  
**Giving Tuesday at the United Community Ministries.** Food Pantry, 7511 Fordson Road. "Be Part of the Heart" to support UCM. [info@ucmagency.org](mailto:info@ucmagency.org) or 703-768-7106.

**WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30**  
**Body Prayer with Cheryl Sabo.** 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Coming out of the Eastern tradition of yoga, through healing music and

**THURSDAY/DEC. 1**  
**Steep Canyon Rangers Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Bluegrass sounds of The Rangers can be heard as the play songs off their new album "Radio," produced by the Dobro virtuoso Jerry Douglas of Alison Krauss and Union Station. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).  
**2016 Mary Thonen Richmond Highway Beautification Awards.** 4:30-7 p.m. at the TownePlace Suites, 8632 Woodlawn Court. Awards held in conjunction with the grand opening of the TownePlace Suites in Woodlawn. Visit [www.sfdc.org](http://www.sfdc.org).

**FRIDAY/DEC. 2**  
**Metropolitan School of the Arts features the Nutcracker.** 7 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center at the Annandale Campus at 8333 Little River Turnpike. Tickets \$26.50-\$30 and can be purchased online at [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

**DEC. 1-17**  
**"Adventures With Mr. Bear."** Various times at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. One cozy winter afternoon, a young girl and her favorite stuffed animal, Mr. Bear, play a game of hide and seek which evolves into a series of exciting adventures. Together, they embark on a journey of endless possibilities – all from the comfort of her playroom. Tickets are \$9. Visit [www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org](http://www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org).

**DEC. 2-17**  
**The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol."** Various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. A return of the classic by Charles Dickens featuring Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug. 703-683-0496 or [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com)

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 2-3**  
**46th Annual Scottish Christmas**

# A Pie for All Seasons

## Need a pie for the holidays? Happy Tart has you covered.

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he holidays conjure many mental images — a large turkey on the table, for instance, or your grandmother's beloved sweet-potato casserole. But when it comes to Thanksgiving, Christmas, and all of the social events in between, there's one menu item that can't be missed — pie. Whether pumpkin, or pecan, or apple, or cherry, pies complete the feast.

But if you're up to your eyeballs in side dishes and haven't the time to commit to making pies, you've got an escape capsule: Happy Tart in Del Ray.

The bakery — and its sister location in Falls Church — does a booming business over the month between Thanksgiving and Christmas, owner and executive chef Emma Cech says.

"It's crazy!" Cech said. "Our sales probably double during the holidays, especially for Thanksgiving; we do lots and lots and lots and lots of pies."

And customers find themselves in the holiday spirit with a few favorites, one of which is a pump-

kin praline pie.

The pumpkin praline is "the pie for those who can't decide," Cech said. "It's pumpkin pie on the bottom layered with a pecan pie on the top."

But Happy Tart doesn't stop its business at Thanksgiving. The Christmas season also brings with it an abundance of orders, and Cech stands at the ready with a passel of holiday favorites, from stolen to buche de Noel to a multitude of Christmas cookies to gluten-free gingerbread-house kits.

Once the holidays have subsided, Happy Tart's Del Ray location will shut its doors for several months for a makeover, changing its face from a retail store to a café with several dozen seats. If all goes as planned, the bakery will reopen in April and will resemble the Falls Church location in terms of setup.

But first, Cech and her team must work their way through the holidays. The deadline for Thanksgiving orders expired last Sunday, "but we always make extras," Cech said, to sell in the store up to the holiday.

Although Cech says "it's nice to put your feet up on Thanksgiving Day" and take a break from pie-making, in terms of her own Thanksgiving feast

this year, there's no rest for the weary. Cech will have 14 to 18 family guests of her own for the holiday, she said. But at least she'll have plenty of pie. The flavor of the day?

"Whatever we've got left!" she laughed.

*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).*

## If You Go

**Happy Tart,** 2307A Mount Vernon Ave.  
**Hours:** 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.

**Try This:** The apple sour cream pie, created with local apples, is a Thanksgiving top seller. "Once the gold rush apples come into season, that's the only apple we use," owner Emma Cech says. "We bake those in a sour cream custard ... and then top it with a streusel. It's just the most delicious pie ever."

**Walk Weekend.** a full lineup of festivities that celebrate the Scottish heritage of Old Town Alexandria including Scottish Christmas Walk Parade, Heather and Greens Sales, Taste of Scotland, Holiday Home Tours and Deck the Halls with Santa. For parade application and ticket sale information, go visit [www.campaigncenter.org/scottishwalkweekend](http://www.campaigncenter.org/scottishwalkweekend)

**Premiere of New Ballet to "Daphnis and Chloe"** 3-5 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center 4915 E Campus Dr. BalletNova Associate Artistic Director Constance Walsh presents a premiere of her new work choreographed to Daphnis and Chloe. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online or at the door.

**SATURDAY/DEC. 3**  
**Metropolitan School of the Arts features the Nutcracker.** 10 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center at the Annandale Campus at 8333 Little River Tpke. Ticket prices range from \$26.50 to \$30 and can be purchased online at [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

**Holiday Bliss Techniques.** 11 a.m. at Alexandria Library, Duncan Branch, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Mara Benner, founder of Four Directions Wellness which is affiliated with the GW Center for Integrative Medicine, will offer an opportunity for Del Ray residents and others to take a breath

and relax. 703-746-1781.

**17th Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.** 5:30 p.m. at the Waterfront at the foot of Cameron Street near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria's harbor lights up as dozens of illuminated boats cruise the Potomac River at the waterfront. Panel of judges will award prizes in a dozen categories including Best in Show, Thinking Outside the Christmas Box, and Hardest Souls. Tommy McFly of 94.7 Fresh FM is the parade announcer. Free event. 703-746-3301

**Holiday on the Avenue in Del Ray.** 6 p.m. at Pat Miller Neighborhood Square, at Mount Vernon and E. Oxford avenues. Holiday tree lighting, Santa Claus and a Christmas tree decorating contest. Community will be collecting items such as canned goods, nonperishable foods, and diapers for Carpenter's Shelter.

**American Arabesque: A Celebration of Culture.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Foty Fusion, the Huda Asfour Quartet, and Ramy Adly are among the local Arab American professional musicians performing at the inaugural festival — with a debut performance by the Arab Jazz Collective. 703-746-5565, [cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov) or [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts).

**Carlyle House open house.** noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House Historic Park 121 N. Fairfax St. The museum will be open and docents will be available to answer questions about

the house and the collection while guests tour at their own pace. Free. 703-549-2997

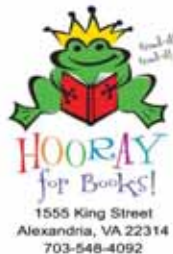
**Women in the Anglican Communion: Women Leading Theological Education.** 8:30 a.m. at Addison Academic Center, Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. \$10 <https://women-anglican-communion.eventbrite.com>.  
**Mt. Vernon High School Holiday Market.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Shop indoors from over 30 vendors. Free admission. [ptsaholidayfest@gmail.com](mailto:ptsaholidayfest@gmail.com).

**Artistic Artifacts Annual Open House.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 4750 Eisenhower Ave. New and vintage fiber art and mixed media supplies. There will be product demonstrations, make and take activities, as well as fiber and mixed media art for sale by 15 local artists at the Holiday Market. 703-823-0202 or [www.artisticartifacts.com](http://www.artisticartifacts.com)

**SUNDAY/DEC. 4**  
**Bagels and Bach Concert Series Returns.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Enjoy classical music from Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association's Trombone Trio 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 [cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov)



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**Messiah Sing-Along.** 4 p.m. at Fairlington United Methodist Church 3900 King St. Cost is \$9 for a Messiah score, or bring your own music. Contact Louise Wilson at [louise@fairlingtonumc.org](mailto:louise@fairlingtonumc.org), or 703-671-4057

### MONDAY/DEC. 5

**Pianist George Winston.** 7:30 p.m. The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are \$39.50. Collecting contributions for the canned food drive to benefit the Carpenter's Shelter. [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

### TUESDAY/DEC. 6

**Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Ends 2016.** 7:30-9:30 a.m. at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. Chamber meets to wrap up 2016 and give a sneak peek at 2017, Tom and David Gardner of The Motley Fool as speakers. Tickets are \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members.

**Fountains Open House.** 5-8 p.m. at Fountains Day Spa, 422 S. Washington St. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres, stock up on Guinot products, try out a complimentary spa service, and watch live demos of our most popular treatments. Lauren Wallace, 703-549-1990 or [lauren@fountainsdayspa.com](mailto:lauren@fountainsdayspa.com)

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 7

**Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society's A Christmas Carol.** 8-9:15 p.m. at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Reception at 7 p.m. Appetizers and sweets, beverages including a champagne punch, free photo opportunities with Father Christmas. 703-549-6242 or [www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us/](http://www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us/)

### THURSDAY/DEC. 8

**A Life France-Amerique: Reflections of a New American Citizen.** 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Ave. Guy Sorman will discuss his experiences as a new American citizen and his life and career in France and the United States from his latest book, "J'aurais voulu être Français." \$5 suggested donation at the door. Wine and dessert reception to follow. <https://franceamerique.eventbrite.com>

**Second Thursday Art Night at Torpedo Factory Art Center.** 7-8 p.m. at 105 N Union St. Featuring open artist studios to explore your shopping options, artist talks, and Jane Franklin Dance featured in small dances throughout the building, concluding with a performance of "Fightin' Words" performed to bluegrass fiddle. <http://torpedofactory.org/> 703.933.1111 or [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com)

### DEC. 8-JAN. 8

**Fully Committed Comedy Show.** various times at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. Tom Story does 40 characters. Call 703-548-9044 [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org)

### FRIDAY/DEC. 9

**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.

**The Honky Tonk Holiday Show.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun and special guest

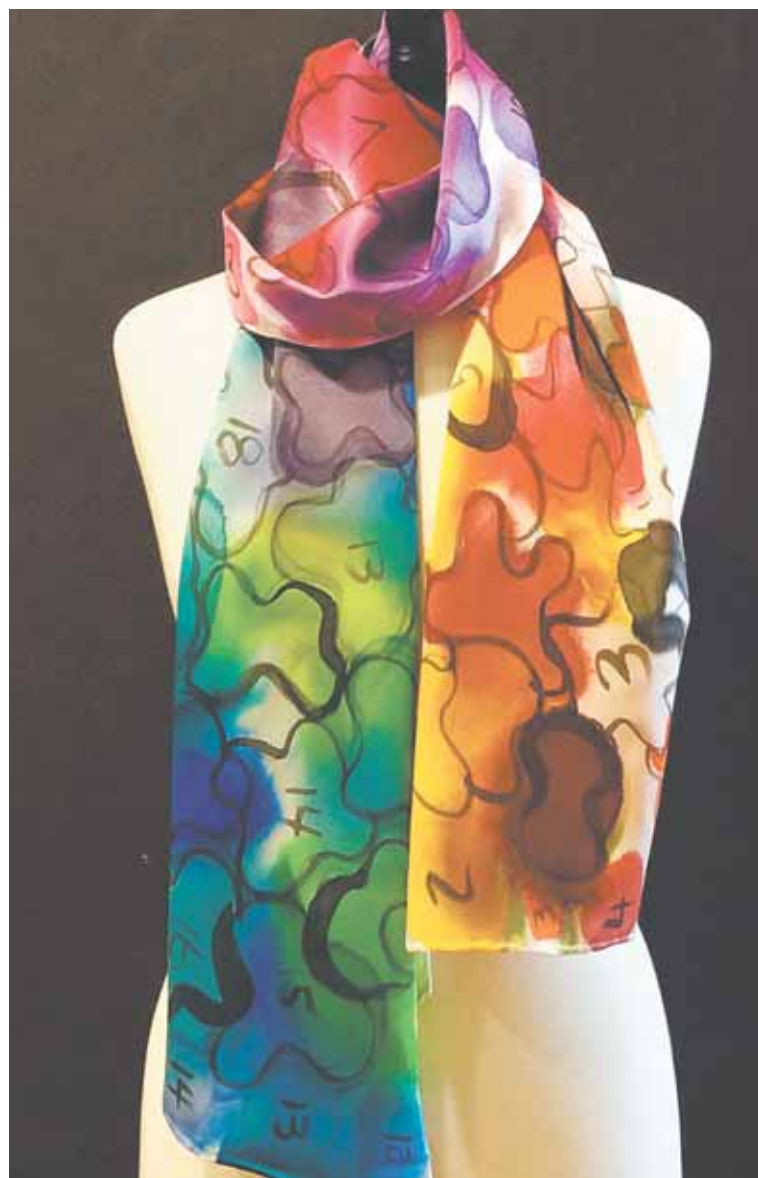


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Holiday Market

**Hand-painted silk charmeuse scarf by Alanna Graboyes is available at the Holiday Market at the Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center on the first three December weekends, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016).**

Commander Cody  
[www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com)

### DEC.8-JAN. 8

**"Fully Committed" at MetroStage.** Various times at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Tom Story plays a restaurant reservationist, juggling phones, personalities and pandemonium with the dexterity of a Cirque du Soleil contortionist. \$55-\$60 703-548-9044 [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org)

### DEC. 9-19

**Concerts at Saint Luke's.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Natascia Diaz, a two-time Helen Hayes award winner, will present a Cabaret evening with Pianist Darius Smith the music of Jacques Brel, Kander and Ebb, John Becchino and others. Tickets purchased at the door: \$20 adult, \$15 senior, free for students 18 and under. Visit [www.saintlukeschurch.net/events](http://www.saintlukeschurch.net/events).

### SATURDAY/DEC.10

**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 or [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 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)

**Ribbon Cutting.** 5 p.m. at Del Ray Towers complex, 3116 Mt. Vernon Ave. Ribbon Cutting for one of Del Ray's newest businesses, Dental Excellence. 703-216-8597

**Case Remodeling Seminars.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Case Mosaic Tile Showroom, 821 S. Pickett St. Case Design/Remodeling experts will give insight into the latest trends and different levels of kitchen and bath remodeling, as well as project timeframes and budgeting. <http://www.casedesign.com/seminars-events/> celeste.henry@mokimedia.com

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# Training Wheels

Program provides bikes, helmets and safety skills.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

A collaboration between Alexandria City Public Schools and the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) gave third, fourth, and fifth grade students a chance to turn Mount Vernon Community School students into the city's youngest cyclists. Students were brought outside to a course where they rode through an obstacle course, learning to use their brakes, how to turn, and other basic bicycle safety skills.

"The kids love it," said Michael Humphries, health education instructional specialist for Alexandria City Public Schools. "We have a couple very capable teachers kicking it off. It's another creative form of activity. As physical educators, our job is to expose kids to as many different kinds of activity as we can. We look for things that train the heart muscle in hopes that something sticks for years to come."

The program is partially funded from a \$5,000 grant but \$7,000 was raised by BPAC, with an ultimate goal of raising \$10,000 for the project. In total, Humphries said the schools were able to secure 35 bikes and 40 helmets.

Tracy Tiernan and Kristin Donley are the two teachers leading the program at Mount Vernon Community School.

"It's been a learning process," said Tiernan. "It's been wonderful."

Tiernan said when the program

got started, a little over one-third of the students didn't know how to ride a bike at all. Now, only around two youngsters in each of the classes are still uncomfortable on the bikes. But the benefits for the students have also extended beyond learning how to ride.

"For some of my students who had discipline issues, this helps focus them," said Tiernan. "They want to be a part of the program and they know they have to be on good behavior. We've seen less behavior issues from the kids."

Humphries and Tiernan both said Jim Durham, vice chair of the BPAC, was a big part of pushing for the fundraising and helping this program happen. According to Durham, BPAC is currently accepting donations to try and expand the project to James K. Polk Elementary School in 2017.



Tracy Tiernan guides Mount Vernon Community School students along a bicycle course.



Students practice riding bicycles at Mount Vernon Community School.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET



Kristin Donley helps Jake Perlman with his bicycle.



## North Ridge Annual Community Tree Sale

The North Ridge Citizens Association has teamed up for more than 25 years with Almost Heavenly Christmas Trees to bring fresh trees for the community's Annual Christmas Tree Sale. This year, the sale will be the weekend of Dec. 2-4, opening Friday afternoon from noon to 8 p.m., Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church hosts the sale on their parking lot at Allison Street and Cameron Mills Road. Boy Scout Troop 129 helps each year with offloading and opening the hundreds of trees delivered for the sale and each fall the troop heads to the Christmas tree farm in West Virginia to camp out among the trees. The sale benefits the North Ridge Citizens Association and Trinity United Methodist Church.



Bruce Johnson and Russ Bailey size up a Christmas Tree at the annual North Ridge Christmas Tree Sale.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



# Examining Parking Policies

FROM PAGE 1

the residential parking requirements were updated over a year ago, much of the city’s parking ordinances for commercial properties linger from the 1960s.

“The commercial requirements have not been updated since then,” said Sanders. “The city is going to need to undertake that. When developers come in, they’re not needing a parking reduction on the residential side, it’s the commercial one that’s outdated.”

Sanders said the transportation trends since the 1960s have shown a decrease in single-occupancy vehicle travel for commercial properties.

“We recognize there’s a need for parking, but we’re also accounting for trends and transportation occurring over time with development. The current regulations for commercial properties also make no distinction between Old Town or somewhere [like the West End] where you need to be in a car.”

Sanders pointed to the Harris Teeter development one block away from the Edens site. Even with a parking reduction, the garage that serves the building is only ever 60 percent occupied. While street parking is hotly contested, off-street parking remains underutilized. While the North Old Town Small Area Plan is still in development, the Alexandria Waterfront Small Area Plan from 2012 analyzed similar parking issues.

“Although parking in the Old Town area is often perceived to be limited with a demand beyond its capacity, the study concludes that issues with Old Town parking relate to proximity, rate, and availability and not to overall capacity,” said the Alexandria Waterfront Small Area Plan. “A significant finding of the study relates to the excess capacity in many garages in Old Town, even at peak times. Thus the study’s parking management recommendations include serious suggestions for better utilization of

garages as a key to improving parking availability now and in the future.”

Even at peak utilization on Friday evenings, 604 of Old Town’s 1,265 parking garage spaces were left unoccupied. Removing on-street parking for residents of new commercial developments is part of the city’s effort to fill those garage spaces.

Tom Soapes, president of the North Old Town Independent Citizens Association, said the excess of off-street parking makes on-street parking for residents of new developments redundant.

“There is no overflow for older properties, that’s why we have those on-street parking stickers,” said Soapes. “But the newer buildings can plan for that.”

According to Smedberg, the city will be bringing on a parking/traffic coordinator position and beginning a work plan on the parking issue in early 2017, but projects like the redevelopment of Ramsey Homes are having their parking issues decided before a policy is put into place.

“We haven’t addressed overall consistency in developing overall parking policy, particularly in areas with potential for a lot of redevelopment,” said Smedberg. “We’ve had proposals come forward and we’re making policies excluding people from having parking stickers without having an overall policy yet. I know retroactively we can provide stickers if that’s where the policy ends up. But for me, I’m increasingly uncomfortable making one-off decisions until we have an overall policy.”

Smedberg noted that other properties in the area that have underground parking also have on-street parking stickers as well.

“If we’re having different policies for taxpayers, that has to be clearly stated and laid out in an overall policy,” said Smedberg. “We can’t be doing it [like this].”

## Parking Demand in Old Town Alexandria from the Waterfront Small Area Plan.

Currently open to the public	Garages	On-Street	Total
Total Spaces (Self - Park)	1,265	1,428	2,693
Friday Evening Availability	604	117	721
Friday Evening Utilization	661	1,311	1,972
Total Spaces (Under Valet Garage Scenario)	1,898	1,428	3,326
Friday Evening Availability (Under Valet Garage Scenario)	1,237	117	1,354
Currently Private			
Total Spaces (Self - Park)	674	0	674
Friday Evening Availability	460	0	460
Total Spaces (Under Valet Garage Scenario)	1,011	0	1,011
Friday Evening Availability (Under Valet Garage Scenario)	797	0	797

## Parking Supply in Old Town Alexandria from the Waterfront Small Area Plan.

New off-site parking demand generators	Low	High
Civic Building	25	35
New uses in historic warehouses	45	63
Strand restaurant and Beachcomber**	44	155
Additional outdoor dining seats near Food Court	7	25
Expanded Marina (Net Increase)	11	13
New commercial boating operations	65	100
Totals	197	390
Spaces to be lost to redevelopment	Low	High
Off-Street (Strand and Turner Lots)	148	148
On-Street (Waterfront Park and Duke St./Prince St.)	23	23
Totals	171	171
Private spaces to be replaced	Low	High
ODBC Parking Lot	53	53
Replacement spaces, if any, to be determined	(53)	(53)
	-	-
Total Off-Site Demand	368	561

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## BULLETIN BOARD

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.

### THROUGH DEC. 1

**Financial Literacy Video Scholarship Contest.** Burke & Herbert Bank, 100 S. Fairfax St. Northern Virginia teens can win up to \$5,000 by creating a 90-second video promoting the value of saving money. Burke & Herbert Bank is accepting entries for the 2016-17 Lights, Camera, Save! video contest through Dec. 1. Sponsored by the American Bankers Association Foundation. For more information [burkeandherbertbank.com](http://burkeandherbertbank.com).

### THROUGH DEC. 7

**Medicare Open Enrollment** During this period, individuals can make changes to their Medicare prescription drug plan also known as Medicare Part D, as well as change from a Medicare advantage plan back to original Medicare and sign up for

Medicare Part D. Everyone with a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan should review their coverage for changes in their premium, medication costs, drug coverage and annual deductible. [www.alexandriava.gov/Aging](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Aging). 703-746-5999 or email [daas@alexandriava.gov](mailto:daas@alexandriava.gov).

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide** is seeking volunteers to participate in a free, non-profit program, offered in conjunction with the IRS, that provides tax filing assistance to people of low- and middle-income, with special attention paid to those aged 60-plus. Training will be available in December and January to help taxpayers Feb. 1-April 18, 2017. Visit [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

**Mentors Wanted.** Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria’s preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for “Space of Her Own,” and “Space of His Own,” serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help

support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit [www.spaceofherown.org](http://www.spaceofherown.org) and [www.spaceofhisown.org](http://www.spaceofhisown.org). For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at [sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov) or phone at 703-746-4687.

### THURSDAY-FRIDAY/NOV. 24-25

**City offices closed for Thanksgiving.**

### MONDAY/NOV. 28

**Old Town North SAP Community Meeting.** 7 p.m. at City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. For more information, contact Nancy Williams, [nancy.williams@alexandriava.gov](mailto:nancy.williams@alexandriava.gov), 703-746-3858.

**The Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group** 7 p.m., at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The meeting will include an update from the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning, as well as discussion on the West End

Transitway and an introduction to the Greenhill Development Concept. 703-746-3850 [orradhika.mohan@alexandriava.gov](mailto:orradhika.mohan@alexandriava.gov).

### TUESDAY/NOV. 29

**City Council Legislative Meeting.** 6 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. For more information, contact City Clerk, [CityClerkStaff@alexandriava.gov](mailto:CityClerkStaff@alexandriava.gov), 703-746-4500.

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30

**Police-Clergy Breakfast** 7:50-9:20 a.m., at the Alexandria Police Department, 3600 Wheeler Ave. The breakfast is an opportunity for police, clergy, lay religious leaders, and civic leaders to strengthen networks and to learn how each group works to strengthen community life. \$9 per person. To R.S.V.P., call 703-461-1758.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 3

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

[www.burgundyfarm.org](http://www.burgundyfarm.org) for more.

### MONDAY/DEC. 5

**Provide Input on Alexandria’s Draft FY 2017-2022 Strategic Plan** 6:30-8 p.m., at Jefferson-Houston School, Entrance Lobby, 1501 Cameron St. Community members are invited to review and provide input on the City’s Draft FY 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. Comments received by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, December 8 (extended from December 5), will inform the final Draft Plan, which is anticipated to be presented to City Council in January 2017. [http://engage.alexandriava.gov/portals/191/Issue\\_4147](http://engage.alexandriava.gov/portals/191/Issue_4147)

### SATURDAY/DEC. 10

**ALIVE! Food Distribution to Low Income Families.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Volunteers needed at Ladrey Senior Residence, 300 Wythe St., Cora Kelly Recreation Center 25 W Reed Ave., and Church of the Resurrection, 801 North Carolina Ave SE, Washington, D.C. Individuals, families and groups are welcome to participate. Bilingual volunteers needed. Visit [www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm](http://www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm).



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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-10-15

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide a Special Education Evaluation, IEP, and Management System.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-10-15 Special Education Evaluation, IEP, and Management System will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, December 15, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

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

Chris Guy  
Procurement Manager

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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-William Van Horne

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**Zone 4:** Centre View North  
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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 12 Commercial Lease

## 12 Commercial Lease

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot between Nov. 1 to Dec. 2, 2016 to elect the President-Elect, three seats on the Board of Directors, and two seats on the Nominating Committee for service beginning on June 5, 2017. Information about proxy ballots is available at [www.asco.org/election](http://www.asco.org/election). Completed proxy ballots will be delivered to the ASCO President or his designee for casting at a meeting to be held on Dec. 6, 2016, 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22314. Members with questions can email [ascoelection@asco.org](mailto:ascoelection@asco.org) or call 571-483-1316.

### Furnished office space available

for sublease at 205 S. Whiting St. Alexandria. Includes 5 private offices, 1 with conference space, plus separate storage room. Approx 1,130 total sq ft for \$1728/mo. Add'l large conference space available. Ample, free parking available. Contact 703-461-1920 or [staff@nwhm.org](mailto:staff@nwhm.org)

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 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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**Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection  
The Vienna/Oakton  
Connection  
The McLean Connection  
The Great Falls Connection



## ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 16-11-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking bids for HVAC (Auditorium) Roof Top Unit Replacement at George Washington Middle School.

Sealed Bids with the notation **ITB # 16-11-05, George Washington Middle School HVAC Replacement** will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before **3:00 pm, Thursday January 12, 2017**. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8140, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions must be submitted before 3:00 p.m., January 2, 2017. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.

A pre-bid conference/site visit will be held on December 14, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at

1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620 Room 610-2 Alexandria, VA 22314

No ITB may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of bids except as may be set forth in the ITB.

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in any bid.

Francine Morris  
Buyer

## News



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Community Lodgings board chair Marie Muscella, Union Street Public House owner Jay Test and Mayor Allison Silberberg.**



**Nelsa Tientore, 13, plans to study oncology and participates in Community Lodgings' after school and mentoring programs.**

## 'Open Doors to Independence'

### Community Lodgings hosts second annual breakfast.

Community Lodgings hosted its second annual "Open Doors to Independence" Breakfast at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Old Town on Oct. 20. Emceed by NBC Washington reporter David Culver, the event was attended by nearly 150 guests, including Mayor Allison Silberberg; City Council members John Chapman and Willie Bailey; former City Council member David Speck; School Board member Margaret Lorber; and Anh Phan, representing U.S. Sen. Mark Warner.

Several speakers shared how Community Lodgings helped them through its youth education program and its affordable and transitional housing. Nelsa Tientore, 13, spoke about her previous living conditions before moving into a Community Lodgings

apartment. "I didn't feel comfortable there at all because it wasn't my real home," she said. She credited Community Lodgings for giving her opportunities to see Disney on Ice, learn how to cook and try zip lining for the first time after joining the nonprofit's after-school, summer enrichment and girls' mentoring programs. Tientore also acknowledged Community Lodgings' after school journaling program for helping her win her age group's first prize last month in the Alexandria Library and the For Love of Country Foundation's "For Love of Country" essay contest.

Tientore also thanked her mother for being her role model, saying, "When I grow up I want to be someone's role model. I want to help."

The event raised nearly \$60,000. For more information about Community Lodgings or to get involved, visit <http://communitylodgings.org> or call 703-549-4407.

— JANE HESS COLLINS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### 'Read Across Alexandria'

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office has teamed up with the Alexandria City Public Schools and Alexandria Fire Department for "Read Across Alexandria," a new initiative to bring guest readers into classrooms to read to elementary school students. The program launched on Tuesday, Nov. 15, with Deputy LaJuenne Sherzai-Harding (above) visiting Jefferson-Houston School and members of the Fire Department participating at Cora Kelly Elementary. Sherzai-Harding read "Say Something," a book about bullying, to Jefferson-Houston students.

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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11

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## A Visitor's View of Alexandria

Born and raised in a small town on the Hudson just above New York City, Private Robert Knox Sneden enlisted in the Union army with the 40th New York's topographical engineers and wound up posted to virtually every major scene of fighting during the Civil War, including Brandy Station, where his capture in 1863 by Mosby's irregulars led to a prison stint at Andersonville.

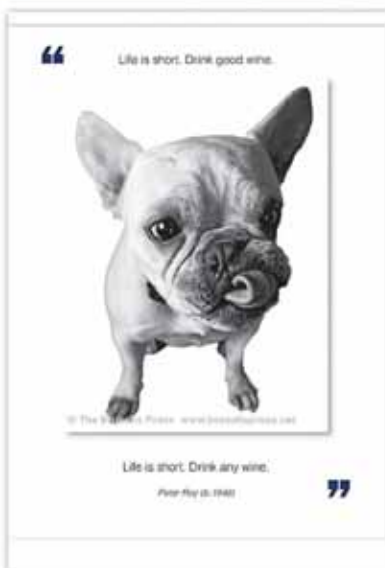
As artistically prolific as he was peripatetic, Sneden sketched and mapped everywhere he went. At his first posting, in Alexandria, he was assigned to Gen. Samuel Heintzelman's III Corps staff at Fort Lyon, now the elevated site of Metro's Huntington Station. From that hilltop aerie, Sneden busily sketched and mapped the city and its immediate surroundings as the defenses of Washington were taking shape.

The map above was drawn in September 1862 and found in Sneden's pocket sketchbook. It depicts an Old Town veined with stockades to

protect its dual railroad hubs and vital roundhouse. A major battery at over-scaled Jones Point covers the Potomac River. Forts Lyon and Ellsworth (on Shuter's Hill) monitor Duke Street, the city's main east-west thoroughfare. To the south, across the stone causeway built in 1810 where Richmond Highway now crosses Hunting Creek, lay *terra incognita*. Intelligence identified the marshland just below Hunting Creek as a den of swamp-dwelling secessionists; Sneden likely avoided it altogether. That may be why he made this particular map's several errors, misidentifying all of the major roads south of Old Town and mistaking Quaker-owned Walnut Tree Farm—later named Wellington Villa and now known as River Farm, just three miles below Alexandria—for George Mason's Gunston Hall, actually located another dozen miles downriver on Mason Neck.

This and other maps and drawings can be found in "Rare & Historic Maps & Views of Mount Vernon, 1760 to 1910," a special exhibit and sale at The Virginia Florist, through January 1, 2016.





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Belle View Shopping Center  
1600 A Belle View Blvd. Alexandria, VA  
571.384.6880

Hours:  
11am-7pm Mon-Sat  
12pm-5pm





## Now Serving Luncheon Buffet Everyday

**Monday - Sunday: 11:00am to 2:30pm**

### Dinner Hours:

Sunday - Thursday: 4:30pm - 9:30pm

Friday & Saturday: 4:30pm - 10:00pm



## Party Trays for the Holidays

Holiday Gift Certificates Available

### Holiday Hours

Thanksgiving Day: Closed for the Holiday

Christmas Day: Closed for the Holiday

New Year Day: Closed for Lunch,

Open for Dinner 4:00 to 9:00.

## Chef's Special Menu for New Year's Eve

**Call 703-660-6085 for details**

Happy and safe Holidays.

Please like us at Facebook 

<http://www.dishesofindia.com>



## Parents: You Never Thought Your Job Could Be So Easy!

A parent, you'll be amazed to find out that our children's martial arts program was designed to make your job easier by reinforcing the life lessons and positive qualities that you work so hard to instill.

For example, our class curriculum is full of fun, exciting activities and character development lessons that teach and encourage students to:

- Treat themselves and other with respect
- Concentrate and always do their best work
- Serve as a positive role model for others
- Take responsibility for their actions
- Be proud of their accomplishments

Your child will enjoy our martial arts program because it's exciting and fun and you'll love it because we'll support your role as a parent . . . making your job easier.

**Don't wait! Call now to try a risk FREE no-obligation class:**

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Holiday Hours: Monday - Friday 10 AM-7 PM  
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THE BREAD & WATER COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR  
THANKS AND GRATITUDE FOR ALL OF THE GRACIOUS WARMTH AND  
EXCITEMENT THE COMMUNITY HAS SHOWN US.  
WE HOPE THAT OUR BREADS WILL KEEP YOUR SPIRITS UP  
AND YOUR TABLES WARM.

TO ALL OF YOU FROM ALL OF US,  
WE WISH YOU A JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!



# JUST DANCE

5678JUSTDANCE.COM (703) 768-6249



## Serious Training for the Young Dancer!

Just Dance is in its twelfth year. Owner and Director Mrs. Sally Tierney began with just 37 students at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center to now the Belle View Shopping Center, where she has over 300 students. Mrs. Tierney equips her teachers with the knowledge needed to be an asset to the students, and the students are young, hard working, serious dancers. This past year students received ballet scholarships through the Cecchetti Council of America and were chosen to attend the following summer intensives: Ballet West, The Rock, American Ballet Theatre, and Dance Theatre of Harlem. This year the students are off to a great start with eight performing in the Kennedy Center's Nutcracker. The success of the studio continues to soar. Sally is looking forward to maintaining its welcoming atmosphere, where students can work hard, improve, gain confidence, and share a passion for dance with others.



At Just Dance we teach dancers between the ages of 3 and 12



We offer: Classical Ballet, Broadway Jazz, Broadway Tap



It's not too late to register. Please visit our website or stop by our location!

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## Belle View's Favorite Cobbler Season After Season



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Mention this ad and get

**\$5.00 off**  
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Offer expires 12/31/16

**Tuesday to Friday**

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1516 Belle View Blvd  
Alexandria, VA 22307



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Alexandria, Va 22307  
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**[bellevueva@snapfitness.com](mailto:bellevueva@snapfitness.com)**

### **No Enrollment Fee**

**Available at Old Town and Belle View Locations**

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**Expires 12/31/16**

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Serving Northern Virginia Since 1987



**SAVE  
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With this coupon. Not valid with any other offer.  
Expires 12/31/2016. One per customer.

### Store Hours for December:

Monday ..... 2 pm to 7 pm  
Wednesday ..... 11 am to 7 pm  
Thursday & Friday ..... 11 am to 10 pm  
Saturday ..... 11 am to 6 pm  
Sunday ..... 12 pm to 5 pm

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Order online at [Order.Subway.Com](http://Order.Subway.Com). Pickup in 15 min



Daily special (Sub of the Day) available every day for \$3.50 six inch and \$6.00 for footlong. Please check in store for details. \$12 any two footlongs after 4 pm everyday.

### Full Sub Menu Available During Breakfast Hours

We Deliver the order of more than \$100.00

**ANY TWO  
FOOTLONGS  
\$12.00  
ALL DAY**

Not valid with any other offer. Double meat, Deluxe, Bacon, Guacamole extra. One coupon per customer per order per day. All coupons expire 12/31/2016.

**BUY A SANDWICH  
PLATTER AT  
REGULAR MENU  
PRICE, GET 2ND  
ONE 50% OFF.**

Not valid with any other offer. Double meat, Deluxe, Bacon, Guacamole extra. One coupon per customer per order per day. All coupons expire 12/31/2016.

**\$4 BREAKFAST  
COMBO**  
(ANY SIX INCH BREAKFAST SANDWICH PLUS 12OZ COFFEE). VALID ALL DAY.

Not valid with any other offer. Double meat, Deluxe, Bacon, Guacamole extra. One coupon per customer per order per day. All coupons expire 12/31/2016.

**\$6 ANY SIX  
INCH FRESH  
VALUE MEAL**  
(SIX INCH SUB, 21 OZ DRINK AND A CHIPS)

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Valid at two of our locations

**Subway at Belle View Shopping Center**  
1510 Belle View Blvd, Alexandria, VA 22307  
703.768.1734

**Subway at Beacon Hill Shopping Center**  
6678 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22306  
703.373.3404





# Belle View Barber & Stylists

***Serving families for over 30 years and still going strong!***

Thank you and happy holidays to our customers. We appreciate your loyalty as we have watched your families grow and look forward to your continued support for many years to come. Belle View Barbers & Stylists are proud to have the same ownership and same location for over 30 years. We are HERE TO STAY!

## **OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**

### **Hours:**

**M-F:** 9 am - 7 pm

**Sat:** 9 am - 5 pm

**Sun:** 10 am - 5 pm

**Closed:** Thanksgiving,  
Christmas and  
New Year's Day

**1608 Belle View Blvd • Alexandria, VA 22307 • (703) 660-9623**



# 2016 Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 3, 10 AM to 4 PM



*Please join us for*

- 15% Off All Holiday Decorations
- New jewelry from Echo of the Dreamer & Mabel Chong
- *Winter Fields & Forests*—Drop in on a seasonal design master-class with our newest designer, Jose Capestany, a star on Washington's floral scene for 30 years
- Treats & Toddies of the Season • Gift-Basket Raffles for Him & Her

We're delighted to announce that this year—our 60th—we've added Amgen, Bank of America, The Corporate Executive Board, The Watergate, The Kennedy Center and law firms Sheppard Mullin and McDermott Will & Emery to our regular client list. Please come celebrate with us!

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