



PHOTOS BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

Kicking Off the Holiday Season

The city's annual tree lighting ceremony at Market Square was held Friday, Nov. 25.



Ensign (O1) Stephen Potter and "Libby" enjoy the tree lighting. "Libby" is originally from Hawaii; Potter said "Libby" is a Navy brat. They are visiting family in Alexandria.



Joan and Fred Palmer, of Atlanta, Ga., enjoy dancing to the Christmas music. They are visiting relatives in Alexandria and the Market Square Christmas Tree Lighting is an annual family gathering.



Metropolitan School of the Arts' "Frosty Follies" performers Shannon O'Shaughnessy and Katie Kotila. The Metropolitan School of the Arts features the Nutcracker at 7 p.m. Dec. 2, at the Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center at the Annandale Campus at 8333 Little River Turnpike.



Nick and Nikki Glaser of Alexandria.

Church Plan Ascending

Board approves Alfred Street Baptist Church expansion.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Alfred Street Baptist Church, one of the oldest faith communities in Alexandria, just passed the first major hurdle for ongoing plans for an expansion. Despite a mixed reaction in the public comment, the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) for the Old and Historic District unanimously approved of the development at its Nov. 16 meeting. The board approval came with suggestions that ongoing redesigns work to make the structure more porous; opening the building up with alleyways and

courtyards rather than as one monolithic structure. The proposal would add a new 2,000-seat sanctuary, additional programming space, and a two-story underground parking garage.

As with many new developments in Old Town, the Alfred Street Baptist Church's expansion came under fire from nearby residents who said the mass and height of the building was not suitable for the historic neighborhood.

"Elephant in the room here is that they're trying to pursue megachurch expansion model for a population that does not live in the city," said Peter Glazer, a resi-

SEE BOARD, PAGE 24

A Commission For Veterans?

Proposal to create a veterans' commission moves forward.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The last two audience members at the Nov. 29 City Council meeting weren't waiting on a docket item. After the rest of the audience had left, veterans Robert Wood and John Bordner waited for Mayor Allison Silberberg's proposal to create a commission to look at issues that affect the city's veteran population. The proposal was partially inspired by a panel held the

day before moderated by Wood and hosted by Agenda Alexandria discussing issues and opportunities within Alexandria's veteran community.

"This is a commission to address the concerns and needs of active duty veterans, family members and their caregivers," said Silberberg.

Twelve percent of the city's population are veterans. Many veterans in Alexandria say the city's population of retired service

SEE PROPOSAL, PAGE 24

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Visionary Veterans

New exhibit honors Navy inventors.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

On the surface, they have little in common. Lewis Latimer was the child of escaped slaves while Maxime Faget dreamed of life beyond the stars nearly a century later. What they shared was a commitment to serve their country and a vision to make the future better for those that followed in their footsteps.

The accomplishments of Latimer and Faget are part of the Visionary Veterans exhibit at the National Inventors Hall of Fame. The new exhibit, unveiled Nov. 10 inside the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, honors the 25 National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees who served in the U.S. Navy dating back to the Civil War.

The exhibit highlights the stories of five NIH Inductee Navy veterans whose future inventions helped redefine technology and commerce. Among the accomplishments of Navy veterans are Latimer's invention of the carbon filament that made incandescent lighting practical and Leroy Grumman's invention of retractable landing gear and folding wing technology.

The exhibit profiles include:

❖ **Lewis Latimer** (inventor of durable carbon filament that made incandescent lighting practical) — Not only did Latimer lie about his age to join the Navy, he was also a child of escaped slaves, worked with Thomas Edison and fought in the Civil War.

❖ **Frank Sprague** (prolific inventor known as the "father of electric traction" for his work in all types of electric transportation, streetcars and elevators) — Sprague was a member of the Navy in Peacetime (c. 1878), while also serving on the Naval Consulting Board as a civilian during and post WWI.

❖ **Leroy Grumman** (inventor of retractable landing gear and folding wing technology) — Grumman spent his military days serving in WWI, while post war his com-



Frederick Steckler, chief administrative officer for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, makes remarks prior to unveiling the Visionary Veterans exhibit Nov. 10 at the National Inventors Hall of Fame.



Visitors to the National Inventors Hall of Fame study the exhibit highlighting the contributions of Navy veterans following the Nov. 10 unveiling.



**Maxime Faget
2003 Inductee
Space Capsule
Design**



**Leroy Grumman
2003 Inductee
Retractable Land-
ing Gear;
Folding Wing**



**Lewis Latimer
2006 Inductee
Durable Carbon
Filament for
Electric Light
Bulbs**



**Lloyd Conover
1992 Inductee
Tetracycline**



**Frank Sprague
2006 Inductee
Electric Street Car**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

pany produced Navy Hellcat planes, which were largely credited with winning the war in the Pacific in WWII.

❖ **Maxime Faget** (conceived and designed the first space capsule) — Faget took his WWII Submarine service to the next level when designing the Mercury spacecraft and all subsequent U.S. spacecraft.

❖ **Lloyd Conover** (inventor of the antibiotic tetracycline) — Conover, the only living veteran from the exhibit, served during WWII and devoted his time in LST (landing ship tank) service in the Pacific.

The names of veteran Hall of Fame inductees are highlighted in blue in the Gallery of Icons wall at the National Inventors

Hall of Fame Museum, which is located inside the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and is open to the public.

The Visionary Veterans exhibit at the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum will run through Veterans Day 2017. For more information, visit www.invent.org/visionary-veterans/

CITY COUNCIL NOTES

City Braces for Winter

As the city prepares for the winter of 2016-2017, city staff are preparing to implement lessons learned from last year's blizzards. One of the smallest changes could have a big impact on Alexandria residents. According to Jeff Duval, deputy director of Transportation and Environmental Services, the city is continuing to try to reduce the impact of salt on the roads. The city will pre-wet the salt and mixing it with brine before spraying it onto the roads, which should help it stick to the surface of the road better.

The city is also undergoing operational changes too, working to use social media more before, during, and after each storm to update residents in real time. Duval said the city will also be sending out a mailer along the snow emergency routes advising residents of parking restrictions along their streets in the event of an emergency. Some streets will also have their classifications changed as last year Duval said the city found that streets

that had been listed as secondary roads had higher volumes of traffic than expected.

Old City Hall

During a discussion of expenses of city facilities and costs associated with updating and maintaining City Hall, Vice Mayor Justin Wilson raised the topic of moving many of the city services located in the building to a newer location.

"We should not be afraid to keep options open with regards to moving city services to the West End," said Wilson.

Though the discussion on the subject was brief, it was still an issue that divided the council. The topic of moving services away from City Hall is not new. In 2015, during discussions about the \$53 million cost of renovating the heating ventilation and air conditioning for the building, then-Mayor William Euille raised the topic of looking at moving government services to a more modern facility.

Allison Silberberg, now mayor, sharply opposed the idea at the time and repeated that position at the Nov. 29 council meeting. Silberberg was backed by Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper, who said she wouldn't mind seeing some services go to the West End but said City Hall needed to remain the center of government.

"I would hate to see a time when this city hall isn't preserved for government," said Pepper. "In terms of the major workings of the government, this is the place. It has background and history. After two years of improvement, everyone will be singing its praises."

But other members of the council were not as committed to the idea of maintaining the building in Old Town as the seat of local power.

"Many cities have moved their city halls and the old city hall remains seen as valued," said Councilman John Chapman. "That doesn't mean that the people and services and programs need to stay."

— VERNON MILES

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News



PHOTOS BY LINDSAY NELSON

More than 5,200 runners take to the start of the 41st annual Alexandria Turkey Trot Nov. 24 in Del Ray. The 5-mile race serves as a fundraiser for ALIVE!

Running a Fowl

Turkey Trot raises \$5,000 for ALIVE!

More than 5,200 runners took to the streets of Del Ray Nov. 24 for the 41st annual Thanksgiving Day Alexandria Turkey Trot.

The 5-mile race, sponsored by the Del Ray Business Association and DC Road Runners, raised \$5,000 for ALIVE! with runners also donating 2,102 pounds of food plus an additional \$400 in cash to the local non-profit.

"Runners were very generous and supportive, as is the Del Ray Business Association," said ALIVE! Executive Director Diane Charles. "The \$5,400 will be used to purchase fresh food items, like meat and eggs, for ALIVE's Food Program."

This year saw new course records set in both the men's and women's divisions as 19-year-old Tsegaye Getachew took first place overall, finishing in 23 minutes, 10 seconds, and 22-year-old Sinke Biyadgilgn placing first for women in 26:51.

Title sponsor of the race was Del Ray Realtor Jen Walker and former Mayor Bill Euille served as Grand Marshal. Complete results are available at www.alexandria-turkeytrot.com.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Del Ray Business Association board member Gayle Reuter, left, presents a \$5,000 check to ALIVE! Executive Director Diane Charles.

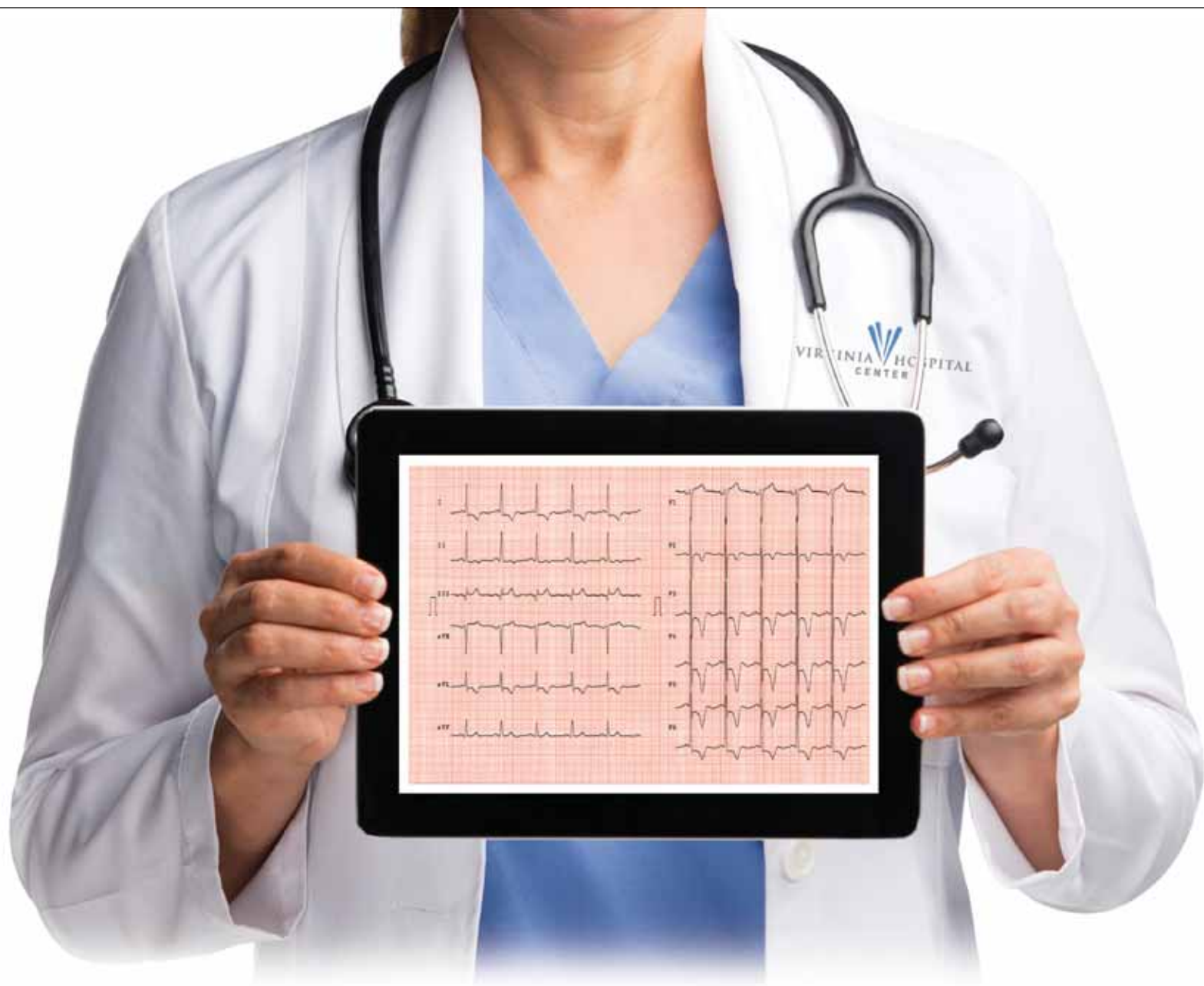
Michael Wardian and Rosie won first place in the dog division, finishing the 5-mile race in 26:38 to take 12th place overall.



Sinke Biyadgilgn sets a course record of 26 minutes and 51 seconds in the women's division of the 5-mile Turkey Trot.



Tsegaye Getachew breaks the tape to take first place in the 2016 Turkey Trot. Getachew set a new course record, finishing the 5-mile race in 23 minutes and 10 seconds.



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Making Thanksgiving Possible

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Tables are piled high with canned green beans, boxes of stuffing and mashed potatoes, cans of broth and yams and marshmallows; “for some reason we got double marshmallows. But one of our volunteers says you have to put marshmallows on sweet potatoes.” Brenda Stone, Realtor for Keller Williams Realty on Duke Street and organizer of a community effort to produce turkey dinners, says, “We have been doing this for the last six years.”

Stone says they get the names of the families from ALIVE! (Alexandrian Involved Ecumenically) and then they seek dollar donations. ALIVE! is the largest private safety net for the needy in the city of Alexandria, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization of volunteers from more than 40 religious congregations and the community working together to help those in need in Alexandria.

“We used to ask for food donations but that didn’t work as well because it was difficult to predict the numbers and get what we needed. So we order from Shopper’s Food Warehouse and they deliver the supplies.” Stone adds that MBH Settlement Group donates the bags. They support everything around the city, and it was a big help to us.”

Stone says two years ago they provided 435 dinners but that wasn’t sustainable so this year ALIVE gave them 75 families. “That shows you the unmet need. That year the social workers went out to the schools and each school gave us 25 families. We de-



Brenda Stone (center) from Keller Williams Realty has organized Thanksgiving dinners to be delivered to the needy in the community. The names of the families are provided by ALIVE! but Stone and her team do all the organization and delivery. Melody (left) and Ryan (right) Stuart from MBH Settlement Group supplied the bags for the 75 dinners.

livered the food to the schools. But the children who picked up their dinners felt a stigma that they needed the help. One of the volunteers delivered the turkey dinner to a family at T.C. Williams so they wouldn’t feel the embarrassment.” That year I posted on my Facebook, “I am very reflective and grateful for the opportunity in my life. I am so thankful that we are able to bring them this dinner that will last for many meals but saddened to see where they live.”

In a room down the hall a different crew is lifting heavy turkeys into plastic bags. Just inside the front door, a crew of four is hand drawing Thanksgiving cards. Four-year-old Molly Welch is just finishing a picture with her washable markers “for another 4-year-old girl who doesn’t have enough money to buy a Thanksgiving turkey.”

At 6 p.m., 15 drivers will meet and each load up dinners for five families. Ryan Stuart says it is an adventure driving around Alexandria traffic at rush hour. “But often kids are waiting for you because their parents are working two jobs. Their eyes get big when they see all of the food, and we get lots of hugs.”

Stone says one year they had a family living in a hotel who couldn’t cook so they gave the family gift cards so they could buy Thanksgiving dinner. Sometimes there is a big family with only a table and two chairs and no other furniture. But the volunteers always get plenty of smiles.

People at Work is a weekly column focusing on people doing jobs in the community. Send suggestions to Shirley Ruhe at sruhe@connectionnewspapers.com.



PHOTO BY ANNE SHINE

Celebration of New Ministry

Historic Christ Church in Old Town Alexandria celebrated the new ministry of its 28th rector, the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons, at a special installation service Nov. 19. She is the first female rector in the church’s 243-year history. From left are the Rev. Heather Van Deventer, Associate Rector at Christ Church; Bishop Shannon Johnston of the Diocese of Virginia; the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons, Rector of Christ Church; the Rev. Ann Gillespie, Senior Rector at Christ Church.

Lynch Earns State Award

The Virginia State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America selected William Lynch of Chapter 227, the Dean K. Phillips Memorial Chapter of Northern Virginia based in Arlington, as the 2016 State Member of the Year. Lynch resides in Alexandria and serves as a chapter director and membership chairman.

In partnership with the Nationals baseball team, he managed the installation of the POW/MIA chair in the baseball park near the left field flag pole. He and his wife, Leslie, have hosted visits by disabled Vietnam veterans to Washington D.C. and visiting family members of veterans being buried in Arlington National Cemetery. As the new membership chairman, he implemented a mem-



PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL SHUGARTS

Bruce Waxman (right), Chapter 227 president, presents the Member of the Year Award to Bill Lynch.

bership database to monitor membership growth and developed a business card size membership application. These efforts have increased the membership to more than 280 members with a goal of 300 members by Jan. 1, 2017.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria Fire Department Chief Robert C. Dubé recognized Addison Guynn, a T.C. Williams High School senior with a Certificate of Heroism.

Student Credited with Saving Neighbor’s Home

T.C. Williams High School senior Addison Guynn was presented with a Certificate of Heroism by Alexandria Fire Department earlier this month for his bravery and quick action in preventing a major fire at his neighbor’s home.

Alexandria Fire Department Chief Robert C. Dubé surprised Addison in class and made the presentation in front of his classmates.

Addison’s neighbors Steven Crossett and Rita Longhofer were asleep when a fire broke out on their deck in early Fall. Addison noticed the fire and quickly jumped into action, waking and alerting his neighbors and the Alexandria Fire Department who then helped to extinguish the 10-12 foot flames.

Dubé urges families to check their smoke detectors, make an escape plan, and learn CPR.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Turkeys are stuffed into bags in a room adjoining the tables loaded with canned yams and boxes of stuffing and mashed potatoes. At 6 p.m. another crew of 15 drivers will each load up food for five families and deliver around the city.

News



Glenn Hopkins, right, welcomes the crowd to the Hopkins House Preschool Scholarship Gala Nov. 17 at the Westin Alexandria Hotel. Looking on are WUSA9 news anchor Andrea Roane and Hopkins House fund board chair Mark Moore.



Helen Day preschool principal Dawn Erasquin, right, shows off the artwork of her students to WUSA9 news anchor Andrea Roane during the Hopkins House Preschool Scholarship Gala silent auction Nov. 17.

PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER

Building Blocks for Success Hopkins House celebrates 77 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Hopkins House kicked off its 77th year of serving the Alexandria community with an inaugural Preschool Scholarship Gala, an event that culminated a week-long celebration of the services and successes of the nonprofit community-based learning center. “City Council proclaimed the entire week Hopkins House Week,” said Ted Lewis, chief development officer for Hopkins House. “We’ve had some incredible events, like Youth Day and Family Night. It’s been a fun week and is something we’d like to continue to do every year.”

This year’s gala featured a silent auction with artwork from Hopkins House children and focused on raising preschool scholarship funds for the children of low-income working and military families.

“We believe the Hopkins House model is about the future,” said

Hopkins House president and CEO Glenn Hopkins. “People work hard, especially our enlisted military. But they make too little to provide quality services for their families and too much for any government assistance. At Hopkins House, children are provided with 2 and a half meals each day with 80 percent receiving some sort of scholarship help. We are trying to fill that gap in tuition.”

Founded in 1939, Hopkins House operates education enriched preschool academies for infants and children, summer discovery camps for adolescents and a college and career development institute for teens and adults.

“We want to raise money to provide scholarships to help low-resourced working and military families send their children to the Hopkins House Preschool Academy,” Hopkins added. “It is critical that all children are well cared for and have access to quality food and education.” For more information, visit www.HopkinsHouse.org.



McEneaney Associates of Old Town managing broker Dave Hawkins, seated at left, enjoys the Hopkins House Preschool Scholarship gala with his wife Amy and managing broker Michael Day.

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Christine Garner
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3137 Martha Custis Drive Beautifully renovated kitchen with tons of bells/whistles - wall removed for open concept. Updated bath. New electrical panel. Custom crown molding.

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Parkfairfax \$289,999

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Jennifir Birtwhistle - 703.835.1256

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NEWS



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISSMAN/GAZETTE PACKET

Senior Selfies

Residents of Paul Spring Retirement Community pose for a photo with staff of Synergy Home Care during a day of "senior selfies" to raise funds for the fight against Alzheimer's Disease. For each selfie posted to Synergy's Facebook page during Alzheimer's Awareness month in September, the company donated \$5 to the Alzheimer's Association. The campaign received 355 selfies from across the country and raised \$1,775.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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.

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 for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

Browne Academy Open House. 1:30 p.m. Center for Athletics and Performing Arts at 5917 Telegraph Rd. Admissions open house, 703-960-3000, ext. 1001

TUESDAY/DEC. 6

Planning Commission Monthly
SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 19

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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

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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OPINION

Working To Help Runaway Children

BY STACA SHEHAN
AND KELLY RANASINGHE

November is Runaway Prevention Month and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) are joining forces to remind Americans that thousands of runaway children are missing or homeless. Every year, NCMEC works with families, child welfare and law enforcement professionals to address more than 13,000 cases of missing children. Many of these children are system-involved and active in the juvenile court system. Of the 11,800 runaway children reported to NCMEC in 2015, roughly 63 percent were in foster care.

Children who runaway may be incorrectly

labeled as delinquent. In contrast, running away is often linked to abuse and neglect. Research shows one in three runaway youth report a history of abuse prior to leaving home, and approximately one third of runaway girls report sexual abuse as one of the reasons for running away. Traumatized youth may run away to cope with intense fear and stress. LGBTQ youth often report being forced out of their homes due to their sexual orientation.

Unfortunately, running away or being forced out onto the street can make a child vulnerable to other forms of victimization. In 2015, NCMEC also received more than four million reports through the CyberTipline of suspected child sexual exploitation. One in five of all runaway children reported to NCMEC last year were at risk for child sex trafficking. Runaway

LGBTQ youth have twice the rate of sexual violence victimization on the streets than heterosexual youth, and at the same time, have substantial barriers to accessing protective services and health care. Victimized, unable to access services and without a working support system, runaway youth have higher rates of mental health symptoms and suicide.

NCJFCJ and NCMEC work together to train courts and professionals on responding to traumatized youth and craft the best-case plan for sustainable safety. For more information on runaway youth, visit www.ncjfcj.org or www.missingkids.org.

Staca Shehan is executive director, Case Analysis Division, of Alexandria-based NCMEC, and Kelly Ranasinghe JD is senior program attorney, NCJFCJ, in Reno, Nev.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Compatible With Neighborhood?

To the Editor:

What an astonishing display by the Board of Architectural Review at its Nov. 16 work session where the mega-church expansion project of the Alfred Street Baptist Church was considered. These board members niggled with small shop owners over the size and color of their signage, but when it came to a proposal to raze 11

townhouses to clear the way for the construction of the largest building in Old Town, the board saw no fundamental problem. Residents were treated to one board member giving a shout out to the developer's attorney and another expressing gratitude for the developer's bogus parking plans even after the board's chairman had admonished neighborhood speakers that parking was irrelevant to the board's mission.

Worst of all, the board's central charge is to consider whether the "height, mass and scale" of a proposed development is compatible

with the surrounding area, yet neither the board, its staff or the developer's consultants even tried to explain how a structure that encompasses a full city block in a residential neighborhood can possibly meet this standard. And this despite residents providing graphics showing that the new edifice would dwarf such large commercial corridor buildings as City Hall, the Circuit Court and even the Torpedo Factory. It was as if the board decided that the only way to deal with the elephant in the room was to pretend that it didn't exist.

But in the end, the elephant cannot be ignored. The church wants to build a sanctuary whose seating capacity would rival that of the Kennedy Center Opera House. It wants to build an attached office building and associated community facilities for people who overwhelmingly do not live in the community. And with a membership of over 7,000 and a commitment to growth, there is no end in sight. The church performs many good works, but its decision to be a mega-church means it should follow the example of the First Baptist Church and locate the expansion project to a much larger site outside of the historic district. Certainly the historic church can and should remain at its current location. And whatever one feels about the church's decision to build this giganto project in a residential community, the board's shocking failure to even acknowledge the remarks of a parade of neighborhood speakers on this point left us all feeling that the hearing was nothing more than window-dressing for a predetermined result.

Peter Glaser
Alexandria

Uphold Public Safety

To the Editor:

Violent crime has escalated to a new level in Alexandria, with the recent armed robbery of a citizen in Founder's Park (at the corner of Oronoco and Union Streets) being the latest in a number of armed robberies that have taken place throughout the city within the past month.

I often state that the "little bad things always have a way of turn-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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LETTERS

State Could Do More To Ensure Health Care

By CHARLES A. SUMPTER, JR.
CHAIRMAN, ALEXANDRIA
COMMISSION ON HIV/AIDS

The theme for World AIDS Day 2016 is "Leadership. Commitment. Impact." This is a call to action to work together and reach the people who still lack access to comprehensive treatment, prevention, care, and support services. The U.S. federal government is committed to ensuring all Americans, no matter their circumstance have access to care. This is evident through the vision highlighted in the National HIV/AIDS Strategy Updated to 2020, "The United States will become a place where new HIV infections are rare, and when they do occur, every person, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic circumstance, will have unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination."

With the help of tools like the Affordable Care Act, we can achieve that vision. Moreover, the dream of an AIDS-free generation could one day become a reality, maybe even in my lifetime. However, we must all do our part to achieve this, through leadership, commitment, and impact. Unfortunately, I am not convinced that Republicans in the Virginia General Assembly are as committed.

As we recognize World AIDS Day on Thursday, Dec. 1, there are still over 400,000 uninsured Virginians, some that could potentially be HIV positive and not in treatment. Across the United States, State after state has elected to expand Medicaid over the past couple of years, thereby extending health insurance to millions of poor people who would otherwise remain without coverage, Virginia Republicans have not budged.

They have blocked expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, which would unlock tens of millions of federal dollars that would buttress Virginia's hospitals and its economy, on the argument that Virginia might not be able to afford it.

When asked about their reasons for opposing Medicaid expansion, Republicans have argued that Virginia would be on the hook financially if, at some indefinable date in the future, the federal government reneged on its commitment to cover at least 90 percent of the cost. According to the Washington Post and others, that's a true statement. However, it's also true that Virginia receives tens of billions of

dollars in other federal funding each year, and withdrawal of any portion of it would similarly tear a major hole in our budget. Yet those funds are not rejected by Republicans.

Governor McAuliffe was right when he said Virginia has a moral responsibility to do better by those who lack coverage. And he made another, equally compelling point

— that by refusing to expand Medicaid and take advantage of the federal funds, Republicans have put Virginia at a competitive disadvantage with neighboring states, including Kentucky, Maryland, and West Virginia, which have opted to do so.

Virginia Republicans are playing politics with the lives of residents in Alexandria and across the state

and maybe even more emboldened as Donald Trump assumes the Presidency in January, however we cannot let up. Our seniors, young people, and the underinsured are not receiving the care they need and are falling through the cracks, forcing others to pick up the slack like our nonprofits. Republican leadership appears to be content with Virginia's status quo, in which, in

one of the nation's wealthiest states, hundreds of thousands of people are uninsured. I will never be content with the status quo. Quite frankly, this is a state disgrace and an undeniable part of the legacy of Republican leadership in our state legislature.

With World AIDS Day ahead, the Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS and our partner organization
SEE HEALTH CARE, PAGE 14

COMMENTARY



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Thursday, December 8, 2016 from 5:00-7:30pm

Festive Happy Hour • Hors d'Oeuvres • Door Prizes

RSVP to 703-992-9868 or ConciergeFS@KensingtonSL.com

Our Team at The Kensington Falls Church wakes up every day looking forward to the chance to provide assistance to seniors and their families. The residents we seek to serve have spent a lifetime giving of themselves to their spouses, their children, their professions, their communities and sometimes, their country. It is our privilege to honor them and the marks they've made by indulging them

and taking care of them, with respect, enthusiasm and skill.

Join us at our Information Center at 1212 West Broad Street in Falls Church. Enjoy festive beverages and hors d'oeuvres while you meet and mingle with our Team, who can't wait to hear about the senior you love.



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FALLS CHURCH

Information Center: 1212 W Broad St, Falls Church, VA | 703.992.9868 | www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com





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. 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 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 10

ing into big bad things," and that appears to be the case here. In recent letters, I pointed out that the police department has failed to deter the lawlessness on our streets, since cars, bicycles and pedestrians seem to totally disregard our traffic laws with impunity. From the recent spate of crimes, it is quite evident that the Alexandria City Council has not taken the necessary steps to ensure our safety on the streets. Moreover, the "bad guys" have also figured this out; since the police are not enforcing the misdemeanors, the "bad guys" know that they will not likely be around for the more violent crimes. This has got to change.

This City Council is seemingly so very concerned about hate crimes, yet they do not exert the same concern about ordinary crimes. The City Council needs to be proactive in ensuring that the Police Department enforces laws against all crimes and misdemeanors. Despite having 304 sworn officers, Alexandria states that they do not have enough police officers to do the job. When I was an Army officer, we tactically programmed our assets against the threats posed by our enemies, so this is what the Police Department needs to do. If there are insufficient assets, then additional officers must be hired.

One of the basic and primary functions of a government is to protect its citizens. If the Alexandria City Council cannot adequately do this, or they lack the will to do so, then they need to find some other line

of work.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Belated Condemnation

To the Editor:

I was heartened by the Alexandria City Council's recently issued Statement on Inclusiveness, which certainly eased my own "fear and apprehension" brought on by "hateful and dangerous speech and acts nationwide."

As many readers can relate, the vitriolic rhetoric of one candidate in this election cycle made many of us feel disenfranchised and hated. I am, however, disappointed by how long it took council to act.

Consider how long ago Hillary Clinton labeled her opponents "deplorable" and "irredeemable," almost rubbing it in by saying "they are not America." And council never commented on Clinton's long record of misogyny, evidenced by her challenging the numerous accusers of her husband's sexual misconduct.

Other segments of our community were also marginalized by Mrs. Clinton while council remained silent. For example, she publicly railed against marriage equality as a U.S. senator, and maintained that deeply hateful position in her 2008 presidential run.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

*Sometimes the best gifts
are those you can't unwrap...*
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Old Town
106 Harvard Street,
Alexandria VA
Charming 1910
brick 3BR + 2
1/2BA colonial with
wide front porch,
high ceilings, FP,
fin LL + 2 off street
parking spaces!
Short walk to Metro!
\$1,045,000 Donnan C.
Wintermute (703)
608-6868 <http://bit.ly/2e5q8Yz>



Old Town
106 Prince Street,
Alexandria VA Located on
historic Captain's Row, this
immensely charming 4BR
+ 2 1/2BA brick townhome
features original pine floors,
4 fps + updated kitchen.
Priced to sell at \$945,000.
\$945,000 Donnan C.
Wintermute (703) 608-6868
<http://bit.ly/2ggeFa6>



Hallowing Point River Estates
5909 River Drive, Lorton VA Luxury Waterfront just updated w/ enhancements
throughout! 7600 sf w/ unobstructed wide water Potomac River Views, huge
dock, deep-water boating. EZ access to I95/VRE/DC/Old Town. \$1,925,000
Susan Gray Chambers (703) 203-9900 <http://bit.ly/2dyejgg>

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Jefferson Park
419 Jackson Place, Alexandria VA Located on one of the loveliest streets
in sought-after Jefferson Park, this 4BR + 3 1/2BA center-hall colonial
features huge 1st fl FR, 2 fps, plaster walls, slate roof + large deck
\$895,000 Donnan C. Wintermute (703) 608-6868 <http://bit.ly/2fNcqu4>



Harbor View
10821 Greene Drive, Lorton VA Brick front town home on cul de sac
in sought after Newington Forest community-renovated and backing
to heavily wooded common area. \$849,900 Susan Gray Chambers
(703) 203-9900 <http://bit.ly/2e9qgaU>



Beacon Hill
6633 Haycock Road, Falls Church VAREmodeled cape cod on
over 1/2 acre wooded lot-over 2300 sq ft finished -mclean school
pyramid-less than 1/2 mile to west falls church metro. \$749,000
Steve Deleyiannis (703) 966-6062 <http://bit.ly/2fk5tyR>



Nethergate in Old Town
1223 Michigan Court,
Alexandria VA Solid brick
3 story TH with English
Basement kit & sep DR
opening to enclosed garden.
Two unreserved parking
spaces. 3 bedrooms, 2.5
baths. Eat-in Kit! main level
bath & bedroom. \$645,000
Marie Meyer (703) 929-1002
<http://bit.ly/2fLQIYZ>



Hollin Brooke Park
2115 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria VA Classic colonial with formal
living room and dining room. Gorgeous newly renovated kitchen. FR w/
gas fireplace and built-ins. New roof, new windows, new HW and so much
more. \$624,000 Cathy D'Antuono (703) 819-3077 <http://bit.ly/2fLOskb>



Harbor Terrace
1411 E Abingdon Dr # 1, Alexandria VA Amazing location! Bright &
open 2 bedroom condo in Old Town. Steps to Mt Vernon bike trail. One
stoplight to DC! Walkable to Trader Joes, Harris Teeter, waterfront parks,
King St. \$329,900 Tracy Vitali (904) 505-1874 <http://bit.ly/2eY2mwo>



River Towers
6631 Wakefield Drive Unit 710, Alexandria VA Million dollar view ~ below
\$200k! 1 BR/1 BA BALCONY unit with view of Wild Life Preserve. Updated
kitchen with new SS appliances, freshly painted throughout. Condo dues
inc utils. \$182,000 Heidi Burkhardt (703) 217-6009 <http://bit.ly/2f0aoUg>

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

Council also stood by as Mrs. Clinton generated much fear and anxiety in our community by denigrating members of our minority population: her calling African-American youths "super predators," words she acknowledged in February "she shouldn't have used."

We can be thankful such a bigoted, xenophobic, and hateful person was not elected President, and I am indeed thankful that City Council has publicly condemned her comments, albeit belatedly.

Larry Ruggiero
Alexandria

Health Care

FROM PAGE 11

Safe Space, Inc. will hold a reception to recognize NOVASalud, Inc., another cherished community partner, for their commitment to education and prevention efforts in our region. No matter the budgetary or political climate, organizations like NOVASalud continue to fight and do their part to support some of our most vulnerable populations in Northern Virginia. It's time for the state legislature to do the same.

Focus on This Intersection

To the Editor:

The corner of Gibbon Street and South Columbus from 3-7 p.m. over the past few months has become increasingly difficult to cross. Specifically, traffic turning onto Gibbon from Washington (headed to 495) block the box at Washington Street and Columbus and Alfred streets.

Looking at license plates while walking my dog it is evident, while anecdotal, I see mostly Maryland tags on the vehicles headed to 495 and Wilson bridge. After speaking with city traffic divisions and the police, I was informed the city has not allocated resources to have police monitor these intersections even intermittently. In fact, the police officer responsible for the traffic division informed me that while they recognize the issue and recognize the illegal turns (signs stating no turns during specific times) from S. Columbus Street onto Gibbon Street between hours of 3-6 p.m., they simply have no resources to address. Further, recent construction near Hunting Towers now is causing the construction workers to park along

the 700-900 blocks of S. Columbus Street taking up resident parking. These are only a few of the recent traffic and parking woes that have been echoed in the past throughout the city.

Whether it's increased meter parking, lack of parking, growing congestion, the city must address this issue in a substantive manner beyond the prior studies, consultants or reports commissioned. From a personal point, my wife or myself can no longer walk our dog during these times near Washington, Columbus or Gibbon as commuters blow through lights and stop signs, make illegal turns, etc.

Perhaps the council can actually get out and walk the streets of Old Town Alexandria to really better understand the issues residents face rather than reading traffic studies. I would like to better understand the costs associated with police monitoring intersections at appropriate hours throughout our city against the revenue stream collected from parking fees, tickets and related. I am certain at this one intersection of S. Columbus and Franklin for the cars turning west onto Gibbon would offset the cost of one police officer monitoring the intersection.

Geoffrey C. Stone, Alexandria

Santa's Coming to Town on the King Street Trolley!

December 17: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Alexandria City Hall, 301 King Street

Special thanks to:
Alexandria Gazette Packet



FREE pictures with Santa!

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Alexandria Families in need!



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Annelise Smith 703.505.2533
ALEXANDRIA / Old Town \$ 1,075,000

NEW PRICE! Beautiful all brick 4-level townhouse right in the heart of Old Town and just 1/2 block from Founder's Park and the Potomac River. This home has 2BR, a large office/family room addition on the top floor, fireplace, hardwoods, 11 ft. ceilings, bookshelves, 1-car garage and an exquisite patio garden.



Chris White 703.283.9028
ALEXANDRIA / Old Town Greens \$ 929,000

COMING SOON! Magnificent 4-level townhome convenient to everything. Spacious property has been updated and features trim detailing, baths with waterworks fixtures and custom ceramic work. 2-car garage. Prime location, walk to Metro, shops and restaurants.


"The Giving Tree"

Our 26 year program, sponsored by the Agents of the Alexandria Old Town Office, is our way of giving back to the community. Each Alexandria ES provides a family list and we provide their Holiday Wishes. Contributions permit the purchase of toys, games, books, clothing and food certificates for the adoptive families.

WE REQUEST YOUR HELP ~ TO GUARANTEE A GREAT HOLIDAY FOR THESE FAMILIES.

Please stop by our office or contact:

Janice Allen
703.509.0906





Jennifer Molden 703.727.6189
ALEXANDRIA / Portner Brewery \$ 835,900

Sophisticated and historic townhome; Old Town living with 2BR / 3BA and a den built within the original façade of the brewery. Dramatic 4-level, exquisitely appointed with 12' ceilings, exposed brick walls, hardwood, fireplace, gourmet kitchen, 2 private terraces, 2-garage spaces and steps to shops and eateries.



Sean Satkus 703.887.2116
ARLINGTON / Columbia Heights \$ 799,999

Modern restoration of a classic expanded Colonial. 3BR / 3BA open concept with Craftsman vibe. Gourmet kitchen with SS appliances, dual sinks, granite island and peninsula. Hardwoods. Marble master bath with frameless glass shower, LL walk-in shower. Wrap-around deck. 2-car parking pad.



Mary Bourke 703.906.5825
ALEXANDRIA / Old Town \$ 695,000

COMING SOON! Beautiful 2BR / 2BA custom renovation with high-end appliances and finishes. Gorgeous hardwood floors on main and upper levels. Lovely finished lower level recreation room.



Natoya Joshua 571.488.7776
ALEXANDRIA / South \$ 624,990

Turn of the century Victorian style home with character! Spacious bedrooms, hardwoods, granite, new roof and windows allowing natural light. 3 exterior decks, playground, shed and plenty of private space for entertaining and relaxation. Lots 17A and 17B included in the sale price. 5BR / 2BA.



Elizabeth Lucchesi 703.868.5676
ALEXANDRIA / Old Town \$ 570,000

Bright corner unit with Brazilian cherry hardwoods in desirable condo community. Convenient Old Town location, just 1/2 mile to Metro. Open kitchen has granite counters, custom cabinets, and high-end appliances. Luxurious master bath with marble vanity and tile. 2BR / 2BA.



Martha Deal 703.622.6797
ALEX. / Huntley Meadows \$ 439,900 **OPEN SUN 2 - 4**

3651 RANSOM PL Beautifully renovated 3-level / 3BR / 3.5BA townhome in cul-de-sac with granite, stainless, ceramic, island, updated baths and more! Fully-finished LL with family room, fireplace and bonus room. Huge deck, hardwoods, freshly painted, and lots of storage. Near Metro. Home Warranty!

RENTALS

2 Auburn Ct #2D \$1,250

Auburn Village Garden 1BR / 1BA

Steve Kindrick 703.518.8709

801 Howard St N #104 \$1,750

The Plaza Garden 2BR / 2BA

Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264

7802 Bold Lion Ln \$2,950

Landsdowne Detached 4BR / 3.5BA 1 FP 1 Gar

Steve Kindrick 703.518.8709

504 North Alfred St \$3,200

Carriage Works Townhouse 3BR / 2.5BA

Shaguffa Hasan 571.355.2510

1110 Dartmouth Rd \$3,900

Quaker Hill Detached 4BR / 3.5BA 2 Gar

Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441



Val Klotz 703.303.9744
ALEXANDRIA / Heritage Hill \$ 429,000

Walk to Metro! Fully updated home tucked into a quiet enclave on a cul-de-sac. Updated kitchen and baths, windows and hardwoods on main level. Fully finished LL with fireplace and bath. Reserved parking in front. Just 5 minutes to Old Town and off I-495. 3BR / 2.55BA



Mary Taylor 703.785.5619 & Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
ALEXANDRIA / Midtown Alexandria Station \$ 329,000

Rarely available 1BR / 1BA Penthouse with sweeping western city views. Hardwoods, granite, SS appliances, and custom Italian cabinetry. 1 garage space. Great amenities including Cyber Café, pool, spa and Tiki Bar with 2 gas grills, fitness center, 2 party rooms, 24/7 desk and a \$100 / night guest suite.

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OF THE WORLD

Long & Foster Old Town Historic District Office 703.683.0400
400 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314





PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

U.S. Small Business Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet, center, along with Chamber of Commerce CEO Joe Haggerty, Visit Alexandria president Patricia Washington and Small Business Development Center executive director Bill Reagan join the Alexandria Singers for some caroling at Market Square Nov. 26 as part of Small Business Saturday.



Alexandria Cupcake owner Adnan Hamidi, right, presents a dozen cupcakes to U.S. Small Business Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet and her husband Ray Sweet at Market Square Nov. 26 as part of the nationwide Small Business Saturday promotion to support local businesses.



Chamber of Commerce staff members Morgan Yarnoff and Stan Brinkley are joined by Mara Benner of Four Directions Wellness to distribute Small Business Saturday shopping bags in front of Pork Barrel BBQ in Del Ray.

'It's the Little Things'

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Maria Contreras-Sweet, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, spent Nov. 26 in

Alexandria as part of the nationwide Small Business Saturday promotion to support local businesses.

Launched by American Express in 2010, the campaign serves to promote small businesses amid the shopping frenzy of Black Friday

and Cyber Monday, which tend to support major retailers.

Locally, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Visit Alexandria and the Small Business Development Center joined forces to encourage shoppers to patronize Alexandria

businesses by handing out 250 shopping bags printed with "It's the Little Things" and containing maps, coupons and prizes donated by the business community.

Contreras-Sweet visited several businesses along King Street,

meeting with Alexandria Cupcake owner Adnan Hamidi before having lunch at Sonoma Cellar.

"It was a real privilege to meet Maria Contreras-Sweet on Small Business Saturday," said Hamidi, whose bakery was recently named Small Business of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce. "I truly appreciate Ms. Sweet's visit to Old Town. She took a genuine interest in my business and community involvement and in promoting Small Business Saturday."

"Small businesses are the backbone of our great community."

— Alexandria Cupcake owner Adnan Hamidi

Nationwide, more than 112 million shoppers patronized small businesses, setting a new record for the retail event. According to the Post-Small Business Saturday Consumer Insights Survey from the National Federation of Independent Business and American Express, this represents a 13 percent increase over 2015.

Additionally, 72 percent of U.S. consumers are aware of Small Business Saturday, up from 70 percent the previous year.

"I look forward to reaching out to Ms. Sweet in the future for further business development and promotion of all small businesses in Alexandria," Hamidi added. "After all, small businesses are the backbone of our great community."

Developmental Assets: Healthy Building Blocks to Help Youth Succeed

Join us as we explore the 2016 Alexandria Developmental Assets Report impacting youth of all ages.

A joint community meeting hosted by the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria.

**December 6
Durant Center
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

Guest Speaker:

Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer for Alexandria City Public Schools

For more information, contact Lisette Torres at
lisette.torres@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.3130.





PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Verizon presents a \$10,000 sponsorship check to the Northern Virginia Urban League (NOVAUL) for the technology expo; from left are Tracey Walker, Board Chair - NOVAUL; Lavern Chatman, Director, Fund Development - NOVAUL; Douglas E. Brammer, Manager of Government Affairs - Verizon; and Jamil Smart, President/CEO - Smart Learning Solutions.

Learning ASTEAM

The Northern Virginia Urban League (NOVAUL), in partnership with Smart Learning Solutions, hosted an ASTEAM (Aviation, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) Fall Family Carnival on Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. More than 400 children, families, community members, and volunteers attended.

The free community expo, with hands on learning activities for children and families. The primary purpose of the event was to reach minority, low-income, and at-risk youth in the Northern Virginia community as well as to introduce and broaden awareness of STEM

education for career exploration, critical thinking and academic achievement for students.

Organizations that provided instructors to the ASTEAM component of the expo included: 5Starr Enterprise and Productions, Cyber Green Group, Deilab, Destiny Aviation Services, Katrina Lynn Educational Services, Inc., Metro Warriors Stem Organization, NASA, Propel Productions Center, Race Tech, and The Society, Inc.

Verizon served as the event sponsor and Douglas E. Brammer, manager of Government Affairs, gave remarks and presented a \$10,000 sponsorship check.

For more information about the Northern Virginia Urban League, visit www.nvul.org.



Students are instructed in an Early Learning STEM exercise.

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Serendiptious Holiday Suggestions

PHOTOS BY RIKKI GEORGE/GAZETTE PACKET

Marcela's Yoga Boutique, 317 S. Washington St., offers a collection of gifts that nourish the mind, body and soul. These include yoga and meditation books, scented healing candles, organic fair trade teas, vegan truffles and essential oils. See www.MarcelasYogaBoutique.com

In addition to offering clothing and yoga-inspired products, shop owner Marcela Hughes holds yoga classes and special retreats, such as an upcoming one in the Bahamas during President's Day Weekend.

Sultan "Russell" Rassoul provides bike mechanics and personalized customer service at Wheel Nuts Bike Shop, 302 Montgomery St. He and shop owner Ron Taylor can recommend the best bike to fit specific needs and abilities. See www.Wheelnutsbikeshop.com

Small accessories make a bike ride fun and safe: insulated water bottle, cell phone mount, brass duet bell, quality helmet and other safety features, such as front and back lighting.

David Martin of Gold Works, 1400 King St., offers custom design jewelry and guidance on gems, birthstones, ring sizes, wedding bands, precious gifts and more. Above: Stars and Moon ring and Moonscape (wide band) ring. See www.Goldworksusa.com

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOLD WORKS
Pendants, necklaces, earrings, cufflinks, charms and other pieces are all part of Gold Works' repertoire.

Champagne and sparkling wine can be a family or colleague gift — all are available at Altura Wine at 108 N. Patrick St. See www.alturawinegourmet.com

Glassware, such as this decanter, is a popular holiday gift. Simple stocking stuffers like wine charms or cheese tags are also an idea to make the moment festive.

18 ♦ ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ DECEMBER 1-7, 2016

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NEWS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Bountiful Tom Turkey'

Students of Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria created an oversized, canned and boxed-food "Bountiful Tom Turkey" on Nov. 16, measuring 30 feet by 32, made of boxed and canned foods donated by Grace Episcopal School students and their families. This service learning project led by a parent volunteer, Andrea Karsko, included students from Preschool through Grade Five. More than 250 cans, jars and boxes of food were used in the construction. All of the food was donated to the Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry, which works in conjunction with the Alexandria Department of Human Services to feed Alexandria families in need.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

Meeting. 7 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 301 King St. The docket and staff reports for this hearing can be viewed at www.alexandriava.gov/dockets or call Planning and Zoning staff at 703-746-4666.

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. 703-746-5999 or email daas@alexandriava.gov.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 7

State of Arlington County + Alexandria. 7:30 a.m. at 1301 South Joyce Street, Suite C6. Learn about major projects and the office space outlook at "The State of Arlington County and Alexandria," an

event produced by commercial real estate news and events company Bisnow. Use the Discount Code "20YZMGNR1J" for 20 percent off the price of admission. 703-522-6628

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. Call 703-837-9300x2.

TUESDAY/DEC. 13

Holiday Donations Wanted. Every year, the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program (DVP) organizes a Holiday Party for children and mothers who have been recently served by the program. Donations can be sent to DVP's main office, located at 421 King St., Suite 400, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, except on holidays. The deadline for delivery or pick-up of unwrapped gift donations is Dec. 13. Call Magdalia or Hewan at 703-746-4911 for assistance.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Stages 'A Christmas Carol'

Charles Dickens' classic is a holiday tradition.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is staging the Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol," just in time for the holidays — from Dec. 2-17. Watch as Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the season. The show has a cast of 32 actors, 16 of whom are under the age of 18, some as young as age 6.

Lloyd Bittinger, who produced the show in 2012 and 2015, said "A Christmas Carol" has become an Alexandria tradition during the holidays. "There are hundreds of people who come to see the show every year, year after year. We try to put enough fun elements into the show, like music, singing, dancing, and special effects (fog, snow, lightning, etc.) to make it a warm and fun experience, in spite of Scrooge himself. We want the audience to leave the theatre feeling happy, singing a song, and loving having been there. We want this to be the start of their holiday period."

Director Michael J. Baker Jr. said LTA's team of producers, designers, actors, and volunteers have fashioned the stage in the mold of an 1843 Dickens Village. Baker, who portrayed Scrooge five times with different directors, said, "My journey as Scrooge has given me an everted view of 'A Christmas Carol' and the Dickensian terrain as a whole. I have endeavored to sculpt a portion of the tale from the actor's perspective — how Scrooge perceives the world and his audience, instead of the reverse."

In addition, he said: "Things discussed but never seen come to life in this latest LTA rendition. The chapel, the schoolhouse, Scrooge's bed chambers, Marley's under-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The cast of LTA's production of "A Christmas Carol" in rehearsal.

world and Scrooge's own funeral procession are but a few of the new revelations. Each serves to enrich Scrooge's metamorphosis and highlight the play's overall themes of gratitude, generosity, and hope."

Co-producer Russell Wyland, who has been involved with LTA's productions of "A Christmas Carol" for about 15 years, said: "People tend to think of 'A Christmas Carol' as an easy show because LTA does it every year. But in many respects, the show actually become harder each year, as we try to make it new for the audience." In addition to co-producing, he's served as costume designer, set designer, set builder, rigger, and set decorator through the years.

Away from the theater, he is a Victorianist who studies and writes about 19th-century England. "Doing The Christmas Carol means I am always thinking about how to make it more authentic," he said.

Tony Gilbert, who plays the role of Scrooge, said: "This is an 'on the stage all the time' role so it takes sustained concentration and little chance for water. Plus, many, many of our beloved actors have 'Bah! Humbugged!' this part, and even though the actors I have seen as Scrooge have schooled me, at the end of the play, I

try to bring myself into the role. I hope to tell Dickens' timeless story and deep lessons with my castmates as best as I can."

Clare Baker plays the role of the Ghost of Christmas Past. "This year, we are trying to establish a stronger connection between Christmas Past and Scrooge's younger sister Fan. I have been working to play her as a youthful and yet wise character," she said.

As far as challenges, she said: "There have been many different portrayals of Christmas Past, so it was difficult at first to make the part my own. Additionally, it was hard to find a way to find a way to play a spirit and yet maintain the youthfulness that Fan had. I observed the young actress who plays Fan, Vika, and tried to bring some of the youth she has to my part."

Nic Barta plays the role of Dick Wilkins, a kind-hearted, cheerful guy. "He loves the Christmas season and celebrating it with a lot of people. He and Scrooge were friends in school and when they worked for Mr. Fezziwig when they were young. After Scrooge becomes obsessed with money, he and Dick drift apart and don't really talk to each other anymore," he said.

Avery Evans plays the role of Boy Dick Wilkins, Belle's Child #3, who was

Ebenezer's friend when he was a boy away at school. He said the challenge was working on his projection. "It feels funny being loud and doing a proper British accent," he said. "I am trying to imagine my Papa in the last row. He is coming all the way from New York to see the play and I know he will want to hear me."

Ashley King plays the role of Fred's wife, who she describes as: "A very loving, caring, and devoted wife who admires her husband's positive outlook on life." She said a challenge was adapting her physicality to the time period. "I tend to slouch or pop my hip out but through repetition I am now able to stand up properly," she said.

In his first role, Lucas Trueblood plays the role of Boy Cratchit, the son of Bob and the brother of Tiny Tim. "I am a fun character because in one scene I get to decorate a tree while my brother and sister set the table," he said. "Speaking in an accent and being loud enough are hard for me."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is staging "A Christmas Carol" from Dec. 2-17. Tickets are \$17. Show times are Wednesdays through Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call the Box Office at 703-683-0496.



HOLIDAY CALENDAR

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

Volunteer Alexandria is looking for volunteers to host a **Thanksgiving or Christmas food drive**, donate a food basket for a single adult or family and donate grocery stores gift cards. www.volunteerallexandria.org/

THROUGH DEC. 31

116 King Holiday Pop-Up. At 116 King St. The shop will feature 28 upscale fashion and lifestyle brands, including 13 brands under the umbrella of The Skinny Dip, a fashion collective founded by Sara Rossi and Taylor Ivey, as well as 15 additional brands with products

ranging from women's apparel and jewelry to men's clothing, children's items and other gifts. Sponsored by the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. www.116king.com

THROUGH DEC. 14

Community Toy Drive. Toys, games, and books for children 0-12 years are needed and can be dropped off at Volunteer Alexandria, Recreation Centers, libraries, and other places. This effort is sponsored by Volunteer Alexandria and DCHS with the support of COPS. www.VolunteerAlexandria.org or 703-836-2176

THROUGH DEC. 17

Holiday Community Toy Drive. Volunteers will be needed to deliver and pick-up toy bins from various locations. Volunteers will be needed

on Friday evening, Dec. 16 and Saturday, Dec. 17, to unload, sort, and inventory toys. Spanish speakers encouraged. www.volunteerallexandria.org/

THROUGH DEC. 9

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

THROUGH 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. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free.

Holiday Ornament Making. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Hwy. On select weekends, make a Mount Vernon holiday wooden ornament. For children ages 5-10, accompanied by an adult. Included in admission. Supplies limited. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free.

THURSDAY/DEC. 1

Antique Holiday Open House. 5-7 p.m. at 8101 Richmond Highway. Array of antiques, vintage items, hand-crafted jewelry, artwork (old and new), furniture, decorative handmade crafts, as well as hard-to-

find items. 202-256-5332

FRIDAY/DEC. 2

First Friday: "Season of Celebrations". 6 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Event is grounded in the music of the Middle East, primarily Arabic and Turkish music, but also includes styles such as Balkan, Armenian, Romani, Andalusian, North African and Sephardic music. \$5 residents; \$10 nonresidents. At door: \$10 residents; \$15 nonresidents. 703-746-5565 or www.alexandriava.gov/ Arts.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 2-4

Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market. 6-9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Handmade fine arts and crafts from

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

local artists. Different artists each weekend. DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016

Art League Holiday Ceramics Sale. Friday noon-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m. at the The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison St. Featuring hundreds of ceramic pieces created 40 students and associates of The Art League. Pieces range from functional to sculptural in purpose, and from classical to whimsical in style. www.theartleague.org/content/holiday_ceramics_sale

North Ridge Community Tree Sale at Trinity United Methodist Church, at Cameron Mills Road and Allison Street. Friday noon-8 p.m., Saturday 7 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m. NorthRidgeCitizens@comcast.net

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 2-3

46th Annual Scottish Christmas 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 here: www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

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



FILE PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMAN

Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade

The 46th annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade on Saturday, Dec. 3 will marching units filled with the magnificent tartans of Scottish Clans, the stirring sound of Scottish bagpipes and drums, Scottish dancers, reenactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries, classic cars, Santa Claus, and much more. The parade begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. The parade will take place rain or shine.

Torpedo Factory Art Center

Locally Made Art. 2-6 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. Local artists and their work featured.

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.

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 & take activities, as well as fiber and mixed media art for sale by 15 local artists at the Holiday Market. 703-823-0202 www.artisticartifacts.com

American Arabesque: A

Celebration of Culture. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 1605 Cameron St. Shop for holiday gifts made by Arab American artists and artisans from Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Yemen. Foty Fusion, the Huda Asfour Quartet, and Rami Adly are among

the local Arab American professional musicians performing at the inaugural festival—with a debut performance by the new Arab Jazz Collective. \$5, under 5 free. www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac or tinyurl.com/zckew

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

Holiday Market. 1-5 p.m. at the Charles Houston Center, 901 Wythe St. Sponsored by the Friends of the Alexandria Commission for Women to raise money to support programs critical to women in the city, such as

those dealing with domestic violence and sexual assault. It showcases the work of creative women artists and artisans, including jewelry, pottery, glasswork, prints, notecards, hats, scarves, purses and other accessories. Free. FriendsOfAlexWomen.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. www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us/ or at 703-549-6242

THURSDAY/DEC. 8

The Dan Band. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Holiday Show www.Birchmere.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 9

The Honky Tonk Holiday Show. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun and special guest Commander Cody www.Birchmere.com

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 9-11

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

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

3 Holiday Paths for December Meals

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

With Thanksgiving in the rearview mirror and Christmas approaching within a month, it's easy to lose track of where your next meal will come from. Here are three local eateries that stand at the ready to help — either for dining-in or taking-out.

Junction Bakery and Bistro, 1508 Mount Vernon Ave.

Heading to work early for a meeting, or getting started on holiday shopping first thing on a Saturday? Look no further than Junction to get a leg up on the day.

For a hearty meal to carry you through the events of the day, give the country breakfast sandwich a try. Eggs and sausage nestle among the flaky, crumbly top and bottom of a cheddar-and-chive biscuit, and by your final bite, you'll be mentally tallying up the ingredients to suss out how to re-create such a feast at home. In the mood for a lighter bite? The California toast brings opulence to sourdough. A plate's worth of bread topped with avocado, snap peas, hazelnut, and mushrooms, to call this meal "toast" is an understatement indeed.

The Pita House, 719 King St.

Admittedly, The Pita House in Old Town is open for both lunch and dinner. But it's safe to say that there's nothing better than stopping in for a bite to eat around noon-time and warming up with a cup of soup or a hot sandwich — or a whole platter, if you've skipped breakfast.

The eatery's spinach melt is the ultimate in wintertime comfort food. Spinach and tomatoes topped with feta and mozzarella cheese, all nestled into a pita and heated to gooey bliss, this sandwich is sure to hit the spot. Or consider the beef shawarma, marinated beef topped with lettuce, tomatoes, onions, and tahini sauce and served in a pita as well. Warm up with a cup of Turkish coffee to complete the meal and you'll be ready for the events of the afternoon.

Thanida Thai, 835 N. Royal St.

Swing by Thanida Thai in North Old Town for a bite in or a takeout box and you'll be satisfied either way. The little eatery that has been in place since the summer has made a big footprint in a short amount of time, and you really can't go wrong when perusing the menu.

The pad thai is a top seller, and for good reason: No matter which protein you add in (chicken, beef, pork, or tofu), the nutty,

creamy flavor carries through the dish and is good through the final bite. Or for a vegetarian choice, the veggies chu chee — sautéed Thai eggplant, mushroom, and assorted vegetables in a coconut milk-curry paste — will add plenty of spice to your evening.

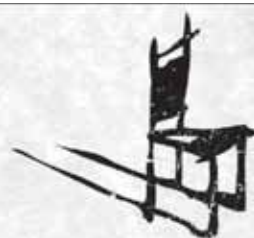
Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.



Thanida Thai's veggies chu chee will add plenty of spice to your daily life.



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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

'Fully Committed' at MetroStage

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
METROSTAGE

Now that the holidays have officially begun it is time to think of holiday entertainment. And now that I have convinced everyone that a holiday tradition at MetroStage must include "A Broadway Christmas Carol" (having played for six years on our stage), we have decided to offer something entirely different this season. Equally as fabulous and entertaining, it does not include our three intrepid actors singing their way through Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." But it does include one iconic actor playing

40 characters.

"Fully Committed" by Becky Mode features the amazingly talented and versatile Tom Story, one of Washington's finest actors, playing 40 different eccentric, insanely demanding characters, as he juggles their reservation requests at a very much in demand restaurant in Manhattan. It is perfect for our intimate theatre setting, and it even turns out to have an unexpected Christmas theme.

Written and first produced almost 20 years ago, "Fully Committed" was recently revived on Broadway starring a well-known actor from the popular television series "Modern Family." As we like to say, Broadway may have Jesse Tyler Ferguson but Washington (and Alexandria) have Tom Story, an acclaimed actor who is often seen on the stage at Studio Theatre and the Shakespeare Theatre, and most recently in the revival of "Angels in America Parts 1 and 2," a co-production of Olney Theatre Center and Round House Theatre. He has received a total of six

Helen Hayes nominations and always creates lasting and memorable characters on the stage. Next up is "Blood Knot" at Mosaic Theatre.

So when the opportunity to bring Tom Story to MetroStage, with director Alan Paul from the Shakespeare Theatre, both of whom I had been trying to get across the river for some time, I leapt at the chance. A window had opened, we jumped through it, contacted the playwright, waited for the revised script (still in draft form), and the rest is history.

MetroStage is very pleased to be presenting the first regional production of the revised, updated script since the very popular Broadway production closed in July. In September it was

even chosen as one of the Top 10 Picks on DC Stages This Season (along with productions at Arena Stage, the Kennedy Center, Ford's, Folger, and Signature).

To quote Peter Marks in the Washington Post, "This is about as good as casting gets: Tom Story as the frenetic reservations-taker (and everyone else, including the snooty chef) in a Manhattan restaurant so hot its patrons would sell their souls for a corner table. The one-man play ... gives the versatile, hardworking Story the opportunity to cross "tour de force" off his bucket list."

And as MetroStage says, "a great choice before, during or after the holidays." We look forward to seeing you at the theatre, and happy holidays from everyone at MetroStage.

See www.metrostage.org/.



Tom Story portrays 40 characters in "Fully Committed."

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

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

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

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. 4-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum and the Lee-Fendall House. \$25 adults; \$20 seniors (65 years and older) and active military; \$5 children (ages 6-17). 703-746-4242 shop.alexandriava.gov

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

Kwanzaa How-To Workshop. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. This interactive workshop will present information about Kwanzaa and how to do it. 703-746-4356

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 10-11

Mount Vernon By Candlelight. 8 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Character-guided tours of the first and second floors of the Mansion, 18th-century dancing and fireside caroling. Rain or shine. \$24 adult; \$16 youth (ages 2-11). 703-799-5203 or www.mountvernon.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

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

Family Gift Distribution. Volunteers

are needed. Spanish speakers encouraged.

www.volunteeralexandria.org/

Colonial Handbell Ringers

Concert. 2 and 4 p.m. at 201 S. Washington St. The Colonial Handbell Ringers, 10 "ringers," in period costume, will be playing a full five-octave set of 80 handbells. 703-746-4994 or www.colonialringers.com

Holiday Fun Brunch with Santa. 4-5:30 p.m. at Union Street Public House · 121 South Union St. Enjoy complimentary Christmas cookies, seasonal treats, soft drinks, coffee and tea.

DEC. 12-16

Early Childhood Holiday Store at 418 S. Washington St. Volunteers are needed to help set up and staff the holiday store. www.volunteeralexandria.org/

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

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



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Board Approves Alfred Street Baptist Church Expansion

FROM PAGE 1

dent of Wolf Street. Glazer noted that the new Alfred Street Baptist Church would be the largest single structure in the old and historic district.

But unlike developers in Old Town coming to the BAR and facing backlash from local citizens, Alfred Street Baptist Church's community also had a presence at the meeting that spoke up in favor of the church redesign.

"One thing I love about living here is consistency," said Caroline Alexander, a member of the church. "Since 1895, seems like you guys have been pretty consistent with making sure church maintains code and zoning ... I think the design adheres to the structure of what this city is all about. It will make Alfred Street an important functioning historic figure in the community but [will also] enhance the City of Alexandria as well."

While some on the BAR said they understood concerns about the size of the building, the Alfred Street Baptist Church redevelopment falls within height and floor area ratio guidelines.

"I'm hearing what residents are saying about the size and I'm asking myself 'does the church need this much space' and I don't know," said Board Member Robert Adams. "But can they have it? They can, if we're strictly going by the zoning."

Most of the feedback from the BAR was enthusiastic support. The design was approved unanimously.

"I like that it adds another steeple to our city," said Board Member Margaret Miller. "I had been concerned about mass and size, but on further study of the project, think it will integrate well. Overall, I think you're doing a good job with architecture, height, scale and mass."

"It's popular to make everything look like 18th century townhouses but I'm not certain that's appropriate," said Board Member John Von Senden. "I think the city would be better served to have same massing on south end of Alfred Street read as a well composed solid block rather than a mix-match of little pieces when everyone knows that it's not."

The next step in permitting for the Alfred Street Baptist Church redevelopment will be approval from the Planning Commission in summer, 2017.



Aerial view of the proposed redesign for Alfred Street Baptist Church.



Proposed redesign of Alfred Street Baptist Church as viewed from the southwest corner.

Alfred Street Baptist Church



PHOTO FROM GOOGLE MAPS

Proposal To Create Veterans' Commission Moves Forward

FROM PAGE 1

members and their families are an untapped resource and an unheard voice.

"The connections within our community can be strengthened," said Wood. "We have a very active and diverse population of veterans. A city committee can empower this network, expanding the voice and reach of an important portion of our community."

Wood recognized that there are issues within the veteran community a panel could also help to address, like unemployment and the high rate of veteran suicides. Wood and other veterans emphasized that ideally a committee would help local veterans in transition become more involved in local business and community, something that could help give veterans a purpose and give the city a wealth of manpower and experience.

"We see a lot of veterans struggling with understanding their purpose post-transition," said Emily McMahan, director of Capitol Post, an Alexandria based nonprofit that helps veterans transition into new careers. "It goes beyond just finding a job and translating those skills into employment. [They

need help] understanding who they are, what their values are, and finding a sense of purpose. We're finding, across the board, that veterans are getting hired but not staying at their first job beyond one or two years. Employers don't really know how to integrate veterans to their full capacity."

McMahan said her hope was that a commission could help coordinate veterans with local resources, both in terms of services veterans need and opportunities to become involved.

"There's lots of resources that fit under the umbrella for what a veteran might need, and how do we incorporate those resources at a local level?" said McMahan. "There's 19 bases within 50 miles of Alexandria. We have such great talent here because of the types of units and commands here. Some of the technical commands are located close to us."

The city could do tremendous work coordinating and facilitating services they offer ... It's really cool to see the community taking this initiative. To really do a holistic approach to vets with regards to business and care, with regards to veteran commis-

sion, is pretty neat."

Francis Q. Hoang, a veteran and lawyer in Alexandria, said a veteran commission's chief role should be to give a voice to veterans in the city and start a dialogue between veterans and the rest of the community.

"At the end of World War II, 16 million Americans served," said Hoang.

"That was about 12 percent of the country. Currently, four million served in Iraq or Afghan, that's a little over one percent. As a percent of population, it's such a smaller population."

There's a gulf that can exist between those that served and those that haven't. A Commission for Veterans can help inform decision makers and elected officials with a better perspective."

But while the concept was supported by the City Council, many believed the idea needed to continue being refined. Vice Mayor Justin Wilson noted that he believed the city government already had too many boards and commissions, but that veteran affairs was an area of policy not currently being addressed. Wilson proposed an ad hoc group to look into the creation of a com-

mission.

The majority expressed agreement with this idea, but Silberberg pushed back.

"If it's a small step on its way to becoming a commission, then that's fine, but that's not what I was looking for," said Silberberg. "As far as ad hoc goes, when I think about those who sign up and serve and put their lives on the line, they're not signing up ad hoc."

But City Manager Mark Jinks noted that creating a commission is not simple. Jinks says there is staff work that has to go into determining best practices for the group, implementation of policy suggestions, and other behind-the-scenes work that takes time and manpower.

"Someone has to do the legwork to make a commission happen, that's staff work and we don't have [the person] to fill that role," said Jinks. "There would be a cost to this for staffing. We can make a judgment later about what kind of staffing this would take long-term."

The council asked City Manager Mark Jinks to come back to the council at a later date with a resolution.

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Obituary



Frederick Ulysses Jones's soul was reunited with his maker as well as his earthly father and mother Weldon and Carlene née Robinson Jones upon passing peacefully at age 82 on Nov. 24th.

Fred was born in Texarkana, Texas on Feb. 13th, 1934. At an early age, Fred joined his grandmother in New Haven, Conn. where he spent his youth.

Fred enlisted in the United States Army in 1952 and was assigned to one of its first integrated artillery/tank battalions in the Korean conflict. Fred was involved in a number of military operations over his 22-year career in the Army, serving his country proudly during multiple overseas tours. Fred received numerous decorations for his service, including the Bronze Star medal, distinguishing himself in military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.

Upon retirement from the Army, Fred pursued careers related to his college studies, first as Chief of Security and Investigations for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and later as a Senior District Court Commissioner for the State of Maryland, before retiring in 1990.

After succeeding in three careers, Fred applied his energy to advance a number of service, veterans and charitable endeavors, including the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and various Native American organizations. Fred especially enjoyed his monthly volunteer work for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, a manifestation of his constant efforts to ensure that no soldiers are forgotten or left behind.

Fred leaves his wife of 25 years, Annette (Witkin) Jones; stepdaughters Marilyn Witkin of Reston and Maxanne Witkin and her husband Peter Facas of Falls Church; stepson Ira Witkin of Boca Raton, Fla.; grandchildren Norman Facas of Alexandria, Nash Witkin of San Francisco, Calif., Sam Facas of New York, N.Y., Kira Witkin of New York, N.Y. and Elexis Witkin of Flower Mound, Texas.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3rd at Every-Wheatley Funeral Home in Alexandria. Memorial gifts in Fred's memory can be made to either the Vietnam Veterans of America, PO Box 1748, Silver Spring, Maryland 20915, ATTN: Bill Highland, or St. Labre Indian School, Ashland, Montana 59004.

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21 Announcements

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Alexandria Transit Company* *Board Vacancy Announcement*

The Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) is seeking applicants to fill one vacancy on the Alexandria Transit Company Board of Directors. All applicants must complete a Board Member Application Form by "Friday, December 23, 2016". Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted. The ATC Board of Directors is seeking candidates interested in serving on the board and who can provide regularly a two-hour commitment once a month to attend the monthly board meeting. Consideration will be given to the applicant's work background, years of residency in the City of Alexandria, past and present involvement in community service, civic groups, and other boards and commissions, the extent to which they use or have used transit services, their interest in transit and transportation issues, related skills that they may bring to the board, and the area of the City that they reside with respect to the present board makeup. Being a DASH rider is helpful, but not required. Persons interested in serving on the board can obtain a Board Member Application Form by contacting: ATC Board Secretary at 703-746-5637 or by email at marlene.stevens@alexandriava.gov.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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. 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 or call 571-483-1316.

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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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-11-06

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for World Languages Assessments for Seal of Bilingual.

Sealed Proposals with the notation "LMS", RFP# 16-11-06, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, December 13, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8140, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services - Current Bids and Request for Proposals.

Any questions submitted, if necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.

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

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

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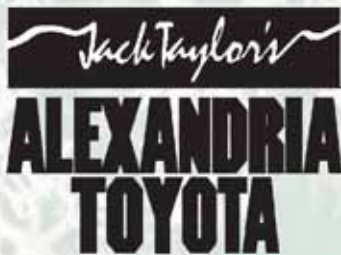
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