

At the Dec. 13 meeting of the board's Public Safety Committee, Fairfax County supervisors announced 88 percent of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission recommendations have been implemented or are soon to be so.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/
THE GAZETTE



Improving Police Practices

Public Safety Committee hears from Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting subcommittee chair.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is well on its way to implementing all recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission. At the Dec. 13 meeting of the board's Public Safety Committee, they announced 88 percent of the commission recommendations have been implemented or are soon to be so.

"I am proud that 178 of 202 recommendations have been approved in just over a year," Chairman Sharon Bulova said in a statement. "The Board of Supervisors, Police Department and county staff have been moving with deliberate speed to transform these recommendations into actionable policies. By launching Diversion First, establishing the Office of Police Auditor, creating a Civilian Review Panel, hiring a civilian FCPD Public Affairs Director and applying new standards regarding release of information, just to name a few, Fairfax County has made great strides toward enhancing trust in and increasing transparency of Fairfax County Government."

BULOVA LAUNCHED the commission in response to public concern and growing distrust of police over the 2013 shooting death of Springfield resident John Geer by Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres.

Fairfax County Police and the supervisors didn't release case information for more than a year after Geer's death, even to his family. A wrongful death civil suit filed by the family and a court order finally forced the release of investigation files and Torres' name.

Torres was fired in July 2015 and indicted by a grand jury for murder in August 2015, an historic first charge of that kind for any Fairfax County officer. He pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and was released in June of this year, after he received credit for time served for a 12-month sentence.

The Public Safety Committee has been reviewing the recommendations from each subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Commission over the last several months, including Use of Force, Communications, Mental Health, Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting, and Independent Investigations and Oversight.

Michael Hershman, chair of the Ad Hoc Commission, said in a statement, "I not only look back on our work as very pertinent given today's national attention on policing and community relations, but am encouraged by the seriousness with which the Board of Supervisors have addressed our many recommendations. Through a series of committee meetings and hearings focusing on our recommendations, the board has displayed a professional and bi-partisan effort to make a very good police department into a model for the rest

SEE COMMISSION, PAGE 16



A Dec. 13 presentation from Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting subcommittee chair Shirley Ginwright (right), marked the last subcommittee to be heard by the supervisors.

What's New At Inova?

Addo gives update to chamber.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

At 3 a.m. Nov. 16, the new Veatch Family Emergency Department at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital opened its doors to patients. The time was meant to be a slow one for hospital work, Inova Mount Vernon president and CEO Deborah Addo said — intended essentially to be a "soft open."

Things didn't go as planned, Addo explained while addressing the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce during a Biz Breakfast event at Belle Haven Country Club on Dec. 8. There was more traffic than they expected, but she said staff was prepared to handle it and all went well.

In fact, Addo said, a woman had planned specifically to be the very first to deliver a baby in the new department.

The state-of-the-art facility which features 35 all-private rooms, new "fast track" rooms to

treat less serious injuries, improved ambulance access, new cardiac emergency rooms and a specialized pediatric treatment area, is named for primary donor Jeff Veatch and his family.

Addo explained how Veatch, an entrepreneur from the Mount Vernon area, was impressed with the care his family received during a visit to Inova. "He said 'I want to ensure where I bring my family to receive care, health care is state of the art,'" Addo said.

Veatch made a matching gift of just over \$2 million for the department, she said.

Having a state of the art facility "allows us to attract and retain providers," Addo said.

Over the next three years, Addo and Inova plan to enhance and upgrade the Inova campus with a new parking structure and medical fitness facility.

For more information, visit www.inova.org/healthcare-services/emergency-services/locations/mount-vernon-hospital.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Inova Mount Vernon president and CEO Deborah Addo (center) talked about the opening of the new Veatch Family Emergency Department to members of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce at the Biz Breakfast on Dec. 8.

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New Catholic Bishop: To Listen and Learn

A ministry to the faithful and the community beyond.

BY DAN BRENDEN
THE GAZETTE

The Most Rev. Michael Burbidge assumed full authority last week as the new bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. He succeeds the Most Rev. Paul Loverde, who retired after 17 years as bishop. Burbidge begins his new ministry with a commitment both to conservatism and bridge building.

Early in his homily at his Mass of Installation, held Dec. 6, he said people live in “unsettling times.” He called for renewed public engagement of several issues that have been hallmarks of the culture war. These include protection of the unborn, religious freedom, and the sanctity of marriage. He warned that Catholics’ faithfulness on such issues might result in ostracism, acknowledging society’s deep and persistent divisions.

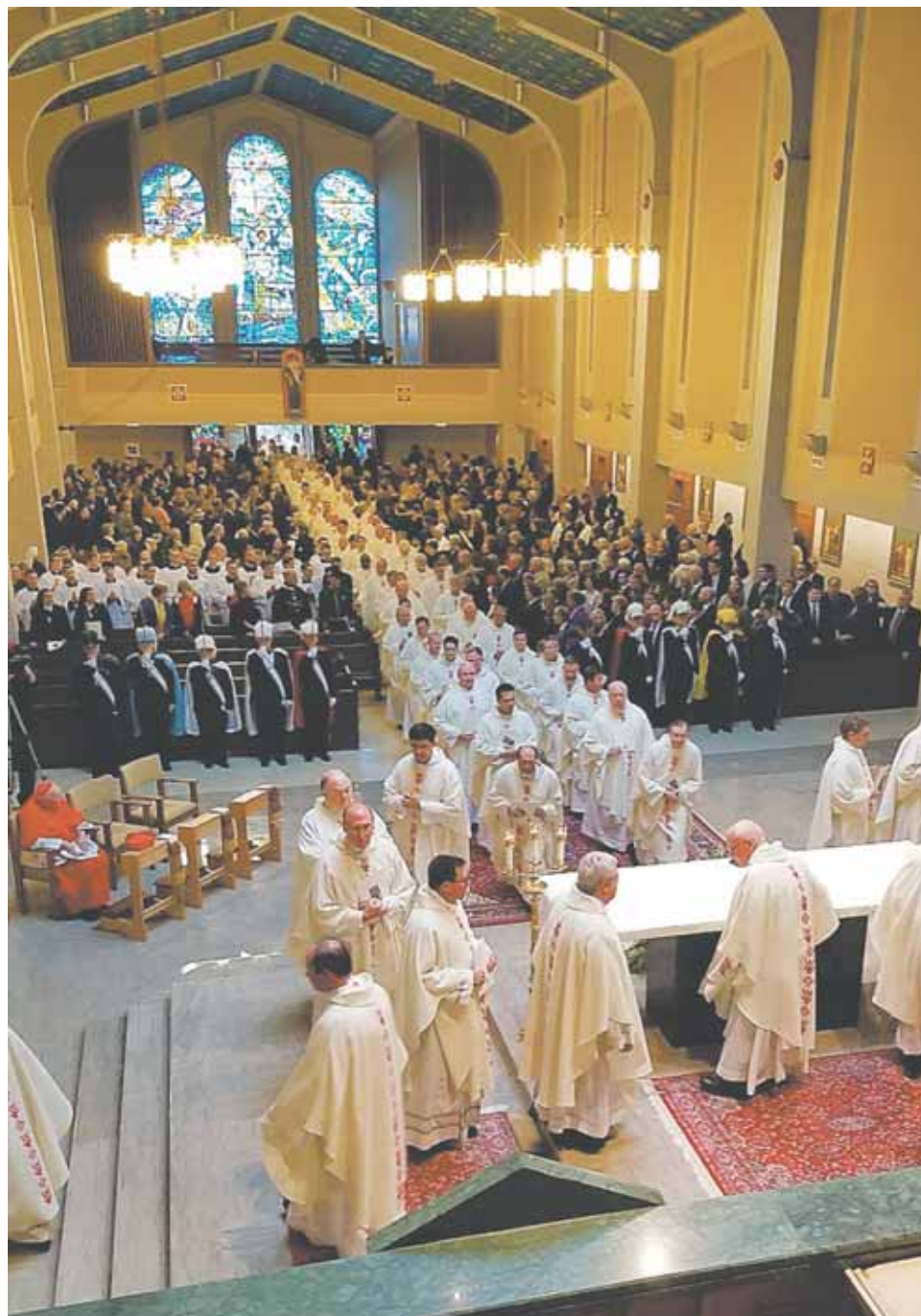
Equally, the Mass conveyed a yearning to unite and serve across boundaries. Burbidge preached on having a disposition of thankfulness and sharing God’s mercy. People of various ethnicities read Scripture, prayed, and sang in as many as six different languages, underscoring the diocese’s repeated commitment to promote cultural diversity. Burbidge stood to greet ecumenical and interfaith clergy. Among them, Rabbi Gerry Serotta is the executive director of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, which represents 11 different faith traditions.

Before reading aloud the papal letter directing Burbidge’s transfer, the Most Rev. Christophe Pierre framed the bishop’s mandate as being constructive for the whole society. Pierre is the Apostolic Nuncio, or Pope Francis’ personal representative in the U.S.

“An Apostle must make an effort to be courteous, serene, enthusiastic, and joyful, a person who transmits joy everywhere he goes,” he said, quoting Francis. “We pray ... for your faithful episcopal ministry to this beautiful family of faith, and to the community beyond.”

Francis transferred Burbidge from the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C., where Burbidge served as bishop for 10 years. Burbidge’s new diocese contains twice as many registered Catholics, who number about half a million; it abuts the seat of American government; and many of its parishioners are prominent government leaders. For these reasons, the transfer represents “a very strong vote of confidence in his leadership abilities,” said the Rev. Thomas Ferguson, the diocese’s second ranking clergyman.

Francis wrote to Burbidge in his letter of appointment, “[You] have clearly shown



Mass of Installation was held Dec. 6 at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More in Arlington.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



The Most Rev. Michael Burbidge is the new bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.

that you are endowed with many outstanding episcopal qualities and virtues.”

IN AN INTERVIEW Dec 5, Burbidge said he will not pursue any specific agenda too quickly.

“You cannot implement a diocesan plan or mission statement until you take the time to listen and learn. So one of the first things I’m doing upon being installed is, I’ll be celebrating seven or eight Masses around the diocese, and then I’ll have the opportunity to be with the priests and the lay faithful. ... That’s my first goal: just get out, listen and learn.”

Nevertheless, he expounded repeatedly his general commitment to break down walls.

When asked how he will promote unity and charity in society following a divisive election season, he replied: “We’ll continue to preach the gospel — right! — reminding us that we are all created in God’s image and likeness. We are all united as brothers and sisters. We’re part of the human family and share the common responsibility to build up the common good. And we can only do that when we respect and listen to one another. Even when we disagree, even when we have different perspectives, that we do not label, we do not dismiss one another, but truly listen and respectfully engage each other.”

Burbidge has experience with political engagement. He and a fellow bishop in North Carolina established the public policy advocacy web site “Catholic Voice NC.”

“CVNC seeks to influence legislation at both the state and national levels,” according to the web site. “Beginning in 2008 Catholics in North Carolina who joined CVNC received email alerts from the bishops requesting they contact legislators to support or oppose various pieces of legislation.”

Burbidge said he will continue in his new position to engage the various levels of secular governance.

“Yes, as a bishop, I’m mandated to. I’m mandated to bring the gospel into the public arena. We’re very blessed here in this diocese where we have a Virginia Catholic Conference that assists us in that process. And part of that Conference is working with elected officials ... not always out front, many times privately, personally, where you can really have a true dialogue. So I will continue to do that, but always respectfully.”

Ferguson assures that Burbidge will be conservative in his values and priorities, as was his predecessor. But he cautions that conservatism in a Catholic sense does not necessarily mean the same thing as conservatism in a partisan sense.

“[I]t’s very hard to equate the term ‘conservative’ as it’s used in the Church with the way it’s used in the political process in this country,” he said. Conservative Catholicism “means really to be committed to the

SEE A MINISTRY, PAGE 6

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE
Bryant Alternative High School principal Tanganyika H. Millard (right) was among those awarded an honorary Rotary Club membership Dec. 7.



Pastor and founder of Harvest Assembly Baptist Church Johnnie Abram (left), and his wife and assistant pastor Rev. Velvet Abram were inducted as full new members of the Mount Vernon Rotary Club.

Rotary Chapter Marks 40 Years

Mount Vernon Rotarians celebrated their chapter's 40th anniversary Wednesday Dec. 7 at Cedar Knoll restaurant.

Bryant Alternative High School principal Tanganyika H. Millard was among those awarded an honorary Rotary Club membership.

Rotary is an international service club bringing together leaders from diverse backgrounds.

Pastor and founder of Harvest Assembly Baptist Church Johnnie Abram, and his wife and assistant pastor Rev. Velvet Abram were inducted as full new members of the Mount Vernon Rotary Club. Harvest Assembly is located on Fordson Road in Alexandria.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/MVRCVA.

— TIM PETERSON

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NEWS

New Bishop

FROM PAGE 3

idea that we have a tradition that's rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Against that reference point, the Church always considers its teachings to be conservative, regardless of where they fall on the partisan spectrum.

"[S]ometimes the positions that we take in the public forum are going to align ourselves with people who are known politically as conservative. But at other times the positions that we take to protect and promote human life and dignity will align us with people who are sometimes known as liberal in the public forum," said Ferguson.

For example, Catholic Voice NC supported an amendment to the N.C. state constitution that would have banned same-sex nuptials. It also supported the DREAM Act, bipartisan legislation to provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrant youth. Similarly, the Virginia Catholic Conference supported legislation to restrict access to abortions. It also opposed allowing concealed handguns on school property.

BURBRIDGE ALSO has experience with ecumenical diplomacy. He served five years as co-chair of the International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue, a Vatican-sponsored program to improve relations between the historically estranged Christian traditions.

"It was a wonderful opportunity. I was honored. ... What I learned from it is that there is a scholarly approach to the work of ecumenism, where we really have to study and learn, 'What do you believe? And why do you believe that? And what's the history of that?' And so we get to teach each

other. ... And then what you try to do is you try to find, where is there common ground? What are the things — the statements, the core beliefs, the convictions — that we agree upon? And let's put them on the table, too, and celebrate them. Now if it's a true dialogue, you also have to say, 'And where do we disagree? ... What are those things that separate us?' And then we begin to try to explain that to each other.

"And then every part of the dialogue was always rooted in prayer. We prayed together every single day. And one day the Pentecostals would lead the prayer, and the next day the Catholics would lead the prayer. One time they would take us to a Pentecostal celebration, and we would take them to a Catholic celebration. So you experience each other, how they live and celebrate the faith.

"So I think if you put all those principles together, then any ecumenical dialogue would be fruitful. ... And here, I know the work in the Diocese of Arlington — the ecumenical efforts — is very, very strong. So I look forward to continuing that dialogue."

In any case, Burbidge believes his diocese must engage beyond itself with both principled tradition and charity. The two go hand in hand: "As God's servants first, we are called to bring the truth and the joy of the Gospel into the public arena, with conviction and, always, in love."

Any public officials seeking to engage the diocese should contact the Office of the Bishop at 703-841-2511. Other religious leaders should contact either the Office of the Bishop, or the Rev. Donald Rooney, the director of the diocese's Office of Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs at 703-451-8576.

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ONGOING

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THURSDAY/DEC. 15

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Chesapeake Bay, Sediment, Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB), and Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads. 6-8 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 & 3, 12000 Government Center Pkwy. The meeting will present the county's Draft Sediment, PCB, and Bacteria TMDL Action Plans. SWPDMail@FairfaxCounty.gov or 703-324- 5500

SUNDAY/JAN. 8

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Old Town

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Harbor View

10821 Greene Drive, Lorton VA Seller Says Bring Offers! Best value on the Occoquan River, Navigable waterfront. Timeless architectural detail, pano views & well designed flrpln. Boat membership conveys. 4B 3.5B \$849,900 Susan Gray Chambers (703) 203-9900 <http://bit.ly/2e9qgaU>



Beacon Hill

6633 Haycock Road, Falls Church VA Remodeled 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>



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Mill Stream

310 Cloudes Mill Way, Alexandria VA Brick garage TH near Cameron Station, bus to Van Dorn Metro. 3 BR's 2.55 BA's. 2100+ sq ft. New paint, carpet, & HWDS. MSTR BR w/loft & skylights, LL rec rm w/fpl, plus new deck! \$2,400 Tom Rickert (703) 447-7901 <http://bit.ly/2gl5ak0>

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OPINION

History in Police Reform Part 2

Civilian Review Panel — and they said it couldn't be done

Last week, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to establish a Civilian Review Panel, part of a two-pronged concept of independent oversight of law enforcement recommended unanimously by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

On Sept. 20, 2016, the board voted to establish the Office of the Independent Auditor, the other piece of oversight. The two branches of oversight would not overlap.

The Independent Police Auditor will report directly to the Board of Supervisors and provide oversight in cases of police use of force that lead to serious injury or death, including officer-involved shootings. The Civilian Review Panel will respond to community concerns or complaints about alleged incidents of abuse of authority by FCPD by reviewing the investigations conducted by the department.

The vote by the Board of Supervisors for the Office of Auditor was unanimous, and for the Civilian Review Panel, 9-1, indicating the strong commitment to independent oversight and the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission. The experiences from other communities with civilian oversight have shown that strong, independent oversight builds legitimacy and public trust through increased police transparency and accountability to the public served. Oversight provides a meaningful voice or forum for the public and forms a crucial bridge between the public and the police. Increased transparency, trust, and communication between the police and the public

can lead to greater community cooperation in achieving the ultimate goal of decreased crime and increased public safety.

This very positive outcome seemed nearly impossible in the wake of the death of John Geer in August 2013, shot by then Fairfax Police Officer Adam Torres while standing unarmed in the doorway to his own home. Officials had long opposed consideration of a Civilian Review Panel.

Board of Supervisor Chairman Sharon Bulova deserves tremendous kudos, first for establishing the Ad Hoc Commission in the wake of public outrage over the shooting and the blackout of information that followed, and then for her unwavering support of the recommendations that emerged.

EDITORIAL

In voting for the Civilian Review Panel, Supervisor Linda Smyth said: "We all know it's time to put this in place. This is what the public has really asked us to do."

John Cook (R-Braddock), chairman of the Public Safety Committee, has been relentless in moving the recommendations forward for discussion and approval by the board. Having both the auditor and the panel approved in 2016 is no small accomplishment.

The recommendations for oversight also have the enthusiastic support of Police Chief Edwin Roessler, whose support overall for change in the FCPD has been admirable and essential.

Every member of the Board of Supervisors deserves credit for engaging on the details and supporting recommendations of the commission.

Other changes brought about by the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendations include the implementation of Diversion First, which provides treatment rather than jail for nonviolent people with mental illness, resulting in some 350 diversions from potential criminal arrest, and in police transporting more than 1,000

people in mental health crisis to the Merrifield Center for treatment; an emphasis on de-escalation and on crisis intervention training; the revamping of the order of officer training to emphasize the role of policing in a democracy and the sanctity of life ahead of firearms training; and the significant amendment of General Order 540 on the use of force. The FCPD has been a leading force in these changes, and its leadership has played a pivotal role in seeking out and implementing best practices.

There are still miles to go, but evidence is that county and police leadership are prepared to traverse those miles.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm served on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and continues to advocate for ongoing implementation.

SoberRide Safety Net For Holiday Celebrations

The annual Holiday SoberRide program, offering free rides home to locals over 21 who have been celebrating with alcohol, will operate between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. each evening between Friday, Dec. 16, 2016 and Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period. SoberRide is organized by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Project. Area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$ 30 fare), safe way home. Last December, nearly 1,500 people took advantage of the program.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at www.soberride.com.



PHOTO BY JIM HELLWAGE

Eagle Project

Bryan Schrage of Boy Scout Troop 888 delivered three newly-constructed benches on Nov. 30 to West Potomac High School for the school tennis courts. Bryan built the benches for his Eagle Scout service project. In the photo are Bryan and West Potomac Principal Alex Case.



PHOTO BY JIM HELLWAGE

Feeding the Hungry

Boy Scouts of Troop 888 baked 54 fresh apple pies for distribution to the needy, by way of Rising Hope Mission Church, the Elks Club, and Christ House, who each used the donated pies to feed those in need. The project, which took place Saturday, Dec. 10, involved nearly 60 hours. The Scouts are sponsored by Heritage Presbyterian Church.

Mount Vernon Gazette

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A Connection Newspaper





Toys for UCM

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From left, Gum Springs Civic Association President Queenie Cox, Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), longtime Jim Moran chief of staff Susie Warner and Del. Paul Krizek (D-44) at the annual Krizek and Sickles Holiday Cookie Party and Toy Drive on Dec. 11. The drive collects donated toys for the United Community Ministries Holiday Gift Room where that organization's Stepping Stones program clients can choose gifts for their children.

Bennett Named Chamber Citizen of the Year

Michael Bennett, CFO and partner with the Ourisman automotive group, is the Chamber Citizen of the Year for Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Bennett is a lifelong resident of the Groveton area where he was raised five houses down from the former Dixie Pig BBQ on Beacon Hill. He was worked to increase local business opportunities and has championed revitalization of the Richmond Highway corridor.

Bennett is also a community volunteer whose service is focused on helping children, the less fortunate, and providing educational opportunities.

He started work at the age of 10 delivering papers for The Washington Post. He started work at Joe Gill's service station in Beacon Mall at age 13 and then worked at the Hess gas station on Telegraph Road to pay his tuition to Bishop Ireton High School.

From this beginning Bennett went on to provide leadership for a string of successful automotive dealerships. He opened the Ford store on Quander Road in 1979. In 1983 he went to work for the Ourisman automotive group at the Ford store on Richmond Highway and then took over the Dodge store three years later. Bennett also opened the Suzuki store on Richmond Highway in 1986. Then he



Bennett

He helped start the Woodlawn Football League where he coached for nine years, including two Metropolitan Super Bowl team champions and one semi-finalist team. He also coached at Woodlawn Little League for eight years with a state champion 12-year-old team. He has been a volunteer umpire and basketball official for Woodlawn leagues.

He serves on the Board of Directors for Good Shepherd Housing, the Mount Vernon Lee Education Partnership, and is a member of the Bishop Ireton Board of Governors. He is a past board member of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corp. (SFDC). He was appointed by the Governor to the Virginia VEDP Board.

Since 1990 Bennett has served as a National Automobile Dealers Charitable Foundation Ambassador.

Bennett is married to his wife Niki and has three daughters, Michel, Kelly, and Tracy, and five grandchildren.

opened the Ourisman Chevy store next to the Dodge store in 2010.

Bennett has been actively involved in youth sports.

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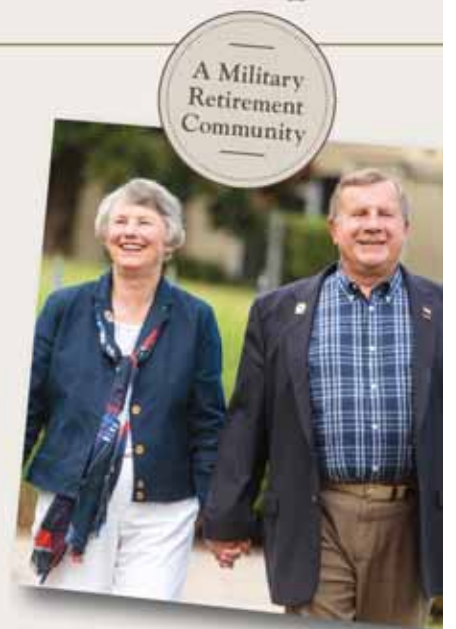
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This budget-friendly kitchen by Elena Eskandari includes finishes such as quartz countertops and ceramic backsplash tile with crackled glazing.

PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG.
CASE DESIGN/
REMODELING, INC.



A Stylish, Budget-friendly Kitchen

Local homeowners transform their kitchen, without breaking the bank.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

When Janet and Frank McDermott purchased their Alexandria home in 1997, it was already outdated. Built in 1970, the home had a layout that lacked the natural flow the couple wanted, particularly in the kitchen. They only recently got around to updating it, however.

"We hadn't had a chance to undertake big projects since we both worked full time," said Janet McDermott.

The budget-conscious couple decided to remodel the kitchen and wanted a design that was simple, clean and timeless. The kitchen project made use of the existing space with only minor changes to the original blueprint.

In the original layout, the refrigerator was located in the middle of the room, disrupting the room's flow, so they relocated the appliance to the opposite side of the space. The new design incorporated a built-in microwave oven to free up counter space.

"The kitchen was very budget-oriented, so they didn't want to move things around that much," said Elena Eskandari of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., who was tasked with creating the design. "Fortunately, the plumbing was already in a good location."

Eskandari optimized the existing layout of the cabinetry and saved money by adding a floor-to-ceiling pantry cabinet, rollout shelving and open shelves for easy access to cookbooks.

"We love to cook and having all new appliances makes the task so much more enjoyable," said Janet McDermott. "The new layout of the kitchen provides a great deal of cabinet space and our kitchen looks quite a bit bigger."

The new pantry has rolling shelves, "so that we can pull out the drawers and see what we have," said Janet McDermott. "Our old pantry did not have this feature."

Flanking the microwave are glass-front cabinets, which give the McDermotts a space to showcase their collectables. The kitchen finishes include a quartz countertop, ceramic backsplash tile with crackled glazing, and a luxury vinyl tile floor with acrylic grout joints.

"We wanted to keep the materials neutral so that they last a longer time," said Eskandari. "Quartz countertops are durable and don't stain. We used wide Shaker-style cabinetry with beading, which is popular right now. And luxury vinyl tile had a bad rap at one point, but now it's made to look like real tile and is more budget friendly. Many of the kitchen finishes were budget-oriented, but well-coordinated to create an aesthetically pleasing and cohesive look."

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DECEMBER

12/14/2016.....HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays
12/21/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide III
12/21/2016.....Connection Families: Safe for the Holidays
12/28/2016.....Children's Connection 2016

JANUARY

1/4/2017.....Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions
1/11/2017.....HomeLifeStyle
1/18/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools
1/25/2017.....Community Guide
1/25/2017.....Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment; Valentine's Preview

FEBRUARY

2/1/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
2/1/2017.....Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month
2/8/2017.....HomeLifeStyle
2/8/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
Valentine's Day is February 14
2/15/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

“Adventures With Mr. Bear.”

Through Dec. 17, various times at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. One cozy winter afternoon, a young girl and her favorite stuffed animal, Mr. Bear, play a game of hide and seek which evolves into a series of exciting adventures. Together, they embark on a journey of endless possibilities – all from the comfort of her playroom. Tickets are \$9. Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria’s

“A Christmas Carol.” Through Dec. 17, various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. A return of the classic by Charles Dickens featuring Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug. 703-683-0496 or www.thelittletheatre.com

Convergence: “Various Small

Fires.” Through Dec. 17, gallery hours at Convergence Gallery. 1801 N. Quaker Lane. the Convergence Arts Initiative presents: ‘Various Small Fires,’ a site-specific installation and exhibit by Isabel Cureux. Various Small Fires explores how each small event in our lives creates who we are. Mental illness, divorce, “biraciality,” and religion will be presented in innovative ways to garner a feeling of solidarity with others who have experienced these things, and present a new way to understand them for those who have not. Free to attend. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

“Raising: Motherhood in

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

West Potomac High School Athletic Boosters Christmas Tree Sale.

Through Dec. 24. Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and weeknights from 5-8 p.m. next to Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. 703-360-1048

December Artist Showcase.

Through Dec. 31 at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. The December Artist Showcase features new works from several of gallery artists, including abstracts, landscapes, seascapes, and photography. www.broadwaygallery.net 703-450-8005

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

Master Realist Painter Dennis Crayon Pieces Together the Past. through Jan. 2 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center 105 North Union St., Studio 21. Scraps of old photos

are starting points for his paintings and expands outward, using imagination to fill in the story and objects outside the bounds of the snapshot. Opening reception and meet the artist: Thursday, Dec. 8, 6:30-8 p.m. www.theartleague.org

“Fully Committed” at MetroStage.

Through Jan. 8, various times at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Tom Story plays a restaurant reservationist, juggling phones, personalities and pandemonium with the dexterity of a Cirque du Soleil contortionist. \$55-\$60 703-548-9044 www.metrostage.org

Art Exhibit: Color Disorder.

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

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery:

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

Bagels and Bach Concert Series

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

Art Making as Meditation with

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

New Frontiers in Textile Art

through Jan. 15 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. a new exhibition in Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the, turns an eye toward the future of textile art. Public reception: Thursday, Dec. 8, 6–8 p.m.; Juror’s Talk at 7 p.m.

Mercy in Alexandria Walking

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

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local

History. Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum’s Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors



PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

‘Fully Committed’

Tom Story plays a restaurant reservationist, juggling phones, personalities and pandemonium with the dexterity of a Cirque du Soleil contortionist. “Fully Committed” at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. playing Dec.8-Jan. 8. \$55-\$60. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

are invited to “be the curator” and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum’s collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria’s history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org for more.

Medical Care for the Civil War

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

Alexandria’s Nurses and Hospitals

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

“Ancient Art of Movement.” 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to

strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

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

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

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

Alexandria Cars and Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina’s, 1307 Shenandoah Road.

Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Dishing up Wares for a Holiday

Harvest Spread through Nov. 30 at 105 N. Union St., ground floor Studio 19. Artists riff on an abundance of raw material, creatively cooking up a table fully dressed for the holidays from the centerpiece down to the dishes. For more information, call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit scopegallery.org, or torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope

National Inventors Hall of Fame

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

Dinner for the Washingtons. 12 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Second Thursday Music.

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

The Monday Morning Birdwalk

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

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

Doggy Happy Hour. Starting April 5, Tuesdays through October 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20 and Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Doggy Happy Hour at Jackson 20 and the Hotel Monaco Alexandria offers specials on cocktails and beers plus treats and water for canine companions. Free, but drinks sold separately. Visit www.monaco-alexandria.com for more.

Baseball Boat to Nationals Park.

Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. The Potomac Riverboat Company offers baseball enthusiasts the chance to avoid the crowds and take a leisurely cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Nationals Park along the scenic Potomac River. Admission: one-way \$20; round-trip \$25 Monday-Thursday; round-trip \$28 Friday-Sunday. Visit www.baseballboat.com for more.

Wake Up Wednesdays featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday’s near the King Street Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located near 2000 Duke Street near Motley Fool. The cafe will feature coffee, live music to help commuters start the

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En Español:
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ENTERTAINMENT



Lorrie Morgan's Country Christmas

Lorrie Morgan will be playing Dec. 18 at Birchmere. Doors are at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$45. www.birchmere.com

day off right and donuts from Sugar Shack. maurisapotts@gmail.com

CAMPS, CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

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

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

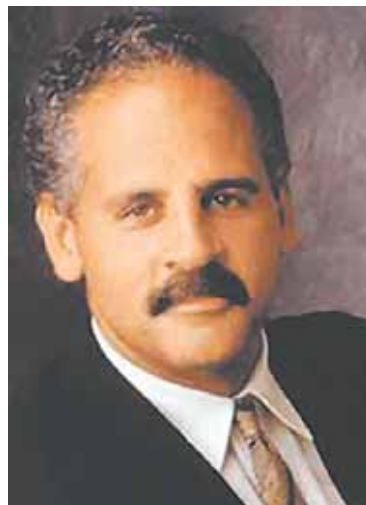
Community Yoga. Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Suite 100. No experience required to participate in weekly community class. Suggested \$10 donation. Visit www.532yoga.com.

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

Holiday Teddy Bear Teas. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. On select weekends, bring a favorite stuffed animal friend to have "tea" with "Lady Washington."



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Stedman Graham will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Black History Month Gala, Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. The 2017 National Black History Month Theme is The Crisis in Black Education. www.vabhma.com

This special experience will also include a hands-on seasonal activity. For ages 4-11, accompanied by an adult. Refreshments provided. \$5 in addition to general admission. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free. 703-799-5203 or www.mountvernon.org.

SATURDAYS THROUGH DEC. 24

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

Merry Membership edition of Business After Hours. 5:30-7 p.m. at Cedar Knoll, 9030 Lucia Lane. Network with other business professionals while celebrating the holidays and ring out the year with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. Holiday refreshments and appetizers provided by Cedar Knoll. \$20 early bird member rate; \$40 non-member rate. sbolouri@alexchamber.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 16-SUNDAY/JAN. 1

WRAP Sober Ride Program. 10 p.m.-6 a.m. each evening as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period. Washington-metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home. (AT&T wireless users can dial #WRAP for the same service.)

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/DEC. 15-16

Country artist Sarah Darling. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Playing with Carbon Leaf, \$35.

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

Registration Opens for Encore Chorale Program. Winter/Spring session of the Encore Chorale at locations in Northern Virginia and



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Musical Comedian

Stephen Lynch performs at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Jan. 11-12, at the The Birchmere 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. \$25. www.birchmere.com

singers of all vocal experience, age 55+, are welcome to join. Rehearsals begin the week of Monday, Jan. 9. \$175 for 15 weekly rehearsals, sheet music, CD of performances. Visit encorecreativity.org, call 301-261-5747 or email info@encorecreativity.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

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

Country-Western Dance. 6:15-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance, couples and singles are welcome. \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. See www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Lorrie Morgan's Country Christmas. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$45.

MONDAY/DEC. 19

Civil War Battlefield Medicine. at Alexandria Library, Duncan Branch, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Civil War Medicine: On Battlefield Medicine: Trauma Care in the Civil War,

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

3 Foodie Events To Remember

BY HOPE NELSON
THE GAZETTE

The ebb and flow of holiday celebrations can make a meal at home seem much too ordinary in comparison. Here are some options to add some flair to your dinner throughout the remainder of the season.

Vermilion, 1120 King St.

The venerable restaurant and bar on King Street offers a midmonth respite on Thursday, Dec. 15, when it hosts a four-course “whiskey and cider dinner” featuring the Virginia Distillery Company and Potter’s Cider. Paired with each dish, the cider and Highland whiskey are bound to pack a punch of flavor.

APPETITE

Vermilion is known for its multicourse meal pairings, and the matchup here shouldn’t disappoint. With offerings such as roast pork shoulder and squash ravioli, the bounty should be hearty to pair with the libations.

Seatings cost \$85 per person and are by reservation only.

Rustico, 827 Slaters Lane

Is it the 10th anniversary of Rustico’s Festivus celebration already? Nothing to do now but celebrate.

The Festivus event returns to Rustico on Dec. 22, and the restaurant has selected 20 beers to get the

festivities started on the right foot. Some of the holiday must-tries: the adventurous 3 Notch’d Biggie S’mores — an Imperial stout with a graham-cracker finish — and the stalwart Great Lakes Christmas Ale, always a holiday go-to. Looking to pair your libations with some food? The kitchen has you covered with some Seinfeld-inspired specials, including but not limited to “Steinbrenner’s Favorite Calzones.”

There’s no cover charge to join the party, and the beers are available by the taste or by the pint.

Blackwall Hitch, 5 Cameron St.

Sticking around town for the holidays? Blackwall Hitch will keep its doors open throughout Christmas Eve — from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. — for those folks looking for a meal away from the homestead’s Yule log.

The restaurant on the waterfront will run its normal menu throughout the day and into the evening, but it’ll also offer a special prix fixe selection in honor of the holiday. Diners can choose from a silky butter-nut squash and fennel soup, Chilean sea bass, an apple-cranberry oat crumble, and more from the three-course menu. Or go with a standard-menu favorite, such as the shrimp and grits, or go straight to dessert with a slice of Smith Island cake.

Reservations for Christmas Eve are recommended; the three-course meal is \$49 per person.

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

CALENDAR

presented by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. This program coincides with the Second Season release of Mercy Street. 703-746-1781.

TUESDAY/DEC. 20

Planetarium Show. 7 p.m. at T.C. Williams Planetarium, Room C-308, 3330 King St. In this child-friendly show, see how the rising and setting positions of the sun, along with its altitude at noon and the length of the day are used to determine the first day of each season, and more.

John Water’s Christmas. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Noted filmmaker spreading yuletide profanity and perverted piety with his critically acclaimed one-man show. www.Birchmere.com

THURSDAY/DEC. 22

Jazz Christmas Service. 7-8 p.m. at 201 South Washington St. Join Aldersgate Methodist Church and the Eric Sabo Quintet featuring Darden Purcell for a Christmas Celebration. 703-765-6555, www.aldersgate.net

FRIDAY/DEC. 23

Holiday Gift Wrapping. Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway and collect donations. www.volunteerallexandria.org/

SATURDAY/DEC. 24

Waterskiing Santa. 1 p.m. at the Waterfront near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Waterskiing Santa and his wakeboarding reindeer, plus flying elves, the Grinch and his friends, Frosty the Snowman and Jack Frost. www.waterskiingsanta.com or 703-746-3301

THURSDAY/DEC. 29

Hank Williams Tribute Show. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. This tribute to the “Hillbilly Shakespeare” is celebrating its 20th anniversary. A different show for the holidays, it features hometown artists saluting Hank Sr.’s songs. www.Birchmere.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 31

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

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 4

Boomerangs Square Dancing Lessons. Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. No partner is needed. Cost is \$30 per four classes for a 12-week series of classes. 571-210-5480.

FRIDAY/JAN. 6

The Cecilian Players, Blessed Sacrament’s Chamber Ensemble. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. The concert is free but contributions to support the concerts are welcome. jmccrary@blessedsacramentcc.org or

703-998-6100 x 103

JAN. 6-29

Simply Abstract” Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Features local area artists’ expressions of abstract art using shape, form, color, and line in 2- and 3-dimensional work. Artists tossed their colors and media in the air to release their inner energy in this display of artwork. Opening Reception: Friday, Jan. 6, 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/JAN. 7

Nowell Sing We. 7-9 p.m. at the St. Mary Catholic Church Lyceum, 313 Duke St. Alkemie Medieval Music Ensemble will present a concert of Medieval and Renaissance vocal music for three sopranos and vielles (medieval fiddles) and instrumental dances in celebration of Epiphany. stover.michael@gmail.com 202-966-7298 www.alkemie.org

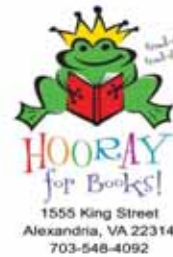
Parade of Plants. 10-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Look at the history of the Rose Parade, see close-up photos of the floats and go on a walk in the gardens to collect plant materials. Afterwards make a wintery decoration from natural materials in the tradition of the floats. \$6 Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakers using code 2901813501 or call 703-642-5173.

Zombie Drama Camp Registration. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the West Potomac Theatre Department, 6500 Quander Road. Open to students 3rd-8th grades. www.westpotomactheatre.org

SUNDAY/JAN. 8

Art Show and Reception. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green

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ENTERTAINMENT

Spring Road, Alexandria. Reception for the Vienna Arts Society show at the Horticulture Center and Historic House from Dec. 20-Feb. 19. Free. 703-642-5173

MONDAY/JAN. 9

Yoga for Gardeners 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. This class features an introduction to the Vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. Register \$91 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 2901262401 or call 703-642-5173

Garden Sprouts: Nature Playgroup 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Preschooler do nature-themed activities while other playgroup parents can meet one Monday a month. \$6 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 2901028701 or call 703-642-5173

JAN. 9-20

Christmas Tree Recycling. Residents who receive city refuse collection may place Christmas trees at the curb for recycling on their regular trash collection day, beginning Monday, Jan. 9, through Friday, Jan. 22. Remove stands, lights, and decorations from trees. See alexandriava.gov/YardWaste.

TUESDAY/JAN. 10

NVCC Community Chorus invitation. Rehearsals start for all interested singers to join for the spring 2017 season. No audition is required. Join by registering for this



one-credit class at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus. Rehearsals are 7 p.m. on Tuesdays at the NVCC Alexandria campus, 3001 N. Beauregard, with some optional extra Saturday morning rehearsals. The college waives tuition for seniors 60 and older. Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, 703-845-6097 mwhitmire@nvcc.edu

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/JAN. 11-12

Musical Comedian Stephen Lynch. 7:30 p.m. at the The Birchmere 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. \$25. www.birchmere.com

JAN. 11-MARCH 1

Jitterbug/Lindy Hop classes. 7-9

First Night Alexandria

This year, the firework show over the river will be a part of the **First Night in Alexandria on Dec. 31** that includes music, arts, entertainment and fireworks on the east part of King St. at 10 p.m. **First Night Alexandria** is one of the largest family-friendly and alcohol-free New Year's Eve parties in the Washington, D.C. region.

PHOTO BY
J. CLIFFORD

p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. In the beginner class, learn the three footwork patterns that are the basis of all forms of swing dancing: six-count, eight-count Lindy Whip and Circle, and Charleston. The intermediate class builds upon the foundation to help develop a vocabulary of dance moves that are easy to use on the social dance floor. www.gottaswing.com



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To the Rescue

Firefighters and Friends collects toys for area children.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

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

"We distributed over 3,000 toys to 80 schools, shelters and nonprofits in Alexandria and Fairfax County," said Capt. Willie Bailey, who founded the toy drive 17 years ago. "Prior to the distribution to school representatives, we escorted and gave toys to local preschool kids."

Bailey, a councilman in the City of Alexandria, said that 550 new coats were also given out to children in need. "In addition to the toys and coats, we gave out over 100 new bikes and 400 books," he said.

Nearly 70 volunteers were on hand to help distribute the toys, including representatives from local police, fire and sheriff's departments. "Many of these kids wouldn't have Christmas if not for this," said Alexandria Police officer Bennie Evans, who has volunteered the last four years. "This is a beautiful thing for the kids and really brings the community together."

Hopkins House CEO Glenn Hopkins accompanied 44 Hopkins House preschoolers as they selected toys and books from the thousands distributed at the annual event. "What Willie Bailey has done is just terrific," Hopkins said. "The parents of these children really appreciate it."

Other volunteers included firefighter Dave Saunders and his son Hunter as Santa and his elf along with Caring Angels Therapy Dogs and their handlers. Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and ACT for Alexandria President John Porter were also on hand as representatives from schools and social service agencies throughout the region selected toys for children in need. Porter has known Bailey since his time as principal at T.C. Williams High School. "I think Santa Claus is running a close second to Willie Bailey," Lawhorne said jokingly before getting serious. "No doubt Willie learned the true meaning of community service by watching men like John Porter. They are the best at helping those in need in this community."



Along with mom Cara Holtmann, 8-year-old Allie helps select toys for Fairfax County Head Start preschoolers.



Fairfax County Police officer Ken Pfeiffer pairs up with 4-year-old Precious to select toys and books during the Dec. 11 Firefighters and Friends annual distribution day at Station 11.



Angela Maxley, left, and 1-year-old Shiatzu Avivii of Caring Angels Therapy Dogs bring a smile to a preschooler during the toy drive distribution.



Fairfax County firefighter Dave Saunders, with his 14-year-old son and chief elf Hunter Saunders, are with a child from the county's Head Start program during the annual Firefighters and Friends toy distribution day Dec. 11 at Station 11.



Members of the Fairfax County Alumni chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority gather Dec. 11 with Capt. Will Bailey (back row), founder of the Firefighters and Friends annual toy drive. The volunteers helped distribute thousands of new toys, books, coats and bikes to children in need throughout the county. They are Ahkiyak Davis, Shirleen Stephens, Debra Vaughn, Elsie Adjete-Doku, chapter president Vicki West, Gwendolyn King and LaShonda Bracey.



Alexandria Deputy City Manager Debra Collins, Hopkins House CEO Glenn Hopkins, ACT for Alexandria president John Porter and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne share some laughs prior to the start of the Firefighters and Friends toy distribution Dec. 11 at Fire Station 11.

Commission Recommendations: 88 Percent Implemented

FROM PAGE 1

of the country.”
A presentation from Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting subcommittee chair Shirley Ginwright, president of the Fairfax County chapter of the NAACP, on Tuesday, Dec. 13, marked the last subcommittee to be heard by the supervisors.

“In some fashion we’ve touched each one of them,” said Public Safety committee chair supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock).

Ginwright gave brief updates on the status of the subcommittee’s 14 recommendations with Fairfax County Police.

“I have to thank them for doing the most critical pieces of our recommendations first,” Ginwright said.

Among those implemented are “collaborate and build recruitment-oriented partnerships” (number 5) and “establish a diversity goal for each commander” (number 10).

Less than half of that subcommittee’s recommendations are still in progress, said Ginwright.

“We realize there is more that needs to be done, but we started,” Ginwright said in a statement. “I applaud the Board of Supervisors for establishing the Ad Hoc Commission, listening to and understanding the cries of the community for changes, and taking some hard hits to get it done. What I have seen is community members, leaders and police department working together.”

Cook acknowledged that a number of the Ad Hoc commission’s recommendations were directed towards the Sheriff’s Office and Commonwealth’s Attorney, who don’t report directly to the Board of Supervisors.

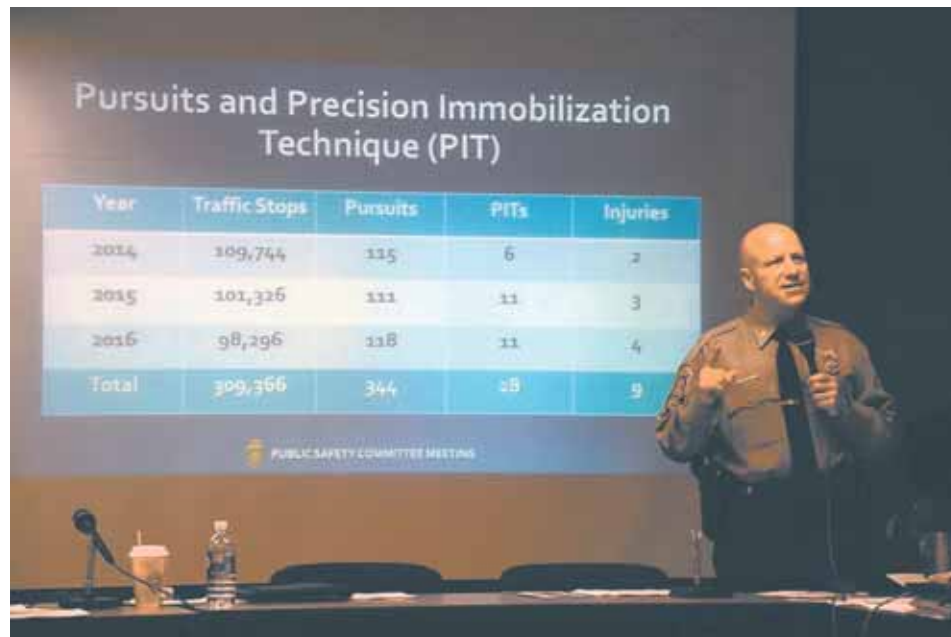


PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin Roessler presents an update to the Public Safety Committee on the Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) still allowed to be implemented by FCPD.

But, Cook said, the board is reaching out to them regarding those recommendations and inviting them to present and field questions related to the recommendations at the Public Safety Committee Meeting in March, 2017.

Among those recommendations still under review, a number relate to body cameras.

CHIEF EDWIN ROESSLER said the cost for cameras has been coming down as the number of vendors in the market increases.

Roessler cautioned the board to learn

from the mistakes of other jurisdictions around the United States that have hastily implemented body camera programs without properly budgeting or planning to manage them.

Cook said the Jan. 31, 2017 Public Safety Committee meeting has already been reserved for a deeper discussion of body cameras.

A progress report of where different recommendations from the Ad Hoc Commission are in the process of implementation is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/progressreport.htm. A copy of the commission’s final report to the board of supervisors is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/pdf/adhoc-final-10.8.15.pdf.

Status of Ad Hoc Commission Recommendations

Fairfax County released these totals, as of Dec. 12, 2016:

119 (58.9 percent) Recommendations are Implemented or Implemented as Modified

- ❖ 39 Communications
- ❖ 54 Use of Force
- ❖ 10 Diversity, Recruitment and Vetting
- ❖ 8 Mental Health and CIT
- ❖ 8 Independent Oversight and Investigations

59 (29.2 percent) Recommendations are In Progress (Recommendation accepted and in the implementation process)

- ❖ 11 Communications
- ❖ 3 Use of Force
- ❖ 4 Diversity, Recruitment and Vetting
- ❖ 13 Mental Health and CIT
- ❖ 28 Independent Oversight and Investigations

16 (7.9 percent) Recommendations are Under Review (Recommendation needs more review or approval by the Board of Supervisors before the implementation process can begin)

- ❖ 1 Communications
- ❖ 7 Use of Force
- ❖ 0 Diversity, Recruitment and Vetting
- ❖ 5 Mental Health and CIT
- ❖ 3 Independent Oversight and Investigations

8 (4 percent) Recommendations are Not Implemented

- ❖ 1 Communications
- ❖ 4 Use of Force
- ❖ 0 Diversity, Recruitment and Vetting
- ❖ 0 Mental Health and CIT
- ❖ 3 Independent Oversight and Investigations

Supply Replenished for St. Aidan’s Christmas Tree Sale

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

After nearly selling out the previous weekend, St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church received a fresh shipment of Christmas trees on Dec. 9.

Member Ted Boling said sales are going stronger than any previous year, “so we have taken a leap of faith and bought more trees from North Carolina.”

Funds raised from the sale support the church’s outreach, other church activities and schools in the neighborhood.

St. Aidan’s Christmas tree sale is located at 8531 Riverside Road in Alexandria. Hours are 4-6 p.m. this week and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. this weekend.

— TIM PETERSON



After nearly selling out the previous weekend, St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church received a fresh shipment of Christmas trees on Dec. 9.



St. Aidan’s members (from left) Mario and Eric Constantino unload Christmas trees shipped from North Carolina.



The Rev. John Baker (left) of St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church helps unload a fresh shipment of Christmas trees from North Carolina.

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

AR Workshop Alexandria, LLC trading as AR Workshop Alexandria, 107 N. Fairfax St. Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Art Instruction Studio license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Katie Wells Owner
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Great Patriot Richard Cauthers Funeral Service Sat Morning 11 AM December 17 at Bethany Lutheran Church, 2501 Beacon Hill Rd. Alexandria, VA 22306."

21 Announcements

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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.

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ABANDONED WATERCRAFT

Notice is hereby given that the following watercraft has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of Frank Smith, 807 South Alfred Street, Apt #4, VA 22314, Telephone number 202 5695761.

Description of the watercraft:

Make: Wellcraft, length: 19 feet, year built: 1988, color: blue and white, boat registration: VA 1134 XX, hull identification number: WELT 4187B888

Application for Watercraft Registration / Title will be made in accordance with Section 29.1-733.25 of the Code of Virginia if this watercraft is not claimed and removed within 30 days of first publication of this notice. Please contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with questions.

21 Announcements

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-12-01

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Professional Development for Teachers of Immigrant Youth.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-12-01 Professional Development for Teachers of Immigrant Youth will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, January 10, 2017. 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 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions answered will be posted as an addendum 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.

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
ACPS Senior Buyer

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OBITUARY

DELNEGRO

CAROL M. DELNEGRO

1939-2016

A longtime resident of Alexandria, VA, passed away on December 7, 2016, at her home after a brief illness.

Carol was a beautiful woman, to say the least...a bright, shining beacon of love, warmth, and friendship to all who knew her. She was a wonderful and amazingly strong and loving mother and wife, an adoring, caring, and giving grandmother, and a selfless and loyal friend. Those who knew her will never forget her. Her love encompassed all and her larger-than-life presence had no bounds. She will be missed by her family and many friends.

Carol is survived by her husband Mike Delnegro, daughter Lisa, son John and his wife Lisa, grandsons Jack and Ben, and grandpuppy Dixie.

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21 Announcements

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-10-12

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for World Languages Textbooks for ACPs Schools.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-10-12 World Languages Text Book will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, January 6, 2017. 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 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions answered will be posted as an addendum 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.

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ACPS Senior Buyer

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kiddiecountryschool@aol.com
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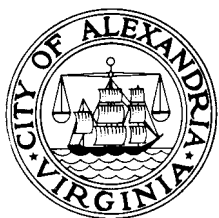
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Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, December 17, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Title 10 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), Chapter 1 (GENERAL PROVISIONS), Section 10-1-15.1 (TRUCK TRAFFIC; PROHIBITED ON CERTAIN STREETS; PENALTY) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended by adding language to prohibit truck traffic on West Linden Road between Commonwealth Avenue and Russell Road.

The proposed ordinance adds the section of West Linden Street between Commonwealth Avenue and Russell Road to the list of roads not accessible by thru trucks.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 10-3-924 (FAILURE TO YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO PEDESTRIANS IN SPECIFICALLY MARKED CROSSWALK) of Article B (RECKLESS DRIVING, SPEEDING, ETC.) of Chapter 3 (OPERATION OF VEHICLES) of Title 10 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance clarifies the language of the City Code by incorporating by reference provisions of Section 45.2-924 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended), previously cited in City Code Section 10-3-924, regarding pedestrian in the right-of-way.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owners of the property located at 505 S. Lee Street to construct and maintain an encroachment into the public sidewalk right-of-way at that location for a stoop consisting of stairs and a landing.

The proposed ordinance permits an encroachment for a stoop consisting of stairs and a landing to be located in the sidewalk right-of-way at 505 S. Lee Street as a replacement of the building's existing front stoop.

PUBLIC HEARING on the Arts and Culture Master Plan.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday.
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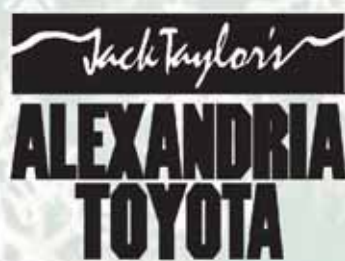
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