



"I always remind kids the same thing," said Santa. "Treat others like you want to be treated; do what mom and dad say; play nice, share and be polite." Santa is with Luca, 8, and Matthew, 10, Leonardo.



"Kids' requests are universal," said Santa. "I hear requests for dolls, puppies, a baby sister or brother." Santa is with Kayla Scorce, 5 years old.

Deck the Halls

Children gather for Campagna Center's annual tradition.

BY RIKKI GEORGE
GAZETTE PACKET

The Campagna Center's version of Deck the Halls is more than a spirited holiday song. It is a 46-year-old classic tradition supported by many Alexandrians, friends and family, and neighborhood newcomers.

In fact, Deck the Halls is the grand finale of five December events regarded as the Scottish Walk Weekend. With the exception of the Scottish Christmas Walk Parade, famous for its marching units of Scottish clans and bagpipes, the other four events raise funds through ticket sales, donations and raffles to support the Campagna Center, according to Casey Kincheloe, creative director of Pivot Point Communications.

The lineup, which has helped raise \$200,000 in the past, includes Heather and Green where holiday wreaths and garlands are available for sale. The Taste of Scotland features ale sampling and a

SEE CHILDREN, PAGE 20

T.C. Williams Key Club members at Deck the Halls: Top from left are Nercy Paz, Emily Rodriguez, Roxana Ramirez and Ekua Biney; bottom from left are Sidrah Hamid, Cindy Do, and Maimona Maham.



PHOTOS BY
RIKKI GEORGE
GAZETTE PACKET

From Ground Up

Andrew Adkins housing set for redevelopment.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

A few blocks away from where the Ramsey Homes are set to be redeveloped, the Alexandria Redevelopment And Housing Authority (ARHA) has set its eyes on the redevelopment of another neighborhood.

The Andrew Adkins will be the first of five ARHA properties to undergo redevelopment into mixed-income communities. Following Andrew Adkins, the Samuel Madden, Cameron Valley, Hopkins-Tancil and former ARHA administrative building will un-

dergo redevelopment.

Adkins sits a block away from the Braddock Metro Station. Ninety affordable rental units comprise the two city blocks in Braddock neighborhood. On Dec. 18, ARHA launched the Adkins Redevelopment with a public meeting at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. As part of the announcement, Roy Priest, CEO of ARHA, said they are looking for community feedback on what a redeveloped Adkins project should look like.

Connie Staudinger, chief operating officer of ARHA, said the concept for the project will be developed throughout 2017. Staudinger said no information on the development's budget or timeline will be available until a concept for the project is formed.

SEE REDEVELOPMENT,
PAGE 20

Carpenter Shelter Project Approved

At its Dec. 17, the City Council approved the final plans for the newly redeveloped Carpenter Shelter in North Old Town. The council approved a development special use permit and site plan for a multi-family residential building and homeless shelter. The project, developed by the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation (AHDC), will tear down the existing homeless shelter and replace it with a seven-story building that includes a new homeless shelter and 98 units of affordable housing. The city also granted increased density for the site and a loan to AHDC for up to \$7,100,000 for development of the affordable units.

"It's important to show up when things go right," said Judy Noritake, president of the Braddock Metro Citizen's Coalition. "This is a project that has gone right. We're thrilled that the development proposed fits well into the neighborhood. This is a use that we welcome. Carpenter Shelter has been a neighbor of ours for a long time. This is exactly where it should be. People of lesser means need to be where transportation and density exists. This is a perfect place for folks like this to live, work, and be a part of our community. I can't think of a better place in the city for this."

— VERNON MILES

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A Collaborative Future for Arts in Alexandria

City approves Arts and Culture Master Plan.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Torpedo Factory artists turned out in force to the City Council meeting on Dec. 17 in a show of support for the artists' institution. In October, the Torpedo Factory was taken over by the city government and its leadership was temporarily assigned to the Office of the Arts. For many at the Torpedo Factory, the future of the beloved but financially troubled institution is in jeopardy.

At a Tuesday City Council meeting, discussion of the city's Arts and Culture Master Plan revolved mostly around one paragraph that touched on the Office of the Arts' expanded role following the temporary acquisition of the Torpedo Factory. At that meeting, Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper and Mayor Allison Silberberg had expressed concerns that including the line could lead to concerns that the change was permanent. The discussion was tabled until Saturday's meeting.

At Saturday's City Council meeting, the topic of the Torpedo Factory came up again as part of the Master Plan discussion, but there was no opposition in the public comment and the disagreement on the dais seemed to have fizzled out. During the final approval of the plan, the City Council and members of the public expressed support for the plan.

"It's a flexible framework in which to ex-



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Torpedo Factory artists rally at the Dec. 17 City Council meeting.

pand arts and cultural offerings," said Susan Amber Gordon, a member of Alexandria's Commission for the Arts. "This will pave the way for new collaborations as well as collaborations with city government."

"With this plan informing our decisions and actions we can focus on youth development and neighborhood development [within the arts]," said Kate Elkins, also a member of the Commission for the Arts.

The Arts and Culture Master Plan establishes five goals: achieve equity, inclusion and access for artistic and cultural endeavors, facilitate opportunities for innovation

and collaboration, support and foster a sustainable and diverse community of the arts, convey and facilitate artistic and cultural expression, and raise community awareness of the Office of the Arts. As part of The Arts and Culture Master Plan's implementation, The Office of the Arts and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts will develop annual work plans and establish task forces to work towards yearly goals.

Some had expressed concerns that the plan did not do enough to incorporate the city's historical resources or the local business community. However, each speaker supported the plan in general. Pepper noted

as she was looking through the plan she was unsure how the city would meet the sweeping goals of the plan until she saw that it would include employing new staff members to the Office of the Arts, which will be dependent on the upcoming budgets. The plan also calls for additional full-time employees when financially feasible to increase programming capacity and community engagement. Specifically, the plan identifies the need for a full-time public art manager and a full-time administrative assistant under the Office of the Arts.

The City Council voted unanimous approval of the plan, with Pepper adding a note in the minutes that the plan does not imply or address any council decision of the future governance of the Torpedo Factory.

Torpedo Factory artists in attendance said they weren't concerned about the paragraph referencing the Office of the Arts' temporary leadership of the center, but said they were concerned about the decisions for the Torpedo Factory that would come up over the next year.

"I'm not concerned about that line," said Torpedo Factory artist Greenway Richard. "But I am concerned about what's happening in 2017 and they said they haven't even gotten to that."

"There was slight concern on that, but moreso there was concern that the implementation didn't address the authority of the increased Office of the Arts and how that's related to management and direction versus support," said Abby McClain, director of the Artists Association. "The city should support and empower artists. We're not for or against the plan, we'll have to wait. It's very broad. We want to hear more before we officially support it."

A Very Special Christmas

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Santa Claus and his chief elf were on hand Dec. 15 as the Old Dominion Boat Club hosted its annual Christmas party for special education children from across the city.

More than 100 students with autism, intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities attended the event, which has been held at the club for more than 30 years.

"The Old Dominion Boat Club is so generous every year," said James K. Polk special education teacher Lauren Scorse. "They make our students so happy by putting on a luncheon and having Santa get off the boat and give them presents."

ODBC member Ralph Wallace as Santa was joined by fellow member Lucy Godden, who handled chief elf duties in handing out gifts to children from nine elementary schools in Alexandria.



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN BELL

Santa Claus (Ralph Wallace) hands out gifts at a Christmas party hosted by the Old Dominion Boat Club Dec. 15 for children with special needs. More than 100 children from across the city attended the annual event.

"I love the boat club," said 2nd grade student Ali Ali, who attends James K. Polk Elementary.

ODBC hosts party for city children.



Santa Claus and his chief elf (Ralph Wallace and Lucy Godden) arrive at the Old Dominion Boat Club Dec. 15 for the annual ODBC Christmas party for families and children with special needs.

ODBC Board of Governors member Dee Beresford has organized the event for several years.

"The Boat Club has had the pleasure of

hosting the Children with Special Needs Christmas Party for over 30 years," Beresford said. "The smiles and hugs from the children make our hearts full."

Winners Named in Holiday Door Decorating Contest



1st place – 206 N. Columbus St.

The Old Town Walled Garden Club announced the winners of the 49th annual Alexandria Holiday Door Decorating Contest in the Old and Historic District. This year's winners are: 1st place – 206 N. Columbus Street; 2nd place – 321 S. St. Asaph Street; and 3rd place – 313 N. Royal Street. The judges gave honorable mention awards to the homes at 114 Prince St., 213 S. Royal Street and 414 S. Royal Street, as well as the homes at 212 S.

Lee St. and 323 N. Royal St. that were winners last year and therefore ineligible for award this year.

The first place winner at 206 N. Columbus Street was distinguished by a double basket design filled with bright red berries, ivy and greens. The theme was carried to the window box with greens, berries and matching bow.

The Williamsburg-inspired door decorations at 321 S. St. Asaph Street featured brightly colored fruits including clementines on the wreath on the garden gate, a fir wreath with bright red apples to match the home's red door pineapples and stacked green apples on the transom above the door.

In third place, the window box at 313 N. Royal was attractive with its greens, grasses, red berries and pinecones. A boxwood and pine wreath on the door with simple pinecone, berry and pheasant feather adornments completed the ensemble.

— CATHERINE COTELL



2nd place – 321 S. St. Asaph St.



3rd place – 313 N. Royal St.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Honorable mention – 212 S. Lee St.



Honorable mention - 414 S. Royal St.



Honorable mention - 114 Prince St.



Honorable mention – 323 N. Royal St.



Honorable mention – 213 S. Royal St.

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.

DEC. 23-26

Schedule of Services for the 2016 Holidays

All City of Alexandria government offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, for the holidays.

❖ **Resource Recovery:** Residential trash and recycling collections will be delayed by one day during the week of Dec. 26.

❖ **Animal Shelter:** The Vola Lawson Animal Shelter will close at 2 p.m. on Dec. 24, and remain closed until noon on Dec. 26.

❖ **Health Facilities:** The Alexandria Health Department (4480 King St.) and the Flora Krause Casey Health Center (1200 N. Howard St.) will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26. The Teen Wellness Center (3330 King St.) will also be

closed on Dec. 23 and 26.

❖ **Historic Alexandria:** All Historic Alexandria museums and other facilities including the Historic Alexandria Gift Shop at the Hilton will be closed on December 25. The Fort Ward Museum and the Alexandria Black History museum will be closed from Dec. 23 through Dec. 26. All other museums will revert to normal winter hours on

Monday, Dec. 26.

❖ **Hotlines:** All emergency hotlines operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, including the child protective services hotline at 703.746.5800; the domestic violence hotline at 703-746-4911; the emergency services for mental health or substance abuse crisis hotline at 703-746-3401; the adult protective services hotline at 1.888.832.3858, and the sexual

assault hotline at 703-683-7273.

❖ **Libraries:** All Alexandria Library branches will be closed Dec. 23 through Dec. 26.

❖ **Parking:** The Alexandria Police Department will suspend enforcement of parking restrictions at metered spaces, residential permit parking districts and other areas with

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

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PEOPLE

Bondareff Expands Pediatric Practice

Fifty-three years brings many changes.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Four-month-old Quinn Doren wiggles her toes and squirms on the table in the nursing area at Pediatric Associates of Alexandria. The nurse measures her at 24-1/2 inches, and her father declares, "I'm getting bigger." Onto the scale and still smiling, Quinn weighs 13.5 pounds.

Pediatric Associates has been open barely a week in its new location at Potomac Yard. Dr. Erwin Bondareff, one of the two original doctors who joined Dr. Robert Bregman in 1963, said the recent expansion resulted because they could see a lot of patients coming to their Alexandria location on Walker Street from Arlington, and also the new location is just a mile away from Del Ray. Today they have 11 doctors, 11 nurse

PEOPLE AT WORK

practitioners and a couple of TAs between the two offices. Bondareff, who is 86-years old and has been practicing for 53 years, says he remembers when there was nothing in the Del Ray area where he grew up. "I remember seeing National Airport built."

He has seen his practice change over the years. "For one thing you have to take away their electronics; even 2-3 year olds have them. And now with Obamacare and young adults on their parents' insurance, a pediatrician can cover through age 26."

In addition, he sees a number of patients whose parents refuse vaccines or who want to spread them out. He said they still see these patients because they can be in contact with the parent and can assure stability for the child. He said, "Without vaccines we have seen reemergence of some diseases such as whooping cough and measles." Quinn's mother adds that she got pertussis in her first year in college just after her vaccine had worn off, "and it was terrible."

The demographics of Bondareff's patients have changed as well. Bondareff says the practice used to be community-based with a lot of railroad workers at Potomac Yard and white-collar government workers. After World War II he started to see people from all over the country. "Now we have a large number of Hispanics, Middle Easterners, West Africans, Ethiopians, Pakistanis."

He added, "A lot of the foreign patients are more

Dr. Erwin Bondareff has just expanded Pediatric Associates of Alexandria from his Walker Street Office in Alexandria to Potomac Yard. Bondareff has been practicing for 53 years.



demanding. They over coddle and over indulge their children."

"We used to make house calls three times a day in the early '70s. Now the office hours are 6 a.m.-8 p.m. to accommodate working families. Today a working mother came in at 6 a.m. for a regular well-baby checkup and then headed to drop her child off at day care." Outside the exam room you can hear a weak cry, a deep breath and a continued complaint. A parent can be heard to say, "It's OK, buddy."

It's Quinn's turn to move from the nursing station to exam room 5. "Peeing and pooping OK? Still breast feeding? Have you started the vitamin D drops?" Bondareff said, "While she is quiet, let's turn off the lights and look at her eyes."

So far Quinn seems to be enjoying her visit to the doctor. Bondareff moves to listen to her heart. "The heart rate can be over 110 at this age," he explains. Next he rolls Quinn over on her stomach, and she begins to complain. Her mother interjects that Quinn's newest trick is to roll over so she wants to do it herself.

Her mother asks about sleep. Bondareff said, "The top two things I recommend are to establish a good sleep program and read to your child." He said, "You would be surprised how often I see a bad sleep pattern, kids still sleeping with their parents." Her mother says Quinn sleeps at night but naps are touch and go. "She is afraid of missing out." Bondareff recommends putting her in a dark room. "She will find her own pattern."

Today Quinn will get her DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus) vaccination. "If her leg swells a little, you can wrap up an ice cube and put it on for a little while. If she has a fever under 100, don't do anything. If it is over 100 she can have Tylenol."

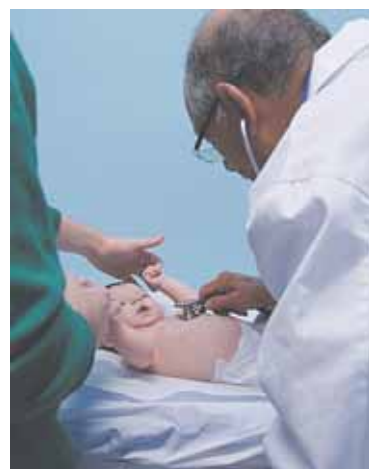
"Now," Bondareff said, "the worst part is coming, but we let the nurses do that."



Four-month-old Quinn Doren is about to begin her check up at Pediatric Associates of Alexandria with a check on her weight and her length. Her mother says they live in Del Ray and were very excited the office was opening close to where they live.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET



Dr. Erwin Bondareff checks Quinn Doren's heart rate as part of her regular four-month check up at Pediatric Associates of Alexandria.



Officer Camero, played by private investigator Fellman Cabero, confronts Sam Dworkin, playing a frustrated motorist. The video dramatization portrayed the facts of the mock jury exercise for Berlin law students and professors.

Local Legal Team Teaches German Students

BY HARRY M. COVERT
GAZETTE PACKET

A globetrotting legal team from Alexandria continues to lecture on American jurisprudence.

The latest adventure was at Germany's Humboldt University in Berlin.

Some 50 students and professors attended the five-day series that began Nov. 8, the historic election in the U.S.

This was the seventh international lecture tour since 2012 for the veteran practitioners of law in Northern Virginia.

The team included Alexandria's Joni Robin, an experienced public defender now in private practice; Cary Citronberg; defense attorney Chris Leibig; and investigator Sam Dworkin.

Dworkin is known for his expertise in psychology, law, mental illnesses and neuropsychology.

Part of the Humboldt exercise was to conduct a mock jury with German law students and professors.

The Old Town lecturers used a video dramatization. Dworkin played the role of a motorist

charged with assaulting a police officer at a traffic stop.

The officer, portrayed by ex-Alexandria public defender investigator Fellman Cabero verbally abused Dworkin. In turn the latter balled up the traffic summons and threw it at the officer's chest.

Citronberg presided as judge, Leibig as prosecutor and Robin, defense attorney.

The German law students deliberated two and a half hours as the jury, after several hours, and found Dworkin not guilty of assaulting the police officer.

The Alexandria's team learned a lot, too.

Leibig confirmed, the jury sided with the motorist. "The overwhelming opinion [of the Humboldt students] was that America criminal justice is way too harsh." It was also noted "barely anyone mentioned the U.S. Election at all even though [Donald] Trump had been elected barely 24 hours before."

The legal lecturers expect to teach in Sofia, Bulgaria next fall.

They've been invited for another series for Humboldt law students also in 2017.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Anna Balfour, Loren Gant and Lauren Schild, all of Alexandria, were named to James Madison University's president's list for the spring 2016 semester. Balfour is majoring in interdisciplinary liberal studies. Gant is majoring in nursing. Schild is majoring in media arts and design.

Jodi Biermann, of Alexandria, was inducted to Brenau University's (Gainesville, Ga.) Delta Mu Delta Inter-

national Honor Society in Business Administration. Biermann is a graduate student majoring in Human Resource Management.

Tanner Beck and Anton Kheirani, both of Alexandria, were named to spring 2016 dean's list at Hampden-Sydney College (Hampden-Sydney, Va.). Beck is the son of Brian Beck of Boise, Idaho and Mrs. LeDawn and Jeff Kissler of Alexandria. Kheirani is the son of Mrs. Anastasia G. Albritton of Alexandria.

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 8

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PEOPLE



Sheriff's deputies, who are the court supervisors, congratulate Clerk of Courts Marion Jackson. From left are Sgt. Larry Richardson, Capt. Shelbert Williams, Lt. Melissa Josiah, and Sgt. Debra Hall.

Clerk of Courts: Voice of Reason

BY HARRY M. COVERT
AND VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

After 16 years as a deputy, Marion Jackson is officially Clerk of Courts in Alexandria General District Court.

During ceremonies on the second floor of the Backus Courthouse, she was sworn in by Chief Judge Becky J. Moore at noon, Tuesday, Dec. 13 surrounded by other judicial and courthouse officials.

Judge Donald Haddock Jr. of the General District Court also participated.

Jackson joined the clerk's office in 2000 after a distinguished military career.

"She possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience, and she believes in public service. We are pleased and fortunate to have her as our clerk of court," Moore said.

On hand for the swearing in were retired Chief Judge Robert Giammittorio, retired Judge Robert T. S. Colby and longtime circuit court clerk Edward Semonian.

Joining in the festivities were members of the court supervisors

from the city's sheriff's office. They provide security for each of the courts — two each general district and juvenile and domestic relations and three circuit.

The security team included Capt. Shelbert Williams, Lt. Melissa Josiah, and Sgt. Debra Hall and Sgt. Larry Richardson.

While Jackson received accolades from Moore and Haddock she pledged: "To the judges, I won't let you down. I want to promise the public, to local and state agencies [and law enforcement]... I will do everything in my power to make this office efficient, safe, and accommodating for you."

Moore said, "She's smart and knows the court inside and out. She's a voice of reason in a court desperate for it with tens of thousands of cases each year. We're very pleased to have her serve as our Clerk of Courts."

Haddock added: "[Marion] is the best person you could have for the job."

She is the first African American to hold this position in Alexandria.

Jackson succeeds JeAnne Rosson who retired after 30 years service. The new clerk resides in Woodbridge.

Correction

In the Dec. 15 edition of the Gazette Packet, the article "Keeping the Spirit Alive" incorrectly stated that Maj. Craig Moon died in his sleep. He died at a local hospital.

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PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

New Sheriff's Deputies Sworn In

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office recently welcomed seven new deputies to its ranks. Kelly Allen, Joshua Barnes, Michael Boyd, Lamar Gayle, Sean Scalsky, Sahar Sherzai-Harding and Jirawat Tantiyangkul were sworn in during a ceremony at the Alexandria courthouse on Monday, Dec. 5. Clerk of Court Edward Semonian administered the oath of office to the recruits and then Sheriff Dana Lawhorne invited their family members and friends to join him in presenting them with their badges.



PHOTO BY JANE HESS COLLINS

Playing Secret Santa

The residents and associates of four local AvalonBay Communities, Inc. apartment buildings volunteered to play Secret Santa for children enrolled in Community Lodgings' after school program. Here, John Hassell (left) and Angelique Hunter (right), community consultants for Avalon Potomac Yard, read 150 children's letters to Santa while Todd Geiwitz (right), senior community manager, holds gifts that the residents have purchased.

ASO Names Executive Director Frank to lead search for Kluge successor.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Paul A. Frank, founding principal of Paul A. Frank Consulting, has been named the new executive director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. He replaces Jessica Wissner, who held the position since 2012.

Frank has experience in strategic planning and fundraising, with strengths in community building and arts management. Prior to establishing his consulting service, he served as CEO of the Collingwood Library and Museum as well as executive director for the Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Most recently he was the interim executive director for the McLean Orchestra. "Serving as the executive director for the ASO provides a unique opportunity to participate in the profound activity of searching for and bringing on a new music director, inject new energy and experience to the position and work with a dedicated board of trustees that is growing and developing," said Frank, who is also



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Paul Frank

an accomplished musician.

Frank is active in community groups and leadership and participates in the chambers of commerce for Alexandria, Greater McLean, Fairfax County and Mount Vernon-Lee. He is also active in the Alexandria Rotary Club and Alexandria Arts Forum and other groups in leadership positions. The ASO is currently in its second year in search of a new music director and conductor, following the departure of Kim Allen Kluge. Kluge was at the helm of the ASO for 28 years. The current 73rd season for ASO is underway featuring guest conductors presented at two Alexandria venues: Schlesinger Concert Hall and the George Washington Masonic Memorial. "My goal is to make an impact," Frank added. "It will also be satisfying to work and serve the community in which I live." For more information, visit www.alexsym.org.

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 6

Nebal Maysaud, of Alexandria, received the James Ming Prize in Composition for outstanding achievement at Lawrence University (Appleton, Wis.). Maysaud is the son of Anwar and Rajaa Maysaud.

Heather Evans and **Nandi Onetu**, of Alexandria, have graduated from Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, Va.). Evans received a B.A. in music. Onetu received a B.A. in peacebuilding and development.

Soraya Farage, of Alexandria, was initiated into the honor society Phi Kappa Phi at George Mason University (Fairfax, Va.).

Mohammad Khalil, of Alexandria, was named to the Davenport University (Grand Rapids, Mich.) dean's list for the fall 2015 semester.

Sophia Hattery, **Emma Holt**, and **Joseph Kale**, all of Alexandria, were named to spring 2016 dean's list at Bucknell University (Lewisburg, Pa.).

Troy Isley with teammate and Olympic Silver Medalist Shakur Stevenson.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Isley Ranked #1 in U.S.

After five back-to-back days of competition in Kansas City, Mo., T.C. Williams High School senior and Alexandria native Troy Isley emerged victorious at the U.S.A. Boxing National Championship on Saturday, Dec. 10, and was crowned the #1 National Champion in the 165-pound weight class. The tournament served as a qualifier for the U.S. National team, which Isley will now join, representing Team USA in upcoming international competitions.

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

signed parking time limits, on Dec. 24 through Dec. 26. This suspension of enforcement applies only to the restrictions at legal parking spaces, and does not permit parking in any location normally prohibited (for example, no parking zones, loading zones, or spaces for persons with disabilities).

❖ **Recreation Centers:** On Dec. 23 and 26, the Chinquapin Park Recreation center will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Charles Houston Recreation Center will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and all other centers will be closed. All recreation centers will be closed on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25.

❖ **Schools:** The Alexandria City Public Schools will be closed from Dec. 21 through Jan. 2.

❖ **State Offices:** The Circuit Court, General District Court, and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court at 520 King Street will close at noon on Dec. 22 and remain closed through Dec. 26. The Department of Motor Vehicles Office at 2681 Mill Road will be closed Dec. 23 through Dec. 26.

❖ **Transit:** Alexandria Transit Company's DASH bus service will operate on Dec. 24 until 7 p.m. There will be no DASH service on Dec. 25. On Dec. 26, DASH will operate on a Sunday schedule. The free King Street Trolley will run during its regular operating hours, every 15 minutes, between the King Street Metro Station to the Waterfront, from 10 a.m. to midnight on Dec. 23 and 24, and 10 a.m. to 10:15 p.m. on Dec. 25 and 26. For more information visit www.dashbus.com



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Toyland

Members of the Psi Nu chapter of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity deliver toys to the main branch of Burke & Herbert Bank Dec. 16 on behalf of the 26th Community Toy Drive implemented by Volunteer Alexandria, the Department of Community and Human Services and COPS (Community Oriented Policing Section). The fraternity contributed toys collected at a recent holiday party to Burke & Herbert Bank. Pictured from left are: Burke & Herbert main office branch manager Anne Marie Moore, Markus Gaines, Basileus for Psi Nu Chapter of the fraternity, and fraternity members LCD Brian Anthony, Roger Hicks and Walter Clarke, vice president of Business Banking for Burke & Herbert Bank.

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NIGHTLY MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATIONS

OPINION

Having Fun While Reading Together

BY REBECCA SKLEPOVICH

From Student, Martin

Becky and I go to the library each week, pick out books, read together and have fun. Some series of fiction books we have read are "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," "Flat Stanley," "I Survived" and "Captain Underpants." We have also read non-fiction books — "The Guinness Book of World Records" and books about mysteries like the Bermuda Triangle and UFOs. We've even read graphic novels like "Baby Mouse." By reading together, I've learned lots of new vocabulary and grown my knowledge. We've also done lots of fun activities — we did nature walks and art projects with Wright to Read, we finished scavenger hunts at the library and we went to the library book sale and picked out books to take home.

From Mentor, Becky

Martin has been a delight to work with over the past year and a half. During our weekly

trips to the library, I have seen him tackle a wider variety of books (non-fiction science, longer chapter books) with greater confidence. Martin's reading has become far more expressive and enthusiastic, as he adds life to the stories he reads aloud. I've also watched his vocabulary, comprehension and analysis of text accelerate over the past year.

Martin's family is extremely supportive of his literacy growth and they frequently take him on trips to the library and encourage his reading. At the end of last school year, Martin even won an award at Samuel Tucker Elementary for Most Growth in 4th grade. I'm proud to see all that he has accomplished and I look forward to seeing how much he grows in the future.

Additionally, Wright to Read has also been an amazing organization to volunteer for — there are frequent opportunities to connect with other volunteers, and learn and share best practices around literacy instruction. Wright to Read also hosts a variety of activities for students such as sports games, dinners, scavenger hunts and art projects.



Rebecca Sklepovich and Martin.

Wright to Read provides volunteer-based one-on-one sustained literacy tutoring and mentoring relationships to City of Alexandria elementary school children in need, and collaborates with families, schools and community partners to create a comprehensive support network that guides each child to success. Wright to Read is a member of the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP). AMP was created in 2006 to ensure that quality mentors and mentor programs are available for Alexandria's youth and young adults in need. To learn more about Wright to Read, visit www.wrighttoread.org or to learn more about AMP, visit <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Encourage Visitors

To the Editor:

Instead of spending its energy figuring out how to attract shoppers from the new MGM casino, the city should expend more effort considering how to keep people coming to what is perhaps its big-

gest annual attraction, the Scottish Walk.

This year's walk on Dec. 3 was flawed by a miserable lack of adequate parking, an old problem that is getting steadily worse. We always give a reception for friends from outside of Alexandria, urging them to use Metro and trolley if possible, and suggesting that they arrive early and seek parking

at the south end of Old Town. In the past this has worked, especially for those who don't mind long walking.

This year it did not work. Some of our guests, aware of this problem, just didn't come. To our acute embarrassment one couple parked in desperation in a no-parking area off Union Street, all the nearby garages being full. Their car was

not in front of a fire hydrant or otherwise in an area where a real problem might have resulted, but they got ticketed anyway.

I have a few suggestions:

- ❖ Explore allowing city garages to accept advance bookings from senior citizens;

- ❖ Identify parking at Jones Point and vicinity and operate shuttle buses to serve them;

- ❖ Do not schedule the Parade of Boats on the evening of the Walk (that was a big part of the problem);

- ❖ Allow temporary parking in "no parking" areas (and mark them accordingly) where this can be done safely. Advise the police to go as easy as possible on ticketing.

If none of the above works, consider praying for authentic Scottish weather.

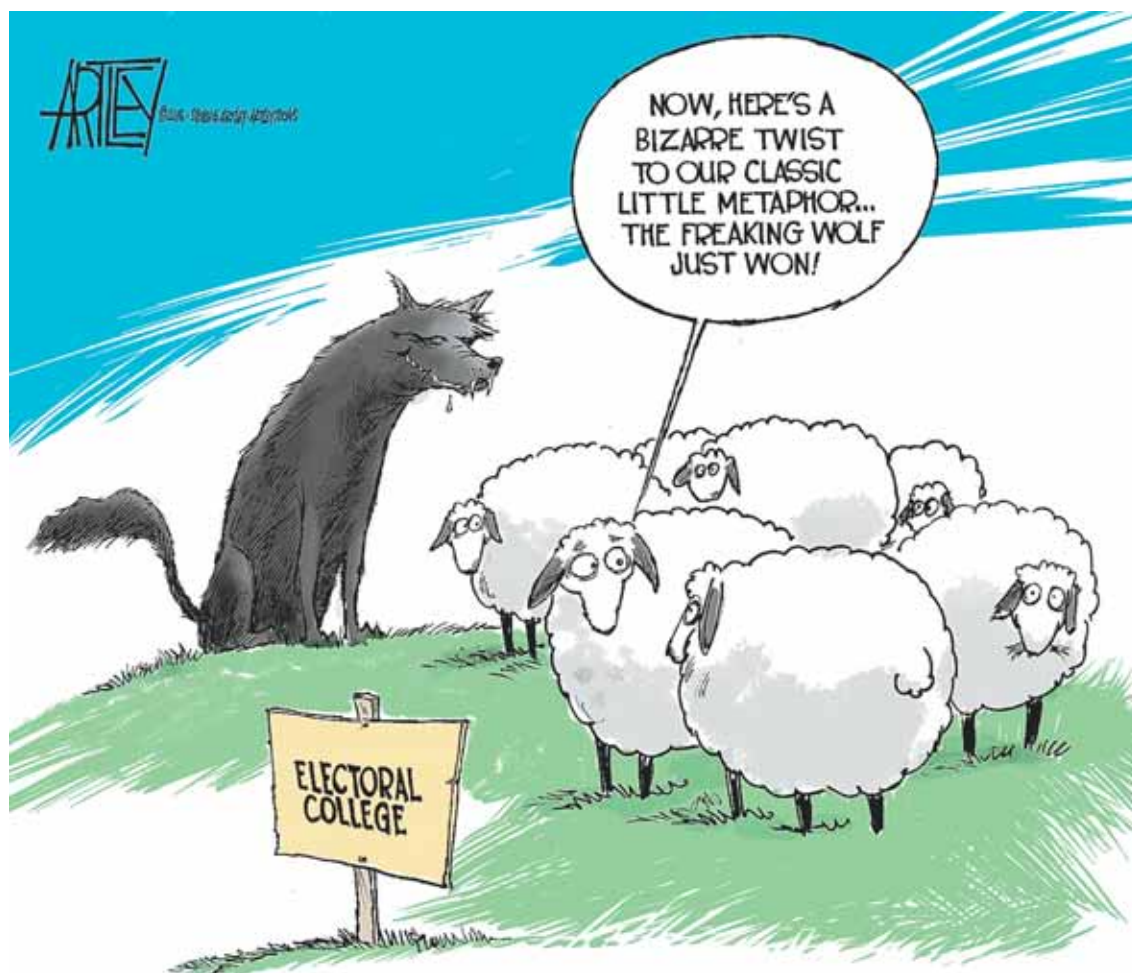
Robert Pringle
Alexandria

Give Police More Support

To the Editor:

It appears that almost every day the headlines in local papers indicate that a violent crime has been committed in Alexandria. Violent crimes are classified as those crimes where the offender threatens force upon a victim such as murders, assaults, rapes, and armed robberies. Seven homicides have occurred to date, and the number of robberies has escalated,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



STEVE ARTELY/GAZETTE PACKET

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Assistant Editor
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Vernon Miles
Reporter, 757-472-3435
vmiles@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Steve Artley
Cartoonist
artley@connectionnewspapers.com

John Bordner
Contributing Photographer
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Eden Brown, Rikki George,
Shirley Ruhe
Contributing Writers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Julie Ferrill
Display Advertising, 703-927-1364
jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com

Tara Lloyd
Display Advertising, 703-740-7128
tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh

Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus:
Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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\$26,000 Raised for Market2Market's Rose Cruz

In the week since Rose Cruz, a restaurant employee, friend, neighbor, and mother of four died from injuries sustained after being struck by a vehicle, the Del Ray business community hosted a fundraiser that raised \$26,221.35 for her family.

During the "Rally for Rose" fundraiser on Dec. 13, restaurants on the St. Elmo's block of Mt. Vernon Avenue — Market2Market, St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, Holy Cow, and Pork Barrel BBQ — offered special menu items for a donation; the dinner fundraiser raised \$11,380 for the family of Rose Cruz.

In addition, a number of Del Ray businesses donated over \$5,000 in gift certificates and items for a raffle that was held during the event; the raffle, plus cash dona-

tions, raised an additional \$14,841.35

"She brought so much love to all of us, her family, our staff, our customers, the whole community," said Larry Ponzi, the owner of Market2Market, St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, and Cafe Pizzaiolo. Cruz was the deli manager at Market2Market.

"It was a wonderful night show-

casing the spirit of Del Ray," said Del Ray Business Association President Bill Blackburn, of Pork Barrel BBQ. "Rose was a positive force in our community, this tragedy leaves a painful wound."

Cruz, 49, died on Dec. 4 from injuries sustained after being struck by a vehicle while crossing Mt. Vernon Avenue at W. Glebe Road. She lived in Alexandria with

her husband and their 10-year-old and 12-year-old daughters. She also has a 26-year-old daughter and a 19-year-old son in the Philippines.

For those who want to make a donation, a GoFundMe account has been set up at <https://www.gofundme.com/family-of-rose-cruz>. To date, the GoFundMe account has raised over \$50,000.



BUSINESS NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos encouraged.

Alexandria-based marketing agency **PCI Communications** won multiple awards for excellence in advertising, web and design. Competing with 6,000 companies from around the world, PCI received five awards in the 22nd Annual Communicator Awards. PCI also receives three awards in the 33rd Annual Healthcare Advertising Awards, the largest healthcare advertising award competition with 3,700 entries.

For the second year in a row, **CommonWealth One Federal Credit Union** has won first place in the Desjardins Financial Education Awards program in the youth category. CommonWealth One is an Alexandria City Public Schools Community Partner, offering seminars at local schools and monthly Credit Union (CU) Days at select Alexandria City public elementary schools, which are deposit-only savings days that give students a chance to save for a better future during school hours.

Marketing and communications search and staffing firm **TorchLight Hire, LLC**, ranked No. 621 of the 5,000 fastest-growing private companies in America, according to Inc. Magazine's 2016 rankings. TorchLight is headquartered in Alexandria.



PHOTO BY HAL HARDWAY

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Our beautiful assisted living and memory care residence is well on its way toward completion! We can't wait to officially open our doors to welcome residents, their families and friends. To those who have already chosen to entrust us with the care of loved ones, thank you. To those we haven't met yet, we look forward to the time when we do. Our own families make our hearts full, but we have plenty of room for yours. Stop in for a visit, and tell us what you need to help keep the seniors you love safe, secure, well, and most of all, happy. We're eager to deliver on our promise to love and care for them as we do our own.



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

with nine cell phone robberies in the Braddock Road Metro area in the last few weeks alone. When one of our politicians states that crime is down in Alexandria, this may be the case, but only because petty crime incidents are included in the crime count. The fact is that violent crime is on the rise, and no one has expressed concern at City Hall.

Security of the citizens of Alexandria should be the number one priority, yet it does not seem to be the case. Although we have 304 sworn officers on the payroll, their daily assignments throughout the city do not give the citizenry a secure feeling. It is a sad commentary that police presence on our streets is almost non-existent. The latest crime statistics sure don't reflect our safety from traffic nor from the perpetrators of violent crime.

As reported to the FBI, "Cities' police officer per capita rates vary depending on a range of factors. In 2015, police departments serving cities with populations exceeding 50,000 employed an average of 16.6 officers and 21.4 total personnel for every 10,000 residents."

The council needs to allocate the proper resources to the Police Department, and in turn, the Police Department needs to marshal their forces to counter the potential threats across the city. Neither is being efficiently done, and that needs to change right now.

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

Missed Opportunity At Jefferson-Houston

To the Editor:

During its redistricting process the school board has neglected Jefferson-Houston — the city's only non-accredited school and by some measures the third worst school in the entire state. Currently, 75 percent of

Jefferson Houston students receive free or subsidized lunches and 85 percent have minority status. Wealthy parents in the Jefferson-Houston district opt out by administrative or programmatic transfers to other schools,

moving away, or sending their children to private school. Poorer families do not have these options and are forced by the school board to go to a failing school.

Two school districts bordering Jefferson Houston (Lyles-Crouch

and Matthew Maury) have much lower shares of students with free or subsidized lunches (25 percent) and much higher shares of white students (50 percent-plus). The school border between Jefferson Houston and Lyles-Crouch is particularly stunning. The boundary is on King Street, one block from the Jefferson Houston school — even though the ability to walk to school is a criterion for redistricting.

The school board should use redistricting to (1) give poor and minority students currently concentrated in Jefferson Houston (and few or no options to move or go to private school) more chances for a better

education; and (2) attract more wealthy parents to send their kids to public school.

Redrawing school district boundaries and creating more balanced schools by race/ethnicity and income is a powerful tool. For some reason the school board is not using it. I think concentrating poor kids and minorities in a failing school and depriving them of chances at a good education is not acceptable. In my opinion the school board has a moral obligation to act.

Ralph Buehler
Alexandria

Balancing Capital Improvement Projects

To the Editor:

Last Thursday the Alexandria School Board approved a capital budget for \$611.1 million over the next 10 years. That is a 123 percent increase over the amount budgeted by council for school capital improvement projects (CIP) just last May. This request comes on top of other pressing financial requirements on the city, including remedying the combined sewer system, dealing with storm water, repairing City Hall, and Metro associated costs.

I believe this request for an additional \$333.1 million should be put to the voters next November in the form of an referendum. In Arlington all requests for school construction and infrastructure are handled that way. Last month, for example, Arlington voters approved \$138.8 million for school construction purposes. Referendum results would be advisory only and council would still be required to vote its will. But our elected officials would have guidance otherwise unavailable.

In dealing with the other financial demands, City Council is able to shape policy details and care-

'Share the Love' for Meals on Wheel Senior Services and Beyer Subaru team up.

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) and Beyer Subaru of Alexandria are teaming up again for the 9th Annual "Share the Love" Campaign to support Meals on Wheels. Beyer Subaru has named SSA as its hometown charity for this year to raise awareness for the popular year-end sales and giving event, and drive support for Meals on Wheels through educating the community about the program and services that Senior Services provides to seniors including deliver Meals on Wheels as part of its Senior Nutrition Program. During the campaign that ends on Jan. 2, 2017, for every new Subaru sold or leased Beyer will donate \$250 to the customer's choice of participating charities including SSA.

SENIOR
SERVICES OF
ALEXANDRIA

"Senior Services of Senior Services of Alexandria is proud to participate again in this year's "Share the Love Campaign" to raise awareness around senior hunger, said Mary Lee Anderson, executive director of Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA). We are honored that Beyer Subaru of Alexandria chose SSA as its hometown charity again this year and to spread the word about how Meals on Wheels is making a difference in so many seniors' lives in the City of Alexandria."

The dealership is also holding a winter sock drive for the City of Alexandria's Meals on Wheels clients. With the donation of unused socks, customers can receive 10 percent off repairs. The socks will be delivered to the seniors after the first of the year by Beyer of Alexandria employees. "Beyer Subaru and the Subaru of America



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Craig and Nicole Izes and Stephanie Beyer Kirby, Beyer Subaru of Alexandria.

are pleased to support Meals on Wheels and Senior Services through the Share the Love event. Every month the Beyer Subaru team works together to deliver meals to members in our community in great need, said Stephanie Beyer Kirby, vice president of Beyer Automotive Group. It is our day of service and is one that brings great joy. We hope that the Share the Love event provides additional resources so even more can be served through this wonderful organization."

For information about the Share the Love Campaign visit www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/sharethelove.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

DEADLINE FRIDAY/DEC. 23

Alexandria Transit Company Board Vacancy: 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. Persons interested in serving on the board can obtain an application by contacting: ATC Board Secretary at 703-746-5637 or by email at marlene.stevens@alexandriava.gov.

HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Due to the Christmas and New Year's Holidays, residents are reminded that trash and recycling will be picked up one day later during the weeks of Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

DEADLINE THURSDAY DEC. 28

City Vacancies. 5 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, 301 King St. The Alexandria City Council is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on boards, commissions and committees. All applicants must complete a Personal Data Record Form. 703-746-4500

DEADLINE FRIDAY/DEC. 30

Nominations for Task Force on Parking Standards. Friday, Dec. 30 is the deadline to nominate

persons to serve on the nine-member Parking Standards for New Development Projects Task Force. The Task Force was originally established in 2014 to work with City staff in reviewing and updating parking standards katie.north@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4139

SATURDAY/DEC. 31

Grant Application Deadline. Transurban, the Virginia Department of Transportation's partner on the 395 Express Lanes project, has launched the "395 Express Lanes Community Grant Program." The program accepts applications and distributes grant awards each quarter. Visit 395ExpressLanes.com/grant-application.

fully monitor progress. Not so with the schools. The council has virtually no control over how how its millions are used. It is only responsible for approving the money. In this instance council would be wise to allow the public to have

its say on the issue.

An advisory referendum would require that school officials present the public with detailed information on how the figure was arrived at and how the money would be spent. In other words, a

referendum would open the subject to greater public inquiry and discussion, and put the burden of proof where it belongs — on the School Board and ACPS staff.

Jack Sullivan
Alexandria

Police and Clergy Pursue New Coalition

Looking to close gap between community services.

BY DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

Public and religious leaders in Alexandria met Nov. 30 for a second Police-Clergy Breakfast seeking to bridge a disconnect between local law enforcement and religious institutions.

"A gap is developing," said the Rev. Dr. David Gortner, associate dean of Church and Community Engagement at Virginia Theological Seminary. Gortner and Deputy Police Chief Shahram Fard organized the meeting.

Gortner believes many clergy and congregations nationwide are not well connected to one another and to their cities. "[O]ver decades, the threads of connection have broken; priorities have shifted; congregations have become increasingly internally concerned with survival, or taking care of their own." Even in Alexandria, "[w]e don't have a good map with each other..."

There is a "growth in demand on first responders — police, sheriff's office, firefighters — with increasing attention to family issues," he said. "[I]t's stepping into the realm of social work."

For example, Lt. Scott Patterson says residents may call upon police to assist in a parenting role, such as disciplining their children to go to school in the morning. "For whatever reason," he said, "I think that people tend to gravitate towards calling the police department [as] kind of a one-stop shopping solution." He says more resources from clergy could help in such situations.

For their part, police frequently interact with religious institutions in the normal course of their work, according to Crystal Nosal, the department's public information officer. Though there is no "set" way that this happens; much falls to individual discretion.

Police acknowledged a broad "need to know what services and groups they could potentially have access to" in religious institutions, according to an email from Gortner summarizing input given at the first meeting, held April 21. The report also indicated a lack at present of "some sort of mechanism whereby police can recommend people to a faith community."

Religious institutions are "a great asset for the police to tap. If they're not well connected to the faith communities, they're really losing out on a huge asset of organization within the overall [city]," said Tim Vandewalle, a concerned citizen who helped to initiate the meeting.

Organizers asked attendees at the meeting to brainstorm about how to close the gap.

Participants sat at tables corresponding to the police department's three geographic



PHOTO BY DAN BRENDL/GAZETTE PACKET

Mayor Allison Silberberg addresses more than 40 clergy, representing nearly 30 local congregations, and about 20 police officers at the second Police-Clergy Breakfast.

patrol sectors. Organizers and various public officials offered a few comments, asking attendees to spend much of their time discussing common issues and sharable resources with their tablemates. The room soon buzzed with conversations between people who, though from different organizations, serve the same neighborhoods.

Attendees principally included over 40 clergy, representing nearly 30 local congregations, and about 20 police officers. Public officials included Acting Police Chief David Huchler, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Mayor Allison Silberberg, former Mayor Bill Euille, and Deputy City Manager Debra Collins. More than 70 people participated in all.

Organizers prioritized the need to establish personal relationships across organizational boundaries. They pointed to Capt. Shannon Soriano, commander of the West End patrol sector, and Lou Whiting, pastor of My Father's House Christian Church on Eisenhower Avenue. Soriano and Whiting met at the first meeting and have since developed a positive working relationship.

"It was a pleasure meeting her," said Whiting, "and to be able to cultivate and develop a relationship with a community officer — it's fantastic. And I would encourage all the houses of faith to do the same thing. To have that relationship is very, very beneficial. It adds credibility to ... who I am as a leader in the community [and] with my church congregants"

In case "community issues or tensions develop"—such as in Ferguson, Mo. — Vandewalle wants "a good forum ... where people have enough trust in their counterparts that they can sit down and really make progress."

Organizers and officials particularly emphasized bridge-building activities that religious institutions could pursue.

"This meeting is great, and we're starting to get to know one another. But between this meeting and the next meeting, I'm very hopeful that you will invite us into your homes — your workplaces — and there's many ways you can do that," said Huchler to the clergy.

Numerous possibilities were suggested. Clergy might go on "ride-alongs" with patrol officers. Congregations could help first responders with local recruitment, especially in minority and immigrant communities. Community police officers could engage congregations' youth groups in roundtable discussions. Police might hold "roll calls" and other meetings on religious institutions' premises. Clergy could communicate directly with law enforcement liaisons, including Officer Charlie Lloyd, the police department's crime prevention officer; Officer Bart Bailey, commander of the

department's Community Policing Unit; Officer Bennie Evans, the department's community homeless outreach coordinator; and Deputy Valarie Wright, the sheriff's community relations deputy.

A primary long-term task is to catalogue all the religious institutions and their community service-related ministries.

"The biggest thing to start with is to find out what is available out there that you don't know about," said Sgt. Joe Green.

Gortner has already begun such a reconnaissance. His latest effort is an online survey asking congregations to identify their "public outreach ministries" and connections with "social care and advocacy" organizations. "We hope to put together a thorough list of the resources and services our communities of faith provide, for the Alexandria religious leaders, and for the Alexandria Police as well."

Gortner is also connecting with other coalitions. "I'm trying to listen across several venues, as are some other clergy. Some of us are tapped into Hunger Free Alexandria. Some of us are tapped into VOICE. Some of us are tapped into the [mayor's] clergy council. And then other interesting networks are forming."

"The services that are provided here in this city are exceptional," said Huchler to the clergy. "And so to join our services with the services that you all can provide, there's nothing we can't achieve."

"This is an effort to change the tide," said Gortner. "This is a significant opportunity. And what's nice about the police-clergy relationship is, there's good will that's emerging. There's interest in continuing this. There's interest in taking it to the next level so that there's mutual education and benefit." Clergy who want to attend or send lay representatives to future Police-Clergy Breakfasts, or to obtain a link to the online survey of congregational ministries, should email Virginia Theological Seminary's Emily Riley at eriley@vts.edu. Clergy who want to pursue any of the collaborative activities should call the Alexandria Police Department at 703-746-4444.

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Alexandria Police Department:

DEC. 16

❖ The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a bomb threat at Charles Barrett Elementary School in the 1100 block of Martha Custis Drive. Students were evacuated to 1225 Martha Custis Drive. Bus riders were dismissed from there. Once the police had cleared the building, remaining students returned to the school for a later-than-usual dismissal, according to Alexandria City Public Schools.

❖ The Alexandria Police Department is investigating the robbery of a Wells Fargo Bank located at 3624 King St. At 2:05 p.m., a man entered the bank, passed the teller a note, and implied that he had a weapon. He demanded money, the teller complied and the suspect fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. There were no injuries.

The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 5'10" tall with a large build. He

was wearing a grey and black coat, blue jeans, grey and white tennis shoes, and a black baseball cap. Police ask that anyone with information about this incident call Detective Michael Whelan at 703-746-6228.

DEC. 13

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery at a convenience store in the unit block of S. Reynolds Street. Two suspects displayed a firearm and stole cash. There were no injuries.

DEC. 11

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 6100 block of Lincoln Road. Three suspects brandished a firearm and stole cash from the victim. There were no injuries.

DEC. 8

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a pedestrian struck traffic crash at the intersection N. Fairfax Street and Pendleton Street. The pedestrian was transported to a hospital with serious injuries.



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2/1/2017.....Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month

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Holiday Grief

Workshop helps others deal with loss.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

The holiday season is bittersweet for Jeanne Rorke. The days leading up to Christmas are filled with memories of her parents. Her mother committed suicide when Rorke was 12, and her father died on Christmas Eve eight years ago.

“No one really helped me through the grieving process,” said Rorke, recalling her mother’s death. “My family was like, ‘Don’t talk about it.’ ... My Christmases have always been kind of sad ... even though I put on a happy face for my family.”

Roarke joined about two dozen others at a workshop on handling grief during the holidays called, “Facing the Empty Chair: Surviving the Holidays after Losing a Loved One” at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church in Alexandria. From those who are preparing to celebrate a first Christmas without a loved one to those who’ve been grieving for decades, participants shared experiences, supported each other and gained tools for surviving the season while facing the reality of the empty chair in which their loved one once sat.

“The holidays can be time of longing for those who’ve lost someone,” said Carey Gauzens, a licensed clinical social worker at the Center for Pastoral Counseling of Virginia in McLean. “The holidays are a time when you reflect on family, and it’s hard for someone who’s aware that that person isn’t there.”

At the workshop, Gauzens clarified some of the misinformation surrounding grief, especially during the holidays. “First and most important, is that normal grieving is really hard for most people. Some people believe the myth that grief lasts only for a few months, but it’s hard to measure your healing because it’s an up and down process, not a smooth, straight line.”

THROUGHOUT the process, and particularly during the holidays, being able to tap into a source of strength other than oneself is a factor that Gauzen underscores: “It’s important to have a support group, friends, a therapist.”

Finding someone who is also grieving can be particularly helpful. For example, when Beverly Bell’s husband died nine years ago following an extended illness, she found strength and comfort in a friendship with another widow.

“[We] had a wonderful relationship ... for several years following my husband’s death,” said Bell, who attended the workshop. “We had a regular lunch date and also shared a number of holidays. She also died a couple of years ago, and I realized that I am particularly missing her presence.”

Earlier this year, Bell’s brother died as well. “I found myself re-experiencing many of the feelings I had had when my husband died, [but feeling] particularly helpless to comfort my sister-in-law,” she said. “Perhaps [my] presence is the most important thing I can ... offer my sister-in-law.”

Some of the workshop attendees wanted to learn

how to better support others. “I am a member of the Community of Hope International, a group of lay pastoral caregivers whose ministry is to visit those who are experiencing sickness, trauma, tragedy or loss of a loved one,” said Caroline McCormack, one of the participants. “I wanted to have a better understanding of the grieving process, so I might be a more compassionate listener.”

She and Bell learned that process is different for everyone. “My husband’s death was preceded by a long illness. My brother’s death was sudden,” said Bell. “I wondered if something about the timing made a difference in how we experience and cope with grief. I learned that it really does not.”

“... We all experience grief in different ways and it can show up at unexpected times and places and so we need to be gentle with ourselves and find ways that we can express our grief in ways that feel healing and safe for us,” added Reverend Elizabeth Rees, associate rector, St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church.

This is a point Gauzens tried to underscore: Grieving is an individual process and there is no one-size-fits-all method for coping. Even people who are grieving for the same person can experience it differently and have different needs. “For example, one person might want to talk about the loss, but others might not,” she said. “It’s important to be sensitive to family members who grieve differently and compromise so that each person feels emotionally safe.”

Cultivating self-awareness and knowing what is normal to expect while one is grieving is important. “Sometimes the symptoms are so intense it makes people feel like they’re going crazy and frightens them sometimes,” said Gauzens. “They might cry at the drop of a hat, get angry or feel unable to control their emotions. There could become deeply distracted or confused like get lost going someplace they know well.

“Give yourself permission to make careful decisions about how you’ll spend your time,” she added. “It’s helpful to discern within yourself what feels right. Decide whether to maintain holiday traditions or do something completely different.”

Avoiding all festive, social activities might do more harm than good, however. “A person who’s grieving might end up isolating because they won’t go to places they once went to with the person they’ve lost,” said Gauzens.

Instead, Gauzens suggests planning “something to look forward to after the holiday to reward yourself for getting through the holidays.”

She also stressed the need for self-care, including exercising, eating healthy and staying hydrated. “It’s important to minimize your use of mood altering substances like alcohol,” said Gauzens. “It’s tempting to try to numb the pain, but it comes back.”

Changing customs can make holidays less painful, says Dr. Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology, Marymount University in Arlington. “I like to break with traditions that are familiar and that remind us of the loved one we lost,” she said. “Sometimes it’s good to shake it up and start a new tradition, so you’re looking forward instead of behind you.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREY GAUZENS
Carey Gauzens of the the Center for Pastoral Counseling of Virginia in McLean, led a workshop on grieving during the holidays at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church in Alexandria.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Savoring Results of 2016's Restaurant Debuts

By HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

2016 has been quite a busy year for the Alexandria food scene. Here are several of the restaurants that have made their debut over the past 12 months and how they're faring today.

Hank's Pasta Bar, 600 Montgomery St.

Of all the restaurant openings in 2016, perhaps none has arrived with as much fanfare as Hank's Pasta Bar in North Old Town. The younger sibling to the popular Hank's Oyster Bar has flourished over the ensuing

APPETITE

months since it opened during winter's final months, and the dining room still sports a busy scene nearly every night of the week.

For a hearty, filling meal in a deceptively small package, choose the wild mushroom lasagna, which is teeming with a rich Bechamel sauce in between layers of mushrooms and pasta. Gloriously rich, it's sure to warm you during these cold winter months. Or for something down-home and pure comfort food, you'd do well to order the spaghetti and meatballs, which is just as pure and well-known as you'd expect.

Junction Bakery and Bistro, 1508 Mount Vernon Ave.

To be sure, Junction had big shoes to fill when it took over the old Mancini's location this summer. And while it may have taken some longtime Del Ray residents a little while to adjust to the new face in town, adjust they did — the café on the corner of Mount Vernon and Monroe avenues is now a bustling epicenter of foot traffic, especially on the weekends.

Though Junction is now open until 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday (and 2 p.m. on Sunday), brunch is where it's at. Head chef Nathan Hatfield makes each biscuit sing and has



Junction Bakery and Bistro has made its home in the old Mancini's space over the past half-year.

Don Taco on King Street has become a popular happy hour haunt.

Don Taco, 808 King St.

Walk into Don Taco right after work on a weekday and — quick — grab a table while the restaurant is still wide-open. Wait an hour or two and you'll find a much more crowded scene, one that only grows in popularity as the hours tick by and evening turns to nighttime. From the moment Don Taco moved into the old Flat Iron space on King Street this spring, its concept — handheld, shareable tacos and other dishes — has resonated with Alexandria's diners.

Grab some friends and order up a passel of tacos for the table. And be sure not to miss the Buffalo chicken, banh mi pork, fried avocado, and chipotle quinoa sweet potato varieties — the mix-and-match approach is sure to please all palates. While you're at it, put a request in for some fresh guacamole — while many guacs are often overrated, Don Taco's is on point. Scope out the tequila list and toast to a happy 2017.

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

come up with some innovative takes on the now-popular avocado toast. The Country sandwich perches egg and sausage atop a cheddar-and-chive biscuit (you'll be satisfied, but wish you had room for more light, airy biscuits); the Sicily toast perches artichokes and onion atop a hearty sourdough. You can't go wrong with either.

Thanida Thai, 835 N. Royal St.

This summer, Thanida Thai reclaimed the building that had housed the longstanding Thailand Royal Street prior to the latter's relocation several years ago, and the surrounding neighborhood has welcomed owners Jaruvan "Yui" Simuang and Songyodh "Noom" Tantiyangkul with open

arms. If the flavors of Thanida harken back to its predecessor, there's good reason: Tantiyangkul worked alongside Thailand Royal's owner for several years, and he has brought those lessons to the kitchen.

Fast-forward just a few months since Thanida's June opening, and it's easy to see the restaurant's success. The dining room has steady traffic night after night, as does the front desk, which doubles as a waystation for takeout orders. The restaurant's pad Thai is a point of pride — simultaneously smooth and substantive, it's a wonderful starting point for newcomers to Thai cuisine — as is Thanida's array of curries, from panang to red to green. Choose a protein and enjoy the result.

2016 HOLIDAY CALENDAR

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 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. 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, at 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. and collect donations. www.volunteeralexandria.org/

SATURDAY/DEC. 24

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

SUNDAY/DEC. 25

The Holiday Project – Share the Spirit of the Season. Volunteers are needed to Share the Spirit of the Season by visiting with patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and long term care facilities. Sing carols and distribute cards and gifts. www.volunteeralexandria.org/
Play Santa for a Single Adult. 8407 Richmond Hwy E. Volunteers are needed to play Santa this Holiday season by adopting one of New Hope Housing's single adults. volunteeralexandria.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 2 p.m.-midnight at venues throughout Old Town and one at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot

of King St. More than 150 performances at 25 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, children's face painting and games. The afternoon's Eighth Annual Fun Hunt is accompanied by all-new activities for families and pets. There's a venue at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray filled with activities for children 10 and younger, and dancing in the street at the east end of King Street beginning at 10 p.m. 703-746-3299 or www.firstnightalexandria.org
The Carlyle Club New Years Eve Gala. 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. \$150 includes live jazz dinner set, dinner buffet, dessert bar, two complimentary drinks. NYC's Time Square countdown and ball drop on big screen. midnight champagne toast brencore_@hotmail.com, 240-601-6803

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Mosaic Jewelry by Nancy Kline



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Holiday Market

Find work by local artists at the 21st Annual Fine Art & Fine Craft Holiday Market at Del Ray Artisans, each weekend in December leading up to Christmas. The Holiday Market is at Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Market hours are: Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016.

CALENDAR

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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

December Artist Showcase

Now through Dec. 31, the December Artist Showcase 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. 703-450-8005 or www.broadwaygallery.net

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.

"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.

ONGOING

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

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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 fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html.

CAMPS, CLASSES & 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 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 and New Year's Day. 703-799-5203 or www.mountvernon.org. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free.

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Holiday Teddy Bear Teas. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. On select weekends, bring a favorite stuffed animal friend to have "tea" with "Lady Washington." This special experience will also include a hands-on seasonal activity. For ages 4-11, accompanied by an adult. Refreshments provided. \$5 in addition to general admission. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free. 703-799-5203 or www.mountvernon.org.

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.

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/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

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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



Acoustic Music Live

Acoustic artists Friction Farm and Michael Bowers & Siobhan Quinn will perform Sunday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Tickets are \$18/\$15 for advance sales and members, contact herb@focusmusic.org or 703-380-3151.

performances at 25 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, children's face painting and games. The afternoon's Eighth Annual Fun Hunt is accompanied by all-new activities for families and pets. There's a venue at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray filled with activities for children 10 and younger, and dancing in the street at the east end of King Street beginning at 10 p.m. 703-746-3299 or www.firstnightalexandria.org

JAN. 3-FEB. 12

Multiple Exposures Gallery. Torpedo Factory Art Center, #312, 105 North Union St. Colleen Henderson's A Study in Contrasts, and Sandy Lebrun-Evan's McDowell County, WVA. Artist reception is Jan. 14, 2-4 p.m. www.multipleexposuresgallery.com

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.

THURSDAY/JAN. 5

Cuban Cruise Informational Meeting. 5-6:30 p.m. at Carr Workplaces, 500 Montgomery St., Suite 400. The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce for a four-day trip to Cuba. sbolouri@alexchamber.com

FRIDAY/JAN. 6

The Cecilian Players, Blessed Sacrament's Chamber Ensemble. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Road. The concert is free but contributions to support the concerts are welcome. jmccrary@blessedsacramentcc.org or 703-998-6100 x 103

Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany.

7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St. Grant Hellmers, organist-choirmaster, will direct the Adult Choir in a Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany. Music by Ayleward, Stanford, Archer, Palestrina will be featured. The Three Wise Men will appear at this service. 703-549-3312, grant@stpaulsalexandria.com

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/parktakes 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. westpotomactheatre.org

SUNDAY/JAN. 8

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

FocusMusic Concert. 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. FocusMusic presents folk and acoustic artists Friction Farm and Michael Bowers & Siobhan Quinn. \$18/\$15 for advance sales and members herb@focusmusic.org 703-380-3151

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

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

2017 Chairman's Voyage

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January 28, 2017
7:00-10:00pm

COORDINATES:
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5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass
(en Español)

Sunday:
7:30 am; 9:00 am
(with Sign Language Interpreter and Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm

Monday-Saturday:
9:00 am Mass
(Rosary at 8:30 am)

En Español:
Monday, 6:30 pm;
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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

MetroStage Stages 'Fully Committed'

One-man show stars Tom Story who channels 40 different characters at a New York restaurant.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

MetroStage in Alexandria is staging the newly revised version of "Fully Committed" (following the successful Broadway run that closed in July) through Jan. 8, 2017. Tom Story plays a restaurant reservationist named Sam at a trendy and posh New York restaurant who channels the role of 40 characters as he answers phones and portrays the personalities of the people on the line who desperately want a seat. Prestige, power, desperation and boundless egos are all on display in this one-person comedy show. This is something new and fresh at MetroStage to replace "A Broadway Christmas Carol," which played for six years previously during the holiday season. "Fully Committed" is not full-out holiday fare, but there is a slight holiday theme to it.

Story plays an out-of-work actor trying to get his next acting gig, who endures the pressure and chaos of his day job by answering phones and taking dinner reservations for the rudest and most demanding of well-heeled New Yorkers. But there's hope toward the end that Story will be cast in an acting role to escape his day job, and maybe get home for Christmas.

"It is exciting for MetroStage to be producing 'Fully Committed' using the newly revised Broadway script," said Carolyn Griffin, producing artistic director of MetroStage. "We have Tom Story, one of Washington, D.C.'s actors, and Alan Paul, a Helen Hayes Award winning director, here at MetroStage for our holiday show. We have even had the playwright Becky Mode come down from New York to see this production and participate in a talkback with Tom and Alan. It is always a treat for an audience to

hear some of the backstage scoop after seeing a show."

She continued: "At MetroStage we are always pleased to present such talent on our stage and share this level of artistry with our neighbors. Nationally recognized artists in your own backyard! We certainly hope that Alexandrians join our neighbors around the Beltway this holiday season and come to see an acclaimed play that will entertain you all the while touching your heart with a little holiday spirit."

Paul (associate artistic director at the Shakespeare Theatre), has directed "Kiss Me Kate," "Man of La Mancha," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "The Boys from Syracuse," revivals of "Twelfth Night," and "The Winter's Tale," and numerous readings, workshops and special events. Outside STC, Paul's work has ranged from Shakespeare to musical theater to opera. Recent highlights include "Silence! The Musical" at Studio Theatre 2nd Stage, "The Rocky Horror Show" at Studio Theatre 2nd Stage, "The Matchmaker" at the University of Maryland, "Fire and Air" at The Kennedy Center, and "I am My Own Wife" at Signature Theatre.

Story makes his MetroStage debut after appearing as Prior Walter in Round House/Olney's production of "Angels in America." He is an affiliated artist at The Shakespeare Theatre where credits include "The Winter's Tale," "The Government Inspector," "The Merry Wives of Windsor," "Cymbeline," "Twelfth Night," "Richard II," "Henry V," "Design for Living," "Major Barbara," "The Rivals," and "Measure for Measure," among other roles. He has also appeared in Synetic Theater's "Three Men in a Boat," Arena Stage's "The Book Club Play," and "Oliver;" Ford Theatre's "Our Town," "Sabrina Fair;" "A Christmas Carol;" "1776," and "The Glass Menagerie," among others.

Performances are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. (with some exceptions including Tuesday performance Dec. 27 and Saturday twilight shows on Dec. 24 and 31 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$55 to \$60 with student and active military discounts available. For reservations, call the theater at 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org. For group sales, call 703-548-9044 or email info@metrostage.org. The venue is located at 1201 North Royal Street in North Old Town, Alexandria.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tom Story stars in the one-man show, "Fully Committed," at MetroStage in Alexandria through Jan. 8, 2017.

CALENDAR

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 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

THURSDAY/JAN. 12
Veterans Curation Program Meet

and Greet. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Alexandria Laboratory, 816 N. Saint Asaph St. Tour the facility and meet the new group of laboratory technicians and learn about the progress made over the past six and a half years. 571-312-4717 or www.VeteransCurationProgram.org

SATURDAY/JAN. 14
Movie Night at Del Ray Artisans. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Featuring "Pollock." Learn about the life and work of 20th century artist Jackson Pollock. DelRayArtisans.org/event/pollock-movie

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PHOTO FROM GOOGLE MAPS

The Andrew Adkins neighborhood



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE-PACKET

ARHA CEO Roy Priest addresses Andrew Adkins residents and nearby community members.

Andrew Adkins Housing Set for Redevelopment

FROM PAGE 1

According to Staudinger, ARHA will file for tax credits for the project in 2018.

ARHA announced on Sunday that it will partner with Alexandria Opportunity Housing LLC as the development partner for the redevelopment of Andrew Adkins and Samuel Madden into mixed-income communities.

"It's a great spot for redevelopment," said Michelle Krocker, executive director for the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance. "Increased density and mixed income housing are all positive. We have to see more affordable housing near the Metro. It's all positive so far. I'll want to see how the

community reacts."

Residents of Adkins and surrounding community members expressed cautious enthusiasm, though several wondered where current residents would be moved during the development.

"In the past, when we've seen redevelopment occurring, as a result maintenance stops," said David Leapheart, a member of the nearby St. Joseph's. "We also want to make sure it's known where folks will be housed during development."

"Some units are five bedrooms," said Rod Belcher, also a member of St. Joseph's. "These are large families, and a lot of current developments don't have that [space

available]. A lot of other housing has a more restricted number of bedrooms per unit."

"We also want to make sure it's known where folks will be housed during development."

— David Leapheart

Staudinger said a relocation plan will be established as the project moves forward. According to Staudinger, current residents will have a choice of staying in other available public housing or receiving a voucher

for housing.

"Adkins needs upgrades," said Wykiki Alston. "Redevelopment is a great idea. This is a great community. We need to keep that community and we need to keep the neighborhood's current accessibility."

Priest said ARHA will be looking at putting retail into the site. Alston said she hoped ARHA would consider putting a grocery store into the site to help residents without cars with accessibility to healthier food options. If not, Alston said she would encourage ARHA to help establish a farmer's market like the one on King Street.

"This is a neighborhood where it's important that something be accessible to everyone," said Alston.

Children Gather for Campagna Center's Deck the Halls

FROM PAGE 1

Scotch-tasting menu direct from Scottish distilleries. And people can explore Old Town's homes decked out by interior designers and local florists with Holiday Tour of Homes.

Deck the Halls with Santa, held Dec. 10 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church's Horton Hall, has a different twist each year but always with children in mind. "One year, it was held at the Masonic Temple," said Santa, who on that occasion shared the stage with Elsa, the Snow Queen.

"I love this event," said Katelin Moomau, vice chair of Junior Friends at the Campagna Center. "Families come together. The kids have fun with crafts, gingerbread cookies and wish-making with Santa. "It is good cause," added Moomau. "You can give back, have fun and engage young people."

Young people are not just the tots sitting with Santa. West Potomac high school students stepped in to sing carols and T.C. Williams Key Club members man-

aged the arts and craft tables. "I found the opportunity to volunteer at Deck the Halls," said Sidrah Hamid, the club's event coordinator. She corralled a few others in the club to help the community.

Where would we be without the charity of others? "That is a good question," said Mary Rood, chief development officer at the Campagna Center. More than 2,000 children and families, from 46 countries, are helped by the Campagna Center annually with "cradle to career" programming, including vital pre-K education, after school programs, tutoring and mentoring, family support services and English classes for immigrants.

"The organization even after 70 years is a relevant organization," said Edith Hawkins, chief program officer. "People don't understand how complex we are — to make sure families and youth are ready academically, physically and emotionally. We want a safe place for kids, to offer enrichment activities, to meet standardized requirements and to offer diverse experiences."



PHOTOS BY RIKKI GEORGE/GAZETTE PACKET

Children enjoy crafts and cookies at Deck the Halls.



Carolers from West Potomac High School in Horton Hall, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St.

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21 Announcements

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Alexandria City Public Schools

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-12-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Social Studies Instructional Materials.

Sealed Proposals with the notation **RFP# 16-12-05 Social Studies Instructional Materials** will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, January 20, 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)
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ABANDONED WATERCRAFT

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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.

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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.

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PHOTO BY STEPHANIE KOZEMCHAK

Christmas Mural

The 2016 Grace Episcopal School Christmas Mural was created by Grace students in Kindergarten – Grade 5. Students worked under the guidance of art teacher Stephanie Kozemchak.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bake Sale Fundraiser

On Dec. 2 classrooms were turned into bakeries as St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School held its 23rd annual fourth grade bake sale benefiting Children's National Health System. Fourth grade teacher Beth Barrow announced that \$1,954 was raised for the project, which allowed them to purchase many new toys to donate. The gifts went into Dr. Bear's Closet at Children's National Health System for patients and their siblings to enjoy. The fourth grade delivered the toys to the hospital and placed the gifts around the Christmas tree in the lobby.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Apple Contest

Janet Cantwell, principal of St. Mary's Catholic School, receives a \$3,000 check on Monday, Dec. 19, from Mark Nicholson of Red Jacket Orchards, representing the U.S. Apple Association. The school took third place in the second annual Apples for Education: Buy an Apple, Help a Student fundraising campaign. The funding will be used to enhance their understanding of literacy and math with iPads for its kindergarten classrooms.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tiny Tim

Wearing a red scarf in the front row, local fourth grader Jovani Morales-Shackelford, from MacArthur Elementary, is in Ford's Theatre's "A Christmas Carol" for the second year as Tiny Tim. He got his start at Little Theatre of Alexandria as Tiny Tim three years ago where he performed in same production with his grandfather.

12

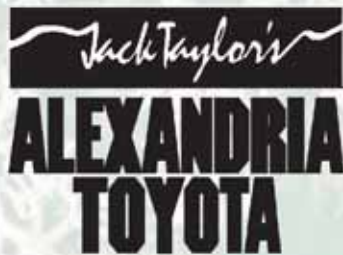
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\$10.00 OFF with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99
\$15.00 OFF with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99
\$20.00 OFF with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99
\$50.00 OFF with purchase of \$500.00 Or more

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/16

GENUINE TOYOTA
SIGHT LINE WIPER BLADES
\$10 OFF
Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. 8:00AM THRU 5:00PM

**BUY 3 TIRES
AND GET THE 4TH FOR \$1**
SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.
GOT TIRES?
INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY.

AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.
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TRUESTART BATTERY SPECIAL
\$99⁹⁵
INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION
Includes: 84 month warranty,
24 month **FREE** replacement,
24 month **FREE** roadside assistance.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
BRAKE SPECIAL
\$99⁹⁵
INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads; inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only.
MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.

DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/16

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
\$29⁹⁵ LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL \$49⁹⁵
NON-SYNTHETIC INCLUDES: Change oil (up to 5 qts.), install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.
SYNTHETIC

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
30,000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE
\$159⁹⁵
Synthetic \$10 More
INCLUDES: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts.), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
15% OFF ANY ACCESSORIES
• Apparel • Window visors • I-pad adaptors •
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10% OFF OVER THE COUNTER PARTS

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 703-684-0710 OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM

Happy Holidays

During the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to our communities and to our clients. From our family to yours, we hope your holidays are filled with warmth and cheer.

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