

## Landmark Mall: 1965 - 2017

**While big plans move forward for Landmark Mall, small businesses prepare for the end.**

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

After a long battle with vacancy, Alexandria's Landmark Mall has died. As part of a nationwide series of closures, Macy's announced on Jan. 4 that its Landmark Mall location will close this year. While development of the mall has long been gridlocked, according to city officials, the redevelopment of Landmark Mall could finally be underway. "Today is a milestone," said Stephanie Landrum, president and CEO of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP). "Now we have development entirely controlling the site. It's sad to see Macy's go, but it makes the project easier."

Plans for a redeveloped Landmark Mall will reshape the area into the more contemporary open-air retail plaza design found at the Mosaic District in Fairfax or planned for the Ballston Mall redevelopment in Arlington. According to Landrum, the Howard Hughes Corporation bought the Macy's property and is currently developing a timeline to begin development with hopes to have shovels in the ground soon. Sears, the final department store remaining at the mall, has made no announcements regarding closures, but store owners at Landmark Mall say they have been told that they will need to vacate the mall by Jan. 31.

"We sent people to talk to retailers in the mall," said



**Sign for the Landmark Mall's food court on the abandoned third floor hangs over the active first floor playspace.**

Landrum. "A lot of them were enjoying lower rents, and now they're figuring out how to move into market rate [retail space]."

"It's really exciting," said Councilwoman Redella "De!" Pepper. "It looks like things have a better chance of moving forward. We've waited for any kind of movement. This is exciting."

Few of the store owners in Landmark Mall were particularly surprised about the closure. The mall currently looks more like the one from the movie Dawn of the Dead than Tysons Corner. The center of Landmark Mall is checkered with a variety of niche stores, bookended by Sears and Macy's at either end of the mall. But there's more shuttered storefronts than open ones. Long hallways at the

SEE PLAN MOVES, PAGE 22



**Vjay Dari, owner of Tobacconist Essentials**

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

## In From the Cold

**Winter Shelter provides refuge.**

BY ALEXANDRA YE  
GAZETTE PACKET

As temperatures have dropped, the City of Alexandria's Winter Shelter has kept its doors open to those who need warmth, food, and shelter.

"We get the homeless off of the streets for the most critical part of the evening," said Thornell Hancock, coordinator of the Winter Shelter. Guests receive a mat and two clean sheets to sleep on, as well as warm beverages, ramen noodles, oatmeal, and fruit cups.

**"It's all about keeping them safe and fed and warm."**

— Mary-Parker Lamm,  
Deputy Director,  
Carpenter's Shelter

However, freezing temperatures, wind chill, and precipitation extend this critical period.

The recent cold weather prompted the shelter to remain open from the evening of Thursday, Jan. 5, until noon of Tuesday, Jan. 10.

The Winter Shelter operates through a contract with Carpenter's Shelter, a residential shelter housed in the same building. While volunteers serve meals year-round at Carpenter's Shelter, guests at the Winter Shelter have typically eaten at Christ House.

SEE WINTER SHELTER, PAGE 4

## Shared Sacrifice

**WMATA requests more funding from Alexandria.**

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

Even with cuts to rail and bus service, the elimination of 500 more Metro employees, and fare increases, Metro is still asking Alexandria for \$32.5 million more in FY2018 than they did in FY2017. To help close the Metro's \$290 million operating budget gap, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has requested a contribution of a \$39.5 million, a \$6.5 million increase from FY 2017. To help fund the \$1.25 billion capital budget, WMATA has requested Alexandria pay \$37 million, a \$26 million increase from FY 2017.

At the Jan. 10 City Council meeting, city staff presented WMATA's proposed budget to the council. According to Allan Fye, acting division chief of Transit Services for the City of Alexandria, said that the operating budget gap was largely due to declining ridership and reduced reliability over the last year of SafeTrack. Fye also noted that Metro now faces competition from a greater number of transportation options and trends, like Uber.

Mayor Allison Silberberg noted that Metro itself had encouraged riders to find other modes of transportation during SafeTrack work, and that apparently people had

SEE METRO SEEKS, PAGE 22

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# Predatory Loans in the Crossfire

Lawmakers conflicted about how to handle high-interest loans.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

At this time last year, members of the General Assembly were feeling the heat about car-title lending. Public outrage was growing about the industry, which charges interest rates in excess of 300 percent in some of the poorest neighborhoods in Northern Virginia. Lawmakers were particularly concerned that car-title lenders were evading the regulations they put in place to protect consumers by offering more than one kind of loan at their storefront locations, a move many members of the General Assembly considered a bait-and-switch operation.

Behind the scenes, car-title lenders were taking action to head off efforts to crack down on their industry.

In the week before the General Assembly session began, title lenders gave \$35,000 in campaign contributions even though the campaign for General Assembly seats had ended the previous November. Like many businesses, title lenders make a habit of making campaign contributions after the election and before the session, during which they are prohibited from giving. The donations are not reported until after the session, so following the money isn't really a possibly during the flurry of action in Richmond. "They serve a very useful purpose for the business because it reminds people right at the start of the session who their friends are," said Stephen Farnsworth, political science professor at the University of Mary Washington. "The coalition of people to block regulation may include some Democrats and some Republicans, and that's why they are equal opportunity givers. Some money goes to Democrats and some goes to Republicans."

Take, for example, the \$15,000 contribution LoanMax gave to the Senate Democratic Caucus the day before the session began. A few days later, the Senate Democratic leader brokered a deal that involved two of the state's leading title lenders voluntarily agreeing to stop offering multiple kinds of loans at their storefront locations. That deal ended up torpedoing all the reform bills.

"It's impossible to say that there was a quid pro quo. I mean, you just can't say that," said Quentin Kidd, a professor at Christopher Newport University. "But it is possible to say that there was an effort on LoanMax's part to gain access to elected officials so that their case could be heard."

Senate Democratic Leader Dick Saslaw, the senior member of the Fairfax County delegation in the state Senate, is the one who negotiated the deal involving a voluntary agreement with two of the three title lenders authorized to offer consumer finance loans. LoanMax was not part of that deal, even though it had dual license authority at the time. Saslaw says LoanMax isn't the problem.

"LoanMax doesn't do that business," says Saslaw. "They don't do it in the same facility. They're the ones that called and alerted me to what was going on."

According to public documents from the State Corporation Commission, LoanMax had dual licensing authority to offer car-title loans as well as consumer finance loans at its Alexandria location on Mount Vernon Avenue in the Arlandria neighborhood.

The commission also has documents that show how many loans made last year — including what kind of loans — as well as how many automobiles the company repossessed. But regulators don't want to hand over those documents. And Saslaw isn't in the mood to answer questions about his involvement in the deal.

"They don't do it," he said when asked about LoanMax. "End of discussion."

**THE DISCUSSION ABOUT** car-title lending may not be over yet though. After Saslaw cut the deal with industry leaders, he and state Sen. Frank Wagner (R-7) sent a letter to the State Corporation Commission asking "your assistance in removing dual business authority for title, payday or open-end lending companies operating at the same location."

Regulators say they don't have authority to revoke the dual licensing without the General Assembly taking action. That means the concern lawmakers raised last year about bait-and-switch has yet to be resolved. Documents from the State Corporation Commission show that five car-title lenders currently offer open-end lines of credit, and five consumer-finance companies currently offer open-end lines of credit.

"Rather than leave it to the SCC to figure out, we're just going to put in legislation to make sure they can offer one product or the other but they can't offer both at the same location," said Wagner.

Meanwhile, the Virginia Supreme Court is considering a case that could open up a treasure trove of information about the industry — how many consumer-finance loans LoanMax makes or how many cars



**Back in May, LoanMax surrendered its dual licensing authority at this location in the Arlandria section of Alexandria. Until that time, the company had legal authority to offer car-title loans and consumer-finance loans, leading to concerns among many lawmakers about the possibility for a bait-and-switch operation. Five other car-title lenders currently have dual license authority to offer open-end line of credit loans, so the concern about bait-and-switch has not been resolved.**

TitleMax repossesses, for example. The lawsuit was filed by the Center for Public Integrity, which asked for documents car-title lenders filed with regulators. The Virginia State Corporation Commission sided with the industry, deciding to keep the documents secret. The case is now on its way to the Virginia Supreme Court, and state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) is representing the Center for Public Integrity.

"You know the law is the law, and if the

law says you have to release the records you've got to release the records," said Surovell. "I've never heard of a court before saying I'm not going to interpret the statute. I'm just going to call up the legislature and ask them to make a decision so I don't have to make a decision."

*Michael Pope will report from Richmond for the 45-day session of the Virginia General Assembly which began Jan. 11. See [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) for updates.*

## Predatory Loans

❖ **Car-Title Loans:** Last year, two of the three biggest car-title lenders cut a deal with the Senate Democratic leader to avoid additional regulations. Part of the arrangement included state regulators withdrawing the ability of car-title lenders to offer other kinds of loans at the same location, which many lawmakers considered a bait-and-switch operation. Regulators said they didn't have the authority to do that, so lawmakers may take action to limit car-title lenders to car-title loans. The Virginia Supreme Court is also considering a case that could open up the books to show how many loans individual businesses are making and how many cars they are repossessing.

❖ **Open-End Line of Credit Loans:** These were originally created so consumers could purchase appliances from department stores, but they have now become a favorite product by former payday lenders

that don't want to deal with all the regulations lawmakers created for the industry. They are almost completely unregulated. State regulators don't track them. Lenders don't need a license to offer them. There's no limit on the interest rates they can charge. Lawmakers will be considering an effort to make these loans subject to the same restrictions as payday loans and car-title loans.

❖ **Internet Loans:** They may be technically illegal in Virginia, but that doesn't mean that businesses aren't eager to offer people who live here loans at up to 900 percent interest. Last year, a company known as OneMain persuaded Del. Terry Kilgore (R-1), chairman of the Commerce and Labor Committee, to introduce legislation legalizing internet lending. That bill failed, but more may be on the way this year.

### IN SESSION

## Gutter Politics

It doesn't take much rain to trigger Alexandria's 19th century sewage system to start dumping raw sewage into the Potomac River — about 0.03 inches, to be precise. City leaders have a long-term plan to fix the problem, but Del. **Dave**

**Albo** (R-42) says it doesn't work fast enough.

"Their plan is a joke," said Albo. "It doesn't fix the problem for 20 years."

That's why Albo is moving forward with a bill that would force the city to bring its outdated sewage system into compliance by 2027. He says the aim of the legislation is

to make sure Alexandria comes into compliance with requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency as well as the Clean Water act and Virginia law. Although Richmond and Lynchburg also have outdated sewer systems, Albo's bill targets the Potomac River Watershed.

"The people in Alexandria are all for the

environment as long as it doesn't inconvenience them," he said. "So they are more than happy to dump raw sewage in somebody else's neighborhood."

State Sen. **Scott Surovell** (D-36) has a similar bill on the Senate side.

SEE IN SESSION, PAGE 3

# Winter Shelter Steps Up During Cold Spell

FROM PAGE 1

However, during their extended hours, the Winter Shelter has also served full meals to help keep guests out of the cold. “Our volunteer groups have brought in extra food,” said Mary-Parker Lamm, deputy director of Carpenter’s Shelter. This extra food has fed the guests of both residential and temporary shelters.

The shelter also coordinates with faith-based volunteers at Church of St. Clements and Alfred Street Baptist Church to provide more space during the winter. Each night, after screening for current substance use and mental health condition, a van transports 12 guests to these offsite locations.

“There’s an average of about 32 people a night,” said Hancock. On Sunday, Jan. 8, the shelter housed 38 single men and women during the night, with almost 25 continuing to stay indoors during the day. There have not been any families so far.

“People know about us through word of mouth,” said Lamm. The shelter space also acts as a resource year-round. During the day, the space for the Winter Shelter serves as David’s Place, a facility that meets the basic needs of over 230 unsheltered individuals a year. Such basic needs include showering, laundry, and phone and mail services.



**Guests of the Winter Shelter can sit, watch TV, and eat a snack before the chairs are cleared away for sleeping mats each night.**

“There is a very large overlap with guests of David’s Place,” said Shannon Steene, executive director of Carpenter’s Shelter. “It’s a known population to us ahead of time.”

A network of individuals and city agencies is also notified each morning that the shelter is open, including the police department, social services, detox centers, jails, and the Community Services Board.

“Both the police department and the fire department bring people in,” said Hancock. Unsheltered people from Arlington and Fairfax counties are also taken into the shelter. However, after a maximum stay of three nights, the shelter provides transportation back to their original jurisdiction.



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA JE

**The Alexandria Winter Shelter operates through Carpenter’s Shelter, which houses both a residential shelter and facilities for**

“When it’s warmer, people won’t elect to come in,” said Hancock, citing issues of mental illness and substance abuse, which often keep people on the streets. “It’s the nature of the population we serve.”

The shelter works with Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, detox facilities, and other outside resources to help those struggling with mental health and substance abuse.

“It’s all about keeping them safe and fed and warm,” said Lamm. Though there is a clinic at the shelter, as well as a medical team that volunteers once a week, the shelter has not had a hypothermia-related incident thus far. “Here at Carpenter’s Shelter, we see people with mental illness and substance abuse issues year round,” said

Steene. “It’s just that when the climate is more severe, the consequences are more severe, and that’s our concern.”

Though the shelter is open every night from Dec. 1 to March 1, the shelter will continue to monitor forecasts in the case of inclement weather. The shelter can also open outside of its December to March season.

“In November and April, the shelter is weather-driven and not regularly open,” said Lamm. “But we always err on the side of caution.”

The 2016 Annual Point-In-Time Count, conducted by the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness in the City of Alexandria, discovered 224 persons experiencing homelessness. The 2016 Count marked a 16 percent decrease from 2015.

The annual count, required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides an unduplicated, one-night record of persons experiencing homelessness in the city.

How can the community get involved? Hancock mentioned in-kind donations such as thermal underwear and hand and toe warmers. While the shelter has an abundance of coats, hats and gloves, Lamm emphasized the importance of funds. “The shelter is here because of the city’s financial donations,” said Lamm. “This city is very generous to us. We can’t thank them enough for how they support us.”

## Talking about Talking

At the City Council meeting on Jan. 10, the City Council spent an hour discussing whether or not the City Council takes too long discussing things. At the end of the meeting Vice Mayor Justin Wilson put forward a proposal that the first 10 speakers, later compromised to 12, be allowed to speak at the beginning of the public comment session and any speakers signed up after those 12 be asked to speak after the City Council has addressed the docket items. The council voted 6-1 to approve Wilson’s proposal, with Mayor Allison Silberberg strongly objecting.

On every City Council public hearing docket, it’s noted that the public discussion period is limited to 30 minutes. According to Wilson, only twice in the last year had this actually been observed, while twice the public comment had run for over 200 minutes.

The discussion was the latest showdown between Wilson and Silberberg, who have frequently butted heads over the last year on a number of issues. Silberberg called Wilson’s proposal draconian and arbitrary — arguing that the City Council’s role should be promoting feedback from the public, not curtailing it as she believed Wilson’s proposal would do. Wilson, however, said the point of the proposal was to ensure that the comment on docketed items was not diminished by the overly long comment periods.

Other members of the council supported

Wilson’s proposal and added that the City Council needed to change the way it approached the public comment portion of the meetings.

“What’s extending this is, from the dais, we are engaging the public on everything,” said Councilman Willie Bailey. “We can take notes, get back with them later, pass it on to staff. When I first started, I thought that was how it was supposed to be. They speak and move on. But it seems like we’re engaging everyone that speaks. We don’t have to engage them [here]. That’s why we have email, that’s why we have our aides to set up appointments.”

While the public comment is intended to allow the council to hear issues raised by the public, Councilman John Chapman agreed that he’s heard several people who came to address the council disappointed by the way the meetings drag on with back and forth discussions on nearly every topic raised.

For some historical perspective, City Councilwoman Redella “Del” Pepper noted that this discussion is not new. Between 1961 and 1985, the mayoral position alternated between Frank Mann and Charles Beatley. Pepper said one major topic of disagreement between the two was that Beatley believed in giving everyone time to have their say, even taking pride in long meetings, while Mann ran the meetings like a business so people could get home sooner.

— VERNON MILES

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## IN SESSION

FROM PAGE 3

### Knitting Together a Plan

**Danielle Romanetti** knows a thing or two about the perils of finding a balance between family life and her career. Six years ago, she opened a boutique yarn shop known as fibre space in Old Town Alexandria. That was during the global financial meltdown, so finding capital wasn't easy. But that was only half the challenge.

"This took more time and there were more surprises and challenges than any previous job I had ever had," said Romanetti. "So having the ability to plan when to start my family with my husband was really crucial to that."

Last week, Romanetti opened up her retail store on King Street to Democratic Lt. Gov. **Ralph Northam**, who used the location to announce a new budget pilot program to help low-income women get contraceptives. The idea is to use federal money earmarked for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families to purchase long-acting reversible contraception.

"Certain LARCs are more than 99 percent effective and are safe, cost-effective ways for us to tackle the issue of unintended pregnancies," said Northam, a pediatric neurologist who is running for governor this year. "Other forms of contraception, including the pill, just don't measure up."

Northam says the Affordable Care Act was supposed to make these devices available to every woman, but many low-income

women without health insurance fall into a loophole. Northam says he hopes Republicans in the General Assembly will include the pilot program in this year's budget, especially since it doesn't use any money from the state's general fund.

### Grand Larceny Or Petty Theft?

Back in 1980, a new house cost

about \$70,000. And a gallon of gas cost \$1.20. So the buying power of \$200 went significantly farther than it does today.

That's one of the reasons why state Sen. **Chap Petersen** (D-34) has been on a mission to change the threshold for grand larceny, which was set at \$200 back in 1980. Every year, he comes to Richmond and offers some form of a bill that would increase limit of what it takes to prosecute shoplifters for grand larceny. He says

\$200 is way too low.

"That could be a pair of jeans these days. And you're going to turn that conviction into a grand larceny, which is a felony," said Petersen. "That means they lose the right to vote. They have to list it on their employment. They have to go to the state penitentiary."

This year, Petersen is not alone. Democratic Gov. **Terry McAuliffe** is including a change to the grand larceny threshold as part of a criminal justice package

announced last week. Petersen says he hopes the governor's support will finally create some momentum behind a cause he's championed for years. Although he says he would like to see the threshold set at \$1,000, his bill sets the new limit at \$500.

"It's a terrible, stupid law," said Petersen. "It wasn't a stupid law when it was enacted. But that was 1980, when \$200 meant a lot more than it does today."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

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#### TUESDAY/JAN. 17

**Waterfront Commission Meeting.** 7:30 a.m. at City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. [jack.browand@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jack.browand@alexandriava.gov), 703-746-5504.

**Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners.** 7-8 p.m. at the Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Topic: Microgreens what makes them so good for you? Learn their many benefits, and some simple ways to grow these nutritious and inexpensive baby plants and sprouts at home. 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).

**Small Business Roundtable.** noon-1 p.m. at the Alexandria Small Business Development Center, 625 N Washington St, Suite 400. An opportunity to meet with other small business owners in a facilitated discussion format. No pre-registration is required. Feel free to bring your lunch or a beverage.

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## PEOPLE

# 'So, Who Has Ever Heard of a Turnip?'

## Firefighters from Station 201 Read to Lyles-Crouch Elementary students.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he fire engine pulls up in front of Lyles-Crouch Elementary School on Friday morning and four firefighters jump out and head for the front door. They are scheduled to read to three classes each in an initiative called Read Across Alexandria. The Alexandria Sheriff's Office teamed up with the Alexandria City Public Schools and Alexandria Fire Department to begin this new effort in November. Captain Phil Perry, leader of the group, says, "We get out into the community. We love it."

### PEOPLE AT WORK

Karrie Kay, reading specialist, stands in the lobby. "Welcome Firefighters; grab a book and a schedule." Kay has chosen the books with the assistance of the school librarian. Perry sorts through the pile of books and picks "The Turnip." He says, "You got to love a turnip." He heads downstairs to Tricia Hribar's kindergarten room where excitement has been building. When he walks through the door, a small voice says, "Oh he's here."

Hribar says, "Can you say hi to Captain Phil and to Fireman Mark?" Perry sits in a large padded chair as the 14 students in the class crowd around on the rug to get the best view. "Does anybody want to help me read?" Hands shoot up and two students seat themselves on the chair arms on each side. "You can be my bookends. Has anyone eaten a turnip?" Not in this class.



**Captain Phil Perry reads "The Turnip" to Tricia Hribar's kindergarten class. Two students volunteer to help him read and he says they can be his bookends.**

"Are we ready?" Perry opens the book. "An old man planted a turnip. Grow. Grow. The little turnip grew sweet and big." But as the story progresses, when it comes time to pull up the turnip, it is too big. "The old man and the old woman pulled and pulled but they couldn't pull it out. Who was the last one to pull?" Someone volunteers "the dog." Perry says, "right; give yourself a hand."

Perry heads upstairs to Libbi Moquin's fourth grade class. "Are you awake?" Groans greet this question. "Let's go get some coffee." He pauses, "This is a harder crowd. We've got this turnip book — it's a little simple for you but I think you'll have fun with it. Are you ready?" In unison, "Yah." Again the old man pulls the old woman who pulls the little girl who pulls the dog who pulls the cat but, "oh my gosh the turnip is so strong." Perry finishes the book a second time and asks, "Did you know there is a test after this?" Finally on to Laura Zybrick's third grade class. This time Perry and Fireman Mark share reading duties. Fireman Mark begins, "The old man planted the tur

SEE FIREFIGHTERS, PAGE 7



**The fire engine from Station 201 on Prince Street pulls up in front of Lyles-Crouch Elementary School on Jan. 6 in an initiative called Read Across Alexandria. Four firefighters will read to three classes each as part of this initiative.**



**Captain Phil Perry ends his reading session with a high-five for everyone in Libbi Moquin's fourth grade class.**



**Captain Phil Perry asks, "Who remembers the last person to pull the turnip?" Someone yells, "The dog." Perry says, "Give yourself a hand," and the class claps loudly, awarding themselves for a correct answer.**

# Twelve Years from Cub Scout to the Top

## Thomas Pollack advances to Eagle Scout.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**homas Pollack reached the end of a long journey on Saturday, Jan. 7 when he received his Eagle neckerchief in his Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony at the Army-Navy Country Club. Pollack said in his Reflections of an Eagle Scout that he couldn't quite grasp it yet.

He began the journey at 6 years old when he became a Tiger in Cub Scout Pack 614. Now at 17 years old with his sash full of badges, he was receiving the highest honor a Scout can earn. His former Cub Scoutmaster Linda Hill opened the program with



**Thomas Pollack receives his Eagle Neckerchief in a ceremony Saturday Jan. 7 at the Army-Navy Country Club. He began Scouting at 6 years old.**



**Thomas Pollack stands with his parents at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor after presenting each of them with a pin for their support and assistance on his trail to Eagle Scout. His grandfather Bailey reflected, "You don't get here alone."**

remarks on those early days while his later Boy Scout leaders in Troop 135 shared their thoughts on his trail to become an Eagle. While there were numerous humorous memories of camping trips, getting stuck in knee-high mud and other challenges along the way, most of the comments were focused on Pollack's leadership and accomplishments: "He is that quiet spark that has the ability to deal with challenges and although some have been difficult, there isn't one he hasn't met."

As part of his road to Eagle Scout, Pollack participated in three high-adventure hikes including one to the White Mountains. "He said to Scoutmaster Jim Bower, "You made it look easy ... but it wasn't."

Hands raised in a salute as the Scouts recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Troop 135 repeats the Scout law; "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind,

SEE POLLACK ADVANCES, PAGE 7

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PEOPLE

# Firefighters Read to Students

FROM PAGE 6

nip." One student volunteers, "it's going to get even bigger." And finally when the mouse gets added to the chain pulling the turnip, YA HOO, they pull it out. Perry says, "no matter how small you are, you can be a big help. BOOM I just pulled that out," he says. "I knew it," someone yells. "Dude, you are wise beyond your years.

"So do you know how to cook a turnip?" Perry asks. Someone offers, "My mother bakes it in the oven." Zybrick says her mother used to mash them for holidays. Another offers her mother puts turnips in salad. "So who else has a strange vegetable?" Perry asks. Answers range from spinach to pomegranates, as-

paragus, blue cheese and coconut. As Perry and Mark are ready to leave he asks, "High five?" Hands bump each other in the air as everyone rushes for a turn.

Perry has been a firefighter for 31 years. He is currently stationed at Firehouse 201 on Prince Street where he is captain of his 24-hour 7 am shift. "But I usually arrive at 5:30 a.m. because I don't want to leave a guy in the middle of a call at the end of the shift. "He started as a volunteer firefighter in Prince George's County when he was 18. "My father, uncle and brother were all firefighters although my father became a policeman." He says, "It's a group of people who can pull together. You know when you find your right niche."

# Pollack Advances to Eagle Scout

FROM PAGE 6

obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."

An Eagle Scout is required to have earned 21 merit badges with 13 Eagle-related. Pollack earned 39 merit badges, served as senior patrol leader, troop instructor, guide, historian, first aid instructor. In May of 2016 for his required Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project he organized and coordinated a group of Scouts, parents, leaders and friends to design and build a Trailhead Information Kiosk for the Four Mile Run Wetlands Restoration Project.

Pollack's friend Will Gately, who had been with him since the beginning, served as the master of ceremonies for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor Program. Gately is scheduled to receive his Eagle Neckerchief

in several weeks. Pollack's grandfather Bailey Walsh gave the invocation and benediction. Pollack's older brother, Michael, had been scheduled to present the Eagle Neckerchief but was snowed in last minute at Hampton Roads. And parents Susan and Mike Pollack received pins from their son for their help along the way emphasizing the importance of family and friends. "It's a tough road to get to this place," his grandfather said. "You don't get here alone."

Pollack lives in Alexandria and attends Gonzaga College High School where he is an honors student and on the Varsity Tennis Team. In addition he has played baseball in the Alexandria Little League for the past 12 years. To round it out, he volunteers weekly for the Father McKenna Center and is involved in social justice advocacy.



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**911 Cameron St** Elegant 2 bedroom, 2 bath historic home in the heart of Old Town with fabulous formal garden. Living room with fireplace, generous dining room and eat in kitchen. Upper level with 2 bedrooms separated by a family room. Upper level laundry and unfinished lower level with lots of storage space! 1 block off of King Street and a short stroll to Metro, and the river.

**Christine Garner 703.587.4855**



**PRICE REDUCED**

**Alexandria \$820,000**

**4101 Faith Court** Custom built home located in a quiet cul-de-sac. This 3182 sf home features 4-5 bedrooms, formal living spaces, FR w/ FP, solarium & an EISK w/ss and granite leading to a lge deck. Master BR has a sitting rm w/FP. Full w/o basement.

**Karen Kearns 703.244.6101**



**COMING SOON**

**Springfield \$625,000**

**7113 Hundsford Lane** 5 bedrooms, 3½ baths & 2 car garage. Freshly painted. New hardwood on main level, separate living & dining rooms, family room w/ fireplace just off kitchen, deck overlooking terraced gardens & fenced backyard. En suite master bath & new carpet upper level. Walk-out basement w/ bar, full bath & 5th bedroom. West Springfield HS.

**Nadine Wren 703.403.4410**



**NEW LISTING**

**Rosemont \$615,000**

**17 East Linden Street** Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath stone front townhouse with 3 finished levels and off street parking. Updated kitchen, wonderful 3 season porch with vaulted ceiling and skylights. Refinished hardwood floors on 2 levels, new carpet in walk-out lower level, freshly painted with new windows throughout! Blocks to 2 Metro stations, shops & restaurants in Old Town and Del Ray!

**Christine Garner 703.587.4855**



**NEW LISTING**

**Open Sunday 1-4pm**

**Mount Vernon \$515,000**

**2211 Wittington** JUST LISTED! 6 BR, 2 BA Raised Rambler just refinished, large carport, & new HVAC, roof, & deck. Stratford Landing in Mt Vernon area, just off the G. W. Pkwy and Potomac River.

**Mike Downie 703.780.2727**



**Alexandria \$409,000**

**6606 The Parkway** Start off the New Year-this move in ready home has 2 freshly painted levels & refinished floors. Save time with 2 updated baths and a refreshed kitchen. Save \$ with newer windows, systems & HVAC. Relax in your 3 season sun room. Walk out lower level with family room as well as abundant storage or expansion space. Fully fenced .24 acres with shed. Off-street parking for 4 cars. Ten minutes to Kingstowne.

**Greg Koons 703.209.7678 Joni Koons 703.209.7277**



**Alexandria \$327,000**

**130 Roberts Lane. Unit #200** BRAND NEW KITCHEN. \$35,000 in upgrades. 2 bedrooms 2 baths. Condo fee includes all Utilities (except plug/ins). Assigned parking. Walk to Metro. Easy access to 495.

**JoAnn LaFon 703.628.2500**



**Alexandria City/West End \$223,800**

**200 North Pickett Street, Unit #1001** Elegant one BR/1.5BA in prestigious Hallmark building! Totally renovated with exceptional precision and exquisite details. Refined kitchen-granite & stainless, of course. HUGE BR. Front-load W/D. Large balcony-electric grills OK! Great garage+visitor parking. Pool, tennis, exercise, party room. Commuter dream-bus stop in front-easy Metro. Beatley Library, creek and park across street. Foxchase Shops including 24 hour Harris Teeter and new Aldi one block too!

**Barbara Rosen 703.407.6481**



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**COMING SOON**

**Alexandria TBD**

**409 E Alexandria Avenue** Custom contemporary craftsman home on 9,000 sq ft lot in sought after Del Ray is just blocks to Braddock Metro. The welcoming wrap around porch and detached two car garage are coveted in this desirable neighborhood. This unique property features a gourmet kitchen with professional appliances, breakfast bar, walk-in pantry and separate dining room. The light-filled upper level features four bedrooms, laundry room and two full baths. The spacious lower level includes a family room, guest suite and walks out to a custom stone patio. Screened porch, rear patio with outdoor fireplace and beautifully landscaped yard are perfect for entertaining.

**Bobi Bomar 703.927.2213 Ellen Patrick 703.328.9430**



**Del Ray/Alexandria TBD**

**223 E Mason Drive.** Rare opportunity for a single family home just a half block from Mt. Vernon Avenue in the heart of Del Ray. Double lot (2,205 SF) with a cute one-level bungalow w/ 952 SF, 2 bedrooms & full unrenovated walk-out basement w/ high ceiling. Off street parking. Needs TLC. Goes on market in February.

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PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

SSG Christopher Walker with supporters from organizations that donated to the house.

## A New Start in Alexandria

**Gary Sinise Foundation helps wounded veteran build smart home in Alexandria.**

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

There are roughly 11,200 veterans living in Alexandria, according to the Military Times, and with the help of several national charities and actor Gary Sinise, this spring there will be one more.

Staff Sergeant Christopher Walker grew up in Virginia and joined the army in 2003. Walker served his second tour in the Khost Province of Afghanistan as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team leader. On April 24, 2012, Walker was struck by an improvised explosive device, causing him to lose both his arms and his left leg, as well as suffering other severe injuries throughout his body.

Now, the Gary Sinise Foundation has partnered with a number of other organizations to help create a smart home to fit Walker's needs. According to Chris Kuban with the Gary Sinise Foundation, everything in the home was built to run off of an iPad, including security, doors, and the blinds.

"Everything here is designed with Chris in mind," said Kuban.

On Jan. 5, Walker gathered with members of the foundation and other charities to celebrate the construction of the main body of the building. Supporters wrote messages of welcome and hope around the wooden walls.

Mike Dameron, owner of Windmill Hill Design Build, said most of the supplies and furnishings throughout the construction process were donated.

"We build a lot of houses," said Dameron, "but this one is special. This is not a simple house to build. It was a process getting it done. But here we are, under a roof."

Walker says his favorite thing about the new house is how big it is.

"The main layout is so great," said Walker. "Having so much extra space is going to be



SSG Christopher Walker (left) and Caitlin Dennison

great." Walker said living in Alexandria was a dream of his.

"I've been told Alexandria was the number one place for veterans," said Walker. "I wanted to be here."

Currently, Walker is living in Maryland and says it can be difficult to travel for food and other supplies. Caitlin Dennison, his girlfriend, said she looked forward to not being so isolated. Walker said they originally wanted to be closer to Old Town, but their Realtors helped them find a lot with larger space availability that would allow them access to Old Town and was close enough to the interstate to reach Walter Reed for treatment.

Walker personally helped with the design to ensure it would work with his needs. Kuban said the final cost of the house won't be known until the home is finished. The house is expected to be completed in the spring with a March or April opening.



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# OPINION

## About the Gazette Packet

**H**appy New Year. We need your help in 2017. As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to deliver news that readers need close to home, to help readers enjoy great local places and events, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

If you know people or organizations doing important work, something newsworthy or something that might make a good feature story, let us know.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished a feat like running a marathon or having an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. Send a photo and tell us about it in 200 words or less to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com).

We feature events in our weekly calendars. We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc.

To have the best chance of getting an event included in our calendar ahead of time, email us the details of the event (who, what, where, when, why) three weeks ahead of time. Email to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com).

After your event, email us a photo and a note so we can consider including it in our coverage. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and

where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

Of course we are interested in your news tips and your questions about what is happening in your community.

We are always looking for contributing writers and photographers.

The Connection Newspapers are published by Local Media Connection LLC, an independent, locally owned company. The publications and websites include the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Centre View, the Potomac Almanac and individual Connection papers and websites serving McLean, Great Falls, Vienna/Oakton, Oak Hill/Herndon, Reston, Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly/Fair Oaks, Alexandria and Mount Vernon.

The publications and websites have won hundreds of awards for news and community coverage just in the past few years, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Integrity and Community Service for coverage of efforts to prevent and end homelessness, and Best in Show for information/art for coverage of local parks.

The operation of these community-serving publications is entirely funded by advertising. The papers are delivered free to homes and businesses throughout Northern Virginia, and through free digital subscriptions, with more than 150,000 readers across the region.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Don't Break This Promise

To the Editor

A hot issue for the past several years has been centered on T.C. Williams High School — specifically, placing lights on the Parker Gray Stadium which the Seminary Civic Association vehemently opposes. A promise by the city and school board was made to our community when the first TC was erected in 1965, re-enforced and documented in 2004 in the Developmental Special Use Permit (DSUP) when the school was expanded, and respected in 2014 when the tennis court lights were installed. The promise was that no permanent stadium lighting would be installed on any athletic high school field in consideration of the quality of life of the adjoining neighborhoods. Recently the school board has been pushing to revise the composition of the TC Advisory Committee set up and active since 2007 in accordance with the DSUP made up of the school Board, TC school staff, the Parks and Recreation Department and the adjoining neighborhoods. The purpose of the realignment is obviously to incorporate support for lights from the larger school community whose neighbor

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

## Alexandria Gazette Packet

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**Open House Sunday 1-4pm Old Town**  
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**Old Town**  
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**Beacon Hill**  
6633 Haycock Road, Falls Church Remodeled cape cod on over 1/2 acre wooded lot-over 2300 sq ft finished -mclean school pyramid-less than 1/2 mile to west falls church metro. \$749,000 Steve Deleyiannis (703) 966-6062 <http://bit.ly/2fk5tyR>



**Nethergate Open House Sunday 1-4pm**  
1108 Michigan Court, Alexandria VA Location is perfect for the DC, Pentagon commuter. large end-unit townhome. Eat-in kitchen w/ fireplace and pantry area/wine area. Nice quiet patio! Bonus room in basement with full bath! \$639,000 Ellis Duncan (703) 307-4295 <http://bit.ly/2idxiso>



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**Colecroft Station**  
505 E. Braddock Rd, Alexandria VA Bright end unit across from the Braddock Rd Metro. LR and DR leading to a private balcony w/amazing views. HW floors, 2 BR w/ big windows, stainless appliances, pantry, W/D in unit, Extra storage, one car parking in garage, home warranty \$624,000 Cathy D'Antuono (703) 819-3077 <http://bit.ly/2jMI0G>



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**Harbor Terrace**  
1411 E Abingdon Dr # 1, Alexandria VA Lovely updated condo close to everything! Bright and open with a private deck. Steps to Mt Vernon bike trail. \$320,000 Tracy Vitali (904) 505-1874 <http://bit.ly/2eY2mwo>

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

hoods will not be affected by the addition of lights as those adjoining communities surely will be. Our primary concern is with the Parks and Recreation's accessibility to the field. We fear the field, thus the lights, will be in continuous use, not just Friday night football. This issue will be going before the City Council shortly for resolution. It is our ardent hope that the City Council will honor its word to us and will vote against the installation of lights at the Parker Gray Stadium. If we, the people, can't depend on the government to keep its word, who can we trust? Who are we that we have the audacity to expect the city to honor a promise made decades ago, you ask. Well as recently made clear to the school board, to no avail, the very land that TC sits on was originally owned by African Americans. Notice, I said "owned." It was not the Projects, low income, subsidized, or section 8 housing. It was a viable, self-sustaining community of taxpaying homeowners, which, by the way had been established during the mid to late 1800s. We owned the property from a few yards north of Bishop Lane on Quaker (where my grandparents lived) back to Chinquapin, across King Street to Braddock Road. In fact my husband's family's home address was 3330 King Street. Wow, the actual address of TC Williams. In 1964, before the passage of the Civil Rights Act, and while we were still reeling from the shock of having our extended community put off of their property at Fort Ward to establish the historic park, the City of Alexandria, having determined the need for a new high school with the onset of integration, decided the only place in the entire city which would accommodate the school was right in the middle of our African American community. So by eminent domain with a total and complete lack of

consideration for us as human beings during this period of segregation, they completely decimated our community, downsizing it from roughly 61 homes spread across this sizeable area to 32 homes of which 23 are located in a cul de sac at Woods Lane, which of course borders the school. That was the first step in undermining and disrespecting us as a people who had the audacity to be homeowners at a time when we weren't allowed to sit up front on buses, drink from the same water fountains, use the same bathrooms, eat at the same restaurants, you know the rest. Not only did they take the homes, for the betterment of the city as a whole, our ancestors had to purchase the houses they built at a price much higher than what they were given as the value of their destroyed homes. We adapted as usual. Then 40 years later in 2004, they came back for the second time with the expansion of the school making our property on Woods Lane a mere stones throw, a matter of feet, not acres, from the boundary of the school. This of course further infringed on our quality of life — more students, more noise, more trash, more traffic, more often. The DSUP approved by the city between the school, city and adjoining neighborhoods established Condition 69 of the Advisory Committee for the purpose of facilitating and resolving neighborhood issues resulting from the ongoing operation of the school, the expansion. And now here we are again, 53 years later and the school board is again imposing on the same African American community with TC lights. I won't go into the litany of issues our community would face, including property devaluation, should this come to pass. In closing, in this time of budget austerity, and with all of the other issues mandating budgetary consideration — Metro, infrastructure,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

# Helping Shape the Future

BY PETER TOMASELLI

**A**s a public servant for the City of Alexandria, I have always taken great pride in providing exemplary customer service to the local citizens of this city. The city government has always had a strong belief in providing these high levels of customer service at all costs. They, also, have had a strong belief in finding ways to ensure that our youth of tomorrow succeed in life.

I would be fortunate enough to get my opportunity towards making a positive impact on the youth of tomorrow when I decided to attend an information session hosted by the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership. I learned about all the admirable programs that were in need of strong, positive mentors. Out all of those fascinating programs, I would end up being drawn towards the Wright to Read program. This program intrigued me the most primarily because I knew about the valuable importance of reading, especially, as it related to academic success and attaining further knowledge.

When I decided to become a mentor with the Wright to Read program, I really didn't know what to expect. At first, I felt a tad anxious because I realized I would be responsible for a young individual's success in meeting all desired reading goals. I, also, realized that I would have a strong hand in this young individual's maturation process. So, the thought of all this became rather overwhelming to me. Fortunately, there was no reason for me to think or feel this way because I realized that I would not be alone in this mentoring process. Wright to Read willingly provided me all the tools needed to succeed in their program. Plus, I was fortunate enough to have a great supporting cast in my mentee's family who were willing to accommodate me in any manner possible because they truly cared about the overall success of my mentee, Sean.

Sean has been such a pleasure to have as a mentee. I truly appreciate his strong effort and persistence in striving to improve in all facets of literacy. I am really not surprised that Sean has progressed in the manner that he has because he has, definitely, put in all the hard work during our sessions at the library and at home with his family. Sean is the main reason why I am even being considered for Wright to Read's Mentor of the Month. This nomination consideration is a testament of the nearly two years of hard work that Sean and I have embarked together. I am very excited to see with what the future will



Peter Tomaselli and Sean

hold for Sean.

### FROM SEAN:


My mentor, Peter, and I read every week at Beatley Library. We met when I was a second grader and continued meeting during the summer when school was out. I like meeting with Peter to improve my reading. I have learned to improve my fluency in reading. I have also increased my reading speed and I don't sound choppy anymore. We read mostly books that interests me. We have read anywhere from poetry to fiction to non-fiction books.

We sometimes meet outside of our sessions on the weekends as well. We like going to the pool and having family dinners. The best day was when my mentor met me at the renaissance festival for my birthday.

Peter deserves to be the Mentor of the Month, because we have worked as a team to improve each week. He always pushes me to go to the next level. The Wright to Read program has helped me read over the level I am supposed to be. I truly consider my mentor a big brother. Thank you Wright to Read!

*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. January is National Mentoring Month and AMP program members are hosting various activities this month. To learn more about Wright to Read, visit [www.wrighttoread.org](http://www.wrighttoread.org) or to learn more about AMP and the activities taking place in January, visit: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring>.*

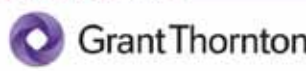









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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

school expansion — we the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> generation of the Seminary community, implore the City Council to oppose the installation of lights and honor your word to our community.

Let me get personal here. I'll repeat a very familiar refrain in today's culture. "Black Lives Matter."

**Frances Colbert Terrell**  
President,  
Seminary Civic Association

## Schools Need Accountability Audit

To the Editor:

At a recent City Council hearing, we explained to Council the serious management and integrity issues of ACPS and the School Board specifically relating to budget matters, community relations, and compliance with legal requirements. We requested that Council initiate an Accountability Audit by a third party of (1) ACPS representations to Council during the facilities budget process, compared to the extraordinarily higher actual costs, (2) ACPS's confrontational posture toward the city and the neighborhoods where schools are located, and (3) what corrective actions are needed. These actions are well within Council's responsibilities and are needed to restore accountability to and confidence in ACPS stewardship of public funds and facilities. To be clear, an Accountability Audit would differ from a normal financial statement audit. The Accountability Audit should focus on how the school district determines its budget and presents it to Council, and manages its projects and community relations, not on whether the assets and liabilities on a balance sheet are mathematically correct.

At the outset, there is unanimous support for spending what is needed to educate our children. Nothing is more important than education. But resources are not unlimited. The school district requested a capital budget of about \$300 million in May 2016. Four months later, the school district proposed an increase of an additional \$224.6 million. Last month, the school district proposed adding an additional \$83 million to the budget. By Dec. 15, the final budget added more, resulting in a budget request of \$611 million, a whopping 123 percent increase since May. Skyrocketing budget requests like this are a bright red flag of serious underlying management problems.

The failure to budget and expend properly, and lack of transparency, has been a hallmark of school management for years. Jefferson Houston was budgeted at \$36 million; it cost \$44 million. ACPS said the TC tennis courts renovation would cost \$400K; in the end, it was \$1.6 million. The proposed renovations at Parker Grey stadium were represented to cost \$700K; it is already going to cost \$4.1 million (likely much more), and at least \$100K more to pay developers' lawyers to fight citizens and the city. No one knows with certainty how millions of tax dollars magically appear or whether the school district continues to "move money around" inappropriately. No wonder one School Board member described ACPS' spending habits as "unconscionable." The school district believes itself to be unaccountable to Council or the public.

To cite a recent example, the Patrick Henry renovation started as an excellent example of civic engagement, involving multiple stakeholders. Dozens of citizens and officials gave hundreds of hours developing and refining plans. Yet the School Board abruptly sabotaged the process solely on the grounds of a vague

# New Life for Surrendered Pet

By BARBARA S. MOFFET  
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

**E**mmanuel Lassiter loved his dog, Dino. An outgoing pit bull-Rottweiler mix who loved people, Dino was everything Lassiter could want in a dog. But he just couldn't keep him.

Lassiter, 22, who works as a courier in Washington, felt he couldn't devote the time to Dino that he deserved. After struggling with the problem, Lassiter decided that surrendering him to a shelter was the right course of action.

On checking out the possibilities for Dino's adoption at a nearby shelter, Lassiter wasn't encouraged. "I was doing everything in my power to find a place where they would treat him nice and find him a good home," he recalled. Finally, last February, Lassiter called the shelter operated by the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) and was encouraged by what they told him — that they would use all available resources to help Dino find a new home.

After leaving Dino at the shelter, Lassiter continued to follow his progress at the AWLA, occasionally calling the staff and monitoring him on the shelter's website. He saw a video of Dino running an obstacle course. "He looked like a superstar — it really made me happy to see him like that," Lassiter said.

And one day, when he checked the site, he learned that Dino had been adopted. "It made me feel great that he had a new home," he said. "I had raised him from a pup, and I just wanted the best for him."

Dino's new home is in Alexandria, and his new "parent" is Nazar Sultany. Dino, now known as



**Dino, now named Sweet Puppy, with his new human companions.**

"Sweet Puppy," has a large home, deck and yard to roam. Sultany and his wife report that he's "lovely, sweet, friendly and energetic and obeys commands — most of the time."

*The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, celebrating its 70th anniversary, is an independent, local, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The AWLA is committed to ending animal homelessness, promoting animal welfare, and serving as an educational resource for the City of Alexandria community. More information is at AlexandriaAnimals.org.*

\$1.2 million cost differential and mocked the people who contributed. No full cost comparison was done. Later we learned that the selected option must be revised to add costs to support structural work on a third floor and retaining wall, and to make other changes needed due to the location of the power lines. The \$1.2 million difference (if it ever existed in the first place) evaporated. Yet, ACPS succeeded in denigrating the citizens and officials who served in good faith, calculating (appar-

ently correctly) that they are not accountable for their actions. The schools also ignore SUP requirements. For example, the T.C. Williams SUP contains requirement 69 for a TC Advisory Committee, which has been meeting successfully since 2007 to address and resolve "adjoining neighborhood issues." The school district took it upon itself to revamp the committee in a naked effort to nullify the voices of the citizens it serves. Worse, they were advised in writing by the planning direc-

tor that these reforms are not what was envisioned by requirement 69, who further wrote that "I have talked to the City Manager's office and we urge ACPS to convene the Advisory Committee as it was traditionally constituted." In plowing forward anyway, the school district thumbed its nose at Council and the city manager. ACPS' funding is appropriated by Council and most of it comes from Alexandria taxpayers. Its legal authorities are not unlimited, and

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# Organizing a Home Office

Design ideas for workspace order.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

Whether located in a basement, spare bedroom or kitchen corner, one of the keys to creating a functional home office is organization. Local designers offer suggestions for styling a space that is both practical and aesthetically appealing.

“Start by thinking about how you would like to use your home office and plan accordingly,” said Megan Padilla, senior designer at Aidan Design. “Will it be a desk that easily con-



PHOTOS BY MORGAN HOWARTH

**This new home office by Anthony Wilder Design/Build incorporates a custom-designed cord control system.**



PHOTO BY ROBERT RADIFERA

**Storage solutions such as those in this office by Megan Padilla help make home offices aesthetically appealing.**

“Custom built-ins make a huge difference [because] you can tailor the storage space to individual needs and create more functional spaces.”

— Shannon Kadwell,  
Anthony Wilder Design/Build.

verts to a homework station or craft area or a dedicated home office for the everyday telecommuter?”

Keeping office equipment out of sight will give the space a home-like feel, says Padilla. This can be accomplished by using storage solutions like printer drawers.

Practical home office organizational solutions include roll-out trays for computer accessories like printers and a wire management system above and below the desk for power cords and computer cables both on top of the desk, advises Chuck Khiel, vice

president of Fred Home Improvement, a division of Case. “Create a Bluetooth operational office space,” he said.

“Organizing all of the smaller office supplies can be accomplished with a series of coordinated containers for tools such as pencils, scissors and markers ... or within drawers,” added Padilla. “Consider a mix of drawer heights to allow ample storage for smaller desk supplies as well as your typical file folders.”

Use open shelving to allow for quick access to frequently used items and book stor-

age. “[It] can also make a smaller space feel more expansive,” said Padilla.

If a home office is in a spare bedroom, closets can be repurposed and organized to hide copy and fax machines, says Shannon Kadwell, interior designer at Anthony Wilder Design/Build.

“Add fabric bulletin boards in prominent locations and in a complementary color for visual appeal,” she said. “Custom built-ins make a huge difference as you can tailor the storage space to individual needs and create more functional spaces.”

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Anything Goes' at Little Theatre of Alexandria

Passengers sail on a cruise liner in Cole Porter's 1930s romantic comedy.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is staging Cole Porter's light-hearted, romantic comedy, "Anything Goes," from Jan. 14 to Feb. 4. The winner of three 2011 Tony Awards, including Best Revival of a Musical, the play takes sail between New York and England with a colorful group of passengers aboard a cruise liner.

Wall Street broker Billy Crocker finds himself in love with socialite Hope Harcourt, who is traveling with her drab fiancé Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Before Billy knows what's happening, he is a stowaway. Luckily, the songstress Reno Sweeney and mobster Moonface Martin are there to help Billy sing and dance his way into Hope's heart.

Director/Choreographer Stefan Sittig said the plot is really no more than a slapstick excuse of a story created to help weave together some of the most beautiful Cole Porter songs ever written.

"The key is to ensure that the audience has fun, can follow the basic zany plot, can laugh at the comedy between the numbers, and can enjoy the music, the dancing (tap and otherwise), and be transported back in time to the 1930s with elegant and fun costumes, an appropriately nautical set, and beautiful lighting," he said.

Sittig is very familiar with Cole Porter as a performer, choreographer and as a director. He was in the 20th anniversary production of "Red, Hot & Cole" where the show first originated in 1978; he also choreographed two different productions of "Anything Goes" and choreographed and performed in two productions of "Kiss Me Kate."

"The key to understanding what makes 'Anything Goes' work is understanding Cole Porter. The way to understand Cole Porter is to delve as deeply as possible into his work, his background and his life. I knew



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

LTA's production of "Anything Goes" will be held Jan. 14 to Feb. 4, 2017. From left are Caitlyn Goerner, Ashley Kaplan, Mara Stewart, Katie Mallory, and Elizabeth Spilsbury.

that if I could understand what made him tick, then I could guide this show into a safe port," he said.

James Maxted plays the role of Sir Evelyn Oakleigh, a British Lord returning to England with his fiancée, Miss Hope Harcourt in order to get married. "He's a slave of duty and obligation as a proper English gentleman would be. But underneath his proper exterior is a passionate fellow with a fascination for all things American, especially their idioms," he said.

He said the biggest challenges were the number of lines and the British dialect. "The largest role I have had previously was as the emcee in Prince William Little Theatre's production of 'Cabaret.' But aside from a few monologues, the emcee's dialogue is all song. Not so with this part," he said. "Another challenge was with a British dialect is that most of the audience has grown up hearing a variety of British dialects in TV and movies. So any vowels that are shaped incorrectly, poor diction, or bad intonation can cause the audience to be disconnected from the character."

He added: "There is nothing serious about this show. Our director Stefan keeps

reminding us that it isn't Chekhov or Brecht. It's pure escapism through into the wonderful world of Cole Porter's amazing music. And with all the turmoil in the world right now, people need a little escapism for a few hours."

Tori Garcia plays the role of Hope Harcourt, who is reserved when she's around her fiancée and mother, and flirtatious and fun and allows herself to "let loose" when she's with Billy. "It's fun to bring her character to life from the script to the stage," she said.

She said one of the challenges was the difference in age. "As the youngest, I was worried about developing relationships within the cast. However, I found myself so comfortable with all of my scene partners and cast-mates. This is one of the most inclusive and friendly groups I've ever worked with in theatre, and I'm loving the rehearsal process so far," she said.

Actress Mara Stewart plays the role of Reno Sweeney, a former evangelist turned nightclub singer. "She is a confident extrovert who is always ready to put on a show. She is a loyal and kindhearted friend and her attraction to Evelyn takes her by

surprise. Reno is often pursued by well-to-do men but there is something different about Evelyn. He is able to bring out a softer more romantic side of Reno," she said.

She said the music has been her biggest challenge. "I am working to stay true to the period but also bring in my own coloring and perspective to the music. The music ... is timeless and I am doing my best to honor Cole Porter in my interpretation," she said.

Ken Kemp is playing the role of Moonface Martin, who is "Public Enemy No. 13" and very insecure about his ranking. "He's a second rate con man and gangster, and a bit of a bumbler — his plans and schemes always seem to go awry. But he'll do anything to help bring Billy and Hope (and Reno and Sir Evelyn) together," he said.

"Moonface is the comic relief for the show, so finding the right timing and delivery for his lines — without going over the top — is the biggest challenge," he said. "Stefan Sittig, our director, has been a great help in finding the right rhythm and tempo for the comic timing. Also, finding the right Brooklynese/New Jersey 'wise guy' accent for him has been a fun challenge."

Music Director Francine Krasowska said they're not trying to make this production feel like an antique popped out of a time machine. "There are vocal sounds/placement and phrasing that are more suited to this jazz-age score than some of our actors might default to from experience in shows written in the last few decades. What works for 'Rocky Horror' or 'Legally Blonde' doesn't necessarily work for Cole Porter. We've had some fun playing with different ways to sing these songs," she said.

She added: "This is a lighthearted romp, and nothing in it is to be taken seriously. As we've moved through rehearsals, and some crew or assistants have seen the show for the first time, we've gotten plenty of laughs, so we're confident the audience will have a good time."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is staging "Anything Goes" from Jan. 14 to Feb. 4. Tickets are \$25 and \$30. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Visit the website at [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com) or call the box office at 703-683-0496.

### CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

**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.

**Christmas Tree Recycling.** Through Friday, Jan. 22 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](http://alexandriava.gov/YardWaste).

#### Simply Abstract" Art Exhibit.

Through Jan. 29 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](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

**Portrayal of Women in Visual Arts Exhibit.** Through Jan. 31, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at St. George Gallery, 105 N. Alfred St. The artist's perspective of women inspired by in part by their experiences residing in Ethiopia. [alexandria@StGeorgeofEthiopia.com](mailto:alexandria@StGeorgeofEthiopia.com) or 703-299-9495

**DASHing Words in Motion.** Through Feb. 1, The City of Alexandria Office of the Arts and the Alexandria Transit Company have joined forces to host a poetry contest "DASHing

Words in Motion." Possible inspirational ideas might stem from the Alexandria Transit Company's DASH buses motto which is "Keep Alexandria Moving," or bus stops, neighborhoods, roads, or other modes of transportation within the City of Alexandria. [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts), email at [poet@alexandriava.gov](mailto:poet@alexandriava.gov), or by phone at 703-746-5565.

#### Multiple Exposures Gallery.

Through Feb. 12 at 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](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com)

#### Making as Meditation with Kathryn Coneway.

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

**Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.** Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at

# ENTERTAINMENT

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

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

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

**Alexandria's Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War.** Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama "Mercy Street," with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who

served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum) for more.

**Shield of Earth: Defending the Heart of the Union exhibit.**

Ongoing, museum hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Sundays, noon-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Highlights of the exhibition include military passes issued by Provost Marshal's Office, construction tools, and original photographs of some of Washington's defenders. 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

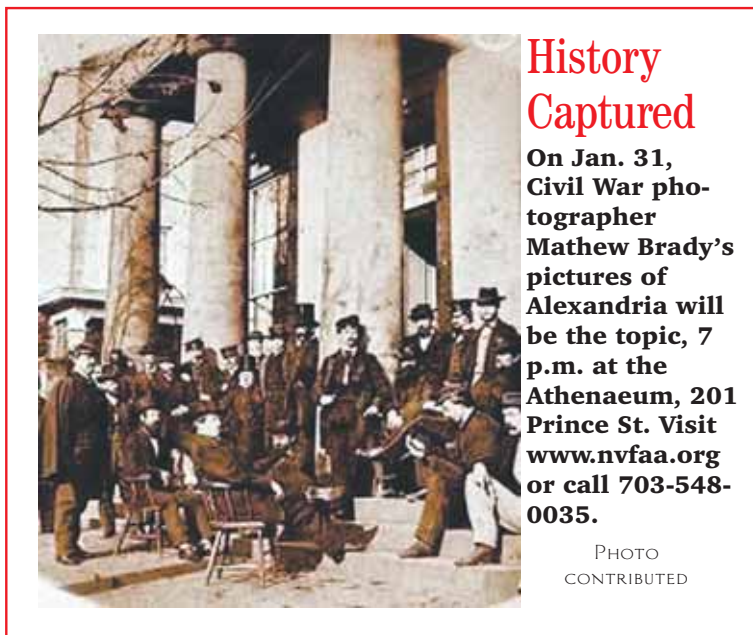
**Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital exhibit.**

Ongoing, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Come see the site that inspired "Mercy Street," the new PBS' series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House. [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) or call 703-549-2997

**Color Disorder Exhibit.** Ongoing, Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A joint exhibition of artists Katie Baines and Amy Chan who use diverse painting materials such as acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print to build energized abstract paintings. [www.nfaa.org](http://www.nfaa.org) or 703-548-0035.

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

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



## History Captured

**On Jan. 31, Civil War photographer Mathew Brady's pictures of Alexandria will be the topic, 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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

**Alexandria Cars and Coffee** invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Wake Up Wednesdays** featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday's near the King Street

Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located near 2000 Duke Street near Motley Pool. The cafe will feature coffee, live music to help commuters start the day off right and donuts from Sugar Shack. [maurisapotts@gmail.com](mailto:maurisapotts@gmail.com)

### 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](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for a schedule.

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

### THURSDAY/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](http://www.VeteransCurationProgram.org)

**"The Hidden World of Food in the Civil War."** 7:30 p.m. at the Lecture Hall of The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. \$10 per person and may be purchased in advance at The Lyceum or by going to [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov). Reservations are required, space is limited. [alexandriava.gov/Lyceum](http://alexandriava.gov/Lyceum).

**Alexandria Economic Development Partnership Social.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. at eLofts Alexandria, 4501 Ford Ave. In conjunction with the West End Business Association. [stuih1@yahoo.com](mailto:stuih1@yahoo.com) or 540-454-3707

### 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](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/pollock-movie)

**Stuff the Bus Food Drive for UCM.** 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Shoppers at Mount Vernon Plaza, 7660 Richmond Highway. Annual food drive hosted by Fairfax County Government and

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day Events

### SUNDAY/JAN. 15

**44th Annual Martin Luther King Memorial Program.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Church of St. Clement, 1701 N Quaker Lane. Annual memorial event celebrating Civil Rights contributions featuring Dr. Frank Smith and music by the Women's Ecumenical Choir of Washington Metropolitan Area. 703-998-6166

### MONDAY/JAN. 16

**Martin Luther King Day Service Project.** 10 a.m.-noon at 123. N. Alfred St. Youth and senior volunteers will create a "vision" board on emergency preparedness by using newspapers and magazines cutouts. They will also put together bags with information on how to prepare for all hazards. [www.VolunteerAlexandria.org](http://www.VolunteerAlexandria.org)



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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Bagels, Pickles Take Center Stage at Del Ray Pop-Up

Two farmer's market favorites find a temporary indoor home.

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET



ax011117-603. 32x22 (15x12)

**Bagels – along with pickles and kraut – will be the stars of the show at the new Salt | Bagel pop-up in Del Ray.**

Friday, Jan. 20, may be listed as Inauguration Day on the calendar, but within the heart of Del Ray there's another inauguration on the horizon that will hit closer to home: The grand opening of Salt | Bagel, a pop-up blending two Alexandria favorites in one spot.

The forces behind No. 1 Sons, mainstays selling their pickle-and-kraut wares at the Old Town Farmer's Market, and Bagel Uprising, a bagel purveyor that has developed a legion of fans through its years at the Four-Mile Run market, have linked arms to launch into a six-week run at a Del Ray pop-up, which will live in the Dairy Godmother space on Mount Vernon Avenue.

(And speaking of the Godmother, there's no need to worry about its continued existence — the shop shuts its doors annually for the winter months and will be back in business in the spring.)

### APPETITE

"We face many challenges (as a nation), but the greatest among them I think is the junky bagels you get at the grocery store," Bagel Uprising's Chad Breckinridge joked. He intends to combat this problem with sandwiches and fermented foods — and the community is ready.

The feedback has been "pretty enthusiastic," Breckinridge said. "There's been a lot of excitement about it."

The union of No. 1 Sons and Bagel Uprising was an organic one, Breckinridge said. After all: What goes better with sandwiches than pickles and kraut?

"To all involved, this seemed like a good, symbiotic relationship," he said.

And for No. 1 Sons, as well, the timing was fortuitous.

"Being a farmer's market business, we deal with quite a bit of seasonality," said No. 1 Sons' Caitlin Roberts, with wintertime being a slow season.

The pickle purveyors have cultivated a wealth of longtime customers "at Old Town Farmer's Market or Del Ray Farmer's Market who are really excited to come buy our ferments, not in a winter farmer's

market but in a place with a roof and heating."

Bagel- and pickle-lovers will find all of their favorites present and accounted for at the pop-up: Plain, everything, sesame, poppy seed, and, yes, salt bagels will be on the menu, as will a host of No. 1 Sons' fermented foods. And look for some new additions to the repertoire as well, Roberts says. While the final sandwich menu is being recipe-tested in advance of launch, "One fun thing that we're playing with is a sweet potato cream cheese schmear with walnuts," she said.

For Breckinridge, who also has a full-time day job, the pop-up provides an opportunity to expand his reach to a daily business. It's "a chance to see how a bagel shop would actually do when there's actual overhead," he said, rather than in a week-to-week market situation.

And while No. 1 Sons will continue its standard winter schedule of alternating weekends at the region's farmer's markets, the inclusion of a daily pop-up space will bring with it a new opportunity — and potentially a new audience.

"We're really excited to see how many bagels the people of Alexandria would like to eat in the winter months," Roberts said. (Salt | Bagel will open with about 1,500 bagels to start and will adjust its count to meet demand.)

"People seem to be excited about carbs and sour vegetables," she said.

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

### If You Go

**Salt | Bagel, 2310 Mount Vernon Ave.**  
**Opening Day:** Friday, Jan. 20, through the end of February.

**Hours:** 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (or while supplies last) daily.

**What to expect:** "We will be selling single bagels ... but we will offer a few more things that you can eat-in," says No. 1 Sons' Caitlin Roberts. "So if you want a single bagel with a schmear you can get it to go, or you can get it to eat in the Dairy Godmother space. We'll have a few sandwiches, too."

## CALENDAR

MTV Transportation to stock United Community Ministries food pantry. List of most need items at [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org).

**Case Remodeling Seminars.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Mosaic Tile Showroom, 821 S. Pickett St. Case Design/Remodeling experts will help you gain insight into the latest trends and different levels of kitchen and bath remodeling, as well as project timeframes and budgeting. 240-899-3537

### TUESDAY/JAN. 17

**Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast.** 7:30-9 a.m. at Carluccio's, 100 King St. Focus on roundtable power networking and giving attendees the chance to exchange business cards, develop new prospects, and share a 60-second commercial with each table. Members \$35, Non-Members \$50, Members at the Door \$40. [www.alexchamber.com](http://www.alexchamber.com)

### January Lions Dinner Meeting.

7 p.m. at Pema's Restaurant, 8430 Richmond Highway. Social at 6:30 p.m. The speaker will be from Metro Access, all are welcome. 703-960-4973

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 18

**Women and Wine Get Together.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Great Harvest Bread Co., 1711 Centre Plaza. For women 21 years and older who

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# ENTERTAINMENT



Olivia Parker (Jovie) singing with Buddy in Rockefeller Center in ACCT's production of "Elf, Jr."



Olivia Parker (Jovie) stars in ACCT's production of "Elf, Jr."



From left: Walter Hobbs (Michael Kerns), Buddy the Elf (Grant Hamilton) and Mr. Greenway (Tonks Teitel) star in "Elf, Jr."

PHOTOS BY HOWARD SOOROS

## 'Elf, Jr.:' A Story of Transformation

Family-friendly children's story is based on a movie and a Broadway show.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
GAZETTE PACKET

With a cast of 42 children, the Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) is staging "Elf, Jr.," based on the New Line Cinema hit, from Jan. 13 to Jan. 22.

The children's story revolves around Buddy, a young orphan, who crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the reality that his father is on the naughty list and that his half-brother doesn't believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Director Shelagh Roberts said ACCT is always looking for upbeat, family-friendly shows that are familiar to people, but are also fresh and new for a good portion of the local audience. "I really think the creative team of 'Elf, Jr.' did an excellent job both converting the movie into the Broadway show; and also converting the full-

length Broadway show into a condensed Junior version without losing any essential elements," she said.

"The movie 'Elf, Jr.' is an iconic film for many families, and brings a smile to many people's faces. We were really excited to bring that story to life for a live audience, and the original music [from the Broadway show] really helps to convey the energy of New York City at Christmas time, and the sense of fun and adventure that Buddy feels as he sets off on his odyssey from the North Pole to a bustling city," she said.

She said Buddy's childlike innocence is such a contrast to the cynical New Yorkers he encounters — especially his father, Walter and Jovie — that it sets up opportunities for comedy. "Like so many of the most beloved stories, it's a story about transformation and what is possible," she said.

Co-producer Tracy Dunn said she loves the way community theater brings so many different types of people together. "It is such a unifying experience — you meet people you would never meet normally and you get exposed to great music and talent! It was a no brainer for me to say yes to Shelagh (Roberts) when she asked me to produce," she said.

She said the story of "Elf Jr." was about the importance of being good and believ-

ing in unconditional kindness and joy. "It is a true feel good. Everyone wants to believe," she said.

Grant Hamilton, age 13, plays the role of Buddy the Elf, a completely happy guy. "Any sadness he feels needs to come from the outside," he said. "The thing is, there are different types of happiness, and nailing down all of them is the hard part."

He said the challenge has been the singing. "My vocal range is not what you would expect from someone playing Buddy the Elf, so me and the music director have had to rework some of the singing parts," he said. "The funny thing is I'm usually not a good dancer, but the choreography to this production has come to me quite well."

He added: "If you don't walk out feeling entertained, then we didn't do it right. We may want to make you feel happy, or sad, or sympathetic or whatever, but that's all to serve the greater purpose of just giving the audience a good time."

Olivia Parker, age 17, plays the role of Jovie, who is a bit jaded. "She's been through some hard times and doubts herself. Over the course of the show she begins to open up, gain confidence, and like all the characters, learns the best way to spread Christmas cheer, is singing loud for all to hear," she said.

As far as audience takeaways, she said that the month of January can feel like a snowy slap in the face after the Christmas season. "Hopefully, this show will remind people that you can carry and spread that

joy throughout the rest of the year," she said.

Joel Simpson, age 9, plays the role of Michael Hobbs, Buddy's half-brother. "Michael is 12 years old and is very excited about having a new brother. He doesn't want toys for Christmas, but wants more time with his family," he said.

He said the hardest thing about being in a stage production is that you don't get a lot of time with your own family. For audience takeaways, he hopes they will keep their hearts open to new people even if they're different. "Also, that Christmas is more than just gifts. And a lot of laughs!"

Emily Roddy, age 16, plays the role of Emily Hobbs, a devoted wife and mother who is "finding it continuously difficult to put up with her husband's lack of attention to his family because of his demanding job."

She said she found it challenging to develop her character as a working mom, who is trying to balance life with her son, and to try and keep her husband more involved. She said she hopes the takeaway will be that, even in the most difficult situations, one should keep a positive attitude, rely on your family for strength and put family first.

*The Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) is staging "Elf, Jr." from Jan. 13 to Jan. 22. Tickets are \$12. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m., and a show Monday, Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. The venue is located at 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Visit the website at <http://acctonline.org>.*

## CALENDAR

enjoy wine and are interested in getting to know other women in Alexandria. [www.volunteeralexandria.org](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org).

### JAN. 20-22

**Inauguration Weekend at Gadsby's Tavern Museum.** Various times at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Free tours, ladies tea, plus other hands-on activities. 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

### SATURDAY/JAN. 21

**Family Owl Outing at Huntley Meadows.** 4:30-6 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Discover the secret world of owls and

learn what makes these raptors excellent predators of the night. After the presentation, hike the trail at Huntley and hopefully hear or spot one of the park's resident owls. \$7. 703-768-2525 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/).

### MONDAY/JAN. 23

**"City Elections: Are We Getting It Right?"** 6:30 p.m. at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Discussion by Chris Marston, former Alexandria Republican City Committee Chairman; Cameron P. Quinn, International Elections Law Expert and former head of the Virginia State Board of Elections; and

Clarence Tong, Alexandria Democratic Committee Chair. Cash bar reception and dinner with reservations and cancellations by Jan. 20. Members \$32 nonmembers \$37. 703-548-7089 or [agendaalexandria@aol.com](mailto:agendaalexandria@aol.com).

**Ballroom Dance Classes.** 7:45-8:30 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Gary Stephens teaches the foxtrot, waltz, tango, swing, salsa, meringue, rumba, cha-cha, and samba. For all skill levels. \$15 per class. 703-505-5998 or [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org)

### TUESDAY/JAN. 24

**Homeschool Program: Firefighting Technology.** 1-2:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse, 107 S.

Alfred St. See how fire-fighting technology has evolved and test the scientific concepts behind how the historic equipment worked. Tickets are \$8 per child, adults free. Pre-registration is required. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 25

**Dyke Marsh Walk.** 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Dyke Marsh, 6401 George Washington Memorial Pkwy. Join leader Tom Nardone to scan the river for waterfowl and enjoy a walk through the marsh and woodland areas. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Bird Club. [www.nvabc.org/](http://www.nvabc.org/)  
**Speaker Series on "Technology for Seniors."** 10 a.m.-noon at Beatley

Central Library, 5005 Duke St. This workshop will discuss how technology can enhance lives. [Seniorservicesalex.org](http://Seniorservicesalex.org) or 703-836-4414, ext. 110

### Volunteer Alexandria Open House.

4-7 p.m. at 123 North Alfred St., 1st floor board room. Meet friends and learn how to get engaged in the community. Visit [www.volunteeralexandria.org](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org)

**Iconography: Prayer in Images.** 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Learn how to read the symbolism in this art form and how icons are used in Orthodox Christian churches and homes with Laura Clerici. 703-360-4220

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

they are accountable to Council and the public. Oversight of city appropriations is a responsibility of Council. Council and the public have every right to know and demand that public funds and community engagement have integrity. An independent Accountability Audit of the school district is needed to root out and correct the persistent problems.

With at least \$611 million in new schools, and redistricting at stake, we must have confidence in ACPS' integrity and credibility, which has been shaken to its foundations and must be corrected.

Last year, the mayor and Council showed leadership in adopting an ethics resolution that pledges to establish a culture of transparency in Alexandria's government. An Accountability Audit of the school district is a good start for Council to show the strength of its commitment.

**Frank Putzu**  
Alexandria



PHOTO COURTESY OF HUGH M. VAN HORN

The photo shows the previous patches on South Pitt Street as well as the sand-and-asphalt patches just installed.

## City's Road Priorities

To the Editor:

My wife and I have resided on South Pitt Street in Old Town Alexandria for almost 20 years. Over the past decade, we have seen the condition of the street in front of our house deteriorate steadily. The city has addressed this with one half-hearted measure after another. One attempted fix was to cover the street with a tar and gravel mixture, which we were told would pack down to create a hard and durable surface. Of course, this didn't work. The gravel mixture got thrown up by the tires of passing cars, both "decorating" the lower sides of the cars and creating loose gravel deposits along the curbs. During the

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winter, the combination of treating and plowing the streets created potholes. City employees installed temporary patches during warmer weather, but of course this didn't fix the problem either. The same thing happened the next winter, and the next, and so on. This winter, even though we have not yet had much snow, the potholes have grown deeper again. The latest act in this farce happened on Tuesday, Jan. 10, while the outside temperature was 27 degrees Fahrenheit. A city crew with two trucks stopped right in front of our house. One crew shoveled an asphalt mixture from the back of the first truck into some of the potholes and tamped it down. The crew from the second truck took some shovelfuls of sand and sprinkled it on the asphalt. In less than 10 minutes they were done, and the trucks moved on down the street. Enclosed with this article is a photo of the street as it looks now. The previous patches are clearly evident, as are the sand-and-asphalt patches just installed.

I would not find this miserable excuse for street maintenance so irritating if I had not also seen city road crews hard at work this past summer reducing the number of auto lanes on upper King Street, installing new median dividers, and creating new bicycle lanes, with everything smoothly and professionally paved. I would like to know how much the bicyclists are paying for this top-quality service, while residents like ourselves — who pay substantial amounts of real-estate taxes to the city every year — get such short shrift. Is this really the picture we want to present to future homeowners and taxpayers in Alexandria? In my personal opinion, this is a clear example of wrong-headed priorities in the decision-making going on in City Hall.

**Hugh M. Van Horn**  
Alexandria

## City's Spending Priorities?

To the Editor:

Several weeks ago, the Alexandria city manager was reminded during a Federation of Civic Associations meeting that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) was in a state of flux, and that Alexandria should stop or postpone any construction of the planned \$268 million Metro Station in Potomac Yard. His reply was that Metro was beginning to turn around.

However, save for the Federal

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20



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FROM PAGE 19

Transit Administration (FTA) lifting WMATA spending restraints that were imposed two years ago, there has been little real Metro progress. Since that Federation meeting, there has been considerable adverse publicity about Metro or its management. As an example, approximately half of the Track Inspection Department employees (28) have been disciplined; six were fired for “pencil whipping” track inspection records for as long as three years. This sorry practice contributed to a Silver Line derailment this past July. Moreover, Metro regularly issues notices that one or another of its stations is shut down for repairs.

Metro is not only impaired, it has been shackled by a lack of a dedicated funding source. In addition to receiving some Federal grants, Metro relies on contributions from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, which makes it one of the few Metro systems that does not have a dedicated funding source. Alexandria’s contribution to WMATA will be almost \$40 million next year, which is an increase of \$6.5 million over this past year. However, Alexandria is projected to have a low revenue growth (1.25 percent) in the new fiscal year. Its unmet needs and funding challenges are significant, starting with infrastructure in schools and other city-owned properties. The Alexandria school-age population continues to grow each year, which calls for new schools in the near term. The combined sewer system is a blight on the Potomac River ecosystem that will cost approximately \$300 million to remediate. These needs are in addition to a city debt close to \$600 million, with a debt service for \$80 million in the coming year. Since the commercial vacancy rate is currently 20 percent, the tax base may be overestimated.

At this point, one might ask why Alexandria is pressing on with plans to build the Potomac Yards Metro Station, when other needs are pressing, and revenue from the tax base is likely declining? This is an especially interesting question, since this Metro station is not really necessary. The entire premise for this location is based on the notional expectation that it will inspire development, rather than it being an actual need; Potomac Yard is well serviced by the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that runs from the Braddock Road Metro Station to the Pentagon Metro.

The bottom line is that Alexandria can ill afford to spend \$268 million on an unnecessary Metro Station in Potomac Yards, when there are other far more pressing needs. The City Council needs to focus on these needs, or be prepared to deal with the consequences.

**Townsend A. “Van” Van Fleet**  
Alexandria

## No Conciliation, Then Litigation

To the Editor:

Citizens of Alexandria make no mistake; your participation and community discussion with any and all projects related to our schools is truly a waste of time. Each year the school board is given a check — for at

# How Tech Can Enhance Seniors’ Lives

BY MARY LEE ANDERSON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA



**T**echnology is all around us — just walk down the street and people are on their cell phones or other devices. That includes seniors — nearly 80 percent of seniors 65 and older own a cell phone, and more than 60 percent have a computer or a laptop. With 10,000 Americans turning 65 daily — a trend expected to last for the next 17 years — the number of seniors using more tech devices should increase, as well.

**SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA**

The use of technology can add fulfill-

ment and independence; stimulate the mind and body and be a vehicle to become more socially connected. Researchers from Michigan State University have reported that elderly individuals who spend occasional time online can drastically reduce symptoms of depression, just another example of the many benefits of new-age technology.

Senior Services of Alexandria’s Jan. 25 Speaker Series will explore the importance of technology and how it can enhance seniors’ lives in so many ways. The workshop will also dispel the myth that using tech-

nology is too complicated.

There will be presenters from AARP, Virginia Hospital Center, Northern Virginia Community College and the Beatley Central Library discussing topics including: how technology can keep you safe in your home; what technology classes are available to seniors; what the library offers in the way of technology, including tips and tricks on how to use your devices more effectively. The event is taking place at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., starting at 10 a.m. until noon (registration begins at 9:30 a.m.). The event is free and open to the public with light refreshments. To register go to [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

least 44 percent of the entire city budget (\$280 million this year.) to spend in any way they see fit. Once the funds are dished out there are no checks and balances — no oversight committee — no accountability even from the City Council and the mayor. In fact according to City Manager Mark Jinks, it is illegal for the mayor and the council to hold the school board accountable for anything including the school budget and SUP requirements. Let me rephrase that: The school board has carte blanche to spend as much of your tax dollars as they see fit — to disburse funds on any and all projects regardless of cost as long as they have majority votes of school board members to do so. Any funds left over are theirs to keep and are re-deposited into their slush fund for other projects such as tennis courts, lights, walls around fields etc. Your immediate reaction is that I am wrong — that such action is reckless. It’s been happening all along — it’s in our city charter — so stated by the city manager. This lack of oversight is dictated by the current city charter from which the board operates.

To those wonderful citizens who labored and fought the battle for Patrick Henry Elementary School — you lost because the school board wanted something else and was not required to inform you. The issue of safety echoed through the council chamber the day of the vote. In a letter obtained from Mr. Jackson director of Educational Facilities through Clarence Stukes and Dr. Crawley dated May 13, 2016 concerning the recent traffic study for Patrick Henry, the letter stated “the conclusion of the traffic study states that A1 is not recommended, C1 would allow for better control of vehicular and pedestrian movements on the campus.” If safety was the issue — and it was — then C1 was the winner. However the City Council members had their backs to the wall, they capitulated and the neighborhood lost. So much for community involvement. This idea of community involvement haunts me. I view it as a check list — a ploy to allow you to feel that you are being heard. You now understand the incredible monetary authority possessed by the

school board; it doesn’t matter if its right as long as it is legal. They can do what they want. Ladies and gentleman this is far from over. These next years will be spent with the citizens of Alexandria defending their neighborhoods not with community input but with litigation rather than communication because conciliation is not part of the school board’s vocabulary.

**Bill Goff**  
Alexandria

## Join In Women’s March

To the Editor:

The Women’s March on Washington will take place on Jan. 21. Many people still have questions about the march, which are now answered on the national website, [www.womensmarch.com](http://www.womensmarch.com). If you’re wondering how Virginians get involved, go to the Virginia Chapter for the march, [www.wmwVirginia.org](http://www.wmwVirginia.org). Some answers: Yes, men and children are invited.

Women’s Rights are everyone’s rights. The permits are in place. The march starts with a rally at 10 a.m. at the intersection of Independence Avenue and Third Street, SW. The organizers are anticipating over 400,000 people. Participants will be marching together in solidarity for the protection of women’s rights, their safety, their health, and their families. Some marchers will have very specific issues that they will highlight, such as the protection of women’s reproductive rights, the support of immigrants and other vulnerable communities, being good stewards of our planet or opposing the nomination of specific political appointees. I see this march as a way for the country, and women in particular, to put the new administration and Congress on notice. We are paying attention and are going to do everything in our power to make sure that laws are not passed that take away women’s or anyone else’s rights. We must all be protected from the greed of corporations and individuals who are more concerned with profits than anything else. So how can Alexandrians get involved? Of course if you

can, be sure to march, and to register at [www.wmwVirginia.org](http://www.wmwVirginia.org). Grassroots Alexandria, a new, local, non-partisan, mobilizing group is organizing Alexandrians to march together behind a large banner that says “Alexandrians for Women’s Rights.” They are also organizing a sign-making party on Jan. 14 from 2-5 p.m. in northeast Alexandria. Interested readers should email [GrassrootsAlexandria@gmail.com](mailto:GrassrootsAlexandria@gmail.com). The Virginia Chapter for the Women’s March ([www.wmwVirginia.org](http://www.wmwVirginia.org)) is also looking for outreach volunteers to spread the word about the march and for volunteers to help on the day of the march. This march is not just a one-off event. It is the beginning of future activism for millions of people who will work to protect women’s rights and to push for fair and sustainable policies.

**Sarah Stott**  
Alexandria



PHOTO BY GERI BALDWIN

**The intersection of Gibbon and South Columbus streets with its new crossing light.**

## Appreciates Crossing Light

To the Editor:

On behalf of residents, I would like to thank the city Department of Transportation for the crossing light at the intersection of Gibbon and South Columbus streets which was greatly needed.

**Geri Baldwin, Activist**  
Alexandria

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A native of Pennsylvania, Betty also lived in Washington, D.C., Alexandria, Virginia, San Jose, California, and Tucson, Arizona. She retired from the federal government with 32 years of service. She was active in the Methodist Church, played golf, traveled and worked part time in retirement. She was one of eleven siblings and is survived by her children, David and Leslie, grandchildren Todd, Courtney, Jeffrey, Sarah and Emily and two great grandchildren. Those who knew her will remember her beautiful smile and calm and loving presence. Her life with us will be a cherished memory. Services were held.  
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One of the mostly abandoned hallways connecting Sears to the cluster of retail at the center of Landmark Mall.



Carlos Dominguez, co-owner of City Cap in Landmark Mall and Fair Oaks Mall.

# Plan Moves Forward for Landmark

FROM PAGE 1

facility are completely abandoned.

Richard Taylor remembers a very different Landmark Mall. His Landmark mall of the 1970s was vibrant and bustling with activity. He used to visit the mall all the time when he was young, before he ever dreamed of owning a store there. Now, his Fashion Mechanics is one of the last retail holdouts at Landmark Mall.

"Back in the day, it was like Tysons is now," said Taylor. "It was busy."

Fashion Mechanics is one of the new startups that moved in two years ago to take advantage of the low rents.

"The price was low, but it fits," said Taylor. "It's a pretty laid back mall."

Taylor said his favorite thing in the mall was the playspace near the front of his store.

"This is amazing," Taylor said, pointing down to the playground at the center of the bottom floor. "It's a great place to bring the kids. I've never seen another mall have something like this, and I think every mall should."

Now, Taylor is looking at moving to Spotsylvania or Manassas.

Like Taylor, Carlos Dominguez opened City Cap with a friend four years ago to take advantage of the lower rents. The two of them worked at a kiosk in the mall five years ago. Dominguez said they looked around and noticed there were no clothing stores other than the major chain stores, so they pitched their idea to the mall owners and were able to get their store opened.

Dominguez said City Cap has another store in Fair Oaks, and that they had been bracing for this close for a while.

"It wasn't really a surprise," said Dominguez. "Once the main chains started leaving we had a pretty good idea of what was coming."

While the location was perfect and the store drew in business from D.C. and Maryland, Dominguez said their main customers were people who'd come to the mall specifically to see them.

"It's been bad here," said Dominguez. "There's been almost no foot traffic."

Dominguez, 25, says he has an attachment to Landmark Mall and that he'll be sad to see it go.

"I spend my 20's here," said Dominguez. "This was our first time starting a business. It was the right place and the right time, with super low rents. But it gets super lonely sometimes. It's depressing, seeing all of the emptiness and the lost potential."

Other stores facing the mall's closure have been longtime community fixtures. Ellen's Boutique, owned and operated by Pastor June Ellen Thrash, has been in Landmark Mall for 10 years. The consignment store moved to Landmark from a location on Duke Street and was successful in the new space. Thrash said she enjoyed being at Landmark Mall and that she's going to miss it. Once the mall closes, Thrash doesn't know what will come next but she doesn't plan to stop working. She's looking at Manassas and Springfield, but said she'd prefer to stay in Alexandria.

"This is all I know," said Thrash, currently 72 who started working retail at 17. "I'm so grateful to God for the time I was allowed to rent here at Landmark Mall."

Thrash said she isn't mad about the closing, she understands and praised the work of Mall Manager Carol Martin. Like many other retail owners, Thrash said she wished there was more notice given for retail owners.

"It was a surprise," said Tesfahun Getu, owner of Ethiopia Twice Boutique. "They gave us one month notice. Considering how many people are losing their jobs, they

should have given us some consideration."

"We need more time," said Vjay Dari, owner of longtime Landmark tenant Tobaccoist Essentials. "Even to move our house we would need more than one month."

Dari said business in his store was good in the beginning, years ago when the mall was still fresh, but that lately things have been rough.

"We're looking for a reasonably priced place," said Dari. "We've talked about moving to Maryland but I'm concerned about the safety ... If we don't find another place, we will try to sell what we have."

Getu and a few others said they hoped that window to close would be extended a few months. Getu has run Ethiopia Twice Boutique in Landmark Mall for nine years and two months. They started at the end of the mall near Sears, but as more stores were shuttered six months ago they were forced to move closer to the other retail. Getu said he spent a lot of money on that move, only to have to close a few months later. Now, Getu is looking around for other retail options.

"Landmark Mall needs to consider their reputation in Alexandria," said Getu. "If retailers have a bad experience, people won't come back. We work hard, but we knew Landmark would close. This experience, it has been good and bad, but you have to expect both when you run a business."

# Metro Seeks More Funds

FROM PAGE 1

listened. The major cost on the capital budget side is rail and bus replacement. Sixty percent of the capital budget is dedicated to the acquisition of new 7,000 railcars, replacement of old buses, and the rehabilitation of current buses and railcars to improve service.

According to Morgan Rout, director of the Office of Management and Budget, the proposed contributions would have an eight- or nine-cent impact on the city's tax rate if cash funded, or two cents if debt funding is included.

"WMATA has made it clear that their ap-

proach to the budget gap is one of shared sacrifice," said Yon Lambert, director of Transportation and Environmental Services.

Funding levels for WMATA are still to be determined as part of the Alexandria City Council budget process. Silberberg made it clear that the city expects greater levels of accountability and responsiveness than in the past.

"We need accountability [from the Metro]," said Silberberg. "There is a reason 500 positions have been eliminated, and why 500 more will be. Without accountability at all levels, things have really gone off track."

**1**

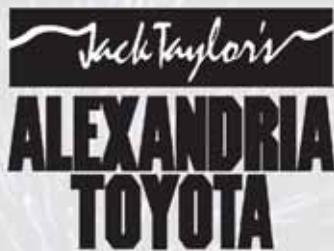
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SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.

**GOT TIRES?**

INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY.

AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.

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### TRUESTART BATTERY SPECIAL

**\$99<sup>95</sup>**

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

**\$99<sup>95</sup>**

**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 1/31/17.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE

### LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL

**\$29<sup>95</sup>** NON-SYNTHETIC **\$49<sup>95</sup>** 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.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE

### COMPLIMENTARY 15 MINUTE ALIGNMENT CHECK

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE

### 30,000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE

**\$159<sup>95</sup>**

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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### 15% OFF ANY ACCESSORIES

- Apparel • Window visors • I-pad adaptors •
- All weather floor mats • Toyota bedliners •

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE

### 10% OFF OVER THE COUNTER PARTS

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

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there when it counts



OPEN SAT 1/14 & SUN 1/15, 1-4

### Old Town Village \$849,975

Stunning 4-level brick townhome in beautiful courtyard setting. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, study, breakfast room, deck, garage, gorgeous hardwoods, updated kitchen. Community pool & fitness center. Walk to King Street Metro, restaurants, shops & the waterfront. 418 S Fayette St.

**Lisa Groover 703.919.4426**  
[www.LisaGroover.com](http://www.LisaGroover.com)



### Old Town \$929,000

Fabulous four-level end-unit townhome in popular Rivergate community features sunlit open floor plan, 3 spacious bedrooms 2.5 baths, hardwood flooring and 2-car garage. Convenient North Old Town location on the bike path and just steps to Potomac River.

**Joy Sutherland 703.725.5061**  
**Casey Sutherland 703.628.1386**



### Beverley Hills \$799,000

Deceptively Large! The rear addition includes huge family room overlooking the flat, fully usable lot and main level master bedroom suite. Living room with wood-burning fireplace flanked by built-in bookcases. All bedrooms boast great closet space. Wood floors in original house.

**Betty Mallon 703.989.8548**  
[www.BettyMallon.com](http://www.BettyMallon.com)



OPEN SAT 1/14 & SUN 1/15, 1-4

### Beverley Hills \$1,099,000

Move-in Condition! Stately and spacious, 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath, 3,800-SF brick colonial with huge in-law suite. Two master suites, refinished hardwood floors, beautiful kitchen with granite, new stainless steel appliances, and new 2-zone HVAC. 2-car garage. 3600 1/2 Russell Road

**Bruce Fall 703.677.2812**  
[www.BruceFall.com](http://www.BruceFall.com)



OPEN SUN 1/15, 2-4

### Bucknell Manor \$639,900

Move-in ready split level with 3-bedrooms and 2-baths has been lovingly cared for. Lovely kitchen, warm wood floors throughout, gorgeous living room with gas fireplace, separate dining room walks out to a fabulous brand new Trex deck (this yard is spectacular!) 1703 Rollins Drive

**Gordon Wood 703.447.6138**  
**Chris Hayes 703.944.7737**

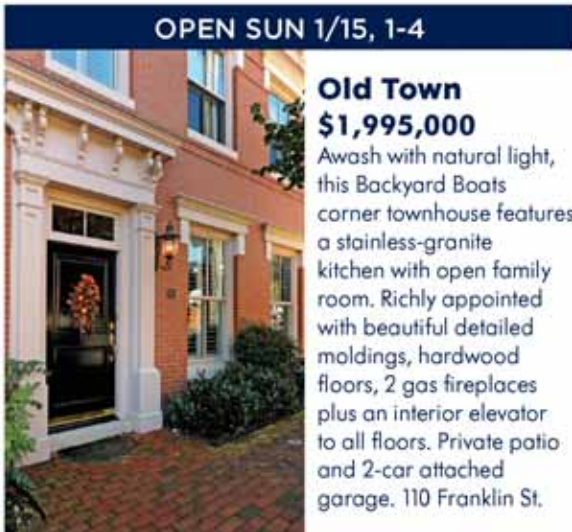


OPEN SUN 1/15, 2-4

### Old Town \$919,000

Live large on just 2 levels! Beautifully renovated top to bottom and located in the heart of Old Town. A fabulous kitchen, gorgeous master, and marble baths. The bonus loft doubles as home office or 4th bedroom. Off-street parking for 2, one space fully covered. 804 Wolfe Street

**Joan Shannon 703.507.8655**  
[www.JoanHome.com](http://www.JoanHome.com)



OPEN SUN 1/15, 1-4

### Old Town \$1,995,000

Awash with natural light, this Backyard Boats corner townhouse features a stainless-granite kitchen with open family room. Richly appointed with beautiful detailed moldings, hardwood floors, 2 gas fireplaces plus an interior elevator to all floors. Private patio and 2-car attached garage. 110 Franklin St.

**Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421**  
[www.BabsBeckwith.com](http://www.BabsBeckwith.com)



### The Mews \$519,900

Beautiful 4 level townhouse in a cul-de-sac location! Warm hardwoods, gas fireplace, stainless appliances, granite counters, and large deck! Master bedroom with vaulted ceiling plus loft. Lower level rec room, full bath, laundry room, door to patio & fenced yard. Near Metro. 7002 Kings Manor Drive, 22315

**Sue Dickerson 703.380.0153**  
[www.SueDickersonRealtor.com](http://www.SueDickersonRealtor.com)



### Old Town \$669,900

Centrally located in the heart of Old Town, this historic 1880s townhome offers 2 bedrooms & 1.5 baths and off-street parking. Enjoy an updated kitchen, 3 wood-burning fireplaces, classic features and the ability to walk to Metro, restaurants and shops. [thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/220-n-patrick/](http://thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/220-n-patrick/)

**Sue & Allison Goodhart 703.362.3221**  
[www.TheGoodhartGroup.com](http://www.TheGoodhartGroup.com)

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