



## SFA Holiday Soiree

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sugeivis Gomez, center, joins The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria representatives Dec. 7 at the SFA Women's Holiday Soiree fundraiser. A 2017 SFA scholarship recipient, Gomez shared her story of overcoming obstacles to become a student at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. Above are SFA Director of College Advising Margaret Feldman; Board Chair Kathy Conrad; Gomez; Assistant Director Maria Redwine; and SFA Executive Director Beth Lovain. See [www.alexscholarshipfund.org](http://www.alexscholarshipfund.org).

## What's In a Name

Asana talks Old Town development strategy.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

A year ago few in Alexandria had heard the name "Asana." On Dec. 5, representatives from the Charlotte, N.C., real estate investment company were the featured speakers at the Chamber of Commerce annual meeting discussing the firm's acquisition of 21 properties along the King

Street corridor in Old Town.

"Old Town has all the elements for us to be successful," said Reed Kracke, director of development for Asana Partners. "From the waterfront to the Metro there are critical mass storefronts — we don't have to create that."

Joining Kracke was Kate Grissom, Asana Partners

SEE ASANA, PAGE 3

## 'Blood Everywhere'

Testimony reveals struggle to apprehend suicidal murder suspect.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

It was a frantic scene. Standing in the dimly lit room where Dasheira Barksdale had just been murdered, police say the struggle to detain an armed and suicidal Melvin Williams nearly ended with his death.

At a preliminary hearing on Dec. 12 for Williams, charged with the murder of Barksdale, the details of the Sept. 14 murder came out as police who responded to the stabbing in progress recounted what they saw.

Officers Asad Nawaz and Wesley Vitale, working the midnight shift, responded to a stabbing in the 900 block of N. Henry Street in the early morning. Nawaz said when he arrived, there were multiple people standing around outside the building and another officer holding down a bleeding person. The officer told Nawaz the suspect was still inside and there could be another victim. As he turned to the house, Nawaz told the court that there were multiple people inside the house and women screaming "he's killing her."

Nawaz and Vitale went inside the apartment and worked their way upstairs, to an empty hallway with a locked door at the far end. Vitale, trained in hostage negotia-

tion, said he tried to convince the suspect inside to open the door. According to Vitale, Williams would only answer, "You guys can't help me."

Vitale tried to convince Williams to open the door to at least allow paramedics to help the victim inside, to which Williams allegedly answered "It's too late to help her, she's already dead."

Vitale and Williams both said the answer was followed by a series of thumping noises, which they both described distinctly as the sound of someone being stabbed. A ram was brought up and the door was burst open after two hits. Barksdale's body had been pressed up against the door. Vitale and Williams said the body was non-responsive and covered with blood and several stab wounds.

"There was blood everywhere" Nawaz said. "It was on her face and all around her."

As they entered the room, Vitale and Nawaz said Williams was standing behind her. Vitale said it wasn't a large room and it was lit only by the light coming in from the hallway and from a window



Williams

SEE BLOOD, PAGE 5

## Deferred Maintenance: Not Getting Cheaper

ACPS superintendent's FY19-28 CIP proposal reflects cost of aging schools.

BY DAN BRENDL  
GAZETTE PACKET

Non-capacity expenses in the school administration's proposed FY19-28 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) reflect the cost of keeping aging school facilities up and running.

Superintendent Lois Berlin's \$459 million CIP proposal to the School Board comprises two main

project categories: "capacity" and "non-capacity." Capacity projects mainly include new school construction, or property acquisition, to accommodate growing student enrollment. These account for \$370 million (80 percent) of the CIP proposal.

Non-capacity projects do not add new seats. Rather, they largely "address deferred modernizations" of existing schools that are up to 95 years old and "have outdated

systems that are increasingly harder to repair," said Berlin. Non-capacity projects account for \$89 million (19 percent) of the CIP proposal and were the subject of the School Board's second CIP work session, Thursday, Dec. 7.

This year's non-capacity portion represents a 10 percent increase over the School Board's approved \$81 million 10-year request in FY18, and a 53 percent increase over its \$58 million request in

FY17. The largest 10-year increases over the FY18 request include school buses and vehicles,

building system upgrades, Lyles Crouch Elementary School, Matthew Maury Elementary School and system-wide repairs. The com

SEE AGING SCHOOLS, PAGE 4

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# Ready for 100 The push towards 100 percent clean energy in Alexandria.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**H**ow can Alexandria get more environmentally friendly? It's a goal that's been a major topic of conversation in Alexandria in 2017, between the update to the environmental action plan and the requirement from the state that Alexandria replace its aging sewer system.

On Dec. 7, a panel of experts hosted by the Sierra Club discussed the future of green energy in Virginia and what Alexandria can do specifically to reduce its environmental impact.

In the opening remarks, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) said the recent election has him optimistic about the state's environmental future.

"I'm much more optimistic," said Beyer. "We will have a General Assembly, no matter which party controls it, more moderate and more centrist and push Dominion Energy in the right direction."

But the experts on the panel said there's still a long ways to go until Virginia, and Dominion Energy specifically, is eco-friendly.

"We were always told 2016 was going to be the year solar energy was able to compete with fossil fuels," said Ivy Main, renewable energy chair for the Virginia chap-



**Praveen Kathpal (left), vice chair of the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission, and Ivy Main (right), renewable energy chair for the Virginia chapter of the Sierra Club.**

ter of the Sierra Club. "Wind already reached that, but we're at the point where wind and solar can compete with fossil fuels at unsubsidized prices. But Virginia has a legacy of fossil fuels and nuclear use. We have a regular monopoly utility system that favors power plant construction over efficiency. Dominion Energy, the largest utility, is primarily a gas company."

Main also noted that localities can be hindered by the Dillon Rule, which means localities only have the powers to implement laws the state will allow them.

"There are things cities and counties in other states can do that we can't," said Main.

But there are still efforts the city can undertake to reduce its environmental footprint. City government is a relatively small part of the city's overall electrical consumption, only four percent, but it is the largest single user. Praveen Kathpal, vice chair of the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission, said there are several ways the city can lower its electricity consumption.

"The first is purchasing renewable energy credits," said Kathpal. "Alexandria buys renewable energy credits equal to 19 percent of its energy use. That's above many of our peers, but there are significant opportunities to go from 19 percent to 100 percent pretty much overnight."

Kathpal also said the city has to be willing to keep environmental policy in the spotlight of its budgetary discussions.

"For any of this to be sustainable, it can't just be niche," said Kathpal. "It has to be fundamental. It can't just happen every five to eight years when we update the environmental action plan. It has to happen every day. The city should have a carbon budget in addition to an operating budget, to know if we're meeting commitments instead of just photo ops and press releases at an opportune time."

Alexandria isn't alone in these efforts and can take lessons on what works from some of its neighbors. Michelle Amt, director of sustainability at VMDO Architects, pointed

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET



**U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8)**

to the Renew Ballston efforts in Arlington, where a system is being established to fund green renovations of commercial projects when they're mid-lease.

"Normally these are done when leases are coming up, but those can last 20 years," said Amt. "They're using a non-profit to connect parties and loans from [Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy] to enable businesses to implement efficiencies."



**Asana Partners Director of Development Reed Kracke, right, discusses the firm's development strategy for Old Town at the Chamber of Commerce annual meeting Dec. 5 at the Hilton Mark Center. With him is Asana Partners Director of Merchandising and Leasing Kate Grissom.**



**Virginia "Gin" Kinneman, right, addresses the crowd as the new 2018 board chair of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce as outgoing chair Dak Hardwick looks on at the Dec. 5 annual meeting at the Hilton Mark Center.**

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



**Former Chamber of Commerce board chair "Mango" Mike Anderson listens to remarks at the organization's annual meeting Dec. 5 at the Hilton Mark Center.**

## Asana Talks Old Town Development Strategy

FROM PAGE 1

director of merchandising and leasing. Avison Young principal Nick Gregorios moderated the panel discussion held at the Hilton Mark Center.

"There are a lot of great small retailers in Old Town," Grissom said. "That makes Alexandria further along than other markets we are in, like Dallas. We think we can add value to what is already here."

Beginning with the December 2016 acquisition of the PMA Properties portfo-

lio of 14 properties, Asana has invested more than \$100 million in retail space along King and South Union streets. The founders of Asana — Terry S. Brown, Jason Tompkins and Sam Judd — are former executives with Edens, developers of 530 First St., the location of the former Giant and ABC stores in North Old Town.

Grissom noted that Old Town is not without its challenges.

"It's going to take a lot of creativity to make some of these historic buildings work for retailers," Grissom said. "Our biggest challenge is to figure out how to make the

model of larger retailers work on King Street. Still, we believe we can create an experience shoppers can't get in a mall."

Kracke, who previously lived in Alexandria for 11 years, was familiar with Old Town as a retail destination.

"King Street in Old Town is a known commodity," Kracke said. "It's already a shopping destination for a highly populated, wealthy demographic. Unlike the Mosaic District, which we had to create as a new destination, Old Town has an existing authenticity that can't be recreated."

Also at the annual meeting, Virginia "Gin"

Kinneman formally took the reins as 2018 chair of the Chamber of Commerce board of directors. Kinneman, founder and owner of Kinneman Insurance of Alexandria and McLean, has led both the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Professional Women's Network and the organization's membership committee.

"It's an exciting time to be part of the business community in Alexandria," Kinneman said in taking. "This is an honor for me and I am looking forward to working with the chamber board, staff and all business owners across the city."



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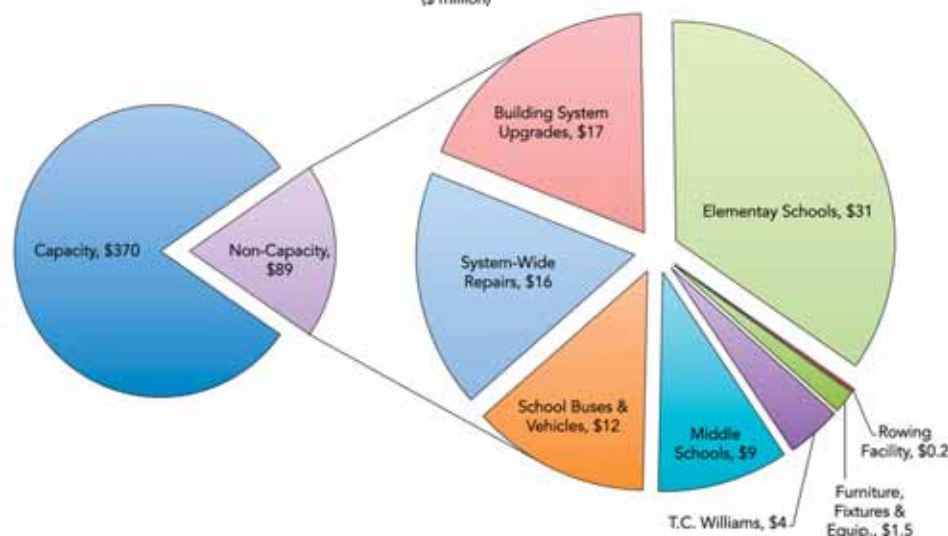
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## NEWS

Superintendent's Proposed ACPS FY19-28 CIP Summary  
(\$ million)



## Cost of Aging Schools

FROM PAGE 1

bined increase for these projects is \$16 million, or 44 percent. Such escalations outpaced six-figure decreases from last year for T.C. Williams High School, Francis Hammond Middle School and Mount Vernon Elementary School.

Under system-wide repairs, this year's proposed \$7.5 million line item for emergency repairs, spread evenly over 10 years, represents a 50 percent increase over last year's \$5 million request. These funds are set aside to address "catastrophic failure[s]," such as a burned out air-conditioning compressor at Jefferson-Houston School last summer, said Berlin. The school system also plans for more routine operating and maintenance costs in its annual Combined Funds Budget. Warranties, insurance and system manufacturer maintenance contracts can cover certain other maintenance expenses and repairs.

Berlin's proposal incorporates recent recommendations from the Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force. But the task force's purview didn't include non-capacity projects, which is why Berlin's total proposed CIP dollar amount exceeds the task force's by \$20 million. Berlin's proposal specifically for capacity projects comes in \$1 million below the task force's recommendation. While the task force didn't look at specific non-capacity projects, it will recommend general operations and maintenance process improvements in its final report,

due in January.

Interim COO Richard Jackson said he's considering assigning school system project managers to particular schools so that they can keep better track of upkeep items like painting.

Responding to a question from School Board member Karen Graf about establishing rhythms for such upkeep, Berlin said, "We used to be on a 7-year cycle. A school knew that it was going to get completely painted, new floors, new furniture every 7 years. And we need to get back to that. I don't think that this [budget] reflects that exactly; but that is what we need to get back to." Berlin has proposed a system-wide exterior and interior painting schedule, and shortly will also propose a flooring schedule.

School Board member Hal Cardwell asked why the CIP proposal doesn't include repairs and maintenance in the next 10 years for the recently acquired West End school building. Jackson responded that an engineering assessment indicated no major mechanical problems in the next 5 years. He added that the roof and garage, though no problems are currently evident, warrant additional scrutiny.

School system budget documents are available at [www.acps.k12.va.us/budgets](http://www.acps.k12.va.us/budgets). Subsequent CIP work sessions will occur Dec. 19 and Jan. 3, culminating in final adoption Jan. 11. All meetings are open to the public, as well as recorded for online viewing.

## CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Alexandria Police Department.

### DEC. 11

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a felonious assault in the 1000 block of Queen Street. The victim has a non-life-threatening injury. There were two suspects, one known to the victim.

### DEC. 9

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating non-life-threatening gunshot injury at 4320 Seminary Road. The victim transported himself to the hospital. The exact location of the initial incident is under investigation.

### DEC. 7

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 5100 block of Holmes Run Parkway. Two suspects assaulted delivery driver

and stole food. There were no injuries.

In the 3000 block of Duke Street, a subject assaulted an Alexandria Police officer and ran. The suspect was apprehended nearby. There is no serious injuries to officers and the suspect is in custody.

### DEC. 3

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 4600 block of Kenmore Avenue. A suspect brandished weapon at cab driver and stole cash. There were no injuries.

### NOV. 28

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 5100 block of Holmes Run Parkway. A food delivery driver had items stolen by two suspects. There were no weapons or injuries.



# NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria City snow plow at work.

## Winter Is Coming

Alexandria makes preparations for cold weather.

**B**eets. If you're wondering what gives some of the anti-ice treatment a distinctive pinkish hue, the answer is beet juice. A beet-based concoction added to rock salt can help increase the mixture's melting capacity. It's one of the lessons from snowstorms across the country that Alexandria is applying to its 2017-2018 winter preparations.

At a City Council meeting on Dec. 12, city staff laid out the some of the new preparations planned for impending snowstorms. Following lessons from multi-state snow conferences, staff said the city will begin using brine before and during storms to keep ice from sticking to the roads. According to city staff, brine is a mixture of traditional rock salt with water that is more cost effective than just deploying rock salt to the city streets. Brine sprinkled before a storm binds to the street.

One of the other programs being implemented this year is a reverse 911 system. In cooperation



Snow plow on Duke Street

with phone companies, the reverse 911 system can reach out to phones, even cell phones, whose owners live in an area expected to be heavily impacted by incoming weather. The update can advise citizens on what sort of precautions their area should be undergoing to prevent damages.

— VERNON MILES

## 'There Was Blood Everywhere'

FROM PAGE 1  
to the street.

"All I remember is seeing him holding a knife to his neck in one hand and a silver lighter in the other," said Nawaz. "He was looking right at us, making suicidal statements, saying 'you're going to have to kill me.' [We] tried to calm him down but he wasn't listening. He started to cut his own throat at the side of his neck."

Williams, sitting in the courtroom, still bore a scar running down the side of his neck.

Vitale said he deployed his taser at Williams, who was now swinging his arm. At that point, Vitale said Williams began to approach him with the knife, and Vitale start reaching for his pistol to shoot Williams. But Nawaz had readied

his taser and hit Williams as well. Nawaz and Vitale said Williams began to stab himself in the stomach.

"He basically began to gut himself," said Vitale. "He was stabbing himself in the stomach about 10 times."

After several electrical shocks from Nawaz, Williams allegedly threw down his knife and laid down on the ground. Paramedics arrived to attend to Barksdale and Williams. Vitale said he travelled with Williams to the hospital, a trip during which he alleges that Williams asked him repeatedly to delete text messages from Williams' cellphone.

Despite critical self-inflicted injuries, Williams survived and is charged with first-degree murder.

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# Museum Inspires Young Inventors

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**B**randon Allton walks around the museum. He has been on the job for two weeks as manager of the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum on Dulany Street. He has just come from the organization's home office in Canton, Ohio where he worked for three years.

Allton points to the inductee Wall of Fame lining one wall inside the door of the museum. Where else can you find 550 people of this caliber with Edison, Kristina Johnson and Steve Sasson who invented the digital camera on the same wall? He explains each year there are living and historical inductees with the inductees receiving a medal in a National Building Museum ceremony. "Over there is the recent class including Beatrice Hicks, Edward Herrera and Howard Head."

Rmmmmmmmm echoes through the hall next to a display pairing half of an original Ford Mustang beside a 2015 Mustang. "These are two actual cars that Ford cut apart for us and shipped them here. It is one of our most popular exhibits showing how company patent and design has changed from 1965 to the present." A sign above the cars says: "Feel Free to Explore. 50 Years of Innovation. Jump In."

Allton explains that the museum sponsors STEM-based K-12 week-long enrichment camp programs all over the country at individual schools. The camps are taught by the local teachers to more than 130,000 students. This year's theme is "Fast Forward" with the challenge to design the house of the future using everyday materials. He says the idea is to connect with technology. "For instance, if your phone can talk to your refrigerator, it can tell me when I'm out of milk and order it from the grocery store."

A gift shop and tour desk are located inside the front door where Katy Rowe sits ready to lead tours. "You can just stop in, but if it is a large group, you should arrange it ahead of time," she said. "School groups come through all the time." A display near the desk asks: "What would your idea be to change the world?" Melody, age 10, has displayed a glittery pink shoe wired up "as an easy way to take to the air."

Allton says the museum has a partnership with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. "It grew out of a need to get intellectual property to kids." Each year there is a collegiate competition for the best new ideas. This year a student from the University of Iowa won the undergraduate competition by inventing a



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Brandon Allton, manager of the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum, stands in front of the half of an original Ford Mustang beside a 2015 version in the museum on Dulany Street illustrating the evolution of company patent and design.**

detector for stressed pigs. "It is a different pitch than the other sounds the pigs make."

An exhibit nearby reads: "What's That Sound?" Push a button and out comes "Sweet Georgia Brown." The answer is the sound trademark for the Boston Globetrotters." Or press the top button and out comes a sharp tweet which is the mockingjay in "The Hunger Games." He says youngsters really like the interactive displays.

Another glass case has a sign asking: "How does counterfeiting impact you and the world." The exhibit challenges the observer to identify the patented Spalding basketball from a nearly identical fake basketball. It asks "can you tell which basketball is real?"

Allton says he graduated after studying history. He didn't know what he wanted to do and worked in retail for a while. But he found the open position in the Canton headquarters of the museum. "I liked what they did, their mission and was lucky to get the job. I really think what we try to display here is very significant."



**Brandon Allton stops at a display for visitors to identify the patented Spalding basketball from the nearly identical forgery.**



**Brandon Allton, manager of the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum, points to the wall of 550 inductees to the Wall of Fame.**

## Democrats Line Up

Three newcomers seek nominations for council.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he race for City Council has begun.

The 2018 Democratic primary will be a competitive one, with two mayoral candidates facing off, four incumbent City Council members running for reelection, and three newcomers. Among both the mayoral and city council candidates, at least one will end the election without a seat.

An Alexandria Democratic Committee meeting on Dec. 4 gave a spotlight to the two mayoral candidates and to the three newcomers to the City Council race. The mayoral race is a showdown between incumbent Mayor Allison Silberberg and Vice Mayor Justin Wilson. Silberberg pointed to the improvements the city governance has made, despite facing heavy opposition, during her tenure as mayor.

"There are a number of issues you probably know all about," said Silberberg. "We led off with an ethics initiative that I proposed and we passed."

Silberberg also pointed to advances made in both affordable housing and schools over the last few years, like the replacement of the run-down Ramsey Homes with a new mixed income housing block. Silberberg also highlighted progress made in the city schools, like the city's votes to move forward on rebuilding Patrick Henry as an elementary and middle school facility and approval of a new West End school.

"There's been a lot of forward motion in that regard," said Silberberg.

But her opponent, Justin Wilson, said the city needs to invest even more heavily into public infrastructure.

"I believe that the moment we are in right now calls for bold leadership and difficult choices, and I think we need a mayor willing to do that," said Wilson. "On the council, I built coalitions to invest in infrastructure ... and to make sure we have an economy that's diverse and enduring."

Silberberg found expressed support in at least one of the

City Council candidates. Robert Ray IV, owner of Cavalier Antiques, and a second-generation shop owner,

"The majority of Alexandria City Council members and mayors have also been developers, commercial bankers, Realtors or their representatives," said Ray. "Silberberg is the exception to the mayoral trend. It is natural that the interests of those professions have shamed Alexandria city government, but I think that can go too far. Recent argument made by some city officials is that development must be catered to in order to [generate] city revenues. My argument is, without community direction, there's a natural tendency for developers to maximize profit and externalize costs, like the cost of parking or cost of mitigating other negative impact of projects. Unchecked, projects like those reduce livability of Alexandria and reduce property values with the risk of a net loss of tax revenues in the long run."

The economic future of the city was one of the primary threads through the City Council candidate discussions. Dak Hardwick, former chair of the Alexandria Democratic Committee and past chair of the Chamber of Commerce, built a message around working to fix structural deficiencies in the city budget and expanding the focus of governance more equally across the city in what he is calling the Empower Alexandria initiative.

"It's about moving our city forward in a way that all parts of the city, from Old Town to the West End, Rosemont to Carlyle, feel included," said Hardwick. "I'm committed to doing that as part of the Empower Alexandria initiative."

At a basic level, Hardwick says this is about providing public safety, health, and education equally across the city. As former chair of the budget fiscal advisory committee, Hardwick says he's been through the city's budget backwashes and forwards.

"We have a structural deficiency we have to get at,"

SEE DEMOCRATS, PAGE 22





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## BUSINESS

# Benefits of Fair Trade

Customers at Ten  
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BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

Ten Thousand Villages, stocked with a full spectrum of fair trade products, guarantees that all the artisans they work with are compensated fairly for every item they produce.

"As we are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, our profits go to benefit our artisans through support of their work," said Stephanie Wilson, who started her own journey with the national organization while living in Charlottesville. "We pay all of our artisans before their products even reach our store, which means profit from sales go towards buying more product, shipping and importation, which means costs we absorb instead of passing on to the producers, as well as general operational costs."



Alexandria's Ten Thousand Villages

transparency and respect that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers. As a branded Ten Thousand Villages store, we agree to purchase the majority of what the store sells directly from Ten Thousand Villages National. Other vendors are sources through the Fair Trade Federation or the World Fair Trade Organization to be sure they are practicing fair trade principles."

This mission is one that both McMahon and Wilson felt personally drawn to upon learning more about Fair Trade in the earlier 2000s.

"When I was brought on as store manager in Alexandria this June, I was immediately excited to continue to grow with an organization I have always held dear to my heart, and I am honored to lead the wonderful team in Alexandria," Wilson said. "Fair trade is a system of trading partnerships based on dialogue, transparency, and respect that seeks to create greater equity in the international trading system."

Members of the Ten Thousand Villages organization see firsthand all the benefits that at-home fair trade reaps for people worldwide.

While there are several store locations across the country, the Alexandria shop alone sells products from more than 130 artisan groups representing 38 countries.

Ten Thousand Villages may seem like an eccentric gift shop. Inside are home décor, coffee, jewelry, and all kinds of other personal accessories and trinkets hand made by artisans from all over the world who were paid properly for their work.

In an ideal world, artisans would always be paid fairly for their output, the reality is that international worker compensation standards are not so fair. "The Ten Thousand Villages' mission is to 'create opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to our markets through long-term, fair trading relationships,'" said Kate McMahon, retail sales manager for the National Ten Thousand Villages Association. "According to the World Fair Trade organization, Fair Trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue,

"We work directly with artisans in developing countries to meet ethical standards such as a fair price, long term stability, good working conditions, and environmentally friendly practices," Wilson said. "We also work to empower women and other groups facing disadvantages. Factors tied into the decision-making process include the global economic position of the country, the disparity of income, market access, product marketability, and sustainability of a buying relationship."

The Old Town store was instrumental in establishing Alexandria as an official Fair Trade Town back in 2014.

"The Fair Trade Town designation grew out of a grassroots movement to empower fair trade advocates to educate their communities and build consumer citizenship," McMahon said. "The resolution passed as a way to bring light to our purchasing

SEE HELPING, PAGE 9



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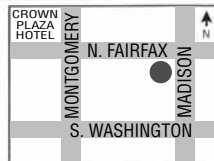
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## BUSINESS

# Helping Artisans Globally

FROM PAGE 8

power and to have the city work towards purchasing fair trade where available.”

To achieve Fair Trade Town status, the City Council had to pass a resolution, and then Fair Trade USA – the country’s fair trade certification body – had to officially recognize Alexandria as a town committed to fair trade and to promoting qualified goods to its population.

“We have been fortunate enough to gain the support of local neighborhoods and have become a go-to shopping destination for many loyal residents,” Wilson said. “While it is still not completely mainstream, people are more familiar with Fair Trade than they were 20 years ago. For one thing, there are now more options and availability of Fair Trade products. People in general are also more aware of how things they purchase are sourced and the ethical implications of their production.”

So, for the many people still stumped over what to buy those friends and family members who “just seem to have everything,” Ten Thousand Villages has a solution.

“Knowing the meaning behind a fair trade gift, that

the person who made the gift has safe working conditions, was paid fairly, is able to earn their own living gives me all the reasons in the world to be sure every gift is fair trade,” McMahon said.

“Giving fair trade means that you’re giving more than just a product,” Wilson. “You’re sending children to school. You’re putting food on the table. You’re laying the groundwork for sustainable change. We provide gift enclosure cards so you can share the difference your purchase has made with the recipient of that gift.”

The first gift suggestions that came to both women’s minds happen to have aesthetic benefits for those receiving them, too.

“We have a lot of products that are made from recycled saris from Bangladesh,” she said.

“They are all wildly popular and also a beautiful story. Recycled saris, patched with love, are repurposed into Sacred Sari Throws by women who have left the Red Light District. The artisans are women who have broken away from the sex trade and now make their living by making soap and handicrafts.”

For more information on Ten Thousand Villages, see [www.tenthousandvillages.com/Alexandria](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/Alexandria).

**“We work directly with artisans in developing countries to meet ethical standards ....”**

— Stephanie Wilson

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# OPINION

## Save Healthcare for Children Right Now

If U.S. Senate fails to act soon, 69,000 children and pregnant women in Virginia, more than 8 million nationally, will lose health coverage.

**T**he Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP, provides health coverage to low-income, children with family incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid, up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level in Virginia, up to \$49,200 for a family of four. In Virginia, coverage under CHIP is called Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) and covers more than 69,000 children and pregnant women. More than 8.4 million children are covered nationally under CHIP.

Ironically, families with children covered under FAMIS (note that the S stands for "security") will receive letters this week letting them know that their medical insurance security ends in January unless the U.S. Senate acts to reauthorize (fund) CHIP by the end of the year. The House of Representatives passed a bill to reauthorize CHIP in November, funding it mostly through cuts to programs in the Affordable Care Act.

The letter to Virginia FAMIS participants reads:

"We are sending you this letter because these people in your family are enrolled in FAMIS or FAMIS MOMS:

"FAMIS and FAMIS MOMS are paid for by state and federal funds through the Children's Health Insurance Program known as CHIP. For

20 years CHIP has had the strong support of Congress and has been renewed many times. We are hopeful that Congress will once again provide the funding to continue this program. However, because Congress has not acted yet, we need to let you know that there is a chance the FAMIS programs may have to shut down.

"If Congress does not act soon, the FAMIS programs will end on Jan. 31, 2018."

Having tens of thousands of uninsured children is bad health policy for every Virginian. It's better for all children in school to have all children be able to access health care, both preventative care and care when they are sick.

According to a recent publication in the New England Journal of Medicine:

"The body of evidence summarized here indicates that coverage expansions significantly increase patients' access to care and use of preventive care, primary care, chronic illness treatment, medications, and surgery. These increases appear to produce significant, multifaceted, and nuanced benefits to health.

"Some benefits may manifest in earlier detection of disease, some in better medication adherence and management of chronic conditions, and some in the psychological well-being born of knowing one can afford care when one gets sick. ... Some of these changes will ultimately help tens of thousands of people live longer lives.

"Conversely, the data suggest that policies reducing coverage will produce significant harms to health, particularly among people with lower incomes and chronic conditions."

Also, having health coverage leads to greater financial security, and that helps the economy. "There is abundant evidence that having health insurance improves financial security," according to the same study.

Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine have repeatedly called for a vote to reauthorize CHIP.

Yesterday, they said, "Today is a scary day for a lot of families in Virginia, and it was completely preventable. We asked Senator McConnell multiple times to help us support the 66,000 children and 1,100 pregnant women in Virginia who receive their health care through the CHIP program, but Republican leadership still hasn't brought it forward for a vote. There is a bipartisan bill on the table, and it's critical that we pass it before Congress leaves for the holidays so we can give some peace of mind to Virginia parents who are worried about whether their children will have health insurance in the new year."

We wish everyone peace of mind in the New Year.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## All I Want for Christmas ...

BY BREANNE DRISCOLL  
REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

**D**ear Santa, In case you are trying to find me, I wanted to let you know that I'm living in a new home this year. I even have my own bedroom. We don't have a chimney, but I know you will find a way to come in. Don't worry, I will leave cookies.

My mom seems so happy this year. We get to play more since we don't have to spend as much time in the car to get home. Now that we live closer to her work, I have more time to play outside. I go to the park near my house which has a fun playground.

Anyia is my best friend. She lives near me and we go to the playground and bus stop together. I hope that Anya and I can be friends forever.

Ms. Kelly is my teacher this year. I'm glad I haven't moved to another school again. Having just one teacher has made it easier for me and my grades are better, too.

I know that you have lots of kids to visit this year, but I hope you can find room in your sleigh for a bike. It doesn't have to be new or fancy, but Anya and I want to bike to the park. The park was just fixed up!

My mom says that we will stay here for a while since we own our home now. That way you know where to find me next year too.

Your friend,  
Rebecca

We serve many "Rebeccas" throughout the year — children whose parents want a safe place to call home that is near where they work and to be part of a community. We know that having affordable housing is good for children, families and whole communities. Young chil-



**Volunteers for Rebuilding Together Alexandria working on a local repair project.**

dren living in poor housing conditions and/or subject to frequent moves or homelessness are more likely to suffer health problems.

Rebuilding Together Alexandria's programs create opportunity. From fixing up parks, schools, and social spaces as part of our Community Strong program, or making critical electrical/plumbing/roofing repairs as part of our Safe & Healthy Homes program, or even rehabbing entire homes to increase the stock of affordable homes in the City of Alexandria, Rebuilding Together Alexandria's volunteers

and donors make it all possible.

As the New Year approaches, I hope that our generous, diverse, and vibrant Alexandria community can find new ways to come together in support of children like Rebecca. At Rebuilding Together Alexandria, we look forward to creating new and innovative ways to keep low-income residents stably housed. To learn more about the importance of our work or how to volunteer with us, visit [www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org](http://www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org). Happy holidays!

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Steven Mauren**

Editor, 703-778-9415

[smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mike Salmon**

Assistant Editor

[msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Vernon Miles**

Reporter, 757-472-3435

[vmiles@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vmiles@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jeanne Theismann**

[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)

@TheismannMedia

**John Bordner**

Contributing Photographer

[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Eden Brown, Shirley Ruhe**

Contributing Writers

[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**

For advertising information

[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)

703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**

Display Advertising/National Sales

703-778-9444

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**Julie Ferrill**

Display Advertising, 703-927-1364

[jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Tara Lloyd**

Display Advertising, 703-740-7128

[tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**

Marketing Assistant

703-778-9431

[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Publisher**

Jerry Vernon

703-549-0004

[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**

Mary Kimm

[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

@MaryKimm

**Editor in Chief**

Steven Mauren

**Art/Design:**

Laurence Foong, John Heinly,

Ali Khaligh

**Production Manager:**

Geovani Flores

**Editor Emeritus:**

Mary Anne Weber

**CIRCULATION**

**Circulation Manager:**

Ann Oliver

[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

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# Alexandria's Memorials Reflect Incomplete History

BY GLENN KLAUS

**A**lexandria's Civil War history is important. To the uninitiated, it would appear that our history is exclusively Confederate. Our street names, the Appomattox statue, a plaque at the site of the Civil War Marshall House, Confederate graves in the Christ Church grounds, and publications and exhibits produced by the Office of Historic Alexandria and the Lyceum would lead one to believe that Alexandria was a staunchly Confederate city during the war. The opposite was true.

Alexandria was a Confederate city for less than 24 hours. On May 23, 1861 Virginians voted to secede from the United States. Early the next morning, the United States Army entered the city; 800 members of city's

six militia companies assembled in front of the Lyceum then fled the city. Over the next few weeks, residents, presumably loyal to the states in rebellion, left the city in droves. One account states that up to two-thirds of Alexandria's population relocated.

A month after the Alexandria militia companies left the city, they were organized into the 17th Virginia Regiment of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Their history is significant. They were instrumental

in the Confederacy's victories at the first and second battles of Manassas and fought at Antietam. At these three sites, the 17th Virginia is appropriately recognized on the ground that they fought. Individual members are also recognized in Alexandria cemeteries. Alexandria's Confederates never fought in Alexandria but they are appropriately recognized in the locations where they fought and died.

While Alexandria Confederates are recognized, the larger story of the Civil War Alexandria is not. Instead, what one experiences in Alexandria is a carefully fabricated memory created by two post-war groups: the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. These groups are authors and purveyors of "Lost Cause" mythology that emerged shortly after the war's end. The central tenets of the Lost Cause are that states rights, not slavery, was the cause of the war, that slavery was more benevolent than cruel, and that the Confederacy only lost the war due to the overwhelming manpower and industrialization of the northern states.

In Alexandria, the lost cause has been manifested for decades and it continues to be the dominant memory of the war. After the Civil War ended, military facilities in Alexandria were knocked down, forts were filled in, and the graves of African Ameri-

cans who found freedom in Alexandria were literally covered over. From one of the city's most prominent intersections rose the "Appomattox" statue dedicated to the memory of men who never fought in Alexandria. The message was clear, only certain history is important, only certain people are important. Sadly, that history, deemed more important than all else, is one of human subjugation, treason, and failure.

The complete history of Alexandria in the Civil War continues with American troops entering the city without fight on an early spring morning. With no defenders and Confederate sympathizing residents set to flee, Alexandria was more abandoned than occupied. If you were an African American Alexandrian, the entry of U.S. troops meant liberation from the slaveholders that considered you property and the expulsion of local slave dealers that were ready to break up your family and send your children to deep south cotton plantations. From May 24, 1861 to the end of the war in 1865, Alexandria was an American city, filled with United States soldiers, sailors, medical personnel, aid workers, newly free African Americans, and laborers. The United States Army built the 75-acre United States Military Railroad depot in Alexandria, staffed over 30 hospitals, built and defended five forts connected by miles of rifle pits. These loyal Americans worked at the wharves,

stockyards, bakeries, and blacksmith shops that supported the American war effort. Extraordinary Americans found themselves in Alexandria during the Civil War. Their stories need to be told.

Harriet Jacobs was born into slavery in Edenton, N.C.. After suffering continual sexual abuse at the hand of her slaveholder she escaped in 1835. But rather than abandon her children and flee north to freedom she hid in her grandmother's attic to catch glimpses of her still enslaved children and to hear their voices. During the Civil War Jacobs moved to Alexandria. During her three years here she organized, fed, and sheltered formerly enslaved people who had sought freedom in the city. She recruited relief workers and solicited aid from noted abolitionists. She ordered that barracks be built for the people of Alexandria. They would house the old, disabled, women, children, and orphans. Jacobs distributed donations among these people. From October 1863 to April 1865, Jacobs saw progress for the freedmen in Virginia. While living in Alexandria she also concentrated on setting up schools run by the community. She contributed to organizing the communities of African Americans and to the building of hospitals, churches, schools, and homes for formerly enslaved people. Jacobs and her partner, Julia A. Wilbur, founded schools in

SEE ALEXANDRIA'S, PAGE 13

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# ‘There is No Peace’

A Catholic layman’s reflection on Advent and community.

BY DAN BRENDL

As Christmas approaches, I’ve been reflecting on the caution the season might recommend with regard to justice and public ethics in Alexandria.

The Church rings in its liturgical year with the first Sunday of Advent — this year, Dec. 3. Advent is a period of anticipation and preparation leading up to Christmas, the coming of God into the world. I’d hope to recover the season’s gravity, impetus and urgency.

As much as it looks back to the time preceding Jesus’ birth, Advent anticipates his second and final coming. That’s when God will raise the dead, render final judgment and make the world new in eternity. Cooing baby Jesus and

## COMMENTARY

serene child angels, let alone sentimentalized and even cartoonized traditions like Santa, can be extremely misleading. We’re talking about the God of the universe coming in awesome and terrifying power to lay bare every word and deed, to judge and to consummate the entirety of the human race. This is indeed “good news of great joy.” But there’s a oft-repeated condition: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” Jesus’ coming into the world is great news and a marvelous gift, if received with repentance. Otherwise, it ought to be petrifying news.

Repentance means turning away or defecting from sin and aligning with God’s reign over his properly ordered creation. The Bible talks about faith not only as a creed, but also as a “way.” Pope Paul VI said that to be evangelized means “adherence to the truths which the Lord in His mercy has revealed; still more, an adherence to a pro-

gram of life — a life henceforth transformed — which He proposes. In a word, adherence to the kingdom, that is to say, to the ‘new world,’ to the new state of things, to the new manner of being, of living, of living in community, which the Gospel inaugurates.” In addition to personal belief and piety, this includes a corporate dimension: right relationships in families and societies; public morality; just institutions, laws and norms that uphold human dignity and the common good; a “preferential option for the poor,” meaning, as the U.S. bishops have said, that “the poor have the single most urgent economic claim on the conscience of the nation,” or in this case of the city.

In this vein, though I like many things about Alexandria, the prophet Jeremiah’s exhortation increasingly gnaws at me: “Peace, peace!” they say, though there is no peace.” You’re overreacting, don’t be such a doom-and-gloom cynic! There’s nothing so judgment-worthy here.

But a millimeter beneath our public narrative of inclusivity, community and charm lurks considerable injustice and pain. Racial disparity and tension remain palpable. My wife and I perceived hints of it during our recent home-buying experience, and we’ve seen or heard about it firsthand numerous times since. Though surrounded by staggering wealth, many families struggle to meet basic needs, like housing and food. While the city preens itself on its self-styled progressivism, many political forces patently have more to do with propertied interests and not-in-my-backyard than with prophetic justice. Even where there are laudable charitable and advocacy activities, these may overshadow the fact that the poor and marginalized have relatively little organized political voice of their own. And too many churches seem lamentably silent on such issues.

I don’t know what the best solutions are and I’m surely no prophet. But I’m certain there’s no peace as God would have it in Alexandria. So amid the holly, jolly lighted-King-Street Christmas season, I hope we as individuals and as a community will hear and heed Advent’s deeper call to change direction.

*The author is a freelance writer on faith-based — and related — issues for the Gazette Packet.*

## Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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# SSA Named ‘Hometown Charity’

Part of Beyer Subaru Alexandria’s 2017 “Share the Love” campaign.

BY MARYANNE BEATTY  
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) and Beyer Subaru Alexandria are partnering again for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual “Share the Love” Campaign to support Meals on Wheels. Subaru named Meals on Wheels America as one of four national Share the Love charitable partners supported through the promotion that runs until Jan. 2, 2018. SSA was selected again as the hometown charity to raise awareness around senior hunger in Alexandria.

“Senior Services of Alexandria is honored to partner with Beyer Subaru Alexandria as the hometown charity for the 2017 Share the Love Campaign, said Mary Lee Anderson, SSA’s executive director. We intend to raise the awareness of the importance of the program for

homebound seniors, and of volunteering to ensure seniors continue to receive meals 365 a year.”

During the campaign, Beyer Subaru will donate \$250 to the customer’s choice of participating charities including Senior Services for every new Subaru sold or leased. The dealership is also sponsoring a “Share the Love, Share the Warmth” new blanket drive for Alexandria’s homebound Meals on Wheels recipients. With the donation of a new blanket, Subaru customers can get a \$10 discount off repairs.

“Beyer Subaru is thrilled to be partnering with Senior Services again for the Share the Love Campaign this Holiday Season,” said Jordy Coho, general manager of Beyer Subaru Alexandria. “Senior Services is an exemplary organization and we are grateful to be just a small part of what they do. For more details on the Share the Love and Share the Warmth Campaigns, please see [www.BeyerSubaru.com](http://www.BeyerSubaru.com).”

Another aspect of the Share the Love Campaign is to encourage volunteerism. SSA’s volunteers deliver meals every day of the year. This is a wonderful way to give back and make a difference in a senior’s life. To find out more about volunteering to deliver Meals on Wheels, go to [seniorservicesalex.org/volunteer](http://seniorservicesalex.org/volunteer) or call 703-836-4414, ext. 115.



# Holiday Health Tips

BY BROOKE SYDNOR CURRAN  
FOUNDER AND CEO, RUNNINGBROOKE

With the holiday season upon us, it’s important to take steps to help manage our health and the extra pressures that often accompany the season. I know from first-hand experience as a runner and from working with thousands of kids across Alexandria, that exercise helps us feel better, keeps us on our game and reduces stress. Here are some quick and easy, family-friendly tips to get your heart rate pumping this season.

Whether it’s before or after a holiday meal, or during a day when the kids aren’t in school, Alexandria’s parks and playgrounds are a great way to get out and get active while enjoying our city. A few of my favorite parks are those that RunningBrooke supporters and volunteers helped make possible.

Taney Avenue Playground and Park: Completed in fall 2016 and just off Duke Street behind the Fox Chase shopping center, this renovation project (designed and guided by the city’s Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities), includes play equipment, walking paths, benches, tables and plenty of space for the whole family to get out and get moving together.

Hume Springs Park: Completed in 2015, this playground in Arlandria was completely renovated and revitalized. There is plenty of play equipment, benches and space to bring the whole gang.

Arlandria Fustal Court: Last spring, we began the process of transforming an existing derelict tennis court into a fustal court (an all-ages, fast-paced version of soccer that’s played on a hard court). Stop by the court, located behind MOM’s Organic Market off of Mount Vernon Avenue, and bring your basketball to shoot some hoops and enjoy the beautiful garden area. This site will be home to a brand new playground in 2018.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Brooke Curran, shown after completing the Antarctica Marathon in 2015, raises money for children’s charities through The RunningBrooke Fund.**

If you’re heading out of town this holiday season, or need an indoor plan, take an exercise break to help manage the stress of changed schedules. These family-friendly exercises can be done in the airport, when you stop to refuel your car, or anywhere that is safe to get out and move around. The idea is to get up and moving, get your heart rate up, stretch your body and have some fun.

- ❖ Jump in place as if you are popping popcorn.
- ❖ March in place and pretend to play the drums as if you are in a marching band.
- ❖ Hope on one leg for 10 hops, then the other for 10 more.
- ❖ Do lunges and big arm circles.
- ❖ Reach up as if grabbing balloons out of the air.
- ❖ Jog in place as if a big, scary bear is chasing you.
- ❖ Shake your body as if you are a wet dog.

Whether you’re on the road or staying right here in Alexandria, getting family and friends active together is a great way to stay on top of your game and build healthy and happy holiday memories.



# Alexandria's Memorials Reflect Incomplete History

FROM PAGE 11

Washington and Alexandria at the camps of black refugees. Harriet changed thousands of lives for the better in Alexandria.

Where is the statue of Harriet Jacobs?

At the age of 23, Elmer Ellsworth took a job in Abraham Lincoln's Springfield, Ill. law office. The young clerk and Lincoln became close friends. When the president-elect moved to Washington in 1861, Ellsworth accompanied him. A native of New York, Ellsworth left Washington to organize and lead the 11th New York Volunteer Regiment, enlisting many of its troops from the city's volunteer fire departments. He returned to Washington with the regiment and on May 24, 1861, the day after Virginia voters ratified the state convention's decision to secede from the Union, Ellsworth and his troops entered Alexandria. Ellsworth approached the Marshall House (at the site of today's Hotel Monaco) with four of his troops. His job was to take down a Confederate flag flying from the top of the hotel. Finding no resistance, he took down the flag. As he descended to the main floor, innkeeper James Jackson, a zealous defender of slavery and notorious abuser of enslaved people, shot Ellsworth at point-blank range with a shotgun, killing him instantly. Ellsworth became the first United States officer to die during the Civil War. Ellsworth's body was taken to the White House, where it lay in state, and then to New York City, where thousands lined up to view the cortege bearing Ellsworth's coffin. "Remember Ellsworth!" became a Union rallying cry. Today, the name of James Jack-

son, never a soldier in the Civil War, is engraved on the "Appomattox" statue at Washington and Prince streets. Until very recently Jackson was honored with a brass plaque at the site of the murder with no mention of Ellsworth. Jackson is even honored in the name of Hotel Monaco's restaurant, Jackson 20.

Where the statue of Elmer Ellsworth?

Herman Haupt was put in charge of the United States Military Railroad, headquartered in Alexandria. Haupt recruited an assortment of frontier woodsmen, skilled craftsman, and freedmen to create a railroad construction corps that achieved amazing engineering and railroad building feats. He instilled a timetable, order, and discipline to operate the railroad. He created innovations like floating railroad barges, pontoon boats, a new type of bridge truss, methods for building and repairing railroad tracks, and fixing and destroying rails. Haupt also expanded the existing Orange and Alexandria Railroad station, constructing 75 new buildings in a 12-block area of Alexandria, to better serve the needs of the U.S. Army. New shops, engine houses accommodating 30 locomotives, a commissary, a turntable with cupola, and rail spurs were built. Haupt revolutionized the use of railroads and had an immense impact on Union victory.

Where is the statue of Herman Haupt?

In June of 1861, three months after the Civil war was initiated, the "restored government of Virginia" was established. The government represented the western counties of Virginia who remained loyal to the

United States. The governor of what would become West Virginia was native Virginian Francis Pierpont. Once West Virginia became a state in 1863 Pierpont was placed in charge of the areas of Virginia controlled by the U.S. armed forces including Norfolk, the Eastern Shore, Fairfax, and Alexandria. The Capital of this Virginia was in Alexandria on Prince Street for two years. Once Robert Lee surrendered in 1865, Pierpont moved the government to Richmond. In total Pierpont served as governor of Virginia for six years.

Where is the statue of Francis Pierpont?

A violent explosion ripped through the powder magazine at Alexandria's Fort Lyon on June 9, 1863. Located near the present-day Huntington Metro station, this fort was one of the largest in the Defenses of Washington.

Twenty six men and a lieutenant had been detailed to remove the powder from shells at the fort. The powder was damp and caked and the work was slow. The lieutenant decided to burn the powder out of a shell. The

powder was ignited, the shell exploded, igniting eight tons of powder and several thousand rounds of ammunition. Twenty-two men were immediately killed, three died the next day. Eleven more were injured. In the days that followed, prominent generals, the secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, and President Abraham Lincoln visited the ruins. The funeral procession contained 17 ambulances, each carrying two coffins, followed by officers and men. They marched to mournful music to the soldier's graveyard in Alexandria. The Fort Lyon disaster

was probably the greatest loss of life eve in Alexandria.

Where is the memorial to these U.S. soldiers who died in Alexandria?

Nearly 200 African American Alexandrians fought in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. They include 21-year-old free brickmaker Samuel Allen who died in Petersburg, Va.; and Julius Caesar, a young baker who

enlisted in an experimental unit of the U.S. Army, the 1st United States Colored Troops (USCT). Since the local population in Washington, D.C was hostile to the idea of African American soldiers they were camped on what is now known as Theodore Roosevelt Island. Nineteen-year-old John Johnson enlisted in company B of the 29th Regiment of the United States Colored Troops and ended up in Louisiana's African American militia regiment, the Corps D'Afrique where he died of pneumonia. Buck Stafford enlisted in the army at Grand Gulf, Miss. He went on to be his regiment's enlisted leader as the 1st Sergeant of Company G, 49th USCT. Stafford

served post war duty occupying the city of Vicksburg, Miss. Many members of the United States Colored Troops are buried in the Alexandria National Cemetery, but in the hearts and minds of most Alexandrians these men do not exist. Only a solitary Confederate does.

Where is the memorial to Alexandria's men in blue who served with distinction and honor during the war?

*The writer, an Alexandria resident, has studied Civil War history for the past 40 years.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### No One Notices?

To the Editor:

Why is it so difficult to preserve and expand the tree canopy in Alexandria? The answer is pretty simple: the city values development more than it does protecting the environment. It most certainly does not value tall trees that lower summer air conditioning bills, make our town more attractive, and yes, sustain all sorts of wildlife.

The city's disregard for nature was clearly communicated to the new owner of the Winkler properties, Morgan Properties of King of Prussia, Pa., who has just clear cut over 500 old native trees and vegetation in the West End. The devastation is spread over something like 150 acres and negatively affects the entire West End community.

Morgan Properties says the trees were old, unhealthy and harbored wildlife, like raccoon, snakes, birds and cicadas that were "endangering" their residents and property. This would be funny, I guess, if the

environmental impact was small, but it isn't. The company had planned to replace the 500 trees with inferior ecological species, such as low-rise crepe myrtle. Alexandria's well-meaning homeowners plant too many of these shrubs, with the blessing of the city arborist.

This latest assault on Alexandria's natural habitat should come as no surprise, given that the city and its planning de-

partment have for years placed a priority on asphalt and concrete. Trees, habitat for wildlife, climate change? Not so important.

You might ask where the Planning Department was when the annihilation of these trees occurred. Ditto the Planning Commission, Environmental Policy Commission, City Manger and City Council. The mayor, who lives in Park Fairfax, appears to be the only member of council who is genu-

inely concerned about the deforestation. But how did they allow this level of environmental destruction to occur?

We have a forestry master plan. We have a Beauregard Small Area Plan. But none of it prevented this destruction. Why didn't it?

We had 500 trees, now we have 500 stumps.

**Andrew Macdonald**  
Former Vice Mayor

### Whom To Honor?

To the Editor:

Regarding the Appomattox statue, the world is filled with beautiful statues, buildings and public spaces built by tyrants and despots using slave labor and financed with ill-gotten gains. Rome is lovely but would not be so with

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

**Holiday Loan**

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## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Alexandria-based designer Victoria Sanchez – pictured with the patients who served as her inspiration – created this tree for "Light Up the Season."



PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Alexandria-based designers Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron created this mantel display.

## Holiday Décor on Display

Top designers create lavish holiday designs for charity.

Those still looking for inspiration for holiday décor are in luck thanks to some of the area's top tastemakers. The lights and shapes of Christmas trees, holiday mantels, a menorah and other décor, designed by some of Washington's top interior designers, are on display.

The designers donated their time to create festive displays for an event called "Light Up the Season" to benefit for Children's National Health System. The designs were unveiled ear-

lier this month at a festive event that included activities such as holiday cookie decorating, ornament making, a visit from Santa and Children's National Dr. Bear mascot, musical performances and youth entertainers, silent auction.

Each original piece is a collaboration between patients of Children's National and area designers and businesses. The Creative & Therapeutic Arts Services at Children's National worked with the Children's Health Board to pair de-

### Light Up the Season

Through Dec. 20 at Four Seasons in Georgetown, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.

signers with patients for inspiration

The holiday decor will be on display and available for purchase at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown through Dec. 20.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL



Special thanks to:

Alexandria Gazette Packet

## King Street Trolley Welcomes Santa



Take a **FREE** picture with Santa on the King Street Trolley!



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**9 A.M. - 12 P.M.**  
**City Hall Market Square**

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## OPINION

# A Lasting Difference

BY BRANDI YEE  
ACT FOR ALEXANDRIA



**L**ike most young college graduates, I moved to this area thinking I would live here for a year or two before moving back home to California to “settle down.” Somehow 20 years have passed and I’m still here.

I came here thinking about how I could make a difference in the world. Most of my career prior to ACT focused on workforce development in the for-profit, education and nonprofit sectors. I typically spent about two years in a job before I was ready to move on and try something new. Then I came to ACT. I never would have thought I’d be in the same job for more than 10 years, but

**ACT** is different than any other place I’ve been. When people ask about the difference, I can easily point to the people and the work we are doing. There’s something encouraging and exciting about working at the local level and making an impact in and for a community like Alexandria.

At ACT for Alexandria, we are making a difference, a lasting difference.

ACT is a resource builder: This year, ACT’s Spring2ACTion helped 158 nonprofits collectively raise nearly \$1.6 million in 24 hours to benefit the local community and we’ve raised more than \$6.2 million since the giving day’s inception in 2011.

ACT is a Grantmaker: ACT has awarded more than \$850,000 in grants since 2005 to more than 40 local organizations to support nonprofit excellence and strengthen the leadership of Alexandria nonprofits.

ACT is Empowering Local Donors: ACT Donor Advised Fund holders have given more than \$10.7 million to causes they care about since 2004, with 70 percent of those grants staying in Alexandria.

ACT is a Community Leader: ACT is convening the Early Care

& Education Work Group to ensure every child in Alexandria has a strong start in life and in school. ACT hosts the IM-

PACT: Innovation + Philanthropy Forum bringing leaders together to discuss innovations in philanthropy and building the capacity of individuals to make a lasting impact in the community.

I have the privilege of working every day with so many incredible people including our local nonprofit, business, city, and school leaders, donors, ACT Board members and the ACT team. A great example is ACT’s outgoing President and CEO John Porter.

I have known John for 11 years — first in his role as a founding board member and then as my boss for the past eight years. If you know John, or Mr. Porter as he is known by his T.C. Williams High School students and parents, you know he never forgets a name, always has a smile on his face, is ready with an encouraging word or thoughtful advice, and is always ready to do what it takes to make a difference in someone’s life, to help a nonprofit, or work with our donors. ACT would not be the organization it is today without his leadership and I would not be the person I am today had I not learned from his examples of patience, humility, kindness, and compassion. John is a wonderful example of those making a lasting difference in Alexandria. While he is passing the torch to new leadership, he will continue to be active both with ACT and our greater community.

To learn how you can make a lasting difference in our community, please visit [www.ACTforAlexandria.org](http://www.ACTforAlexandria.org).

*Brandi Yee is the chief program officer at ACT for Alexandria (ACT). Launched in 2004, ACT is a community foundation that seeks to turn ideas into actions and resources into results.*

honor any specific slave-owning leader and honors the service of conscripts, farmers and tradespeople who were led to war by disingenuous politicians touting a States Rights excuse. Nevertheless, it does honor the institution of the slave-owning Confederacy and I will defer to those who believe it should be removed. However, from a purely apolitical urban de

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

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FROM PAGE 13

out public places associated with despicable historic characters. Jefferson was a slave owner, but I would never advocate removing the Jefferson Memorial that in my opinion is one of the most beautiful and serene places in all of D.C.

I do not intend to buck the groundswell of public opinion in favor of the Appomattox statue’s removal, even though it does not



# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



**Chef Eric Reid starts with buttery crust.**



**Eyeball eggs, mayo and crisp Cherrywood bacon.**



**Layer half mixture in pie crust.**



**Throw tomato slices to deseed.**



**Spiral alternating layers of tomatoes.**

## Meet Chef Eric Reid at Reserve

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**L**et me grab a pie dough." Chef Eric Reid is making a "quiche-like" bacon-tomato pie at Reserve on Mount Vernon Avenue. He has prepared the crust and pulls it from the freezer — about 12.5 ounces of high-gluten King Arthur flour, 16 Tablespoons frozen butter, 1/3 cup ice water and 3 Tablespoons sour cream which gives it a "nice little flakiness." This makes two crusts. Reid pulls out his Escali scale. "I like to use weight measures; it is so much more accurate."

### IN THE KITCHEN

Reid liberally sprinkles flour on the counter so the crust doesn't stick. He presses down on the crust, rolling it in one direction, then another. He twirls the crust around the rolling pin and places it at the edge to unwind in the glass pie plate. "I use a glass pie plate so I can see how the crust is cooking when it has a lot of butter."

Using a small knife, Reid cuts off the extra crust around the pie plate. "I don't crimp it; I like the way it looks." He recalls this recipe came into his head when he and his dad were sitting on the deck at the lake having a bourbon and he needed a special side. "It's got our name all over it." Reid says he always tweaks a recipe until he gets it the way he likes it.

Reid pulls out a large aluminum bowl and measures two and a half cups "give or take

a Tablespoon or so" of Duke's mayonnaise. "I've made this so many times I just eyeball it now." Then he breaks two large eggs into the bowl and adds a cup and a half of cooked, chopped Cherrywood bacon. "The cherrywood gives the bacon a sweeter, fruitier taste." He says the original recipe had the bacon in the crust but with all of the butter he thought it would be too greasy.

Then he takes about a cup of shredded Parmesan and a pinch of dried dill, and he mixes it well. "No need for salt because of the bacon. It's like a BLT without the lettuce. "So we're gonna do half the mixture in the pie crust."

A tray of salted, thinly sliced slightly under-ripe tomatoes sits on the side. The salt helps pull out some of the juice in the tomato slices. Reid picks up each tomato slice, one at a time and throws it hard into the pan. "This is to slap them down and get out the seeds and shake off some of the salt." He carefully places each tomato slice in an overlapping spiral on top of the mixture. He says, "The bottom layer of tomatoes doesn't have to be pretty but I like to know; it's an OCD thing."

Reid spoons the other half of the mixture on top of the spiraled tomatoes and spreads it to the edges of the crust, then arranges another layer of spiraled tomatoes. "I sprinkle more of the dried dill and about 1/4 cup of shredded Parmesan just to cover it."

"Into the oven she goes at 350 degrees

for 45 minutes." Reid says this will serve eight people." He serves it at room temperature. Reid says Reserve reopened four months ago after being closed for two years. "We felt there was a void with all of the big plates where you needed a doggy bag." He would take the leftovers home and forget about them and then a few days later they would literally go to the dog. "What we have to offer is more shareable, small plates." He said they have nine items on the menu so you can bring in all of your friends and order everything.

The bacon-tomato pie is a customer favorite along with the hot chicken and the Montreal sausage. "I make the sausage myself from top butt, slice and freeze." Then into a meat grinder with chopped bacon, season with granulated onion and garlic, black pepper, sugar, crushed red chili. It goes through the sausage stuffer, then is smoked over pecan wood.

Reid said his parents always cooked. His dad was from Nebraska and his mom from Martinsville so it was fun to see different produce. When they drove back and forth, "mom and dad would always pull over and grab some stuff." His mom made sautéed yellow squash with onions and a lot of black pepper and wine "which was on our menu when I worked at Del Merei Grille" where he was for five years. He says he started out at Evening Star Cafe where he trained under the chef there.

Now onto squid ink ravioli. "This is our



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**Bacon-tomato pie ready to serve.**

vegetarian dish. The squid ink adds a nice, fun color and has a slightly salty undertone." Again he eyeballs the flour and eggs and feeds the dough through the pasta machine. "They always tell me this mound of dough doesn't look like much but 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 through the machine and back on itself. It gets longer and longer. "See it stretches the whole length of the counter."

### CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

#### ONGOING

##### 39th Annual Weichert Toy Drive.

Through Dec. 15, various times at Weichert Realty, 121 N. Pitt St. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices which will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. Call 703-549-8700.

##### Snow Day on Stage.

Through Dec. 16, various times at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. This nonverbal production features live music and lots of wintertime fun, just in time for the holiday season. \$9. Visit [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org).

**"A Christmas Carol."** Through Dec.

16, various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. \$17. Call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

##### Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market.

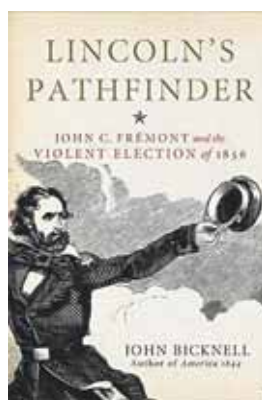
Through Dec. 17, weekend hours only, Fridays: 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free to browse. Call 703-838-4827 or visit [www.delrayartisans.org](http://www.delrayartisans.org).

##### Watercolor Exhibit.

Through Dec. 19, various times at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. See "Nature from Three Points of View", the work of Jan Burns, Madeleine Chen, and Shari MacFarlane, at the Horticulture Center. Sunday, Oct. 29 is the Artists Reception. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) or call 703-642-5173.

##### The Old Bull and Bush.

Through Dec. 24, various times at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. An effort to reopen the famous Hampstead England pub on stage to celebrate the holidays with food, song, jokes,



dance and a sing-along. Call 703-548-9044 or visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org).

##### 4th Annual Holiday Market Festival.

Through Dec. 23, various times in the Carlyle District, 300 John Carlyle St. Art and craft items, enjoy sweets, mulled wine and live entertainment from local musicians.

### Civil War Author

**On Monday, Dec. 18, local journalist John Bicknell discusses his book "John C. Fremont and the Violent Election of 1856," from 7-8:30 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 109 South Washington St. Christmas refreshments served. Free. Email [marktooley2003@yahoo.com](mailto:marktooley2003@yahoo.com) or call 703-409-4035.**

Visit [www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com](http://www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com).  
**Potomac Fiber Art Show.** Through Jan. 7, various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 29. The show will be supplemented with juried items on Dec. 5. The Torpedo Factory has new hours, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and

weekends, and 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

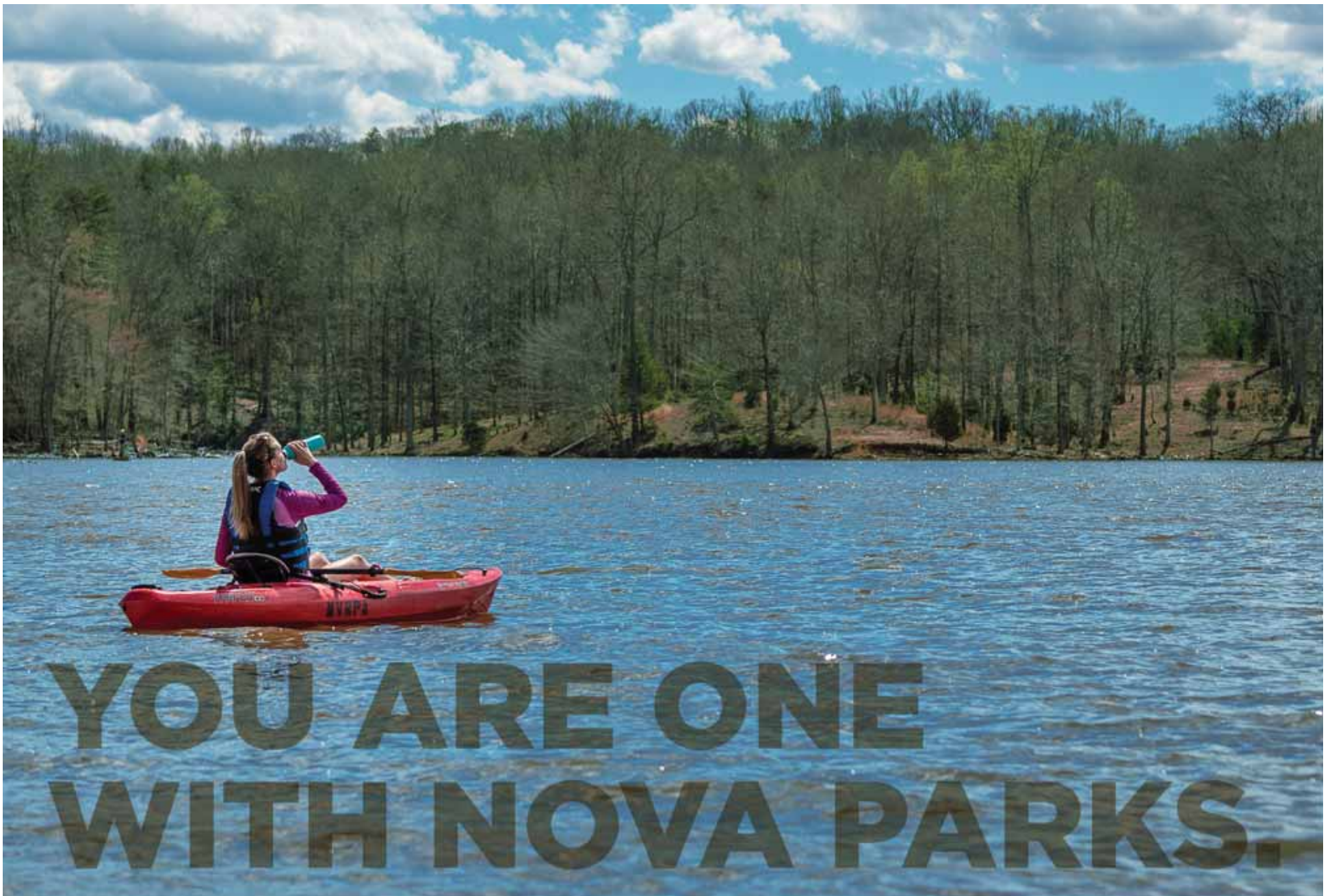
##### Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.

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





More than half of your body consists of water. The water we drink in Alexandria comes from the Occoquan Reservoir, and NOVA Parks has over 4,000 acres of forests around this body of water providing a natural buffer. NOVA Parks has an additional 4,000+ acres of parkland adjacent to the Potomac River. These lands offer opportunities for people to reconnect with nature while hiking, camping and boating. They also protect our natural resources. These same lands provide sanctuary for endangered species like the Eastern Wood Turtle, and the Small Whorled Pogonia, as well as habitat for Bald Eagles, Great Blue Heron and many other species.

Come out this weekend and rent a kayak or hike a trail, explore your regional parks, and connect with nature. Pohick Bay and Fountainhead Regional Parks are both located less than 25 minutes from Alexandria.



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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

# Lift a Glass at the 1986 Whiskey Bar

BY HOPE NELSON

**D**eep within the walls of Union Street Public House, there's a new tasting room emerging, with its own offerings and its own identity: The 1986 Whiskey Bar. This bar-within-a-bar offers all manner of – what else? – whiskey, along with some cocktails.

The whiskey bar's origin story harks back to the origin of Union Street Public House: in 1986.

"We wanted to look at where we've come from over the last 31 years," said general manager Dan Patrizio.

"You can't buy legacy. You can't buy time. And we wanted to really respect and appreciate the fact that 1986 was the year we started."

But while Union Street has been around for the better part of 31 years, the 1986 Whiskey Bar is a newcomer on the scene. Not even a month old yet, it's a celebration of one of the nation's finest spirits, Patrizio said.

"It came about for a simple fact that (whiskey is) America's native spirit," he said. "I love whiskey of all sorts, and I felt that it was from a business perspective an underserved commodity here in Old Town. There's a ton of exceptional places to dine, but there weren't a lot of places you could go have a proper whiskey."

1986 aims to change all that. From a plethora of whiskeys available to enjoy all by themselves to a tableau of cocktails that range from traditional to creative concoctions, the bar aims to be accessible to both hard-core whiskey connoisseurs and more casual acquaintances.

Three dozen different whiskeys and bourbons make up 1986's body of work at the moment, ranging from the house whiskey – Old Forester, which began production in the 1870s and continues to the present day – to more far-flung choices. On the cocktail front, diners and drinkers can expect traditional standards, such as the old fashioned, as well as signature creations such as the Irish Brigade, a vanilla-infused whiskey with chamomile tea and luxardo.

Don't drink whiskey? Don't worry. 1986 also offers aged rum, tequila and more.

So far, the whiskey bar "has been very well received," Patrizio said. "We've been very pleased with the community response. The community was looking for things like this. They're looking for the rare and the interesting."



PHOTO BY MAURISA POTTS

**The 1986 Whiskey Bar within Union Street Public House opened late last month.**

## If You Go

1986 Whiskey Bar, 121 S. Union St.

**Hours:** 5 p.m.-midnight, Wednesday-Saturday

**Try this:** The 1870 formula of Old Forester.

"That has been featured very prominently in quite a few cocktails we've put out so far," says general manager Dan Patrizio.

Need a little nibble with your drink? 1986 is in the process of ironing out its own menu, but while that's in process, they've got you covered with Union Street Public House's traditional bar menu.

Patrizio says the accessibility of the bar is one of the things he's proudest of. It doesn't require a membership card to get in; it's not a hidden speakeasy. 1986 is open for whoever comes in the door — and Patrizio hopes customers will be comfortable.

"When you walk into 1986, you know that this is a place you can come, you can enjoy, you can have the experience you are looking for because it's intentionally approachable," he 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).

## CALENDAR

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).

**Pick-Up Hockey.** Ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ice Skating, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Play hockey with other hockey buffs, hitting slap shots and learning puck handling skills that the pros use. Players must have full equipment. 16 and older. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/) or call 703-768-3224.

**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).

**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).



## Sopranessence

**Bharati Soman will be part of the Sopranessence Concert on Saturday, Dec. 16, 4 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Visit [www.arts.virginia.gov](http://www.arts.virginia.gov).**

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

**Color Disorder Exhibit.** Ongoing, Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the 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).

**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.

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

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

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

## CAMPS, CLASSES & 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.

**The Harmony Heritage Singers** (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. Visit [www.HHSingers.org](http://www.HHSingers.org), or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 14

**Local Author Thursday.** 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Featured author Garrett Peck is a historian and tour guide in the nation's capital. Call 703-599-6307.

**Meet the Artist.** 8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. Artist Desirée Venn Frederic discusses "Nomadic & Creative: Art and the Immigrant Experience." Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

## FRIDAY/DEC.15

**The Late Shift: STEAM-Powered Exhibit.** 7-11 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. American Geosciences Institute joins the festivities for a night of music, interactive art, artist presentations, featuring interdisciplinary artist Fumi Amano. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

## DEC. 15-16

**Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon.** 5:30-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. \$34 adult/\$24 youth with mansion tour; \$30 adult/\$20 youth without mansion tour. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/illuminations](http://www.mountvernon.org/illuminations).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 16

**Santa on the Trolley.** 9 a.m.-noon at Alexandria's City Hall Market Square, 301 King St. Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) and Santa Claus, will be on hand for a morning of free photos with Santa courtesy of Jackie Garcia Photography. All children will receive a special gift from Santa. Goodies Frozen Custard & Treats will be on-site brewing up hot apple cider to go. Visit [www.dashbus.com](http://www.dashbus.com).

**Meet the Artist.** 3-6 p.m. at the Broadway Gallery, 5641 B General



## Art Exhibit

**On Thursday, Dec.14 Artist Desirée Venn Frederic discusses "Nomadic & Creative: Art and the Immigrant Experience." 8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).**

Washington Drive. Closing reception for Richard McMurtry. Call 703-354-2905.

**Sopranessence Concert.** 4 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. "Tuneful Tidings" featuring Bharati Soman, soprano soloist. \$55 family 4-pack (pre-sale only); \$20 general admission; \$18 senior/military; \$10 youth (18 and younger). Visit [www.arts.virginia.gov](http://www.arts.virginia.gov).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 17

**The Mount Vernon Flutes.** 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This small ensemble from the Mount Vernon Concert Band will perform holiday songs in the gallery. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Cookies with Santa.** 4-5:30 p.m. at the Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. Meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Visit [www.unionstreetpublichouse.com](http://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com).

**Celtic Christmas with Iona.** 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial 101 Callahan Drive. Sponsored by FocusMusic. \$15/18 at door. Email [Herb@FocusMusic.org](mailto:Herb@FocusMusic.org) or call 703-380-3151.

## MONDAY/DEC. 18

**Civil War Roundtable.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 109 South Washington St. Local journalist John Bicknell discusses his book "John C. Fremont and the Violent Election of 1856." Christmas refreshments served. Free. Email [marktooley2003@yahoo.com](mailto:marktooley2003@yahoo.com)

or call 703-409-4035.

**Ballroom Dance Classes.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Led by Gary Stephans on Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Merengue, Rumba, Cha-Cha and Samba. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-505-5998.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 24

**Waterskiing Santa.** 1 p.m. at the waterfront between King and Oronoco streets. Free. Visit [www.waterskiingsanta.com](http://www.waterskiingsanta.com).

## THURSDAY/DEC. 28

**Piff The Magic Dragon Magician.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. A former participant on America's Got Talent. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 31

**New Years Noon.** 10 a.m.-noon at the Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. The fourth annual bash includes performances by "Oh Susannah" and "The Great Zucchini" and an 11:55 a.m. for a countdown to "Noon Year" with music and a balloon drop. All ages invited, but especially appropriate for children ages 2 and up. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1704.

**First Night Alexandria.** 2 p.m. to midnight at venues throughout Old Town. Activities include the Ninth Annual Fun Hunt, musical entertainment, food, drink and midnight fireworks over the Potomac River. Visit [www.firstnightalexandria.org](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org) or call

703-746-3299.

## JAN.9-FEB. 4

**"Déjà Vu," Art Exhibit.** Various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 29. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery show "Déjà Vu," highlights the work of artists Elizabeth Davison, Elise Miller, and Dianne Harris Thomas. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

## FRIDAY/JAN.12

**Concert at Blessed Sacrament.** 8 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Free. Email [mcushmac@comcast.net](mailto:mcushmac@comcast.net) or call 703-548-1176.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 13

**Watercolor Workshop: Painting on Yupo.** 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Paint on slick plastic called yupo with in-structor Marni Maree. \$90. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) or call 703-642-5173.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 18

**Air Force Band Concert.** 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall 4915 East Campus Drive. Special appearance by tubist Patrick Sheridan. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/).

## SATURDAY/JAN. 20

**Winter Tree Day.** 10-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Take a walk in the woods to examine trees in their wintry state. Get to know some evergreens and learn how critters use trees as their homes during our coldest months. \$6. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) or call 703-642-5173.

**Tea Tasting: A Tea for Each Continent.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Sample teas from each of the seven continents of the world. \$25. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) or call 703-642-5173.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 3

**Watercolor Workshop: Paint a Winter Scene.** 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn to paint a winter landscape in wa-tercolor with the help of artist Erik Hottenstein, who demonstrates techniques for translating photographs into winter scenes and provides guidance for your individual piece. \$90. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) or call 703-642-5173.

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**DEL RAY ARTISANS** [DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2017](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2017)



# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 15

sign standpoint I have to say I like it, it creates a “place” at the intersection of two significant streets in Alexandria and contributes to calming traffic on these two busy thoroughfares. I would prefer to have it replaced with something of similar but more appropriate significance, rather than removed and simply paved over with asphalt.

If it is replaced, what should we replace it with? Possibilities may be statues honoring Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Abraham Lincoln or Barack Obama. However, I think a perfect solution would be a memorial to Anita Hill. I don’t know of any statue or monument in her honor (yet). In light of recent revelations, I think her courage decades ago to call out a person of power and challenge his inappropriate actions is worthy of recognition. A memorial to her would be a perfect antithesis to what is dishonorable both north and south, east and west, and honors both the struggle of African Americans as well as the struggle of women of all races against unequal treatment and sexual predation.

**Joe Demshar**  
Alexandria

## Remember The Past

To the Editor:

We have to own — not sanitize — our history; what those here back then did, not only on their own behalf, but for following generations too. We need not agree with what they did to accept the memorials intervening generations have set to commemorate it. These memorials do not necessarily say that we value whatever was their cause, but that they then valued it. That is how art serves history.

The idea that the American Civil War was about slavery is an oversimplification fit for elementary school, but high school and college history courses typically acknowledge a multiplicity of causal factors besides slavery: tariffs, which had little to do with slavery; federal control versus local autonomy, and northern noncooperation with federal laws which had more to do with slavery; and even ethnic-cultural differences. Jeffrey Rogers Hummel’s libertarian classic, “Freeing the Slaves, Enslaving the Free.” posits that the “lower seven” states, which seceded in response to Lincoln’s election, “seceded over slavery” versus the “upper four,” including Virginia, which rejected secession initially and only “se-

ceded over freedom” after Lincoln’s call to invade following Fort Sumter.

I was in New Orleans on business after Mayor Landrieu had the statues removed. Viewing an empty grand pedestal while waiting for the streetcar, I experienced a visceral sensation like beholding Rip Van Winkle’s headless horseman: New Orleans had effectively renounced its history as if its present was not a result of its past. Annihilation of the past is the hallmark of the most abusive regimes. If we are vexed by our past, we need monuments to remind us and future generations to not repeat it.

**Dino Drudi**  
Alexandria

## Eliminate Wasteful Programs

To the Editor:

The Alexandria City Council’s guidance to the city manager to not raise the property tax rate next year (FY 2019) is absolutely ludicrous. (Can you ever remember when taxes were increased during an election year?) This sleight of hand is why we are paying such a large increase this year (5.7 cents per hundred dollars of assessed property value). This is courtesy of our vice mayor, who aspires to be the next mayor. However, there is a budget dilemma, since revenues only increase by one percent, which equates to \$9.2 million. Unfortunately this will not address the 5 percent increase in expenditures of \$35.7 million. This equates to a shortfall of \$27 million needed to balance the books.

What should be taking place is that the City Council should advise the city manager to work within the budget. The city should find \$27 million in “real” offsets or program reductions so as to balance the budget, rather than to continually place the onus on the tax paying citizens. You can depend on it that a good part of the \$27 million shortfall will result in higher property taxes next year.

A City Council member (who has served 33 years) stated that a no tax (increase) year would be “so austere that nobody would like it.” That is code for “watch out, we are going to raise your taxes,” rather than to practice good fiscal management such as eliminating pet programs that only benefit a few such as bikeshare. Unfortunately, this tax-and-spend City Council has (over a great many years) never met a developer they didn’t love. This is also the same

## Home for The Holidays

*Candy canes, Christmas cookies,  
And a gingerbread house too,  
Beautiful sights, for it’s Christmas.  
Family fun with a task or two,  
The beauty of Christmas decorations  
Throughout the house  
And a plate full with cookies and,  
Of course, a glass of milk.  
Home for the holidays  
And the brightness of joy  
Baking and cooking and,  
Of course, a little shopping gift  
Or two and dining out.  
Families and all, out and about,  
Fun in the snow.  
Poinsettia and bright lights  
Throughout the city  
Snow-glazed tree branches  
Like lace of cotton  
And stars far away  
And the sparkle of a child’s eyes.  
Young and old, young at heart,  
It’s Christmas.*

Wishing a Merry Christmas to all of our veterans.

**Activist Geri Baldwin**  
Alexandria



The little park at Heritage at Old Town on Saturday, Dec. 9, has a bench and bushes covered in a layer of snow.



PHOTOS BY GERI BALDWIN

august body who is responsible for a half billion dollar plus debt spilling over to a projected \$82 million a year in debt service. Except for the current mayor and Councilman Willie Bailey, the rest of the council has been in office for a considerably long time thereby essentially owning a great percentage of that debt, in addition to a total lack of any fiscal responsibility.

A great deal of the overall funding problem appears to be centered within our schools, for which \$26.6 million more has been requested over last year. School enrollments have continued to increase each year, and a new elementary school is needed in the west end of town. When I ran for City Council in 2000, I stated that a building moratorium was

needed until the current infrastructure was up to date. However, although many years have gone by, the City Council continues to double down on density, and we are now feeling its debilitating effects. In the last 27 years, Alexandria has added 23,000 new residents, resulting in a density factor of 9,900 residents per square mile, which is the highest of any community in Virginia.

The city continues building at a feverish pace, and new residents continue to arrive.

However, the school problem is just one indicator of this lack of planning. In addition to more schools, more police and fire personnel are needed, along with other support personnel and accompanying facilities and infrastructure. Moreover, the city is not

building sustainable communities, they are just building dwellings (e.g. Potomac Yard).

Where there was once great walkability, our increased traffic, less parking and many other issues are making our community a nightmare. So please, City Council, grow a backbone when addressing this FY2019 budget, and eliminate wasteful programs and unproductive staff.

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

## CORRECTION

The name of the letter writer for “Lincoln’s Perspective,” Dec. 7. Gazette Packet, was incorrect. His name is Charles Fellows, not Fellow.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

The City of Alexandria is reminding the community about the importance of stopping domestic violence and highlighting available resources. Domestic violence is an instance or pattern of abusive or coercive behaviors that may include threats, harassment, controlling resources, verbal and emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical assault, or other actions. These behaviors are exhibited by one individual to exert power or control over another in the context of a family, or in dating relationships, (including those of

teen couples and adult couples who do not live together). To check whether you or someone you know might be a victim, take a quick online assessment at [www.alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence#AreYouaVictim](http://www.alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence#AreYouaVictim) to learn more. Those concerned about the safety of another can become active bystanders and help guide the victim to confidential support and assistance. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence#FriendsandFamilyofSurvivors](http://www.alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence#FriendsandFamilyofSurvivors). The City of Alexandria Domestic Violence Program operates a 24/7 hotline at 703-746-4911. Among the services offered are a Safe House shelter; counseling; confidential support groups; and legal help, including court accompaniment and assistance with protective orders. There are also opportunities to join

and support the numerous city agencies working together in the prevention and treatment of domestic violence.

### THROUGH DEC. 14

**Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force Meetings.** All meetings take place at City Hall in the Council Workroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, unless otherwise noted. The agendas and relevant materials will be posted at [www.alexandriava.gov/97580](http://www.alexandriava.gov/97580) prior to each meeting. Upcoming meetings associated with the mission of the Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force to provide guidance to City Council to help frame the City and Alexandria City Public Schools Facilities Capital

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 21

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# BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 20

Improvement Program for FY 2019 – FY 2028 are as follows:

❖ Thursday, Dec. 14, 9:00 a.m. – Joint Task Force Meeting

## THURSDAY/DEC. 14

Advisory Group Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. The Braddock Implementation Advisory Group will meet to cover topics including Andrew Adkins redevelopment, Braddock Gateway Phase 2 architecture and Fayette streetscape improvements. For detailed information on the Braddock Metro Neighborhood Plan and its implementation, visit alexandriava.gov/braddock. Children's Holiday Party. Every year, the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program (DVP) organizes a holiday party for children and mothers who have been recently served by the program. DVP offers a gift suggestion list for ideas. Children's toys or other gifts should be newly purchased, unwrapped items. DVP will provide each mother with wrapping paper to personalize each child's gift. DVP is requesting gift certificates to local stores in denominations of \$25. This way, each woman will have the opportunity to purchase something special for herself or her children. Donations can be brought to 123 N. Pitt Street, Suite 225, Alexandria, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on holidays. The deadline for delivery or pick-up of unwrapped gift donations is Dec. 11. Call Magdalia or Hewan at 703-746-4911 with questions.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 15

**Enrollment Deadline.** The City of Alexandria is hosting a trained "Navigator" to assist residents in obtaining health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act before the annual open enrollment period ends. Anyone who needs coverage for 2018 should visit HealthCare.Gov to start an application and shop for plans to take effect as early as Jan. 1, 2018. Call 703-647-4748, or visit www.enrollva.org, to schedule an appointment or for other help with enrollment.

## MONDAY/DEC. 18

**Volunteer Nomination Deadline.** In January 2018, the City will initiate a planning effort focusing on the Route 1 area south of Duke Street. After a series of community events in January and February to orient neighbors to the planning process, the City will hold a five-day intensive community planning "charrette" the week of Feb. 26-March 2, 2018. The charrette is a collaborative planning and design exercise to develop the basis of the Plan. Nomination forms and expectations of the Charrette Group Volunteers, as well as information about the planning process can be found at www.alexandriava.gov/Planning and clicking on Route 1 South Housing Affordability Strategy.

## MONDAY/JAN. 8

**Grant Application Webinar.** 7 p.m. Registration is required. Login information will be sent upon registration. The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts will be accepting applications for Arts Program Grant. The Office of the Arts will conduct a series of grant workshops and webinars to assist interested applicants. New applicants or arts organizations who have not applied in the past two years are required to attend. Due to changes in the

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 22

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### Legals



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, December 16, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by city council to such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2017-0005 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2017-0005 to amend map 10 to change the land use designation for the properties located at 413 and 417 Columbus Street from RM/Residential to CD/ Commercial Downtown approved by the City Council on November 18, 2017.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 064.02 of the "Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia," adopted by Section 1-300 (OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the properties at 413 and 417 North Columbus Street from, RM/Residential Medium to CD/Commercial Downtown in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2017-0002.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2017-0002, to rezone the properties at 413 and 417 North Columbus Street from RM/Residential Medium to CD/Commercial Downtown.

Public Hearing and Consideration of a request for an Amendment to the City Charter by adding in Chapter 9 a section numbered. 9.35.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by Adopting and Incorporating Therein the Amendment Heretofore Approved by City Council to the Braddock Road Metro Station Small Area Plan Chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2017-0005 and no other Amendments, and to Repeal all Provisions of the said master plan as may be Inconsistent with Such Amendment. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2017-0005 to amend map 10 to change the land use designation for the properties located at 413 and 417 Columbus Street from RM/Residential to CD/ Commercial Downtown approved by the City Council on November 18, 2017.

Public Hearing for the Vision Zero Action Plan.

Public Hearing on Cameron Run Park Planning and Conceptual Design Final Report and Consideration of the Interim and Long-Term Use of Cameron Run Park.

Public Hearing and Consideration of a Lease Amendment with Verizon Wireless to Upgrade Equipment on the Torpedo Factory, the City Owned Building Located at 105 N. Union Street.

Public Hearing and Consideration of a Lease Amendment with Verizon Wireless to Upgrade Equipment at the Alexandria Courthouse Located at 520 King Street.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday December 16, 2017. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

### Legals

### Announcements

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### Legals

#### Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process: Public Participation

Mobilite proposes the construction of a utility style telecommunications pole within existing road right-of-way at S Pitt St & Prince St, Alexandria, City of Alexandria, VA. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects on historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to Andrew Smith, RESCOM Environmental Corp., PO Box 361 Petoskey, MI 49770 or call 260-385-6999.

### Obituary

#### JAQUELIN COCHRAN NICHOLSON

9/18/1917 – 11/20/2017

Jaquelin C. Nicholson of Williamsburg, VA passed away on November 20, 2017. The first baby born in the original Alexandria Hospital, she was the third child of Thomas B. Cochran and Rebecca Courtenay Marshall Cochran. She graduated from St. Agnes School and from Sweet Briar College. She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years Dr. Charles Thomas Nicholson, Jr. She is survived by two daughters, Jaquelin N. Wyson and Elizabeth N. Lewis (William), 5 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Jaquelin was a long time member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, VA where she served on the Alter Guild and also a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Tappanhook, VA. She was a member of the Hunting Creek Garden Club, the DAR, the Colonial Dames and a past member of Belle Haven Country Club. She enjoyed gardening, tennis and doing puzzles. She was a devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother and was adored by her family. She lived a remarkable life and is remembered as a true lady. A graveside service will be held on December 16th at 11:00 AM at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

### Announcements

### Announcements

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## As Good As It Gets



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Five weeks of blissful ignorance. (Speak for yourself. I am.) No 24-hour urine collection. No pre-chemotherapy lab work. No chemotherapy infusion. No CT scan. No follow-up appointment with my oncologist – or any other doctor for that matter. No brain MRI. No fasting. No emailing. No prescription-drug refilling. No vitals. No weight check. No taste/eating side effects. No anything. Other than pretending and presuming that all is not wrong in my “whirled” (my underlying diagnosis), life is for the living, and I’m living proof, random though it may be, that an incredibly grim/surreal prognosis: “13 months to two years,” was not all it was cracked up to be.

Forgive me if I unleash my pent-up inner demons. As a cancer patient, there’s just so much to worry about; daily, weekly, monthly and always, that when you get a break/brake in the action, it becomes a moment in time to celebrate and cherish.

Good things may come in small packages, but great things come in five-week intervals. And though the minor deficits I have as a result of nearly nine years of chemotherapy have not dissipated; in the scheme of things, in the midst of two-fortnights-and-a-half of “uncumbrances,” to quote my late father, I am “untethered,” to once again quote my father. This time however, quoting the late, great Sid Caesar for a skit he performed (involving “an elephant,” my father always said) on “The Show of Shows” back in the early 50s.

And so for the next month and change, I am almost normal (or a reasonable facsimile thereof); other than following my daily anti-cancer, non-Western routine which I have long ago assimilated into my dos and don’ts, that is. A routine which, though it can always be enhanced, is a direct result of the advice I’ve received from my certified Holistic Health Coach. And despite the fact that I may not exactly be on the straight and narrow – more like the squiggly and wiggly, I certainly am not on the path I was when my cancer cells activated after I slid into my first PET scan back in early February 2009, and “lit it up like a Christmas tree,” according to my thoracic surgeon. An indication/confirmation which led to a surgical biopsy a week or so later which then led to the last nine years of my life.

Still, it’s been a life worth living and one for which I have few regrets. I have lived so far beyond my original prognosis, it’s not even funny; it’s ridiculous. Sure, I’m doing more of the right things than I ever did, but hardly am I the poster boy for “see what happens when you ... .” If I’m the poster boy for anything, it’s more likely “how to maintain and even increase your weight while being treated for stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer.”

Not that I won’t savor the moments ahead, but I am mindful, which led to the substance of this column, of what happens after this semi-party is over: Jan. 2, 2018 – 24-hour urine collection; Jan. 3, 2018 – pre-chemotherapy lab work; Jan. 5, 2018 – chemotherapy infusion; Jan. 17, 2018 – CT scan; and finally, Jan. 26, 2018 – follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results of my scan, and then maybe another emotional hon-eymoon or, God forbid, a nightmare that diagnosis to date has rarely raised its ugly head.

That possibility roams my head, constantly; compartmentalized – yes; “in the vault” – yes, but unfortunately, “the cancer,” (as “Forrest, Forrest Gump” said) still in my body and, medically speaking, not yet something one can flush out with treatment. But there’s always hope.

In the past few years, the FDA has approved half-a-dozen new lung cancer drugs, more than during the preceding decade. I don’t think medical professionals would say they have lung cancer on the run; they might say however, they have it on the trot. Which is good for me because I can’t run, but I can trot.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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## News

# Democrats

FROM PAGE 6

Hardwick said. “It is time that we really tackle that problem. Through economic sustainability, understanding where our revenue comes from and how we leverage key investments in the city, we can get there.”

Amy Jackson, an educator, prioritized investment in schools to relieve overcrowding. Jackson, raised in Alexandria and a former high school teacher in Fairfax County, said the city government needs to do more to help Alexandria City Public Schools relieve problems like overcrowding. At the meeting, Jackson said she was focused on specific problems, like pushing for Pre-K funding to lessen the achievement gap and promoting the Vision Zero project. To fund these projects, Jackson says the city is going to have to look at how it can revitalize the economies of Landmark Mall and Old Town.

The Democratic primary will be held on June 12. Candidates have until March to announce their candidacy.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 21

granting process, all applicants are urged to attend these free workshops and webinars. Online application forms, instructions, and frequently asked questions for all grant programs will be available online at [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts) on Jan. 2.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 25

**Grant Application Workshop.** Noon at Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The City of Alexandria’s Office of the Arts will be accepting applications for Arts Program Grant. The Office of the Arts will conduct a series of grant workshops and webinars to assist interested applicants. New applicants or arts organizations who have not applied in the past two years are required to attend. Due to changes in the granting process, all applicants are urged to attend these free workshops and webinars. Online application forms, instructions, and frequently asked questions for all grant programs will be available online at [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts) on Jan. 2.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 2

**Grant Application Webinar.** 8:30 a.m. Registration is required. Login information will be sent upon registration. The City of Alexandria’s Office of the Arts will be accepting applications for Arts Program Grant. The Office of the Arts will conduct a series of grant workshops and webinars to assist interested applicants. New applicants or arts organizations who have not applied in the past two years are required to attend. Due to changes in the granting process, all applicants are urged to attend these free workshops and webinars. Online application forms, instructions, and frequently asked questions for all grant programs will be available online at [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts) on Jan. 2.

## MILITARY NOTES

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

U.S. Air Force Airman **Gunjan S. Silwal** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Silwal is the son of Jyoti S. and Dhruva S. Silwal of Chantilly, and brother of Sukriti S. Silwal of Alexandria. He is a 2016 graduate of T.C. Williams High School.



12

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