

MAP BY ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET

Map reflects neighborhood reports of gas odors from Clover-College Park Civic Association email exchange beginning Nov. 10 and continuing through December. Asterisks * indicate confirmed gas leaks, solid dots • indicate gas smell reported, and circles indicate Washington Gas digging.

A Pattern of Gas Smell Reports?

Clover-College Park residents concerned about multiple gas smell reports.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

The smell of gas was first reported on the Clover-College Park Civic Association email exchange in late September when Lance Spencer contacted Washington Gas about a gas leak at 1108 Vassar Road. “Washington Gas responded quickly and replaced the box just inside our house at the connection.”

There were several more reports from neighbors in October but the numbers intensified on Nov. 10 when, Hillary Sentell at 202 Skyhill Road said, “I could smell gas in the hallway. After reporting it to Washington Gas, they came and determined the vacant apartment across from me did indeed have gas coming from it. The fire de-

partment had to be called to break the door down. They resolved the issue but I’m not sure what the issue was.”

Since then there have been numerous continuing reports of gas smells, some investigated by Washington Gas technicians with no leak found and others with active leaks that were reportedly repaired. Sentell said, “I have been smelling gas at the corner of Dartmouth and Skyhill for over a month now. I have seen Washington Gas there multiple times.”

Neighbors are concerned. Jill Edwards Hoffman’s yard on Cambridge Street was dug up after a neighbor, who runs early in the morning, reported a smell of gas in front of the house. “There was a period when gas smells were just popping up around the neighborhood. It seems odd there were so many back to back.” So Hoffman started keeping track through an active civic association email exchange.

On Nov. 16 the mail carrier knocked on the door at 2920 Dartmouth and reported the smell of gas. They called the gas company, but Washington Gas found nothing. Their daughter smelled gas again when she was at the house later in the day.

On Nov. 19 there were four reports, one across the street from 403 Cambridge, another reported an odor from several weeks ago at the corner of Janney’s Lane and West Taylor Run, one on Crown View Drive early in the morning and one from the road drain at the corner of Skyhill and Dartmouth.

Both Councilman John Chapman, a Taylor Run resi-

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Gas odors at 202 Skyhill Drive were reported to the Clover-College Park Civic Association email exchange. Washington Gas discovered a leak and repaired it after the fire department broke down the door to gain admittance.



Washington Gas flag at 503 Cambridge where the yard was dug up by Washington Gas after an odor was reported on Nov. 19.

‘Looking for Skeptics’

Regarding Amazon deal, a gap between residents’ concerns and governments’ optimism.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

“I’m looking for skeptics here,” said Kojo Nnamdi, a radio personality, drawing audience laughter as he moderated a town hall on Monday, Dec. 3 about Amazon coming to Crystal City.

He found many in attendance, expressing concerns across a broad array of issue areas. But he found little skepticism among local public officials and staffers, including Alexandria Mayor-elect Justin Wilson and Arlington County Board Chair Katie Cristol. Regarding the most heavily discussed topics, they reassured the Amazon deal would help, or at least not unduly hinder, citing promised new state investments.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND DISPLACEMENT

“It’s important to call a spade a spade: it is gentrification,” said an audience member from La ColectiVA, a community organization, citing racial disparities in homeownership rates. “There’s a banner that’s outside of the [Arlington] County board room that says, ‘Growth through immigration and diversity builds a strong community.’ Which immigrants ..., only wealthy white ones from other states or something?”

Homeowners are “thrilled ... that their values are going to go up,” but renters are “panicked,” said Wilson. Yet what “I take optimistically is that, for the first time, we saw the Commonwealth actually recognize and show some beginnings of actions related to af-

fordable housing.”

Gov. Ralph Northam’s administration has promised “an additional \$15 million per year for affordable and workforce housing,” according to a press release. That’s “almost unprecedented, in terms of partnership, for the state,” said Cristol in a previous interview on Nnamdi’s show.

Panelist Carmen Romero of the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing said she’s had “reservations.” Nevertheless she’s “supportive” because she thinks more corporate and state partners are bringing new “energy” to addressing housing affordability.

In addition to greater subsidization, Cristol and Wilson both advocate building more housing in order align supply more closely with demand.

“Increasing supply, at nearly any affordability level, helps ease that challenge. ... We need an additional 100,000 housing units in the region beyond what is already planned,” Wilson said after the town hall. “The obstacles are the potential, real, and feared impacts on quality of life (density, traffic, parking, etc.).”

He says Alexandria will consider expanding the use of accessory dwelling units, also called granny flats. Asked if he’d support broader “up-zoning” — the allowance of larger buildings in contrast to single-family housing, as recently proposed in Minneapolis — he said he doesn’t “want to pre-judge that process by endorsing specific solutions.” But he thinks Alexandria should “undertake a zoning modernization, and expansion/preservation of affordability

SEE ON AMAZON, PAGE 3

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Residents Concerned about Multiple Gas Smell Reports

FROM PAGE 1

dent, and Vice Mayor Justin Wilson contacted Washington Gas on behalf of the neighbors because they were concerned about some sort of a pattern.

“We felt like the gas company was treating it as a one off,” Hoffman said.

Yon Lambert, director of Transportation and Environmental Services for the City of Alexandria, reported the city received a response to the neighbors’ concerns on Nov. 19 from Washington Gas indicating they had investigated the leaks on Nov. 16 and 19 and had made repairs or were investigating the reports.

Bernie Tylor, manager of Washington Gas Media Relations, indicated to the Gazette Packet on Tuesday, Dec. 11: “Over the past month there have been 12 leaks identified in Alexandria, in and around the Clover-College Park area. Eight were identified through a proactive leak survey that we conduct every three years to ensure reliability, safety, and protection

of our system Four leaks were identified by Washington Gas personnel responding to customer complaints. We responded immediately to make repairs where needed.

“First of all, as you know, providing safe and reliable service to our Washington Gas customers is our top priority. When leaks or damage to our system occur, we respond 24 hours a day/7 days a week to assess the situation. We make immediate repairs for any leak deemed potentially hazardous and schedule non-hazardous leaks for future repair.

“We also reviewed each street and looked at it for recent leaks. We do not see a pattern. However the dispatch team is aware the of the concern and will be monitoring it through the evening,” the email stated.

Hoffman says Washington Gas is always very responsive but she is concerned that they only look at one address at a time, that no one is looking at the reports holistically. In addition, she says there seems to be a breakdown in the process. She explains in the case of her house, the fire department

had come out in the morning and the gas company later in the day. But the gas company didn’t know the fire department had already been there in the morning.

Celia Wexler who lives in a condo at 53 Skyhill Road, reported that she and her husband go on long walks around the neighborhood and that on Dec. 5 they saw a large hole that Washington Gas had dug at the corner of W. Taylor Run and Dartmouth. “I don’t know how long they had been working there. Today we saw them at 2020 Dartmouth. Since Dec. 1 they have been at the same intersection several times. Every day it seems there is a truck returning to a place they were.” She said, “It’s nuts. The last thing you want is for your house to explode.”

Wexler questions whether Washington Gas couldn’t easily send a notice to the neighborhood. “It wouldn’t cost them a lot to let us know ‘Here’s where we’ve been, here’s why we’re here, here’s when we think we will have completed.’” According to its Dec. 11 email to the Gazette Packet: “Wash-

ington Gas has recently implemented the use of a door hanger insert to notify residents in the neighborhoods when we are conducting leak repair service or perform any other maintenance work, and strive to distribute them each time we perform repair work.”

In the meantime, the reports keep trickling in.

* Dec. 5: “Report of gas smell at 53 Skylar Road. Nothing found.”

* Dec. 7: “In front of 511 Crown View Drive we had a report of odor and Washington Gas activity. Given there is now a good-sized patch in the street, I believe there was a confirmed leak as well.”

Washington Gas says they are “conducting proactive, accelerated replacement of aging infrastructure throughout our service territory in Virginia as part of the SAVE Act which was approved by the Virginia Assembly in 2010.” They have been authorized to invest \$500 million between 2018-23 in accelerated replacement programs in Virginia.

On Amazon: Residents’ Concerns, Governments’ Optimism

FROM PAGE 1

should be an important component”

“More density doesn’t necessarily mean skyscrapers, but could mean a duplex or triplex or stacked flats where single family housing one was,” said Cristol in a later interview.

An Arlington homeowner disagreed that the increase in home values is all good news.

“My home is my home, it’s not an investment,” he said. “My taxes will rise appreciably. By the way, I pay high taxes already. You guys need to look at the ways you can normalize taxes that we who live in this area don’t carry the burden of Amazon.”

Roshan Abraham of Arlington’s chapter of Our Revolution, an advocacy organization inspired by Sen. Bernie Sanders, wants to extract more from Amazon. Abraham was the lone dissenter amongst Nnamdi’s panelists.

“Personally I’d like to see a \$500 million investment made into a community land trust,” he said. “We could do things like a shared equity model, where the equity is jointly owned by the county and the people living there. That way you have an opportunity for people in affordable housing to build wealth.” Eventually they could “afford actual homeownership, which is the biggest way of creating intergenerational wealth that there is,” he said.

Such trusts “have been operating (or are being established) in a number of high-cost regions, such as Seattle, the San Francisco Bay Area, New York City, and Boston,” said Michael Spotts of Neighborhood Fundamentals, LLC, who also spoke at the town hall.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

“I would like us to take all this energy we [used] to bring in one single, giant com-

pany ... and instead ... support startups ... and small businesses,” said an audience member. He cited the Brookings Institution’s Amy Liu, an Alexandria resident, who has written articles about Amazon’s move, ranging in tone from cautious to critical.

“HQ2 could bring a tremendous boost to Greater D.C. — if Amazon and local leaders work together to pioneer a new model of inclusive growth,” she wrote in one. In another, she preferred “empowering existing people and businesses in a community to grow, innovate, and start new ventures” over against “attracting Amazon and other [major] companies.”

“At this point, rather than debate the merits of HQ2 being here, I would rather state and local leaders, with community leaders, work together to make sure that existing workers, neighborhoods, and businesses benefit from the opportunity, rather than have the benefits accrue primarily to the highly skilled or newcomers,” Liu said later.

Cristol and Wilson both cautioned about applying macro level scholarship to specific contexts. Wilson reckoned that the Amazon deal specifically, since it entails public “infrastructure investments,” should be “the kind of deal that most of these folks [scholars] find attractive.”

In addition to “restoring a tax base” lost to Base Realignment and Closure over the past decade or so, Amazon could reinvigorate local enterprises, said Cristol. “Think about what 20 percent [office vacancy rates] mean: One in five buildings, or floors in buildings, that used to be filled with employees who bought sandwiches at lunchtime, who went shopping on their breaks, who stopped at a grocery store on their way home, has disappeared from our Crystal City sector. The connection to make to our small business community is such an

important one.”

Whereas Amazon will pay taxes in Arlington, Virginia Tech’s Innovation Campus — Alexandria’s part of the deal — will not pay taxes in Alexandria. However, “With 25,000 direct jobs, there are also 25,000 indirect jobs that come along,” said the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership’s Stephanie Landrum. “That includes ... follow-on technology jobs and companies that will support the main catalyst project. It’s that entire growth and the variety of that growth that makes projects like this so important”

EDUCATION

Local officials were asked whether the influx of new employees would exacerbate existing school overcrowding.

Dr. Patrick Murphy, superintendent of Arlington’s school division, expects that 15-20 percent of Amazon employees will end up residing in Arlington. As a result, the division forecasts 73-98 additional students per year for 10 years, which it’s already factored into its total enrollment growth model. That translates to growth in the next decade of only 3-4 percent over current enrollment that’d be directly attributable to Amazon.

Asked if it’s made similar forecasts, Alexandria’s schools administration didn’t respond.

The Amazon deal includes efforts to expand the local “technology talent pipeline,” from primary to graduate school. Virginia Tech’s new campus, which will focus on tech-related fields and act as a kind of feeder for Amazon and other tech companies, represents a \$1 billion investment.

“The potential ripple effect of such an advanced ecosystem cannot be overstated, as similar global tech giants have historically spurred the advancement of entire

regions,” according to a Virginia Tech press release.

The state also plans to invest 375 million over 20 years in tech-related master’s level programming; \$25 million in tech-related bachelor’s level “work-based learning,” including internships and apprenticeships; and \$25 million in K-12 STEM programs.

“Amazon coming, and Alexandria being a partner ... in helping to deliver the workforce for the future generations in this area, is just such an exciting opportunity for us,” said Mignon Anthony, COO of Alexandria’s schools.

Higher education curricula will “be developed in close collaboration with industry leaders, including but not limited to Amazon,” according to Northern Virginia’s winning proposal to Amazon.

“For me as an educator, that [Amazon would influence curriculum] is kind of an odd idea,” said Abraham.

Wilson disagreed, saying: “As someone who has two kids at home and would like them to one day leave, I should hope universities are coordinating with employers in developing a curriculum to make folks career-ready.”

An audience member expressed concern about the underrepresentation of non-whites in tech fields. Wilson responded that the Amazon deal gives Virginia Tech “the opportunity to fulfill their obligation as a land grant university to diversify the tech workforce. ... That is in their core mission. ... We have a school system in Alexandria with 60 percent free and reduced lunch, 30 percent English language learners. We are uniquely able to help them diversify that workforce.”

TRANSPORTATION

“We have the infrastructure ... to absorb

SEE AMAZON, PAGE 20



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News

New Planning Commissioners?

Council solicits applicants, set to decide appointments early next month.

By DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

About half of the city's Planning Commission seats are up for grabs, though with less than a month, including the holidays, for prospective applicants and the public to weigh in.

The Planning Commission consists of seven City Council-appointed resident voters. The commission exercises advisory and some limited decision-making functions with respect to land use and development. Each commissioner requires a minimum of four council member votes for appointment and serves a four-year term.

As of Sunday, Jan. 13, the terms of service will expire for three commissioners: Mary Lyman, the sitting chair; David Brown; and Stephen Koenig. Lyman has reached her consecutive term limit and cannot reapply. Gloria Sitton, the city clerk and clerk of council — the council's executive secretary — gave public notice of impending openings on Tuesday, Dec. 11. No one has yet applied. Council will decide on new appointments at its first legislative meeting in the New Year,


which is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 8. Interested residents must submit their applications to the clerk no later than Monday, Dec. 31. File applications online at www.alexandriava.gov/Boards.

The City Code requires "at least 21 days" of advance notice. She posted the vacancies 28 days in advance.

City Manager Mark Jinks said appointments don't fall under his purview and, according to city spokesperson Craig Fifer, "city staff have no role in the vetting or consideration of applicants."

Though not a policy-making body, the Planning Commission considers and influences both long-term and site-specific development plans before they go on, with the commission's recommendations, to council for final decision. Such is the case for amendments to the city's Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance; development special use permits, which allow development of a property in a way that zoning rules would otherwise prohibit, such as exceeding building size restrictions; special use permits, which entail a public review process for neighbors who might be affected by, for

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| Café Gallery & Market | Global Food | Tiger Market and Bakery |
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| Community Market | Kare Baltena | Walgreens |
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PEOPLE

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET



Shakeela Doskas begins her English Boxwood Christmas tree with the tallest branch in the center and fills the tree in from the bottom. She is a designer at The Virginia Florist in the Belle Haven Shopping Center.



Shakeela Doskas has completed the greenery on her centerpiece and proceeds to the final stages.



After adding the ornaments and plaid Christmas ribbon, Shakeela Doskas sprays glitter on the tree from top to bottom.



Jose Capestany has just created a several-foot high design for a holiday event at the Old Dominion Boat Club in Alexandria later in the day.



Ledis Reyes combines lilies and greens in a glass cube for a popular centerpiece at The Virginia Florist.

A Few Firs, a Few Flowers, a Beautiful Design

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Shakeela Doskas is surrounded by the tools of her trade — green picks, wire, tape, and the branches of English boxwood for the Christmas tree she is creating for “if you don’t have the space for a real tree.” The long workspace is cluttered with spools of sparkly ribbon mixed with greenery, an assortment of holiday decorations, clippers, cans of spray and multi-sized containers. The floor is blanketed with discarded rose petals, bits of stems and branches.

PEOPLE AT WORK

Doskas begins with a 10-inch red and white pot filled with a green wet oasis (foam brick) for inserting the branches. “The oasis retains water so if you water every week this tree will be good until after Christmas.” First she places the tallest 15-18” branch in the middle. “We don’t want it to be too high for the table.” She will eyeball how many smaller branches she will need as she builds the tree from the bottom. In about half an hour she will have a completed design.

Doskas is ready for the next step. She twirls tape around small sticks and fastens them for stability to red gift decoration or-

naments, then places six on the tree branches and finishes the piece off with two loops of Christmas plaid ribbon. One final spray of glitter to add a shine. Doskas has worked at The Virginia Florist at Belle Haven for 18 years. She started doing this while going to college and has been doing it ever since.

Across the table, Keiko Cox is creating a hurricane centerpiece with a red Christmas candle. She places Cedar, then Frasier fir, pine and boxwood around the glass hurricane. “This branch is too big so I’ll snap it in two.” She sprays the leaves with Ultra Leaf Shine. One at a time she places silver decorative leaves around the base of the piece. “I like it more flat for the table and I don’t want to place the silver too close to the candle.”

Cox adds a few white lilies “for a clean look.” She picks up a cremon mum and sprays out the pollen with Clear Crowning Glory before inserting the mum into the arrangement. “I like these mums; they are smaller and more compact.” A glittery spray settles over the centerpiece and it’s ready.

Next to Cox at the table Jose Capestany has just finished an arrangement for a regular customer. He had started with a large white vase and added some branches of Curly Willow. He had added stalks of red ilex



Keiko Cox works on a centerpiece using a hurricane with a red candle surrounded by a variety of evergreens and silver decorative leaves.

berries. “This is nice to support the amaryllis. Finally some cedar and pine to fill it in.

“I am familiar with the house so I know the proportions. It goes on a credenza behind the sofa. I do a new arrangement every week.” Capestany has been at The Virginia Florist for two years. He came there after working at the Watergate Florist for 32 years before it closed.

Earlier in the morning Capestany had designed a several-foot high arrangement for a holiday party at the Old Dominion Boat Club in Alexandria later in the day. “See the magnolia is very dramatic.” He says, “Sometimes the big pieces are too tall for the van and I have to put in the final touches at the location.”

Across the table Ledis Reyes is arranging a centerpiece with a 4-inch glass cube using lilies and Christmas greens, noble fir and pine. She adds a bit of Dusty Miller around the edges and finishes it by combining red tulips and roses with white lilies and hydrangea. She says a lot of people love lilies and Christmas greens. Reyes has created this to sell in the front of the store but says they also do a lot of special orders. Doskas speculates they each do 20-30 pieces a day. She says she and Capestany recently produced 100 pieces for the Army Navy Club at Thanksgiving.

Sometimes people make special requests like wreaths with fresh fruit or wreaths made out of herbs. The designers all agree the best is when someone says, “Just send something. Up to you, designer’s choice.” Capestany says he has one woman who has several large parties a year. “She doesn’t have a budget and she brings in her vases or heirloom silver and Shakeela goes to town.”



The family of former president George H.W. Bush, including longtime Alexandria residents Marvin and Margaret Bush, enters Washington National Cathedral Dec. 5 for the state funeral of the 41st president.

Remembering George H.W. Bush

The nation paid its respects to George H.W. Bush during a state funeral Dec. 5 at Washington National Cathedral. The 41st president died Nov. 30 at his home in Houston at the age of 94.

Bush was predeceased by his wife Barbara in April. Together they were the parents of six children, including longtime Alexandria residents Marvin Bush and his wife Margaret.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Jenna Bush Hager delivers a eulogy for her grandfather, former president George H.W. Bush, Dec. 5 at Washington National Cathedral.

PHOTOS BY MARK MOGIE/GAZETTE PACKET



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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Wood fired bowls by artisan Stephen Lally are available through the Del Ray Artisans Gallery.

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED



Alexandria Cupcake offers free delivery year round.

Sleighting the Holidays

Last minute gifts, pilot delivery program for local shoppers.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

You've made your list and checked it twice. Even if you aren't already one of the 57 percent of shoppers who have started their hunt for holiday gifts, you can relax. Local businesses across the city offer shoppers a selection of gift ideas sure to please even the Grinch on your naughty or nice list.

With Christmas Eve falling on a Monday, shoppers get an extra weekend to shop for family and friends. And new this year is a pilot program offering delivery service from several Old Town Boutique District merchants.

Referred to as Boutique Express, seven participating merchants will offer free same day delivery on orders over \$50 placed by phone. Delivery is available through Dec. 21 to City of Alexandria addresses and Alexandria addresses in Fairfax County. Stores include The Hive, The Shoe Hive, Bishop Boutique, Bellacara, Red Barn Mercantile, Penny Post and Monday's Child. Call each retailer for more information.

Alexandria Cupcake on King Street offers free delivery year round and will include your business card or brochure if requested for corporate gifts.

"We do a lot of delivery for corporate clients," said owner Adnan Hamidi. "We can take your order by phone, wrap the cupcakes with a bow and deliver locally. We are also the only local pick up location for jelly cakes from Shuman's bakery."

For those who like to walk the streets of Old Town and Del Ray, many shops offer gifts with handmade

and Alexandria-centric items. In Old Town, one-of-a-kind handcrafted gifts can be found at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, including textile gifts like colorful scarves, wraps, sweaters and capes. Unique pottery and images of local scenes are also available in a variety of mediums. You can pick up some hand painted note cards or give a gift certificate for a family or pet portrait.

The Old Town Shop on South Union Street carries a variety of items designed to highlight Alexandria and its history as a port city. Gift items range from clothing to historic maps and food items from the Old Town Farmers Market.

In Del Ray, the Del Ray Artisans Fine Art and Fine Crafts Holiday Market features works from local artisans including handmade pottery by Stephen Lally.

The final weekend for the Market is Dec. 14-16. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for details on hours.

An often overlooked source of holiday gifts is The Shops at Mount Vernon. Combine a shopping trip with a visit to George Washington's Estate and lunch at The Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant.

For something different, check out the gift shops in Alexandria's local museums. And school bookstores, like those at T.C. Williams High School or nearby colleges,

often have interesting gifts for students along with logo-ware for your favorite alum.

Gift certificates for dance or acting classes are available at The Little Theatre of Alexandria or purchase a season subscription to one of Alexandria's many performing arts organizations like The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra or MetroStage.

With 11 shopping days left until Christmas, there is still time to get your holiday shopping done while checking out the many local shops and restaurants the city has to offer.

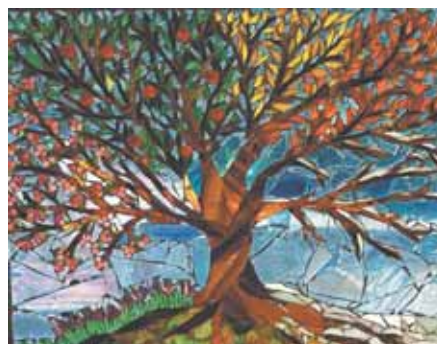


JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

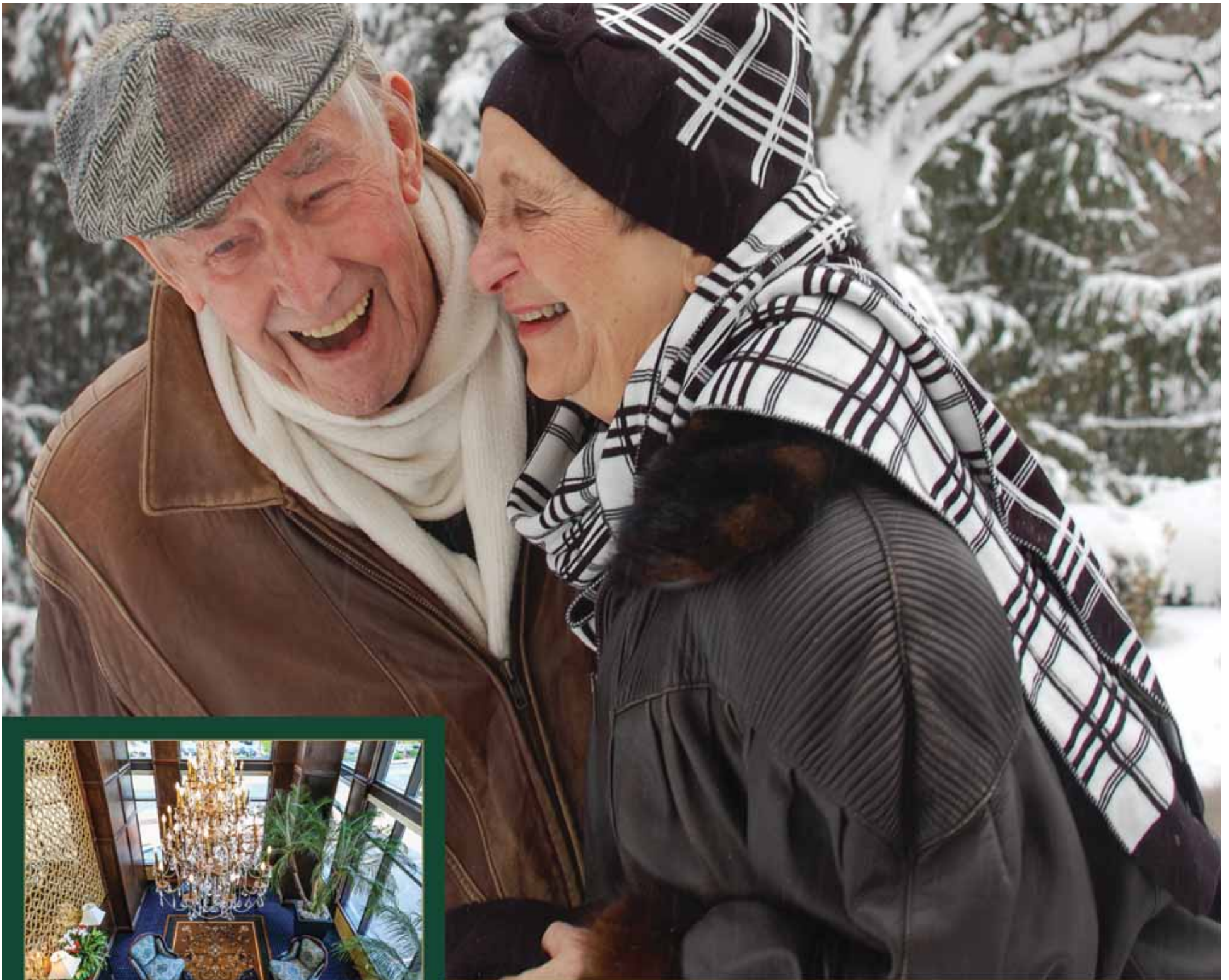
The Christmas Attic is ground zero for holiday shopping in Old Town.

Mosaics by Maria Illingworth are available at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery.

PHOTOS
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The Shops at Mount Vernon are a good source for holiday gifts, including educational gifts that tell the story of slave life at Mount Vernon.



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OPINION

Give Locally in Alexandria

For thousands of families in our area, uncertainty and need are distant from the celebrations and plenty that so many of us associate with this holiday period.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines with-

out encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

In Alexandria City Public Schools, most (more than 60 percent) of students are poor enough to receive subsidized meals. Among Alexandria's families with children, more than 10 percent have incomes below the poverty line.

Many are children living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair,

heat and food. Some of these are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

Many nonprofits in the city need your help to provide a holiday meal for Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Where to Give Locally in Alexandria

- ❖ **ALIVE! Alexandria**; 2723 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302; 703-837-9300; ALIVE! serves thousands Alexandrians annually with shelter; low-cost early childhood education and childcare; financial help for rent, utilities, medical care and other critical needs; emergency food; and deliveries of donated furniture and houseware. www.alive-inc.org
- ❖ **Senior Services of Alexandria**, 703-836-4414, www.seniorservicesalex.org, Support services for elders enabling them to age with dignity.
- ❖ **Animal Welfare League of Alexandria**, 703-746-4774, www.alexandrianimals.org, Pet adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education and community service and outreach.
- ❖ **Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia**, 703-820-9001, www.scanva.org, Parent education, public education — re: child abuse and court advocacy for abused and neglected children.
- ❖ **Rebuilding Together Alexandria**, 703-836-1021, www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org, Home repair and maintenance for vulnerable veterans, elderly, disabled and families with children.
- ❖ **ACT for Alexandria**, 703-739-7778, www.actforalexandria.org, Nonprofit and donor services.
- ❖ **Carpenter's Shelter**, 703-548-7500, www.carpentersshelter.org, Homeless services and programs including education and case management.
- ❖ **The Campagna Center**, 703-549-0111, www.campagnacenter.org, Educational and social development programs for children, teens, and adults.
- ❖ **Center for Alexandria's Children**, 703-838-4381, www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org, Child abuse and neglect and parent support.
- ❖ **Child and Family Network Centers**, 703-836-0214, www.cfnc-online.org, Provides caring, high-quality, free early education and related services to

at-risk children and their families in their own neighborhoods to prepare them for success in school and life

- ❖ **Alexandria Tutoring Consortium**, 703-549-6670 ext. 119 <https://alexandriatutors.org/>, Tutoring for Alexandria City Public Schools kindergarten and first grade students who are struggling to read. Donate now to fund its mission of making sure that every child in Alexandria can read and succeed.
- ❖ **Community Lodgings, Inc.**, 703-549-4407 Transitional and affordable housing, youth education, adult education, bilingual staff assistance.
- ❖ **Computer C.O.R.E.** 703-931-7346, www.computercore.org, Adult education, computer training and career development.
- ❖ **Hopkins House**, 703-549-8072, www.hopkinshouse.org, Preschool academy, family budgeting and literacy, family education and youth summer enrichment camp, Early Childhood Learning Institute.
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Services**, www.nvfs.org, Employment and job training, healthcare, housing, mental health, foster care and Healthy Families. 571-748-2500
- ❖ **Volunteer Alexandria**, 123 N Alfred St., Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-836-2176; <http://volunteeralexandria.org>; Volunteer recruitment and placement, court-referred community service placement, community awareness events, and volunteer management training.
- ❖ **Bethany House**, 6121 Lincoln Rd #303, Alexandria, VA 22312; 703-658-9500; <http://www.bhmv.org/>; Bethany House provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding DC metro communities.
- ❖ **Literacy Council of Northern Virginia**, 703-

237-0866, www.lcnv.org, Teaches adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and understanding English.

- ❖ **The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia**, www.cfnova.org The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in the region. Make grants in its focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists.
- ❖ **Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center**, an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves as a safety net for clients of the CSB who encounter extraordinary or emergency financial needs. Able to devote more than 98 percent of the donations and grants to direct client support and co-sponsorship of free public educational programs. bit.ly/friendsoftheAMHC
- ❖ **Neighborhood Health**, 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. Partners with patients to treat the whole person through medical, behavioral health and dental programs. Ten clinics throughout region. Participating with all insurance including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid, 703-535-5568, www.neighborhoodhealthva.org
- ❖ **Potomac Riverkeeper Network** works to protect the public's right to clean water in our rivers and streams; to stop pollution to promote safe drinking water; to protect healthy river habitats; and to enhance public use and enjoyment. 3070 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007. 202-888-2037 www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org
- ❖ **Potomac River Conservancy**, 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 805, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-608-1188 potomac.org, seeks to improve the Potomac River's water quality by building an impassioned base of river advocates to impart change at the local level.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Focus on Mental Health

To the Editor:

The holiday season often brings out the best and worst of our mental health. Depression, anxiety, stress and more. I've been open about my personal struggle with bi-polar two for a number of years now. I'm thankful that I end each year, good or bad, knowing more about what works for me and what doesn't to get through tough patches. I'm thankful that I'm ending this year in a better place than I have been in years.

Improving mental strength is not just a once a year thing, nor is it just for people with diagnosed conditions. Mental strength, my term for the capacity for our mind to overcome and manage through stress, depression and other tough spots, is important for all of us. We all benefit from improving the way we relate to others and ourselves.

I have doctors and a routine of medical care I follow for my condition. But the most powerful things I've discovered have been the non-medical things I do to improve my mind's fitness. These include meditation, yoga, running, and other physical and contempla-

tive activities. The more I do these things, the more I'm better able to take on whatever is thrown my way, regardless of whether it is part of my condition or just part of life. When I am getting worked up, I go for a run. When a situation is causing stress, I know how to step back and slow it down so I can respond appropriately.

This is why I'm excited to invite people to participate in Ease Yoga's new year's mental strength program. I have worked with the great team at Ease to design a 4-session workshop to exercise our mind and build up some mental strength.

We all have the ability to train our minds, just as we exercise our bodies, to be better able to handle life's curve balls. The new year is a great time to start exercising, but it is also a great time to start building up your mental strength.

Rob Krupicka

Rob Krupicka is a former member of City Council, the State Board of Education and the State Legislature. He is the founder and primary owner of Sugar Shack Donuts and Captain Gregory's restaurant.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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LETTERS

Slow Traffic On Duke

To the Editor:

The most recent Gazette Packet brought the sad news of a third traffic fatality on Duke Street, within, I'm quite sure, a decade. Since the last, only a few years ago, the city and the police department have both worked hard to improve walkways and traffic crossings and to control traffic. Yet Duke Street remains a zoo, a speedway for many drivers, punctuated by turn offs for stores and shopping centers. In fact, the unseemly corpse of Landmark Mall is probably a blessing in its way, since few cars enter or exit there.

The police monitor traffic constantly; there was, briefly, a radar device near the library. But so far nothing has worked. Heading west, just after that point, drivers gun their engines as if entering a freeway.

Are three fatalities enough to merit really radical action? Only a half mile or so away, speed bumps have recently been constructed on Jordan between Seminary and Howard, a stretch of road which pedestrians never cross, since there's no sidewalk and noth-

ing but trees on one side; there are few pedestrians anyway. For some reason attention is lavished on this stretch of road; it even has permanent radar. It seems incomparably less dangerous than Duke Street. Has it had any fatalities? I've never seen a collision there, nor even anyone stopped for speeding.

Could these two measures — speed bumps and permanent radar — be tried on Duke? I can imagine the screams of protest. But three lives in 10 years, one an 8-year-old girl, isn't that a lot to tolerate? Too much to tolerate?

Many cities, in my experience, have streets like Duke, zoos. But that doesn't make it any easier to stomach.


Elisabeth Vodola
Alexandria

Peace in Their Hearts

To the Editor:


One of the delights of the Christmas season is seeing the decorations in Old Towne. It's especially pleasing that "Appomattox," a downcast figure, brightens up with

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22



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HISTORY

Remembering 1022 Pendleton Street's History

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

Over 100 years ago in 1917, 39-year-old John Wesley Jackson purchased a building at 1022 Pendleton Street at the corner of Henry Street. This building was a multi-purpose building serving the Jackson family as a home and as a business.

When Mr. Jackson purchased the building, he obtained a license to use the property as a rooming house and a bakery. This property throughout the years has been used for important events in Alexandria's African American history. The building had several entrances to the main living quarters and to the bakery: the Pendleton Street side served as a private residence and later as a beauty salon business, and the 521 North Henry Street side served as a bakery/hotel and later as a rooming house.

In the early years of 1920s and 1940s, the property was used for

Emancipation Day celebrations, community meetings and political debates. Mr. Jackson's rooming house was used during the Jim Crow era and Civil Rights movement as a hotel housing African Americans who could not find segregated facilities to rent when they were traveling. Mr. Jackson's daughter, Corrine, shared her story about Elijah Muhammad, the founder of the Nation of Islam who stayed at their family home as a guest. Elijah Muhammad became a famous Nation of Islam leader.

Many well-known African Americans stayed at Mr. Jackson's place when they had business or were traveling through Alexandria. Local celebrities like Magnus Robinson who was the Grand Marshal of the Universal Lodge #1, the founder of a newspaper in Washington, D.C., and the president of McKinley Industrial School on Madison Street in Alexandria, rented rooms at Mr. Jackson's house for political meetings and other business meetings concerning African Americans. Those individuals lounged in the portion of Jackson's house that was designed as rooms for rent.



1022 Pendleton St. in the late 1920s.

PHOTO BY CORRINE JACKSON LEE DIXON

nated as rooms for rent.

On the Henry Street side of the house was the bakery business. Many people simply called him "Baker Jackson." He delivered goods from his bakery at wholesale prices to various Alexandria merchants. He was known for his doughnuts, wedding cakes, cookies and lemon, peach, apple and

sweet potato pies. Prior to Mr. Jackson's opening his business, he worked for K Fuchs Bakery at Prince and West streets.

John W. Jackson was born on Jan. 15, 1878. His first wife was Ella and his second wife was named Corrine. He had two children from his first marriage and four children from his last mar-



1022 Pendleton St. in 2015.

riage to Corrine. He was a very busy man but he still found time to drive his children to school. They attended Parker-Gray School and then they went to Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C., where he drove and picked them up every day.

He continued his bakery and rooming house enterprise until he died on Feb. 16, 1949. His daughter Corrine, who was named after

SEE PENDLETON, PAGE 22

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PHOTO BY HOME ON CAMERON

Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Old Town Alexandria suggests adding a decorative mirror for a quick bathroom update.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER

Potomac designer Anne Walker used Thibaut wallpaper to make the room a "fabulous, joyful place to visit," she said.

Preparing for Holiday Guests

Sprucing-up a bathroom without a renovation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Amid the tree-trimming, wreath hanging and stocking stuffing in an effort to deck the halls in anticipation of holiday guests, there's one space that can be forgotten: the humble bathroom. While not as festive as hanging garland, a few simple tweaks can transform a bathroom from glum to guest ready.

"Hands-down, the easiest way to spruce up a bathroom with little or no expense is to de-clutter," said Anne M. Walker of Anne Walker Design. "You'll be amazed how beautiful your bathroom looks if you clear away all of the items sitting on the countertop and around the room."

To help with that effort, Walker suggests investing organizational items such as Lucite or bamboo trays and drawer inserts so that personal items can be kept out of sight.

For those with a budget and time to allow for it, Walker suggests a fresh coat of paint or new wallpaper. "That can make a huge visual impact in a bathroom," she said. "Since the space is so small, and it's a room where you don't spend long periods of time, you can have fun with interesting colors and patterns."

Also think about painting just one wall as an accent or the ceiling," said Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Alexandria. "[Add a new] mirror, such as a decorative or colorfully framed mirror or one that runs from floor to ceiling, for a fresh look."

He also suggests updating a bathroom's lighting to make the space feel bright and airy.

Another practical tip that Walker offers is a good, old-fashioned scrub-down. "Clean like you've never cleaned before," she said. "Use a surface cleaner with bleach, like Krud Kutter, which is my personal favorite, a strong brush, and your elbow grease to remove dust, grime and dirt from tile grout, caulk, and cor-

ners of the room."

Among the more mundane tasks is to visually inspect the bathroom's grout to check for cracks and stubborn, unsightly mold. Re-grouting might be necessary, says Chuck Khiel, vice president of Fred Home Improvement. "When making a repair, it is very important to remove all of the cracked grout in the joint so that the full edge of the tile is exposed," he said. "The new grout can then bond to the full thickness of the tile edge. Simply smearing a thin layer of new grout over old grout will not work."

Once the room is sparkling clean and totally decluttered, Walker suggests adding display on a countertop or in a shower niche. "A vase full of bamboo, pretty soaps in a rattan basket or a Lucite tray filled with beautiful guest towels are just a few suggestions for fresh objects that will lend an air of tranquility to your bathroom."

For guests who might cringe at the thought of shared guests towels, Martz suggests adding a tray of disposable hand towels. He also encourages engaging one's sense of smell by, "adding some scented candles like those by Rigaud's Cypres and Cythere."

Another simple fix is to buy fresh new bath linens, says Walker. "No matter how hard you try, towels and shower curtains get dingy over time," she said. "There are so many places to buy lovely linens, and many of them are very low cost."

With the right accessories, even the most modest spaces can be made to feel like a spa, suggests Walker, recalling a bathroom in which she added added a Turkish towel, striped shower curtain which became transformative. "Even though the bathroom, itself, is modest, the beautiful shower curtain makes it feel like a resort," she said. "By adding just a couple of colorful accessories on the countertop, it pulls the whole room together."

Installing new fixtures such as a shower head can quickly transform a bathroom from outdated to updated. "There are many types of shower heads on the market these days," said "Some offer a variety of water streams and different features, [and] most manufacturers make it so that changing a shower head is fairly simply."

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Publishes December 26 | Ads Due By December 13



Local Designers To Help Light Up the Season

Holiday wonderland this weekend will benefit Children's National.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

More

Light Up the Season
childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason

Interior designers, artists and florists from Alexandria, Bethesda and Fairfax County will be among the those who will help light up the season for young patients at Children's National Medical Center this Sunday. Holiday trees, wreaths and other festive designs will be unveiled at the second annual "Light Up the Season" event.

Local tastemakers spent weeks collaborating with Children's National patients to create a holiday wonderland with festive displays that range from menorahs and trees to artwork and wreaths. Those designs will deck the halls and be available for purchase on Dec. 16, from 12 to 4 p.m. at Four Seasons Hotel Washington, D.C. Proceeds will benefit Children's National.

The family-friendly event will offer activities for all ages include holiday cookie decorating, ornament making, musical performances and visits from Santa and

Dr. Bear. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason.

Designers from the region who created displays for Light Up the Season include:

❖ Wendy Danziger of Danziger Design in Bethesda, Md.

❖ Rachel and Charles Gang of Helen Olivia Flowers in Alexandria, Va.

❖ Ashley Greer of Atelier Ashley Flowers in Alexandria, Va.

❖ Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria, Va.

❖ Lauren and David Liess of Lauren Liess in Great Falls, Va.

❖ Rachelle Roth, Jillian Roth, Sascha Roth and Terri Johnson of Urban Country in Bethesda, Md.

❖ Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors and Marika Meyer Textiles in Bethesda, Md.



This tree by Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria will be among the displays that deck the halls at the second Annual Light Up the Season event.



PHOTOS BY PHOTO COURTESY OF MERVIN DURBAN AND LIGHT UP THE SEASON

This tree by Bethesda designers Rachelle Roth, Jillian Roth, Terri Johnson and Sasha Roth of Urban Country in Bethesda will for sale at the second Annual Light Up the Season event this weekend.



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Season's Greetings & Happy New Year

Best wishes for the Holiday Season and our sincerest thanks and gratitude for all your support this past year.

May 2019 bring many opportunities your way, along with peace and prosperity, turning all your dreams into reality and all your efforts into great achievements.

The Agents and Staff
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Ann Logsdon 703.568.8433 or Emily Capelli 703.472.1282
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"A Giving Tree Thank You"

Long & Foster and The Giving Tree Team thank all of the Adopters and Donors for their contributions that will make a difference in the holidays of 53 Alexandria families! Because of this generosity, these families will enjoy gifts of toys, clothes, food coupons and more during this season of magic and merriment!

May your holidays be full of warmth and joy!



Michael Manuel 703.615.6317
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3900 MELVERN PL Conveniently located 4BR / 3FBA brick ranch home freshly painted, carpeted and renewed. Warm wood floors, 2 fireplaces, patio, carport and driveway parking on a fantastic corner lot maximizing natural light. This home is ready for new owners!

First Night ALEXANDRIA

Join us on **NEW YEAR'S EVE** for **FIRST NIGHT ALEXANDRIA!**

The Truehearts, the male/female partner duo from Nashville, reflecting close harmonies and ties to the roots of American country and folk music, will be performing at:

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

“Adventures with Mr. Bear.”

Through Dec. 15, at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Presented by Arts on the Horizon. One winter afternoon, a young girl and her favorite stuffed animal, Mr. Bear, play a game of hide and seek which evolves into a series of exciting adventures. \$10. Performance Schedule: (Friday, Nov. 30 - 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, Dec. 1 - 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m.; Friday, Dec. 7 at 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, Dec. 8 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m.; Friday, Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, Dec. 15 at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Purchase tickets at www.artsonthehorizon.org/mr-bear-2018.html.

LTA’s “A Christmas Carol.”

Through Dec. 16, at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. The Little Theatre of Alexandria rings in the holiday season with a return of the classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable, bitter old miser travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Tickets \$20. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.TheLittleTheatre.com.

Christmas Tree Sale. Through Dec. 16, at Belle View Shopping Center, 1632 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Mount Vernon Kiwanis will hold its annual Christmas Tree Sale featuring Frasier Fir trees and garland and wreaths. 100 percent of profits will go to high school scholarships and local charities.

Christmas Tree Sale. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. At 110 Callahan Drive, in the Amtrak Parking Lot, Alexandria. The Alexandria Police Youth Camp Christmas tree sale begins. The lot will be open daily until they run out of trees, which will likely take three weeks. They have purchased more trees than ever before because they may be faced with an additional \$10,000 bill to transport the kids to camp next summer; the goal is to cover that cost in additional tree sales. The youth camp has been operating for more than 70 years and this fundraiser is the largest, helping to cover approximately 50 percent of the summer camp operation. The tree sale runs from Mon.-Fri., 4-8 p.m.; and Sat. and Sun., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Every Wednesday (through Dec. 19), 15 local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; dairy products and eggs; herbs; and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Art Exhibit: “Attending.” Through Dec. 22 at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Prints and Paintings by Julie Shelton Snyder. This exhibit features new work by the artist completed during her recent residency at the foot of Mt. Fuji in Japan studying the mokuhanaga traditional woodblock printmaking technique. Julie Shelton Snyder's paintings and prints invite the viewer to consider the importance of finding silence within in order to hear when “deep calls to deep.” Visit www.ourconvergence.org.

“Christmas at the Old Bull & Bush.” Through Dec. 23, at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Admission is \$55. The



PHOTO BY “MANGO” MIKE ANDERSON

Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America Day will take place at Alexandria National Cemetery (VAANCA) Dec. 15 at noon. More than 5,000 veterans are buried in the cemetery, which is located at 1450 Wilkes St. Funding for the wreaths is provided by corporate and individual donations, including local Scouting troops. To date, the cemetery has reached 75 percent of its funding goal for 2018. To volunteer or donate, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org and search for VAANCA.

Old Bull and Bush Public House is alive with British music hall songs and carols, corny jokes and funny sketches, tuneful melodies, sing-alongs and sausage rolls. Celebrate the holidays with Florrie Forde, the most famous music hall star of the era, and her troupe of British performers. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.MetroStage.org.

Small Works Exhibit. Through Dec. 30 at Multiple Exposures Gallery at Torpedo Factory Art Center (Studio 312), 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. A Fine Art Photography Exhibition juried by Sarah Gordon who has selected 33 images for exhibition at

Multiple Exposures Gallery that she believes reveal something otherwise unseen. For more information, contact Multiple Exposures Gallery at info@multipleexposuresgallery.com or 703-683-2205.

Dollhouse Exhibit. Through December, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Alexandria. Exhibit “Our Alexandria” Dollhouse Collection. The exhibit captures some of the forgotten businesses, people, and institutions that made African American families strong – church, school, and family. Other exhibits are also on site.

Suggested admission \$3 per person. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/museums or call 703-746-4356.

Open for Tours. Through December. At 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House is open for tours Friday through Monday, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. (last tour at 3 p.m.) Not open to the public Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. To learn more about National Trust Sites, visit savingplaces.org/historic-sites.

Sparkle and Glow: Holiday Show. Through Jan. 6 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, located in Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North

Union St., Alexandria. Free admission. The Gallery shines with holiday spirit – unique gifts to give, lovely pieces to wear, and enchanting and decorative works for the home. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Art Exhibit – Re:Vision. Through Jan. 6, gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. In Re:Vision, Elizabeth Casqueiro reflects on the emotional content of immigration and what it means to push forward with a new life while remaining pulled by the old. Using as springboard two sets of images that represent these conflicting dynamics, namely retro comic books and lifestyle ads, she investigates the power of visionary myth to propel and restrain, the relinquishing of the precious as a condition to move forward, and the struggle to reconcile who we are, how we are perceived, and who we want to become. Visit www.nfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Art Exhibit: re-Cog’-ni’-zing / dc. Through Jan. 6 at The Torpedo Factory Art Center (Studio 21), 105 North Union St., Alexandria. From unique vantage points and unexpected perspectives, painter and architect Milton Shinberg invites viewers to rediscover Washington in watercolor, through his limber brushstroke and clear, glassy palette. Shinberg captures fragments of Washington in luminous watercolor, lingering on details that captivate the mind of an architect and beguile the hand of an artist. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

The Harmony Heritage Singers (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2nd and 4th 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, or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Evening of Design. 5-6:30 p.m. At 315 Cameron St., Alexandria. Free. Join interior designers Todd Martz and Emily Bishop at Home on Cameron, located in the heart of Old Town Alexandria. Todd and Emily will discuss the latest in interior design and remodeling. Guests are also treated to a private, complimentary, 30-minute interior design consultation. RSVP at the shop or by emailing info@homeoncameron.com. Home on Cameron will continue hosting these events every third Thursday of each month. Visit homeoncameron.com/

Reception: re-Cog’-ni’-zing / dc. 6:30-8 p.m. At The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., in the

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Torpedo Factory, Studio 21, Alexandria. An exhibit by painter and architect Milton Shinberg who captures fragments of Washington in luminous watercolor, lingering on details that captivate the mind of an architect and beguile the hand of an artist. From the gilded dome of Georgetown's iconic bank, to the half-moon colonnade of the Jefferson memorial, he dwells on moments and memories. Approaching familiar sights from unusual angles, the exhibit focuses on the architecture of Washington — what the artist calls the “connective tissue” of the urban environment. Visit theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

FRIDAY/DEC. 14

Holiday After Work Concert. 6-8 p.m. At The Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. This month features a holiday concert with Meridian, which weaves together beautiful music and themes of Christmas with much older Winter Solstice traditions. Meridian is Colin de la Barre and Olivia Gale. Cost is \$5; free for members of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington. Light refreshments and a cash bar will be available. No ticket required. Visit www.fsgw.org.

Holiday Sing-Along. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 East Windsor Ave., Alexandria. Join the Alexandria Citizens Band for the fun and popular Alexandria Holiday Sing-Along. They'll play musical favorites, and the audience is invited to sing along. Wear holiday sweaters and Santa hats. Bring family and friends. Email AlexandriaCitizensBand@gmail.com. Visit www.facebook.com/events/

Presenting Bach, Brandenburgers and Brews

BY MELINDA KERN
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) will offer a fresh take on chamber music with Bach, Brandenburgers & Brews after the holidays. On Friday, Jan. 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Old Town, new Music Director James Ross and members of the orchestra will present Brandenburg Concertos No. 2, 4 and 5. Each concerto will feature soloists who regularly perform as principals with the ASO.

Bach dedicated the six Brandenburg Concertos in 1721 to Christian Ludwig-Margrave of Brandenburg, and they have since been regarded as some of the finest orchestral compositions of the Baroque era.

Following an Italian concerto grosso style, the Brandenburg Concertos combine solo instruments for each concerto, accompanied by the other players, called the ripieno. Concerto No. 2 in F major features a trumpet, oboe and violin while Concerto No. 4 in G major presents a violin and two flutes; Concerto No. 5 in D major combines a harpsichord, violin and flute. Attendees will enjoy the intimate atmosphere of St. Paul's, known for its great acoustics, paired with an authentic harpsichord.

“Given the popularity of the Brandenburg Concerti among all kinds of people, the idea of presenting this joyous music in one of Alexandria's historic churches grabbed my imagination,” comments Maestro Ross. “For our players, it is a chance to touch a kind of music that has rarely been presented in ASO programming. This will also be a very different experience for the audience, and I'll invite attendees

to participate with a surprise element during the concert.”

Immediately following the performance, the audience is invited to a reception serving “Alexander Brandenburgers” specially created for the occasion, craft beer and German delicacies, provided by the German Gourmet, Pork Barrel BBQ and Port City Brewing Company. The vibe is casual, and the concert will appeal to Bach lovers of all ages.

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region's wealth of musical talent. Many musicians perform with other orchestras and top military bands. The ASO welcomes corporate and individual sponsors for this event. For tickets and more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

174884993456719/.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 14-15

Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon. 5:30-8:45 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Kick off the holidays with an evening of family-friendly fun and fireworks choreographed to holiday music, with fireworks beginning around 8:30 p.m. Take a stroll through the estate while being serenaded by local

choirs, visit with re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment, and learn 18th-century dance moves from costumed guides. George and Martha Washington will also be on site to greet Mount Vernon's holiday guests. Tickets: \$35 adult/\$25 youth with Mansion tour, \$30 adult/\$20 youth. Visit mountvernon.org/illuminations.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 14-16
Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market.

Friday, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and more. Plus FUNdraising 2019 wall calendars, cookbooks, and upcycled tote bags to support Del Ray Artisans. Free admission. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2018.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Cookie Decorating. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Visit the cozy greenhouse and receive a box of cookies and decorations to adorn them. Create beautiful gingerbread cookies with the guidance of a Mount Vernon staff member. \$5 per person in addition to general admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/christmas.



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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

A Victorian Christmas. 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Experience a Victorian Christmas at the Lee-Fendall House. The house will be beautifully decorated for the season and there will be holiday crafts, photographs with Santa, seasonal treats, story time, an antique toy exhibit and more. Admission: \$10; free to members. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.LeeFendallHouse.org.

Photos with Santa. 12 p.m.-3 p.m. At Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Hooray for Books! and Visit Alexandria will present photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Advance reservation is required. To reserve a 10-minute slot for a child to meet with Santa, make any size donation to the bookstore's special Santa account, which will be used to provide books, toys and games for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program's Holiday Party. Visit www.Hooray4Books.com.

Portside Holidays: Storytime with Santa. 3 to 4 p.m. At Alexandria Waterfront Marina at the foot of Cameron Street near the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Free. Join Santa for a special storytime that includes a reading of holiday stories like "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Take part in the Penny Post pop-up to write a letter to Santa that he will take back with him to the North Pole, enjoy a gourmet giant s'more from The Capital Candy Jar, and warm up with a cup of hot cocoa from Dolci Gelati's hot chocolate bar. Get in the holiday spirit with a musical performance by the Cantamos children's ensemble. Visit www.PortsideInOldTown.com.

Carols of the World. 3-4:30 p.m. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Sopranessence rings in the holiday season with music that will take you on a trip around the world. Celebrate the season while globetrotting with the Divas through Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas – all without needing a passport. Tickets are \$10-\$20 presale; \$25 at the door. Visit www.sopranessence.org.

Stroll the Boardwalk. 5-7 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Join park naturalists to take a tour of constellations, comets and other celestial happenings. Find out what's new in the night sky. \$9 per person. Canceled if there's rain or other severe weather. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Country-Western Dance. Lessons, 6-7 p.m.; open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance.



Santa at the Scottish Christmas Walk Parade.

PHOTO BY E. PALORINA FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA

Portside Holidays: Storytime with Santa

Join the region's most beloved Santa for a special storytime that includes a reading of holiday stories like "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Take part in the Penny Post pop-up to write a letter to Santa that he will take back with him to the North Pole, enjoy a gourmet giant s'more from The Capital Candy Jar, and warm up with a cup of hot cocoa from Dolci Gelati's hot chocolate bar. Get in the holiday spirit with a special musical performance by the Cantamos children's ensemble, part of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's Sympatico program. Saturday, Dec. 15, 3-4 p.m. At Alexandria Waterfront Marina at the foot of Cameron Street near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Free. Visit www.PortsideInOldTown.com.

A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

Little Tree. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Join Alexandria Choral Society for its holiday concert, featuring the Del Ray Kinderchoir. The performance will include Julian Wachner's "Hark! The Herald Sing!" and "Angels We Have Heard on High" and Stephen Heitzeg's "little tree," a tender setting of the e.e. cummings poem of the same name. Cost is \$20 adults, \$15 senior/military/student, 13 and under free. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 15-16 Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. At St. Aidan's Episcopal

Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Fraser Fir trees and wreaths will arrive fresh from Pennsylvania and be ready to sell the day after Thanksgiving. The tree lot is a festive atmosphere, complete with hot cocoa and cookies. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Cheerleading Competition. 2 p.m. At T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St., Alexandria. The public is invited to attend the 40th Annual Holiday Invitational Cheerleading Competition, which features youth cheerleading teams representing Alexandria recreation centers and the metropolitan area. Teams will compete in three divisions: Pee Wee (ages 7 and under), Youth (ages 8 and under) and Junior (ages 16 and under). Radio Personality EZ Street will emcee this all-ages, family-friendly event. Tickets are available for purchase upon entry at the event or in advance by visiting

www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac. Ticket prices are \$10 for ages 13 and older and \$5 for ages 5-12. Ages 4 and under are admitted for free.

Colonial Handbell Ringers Concert. 2 and 4 p.m. At The Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. The Colonial English Handbell Ringers perform clad in colonial attire, bringing a five-octave set of nearly 80 handbells from the world-famous Whitechapel foundry in London. The ringers will perform children's classics, timeless holiday tunes, and original show-stoppers. Audience participation in the sing-along encouraged. Free concert – first come, first served. No reservations will be accepted in advance and seating capacity is limited.

Christmas Traditions at Historic Huntley. 4:30-6 p.m. At Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Get a glimpse at holiday celebrations of past generations. Share a glass of hot cider and shortbread cookies, and make a small

gift for a loved one. Cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley.

18th Century Christmas. 5-8 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. The experience begins in the Ford Orientation Center, where visitors can enjoy the sounds of the holiday season and view Christmas trees highlighting the lives of the Washingtons and their home. When the tour begins, visitors will be guided into the 18th century for a lantern-lit tour of the historic area, to see the Slave Quarters and the Blacksmith Shop. Inside the Mansion, Martha Washington and other Mount Vernon residents will welcome guests into their home and share stories of past Christmases. \$25 adult, \$17 youth (ages 6-11). Visit mountvernon.org/candlelight.

Holiday Performance with The Capital Hearings. 7 p.m. The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Capital Hearings, Washington, DC's versatile vocal ensemble, performs an a capella selection of pop, classical, and jazz music for the season. Meet the performers at a reception immediately following the concert, with wine and dessert at 8 p.m. \$30. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

THROUGH SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Holiday Door Decorating Contest. Sponsored by Alexandria's Old Town Walled Garden Club, the contest recognizes holiday door decorations in the Historic District. In keeping with Old Town's historic provenance, contest rules require that – except for festive bows and ribbons – the door decorations should feature only natural materials and be made by the homeowners themselves. Professionally-made decorations are not eligible. Judging criteria include originality of design, scale, color, contrast, and attractiveness from the street. Photographs of the winning doors will appear in the holiday issue of the Gazette Packet. Judging will take place through Dec. 16. Contact the Old Town Walled Garden Club at OTWGClub@gmail.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 17

Teen Poetry Circle Reading. 7-8:30 p.m. At Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Come celebrate the creative voices of Alexandria teens at the Teen Poetry Circle Reading. Light refreshments will be provided from 7-7:30 p.m., The Poetry Circles are free from 7:30-8:30 p.m. To register, RSVP at poet@alexandriava.gov.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 19

Santa's Winter Wonderland. 5-8

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Holiday Performance

The Capital Hearings, Washington, DC's versatile vocal ensemble, performs an a cappella selection of pop, classical, and jazz music for the season. Meet the performers at a reception immediately following the concert, with wine and dessert. Sunday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m. The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. \$30. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

p.m. At Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. Families enjoy toy stations in replicas of Alexandria landmark buildings and opportunities for photos with Santa and the Grinch. Eligible children may choose two presents. Sponsored by the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Tickets required but free. Beginning Monday, Dec. 10, tickets available for pick up for ARHA residents at ARHA HQ, 401 Wythe St., and for non-ARHA residents at Charles Houston. Call 703-549-7115.

Winter Recital. 7:30 p.m. At MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Join three ASO musicians who are sponsored by the Adopt a Chair program for an evening of music and conversation. Enjoy a variety of solos from the classical tradition by Kathy Ceasar-Spall (oboe), Kathy Mulcahy (clarinet), Jihea Choi (cello), and pianist Sophia Kim Cook. Stay after to mingle with the musicians for a reception with sumptuous refreshments to be held in the lobby following the concert. Limited seating is available. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

SATURDAY/DEC. 22

Photos with Santa. 12 p.m.-3 p.m. At Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Hooray for Books! and Visit Alexandria will present photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Advance reservation is required. To reserve a 10-minute slot for a child to meet with Santa, make any size donation to the bookstore's special Santa account, which will be used to provide books, toys and games for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program's Holiday Party. Visit www.Hooray4Books.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 24

Waterskiing Santa. 1 p.m. At Alexandria's waterfront from the Alexandria City Marina and Waterfront Park, Alexandria. Gather along historic Alexandria's Potomac River waterfront for Waterskiing Santa and his merry crew. The prime viewing area is the Alexandria City Marina and Waterfront Park. Come early to see the pre-show (on jet skis) and stay afterwards to meet Santa, Mrs. Claus and their crew by the Christmas Tree. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/holidays.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 26

Holiday Concert. 6-7:30 at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, 2700 F St. NW, Washington, D.C. Featuring local Encore Chorale groups from Alexandria, Arlington,

Fairfax, and Reston. Encore Creativity for Older Adults, the nation's largest choral program for singers 55+, will present the combined talents of more than 250 Encore Chorales and Encore ROCKS singers in concert. Free, the public is invited and no tickets are required. Call 301-261-5747 or visit www.encorecreativity.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 29

Hot Cocoa Wetland Night Hike.

4:30-6 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Sip hot cocoa and join a naturalist on a search for nocturnal animals. Look for signs and listen for sounds of beavers, owls, deer and other winter animals that are on the move at nighttime. \$9 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

SUNDAY/DEC. 30

Walking with Washington Tour. 2-4 p.m. at Alexandria Visitor Center (Ramsay House), 221 King St., Alexandria. Free. Explore important sites associated with George Washington in his hometown of Alexandria. This guided walking tour of historic Old Towne covers significant people and events in Washington's life and in American history, with stops at Ramsay House, Market Square, the Carlyle House, Wise's Tavern/ Duvall House, Gadsby's Tavern, Washington's townhouse, The Lord Fairfax House, "Light-Horse" Harry Lee's house and Christ Church. Sponsored by the City of Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee. Call 703-379-7460 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 2 p.m.-midnight. This annual New Year's Eve music festival and more takes over Old Town Alexandria with more than 150 performances at 25 warm indoor venues. Come enjoy the Earth Wind & Fire Tribute Band, Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun Band, Vaughan Ambrose Trio, Magician Mike Rose, R&R DJs and many more entertainers while dancing into the New Year with DJ Ray Casiano. The afternoon's 10th Annual First Night Alexandria Fun Hunt is a fun way to explore Old Town and take a chance on winning great prizes.

- ❖ Afternoon activities: 2-5 p.m. including the 10th Annual First Night Alexandria Fun Hunt
- ❖ Kids Carnival: 6-9 p.m., families with children 12 years old and younger can enjoy the "Kids Carnival" at Charles Houston (Old Town),

William Ramsay (West End) and Mount Vernon (Del Ray) Recreation Centers. There will be face painting, balloons, special hosts in costumes along with carnival-styled games, dancing and fun.

- ❖ Performances: 7 p.m.-midnight at warm indoor venues throughout Alexandria.
 - ❖ Dancing: 10 p.m. Join the crowd dancing on King Street near the waterfront.
 - ❖ Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King Street.
- This family-friendly and fun-filled day culminates with First Night fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Admission: \$30 Dec. 1-30, 2018; \$35 Dec. 31, 2018. Call 703-746-3299 or visit www.FirstNightAlexandria.com.
- Ship Biscuit Ornament Making.** 2-5 p.m. At Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., #327, Alexandria. An almost completely intact ship's biscuit from the 18th century was found last year in Alexandria. To commemorate the discovery, visitors are invited to make their own ship's biscuit. Each biscuit will be stamped with the year and then baked at home to track its preservation. No registration required. While supplies last. Visit www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 4

Opening Reception: "Faces." 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The "Faces" art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans features portraits that show the life a person has lived, joy a person emanates, wisdom gained through years of living, and focuses on the soul of the person. View the exhibit from Jan. 4-27. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/faces.

FRIDAY/JAN. 4

Art Exhibit: "Faces." At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The "Faces" art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans features portraits that show the life a person has lived, joy a person emanates, wisdom gained through years of living, and focuses on the soul of the person. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/faces.

TUESDAY/JAN. 8

Guest Speaker Author. 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m. At Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Author Mark Maloy will be the guest speaker presenting and signing his new book, Victory or Death. The event is hosted by the Rotary Club of Alexandria. Visit rotaryclubofalexandria.net.

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Shaping the City: How Planning Commission Voted

Here’s what the Planning Commission decided at its December meeting, held over two days, Tuesday, Dec. 4 and Thursday, Dec. 6. Commissioner David Brown arrived late to the first meeting and Commissioner Mindy Lyle was excused from the second. See www.alexandriava.gov/Planning.

| Item | Applicant | Address | Request / Purpose | Outcome | Votes | Notes |
|--|--|---|--|----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Special Use Permit #2018-0091 | Crown Atlantic Company LLC | 3401 Eisenhower Ave | Replace existing 150-foot telecommunications monopole with 190-foot monopole; change of ownership | Approved | 6 to 0 | Brown absent |
| Special Use Permit #2018-0092 | Tristan Wright | 317 Hooffs Run Dr | Request for a wine production use exceeding 3,500 square feet; | Approved | 6 to 0 | Brown absent |
| Special Use Permit #2018-0094 | NIRI Investments, LLC | 108 North Payne St | Parking reduction with lot modifications for a commercial to residential use conversion | Approved | 6 to 0 | Brown absent |
| Special Use Permit #2018-0039 | Carlyle Plaza, LLC | 765 John Carlyle St & 1900 Eisenhower Ave | Extension of period in which Carlyle Block P construction must commence | Approved | 6 to 0 | Brown absent |
| Special Use Permits #2018-0097; #2018-0098; #2018-0107; #2018-0108; #2018-0109 | Morgan Properties Management Company, LLC | 1400, 1458-1480 N Beauregard St; 935 N Van Dorn St; 5411A Sheffield Ct; 5797A Rayburn Ave | Establish coordinated sign programs at the existing Shops at Mark Center and Mark Center Apartment Homes | Approved | 6 to 0 | Brown absent |
| Master Plan Amendment #2018-0006; Text Amendment #2018-0012; Rezoning #2018-0005; Coordinated Development District Conceptual Design Plan #2018-0005; Development Special Use Permit #2018-0006; Transportation Management Plan Special Use Permit #2018-0077; Vacation #2018-0002 | City of Alexandria (Text Amendment only) and PS Southeast One, Inc. | 880 and 890 S Pickett St & 620 Burnside Pl (Public Storage/BoatUS) | Amend land use designation to allow self-storage; construct a self-storage building with ground-level commercial/ production/ wholesale/ repair uses and including a Special Use Permit for a parking reduction; vacation of public right-of-way | Approved | 5 to 2 | Lyle, Wasowski against |
| Master Plan Amendment #2018-0007; Text Amendment #2018-0016; Rezoning #2018-0007; Coordinated Development District Conceptual Design Plan #2016-0003 | City of Alexandria (Text Amendment only) and Greenhill Capital Corp. | 504 S Van Dorn St; 5650, 5660, 5730 Edsall Rd; 501, 611 S Pickett St (Greenhill / West Alexandria Properties) | Amend land use designation to include hotel use; amend min required office square footage to allow either hotel or office uses; increase max allowable residential square footage, max allowable height, max floor area ratio; | Approved | 6 to 0 | Lyle recused |
| Development Special Use Permit #2018-0017 | City of Alexandria, WMATA | 2901 Potomac Ave (Potomac Yard Metro Station) | Amend the previously approved Metro Station | Approved | 5 to 0 | Macek recused; Lyle absent |
| Development Special Use Permit #2018-0007; Transportation Management Plan Special Use Permit #2018-0062 | CP VI Braddock Station, LLC | 1200 N Fayette St (Braddock Gateway Phase III) | Construct a multifamily residential building with ground floor retail | Approved | 6 to 0 | Lyle absent |
| Development Special Use Permit #2018-0013 | 2425 Eisenhower Acquisitions, LLC | 2425 Eisenhower Ave | Construction of a one-story retail building | Approved | 6 to 0 | Lyle absent |
| Special Use Permit # 2018-0095 | 115 South Union Street, LLC | 115 S Union St | Change of ownership | Approved | Administrative | |
| Special Use Permit # 2018-0099 | Whitney & Jason Langone | 1320 Prince St | New use of a restaurant | Approved | Administrative | |
| Special Use Permit # 2018-0100 | Oak Alexandria, LLC | 530 First St / 901 N St. Asaph St | Change of ownership | Approved | Administrative | |

Council Solicits Applicants for Planning Commission

FROM PAGE 4
example, a business’ noise or parking impacts; property rezonings; and encroachments into or vacations of public rights-of-way, such as business uses or private residential fences that extend into public alleys,

sidewalks or streets.
The Planning Commission can approve or deny requests for property subdivisions and development site plans, without sending those decisions along to council. A development site plan outlines “by right” devel-

opment of a property within zoning parameters, but which still requires approval in order to acquire building permits.
In certain cases, if the commission disapproves an action, council can overrule the disapproval only with a supermajority vote.

Such is the case, according the City Charter, if the commission disapproves the construction or substantial alteration or public facilities or spaces; the sale of city-owned land; or the construction of publicly or privately owned public utilities.

On Amazon: Residents’ Concerns, Governments’ Optimism

FROM PAGE 3
25,000 employees over 10 years,” said Cristol.
But “what indicators ... lead us to believe that Amazon employees would be public transit riders,” asked an audience member. Parking’s already a problem, said another.
“We can’t say exactly what the mode splits will be with Amazon employees,” said Arlington and Metro board member Christian Dorsey. But “it stands to reason,” based on employees’ transit use in Seattle, that they’ll choose to live around “where the [transit]

investments are.”
Crystal City “has been intensively planned for more development than we actually have here, even with Amazon,” said Dennis Leach, Arlington’s transportation director. “We have two Metrorail lines; we have VRE; every bus service in Northern Virginia comes here. ... We have infrastructure in place — that we pay for — that carried far more people [in the past] than we’re carrying today. It’s in everyone’s interest for us to get good use out of that infrastructure.”
Metrorail, Metrobus and Arlington’s local bus system “could accommodate an ad-

ditional 50,000 to 70,000 weekday trips in Arlington, with most of this capacity in the Metro corridors,” according to an intergovernmental report.
The new Potomac Yard Metro station will “accommodate up to 11,000 daily riders,” said Yon Lambert, Alexandria transportation director. “We think [that will] actually remove cars off of Route 1 and get people using Metro.” Also, “we are excited to be able to build out the whole BRT [bus rapid transit]” with new incentive money.
The state has committed “a maximum of \$295 million in non-General Funds to fund”

certain projects, according to a memorandum of understanding between Virginia and Amazon. Those projects include new Metro station entrances, Route 1 improvements, an airport connector bridge, and transit expansion in Pentagon City, Crystal City and Potomac Yard. The maximum state investment is contingent upon Amazon creating nearly 38,000 new jobs. If new jobs only hit the advertised 25,000 target, state investment would weigh in at \$195 million.
Listen to the town hall at www.thejojonnamdishow.org/shows/2018-12-06.

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Legals

ABC LICENSE

Doyle's Outpost LLC trading as Doyle's Outpost, 4620-A Kenmore Ave, Alexandria, VA 22304. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises; Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Kevin Fagan, Managing Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION PROGRAM (VRP) ACTIVITY

DEQ VRP Site 00618
Safeway Store #3250
3526 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

VRP Participant:
Safeway Inc.
c/o Albertsons LLC
250 East Parkcenter Boulevard
Boise, ID 83726

The purpose of this notice is pursuant to the public participation requirements of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) Regulations 9VAC20-160-120. Safeway Inc. has enrolled "Safeway Store #3250" (Site) in the VRP as VRP Site 00618. The Site consists of approximately 129,500 square feet of land consisting of a retail grocery store, parking and landscaped areas. Certain volatile organic compounds were identified in soil and groundwater at the site as a result of past dry-cleaning operations. In accordance with the VRP requirements, site characterization and human health risk assessments have been performed. Voluntary remedial activities consisting of removal of contaminated soil and follow up monitoring of groundwater and soil gas have been completed at the site. Institutional controls in the form of groundwater use restriction and other specific requirements for future construction will be placed on the property to ensure long term protection to occupants of the subject property and to protect the public. The participant intends to request a Certification of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation for VRP Site 00618 after the close of the public notice period.

Questions or comments regarding this notice should be addressed to the contact below:

Mr. Gavin Kitchens
Apex Companies, LLC
9700 Capital Court, Suite 100
Manassas, VA 20110
Telephone: (703) 396-6730
Fax No: (703) 396-6743
Email: gkitchens@apexcos.com

Comments will be accepted for a period of 30 calendar days from the date of publication of this notice. ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THIS NOTICE MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING.



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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 15, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Chapter 8 (PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) and Chapter 2 (TRAFFIC REGULATION), Chapter 3 (OPERATION OF VEHICLES), and Chapter 4 (STOPPING, STANDING, AND PARKING) of Title 10 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. This ordinance is a comprehensive update to the City Code provisions governing the Traffic and Parking Board. The purpose of this amendment is to update and clarify the role of the Traffic and Parking Board, and where possible, consolidate relevant sections of the Code to improve transparency for the Board's responsibilities and processes. Given that the Traffic and Parking Board is referenced in different chapters throughout the City Code, this ordinance proposes amendments to several chapters.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article B (PARADES) of Chapter 2 (STREETS AND SIDEWALKS) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) and to enact Chapter 4 (SPECIAL EVENTS AND PARADES) of Title 6 (PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. This ordinance is ancillary to the amendment of the Traffic and Parking Board code provisions. The provisions in Article B (Parades) of Chapter 2 of Title 5 are being repealed as part of that amendment. This provision will incorporate the Special Events Policies and Procedures that have already been adopted by City Council and are currently used by the staff into the City Code under the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities provisions.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 064.04 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 property at 309 North Patrick Street from CL (Commercial Low) with proffer to RB (Townhouse) in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2018-0004. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2018-0004, to rezone the property at 309 North Patrick Street from CL (Commercial Low) with proffer to RB (Townhouse).

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet Nos. 025.01 and 016.01 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 3050 Potomac Avenue from CDD#10 to CDD#19 and a portion of 3601 Jefferson Davis Highway from, CDD#19 to CDD#10 in accordance with the said zoning map amendment here-

Legals

tofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2018-0003. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2018-0003, to rezone the properties at 3050 Potomac Avenue from CDD#10 to CDD#19 and a portion of 3601 Jefferson Davis Highway from, CDD#19 to CDD#10.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 6-403 (General regulations and exceptions) of Article VI (SPECIAL AND OVERLAY ZONES); Section 7-802 (Board of architectural review waiver) of Article VII (SUPPLEMENTAL ZONE REGULATIONS); Sections 8-200 (General parking regulations) and 8-602 (Requirements and standards) of Article VIII (OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING); Section 9-301 (Review required) of Article IX (SIGNS); Section 10-100 (Old and Historic Alexandria District), Section 10-200 (Parker-Gray District), and Section 10-300 (Preservation of certain buildings and structures over 100 years old outside the Old and Historic Alexandria District and the Parker-Gray District) of Article X (HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND BUILDINGS); and Section 11-513 (Administrative special use permit) of Division B (DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS) of Article XI (DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS AND PROCEDURES); and add a new Section 10-400 (Board of architectural review) of Article X (HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND BUILDINGS) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2018-0010. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2018-0010 to create the Alexandria board of architectural review and dissolve the Old and Historic District and Parker-Gray District boards of architectural review.

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. 2018-0009 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. 2018-0009 to amend Map 10/Braddock Road Metro Station Land use to change the land use designation from CL (Commercial Low) to RM (Residential Medium) for 309 N. Patrick Street approved by the City Council on November 17, 2018.

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 Potomac Yard/Potomac Greens Small Area Plan chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2018-0008 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. 2018-0008 to allow for home for the elderly use in CDD#10 of up to 325,000 net square feet approved by the City Council on November 17, 2018.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 5-602(A) (Coordinated development districts created, consistency with master plan, required approvals.) of Article V (MIXED USE ZONES) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2018-0014.

Legals

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2018-0014 to amend CDD No. 10 to change the allowable office square footage and add maximum square footage/dwelling units for home for the elderly.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 063.04 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 property at 1604 Dechantal Street from, OCH (Office commercial high) to KR (King Street urban retail) in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2018-0008. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2018-0008, to rezone the property at 1604 Dechantal Street from, OCH (Office commercial high) to KR (King Street urban retail).

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owner of the property located at 3030 Potomac Avenue to construct and maintain an encroachment for a vault for electric transformers under the sidewalk right-of-way at that location, adjacent to the portion of the property that borders Dogue Street. The proposed ordinance permits the building located at 3030 Potomac Avenue to install an underground electrical vault in the adjacent sidewalk area.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-1-13 (INAUGURAL MEETING - COUNCIL AS JUDGE OF ELECTION AND QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS) of Article A (GENERAL PROVISIONS) of Chapter 1 (THE CITY COUNCIL) of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

This ordinance updates the City Code to be consistent with Alexandria City Charter § 3.07, which provides that the first meeting of a newly elected council shall take place in January following the election.

Public Hearing and Consideration of the Recommendation from the City Council Naming Committee to Combine the Interim King Street Park and Waterfront Park into One City Park Named Waterfront Park.

Introduction and First Reading. Consideration. Passage on First Reading of an ordinance to repeal Section 3-2-190 (Tier II Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Special Tax District) in Division 1 (Real Estate) of Article M (Levy and Collection of Property Taxes) of Chapter 2 (Taxation) of Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION, AND PROCUREMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance repeal Tier II Potomac Yard Tax District.

Public Hearing to Review the Effectiveness of the City Council Adopted Code of Ethics and Conduct and Ethics Pledge.

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 22, 2018. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Still Scared to ...

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



As a follow up to last week's column: "Scared to ...," let me provide a bit more context for the fear and anxiety I wrote about; as well as some history for you readers to appreciate the emotional challenges some of us cancer patients experience.

It all began with the initial Team Lourie meeting on Feb. 27, 2009 when we met my oncologist for the first time.

After exchanging pleasantries, such as they could be, I was examined by my oncologist in an adjacent room. After he completed his exam, we all re-assembled in his office where he reviewed the results of my most recent medical history dating back to Jan. 1, 2010 when I first showed up at the Emergency Room complaining of shortness of breath.

Subsequently, there were two sets of X-Rays, one CT scan, one P.E.T. scan and then a surgical biopsy to confirm the previous findings. It was nearly eight weeks to the day that I learned my diagnosis: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. And so my oncologist began to talk. I'm semi-quoting, but clearly remembering the substance:

I can treat you, but I can't cure you. Your prognosis is 13 months to two years. The percentage of patients who live beyond two years is 2 percent. Could you be the one who lives beyond two years? Absolutely. This is extremely serious. You should begin chemotherapy as soon as possible. Next week if possible.

Then our questions began – after we gathered our composure that is. I mean, hearing these words directed at you is as surreal as it gets, and with limited knowledge on the subject and the circumstances, we had difficulty starting a conversation.

This is as much as I remember hearing that day. Could there have been more? I'm sure. Unfortunately, we were ill-prepared for the occasion.

Though there were three of us: my wife, Dina, my brother, Richard, and myself – collectively, what went in all of our ears went out in different directions.

What was said, what was heard, what was understood, what was remembered, was all a jumble. No one thought to take notes or bring in a recording device, two suggestions which have been subsequently made and that I now pass on to you.

My oncologist answered our questions about surgery, radiation, treatment, drugs, side effects, schedule, etc., all of which was difficult to absorb.

He then attempted to describe what my life would be like going forward, offering no guarantees of anything particularly hopeful, which now explains the reasons for these two columns: death and progression from dying/symptoms getting worse. He used a staircase as an example.

My health would steadily decline, as if walking down a flight of stairs. As my health deteriorated/symptoms manifested (down a couple of steps), he could stabilize me there by trying new treatment. But he could never bring my health back to its previous place. Then after a while the new treatment would become unsuccessful (down a few more steps), and again, he could stabilize me but he couldn't bring me back. And on and on until ... I think I can remember another visual he offered: playing with a yo-yo as I descended the stairs; down, down, down.

Amazingly, this has not happened to me despite a week's long hospitalization five-plus years ago.

HOWEVER, per my understanding of my condition (I wasn't diagnosed as "terminal" for nothing), I anticipate stepping down at some point. And any time – every time – I experience symptoms uncharacteristic of my semi-normal existence, I ALWAYS wonder if this is the beginning of my end.

And as much as I want to stay one step ahead, it's hard for me (practically impossible) to not think that when new symptoms occur, cancer is stepping up its attack.

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

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HISTORY Pendleton

FROM PAGE 12

her mother, kept the property and used it as a rooming house and rented the other portion out as a beauty salon.

Corrine Jackson Lee Dixon, who was the last living child of John and Corrine Jackson died on July 28, 2015. Corrine's daughter, Janice Lee Wardlaw Howard, still maintains the family property at 1022 Pendleton St.

If this old building could talk, it will tell many stories of African Americans in Alexandria. This old house witnessed the Jim Crow era, the Civil Rights movement and many important events in the lives of Alexandria's African Americans. This building is an important landmark in Alexandria.

Char McCargo Bah is a freelance writer, independent historian, genealogist and a Living Legend of Alexandria. Visit her blog at <http://www.theotheralexandria.com> for more about "The Other Alexandria."

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

a wreath in December. This year the statue presented one for about a week, and then it disappeared.

Curious, I inquired what had happened. This is what I learned.

Because "Appomattox" is mute, he was pleased to wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year by displaying a wreath on his pedestal. Doing so has been his custom for many years, aided by some nice people who fix it there for him. He is sorry that someone came this year with wire cutters and removed it, not at his direction and to his great disappointment because he enjoys bringing happiness to all who pass by. He hopes that the heart of whoever took it will be made glad during the holiday celebrations when seeing it displayed at another place.

"Appomattox" wants all to know he does indeed wish everyone joyous celebrations and hopes they will experience the peace in their hearts of which the angels sang to the shepherds — and to all of us. I join him in that wish!

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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