



Wreaths Across America

Hundreds gather to remember veterans.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Despite a steady rain, hundreds of volunteers gathered Dec. 15 for the 27th annual Wreaths Across America tribute to veterans at Alexandria National Cemetery.

Volunteers placed wreaths at the grave of each veteran, saying the name aloud as requested by Wreaths Across America founder Morrill Worcester to “ensure that the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice of that veteran is never forgotten.”

Across the region, 267,000 wreaths were laid, including 5,000 in Alexandria and more than 253,000 at Arlington National Cemetery. In all, 1.8 million graves received wreaths at 1,640 locations across the country.

A few dozen overseas locations participated in Wreaths Across America in 2018, the first year permission was granted to place wreaths at Normandy to honor those who died during World War II’s D-Day invasion.

Each wreath is hand-crafted of all-American balsam and hand-tied with a red velvet bow in Columbia Falls, Maine, before being delivered to participating locations. Local sponsors of the Alexandria National Cemetery Wreaths Across America include Saint Rita’s American Heritage Girls, Old Town Village and Christ Church, Mount Vernon Chapter NSDAR, Friends of Lt. Anderson/Alexandria Scouts, Boy Scouts of America Troop 841, Mount Vernon Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Jamestown Chapter Colonial Dames XVII Century, Saint Mary’s School Girl Scouts, Junior Girl Scouts 600 Fort Hunt and Girl Scout Troop 4005.

See www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

Volunteers place wreaths on the graves of veterans Dec. 15 as part of Wreaths Across America at Alexandria National Cemetery.



PHOTOS BY 'MANCO' MIKE ANDERSON



A trio of young volunteers salute after placing wreaths at the graves of fallen soldiers in Alexandria National Cemetery Dec. 15 as part of the Wreaths Across America tribute to veterans.



Young volunteers pose for a photo after placing a wreath at the headstone of a veteran in Alexandria National Cemetery Dec. 15 as part of Wreaths Across America.

What's in a Name?

Naming of city's Waterfront Park smells sweeter to some than to others.

BY DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

Linny, “a suckling,” valued at £12. Ralph, age 2, valued at £15. Henry and Anthony, both age 3, valued at £15 and £20. Ned, Winny, Bett, Harry, none more than age 8, valued together at £103. Charles and Pegg, “past labor,” valued at zero.

These are some of the 46 slaves owned by Colonel John Fitzgerald when he died in 1799, according to probate records compiled by Maddy McCoy of Slavery Inventory Database, LLC. They’re why City Council decided unanimously on Saturday, Dec. 15, to name the



now-consolidated park at the foot of King Street “Waterfront Park,” and not after Fitzgerald, despite popular support for the latter.

The decision wraps up a controversial naming process, showcasing how people of different heritages feel included or excluded from historical prominence.

The city’s 2012 Waterfront Small Area Plan “contemplated” part of

the area as “Fitzgerald Square,” according to Craig Fifer, city staff liaison to the park naming committee. Though never formalized, that name fell into common usage by city staff and the public, he said.

On the one hand, seeing Fitzgerald, an Irish immigrant, as a symbol of local Irish heritage, many Alexandrians urged that the park retain his namesake.

“Fitzgerald’s loyalty and leadership were key in establishing our nation,” said Kimberley Moore on behalf of the Ballyshaners, a local nonprofit that organizes Irish heritage events, in a letter. She cites Fitzgerald’s accomplishments as aide-to-camp to George Washing-

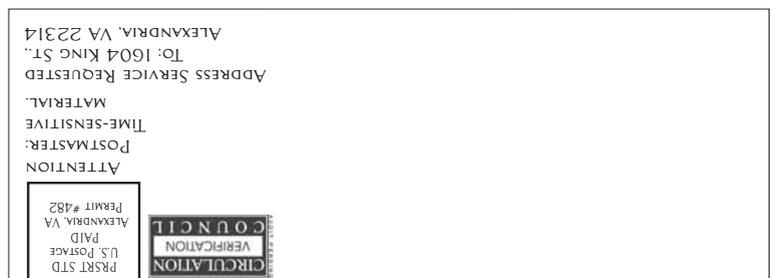
ton during the Revolutionary War, businessman, mayor, and founder of the city’s first Catholic parish, now the Basilica of Saint Mary in Old Town.

When the park later received the interim name “King Street Park” instead, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish Catholic fraternal

organization, wrote to council in indignation.

“Instead of celebrating Alexandria’s deep Irish and patriotic past,” invoking the king “recalls the British oppression of the Irish, Alexandria, and the American Colonies,” said national Hiber-

SEE WHAT’S IN, PAGE 21



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The winning teams of the 2018 Collegiate Inventors Competition gather for a group photo following the Nov. 16 awards ceremony in the atrium of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.



PionEar team members Michael Kreder and Nicole Black speak on stage with Anthony Scardino, USPTO chief financial officer, after winning the Graduate Division gold medal Nov. 16 at the 2018 Collegiate Inventors Competition.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Going for the Gold

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

From a steerable microcatheter to a reusable UV-radiation-measuring sensor, it was a glimpse into the future of American innovation as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office hosted the 2018 Collegiate Inventors Competition, an annual competition for college and university students and their faculty advisors.

Held Nov. 16 in the atrium of the USPTO's Madison Building, finalist teams consisting of 29 students from 11 colleges and universities participated in the final round of

the competition for undergraduate and graduate students.

"We stand on the cusp of truly historic times for science and technology," said Andrei Iancu, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and director of the USPTO. "The USPTO is proud to host this Competition. The research and innovations of our greatest collegiate inventors will lead our nation to ever higher achievements."

The finalist teams — five undergraduate and six graduate — presented their inventions to a panel of final-round judges composed of National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees and USPTO officials.

"The Collegiate Inventors Competition

Collegiate inventors honored at USPTO.

showcases the process of invention in our nation's greatest young innovators," said National Inventors Hall of Fame CEO Michael Oister. "[They] are leading through creative thinking, problem solving and determination."

2018 GOLD WINNERS

Undergraduate: Rhino, Massachusetts Institute of Technology — Rhino is a masonry tool attachment that can be used with any traditional rotary hammer. It improves accuracy and safety of joint raking, allowing masons to cover 50 percent more area during a given time.

Graduate: PionEar, Harvard University —

PionEar uses a bioinspired combination of 3-D printed designs and a liquid-infused material to combat ear infections with the goal of reducing unnecessary revision surgeries to replace failed ear tubes.

2018 SILVER WINNERS

Undergraduate: Radiex, Johns Hopkins University — Radiex allows brain surgeons to access the brain through the smallest point of entry. Once in place, Radiex has the flexibility to gradually expand, increasing the surgeon's area of visibility without added pressure to tissue.

Graduate: Neurotendo, University of Cali
SEE INVENTORS. PAGE 22

'A Golden Opportunity' Public school system takes next step in overhauling special education.

BY DAN BRENDEL
GAZETTE PACKET

The public school division is honing its three-year plan to tighten up top-down control of special education programming, inviting public feedback through next month.

The plan outlines specific actions to implement recommendations from a division-wide audit of special education programs, conducted over the 2017-18 academic year, and briefed to the School Board in October. Though it centers on special education, the plan aims to improve the manner in which schools provide tailored instruction and support to all students generally.

"At least 85 percent of the [special education] students in this school district are [of] average to above-average intelligence," said Terry Werner, who heads up the division's Office of Specialized Instruction, at the School Board's Dec. 6 meeting. "So much of what we do in specialized instruction is truly best practice [for instruction

generally]. If we can get that right, it's going to raise the instructional opportunities for all students, which will improve outcomes for everybody."

The school division decided to extend through late January an online survey for community feedback, originally intended to close last month. School Board member Chris Lewis applauded the extension, lamenting "the low level of feedback or participation that we've gotten" so far. He thinks there exists "a disconnect between the [community's] demands ... [for] academic performance and the understanding of just how integral serving this student population is to meeting those demands."

The plan focuses largely on consolidating oversight in the central office administration. The November audit cautioned that the division's current "site-based management model" cedes too much "autonomy" to individual schools, contributing to instructional inconsistency across the division.

"It's not so much that we're doing something new," said Werner. "It's that we're taking [measures] to ensure that we are imple-

menting our best practices with fidelity."

Some of the plan's measures include:

- ❖ "Establish a permanent interdisciplinary Interdepartmental central office team to guide the [plan's] implementation." The team would include members from at least these departments or offices: human resources, student services, alternative programs, and equity; elementary and secondary instruction; talented and gifted services; and English learner services. School Board member Margaret Lorber said she'd like the administration "to think about including a parent voice on that [team]."

- ❖ The superintendent would "establish clear expectations that the Executive Director of Specialized Instruction is the lead official ... to initiate and coordinate special education within the division."

- ❖ "Establish clear expectations for non-negotiable implementation of inclusive practices within each school. Consolidate existing guidance into an institutionalized record to which all staff, including new teachers, can refer and be held accountable." Inclusive practices are methods of

incorporating students with disabilities into general education settings to the maximum degree possible, as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). A principal method is "co-teaching," whereby a certified special education teacher provides special instruction alongside a general education teacher in a general education classroom, rather than in a separate setting.

- ❖ "Conduct walkthroughs to collect data related to fidelity of implementation of best inclusive practices."

- ❖ "Create multiple avenues for [teacher] training, including more traditional workshops, job embedded coaching (i.e. observing and providing feedback to peers as they are conducting co-teaching lessons), modeling of co-teaching best practices."

- ❖ Hire a "system-wide MTSS [Multi-Tiered System of Supports] Coordinator responsible for monitoring MTSS implementation," and "identify individuals in each building to serve as MTSS liaison." MTSS is a protocol for how educators

SEE OVERHAULING. PAGE 22

Lending a Hand

BI students top 650 hours of service during We Care Week.

More than 200 Bishop Ireton High School students supported the Alexandria community during We Care Week, a week dedicated to giving back to the Diocese of Arlington's Catholic Charities organization.

From Dec. 4 through 6, students served local schools and communities in the Alexandria area.

"I saw God in the women working at the Campagna Center," said Jacob Aills, BI class of '21. "They worked so hard to help other people."

Isabelle Shefrin, also from the class of '21, spent time with residents at Sunrise in Alexandria.

"Even just being able to make them smile and be with them felt really good," Shefrin said.

In total, the students completed

over 650 hours of community service and raised more than \$6,000. Christ House in Old Town Alexandria, the Child & Family Network Centers and Community Lodgings were among the organizations the students spent time at during the three-day service event.

—JEANNE THEISMANN

Bishop Ireton High School students pose for a photo with Campagna Center employees as part of their volunteer service Dec. 6 during We Care Week. Among the Bishop Ireton students are: Jonathan Cassin '21, Sophia Matiunas '21, Sierra Peters '21, James Nguyen '21, Jacob Aills '21, Jessica Armstrong '21, William Oakeley '21, and Dayton Crowley '21.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Changes Approved to Traffic Board

BY DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

City Council narrowed the role of the Traffic and Parking Board, a citizen advisory committee, and delegated greater authority to the city's transportation director on Saturday, Dec. 15. The sitting board reviewed the changes previously and recommended council approval. Council voted unanimously.

The board comprises seven council-appointed residents serving a two-year terms.

The City Charter had charged the board with considering "all matters concerning traffic, parking and taxicabs ... prior to action by the director of transportation and environmental services or presentation to the city council." Council adopted amendments that limit the board's purview to "substantial changes" in those areas.

Previously, council exercised final review over issues pertaining to one-way streets, truck routes, parking meter zones, traffic lights, and prohibiting parking on more than one half of any city. The new rules leave

the first two in council's purview, according to a staff presentation. But for the latter three, now the board's recommendations will go to the staff department head for decision. For parking meter zones, if the board and director disagree, the decision will then go to council for adjudication.

The new rules specify that related appeals must occur within 15 days. Staff advised that most items coming before the board are relatively minor and that a longer appeals period would needlessly delay implementation.

OBITUARY

Joyce Ella (Henderson) Greene

Joyce Ella (Henderson) Greene of Fairfax, Va. died at Alexandria Inova Hospital on Dec. 13, 2018 after a short illness. She was born in San Antonio, Texas on Feb. 26, 1938 to the late Henry Williams and Rebecca Harris Henderson and raised in San Mateo, Calif. and Kansas City, Mo. She studied nursing Holy Ghost Hospital in Boston, Ma. and practiced nursing before she married Robert Ewell Greene, Sr, an Army officer, on July 4, 1959 in Kansas City, Mo. As an Army



Greene

wife, she moved around the world and the country, including Germany that she loved so much. She was later a teacher at PALs Day Care Center in Reston, Va. where she was adored by the parents and children in her care. She will be missed by many for whom her life brought laughter and smiles.

A loving mother, wife, friend and aunt, she is survived by her loving son, David Arthur Greene of Alexandria, Va. and sister Rebecca Henderson Smith of Kansas City, Mo. She was predeceased by her son, Robert Ewell Greene, Jr. and siblings Carlene Henderson Eason, Carl Henderson, and Hezzie Henderson. She has numerous nieces and nephews, and great nieces and



Joyce Ella (Henderson) Greene

nephews.

A mass of Christian burial will be held at St John Neumann Catholic Church in Reston, Va. on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 11 a.m.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

'Scalia Speaks'

Christopher Scalia, left, son of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, poses for a photo with former City Councilman Frank Fannon Dec. 11 following Scalia's presentation to the Alexandria Rotary Club at Belle Haven Country Club. Scalia, who works for an Alexandria public relations firm, is the editor of the book "Scalia Speaks," a compilation of speeches by Justice Scalia.

Correction

In "Goal: Improve Public Service" [Gazette Packet, Dec. 6], it was incorrectly stated that the city government and school system manage nearly 400 properties, 97 percent of them owned rather than leased. The correct figures are 166 properties, of which 154 (93 percent) are owned.

BULLETIN BOARD

MONDAY/DEC. 31

Deadline: Seeking Public Input. The city is seeking input from community and business stakeholders on the draft 2018 Natural Resource Management Plan. The draft is currently posted on the 2018 Natural

Resource Management Plan website at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=106918 and is open for public review and comment through Monday, Dec. 31.

FRIDAY/JAN. 4

Application Deadline. The Half-Day Winter

Community Police Academy allows residents and community members to learn about various aspects of the Police Department in an abbreviated session. The academy takes place Saturday, Jan. 26, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Alexandria Police Department Headquarters. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Police.

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PEOPLE



From left: Susie Miller, Susan Fitzpatrick of Community Lodgings, Linda Greenberg, Lois Lipson, and Laurie Kirby as they show a few of the gifts being contributed to the client families of the local non-profit by Commonwealth Republican Women's Club.



From left: Susan Yonts-Shepard, Sally Linderman, Suzanne Morrison, Susie Miller, Linda App, Eileen Brackens (Commonwealth Republican Women's Club president), Jody Rushton (National Federation of Republican Women president), and former Virginia First Lady Susan Allen as the 2019 Commonwealth Republican Women's Club officers present a contribution to the Virginia Women's Monument Commission.

GOP Women Support Community Lodgings

And install new officers.

The Commonwealth Republican Women's Club (CRWC) celebrated the holiday season with former Virginia First Lady Susan Allen, installed new officers, and presented local non-profit Community Lodgings with gifts to fill Santa's sleigh.

Susan Fitzpatrick, development director, accepted the gifts on behalf of Community

Lodgings and thanked CRWC for helping them accomplish their mission of helping families who are experiencing homelessness or instability to achieve independence and self-sufficiency. She noted that CRWC has been a big supporter of Community Lodgings for many years.

CRWC President Eileen Brackens presented a check to former First Lady of Virginia Susan Allen for the Virginia Women's Monument Commission. The commission is raising funds to prominently place 12 life-size statues of unrecognized women as part of its Voices from the Garden project.

Jody Rushton, National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) president, installed officers for 2019: Eileen Brackens (president), Linda App (1st VP programs), Susie Miller (2nd VP membership), Suzanne Morrison (treasurer), Sally Linderman (corresponding secretary), and Susan Yonts-Shepard (recording secretary).

In addition to CRWC members, others in attendance included Sean Lenehan, chairman of the Alexandria Republican City Committee, and recent GOP City Council candidates Kevin Dunne and Michael Clinkscale.

Eileen Brackens and others spoke of their sadness on the death of longtime CRWC officer, Loree Gunn. Gunn was active in the leadership of both CRWC and ARCC, and had been working on organizing the evening's event. Gunn had worked in the office of Virginia's Republican Governor George Allen in the 1990s.

CRWC is the Alexandria chapter of the NFRW. See www.alexandriacrwc.org. ARCC (www.alexgop.org) is the local branch of the national Republican Party.

Learning about Virginia Cooperative Extension

Showcase describes programs.

The Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Arlington and Alexandria branches held their annual 2018 Showcase on Friday, Dec. 7 at the Fairlington Community Center. The value of extension volunteer hours in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria is \$1,173,148.

For every \$1 invested, Arlington and Alexandria VCE return \$11.67. Arlington County Board Chair Katie Cristol told the group it's clear how much the government values their efforts: "You are a force multiplier."

— SHIRLEY RUHE

John McGuinness, Master Finance Volunteer, says their Money Smart Buy program teaches basic financial skills like how to create a budget, how to start some savings, cash flow, paying your bills on time. Teresa Germann, another Master Finance Volunteer, says she is starting a new program in January aimed at seniors on how to live well in this area on a fixed income. Yvonne Norton, also a Master Finance Volunteer, says they have programs for students beginning in fifth grade. "We give them an income and they have to buy food, health insurance and other expenses. Many of them say how expensive it is to have kids."



Becky Halbe, a Master Gardener volunteer, hands out radishes and spinach seeds perfect for growing inside as microgreens. "They are popular right now and full of nutrition and vitamins. Here we have a balcony display. Many neighbors are urban dwellers and they need something they can do."

Alexandria City Manager Mark Jinks chats with former state Del. Judy Connally at the 2018 Extension Showcase where community leaders, businesses and citizens gather to learn more about the Virginia Cooperative Extension programs.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET



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HOLIDAY GIFTS

Tech the Halls

Savvy choices for last-minute shoppers.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Despite less than a week to go for last-minute holiday shoppers, it's still the most wonderful time of the year, especially for technology geeks.

As Smart Home devices and Artificial Intelligence continues to become more popular and user friendly, choices abound for those looking for last-minute gifts, of which there are many. According to the Arlington-based Consumer Technology Association, 34 percent of holiday shoppers have barely started their holiday shopping.

"Late December will be characterized by retailers pushing programs like in-store pickup for online orders that get people to the store to get their gifts on time," said Lesley Rohrbaugh, director of market research for CTA. "And with almost half of holiday shoppers looking for gifts until the last possible day, expect Saturday the 22nd to be the biggest in-store shopping day in December."

Popular tech devices this year include TVs,

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



The Amazon Echo Dot is one of several Alexa devices that respond to voice commands, including the new Alexa Guard feature.



TP-Link Wi-Fi enabled LED light bulbs are an easy entry into Smart Home technology.

tablets, videogame consoles, laptops and digital media streaming devices. Accessories like videogame discs, wireless earbuds and headphones and streaming services are affordable for most budgets.

Smart speakers, such as Amazon's Echo and Google Home, continue to increase in sales and are an easy entry into Smart Home technology. Now in its third generation, the



CES 2019, the world's largest showcase of consumer technology, will take place Jan. 8-11, 2019, in Las Vegas.

Amazon Echo Dot smart speaker includes the ability to enable Alex Guard, a new feature that lets your Echo devices keep an ear out for trouble when you're away from home.

In Guard mode, Alexa will listen for sounds such as a smoke alarm ringing or the sound of shattering glass and will send you a notification. If you're an ADT or Ring subscriber, she'll also notify your home security monitoring service.

The TP-Link Smart Home devices are simple to use and do not require a hub. The Wi-Fi enabled light bulbs replace ordinary bulbs and can be controlled via smartphone. They can also be controlled via voice with Alexa and Google Home.

Sales of smartwatches, such as the Apple Watch 4, will top seven million units this holiday season, up 26 percent, from 2017 according to CTA. Drones – 1.5 million units this holiday season — will increase eight percent over 2017.

Some affordable stocking stuffers include streaming devices like the Fire TV Stick and Roku Express, the Wyze Cam Wi-Fi security camera, and portable Bluetooth speakers such as the Sony XB01. The UE Boom line of speakers come in a variety of sizes and get high marks from users.

Devices like the Logitech Bluetooth Audio Adapter are able to add wireless audio to any older stereo system, audio receiver or boombox with an auxiliary input.

For the die-hard technophile, an IOU might be the best gift of all since CES 2019 is just around the corner. Produced by CTA, CES is the world's largest showcase of the newest technology available and on the horizon for consumers. So no need to despair if you miss your holiday shopping deadline. With

the latest technology just around the corner, it won't be too late to make it a Happy New Year.



Smart watches like the Apple Watch Series 4 are expected to top seven million units this holiday season.



The UE Boom line of speakers, such as the Boom 2 and Megaboom shown, add wireless and portable sound for music aficionados.

Give Glittery Finding gifts that sparkle.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Cover yourself with glitter from head to toe. Take a walk down King Street during the holiday season, and the glitter jumps out at you from the store windows as you pass by.

Walk in the door at The Hour Shop. The table that greets you is arrayed with sparkling barware from gold abstract roly poly glasses, Collins glasses in textured gold, 24-karat gold coupe glasses and 24-karat gold-plated cocktail sticks. And the glass matters. Because of their cup shape, the coupe glasses are the preferred choice for cocktails by many bartenders. Everything in the store is vintage from the 1920s-1970s with many designer one-of-a-kind offerings. During the holidays, the shop's selection emphasizes specialty items, but there are many other choices including pitcher caddy sets, ice buckets and cocktail shakers. Check out their upstairs showroom.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

The Hour Shop offers sparkling vintage glassware in 24-karat gold.

A few blocks away is Warby Parker, a trendy new eyeglasses shop. Several of the frames are glistening (if not glittery.) Its Percy Evergreen Tortoise Fade frame features gold rippling through the dark accents while the Harris and Felix Basil Tortoise Fade both feature gold woven through with unusual designs. The salesperson explains that Warby Parker designs their own frames.



A pair of glistening Haskell glasses at Warby Parker, the trendy new eyeglasses shop.

"You can find stuff here that you can't get anywhere else. And the price point is reasonable." They offer a service, which allows a person to try on and buy eyeglasses online which they declare is "the perfect present for anyone with eyeballs delivered right to their inbox."

Just a few steps away is Bishop Boutique. All that glitters is not gold. A display of sil-



Bishop Boutique offers high-end selection of silver shoes and purses for the holidays.

ver shoes and purses catches your eye as you look around the shop. It includes a pair of Schutz tina slides in metallic silver, a sequined hard case Dutch silver clutch from the store's own brand and a pair of Leopard Lik Bennett Style fern high heels with large sparkling glass bows. They describe themselves as "a chic and intimate sanctuary for the fashion savvy with the avant-garde to the classic."



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PHOTOS BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

Wreaths around Old Town

Merry Christmas

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

The pages of the Connection News papers (including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Potomac Almanac and the Centre View) have been full of holiday spirit, beginning before Thanksgiving. Group and individual efforts to help the needy, holiday parades, Santa arriving by boat, Santa arriving by horse-drawn carriage, Santa arriving by tractor-pulled hayride, Santa arriving at the Malls, tree lightings, Menorah lightings, stories of giving, secular celebrations, religious celebrations. Shopping locally.

EDITORIAL

Giving locally. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption. It is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed the hungry and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to invite and welcome strangers; to treat others as you would have them treat you.

Matthew 7:12:

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 25:35-40:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or

thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’
“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

SO LET US SHARE the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

“And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

“And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds

said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Editor’s Note About The Rest of 2018

This is our last regular edition of 2018. Next week, after Christmas, we will publish our annual Children’s Issue, devoted entirely to the artwork and writing of local students. You’ll be able to find this online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/> Scroll down to Children’s.

Our next regular edition will publish Jan. 2-3, 2019, with deadline for content and advertising of Dec. 28 (late ads accepted).

In the meantime you can email the editors at editors@connectionnewspapers.com. You can reach sales/marketing/advertising at sales@connectionnewspapers.com.

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LETTERS

Reason for The Season

To the Editor:

The lighting of the Alexandria Christmas tree in November and the Scottish Christmas Walk were each held before even Advent had started this year, let alone Christmas. While the enthusiasm to decorate and celebrate for Christmas is to be commended, I hope fellow Alexandria residents and businesses will keep their decorations up through the Christmas season.

If you are not familiar with the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," it begins on Dec. 25, the first day of Christmas, taking us to the Epiphany on Jan. 6, when the three wise men arrived in Bethlehem after those 12 days following the birth of Jesus Christ.

Sadly, some people take down their Christmas decorations before Jan. 6. Please leave them up during the first part of January. Let's remember the reason for the season.

Kenneth J. Wolfe
Old Town

Residents Deserve Better

To the Editor:

The Gazette Packet had a rich list of articles about our city government's plans and activities in its Dec 6 - 12 edition. In this era of too many ways to communicate, it strikes me that the people we employ to perform city functions on our behalf are using Surprise-by-Gazette foremost to tell us what they're doing.

Also intriguing is we hardly ever hear about advice rendered to our elected and employed public servants from the plethora of advisory bodies composed of citizens anxious to help make Alexandria better every way, every day. Some of these bodies surely produce valuable suggestions. What happens to them?

The exception is the one-man, self-appointed committee of Townsend Van Fleet. This retired military officer has single-handedly over the years produced more worthy suggestions and practical advice than all City Council members combined.

Thankfully, he uses the Gazette

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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Telling Your Story: Leaving a Legacy

BY ANNE BOLEN
OWNER OF ANNE B. HISTORY



Anne Bolen, owner of Anne B. History

As the temperatures drop, we naturally gravitate indoors and spend a little more time with family, bringing together generations and sharing family stories. With more archives and record repositories making their documents available online, and the current craze for ancestral DNA testing, it seems everyone is digging into their family's past. It is an absorbing question, "Who am I and where did I come from?"

SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Genealogy helps us find facts, but there is a thrill of finding old letters or diaries that help us get to know our ancestors as individuals. When you find personal information beyond the birth and death dates, you begin to understand their personalities and experiences. That data becomes a person with struggles and triumphs. But too often I see people missing an opportunity right in front of their eyes. Looking back into our family tree, means that we often forget to look forward. There is a very short window of time between when we are old enough to realize the importance of recording those memo-

ries for future generations.

After working for 25 years in the museum field, I have seen how much we learn from personal stories. Students of all ages will connect with historical events and different eras if they can see it from someone's experience. The favorite question for the younger kids is "What did you wear to school?" The high school aged students liked to know what it was like to go on a date or if someone played a prank while in school. These personal stories bring to life another generation's experience, and the students connect with that more than momentous or historical events. Preserving those family recollections are of great value

to us all. All too often I hear people say that they don't think their story matters. These are the same people who have children who are begging them to record their memories.

I am pleased to be collaborating with Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) at its Jan. 10 speaker series – "Telling Your Story: Leaving a Legacy" that will focus on how you can preserve your family story for the next generation. We will meet at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street in Alexandria from 10 a.m. to noon with registration starting at 9:30 a.m. To register for this free event call SSA at 703-836-4414, ext. 110 or online at seniorservicesalex.org.

Here is what I would say to everyone: Your story matters a great deal. Each of you has the ability to interpret different decades and the concerns and challenges that came along with them. I can read all the facts I choose, but data does not replace experience, or the empathy and connection that we feel hearing someone's story. Your memories are important and the more stories we have to share, the more complete our national narrative becomes. Share your history with your family and your community. Did you raise a family? Start a business? Serve in the military or civil service? You have something to share. Don't let your voice be silenced by time.

A Mayoral Retrospective

BY ALLISON SILBERBERG
MAYOR OF ALEXANDRIA



As I complete my term as mayor, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our residents. Your civic engagement and input over the last three years have made a world of difference. Alexandria is blessed to have an involved citizenry and to be a city of great neighborhoods.

My term as mayor has had many game changers, and I am proud of my record of leadership and all that we have achieved together in such a short time. We joined forces with Arlington that resulted in Amazon selecting our neighbor and Virginia Tech picking us for its \$1 billion Innovation Campus. This is the largest business deal in the history of our region. Alexandria will now be a key part of a major technology center in our nation.

We have tackled head-on a range of environmental and infrastructure issues that had been neglected for years. We approved a plan to address all four outfalls and partner with AlexRenew to finally resolve the city's longtime sewage issues; tripled the dedicated funding for the Affordable Housing Fund; created three new schools in one term — a first for Alexandria; tripled the number of trees planted across our city per year; created an arts district; approved a plan for the Potomac Yard Metro Station; and added the most significant property to our historic preservation stock in 50 years. We are on an uptick with historic low unemployment and historic low crime.

Our city's Statement on Inclusiveness, which I initiated and drafted, has garnered national attention. I believe we must govern with a moral compass and speak out against hate, discrimination, and injustice. Governing with a moral compass also means being mindful of the impact of our decisions upon residents and their quality of life, and my voting record reflects that belief.

I urge the next council to consider my three recommendations to further my ethics and transparency initiative, thereby creating an even more ethical culture. It is my hope that those in office or those who are running will follow my example and refuse and return contributions from those, such as developers, who bring business before the city and will benefit financially from a council decision.

I have been honored to serve as your mayor.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent our beloved city. My life has always been about public service, and it will remain so. I thank my colleagues and the city staff for their dedication to our city.

I am confident that with the crucial involvement of our residents, Alexandria's success will continue to grow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

Packet and its cross town competitor, the Times, to render his advice all of which, despite assessing carefully, I have yet to find fault. But, like the many advisory boards, we taxpayers never learn what happens to Van Fleet's sensible counsel. Could it be we have a city government that tolerates public input as a necessary nuisance because it knows what's best?

Doubt me? Look no further than The Potomac Yard Metro. Few citizens know that a senior city employee included a falsehood in an important submittal to the Federal government. When the truth accidentally emerged, the city manager apologized, but no apology can eradicate that a deliberate falsehood was given to the Federal government and to the public, much less that it was tolerated by our City Council and city manager.

And fewer citizens know that the Metro site the city selected for the Potomac Yard will, unless moved, destroy fragile wetlands and cost more than an alternative site configured for no wetlands impact and at less cost. Adding insult to injury, the wetlands-destroying site also requires the National Park Service to negate a scenic easement issued in perpetuity to the American people.

We deserve better, much better.

Jimm Roberts
Alexandria

Support Green New Deal

To the Editor:

I am a 23 year-old Virginia resident. Our elected leaders have been talking about acting on climate change for my entire life, and yet, this is the first time that I have glimpsed real hope for federal climate action. In the past two weeks, thousands of youth from across the country have mobilized around a Green New Deal, a policy proposal that would transform our economy and society at the scale needed to stop the climate crisis, while creating millions of green jobs, transitioning off of fossil fuels, and protecting working people of all backgrounds. Join me in calling on our Representative Don Beyer (D-VA) to support Rep. Ocasio-Cortez's (D-NY) resolution to create a House Select Committee for a Green New Deal in Congress.

The U.N. tells us we have just 12 years to move our country off fossil fuels. The scope of the climate crisis and the actions necessary to confront it are at once incomprehensible and utterly terrifying — and yet, they are also the best chance we'll ever have to build the world we want. The Green New Deal shows us how.

Marie Therese Kane
Alexandria



A Poem for Christmas

Umbrella of stars' heavenly smile ...
Of bright lights throughout the city ...
The display of art ...
Through the sight that sees ...
A Christmas star for a child ...
Bright lights that are high, so far ...
Like a star ...

Throughout the sky ...
Little stars of light ...
Bright like snowflakes afar
Throughout the city ...

Trees of lights so bright ...
Full of branches that reach out ...
From a distant afar ...
The art of sight ...
For it's Christmas throughout the city ...
The brightness of warmth that speaks ...
Through the hearts ...
For a child to have the joy of love ...
For it's Christmas ...

A child's wish in the eyes of Christmas ...
Merry Christmas to all

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will toward men."
Luke 2:14



— GERI BALDWIN
ALEXANDRIA

OPINION

Repairing a Home This Holiday Season

BY MICHAEL SPAETH
COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR
REBUILDING TOGETHER DC ALEXANDRIA

Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria began the holiday season by giving back to an Alexandria homeowner in need.

Earlier this month, volunteers from Emmanuel Episcopal Church repaired the home of Bill H., a longtime Alexandria resident. The volunteers removed the carpet in the living room, hallway, and three bedrooms; installed foam insulating tubes on exposed water lines; secured a mailbox post; installed a bi-fold door and glass window panes; and more.

Originally from North Carolina, Bill is a former truck driver who enjoys hunting and fishing. He reminisces about the rabbits, perch, and bass he caught over the years, gesturing to show the large size of one particular fish he caught.

Bill has been living in Alexandria since the 1940s. He moved into his current house in the 1950s, shortly after it was built.

"I watched every piece of it being put together," Bill said. "It's very nice here. My neighbors and I all get along well."

Now that the carpet has been removed, it is much easier for Bill to move throughout his house. He is grateful for all the repairs Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria completed in his home.

"Every one of the volunteers was nice," Bill said. "And they did a beautiful job."

This was an eventful year for Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria. This calendar year, volunteers from a variety of companies, churches, and other groups completed over 65 projects repairing the homes of low-income residents, as well as parks, schools, and other community spaces. In addition, the organization's Mod Squad, a group of highly skilled community volunteers, completed over 20 projects this calendar year.

"This was a very successful year," said



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers from Emmanuel Episcopal Church assisted with home repairs.

Haig Paul, director of Programs at Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria. "Our volunteers did an excellent job with the repairs. Their work has been a huge help as we continue to grow and serve even more homeowners in our community."

Rebuilding Together Alexandria, now Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria, is an award-winning, mission-driven organization that creates healthy neighborhoods for residents by maintaining housing for low-

income homeowners, revitalizing community spaces, and creating homeownership opportunities. Since 1986, more than 29,000 volunteers have worked on 2,200 projects, leveraging \$8.8 million worth of in-kind value to Alexandria, and in 2019, we'll bring our services to DC.

We are now accepting applications from Alexandria homeowners for free home repairs. Visit www.RebuildingTogetherDCA.org or call 703-836-1021.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Asking questions in class is advice that David S. Torain II, Ph.D., professor of mathematics and statistics at Montgomery College would offer new students.

Advice from Professors

Sharing things they wish they could tell their prospective students.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Many high school seniors will spend their holiday break working on college applications or making visits to prospective university campuses. As the excitement builds over the new collegiate experience that lies ahead, local professors offer advice on the things they wish they could share with new college students.

Avoid seeing college as simply a means to end or a pathway to a career and instead take advantage of the multitude of learning experiences available to students.

From football games and art exhibitions to student debates and faculty recitals, there are opportunities gain a vast amount of knowledge in four years.

Use that time to discover one's interests, says Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., professor of history at Montgomery College. "Do not come to college simply for financial gain," he said. "Study what you are most passionate about. Study what you love. The jobs will be there."

In an effort to encourage students to move outside of their comfort zone, Linda Gulyn suggests that they, "Learn, have new experiences, but do well academically," she said. "Socialize and engage in activities across your major or regular crowd."

"Read and always do your homework," said David S. Torain II, Ph.D., professor of mathematics and statistics at Montgomery College.

"If you read slowly, don't sweat it, just read," he said. "If you get bored, break your reading in to short sessions, but come back to it. If you can't make sense of it all, make sense of as much of it as you can, then talk to a classmate and ask a question in class."

Use college as an opportunity to build skills that will be necessary after college, says Jerome Short, Ph. D. "Students should choose courses and experiences to build their oral and written communication skills to better express themselves persuasively and concisely," he said.

Practice self-care and recognize stress and anxiety that a new college experience might bring. When those feelings arise, avoid negative coping mechanisms and instead focus on those which are healthy, advises Short.

"College is a time to dramatically grow your brain," he said. "Scientific research shows that exercise grows brain cells, learning connects cells, and sleep consolidates memories in cells. Do plenty of each of them every day."

For some professors, one of the best parts of their job is getting to know and share knowledge with their students even on subjects that are not related to the course, says Joanne Bagshaw, PhD, professor of psychology at Montgomery College.

"Get to know your professors, and make sure they get to know you," she said. "Visit your professors during office hours and use the time to ask questions about the course and even chat about topics interesting to you."

"Do not come to college simply for financial gain. Study what you are most passionate about. Study what you love."

— Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., professor of history, Montgomery College.

"College is a time to dramatically grow your brain. Scientific research shows that exercise grows brain cells, learning connects cells, and sleep consolidates memories in cells. Do plenty of each of them every day."

— Jerome Short, Ph. D.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Local Playwright Returns with 'Kings'

Studio Theatre presents play about lobbyists and politicians.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON

You can take the woman out of Washington, but you can't take the Washington out of her. Consider Sarah Burgess, a playwright who hails from Alexandria. In her now-showing play, "Kings," she demonstrates the staying power of this area's pervasive influence. She wrote the script to explore what goes on between lobbyists and politicians.

The comedic plot of "Kings" unfolds around brand new Congresswoman Sydney Millsap as she navigates Washington's terrain — specifically, her dealings with two persistent lobbyists trying to lure her in different political directions with promises of money and power. After a successful opening night on Dec. 12, "Kings" is currently playing at Washington D.C.'s Studio Theatre through Jan. 6, 2019.

"I had been fascinated with the mechanics of political fundraising," the now New York-based Burgess said. "I was interested in a certain reality of how much work politicians and candidates have to do to raise money, especially when they aren't wealthy. I wanted to address how tough, and unpleasant at times, it all can be."

The bureaucracy was a backdrop to Burgess's childhood. With retired United States Navy commanders as parent, she has a keen understanding of the government and its subculture.

"I grew up mostly in the '90s, and my mom and dad worked at the Pentagon for a good portion of that time," Burgess said. "I had a real interest in institutions and I really believed that they worked to a certain degree. They felt very solid to me then. I also loved hearing day-to-day chronicles of people's jobs, especially what went for my mom at the Pentagon: the office jokes and the annoying habits of co-workers. It struck me that all those normal things were happening in this iconic building."

Burgess doesn't just see the government and its processes as fodder for her plays, either. Her interest in the institution is by and large non-partisan, and "Kings" follows suit.

"It's about the system itself," she said.

"Representatives from both parties have voted both ways on these tax and fundraising issues. I did a lot of reading and other research on the topic. After I finished the first draft, I found people who worked in this field. I've found that people who aren't in the entertainment business love to read the scripts and tell me where I got things wrong. It's great. I always want to get it right. So, that's the sort of practice I'll do for everything I write."

"Kings" is Burgess's second play to hit major stages, with its February 2018 world-wide debut at New York City's Public Theater.

"I'm pleased by the reception so far," she said. "I know that, depending on where a theatre is, there are going to be different views that people bring. 'Kings' is a comedy about a part of DC, so I have no idea how it will land here. I'm interested to see how it does."

The whole DC production process has been somewhat of a homecoming for her, and she herself is looking forward to this version of the show.

"It's my second play, but it's the first one I'm coming back home for," she said. "This is a whole different cast and crew than that of the New York production. That's usually the way it goes because it's the individual different theaters that buy rights to the play. I had a great time with the whole cast in New York and I learned a lot from them. I have no training in theater, though, so every production is different. And, being with the

whole DC group rehearsing has been really exciting, too."

Burgess has also made a few trips back to Washington to assist with casting.

"Studio is an amazing theater for playwrights and for directors, so although this is not the first production of the play, Sarah was still involved in our process," Director Marti Lyons said. "We collaborated together on casting, on the production, and on a few developments of the script. She has been a fantastic creative partner along with our dramaturg, Lauren Halvorsen, and our phenomenal cast and design team."

The decision to direct "Kings" was a no-brainer for Lyons.

"I found the text invigorating, funny, and



PHOTO BY TEDDY WOLFE

Elliott Bales, Nehassaiu deGannes, Laura C. Harris, and Kelly McCrann in "Kings."

unsettling," she said. "I liked that the story centered on female characters and follows a series of events as they affect each other's lives. Ultimately, though, the play points to something larger. It engages many questions; one of those questions is, 'Is change possible?' It's one of the many questions I find so resonant and immediate in the piece."

Lyons added that working with a Washingtonian about a Washington-based play was really something special.

"This is my first time working with Sarah Burgess and it has been a pleasure," Lyons said. "It was exciting. I am a Chicagoan who works in DC frequently and loves it here, so I had an outside perspective to share. But several of our cast members, designers and, of course, Sarah, are from DC or have lived here for a long time. It's a nice balance of insider knowledge and outsider observation. Sarah did a lot of research and made many of her own connections in the crafting of the play. Sarah is a brilliant, thorough, very funny writer and she's also a great collaborator."

As thorough as Burgess is, she is not an artist who has been honing her craft forever. While you hear about painters who have been brushing strokes since they could hold a paintbrush, or poets who have been rhyming since they found their voice, this playwright took a little longer to find this passion.

"I suppose I was kind of late to it," Burgess said. "I actually didn't participate in theater programs as a kid at Fairfax County Public Schools. After graduating from West Potomac High School, I went to NYU for its undergraduate film program. It was there that I fell into a group of actor friends, which finally got me acquainted with theater. Then I did a semester abroad in London, where I took a theater class. That's when I started writing plays."

NYU opened Burgess up to a world quite unlike Washington D.C., and she embraced it fully.

"Being at NYU, I got comfortable living in New York," she said. "There is a risk in studying film as opposed to something that

will tie you to a more traditional career. But, a lot of my peers went on to work in the entertainment industry in a number of different ways. It normalized that trajectory in a way. It set me up to get access to the theater community, too. I remember my dad saying, 'Pursue the best job, whatever you want — even if it feels ambitious.'"

Before her first play "Dry Powder" made it to a prominent Off-Broadway stage, Burgess tutored to earn enough money to pay her bills. This left her with evenings to focus on her script work.

"I spent my days tutoring math, going to different high schools around New York," she said. "It was mainly Algebra and basic Geometry. I earned enough so that I could write at night. It put me on the path to get me where I wanted."

It was in 2016 that Burgess first realized one-in-a-million type of success with her play, "Dry Powder." This Wall Street drama also ran at Public Theater and starred some household names, including Claire Danes and John Krasinski.

Still, Burgess remains humble.

"I definitely don't feel 'big time,'" she said. "I haven't had that feeling yet. I always want my writing to be better, especially because these two plays have been my first experiences with big production. Everything about 'Dry Powder' was so surreal, but the actors were so nice and really focused on the play. It was really, really great to see it all come together."

Even after "Kings" finishes its Washington D.C. run, there is more to come from Burgess. Not only does she have a third play that will soon see production, but she also has a number of budding goals and ideas.

"I love musicals and I've sort of talked about one day writing one," she said. "At the end of the day, though, my main ambition is to write a good play. Every time is different, and you just start from nothing. It's exciting to think about because you never know what idea is going to stick."

For information on Studio Theater's production of "Kings," visit www.studiotheatre.org/plays/play-detail/2018-2019-Kings.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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PHOTO BY C. STANLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Albert Coia, Brian O'Connor, Sherri L. Edelen, Katherine Riddle and Jimmy Mavrikes in MetroStage's production of "Christmas at the Old Bull & Bush."

Christmas at the Old Bull & Bush

The Old Bull and Bush Public House is alive with British music hall songs and carols, corny jokes and funny sketches, tuneful melodies, sing-a-longs and sausage rolls. Celebrate the holidays with Florrie Forde, the most famous music hall star of the era, and her troupe of British performers. Through Dec. 23, at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Admission is \$55. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.MetroStage.org.

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

Ring in the New Year

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.

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-



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ONGOING

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 mokuhanga 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.

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

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

4 Restaurants to Visit For Christmas Dinner

BY HOPE NELSON

Maybe you've gotten caught up in the holiday spirit and haven't concocted a Christmas menu yet. Or maybe your holiday plans have made a drastic U-turn and now you've got many more (or fewer) guests for dinner than you anticipated. Or maybe you just want to take the pressure off at home for a few hours. No matter the reason, these restaurants have you covered for Christmas dinner.

The Majestic, 911 King St.

Known for its family-style Sunday dinners, the Majestic is opening its doors for Christmas Day with a prix-fixe affair. Start with corn muffins and a relish tray, then move on to soup (butternut squash), salad (Caesar) or dip (Muhammara, hot pepper). Feast on prime rib, turkey breast, salmon or pasta for a main course, and tie everything up neatly with a choice of coconut cake, bread pudding or crême brulee. Noon-8 p.m. \$65 for adults; \$25 for children 10 and under. Reservations recommended.

Virtue Feed and Grain, 106 S. Union St.

At the other end of King Street from the Majestic, nestled across the street from the river, Virtue Feed and Grain is offering up its own spin on seasonal fare. Its three-course prix-fixe menu offers wintry favorites like baked mac and cheese and pomegranate-orange salad to start, followed by a half-dozen entrée options ranging from braised lamb shank to grilled wild boar chops. Dessert runs the gamut from

peanut butter ice box pie to pumpkin cheesecake with a stopoff at a poached pear. Noon-8 p.m. \$49 for adults; \$25 for children 12 and under. Reservations recommended.

Sonoma Cellar, 207 King St.

The popular wine bar and café is offering a respite from home cooking with a five-course menu. Start with a soup or salad, then be surprised by the chef's choice of an amuse bouche; then move on to a main course featuring the likes of a baked ham, rib-eye roast, or vegetable fettuccine. Cleanse your palate with a cheese course and top it all off with dessert. And since Sonoma Cellar is a wine bar, after all, expect a wide range of vino choices, all at 30 percent off regular prices. 4-10 p.m. \$60. Reservations required.

Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza and Tap, 401 E. Braddock Road

Not in the mood for all the hullabaloo of a prix-fixe menu? Lena's has you covered. Alongside their typical offerings, the pizza and pasta purveyor is offering up a handful of Christmas specials, including lobster fra diavolo — lobster with pasta and a spicy tomato sauce — chicken alla puttanesca and a wood-roasted Tuscan half chicken. Tired of the typical holiday pies? Take a bite out of the restaurant's Italian velvet cake: Chocolate cake with Italian buttercream, sugared cranberries, rosemary syrup and cranberry sauce. 1-8 p.m. Reservations recommended.

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

CALENDAR

683-1780.

Art Exhibit: Bringing Words to

Life. Through Jan. 27 at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St., Alexandria. The exhibit is a part of Del Ray Artisans' Gallery Without Walls program in partnership with VCA Alexandria. The show pairs a line from an artist's favorite song, poem, book, or speech with the artist's visual interpretation of that quote. Patrons may view the artwork at VCA Alexandria during regular business hours and at the discretion of hospital staff. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww.

Still Life Alive. Through April 2, 2019, 9-5 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Patricia Uchello One Woman Art Show, featuring 100 original oil paintings of flowers, fruit, landscapes and seascapes. Uchello's work has been collected by IBM, the International Monetary Fund and more. Email pmuchello@aol.com or visit www.patriciauchello.com.

Revolutionary War Medals.

Through March 2020 at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt. Vernon. Now on view in Mount Vernon's Donald W. Reynolds Education Center is an exhibition featuring 30 rare medals from the American Revolution and the early republic. War and Peace in Miniature: Medals from the American Numismatic Society is an unparalleled collection that highlights the remarkable heroes and events from the Revolutionary War and the new nation's diplomatic endeavors. Visit mountvernon.org/

warandpeace.

Pick-Up Hockey.

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

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

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 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/

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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. Call 703-379-7460 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 31

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.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 2

First Hike Fairfax 2019. Visit any Fairfax County Park Authority trail on Jan. 1, 2019. Take lots of photos. Pick a favorite photo to enter into the Fairfax County Park Authority's First Hike Photo Contest by Jan. 2. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers. Limit one photo entry per person. Visit the First Hike Fairfax at fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/first-hike.

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, 2019. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/faces.

SATURDAY/JAN. 5

Paint the World in Pastels. 10 a.m.-noon. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Cost \$35. Local artist Teresa Brunson

will demonstrate many ways to paint with pastels and give you a solid knowledge of the medium and its expressive use. Learn painting techniques, mark-making and layering, and pick up other tips to enhance your pastel work. All supplies will be provided. Stretch your creative muscles and create something beautiful. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Story Time for Little Historians. 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356.

Twilight Boardwalk. 4:30-6:30 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Join in on a chill winter evening to encounter the beauty of Huntley Meadows Park as it transitions from day into night. Watch and listen for beaver, owls, and other nocturnal residents along the forested paths to the wetland, and experience the sunset over the boardwalk. \$9. Call 703-768-2525 or visit online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/.

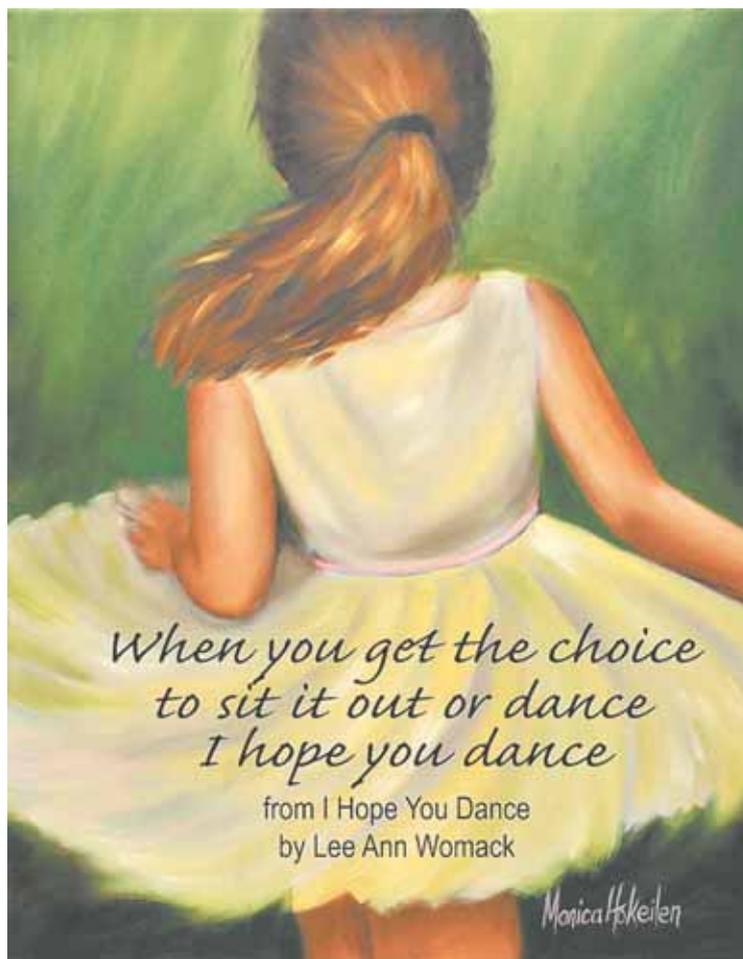
Fairfax County RECenter Swim Classes Start. The Fairfax County Park Authority offers youth swim instruction for babies to teens at nine RECenters throughout the county. Adults join their children in the pool in the early years. Kids go solo and advance through different instruction levels as they get older. For more information about the Park Authority's swim programs, call 703-222-4664 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter/swimming.

MONDAY/JAN. 7

Yoga for Gardeners. 9:30-10:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Spend some time this winter getting ready for a spring and summer of gardening. The class meets weekly from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for eight sessions, beginning Jan. 7, 2019. The cost of the series is \$93. This yoga class features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method. It's designed to help participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. Call 703-642-5173 or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

TUESDAY/JAN. 8

Guest Speaker Author. 12 p.m.-1:30



"I Hope You Dance" by Monica Hokeilen.

Art Exhibit: Bringing Words to Life

The exhibit is a part of Del Ray Artisans' Gallery Without Walls (GWW) program in partnership with VCA Alexandria. The show pairs a line from an artist's favorite song, poem, book, or speech with the artist's visual interpretation of that quote. This exhibit will display the artwork and quoted lines together at the VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital. Patrons may view the artwork through Jan. 27 at VCA Alexandria during regular business hours and at the discretion of hospital staff at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St., Alexandria. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww.

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.

THURSDAY/JAN. 10

Grand Opening: GetFitStudio. 5-7:30 p.m. At 227 S. Washington St., #120, Alexandria. Come for food, drinks, gift bags and giveaways. GetFitStudio is a boutique fitness studio offering personal training and small group training sessions. Visit

www.getfitstudiova.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 11

Family Splash Night. 6-9 p.m. At Chinquapin Park Rec Center and Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Featuring St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. Enjoy swimming, a floating obstacle course, games, relays, refreshments, music, diving for prizes and more. Different schools are featured at each event but all are welcome. Admission is \$4 per person upon entry.

ASO Presents: Bach, Brandenburgers & Brews. 7-10 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

228 South Pitt St., Alexandria. Members of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director James Ross, present this special evening of Brandenburg Concertos in the intimate setting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Hear the ASO's rendition of concertos No. 2, 4 and 5 with principals from the ASO featured as soloists. Reception in Norton Hall with the musicians and German food and beer. Tickets: \$40/adults; \$5/youth. Visit www.alexsym.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 13

Gardening Lecture. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. The Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series at Green Spring Gardens provides a wealth of information for when the weather starts to warm. The lecture costs \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

TUESDAY/JAN. 15

Federal Government Claims. 1-3 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, Claire Prechtel-Klusens, former Senior Archivist for the National Archives, will speak about researching Federal Government claims to gather genealogical information. Free, open to public. Visit www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 20

What's Buggin' You? 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Bring your bug questions and stories for entomologist Nate Erwin who will present a colorful slide show about insects and their associated plants. Find out how to attract butterflies and fireflies or put a name to that curious bug in the garden last year. Cost is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

FRIDAY/JAN. 25

Family Splash Night. 6-9 p.m. At Chinquapin Park Rec Center and Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Featuring James K. Polk and William Ramsay Schools. Enjoy swimming, a floating obstacle course, games, relays, refreshments, music, diving for prizes and more. Different schools are featured at each event but all are welcome. Admission is \$4 per person upon entry. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

COMMUNITY



Bridging the Gap Between Law Enforcement and the Community

The City of Alexandria partnered with the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (N.O.B.L.E) on Nov. 28 to present the Law & Your Community Forum. The event was hosted at the Departmental Progressive Club in Old Town. The event was open to youth and their families ages 10 and up. During the forum participants were engaged in open discussions about their rights as civilians and the misconceptions about law enforcement. Officers from the City of Alexandria and Sheriff's Department participated in role playing, question and answer sessions and were co-facilitators for the event. This event was designed to educate the community and bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community. For more information on the Law & Your Community program or the N.O.B.L.E. Organization, email Gary Hart at nvc@noblenatl.net.



SSSAS Food Drive Collects 3,102 Pounds

St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School donated more than 3,102 pounds of food to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Fourth grade Saints created an arcade from reusable materials called the Crenshaw Arcade — inspired by the book "Crenshaw," which includes themes about hunger and homelessness. To play, students and teachers donated canned goods and non-perishable foods for tickets.

GOP Donates Toys for Local Tots

The Alexandria Republican City Committee (ARCC) used its annual Volunteer Appreciation Pizza Night to help American Legion Post 24 in its efforts to collect gifts for the Toys for Tots program. Several members of Post 24 are also members of ARCC including Fernando Torres and Bob Wood. Both men have run for seats on the Alexandria City Council.

ARCC Chairman Sean Lenehan said, "While we recognize the hard work and dedication of our members and candidates, we also recognize the need to bring joy to others with generous giving. Our GOP members are very generous."

Attendees included members of the Commonwealth Women's Republican Club (CRWC) and the Alexandria Area Young Republicans (AAYR).

ARCC (at www.alexgop.org) is the local branch of the national Republican Party. CRWC is the Alexandria chapter of the National Federation of Republican Women. More information is available at www.alexandriacrwc.org. AAYR can be found at www.alexryrs.org.



Eileen Brackens (CRWC President), Andrew Lund (AAYR President), and Sean Lenehan (ARCC President) supporting the Toys for Tots program.

Update on City's Charter Violation

Three years ago, a story in the Gazette-Packet revealed that the City of Alexandria was in violation of its own City Charter as enacted by the General Assembly (Alexandria Gazette-Packet, May 15-21, 2014, page 4). Not all rules and regulations of the city were on deposit with the city manager and accompanied by a well indexed file, all open for public inspection.

Upon recent inquiry, the City Attorney's Office responded for the city manager saying the documents will be "compiled and available for public inspection in one centralized location in the beginning of the year." No mention was made of the mandatory "well indexed file of the rules and regulations so filed."

— MICHAEL McMORROW

CRIME

The following incidents were reported by the Alexandria Police Department.

MONDAY, DEC. 17

The *Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 100 block of Union Street. Two suspects fought with a busker over the victim's money bucket. There were no injuries.

TUESDAY, DEC. 9

The *Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery from person in the 4600 block of Duke St. Two suspects displayed a fake firearm to commit the robbery and officers apprehended them shortly after.

FRIDAY, DEC. 7

The *Alexandria Police Department is investigating a felonious assault in the 5500 block Holmes Run Parkway. The female victim was transported to a local hospital.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Free Sober Rides. 8 p.m.-4 a.m. daily, Dec. 14-Jan. 1. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home (limited quantities available). WRAP's Holiday SoberRide promo code will be posted at www.SoberRide.com.

THROUGH DEC. 31

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The City Manager approved the additional backflow preventer effort in the wake of torrential rainfall July 17-22. The program

reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of \$2,000. The current program period is from July 1-Dec. 31. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes.

WEBINAR

Online Salary Negotiation Workshop. AAUW (American Association of University Women) Work Smart is free online for anyone looking to learn how to negotiate a salary increase or promotion. Why is negotiation so important? AAUW's research on the gender pay gap shows that, one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than men. Visit salary.aauw.org.



Design concept of what City Council has now officially named Waterfront Park. It was earlier conceived as two adjacent parks, Waterfront Park to the south, Fitzgerald Square to the north.

What's in a Name?

FROM PAGE 1
nian leaders in a July resolution. The order “condemn[s] in the strongest terms this outrage against our Irish history and heritage and insult of all Irish-Americans.”

Of 865 Alexandria residents responding to a city survey, 50 percent preferred naming the park after Fitzgerald, compared to 13 percent for Waterfront Park and 36 percent for something else. Under the third category, other naming alternatives included variations of former mayor Kerry Donley; the late Pat Troy, a local Irish mainstay; King Street; Old Town; and Parky McParkface, a riff on a popular online movement, ultimately nixed, to name a British research vessel Boaty McBoatface.

On the other hand, “Fitzgerald had one of the largest slave holdings in Alexandria history,” according to McCoy, based on tax records. Fitzgerald’s human holdings included mostly blacks, but some whites as well.

Councilwoman Redella “Del” Pepper said she couldn’t overlook this fact, though she acknowledged that Fitzgerald “was a distinguished man.”

“It really hit hard ... to think that human beings were sold, and sold for so little,” she said. “I recognize that we have streets and other facilities that have the name of George Washington or [Robert E.] Lee, and they owned slaves. But we can’t go backwards. We’re not going to go around the city and rename G.W. Middle School or streets or whatever. We want to move forward.”

“Yes, times were different” for Fitzgerald, said Councilman Tim Lovain. “But this was not one or two slaves. His successful businesses were accomplished on the backs of enslaved human beings.”

“I think we should name this park for an African American or a Native American, or something else that gives us a better sense of who we are as a historic town,” said Andrew Macdonald, the only member of the public to speak at Saturday’s public hearing. “‘Waterfront Park’ does none of these things. It’s a simple, lackluster way to escape all controversy.”

Local African American leaders did consider putting forward an African American name for consideration. But they had difficulty finding one from the time period whose story was germane to the waterfront, said Councilman John Chapman.

“At the time, their perspective and story was not something that most folks, mainstream, cared about,” he said. “There’s still a lot of work to be done to have some of those stories told and brought to the forefront.”

“All of this is a historic reminder of how our country — not just this community, but the whole country — was a place where people were enslaved, where people were murdered, because they were just considered property,” said Mayor Allison Silberberg. “I’m reminded that Central Park in New York is just fine with a generic name,” she added.

“Maybe Waterfront Park doesn’t excite everybody, but at least it doesn’t offend everybody,” said Pepper. For more, visit www.alexandriava.gov/Waterfront.



Waterfront Park, currently under construction.

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Obituary

Betty Jean (Alexander) Giddens, age 85 of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 11, 2018. She was born to the late Oscar C. Alexander and Nellie Kirkman Alexander on May 8, 1933 in Huntersville, North Carolina.

Betty Jean moved to Alexandria, Virginia when she was a small child. She graduated George Washington High School in 1950 where her athleticism won her awards. Continuing to be in contact with her close high school friends and participating in Alumni events was a highlight for many years.

She was left a young widow when her beloved husband, Charles E. Giddens passed away in 1964. Always showing great strength and resilience she pursued a career with the federal government while raising her two young children. She served for over 40 years as a Contracting Officer with the General Services Administration until her retirement in 1994 where she was recognized for her dedication and leadership by then Governor George Allen and President Bill Clinton.

Betty Jean enjoyed traveling and art. She crafted many ceramic and hand embroidered pieces which won her local awards.

Her most joy came from watching her grandsons play baseball and granddaughter sing in choir.

Preceded in death by her son, Charles E. Giddens, Jr. Survived by her daughter, Holly Heislup. Grandchildren, William Heislup and his wife Kate, Matthew Heislup and Kathryn Heislup. Two great-grandchildren, Addison and Payeton. She is also survived by a sister (Francis Hall), nephew (David Boaz) and neice (Tracy Studds) and other special family members and friends.

The family gives their warmest gratitude for her wonderful caregivers, Mimi, Daniel and Doris.

A viewing will be on Wednesday, December 19th at 1:00 p.m., with a service celebrating her life at 2:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Alexandria where she was a 71 year member. 2932 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Interment at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Alexandria Foundation, Inc. 2932 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR HERE
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter

Stepping Back From the Precipice



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not so bad, even though it's been nearly 10 years on the cancer trail – and two columns, recently, courting my imminent demise.

The appointment with the otolaryngologist to assess the presumptive damage/my decline was instead wonderfully uplifting: “nothing worrisome in the throat.” What symptoms I was experiencing (basically seasonal-type cold and flu to go along with a scratchy and extremely hoarse voice) had nothing to do with cancer and more so to do with the time of the year.

Meaning I wasn't going to die as a result; just sneeze, cough and so forth like everyone else, which as I've been told, repeatedly, I'm not.

Cancer patients might not have the benefit of doubt or delay like the rest of you. Time may not be of the essence, but one never knows. Cancer cells sort of have a mind/process of their own.

It's not so much a lesson learned as it has been a lesson reminded.

My oncologist has frequently advised me that should a new symptom appear and persist for two to three weeks, I should email him and alert him to my status/situation. I might have been a week or so late this time, but fortunately not too many dollars short.

My oncologist responded immediately as did my primary care physician. Each doctor making arrangements for me within a matter of hours: a face-to-face appointment with my internal medicine doctor – which led to the referral for the otolaryngologist (who called to schedule an appointment before I even got a chance to); and a referral as well by my oncologist for a CT scan of my neck.

Having now been examined and results interpreted, I am glad to report that as scared as I have been for the past two columns, my symptoms were not indicative of my lung cancer progressing. Rather it was more indicative of a cancer patient being stupid and stubborn.

Not wanting to ever believe that my life hangs in the balance and could be severely endangered by my neglect, I tend to go about my health-related business as I would guess the rest of you who are healthy and not cancer-diagnosed: I wait out the symptoms and try not to go negative.

As has been said recently – to me, nothing could be less appropriate given my stage IV, lung cancer. Being negative might actually save my life.

The reality is: I am compromised and subject to risks and complications many of you are not. My immune system has likely been weakened by this most recent every-three-week infusion interval recommended to shrink a relatively new tumor – and in so treating, hopefully will not have allowed any existing cancer cells to trigger and mutate and cause even more trouble.

After all, cancer is likely in control here and giving them an inch, so to speak, has never been part of our plan.

Even though my cancer had already metastasized in 2009, its movement seems to have been confined to my lungs and amazingly has remained there ever since. Still, if I've finally learned anything with this most recent scare, it is that I can't turn a blind eye or a deaf ear, metaphorically writing, to common sense or doctor's orders.

I'm not supposed to wait for the ambulance, if you know what I mean? I'm supposed to be smarter than that and act like my life matters: making arrangements much sooner rather than way later. Denying, pretending and hoping that new symptoms are benign because many other people experience them is, for a cancer patient, as foolish as it gets.

The last, and I mean the absolute last thing a cancer patient should think is that they are like everybody else. They are not. We are not. I am not.

You get it, Kenny?

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

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NEWS

Overhauling

FROM PAGE 3

should apply increasingly more personalized “interventions” for any student exhibiting academic or behavioral challenges. Interventions might involve extra instruction in small groups or one-on-one, or time with a counselor.

◆ Rather than principals hiring their own special education teachers, the central office administration would hire “a pool of highly qualified teachers and teacher candidates Building administrators will first choose teachers from this pool to fill vacancies within their buildings. Hiring of teachers outside of this pool will be a collaborative process between building administrators and the Office of Specialized Instruction.”

“We’ve spent a tremendous amount of time and money to get to this point, and I want to make sure that we do it right, because I think that we have a golden opportunity in front of us,” said Werner.

Find all related documents at www.acps.k12.va.us/specialeducation. Submit feedback by following the “Students with Disabilities Evaluation” link in the web site’s left pane.

Inventors

FROM PAGE 3

fornia at San Diego — Neurotendo, the winner of the competition’s People’s Choice Award, addresses the need for a controlled approach to navigation of brain arteries and treatment of cerebral aneurysms with a steerable microcatheter that translates a neurosurgeon’s command into the motion of the catheter tip.

2018 BRONZE WINNERS

Undergraduate: CropDoc, Brown University — Using advanced optics and processing techniques, CropDoc provides farmers with actionable insights regarding the location and projected progression of pests and specific crop diseases — weeks before visual symptoms manifest.

Graduate: OSPRI, Case Western Reserve University — Optimized Solar Purification with a Reusable Indicator, or OSPRI, was developed to address the need of low-cost clean water in the developing world. It is a reusable UV-radiation-measuring sensor that changes color to notify a user that the treated water is safe to drink.

A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, the Collegiate Inventors Competition recognizes the research, innovations and discoveries by college students and their advisors for projects leading to inventions that have the potential of receiving patent protection. Introduced in 1990, the competition has awarded more than \$1 million to students for their scientific achievements through competition sponsors Arrow Electronics, LYCRA, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, and Bridgestone Americas Inc.

For complete results and information on the finalist teams visit www.invent.org/challenge.

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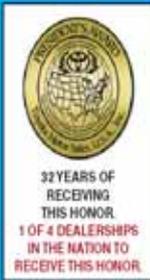
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