



## Happy New Year

The First Night Alexandria fireworks turned the low cloud cover above the waterfront a rainbow of colors as revelers ring in the New Year at the foot of King Street. Story, more photos, page 4.

PHOTOS BY  
JOHN BORDNER  
GAZETTE PACKET



# Incomplete School Request

School Board discusses scope of capital needs.

BY DAN BRENDEN  
GAZETTE PACKET

“The budget tells a story,” said School Board chair Ramee Gentry, reiterating her characteristic budget season motto. The schools’ 10-year capital budget was adopted on Thursday, Dec. 20. The division’s FY 2020-2029 capital improvement program, or CIP, adds up to \$479 million, including \$43 million in FY 2020. These figures serve as a request to the City Council, which council

will weigh against all the city’s other infrastructure needs during the public budget process this spring. To add seats for growing enrollment, the total requested amount would buy high school capacity expansion; renovations or replacements of three elementary schools; and two new schools, one of which could serve as temporary “swing space” to house students while other projects are underway, before converting to its permanent new use. It’d also buy \$96 million worth of major repairs to existing

facilities, such as HVAC repair or replacement. The schools’ total request this year includes an additional \$20 million (5 percent) for the 9-year period overlapping last year’s 10-year CIP. Of that amount, \$16 million occurs in FY 2020 alone, representing a 58 percent increase over what council previously approved for that fiscal year. The FY 2020 increase owes to an additional \$8 million (65 percent) over what the School Board requested last year for non-capacity items; plus advancing \$7 million, previ-

ously budgeted for FY 2023, to overhaul the schools’ transportation facility. The relatively large swing in FY 2020 contrasts with how a CIP ought ideally to work, as described last year by an advisory task force that weighed in on both the city and schools’ capital budgets. According to the task force’s final report, while a CIP “is neither a SEE SCHOOL BOARD, PAGE 16

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# Remembering George Cook

Former councilman and businessman dies at 85.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**G**eorge Cook, a successful businessman and Alexandria City Councilman in the 1970s, died Dec. 16, 2018, at Goodwin House at the age of 85. The cause of death was acute kidney failure.

A member of Mayor Charles Beatley's "dream council," Cook, along with two partners, built Colonial Parking into the largest parking operation in the Washington region.



**Former City Councilman George Cook died Dec. 16, 2018 at the age of 85.**

"Working for Colonial Parking was supposed to be a temporary job," said Cook's daughter Katie Cook. "But he always said he simply worked hard to take care of his family."

In 1956, Cook joined the then 5-year-old parking company founded by his Sigma Nu fraternity brothers, as an undergraduate at

George Washington University painting stripes on parking lots. He continued working summers as a facilities manager while in law school. In 1993, Cook retired as president and chief executive officer of Colonial Parking, Inc. Cook's civic career began in 1963 when he was part of a successful effort to end Alexandria's poll tax. He and several others sued the City of Alexandria to eliminate the electoral barrier to voting for residents of Alexandria.

Cook was elected to City Council in a 1969 special election. He was elected to a full term in 1970 and was appointed to fill a vacancy in 1975. During his tenure, Alexandria developed the three critically important blocks of King Street creating Market Square, Tavern Square and Banker's Square.

After managing Linwood Holton's successful gubernatorial campaign in 1970, Cook was appointed to George Mason University's inaugural Board of Visitors. On that team he oversaw the split from the University of Virginia, chose Mason's first president and marched in the university's first commencement in 1972 — held in a Fairfax High School gym.

Cook returned to Mason in 1994 as a distinguished fellow at the Institute of Public Policy teaching public policy to graduate



**George Cook, center, won a seat on City Council during a special election in 1969. His "Kids for Cook" sandwich boards were made by his wife Lou and are worn by children Katie and Will Cook.**



**George and Lou Cook, former chair of the Alexandria School board, were married for 61 years.**



**Horseback riding was a passion for George Cook.**

**Born in Annapolis, George Cook was the son and grandson of Naval Academy graduates.**

students. He also chaired the Student Affairs committee and the Faculty Academic Standards Committee.

"Like a lot of people in the day, Dad did a lot of things for his community," said Katie Cook. "As he got older, he was able to enjoy his riding more, including retracing parts of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Along with my Mom and his grandchildren, he traveled around the world and felt strongly that travel educated and enlightened you."

Albert George Cook III was born in 1933 in Annapolis, Md., to Captain Albert George Cook Jr. and Harriet Graham Scales Cook. As a "navy junior" Cook lived in several parts of the country before his father retired in San Francisco in the early 1950s. A birth injury prevented him from following his father, grandfather and uncles to the Naval Academy. While considering alternate careers, Cook studied at Menlo College and

worked as a forest ranger, a job that led to a life-long love of the wilderness and horseback riding and his financial support of The Nature Conservancy and Rails to Trails. At the urging of his parents, he moved to Washington D.C. with the idea of Foreign Service or law school. Cook stayed in the area for 63 years, built a successful business and presided on more than 10 boards that ran the gamut from the Girl Scouts of the National Council, Alexandria Hospital (where he oversaw the move to Inova), and several bank boards. He had appointments to state boards and commissions from five Virginia governors.

"My siblings and I learned early on to get involved in our community," said Katie Cook, who is a political fundraiser. "But there was another side of Dad that many might not have seen. My mother is super witty and was Dad extremely good about

being the joke. We could tease him about anything and he was always a good sport about it."

Cook is survived by his wife of 61 years, former School Board chair Lou Cook, daughters Katherine Bennett Cook (of Alexandria) and Kelly Adair Cook (of West Hartford, Conn.), sons Albert George Cook IV and William Bernard Cook (both of Alexandria), and seven grandchildren now living in Denver, Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Alexandria. Cook was a member and lay leader at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Arlington, where a funeral mass was held Dec. 21 followed by interment at Ivy Cemetery in Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Girls Scouts of America.

"Dad was very proud of his work on behalf of the Girl Scouts of the National Capital Area," said Katie Cook. "He loved strong women."

## Potholes Beware, City Has New Weapon for Patching

Longer lasting hot patches will be made in the field.

BY MIKE SALMON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**O**n Duke Street near the intersection with Pitt Street in Old Town, there is a pothole about the size of a turkey pan with a couple of old patches on the outer edges, but it's still big enough to catch a driver's attention when the front

wheel hits it.

There are several just like it up and down Duke Street as the freeze and thaw cycle is kicking in for this year's pothole season, but this year the city has an "asphalt recycling machine," which provides a better option than a cold patch.

"We can patch potholes permanently in the winter," said Mike Salmon, city engineer. "See Potholes Beware, Page 16"



**On Duke Street, it's as big as a turkey dish and deeper than a pie pan, and looks like it's been patched a few times over the last few months.**

BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE PACKET



# Happy New Year

First Night activities usher in 2019.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**D**espite drizzly skies and the threat of heavier rain that never materialized, thousands of revelers descended on Alexandria to ring in the New Year as a mid-night fireworks show ushered in 2019 with a “colored clouds” display to conclude the 24th annual First Night Alexandria celebration.

“This is when they decide to go ahead with fireworks when the weather is ‘300 and 1,’ meaning a 300-foot ceiling and one mile visibility,” said John Bordner, who is a retired Air Force pilot. “It wasn’t a traditional fireworks display but it was actually pretty interesting to see the different colored clouds.”



**Fairfax resident Alan Escudero proposed to Shannon Kim on stage at First Night Alexandria.**

More than 100 performances took place at 25 venues, with live music and dancing along what First Night executive director Marilyn Patterson dubbed the city’s “Melodious Mile” – King Street from the river to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial.

Patterson, in her first year as executive director of the First Night festivities, implemented new events such as the Kids



**Old Town resident Levin Kates belts out Wilson Pickett’s “Mustang Sally” with The Dr. Robert Band at Indus Imports as part of First Night Alexandria.**

Karnival, which took place from 6-9 p.m. at three locations across the city: the Charles Houston Recreation Center in Old Town; the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray; and the William Ramsay Recreation Center in the West End. A Variety Showcase was also added at Shiloh Baptist Church.

“I know it’s a much overused word but it was an amazing night,” said Patterson. “Some of the things we put into place this year seemed to work well. We moved more sales to online and new acts like the Earth, Wind and Fire tribute band and the Shiloh showcase were extremely well received.”

An unexpected addition to the First Night stage at the waterfront was a “pop-up proposal” as Fairfax resident Alan Escudero proposed to girlfriend Shannon Kim.

“When [Escudero] came into the Durant Center to pick up his badge, he mentioned that he was planning to pop the question to his girlfriend that night,” Patterson said. “We decided to make it part of the festivities at the waterfront.”

The First Night concept was launched in Boston in 1975. While hundreds of First Night events across the country have disappeared since that time, First Night Alex-



**Victoria Hume, left, Miss Arizona-United States, celebrates New Year’s Eve with Laura Harosky of Frederick, Md., during First Night Alexandria activities at Indus Imports.**

andria has continued to grow and thrive, becoming one of the largest and most successful events in the region while adhering to the original concept of charging one price for an array of family-friendly entertainment.

“We’re still collecting data,” added Patterson. “Whenever you make a major change there are always some hiccups. But even with the dreary skies, people really were out there having a good time and enjoyed the celebration.”

For more information, visit [www.firstnightalexandria.org](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org).

## Officers and Deputies Graduate from Academy

Twenty-four new Alexandria law enforcement officers – 13 police officers and 11 deputy sheriffs – graduated from the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy on Dec. 18. Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Chief Michael L. Brown, and members of their command and training staffs attended Session 139’s graduation ceremony at George Mason University. From left: (front) Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Deputy Nissah Santiago, Officer Nicholas Hadley, Deputy Nicholas Montgomery, Officer Gabriel Warrick, Officer Ellen Koch, Officer Emily Schlierer, Deputy Alexis Turner, Officer Michele Garcia, Deputy Angela Speight, Officer James Butler, Chief Michael L. Brown; (middle) Officer Marshall Hubbard, Deputy Ailish Bengel, Officer Meghan Helmy, Officer Kayla Hernandez, Officer Jesse Harmon, Deputy Gjavon Wooden; and (back) Deputy Elipido Munoz-Pineda, Officer Gabriel Terrell, Deputy Jacquelyn Olson, Officer Jordan Hunneyman, Deputy Josue Reyes, Officer Brenna Van Maren, Deputy Jason Bebow, Deputy Jamal Ford.





## Lieutenant Graduates From FBI Academy

Alexandria Police Lieutenant Michael Kochis graduated from session 274 of the FBI National Academy on Dec. 14. The FBI National Academy is a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement managers. Participation is by invitation only through a nomination process. Participants are drawn from every U.S. state and territory and from international partner nations.

Kochis is commander of the Vice/Narcotics Section and president of the Alexandria Police Commanders Association within the police department. Kochis joined the police department in 2004. During his tenure with the department he was assigned as a street crimes Investigator, patrol sergeant, property crimes sergeant, crimes

against persons sergeant and patrol watch commander.

Kochis has been working on initiatives to address the opioid crisis within Alexandria.

He, along with the team of investigators, was awarded the Kiwanis Officer of the Year award as a result of the serial murder investigation involving Charles Severance. Recently his work with the Opioid Workgroup helps address the opioid epidemic on the local level.

Kochis joins the following current Alexandria police commanders who have also completed the FBI National Academy: Chief Michael L. Brown, Captain Chris Wemple, Captain Shahram Fard, Captain Don Hayes, Captain Shirl Mammarella, Captain Monica Lisle, and Lieutenant Michael May.



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**First Place:** The home of Mari and Kevin Stull Jr., 205 Cameron St. A beautiful red and green contemporary design with holly, magnolia leaves, red pears and pomegranates showcases all the best of the contest's design criteria.



**Second Place:** The home of Linda Sheldon, 612 S. Fairfax St. Homemade Nantucket baskets in the shape of holiday bells adorn this wreath that includes a teal velvet ribbon, dried berries and hydrangeas, various greens and lights, highlighting the talents of a local master weaver.



**Third Place:** The home of Rebecca and Taylor Thistlethwaite, 612 Duke St. A federalist-inspired holiday theme for the entire front of the house includes fresh fruit of lemons, tangerines and pineapples keeping with the tradition of Alexandria's early years.

## Old Town Walled Garden Club Names Contest Winners

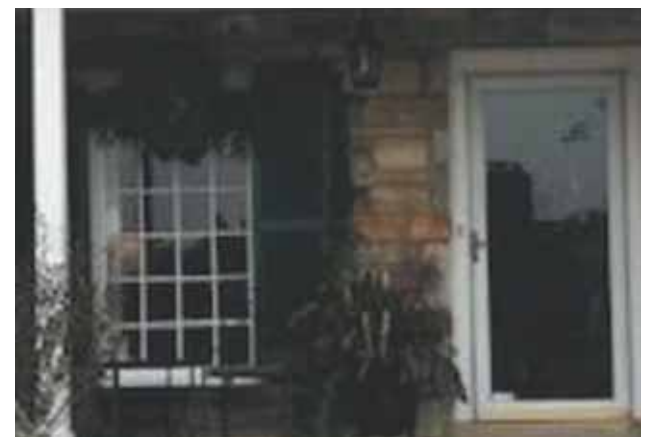
In its 51st year, the Old Town Walled Garden Club announced in December the homes honored in this year's annual holiday door decorating contest.

The contest recognizes the most striking holiday door decorations in the Historic District. Judging criteria include originality of design, scale, color, contrast, and attractiveness from the street, must be natural and created by the homeowner.

The 2018 honorees include:

- ❖ First Place: The home of Mari and Kevin Stull Jr., 205 Cameron St.;
- ❖ Second Place: The home of Linda Sheldon, 612 S. Fairfax St.;
- ❖ Third Place: The home of Rebecca and Taylor Thistlethwaite, 612 Duke St.
- ❖ Honorable Mention: The home of Joyce and Paul Stevens, 630. S Fairfax St.;
- ❖ Honorable Mention: The home of Jane Rutt, 929 South Asaph St.

**Honorable Mention:** The home of Joyce and Paul Stevens, 630. S Fairfax St. Beautiful holiday window boxes along the street-side of the home greet walkers with a plentiful use of magnolia leaves highlighted with fresh artichokes.



**Honorable Mention:** The home of Jane Rutt, 929 South Asaph St. A welcoming container arrangement is centered with a rosemary plant, and complemented with fresh birch logs, evergreen sprigs and berries.

## Guilty Plea in \$1.4 Million Ponzi Scheme

An Alexandria man pleaded guilty Dec. 4 to running a Ponzi scheme that defrauded over 20 victims of more than \$1.4 million.

According to court documents, Brian Thomas Sapp, 38, ran a company called Novus Properties, which purported to have relationships with banks and mortgage lenders who wished to sell distressed lender-owned properties. These were supposedly single-family residences in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Sapp raised capital from investors to loan him money to be used in the purchase of the homes, which he claimed he would resell 90 days later at a substantial profit. Sapp promised rates of return as high as 25 percent, and falsely

claimed to have a guaranteed buyer for all his properties, usually a real Alexandria-based construction company.

To execute the scheme, Sapp stole the identity of the president of the construction company. Sapp, using a cloud-based platform called DocuSign, executed false contracts between Novus and the construction company, using the same IP address within minutes of each other to affix both his own digital signature as seller for Novus and the digital signature of the victim construction company president as buyer. Sapp would send the purchase contracts to victims, along with falsified HUD-1 Settlement Statement summaries, as evidence that he had purchased the properties and already

contracted to re-sell them. Altogether, Sapp executed hundreds of false real estate transactions to induce victims to part with money. Sapp did not close on deals and used victim money to buy a Mercedes, take golf vacations, and to make lulling payments to investors. Sapp targeted close friends and their family who trusted him.

Sapp pleaded guilty to wire fraud and to aggravated identity theft and faces a mandatory minimum penalty of two years in prison for the identity theft charge, and a maximum of 20 years for the wire fraud charge, when sentenced on March 15. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after taking into account the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

### CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Alexandria Police Department.

#### DEC. 31

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery at Mt Vernon and Windsor Avenues. Three suspects stole a wallet from the victim. There were no serious injuries

#### DEC. 27

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery at N Lee and Quay Streets. Several suspects stole a purse and phone from a woman. There were no injuries.

#### DEC. 23

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a felonious assault at Florence Drive and Four Mile Road. The victim was cut with a sharp object, and transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.





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## Decrying Lack Of Openness

To the Editor:

In Alexandria, 2019 begins much like 2018 did — with a hearing over the city's poor handling of the Karig Estates development proposal, in which the city abandoned its duty in upholding environmental protective ordi-

**LETTERS** nances, deceived council, staff, and residents, and effectively robbed all of fair and transparent civic engagement and due process. As a result, all of this moves to litigation in the circuit court this first week of January, where it is hoped that these wrongs will be righted. Central to the city's counter arguments are that (a) council and planning commission had all relevant material before it to make informed decisions at the Nov. 9, 2017 and Jan. 20, 2018 hearings and (b) noted environmental expertise on staff and city geohydrological consultant were not precluded from attending either of these critical hearings — in a personal capacity. However, numerous Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) documents and other sources clearly show this to not at all be the case. Council, and especially outgoing mayor Allison Silberberg, were repeatedly deceived by staff, and information extremely relevant to making a proper, informed decision was manipulated again and again by city officials, making any kind of rational decision on merits impossible. FOIA documents also clearly show that staff was decidedly told by city officials not to attend the hearings, and just days before the Nov. 9, 2017 Planning Commission hearing, despite the assistant city attorney facilitating the request for staff to attend in the event technical questions arose that were best answered by the city's expert on the matter.

To make matters worse, all of this continues to the present time, as witnessed by the city's Opposition to the Petitioner's Motion for Summary Judgment, which is rife with inaccuracies and untruths. Who knows what the new year will bring for the Karig forest, stream, and wetlands, but a good place to find out is the Alexandria Coalition for Responsible Stewardship webpage at KarigEstate.com.

**C. Dara, Alexandria  
Jimm Roberts  
Cynthia Evans**

## The Issue? Parking

To the Editor:

Let's fix the problems with parking in the Upper King Street area. There are too many projects going on at one time. With the redevelopment of the King Street Metro lot, we have lost 35 parking spaces. Not only the parking in the lot, but now they have the buses loading and unloading on King Street and Diagonal Road which also takes away at least 20 more spaces. Harvard Street has lost at least five spaces due to the new hotel. The residents pay to park in front or near their homes while others, tourists, employees of the businesses and others that bring their vehicles into the city grab whatever spaces are open leaving residents to fend for themselves. The people

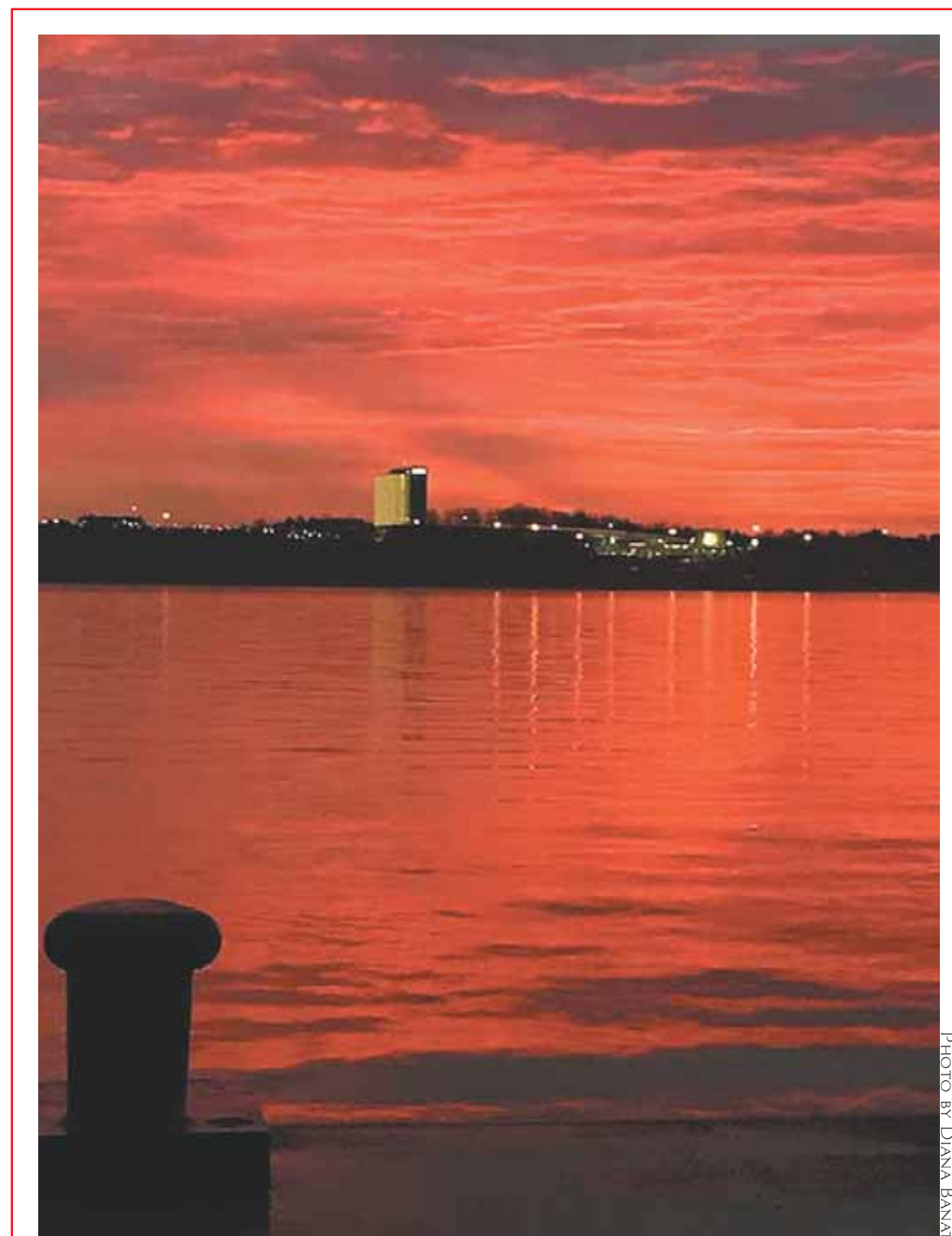


PHOTO BY DIANA BANAT

**Snapshot**  
**New Year's morning.**

that come in are from other jurisdictions and rather than park at a meter or seek a garage, they grab the free parking.

There will also be condominiums coming at the end of Harvard Street which will cause more construction and we will lose more spaces. The construction vehicles stage on Harvard, King, and Cameron streets. The residents move their vehicles at risk of losing the spaces.

The new hotel will have a 90-seat restaurant with no parking available for their customers, they are not providing parking for their employees, and only 55 parking spaces for their visitors. With 124 rooms one can believe 55 spaces will not be enough.

The city's parking enforcement is not fully staffed to handle tracking these streets with consistency. If they were, they would certainly gain revenue. Even if a resident calls to say people have been parking for more than the allotted time of 2-3 hours, when parking enforcement comes through they mark the vehicle and give them another 2-3 hours so basically they can stay in the space all day.

Luckily the First Night Celebration was not as busy as usual due to the weather, but even

with the parking lot by the swimming pool it becomes overcrowded, leaving all to circle continuously. The parking lot used to be open to everyone after school hours including summer; when the new Jefferson Houston school was built, that changed. We are no longer allowed to park there, and the events when advertised to the public do not let people know there is a parking lot there.

This is a problem that is ongoing and City Council needs to address this problem.

The thought that everyone that comes to our city will come on public transportation is not right as they come from further away and need their vehicles. With the continuous growth, we are losing more parking. The council thinks people will stop driving since there is a "free" trolley and the Metro and buses. All the trolley has done is to slow down traffic along King Street. It's time to start charging for the trolley, even a nominal fee since Metro and the buses continue to raise their rates. With the new Metro stop coming to Potomac Yard, who is expected to pay for this? It's we the people who already pay high taxes for our property and vehicles.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

## Alexandria Gazette Packet

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## PEOPLE

# Smedberg to Represent Virginia on WMATA

**F**ormer City Councilman Paul C. Smedberg has been appointed to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia as a principal director on the board of directors. Smedberg succeeds Jim Corcoran, who was appointed in



**Smedberg**

2015 and currently serves as second vice chair of the board.

WMATA is an interstate compact agency consisting of representatives of the District of Columbia, State of Maryland, and Commonwealth of Virginia. WMATA is tasked with planning, developing, financing, and operating a comprehensive mass trans-

it system for the Washington Metropolitan Area. Smedberg was appointed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) to the WMATA Board as an alternate director in January of 2016. He joined the NVTC in 2006 and, in January of this year, was appointed its chair. He also served five terms on the City Council.

Smedberg has been selected as the

Commonwealth's designee, and that selection will be submitted to the NVTC for appointment. He is expected to begin serving as a principal director on the WMATA Board effective Jan. 1.

Smedberg earned degrees in economics and history from Allegheny College and is a 2001 Fellow of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia.

# Lawrence Named Special Assistant to City Manager

**R**ichard Lawrence Jr. was appointed special assistant to the city manager in December. Lawrence's appointment is the third in a City Manager's Management Fellowship Program established by City Manager Mark Jinks in 2015 to provide development opportunities for early career, mid-level city staff. The special assistant, who is appointed for 10 months, aids the City Manager's Office in developing and implementing a variety of city priorities, initiatives and projects.

"During his eight-year tenure, Richard has worked on some of the city's most complex and high-profile projects and planning initiatives, including the Waterfront Plan; the Oakville Triangle and Route 1 Corridor



**Lawrence**

Plan; and the Potomac Yard Metro Station," said Jinks.

Lawrence joined the city's Department of Planning and Zoning in 2010 as a senior planning technician, promoted through the ranks to urban planner I, II, and III. In his previous roles, he managed a variety of projects and initiatives, implemented long- and short-range projects, provided development and technical reviews, and facilitated community engagement processes.

Prior to his work in Alexandria, Lawrence worked in nonprofit affordable housing development and public policy research. He holds a dual bachelor's degree in environmental design and social sciences and urban public policy studies from the University at Buffalo and a master's degree in com-

munity planning from the University of Maryland.

Lawrence, a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, also serves on the city's General Schedule Employee

Workgroup and the board of directors of the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH). He is president of the Alexandria Metropolitan Chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA).

## Oblon Elevates 3 to Partner

Oblon, a law firm focused exclusively on intellectual property law, has promoted Aldo Martinez, John F. Presper and Ryan W. Smith to partner in the firm's Alexandria office. Martinez serves as a patent attorney in the firm's Electrical Patent Prosecution practice group, Presper serves as a patent attorney in the firm's Litigation and ITC Litigation practice groups, and Smith serves as a patent prosecution lawyer in the

firm's Mechanical Patent Prosecution practice group.

As part of Oblon's Electrical Patent Prosecution practice group, Martinez has more than 10 years of industry experience as an electrical engineer, focused on the design of analog and digital circuits applied to the areas of communications, industrial con-

SEE OBLON, PAGE 17

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## HISTORY

# Conny Gray – A Spanish-American War Veteran

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

**O**n Tuesday, Oct. 1, 1907, it was a chilly day with light northwest winds when Mrs. Sarah D. Gray was preparing herself for work; she was a teacher at Hallowell School for colored girls in Alexandria. Unknown to Sarah, she would finally find out what happened to her military husband whom she had not heard from since he left for the Philippines on Aug. 10, 1906. Sometime during that chilly day on Oct. 1, Sarah received a telegram from the War Department that her husband, Conny Gray had died on Sept. 27, 1907 in Manila. No explanation was given for his death.

During April – August 1898, Private Conny (Connie) Gray participated in the Spanish American War with the USCT Company H, 25th Army Infantry. During the Spanish-American War, he served in Florida, Cuba and Puerto Rico. He first enlisted in the military in the early 1880s when the 25th USCT was transferred to the northern Great Plains, operating mostly in Dakota Territory, Montana and Minnesota. Part of the 25th took part in the last major Indian campaign between 1890 and 1891. Also several companies of the 25th were deployed to break the Northern Pacific Railroad strike of 1894. Conny enjoyed his military career.

He reenlisted in the military every three years until his death.

His last enlistment was in Manila, Philippines. He was a private in Company H, 25th USCT Army Infantry. He traveled from Alexandria to San Francisco where he sailed to the Philippines.

In reviewing Private Gray's official military records, one would notice several discrepancies in his death. Based on his official military records, he died April 27, 1907. His wife, Sarah was notified five-months later that her husband died on Sept. 27, 1907. Unfortunately Private Gray's family never knew what caused his death nor did they know the actual date of his death. His remains were brought back to Alexandria. His wife, his 8-year old daughter, Anna Gray, his siblings and friends gathered at Roberts Chapel Methodist Church (currently called Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church) to pay their last respects. Private Conny Gray is buried at the Alexandria National Cemetery.

Conny Gray was born to Martha and John Gray in Alexandria in 1863. He married Sarah Jane Derrick on Nov. 23, 1898. He was in the military and she was a school teacher. A year after Conny and Sarah's marriage, they had a daughter, Anna. In 1900, he and his family lived in the household of his mother-in-law at 610 Gibbon St. It was from this house that he left on his way to San Francisco to the Philippines. After the death of Conny, Sarah filed for her



Conny (Connie) Gray in his Spanish-American uniform in 1898.



Conny Gray's headstone at the Alexandria National Cemetery.

widow pension. In 1910, Sarah purchased a house at 811 Duke St. where she, her daughter and her sister, Rachel lived. In 1923, Sarah contracted pneumonia. She died on May 21, 1923 16 years after her beloved husband; her sister joined her eight years later. Sarah's daughter, Anna, married Charles Boyd Nickens in 1934. Anna and her husband lived in the house that her mother left her

until she died April 15, 1995.

Although Conny Gray only had one child, he had siblings who had children. Today, Conny has many 2nd and 3rd great-grandnephews and nieces that live in Alexandria and in the Washington, D.C. area. Unfortunately, Conny Gray's contributions in the Spanish American War has not been recognized for over 100 years. Now we know about his contributions to his

country and to his beloved city. We will never forget that one of our own gave his life for his country. Private Conny Gray earned the right to be included among other veterans in Alexandria as a veteran of the Spanish-American War.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

In conclusion with the beginning of the new year and four new council members all these issues will be dropped in their laps. We hope they can figure this one out because it is a very big problem.

**Jim Melton  
Bea Porter**

## Historic Heritage

To the Editor:

After reading the numerous articles regarding the potential modernization of Alexandria as a result of Amazon's HQ2 infusion, I was shocked, since not one single article touched on possible Amazon's over-

all effect upon Alexandria's historic heritage and irreplaceable architecture.

We have always taken great pride in ensuring that as a minimum, Old Town remains an example of historic preservation despite repeated onslaughts to its character and charm over the years. However, our newly elected mayor, Justin Wilson, has

stated that we need an additional 100,000 housing units above what has already been planned for the area. In addition, he is advocating "granny flats" and up-zoning, both of which will greatly increase our overall density, resulting in increasing our already

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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# Thinking Outside the Box

Ideas for original and attainable goals for New Year's resolutions.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

With a new year often come new resolutions, be they six-pack abs by spring or giving up carnivore's diet and going vegan, but setting drastic or unrealistic goals can lead to failure. For New Years resolutions that can bring change in overall wellbeing, whether physical, emotional or financial, local innovators say think outside the box and they offer unorthodox resolutions and minor actions that can have a major impact.

While spending a week or even a day without one's smartphone or tablet might be unrealistic given the constantly connected world in which we live, a digital dial-down might be more attainable. "How about spending five minutes each morning meditating or reading or doing stretches?" said Jen Pape, yoga iRest Level II teacher and studio manager at Circle Yoga.

"One simple and realistic thing to try in the New Year is right when you wake up, instead of ... reaching for your phone to scroll for the news of the day or checking how many likes to your Instagram, take a moment to identify something you are grateful for and a one word intention for the day," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. "A word such as peace, centered, integrity or abundance can be returned to throughout the day. The research on gratitude and intention is strong and doing it just as you start your day can set the tone for the rest of the day."

Whether beginning or completing an undergraduate or graduate degree for professional advancement or simply taking a class that piques one's interest, consider education-centered goals. "I'm sure others can relate to this one," said Jacqueline W. Lee, director of the Inventive Awards Program at the University of Maryland. "Make a timeline and then set weekly or monthly goals." Examples of those goals might be resolving to complete and submit applications or scheduling informational interviews with three people in an area of one's interest.

From rough, dry hands to unsightly acne, skincare is important to one's overall wellbeing says Jaclyn Madden of Rodan + Fields who suggests resolving to take care of one's outer layer. "For a resolution that might be manageable ... I would suggest trying to commit to exfoliating your skin two to three times a week with a facial scrub to rid it of the old, dead skin and bring up the new skin and see a healthy glow," she said. "It also allows your skincare products to work deeper and more effectively."

A scroll through the pictures on most smartphones might reveal that many people have more snapshots than they'll ever be able to use. Resolve to organize those photos by taking small actions, suggests professional photo organizer Jody Al-Saigh of Picture Perfect Organizing. "Five minutes in a doctor's waiting room or in line at the grocery store is enough time to delete a few unwanted photos and dupli-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Resolving to put an empty bag near your closet and filling it with unwanted clothing items as you come across them is a simple alternative to a complete overhaul all at once, says professional organizer Jodie Jacobs.**

cates from your phone," she said. "Try to remember to do this during your idle moments instead of scrolling social media or news sites."

"Resolve to plan a weekly or monthly time on your calendar to organize photos and backup your collection," added Al-Saigh. "Set reminder alarms to jog your memory. Always set a time after a big vacation or important event to offload photos as well."

While bringing order to chaos is a goal that many hope to achieve, getting to the bottom of the mound of paper on one's desk or cleaning out an overstuffed closet can feel insurmountable. "Resolve to put an empty bag in the bottom of every closet in your home and fill it with unwanted clothing as you come across them instead of waiting until you find time to go through your entire closet," said professional organizer Jodie Jacobs, of SOUPerior Organizing. "Set a date and actually go to a charity to drop off the bags of clothing you already decided to donate."

"Resolve to start shredding your unwanted or sensitive papers once a week instead of waiting and creating an overwhelming amount that you then have to take somewhere and pay to shred," continued Jacobs. "Recycle your junk mail every evening so that it doesn't pile up."

Finding ways to add joy to one's life is a suggestion from therapist Carol Barnaby, MSW, LCSW-C. "I tell people to think not about giving things up, but about what would bring happiness to them in the New Year," she said. "For example, dating, taking up a new hobby, cultivating more friendships or creating less stress. Then set up actionable ideas to achieve those goals. Be kind to yourself and remind yourself that you are human and expected to make mistakes."

**"I tell people to think not about giving things up, but about what would bring happiness to them in the New Year."**

— Carol Barnaby, MSW, LCSW-C

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

horrific traffic and parking woes. In my opinion, this is massive overkill.

First, the addition of 25,000 jobs to the area is planned over a number of years, and Amazon intends to hire locally when practical. It is not envisioned that this number of people will be added to the area in a single onslaught.

Second, Alexandria is both blessed and cursed to be so close to DC, since we lie in a major north-south and east-west commuter pattern which is already saturated.

Alexandria also has weaknesses in its power grid that impacts the flow of traffic on major thoroughfares such as the George Washington Parkway during power outages.

It is therefore not in the best interest of Alexandria to pursue a knee jerk, dense, reactive urban model without a regional approach to planning for HQ2 implementation. Why not a spread-the-wealth, incremental approach in conjunction with Amazon? Perhaps Amazon could incentivize living in certain areas such as National Harbor, Bethesda, Baltimore? Perhaps tax breaks in surrounding jurisdictions could be provided for employees who do not add to the auto traffic and choose to live in these areas? We cannot keep thinking in the same old ways. Time to think outside the box. The golden egg is already gone — there is no need to strangle the goose.

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

## Support Green Initiatives

To the Editor:

My letter is in response to “Support Green New Deal,” [Gazette Packet, Dec. 20-26, 2018]. Having driven 20 plus miles through what is billed as the world’s largest wind farm in China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and seeing many hundreds of wind turbines with maybe 5 turning, and then reading about Virginia paying an estimated \$300M for a 2 wind turbine open-ocean demonstration project (both located in the world’s most corrosive and challenging environs), I can appreciate the letter writer’s and the world-wide frustration with the slowness of the introduction of viable

new green energy technologies — and, in many cases, their failures.

Sadly, the author’s prescription to expand government’s control over energy to include a Green New Deal is a recipe for what the citizens of France, Germany, Denmark and others are experiencing — worries about their ability to pay end of the month bills instead of receiving Green Energy Benefits.

What is frustrating is that throughout our 2,300 mile travels along China’s Silk Road, we saw so many public / private initiatives that demonstrated with a like-minded approach in the United States, we would be so much further along in implementing many net-zero and clean energy initiatives. Our federalist system of government and regional private businesses are ideal for experimenting, implementing and expanding tailored Green Energy initiatives — immediately.

Look at Virginia, especially Northern Virginia with its volume of new construction. With about 40 percent of our energy consumed by commercial and residential properties, there is an immediate opportunity for building design to focus on the new Passive House low-energy heating and cooling construction techniques, and for renovated homes, the installation of many of the net-zero technologies. Unfortunately, many of these products and techniques are not well known or promoted.

How about rather than a sign announcing the new Virginia Tech / George Mason Campus along Route 1, the signage adopts what Cornell University touts on their new New York tech campus, a Passive House Building.

As big and as impactful would be the implementation of a public / private initiative to qualify near-zero emissions heavy duty trucks and buses equipped with the latest natural gas engines using the same experts at Virginia Tech whose qualifications found the problems with diesel engine testing; compete financing rates with banks for small operator-owned vehicle purchases; use small-business set-asides on state DOT contracts to provide a level of guaranteed work as an incentive to turn in their diesel trucks and buses; and certify these small business owners using our community colleges to train them on vehicle operations and business practices.

Community Police Academy allows residents and community members to learn about various aspects of the Police Department in an abbreviated session. This free class is limited to 45 participants per session. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and live or work in the City of Alexandria. The academy takes place Saturday, Jan. 26, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Alexandria Police Department Headquarters, 3600 Wheeler Ave. Visit the Community Police Academy at [www.alexandriava.gov/Police](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Police) or e-mail [Virginia.obranovich@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Virginia.obranovich@alexandriava.gov).

**Monthly Memory Café.** 1-3 p.m. at 7910 Andrus Road, Suite 6 Alexandria. The Memory Café, a social gathering for individuals living with memory loss and their families, will be held on the first Friday of every month. Registration is free and highly recommended to reserve a spot, which are open on a first come first served basis. To reserve a spot, please call 571-210-5551 or email [bdesai@seniorhelpers.com](mailto:bdesai@seniorhelpers.com). Visit [www.dementiacareconnections.com/memory-cafe](http://www.dementiacareconnections.com/memory-cafe) or [www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va](http://www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va) for more.

One only has to look at the number of Lyft and Uber drivers to understand the thirst for higher paying jobs.

There are a number of viable public / private approaches to immediately implement clean energy technologies. Falling back to a Green New Deal with government control comes the avalanche of rules, regulations, large bureaucracies — and lobbyists. Remember, the last time the government chose winners and losers — Solyndra.

**Ken Wilkinson**  
Alexandria

## New Year Diet Change

To the Editor:

With the glow of Christmas barely behind us, we look forward to the new year and the customary New Year’s resolutions: reduce social media, reduce weight, and, this year, reduce animal food consumption.

One third of consumers already report reducing their consumption of animal foods. Hundreds of school, college, hospital, and corporate cafeterias have embraced Meatless Monday. Even fast-food chains Chipotle, Denny’s, Panera, Subway, Taco Bell, White Castle are rolling out plant-based options.

A dozen start-ups, led by Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods, are creating healthy, eco-friendly, compassionate, convenient, delicious plant-based meat and dairy products. Meat industry giants Tyson Foods, Cargill, and Canada’s Maple Leaf Foods have invested heavily in plant-based meat development. So have a number of Microsoft, Google, Twitter, and PayPal pioneers. According to Plant-Based Foods Association, plant-based food sales have grown by 20 percent in the past year, 10 times the growth rate of all foods. Sales of plant-based cheeses, creamers, butter, yogurts, and ice creams are exploding at a 50 percent growth rate. Plant-based milks now account for 15 percent of the milk market.

The plant-based New Year’s resolution requires no sweat or deprivation — just some fun exploration of your favorite supermarket and food websites.

**Ashton Gunter**  
Alexandria

### SATURDAY/JAN. 5

**Alexandria Electoral Board Open House.** 10 a.m.-noon at the Voter Registration Office, 132 N. Royal St. The Alexandria Electoral Board will hold open houses to receive comments and answer questions on a proposed ordinance to establish a new voting precinct in the West End and a new voting precinct in Eisenhower East and reduce the size of the two largest precincts, Tucker School and Lee Center. Those unable to stop by during either open house may complete a short survey online, or submit written comments to the Office of Voter Registration and Elections, Attn: Anna Leider, General Registrar, 132 N. Royal St., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22314, or by email to [anna.leider@alexandriava.gov](mailto:anna.leider@alexandriava.gov). Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Elections](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections) for more.

### MONDAY/JAN. 7

**Foster Parent Orientation.** 6-7:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no obligation

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 18

## A New Beginning

2019: A new year as it unfolds  
We embrace its beauty  
Throughout the year  
The sky and earthly bound of all of its  
surrounding:  
Trees, birds and flowers of Spring.

Kindness and compassion  
That is the beauty of people  
Families, friends and neighbors  
And all the same and different culture  
As we seek to achieve excellence filled  
with hope  
Of goodness of a New Year.

Wishing the best for all of mankind  
And cherish those whom we love and  
expressly honor  
As in a Living Legend or just known for  
excellence

As we all in so many ways pursue our  
goals for a better future  
As we embrace 2019, awakened with  
the beauty of hope and  
Inspired to flourish to new heights.

Even as a little criticism only makes one  
better,  
For the best is yet to be seen of hard  
work  
With boundless inner dreams and goals  
To pursue and reach new heights  
Of a future filled with hope through  
faith.

Isaiah 55: 10, 11  
“For as the rain come down,  
and the snow from heaven,  
And do not return there,  
But water the earth,  
And make it bring forth  
and bud.  
That it may give seed to the  
sower,  
And bread to the eater.

So shall My word be that  
goes forth from My mouth,  
It shall not return to Me void,  
But it shall accomplish what  
I please,  
And it shall prosper in the  
thing for which I sent it.”

As we acknowledge the goodness  
Of Thy faithfulness  
That is the greatest of all  
And its beauty of Thy Most High Rhythm  
If one only listens  
As the wind speaks, mold and shapes the  
highest mountains  
And the desert layer of land  
Beauty of one single flower as the cactus  
grows.

If one seeks, inner beauty of talent will  
flourish  
One can see the beauty of nature and its  
sights,  
For Spring and all its beautiful colors  
will soon be as bright,  
Like the layers of colors of the many butterflies

And many shades of birds  
In nature’s beauty  
And all the flowers on display in a vase  
And trees of green and its branches on  
high

The wind speaks like music of quality  
and poetry  
As we grow and mature with dreams  
and goals  
Like a vessel that is not empty.

Wishing all a happy new year.

**Activist Geri Baldwin**  
Alexandria

Submit civic/community announcements at  
[ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar).

### THURSDAY/JAN. 3

**Alexandria Electoral Board Open House.** 6-8 p.m. at the Voter Registration Office, 132 N. Royal St. The Alexandria Electoral Board will hold open houses to receive comments and answer questions on a proposed ordinance to establish a new voting precinct in the West End and a new voting precinct in Eisenhower East and reduce the size of the two largest precincts, Tucker School and Lee Center. Those unable to stop by during either open house may complete a short survey online, or submit written comments to the Office of Voter Registration and Elections, Attn: Anna Leider, General Registrar, 132 N. Royal St., Suite 100, Alexandria, VA 22314, or by email to [anna.leider@alexandriava.gov](mailto:anna.leider@alexandriava.gov). Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Elections](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections) for more.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 4

**Application Deadline.** The Half-Day Winter



# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

### 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](http://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](mailto:pmuchello@aol.com) or visit [www.patriciauchello.com](http://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](http://mountvernon.org/warandpeace).



Milton Shinberg, Eyes on Lincoln, Watercolor

## Art Exhibit: re-Cog’-ni’-zing / dc

An exhibit by painter and architect Milton Shinberg who captures fragments of Washington in luminous watercolor, lingering on details that captivate the mind of an architect and beguile the hand of an artist. From the gilded dome of Georgetown’s iconic bank, to the half-moon colonnade of the Jefferson memorial, he dwells on moments and memories. Approaching familiar sights from unusual angles, the exhibit focuses on the architecture of Washington — what the artist calls the “connective tissue” of the urban environment. The exhibit runs through Jan. 6 at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., in the Torpedo Factory, Studio 21, Alexandria. An opening reception is planned for Thursday, Dec. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

### Tours of the Freedom House

**Museum.** Saturdays and Sundays, 1-5 p.m. at Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke St. The Freedom House Museum was once the headquarters and holding pen for the largest domestic slave trading firm in the United States, Franklin and Armfield. The building is currently owned by the Northern Virginia Urban League and together with the Office of Historic Alexandria. Visit the museum in this historic reminder of slavery. Admission is \$5 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Museums](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Museums).

### “Alexandrians Fight the Great

**War.”** Various times at The Lyceum, Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 South Washington St. This new exhibition traces the experiences of local people during the first World War. The homes, hospitals, factories and shipyards of wartime Alexandria come back to life through the use of rare images, archival and modern-day video clips, quotes from participants, original objects including weapons, period music, and scale models. Call 703-746-4994 or visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org).

### “Before the Spirits are Swept

**Away.”** Various times at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. This exhibition, featuring 20 of Sherry Sanabria’s African American historic site paintings, is made possible by the Sanabria family, who generously donated 23 of her paintings to the Alexandria Black History Museum. These paintings are part of Sanabria’s “Sites of Conscience” series, which has as its focus African American heritage, prisons, concentration camps, and mental hospitals. Free, but donations are appreciated. Call 703-746-4356.

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

**Alexandria Cars and Coffee** invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina’s, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday

of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

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

**Dinner for the Washingtons.** 11 a.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$7 in addition to estate admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

**Evenings at the Athenaeum.** At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists. Visit [www.nfaa.org](http://www.nfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

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

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

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

**The Harmony Heritage Singers** (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a

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

## THURSDAY/JAN. 3

### The Athenaeum’s Civil War

**Authors Series: Michael Pope.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Reporter Michael Pope of Virginia Public Radio returns to the Athenaeum to discuss pre-Civil War Alexandria. He uncovers a long-forgotten period of the 19th century when Alexandria was part of the fledgling District of Columbia. \$15 per lecture or attend all three events for \$30. NVFAA Members can attend all three events for \$15. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

## JAN. 3-31

**Exhibit: “Hard Wired.”** At Touchstone Gallery, 901 New York Ave. NW Washington, D.C. Tory Cowles of Potomac is represented by Touchstone Gallery, a resident artist in Studio 7 at Alexandria’s Torpedo Factory, and an abstract painting instructor at Glen Echo Park’s Yellow Barn. Her work evolves out of a spontaneous abstract expressionist process which depends on the rawness of the materials, the unexpectedness of the composition, and the mystery of how materials are transformed. Opening reception, Saturday, Jan. 5, 4-6 p.m. Artist talk, Saturday, Jan. 19, 4-6 p.m. Call 202-347-3787 or visit [www.touchstonegallery.com](http://www.touchstonegallery.com).

## 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](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/faces).

**Classical Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Celebrate the end of the holiday season with a classical



Constance Whiteside performing music for Twelfth Night on a re-creation of a medieval harp at Christ Church, Alexandria.

## Twelfth Night Concert

Savor the joy and peace of the holiday season with music celebrating Winter Solstice. Armonia Nova, one of DC’s early music ensembles, welcomes the audience to join them for their 17th annual ‘Twelfth Night’ concert featuring early and traditional favorites – music both serene and joyful. Enjoy the chance to see and hear re-creations of period instruments in the beautiful setting of Christ Church. Sunday, Jan. 6, 6-7:30 p.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Free, donations requested. Email [armonianova2001@gmail.com](mailto:armonianova2001@gmail.com) or visit [www.armonianova.org](http://www.armonianova.org) for more.

concert including three choirs and a professional orchestra featuring Vivaldi’s Gloria and the Christmas Oratorio by Camille Saint-Saens. Free-will offering at the door. Visit [blessedsacramentcc.org](http://blessedsacramentcc.org) or call 703-998-6100.

## 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](http://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.

**Opening Reception: “Hard Wired.”** 4-6 p.m. at Touchstone Gallery, 901 New York Ave. NW Washington, D.C. Tory Cowles of Potomac is represented by Touchstone Gallery, a resident artist in Studio 7 at Alexandria’s Torpedo Factory, and an abstract painting instructor at Glen Echo Park’s Yellow Barn. Her work evolves out of a spontaneous abstract expressionist process which depends on the rawness of the materials, the



# ENTERTAINMENT

unexpectedness of the composition, and the mystery of how materials are transformed. Wear the body sculptures and join the dancers at her reception. Call 202-347-3787 or visit [www.touchstonegallery.com](http://www.touchstonegallery.com).

**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/](http://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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter/swimming).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 6

**Artist Talk: Re:Vision.** 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Enjoy an artist talk with Elizabeth Casqueiro about her show Re:Vision which runs through Jan. 6. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Twelfth Night Concert.** 6-7:30 p.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Savor the joy and peace of the holiday season with music celebrating Winter Solstice. Armonia Nova, one of DC's early music ensembles, welcomes the audience to join them for their 17th annual 'Twelfth Night' concert featuring early and traditional favorites – music both serene and joyful. Enjoy the chance to see and hear re-creations of period instruments in the beautiful setting of Christ Church. Free, donations requested. Email [armonianova2001@gmail.com](mailto:armonianova2001@gmail.com) or visit [www.armonianova.org](http://www.armonianova.org).

## 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 [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

## BEGINS MONDAY, JAN. 7-FRIDAY, JAN. 11

**Science for Homeschoolers.** 10 a.m.-noon at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Looking for a fun, hands-on way to supplement a home school science unit? Each session meets for six classes. The fee is \$108. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/).

❖ 4-6 years old, begins Friday, Jan. 11, 10 a.m.-noon: This hands-on class will introduce early learners to STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) with Naturalist-guided support. These active nature experiments will include use of binoculars, magnifying glasses and field microscopes to deepen their investigations.



Conductor John McCrary in rehearsal.

## Classical Concert

Celebrate the end of the holiday season with a classical concert including three choirs and a professional orchestra featuring Vivaldi's Gloria and the Christmas Oratorio by Camille Saint-Saens. Friday, Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Free-will offering at the door. Visit [blessedsacramentcc.org](http://blessedsacramentcc.org) or call 703-998-6100.

- ❖ 6-9 years old, begins Monday, Jan. 7, 1:30-3:30 p.m.: Explore seasonal patterns, plants, animals, and observe nature in action.
- ❖ 9-12 years old, begins Wednesday, Jan. 9, 1-3 p.m.: Investigate earth cycles, ecosystems, and cell processes.
- ❖ 13-17 years old, begins Friday, Jan. 11, 1-3 p.m.: Older scientists can jump into hands-on field work studying natural sciences. This group will study aquatic ecosystems, soil, biodiversity, and wetlands.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 8

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

## JAN. 8-FEB. 3

**Art Exhibit: It's Not All Black and White.** 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily (Thursdays until 9 p.m.) at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 29, Alexandria. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show, It's Not All Black and White. It may be black and white (dreary) outside but Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery radiates with color. In addition to lovely neutral pieces, artists have warmed their space with colorful creations. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Free admission. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com) or call 703-548-0935.

## JAN. 9-FEB. 2

**Art Exhibit: "Destroy the Picture."** Wednesday-Saturday, noon-6 p.m. at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Beverly Ryan has been a resident artist at the Torpedo Factory Art Center since 2001 and has taught at The Art League School in Alexandria, Va., for 15 years. She has curated several shows of abstract painting, narrative painting and encaustic painting. Between 1949 and 1962, numerous painters including Alberto Burri, Salvatore Scarpitta and Yves Klein produced

artwork that incorporated destruction in their processes. The book Destroy the Picture: Painting the Void, written and edited by Paul Schimmel describes the exhibition of these works in Los Angeles at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 2012-2013. In the spring of 2018, this work inspired Beverly Ryan to lead a group of her students to explore destruction and re-creation of artworks from previously unresolved paintings. Visit [www.bethesda.org/bethesda/gallery-b](http://www.bethesda.org/bethesda/gallery-b).

## JAN. 9-MARCH 27

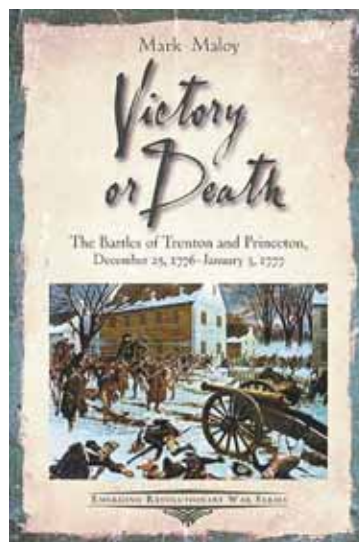
**Beginner Square Dance Lessons.** 7:30-9 p.m. at the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. Keep up with New Year's resolutions and enjoy both mental and physical exercise with Square Dance Lessons. \$30 for each four-week session. Open to couples, singles and groups. Email [boomerangs@wascaclubs.com](mailto:boomerangs@wascaclubs.com) or call 571-210-5480.

## 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](http://www.getfitstudiova.com).

**Blues Night with Meigs Hodge.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. An evening of traditional and contemporary blues guitar and vocals. Meigs Hodge explores delta and Chicago styles through the music of Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and others; as well as contemporary standards and original compositions. \$10. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**How Plants Move: a Talk by Charles Smith.** 7:30-9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Charles Smith explores the ways plants disperse across land and water and discusses reproductive strategies, niche exploitation, plant community composition and what the future may look like considering the fragmented condition of our landscape and climate change. VNPS programs are free and open to the public. No reservations are necessary for lectures. Visit [www.vnps.org/potowmack](http://www.vnps.org/potowmack).



## Author: Mark Maloy

The Rotary Club of Alexandria hosts author Mark Maloy as the guest speaker presenting and signing his new book, Victory or Death. Tuesday, Jan. 8, noon-1:30 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Visit [rotaryclubofalexandria.net](http://rotaryclubofalexandria.net).

## JAN. 10-FEB. 24

**Photography Exhibit: Fax Ayres.** Thursday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Fax Ayres' photography employs a 'lightpainting' technique to imbue his subjects with an almost surreal quality. He sets up still life vignettes in the dark and then carefully paints individual components with light, assembling multiple images together to create the final photograph. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 11

**Opening Reception: "Destroy the Picture."** 6-8 p.m. at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Beverly Ryan has been a resident artist at the Torpedo Factory Art Center since 2001 and has taught at The Art League School in Alexandria, Va., for 15 years. Between 1949 and 1962, numerous painters including Alberto Burri, Salvatore Scarpitta and Yves Klein produced artwork that incorporated destruction in their processes. The book Destroy the Picture: Painting the Void, written and edited by Paul Schimmel describes the exhibition of these works in Los Angeles at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 2012-2013. In the spring of 2018, this work inspired Beverly Ryan to lead a group of her students to explore destruction and re-creation of artworks from previously unresolved paintings. Visit [www.bethesda.org/bethesda/gallery-b](http://www.bethesda.org/bethesda/gallery-b).

**Family Splash Night.** 6-9 p.m. At Chingapin 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. Stay after for a reception in Norton Hall to mingle with the musicians and enjoy delectable German food and beer. Food provided by Port City Brewery, the German Gourmet and Pork Barrel BBQ. Tickets: \$40/adults; \$5/youth. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 13

**Visit with President James Madison.** 1-4 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Facetime with History is an ongoing series that allows guests to spend time with people from the past in an informal setting, much like meeting at the tavern to catch up with friends. Guests touring the museum are welcome to enjoy chatting with President James Madison now that he is retired. This event is sponsored by Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society and included in the regular museum admission of \$5 per adult, \$3 per child under 12. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

**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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

**Photography Exhibit: Opening Reception.** 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Fax Ayres' photography employs a 'lightpainting' technique to imbue his subjects with an almost surreal quality. He sets up still life vignettes in the dark and then carefully paints individual components with light, assembling multiple images together to create the final photograph. Exhibit runs Jan. 10-Feb. 24. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Live Music: House of Hamill.** 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Focus Alexandria presents The House of Hamill. Rose Baldino and Brian Buchanan are both accomplished traditional Irish style fiddle players and classical violinists, and despite being young, have over 25 years of writing and performance experience between them. Tickets are \$18 in advance at [www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets](http://www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets) and for FocusMusic and FSGW members, \$20 at the door.

## 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](http://www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org).

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 16

**Antiques Club Program.** 9:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Center, Room 216, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Joyce Ramsey will present a program on collectable match holders at the Alexandria-Mt. Vernon Antique Club. She will show some of her collections and telling the history of tabletop and wall match holders. Visitors are welcomed and may bring any match holders they have to show and tell. Call 703-960-4973.

## JAN. 18-27

**Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week.** For 10 days and two weekends, 65 restaurants in

[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)



# ENTERTAINMENT



Micheal Pope

## Civil War Authors Series

Reporter Michael Pope of Virginia Public Radio returns to the Athenaeum to discuss pre-Civil War Alexandria. He uncovers a long-forgotten period of the 19th century when Alexandria was part of the fledgling District of Columbia. Thursday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. \$15 per lecture or attend all three events for \$30. NVFAA Members can attend all three events for \$15. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.



## Story Time for Little Historians

Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Jan. 5 story is Grandma and the Great Gourd - A Bengali Folktale is retold by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni and illustrated by Susy Pilgram Waters. 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. Saturday, Jan. 5, 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356.



"The New Mother Look" by Rita Schooley

## Art Exhibit: 'Faces'

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, at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. An opening reception is scheduled Friday, Jan. 4, 7-9 p.m. Visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/faces](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/faces) for more.

## CALENDAR

Alexandria, Virginia, will offer a \$35 three-course dinner for one or a \$35 dinner for two. More than 35 restaurants will also offer lunch menus at \$15 or \$22 per person in addition to the dinner specials. Brunch lovers can enjoy brunch menus for \$15 or \$22 per person at 14 restaurants. Visit [www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com).

### SATURDAY/JAN. 19

**Artist Talk: "Hard Wired."** 4-6 p.m. at Touchstone Gallery, 901 New York Ave. NW Washington, D.C. Tory Cowles of Potomac is represented by Touchstone Gallery, a resident artist in Studio 7 at Alexandria's Torpedo Factory, and an abstract painting instructor at Glen Echo Park's Yellow Barn. Her work evolves out of a spontaneous abstract expressionist process which depends on the rawness of the materials, the unexpectedness of the composition, and the mystery of how materials are transformed. Call 202-347-3787 or visit [www.touchstonegallery.com](http://www.touchstonegallery.com).

### 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

### FRIDAY/JAN. 25

**Family Splash Night.** 6-9 p.m. At Chinguapin 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](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation).

### MONDAY/JAN. 28

**Bullying and Lockdowns: Perspectives on School Security.** 7:15 p.m. At The Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Part of the Agenda:Alexandria program, which falls on the fourth Monday of the month, begin at 7:15 p.m. Programs are \$5 each or free with your \$35 membership, payable online at [www.AgendaAlexandria.org/](http://www.AgendaAlexandria.org/) sign-up page or at the door by check or credit. All are invited to a pre-program dinner if desired. Dinner is 6:45-7:15 p.m., prices starting at \$32 with reservations by the Friday prior to the program. Visit [www.Agenda:Alexandria.com](http://www.Agenda:Alexandria.com).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 1

**Family Splash Night.** 6-9 p.m. At Chinguapin Park Rec Center and Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Featuring Ferdinand T. Day and Samuel W. Tucker 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](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 8

**Family Splash Night.** 6-9 p.m. At Chinguapin Park Rec Center and Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Featuring George Mason and Matthew Maury 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](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 9

**ASO Presents: Mozart's Prague Symphony.** 8-10 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East

Campus Drive. New and old traditions collide in February with an exploration of the Classical-era symphony. The program centers on Mozart's Symphony No. 38 "Prague," juxtaposed with Prokofiev's Symphony No.1 "Classical." The program will also feature soloists from the ASO for Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 and Stravinsky's Dumbarton Oaks. Adult, \$20-\$80; youth, \$5; student, \$10. Call 703-548-0885 or visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org).

### SUNDAY/FEB. 17

**2019 Alexandria Wedding Showcase.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. 2019 Alexandria Wedding Showcase will feature more than 60 vendors, a grand prize \$25,000 wedding giveaway, a fashion show, demonstrations, a multicultural wedding display, and destination experts, all at an event benefiting Brides Across America. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com/event/2019-alexandria-wedding-showcase/10189/](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/event/2019-alexandria-wedding-showcase/10189/) or [www.bridesacrossamerica.com](http://www.bridesacrossamerica.com).

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 20

**Antiques Club Program.** 9:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Center, Room 216, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Dr. Brian Belanger, curator at the National Capital Radio & TV Museum will give a program on "The Fibber McGee and Molly Show" at the Alexandria-Mt. Vernon Antique Club. All are welcomed. Call 703-960-4973.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 21

**The Athenaeum's Civil War Authors Series: Audrey Davis.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. In celebration of Black History Month, Audrey Davis, the Executive Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, will lead a conversation on the African-American experience during the Civil War. \$15 per lecture or all three events for \$30. NVFAA Members can attend all three for \$15. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

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# School Board Discusses Scope of Capital Needs

FROM PAGE 1

firm commitment to a particular project nor a limitation to a particular cost,” it “is a key element in planning and managing future debt service requirements.” Projects in years 1-3 should be the “most concrete,” given a “reasonable forecast of economic conditions (absent an unexpected and highly impactful event);” years 4-6 are “less certain;” and years 7-10 are “highly speculative.”

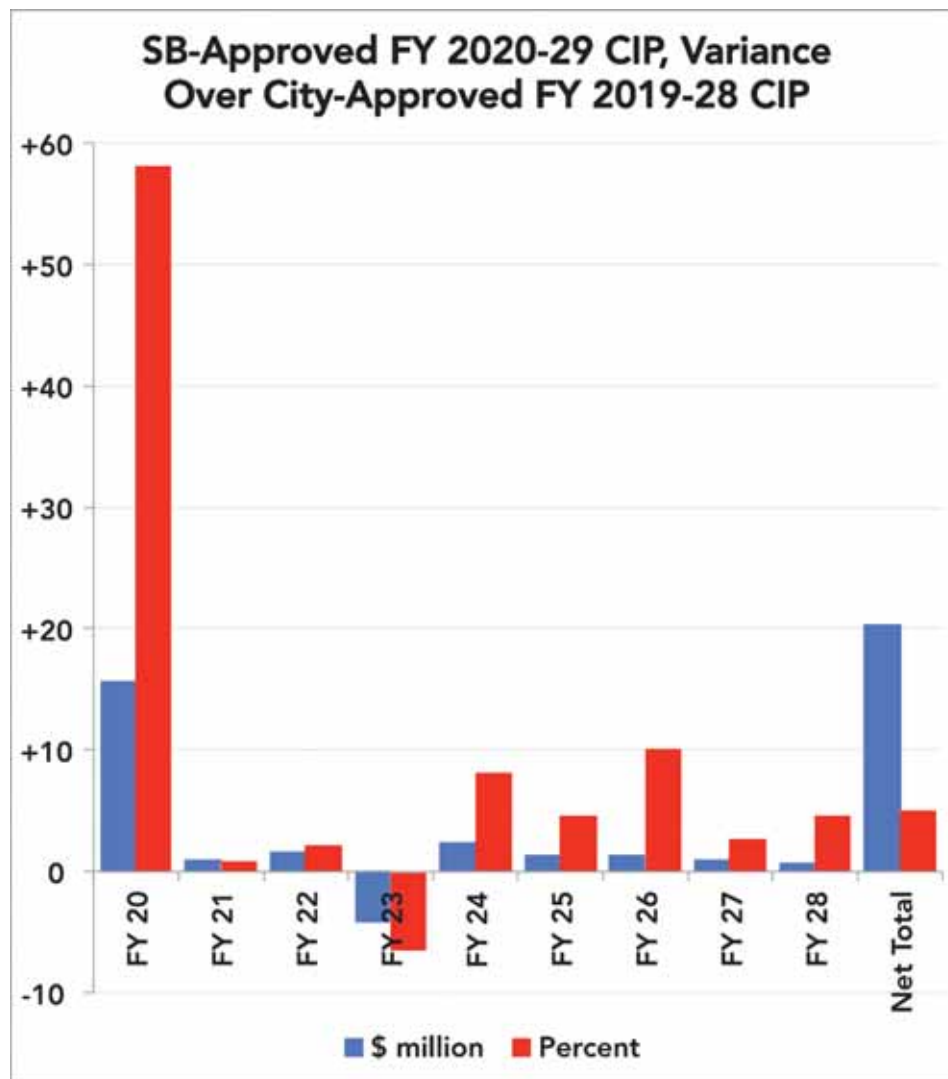
Asked to comment on the stability and and predictive capacity of the CIP, the schools administration said in a statement: “All the major projects in 2020 were in previous CIPs. The timing of them may have been adjusted according to the urgency.”

Moreover, Dr. Gregory Hutchings, the schools’ superintendent, cautioned that the present CIP derives from building condition assessments that are already several years old. He expects that a new round of assessments, currently underway and due this spring, will warrant additional future cost increases.

“I think that our future CIPs are going to be a little more aggressive, and they’re going to have to be, based on the data we receive. I just don’t want to make an assumption [in this year’s CIP] as to what the data’s going to tell me, because I could be wrong,” he said. “It did take us some time to get into the situation [of deferred maintenance] that we’re in, and it’s going to take us some time to get out of [it].”

The schools’ CIP also describes in words additional items the School Board thinks it needs, but decided to exclude as budgetary line items.

“Even with the projects included in the FY 2020-2029 CIP, a significant capacity and building condition need will remain unaddressed,” according to the budget adoption motion. In particular, “there is no solution for middle school capacity needs included in this CIP” While the School Board intends



**Comparing the 9 years that overlap between this year and last year’s ACPS 10-year capital budgets indicates a relatively modest increase overall, but a substantial increase in FY 2020.**

“to pursue interim measures,” it calls on council “to identify the resources to address the need beyond the CIP”

Similarly, the School Board tweaked its budget document to say: “The School Board

supports a budget strategy that will allow [the division] to address urgent repair and renovation needs that may arise and are not reflected in the current CIP budget and will therefore need to be addressed outside of

the budget calendar cycle. The School Board requests that City Council ... create a mechanism for such requests, such as a reserve fund designated for urgent repair and renovation projects.”

Though ultimately voting 8-1 in favor, several School Board members chafed, in varying degrees, at such statements’ vagueness.

Outgoing School Board member Chris Lewis said: “If we’re going to ask for what we need, we need to put it in there in dollars. ... The best way we inject the full needs of the school division into that community conversation [about competing demands on public resources], before we apply the fiscal constraints, is in this first round of budgeting, before we go into a work session with City Council, and then adjust on the back end. To me that’s a better philosophy and approach to doing a budget.”

“It manifested itself last year as a problem. City Council and the city manager were very clear when they passed the budget that they ‘fully funded ACPS,’ and we know that wasn’t true because we didn’t ask for everything we needed,” he said at an earlier work session.

Outgoing School Board member Bill Campbell agreed, saying that the city “out-politicked” the schools. Campbell’s was this year’s sole dissenting vote. “We’ve been overcome by a number of issues that have to be taken care of, and it’s probably almost more than we can afford. But somehow we have to let the city know that this must be done,” said School Board member Margaret Lorber, who begins a new term this month. She hopes the public will galvanize in order “to raise taxes for education. I’ve met a lot of people who would pay more taxes if it were for education. The school system needs more funding, and that’s what this is all boiling down to.” Find more at [www.acps.k12.va.us/budget](http://www.acps.k12.va.us/budget).

# Potholes Beware, City Has New Weapon for Patching

FROM PAGE 3

ter,” said Jeff Duval, the city’s director of Transportation and Environmental Services. “Now we’re going out there one time to repair the pothole,” he added.

During the colder weather, cold patches aren’t as good as a fully mixed hot patch which are only mixed at the hot plant which is open in the spring. Normally the city has to wait for better weather to give the potholes a good hot asphalt patch, but with this new patch maker, hot patches can be made on-site and will last longer.

The asphalt recycling machine cost the city \$86,425 which includes a three-year maintenance plan, said city spokesperson Sarah Godfrey. The city calculates the cost per pothole goes from roughly \$210 per patch, to \$60 per patch

with the new machine since it is a more permanent fix “resulting in significant annual savings,” Godfrey said.

Potholes are primarily caused by freezing and thawing cycles where water expands and contracts in small cracks in the asphalt. “They are an unfortunate part of the annual changing of seasons in every city, and in Alexandria we repair about 5,000 potholes each year during our annual spring blitz,” said Craig Fifer, director, Office of Communications and Public Information. Fifer recommends using the city’s online pothole reporting system as well. According to the city’s “potholes by numbers” graphic, February is the big month for repairing the potholes. In 2015 for example, 5,949 potholes were repaired, but out of that figure,

only 963 service requests were turned in through the city’s online reporting system. In 2016, 2,067 potholes were repaired during the month of February. These were cold patches though, and the new hot-patch machine should increase the numbers.

The city has 560 lane miles of roads to repair and pave. Since the City of Alexandria is primarily responsible for the city roads, there is some money in the budget for this, but the city also looks to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) State Revenue Sharing Program as well to leverage grant



**The city Transportation and Environmental Services’ asphalt recycler.**



**Asphalt seams are a good place for the freeze and thaw process to start, like this one at Duke and Pitt streets.**

opportunities as they become available, according to the City of Alexandria. In July 2018, VDOT announced that the city will be awarded an additional \$1,000,000 through the FY 2019 VDOT Primary Extensions Grant to pave sections of Duke Street and will

allow for additional paving and related sidewalk improvements to be completed this fiscal year.

See city’s potholes report at [www.alexandriava.gov/Potholes](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Potholes).





SSSAS  
Thunderstone

## SSSAS Robotics Teams Excel

**T**he Upper School St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School robotics teams competed in the Northern Virginia Qualifier for FIRST Tech Challenge on Nov. 17. SSSAS teams Thunderstone (6010) and Iron Giants (10442) competed with nearly 50 other teams from the area in Orange, Va.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a not-for-profit, volunteer-driven organization founded in 1989.

During the competition, teams were judged based upon robot design, robot performance, an interview, strategy of play, functionality, efficiency and creativity of the robot design, and thoroughness of the engineering notebook. Team Thunderstone was part of the winning alliance and received the second place Think Award (given to the team that best reflects the journey the team took as they experienced the engineering design process during the build season) and the second place Innovate Award (given to the team that has the most innovative and creative robot design solution to the field elements). In addition, team Iron Giants won the first place Think Award.



SSSAS Iron  
Giants

## Oblon Elevates 3 to Partner

FROM PAGE 9

trols, biomedical instrumentation and consumer electronics. Martinez earned his B.S., M.S. and J.D. from Florida International University.

In the Litigation and ITC Litigation practice groups, Presper represents and advises clients involved in patent and other intellectual property disputes in federal court, the International Trade Commission and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, as well as provides patentability, infringement and validity opinions. His litigation experience covers technologies in the chemical, electrical and mechanical arts, as well as trademark, copyright and software license disputes in federal district court. Presper is also a named inventor on three U.S. patents directed to wireless diagnostic monitoring. Presper earned his B.S. in chemical engineering from

Bucknell University and his J.D. from University of Connecticut with a certificate in intellectual property.

In the Mechanical Patent and Prosecution practice group, Smith advises clients and facilitates the acquisition of U.S. patents, and utilizes the Patent Prosecution Highway program between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Japan Patent Office. Due to his automotive industry experience, Smith is knowledgeable about many aspects of automotive technology, including combustion, power transmission, suspensions, hybrid electric technology and fuel cells. Smith obtained a B.S. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in mechanical engineering, followed by an M.S. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute focusing on engineering science and certification in management of technology. He earned his J.D. with a certificate in patent law from DePaul University.

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### Legals



#### TAKE NOTICE

On January 12, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., the Alexandria City Council will hold a public hearing in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 301 King Street, to consider an ordinance to establish new voting precincts at the Olympus Condominium (6301 Stevenson Avenue) and the Alexandria Renew Environmental Center (1800 Limerick Street). A map with the proposed changes and a copy of the full text of the ordinance is online at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections> and on file with the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, Room 2300, City Hall, 301 King Street. This notice is advertised pursuant to Va. Code Sec. 24-2.306.

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC  
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

### Obituary

### Obituary



#### Richard E. Meeks (97)

Of Alexandria, VA peacefully passed away December 20, 2018. He is predeceased by his beloved wife of 75 years Marion and his daughter Carol. Richard was a World War II veteran and a Photo Engraver with the U.S. Treasury for 30 years. He was a Lifetime Member of the Graphic Communications International Union, American Legion, and The Saint Andrew's Society of Washington D.C. A viewing will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2019 from 10am - 12pm at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, Alexandria, VA. Interment will immediately follow at Ivy Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

Online condolences may be made at [www.everlywheatley.com](http://www.everlywheatley.com)

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## You're In My Thoughts



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though this column will have been written before Christmas, its content will be about Christmas (as you'll soon read), and because of early deadlines as well for our Jan. 2 edition, it needs to be submitted sooner rather than later anyway.

As you regular readers may remember the timing conflict – and concern – I had involving my pre-Thanksgiving infusion in addition to the impact of this last quarter's every-three-week-infusion schedule would have on the holiday season, fortunately, Christmas was not to be affected.

As scheduled, my last chemotherapy infused on Dec. 7 so by the time Dec. 24/25 arrives, there will be no side or straight-on effects. No problem sleeping. No problem getting up. No problem eating. And no problem driving the two-plus hours up and back to our holiday destination.

However, this column wouldn't be written if there weren't a situation of some substance I felt worthy of 600 words or so.

Because my last infusion occurred when it did, the next infusion is scheduled for Dec. 28. That Friday date means I'll have to contribute blood (lab work) and a collection of the previous 24 hours of urine on Wednesday, Dec. 26 (I'll be back home so that's not the problem). The problem is that I will have had to collect and keep cold urine beginning first thing-ish on Tuesday, Christmas day, a day when for the next 8+ hours I will be in someone else's house eating, drinking and making merry – and more importantly, be away from the privacy of my own bathroom and the at-home convenience of collecting urine in a bottle and keeping it cold.

Not that I intend on making a big production of it on Christmas Day, but I will be bringing a cooler with me and likely needing to place it in a very public bathroom in the house or another less obvious place that I'll be visiting half a dozen times throughout the day.

Moreover, to make sure I can provide a sufficient volume, I'll need to bring along a gallon of Turkey Hill Diet Green Tea because it goes through me – unlike water and enables me to fill the specimen bottle to the top.

Which if my last few creatinine levels are any indication, and I want those levels to measure within an acceptable-for-infusion range, I need to drink as much of the tea as possible and visit that hopefully inconspicuous place as much as possible as well.

However, as I think about the transportation/storage of the urine and tea situation, I'm thinking I'm going to need two coolers; one for the urine bottle and one for my tea. Because I certainly don't want the two bottles in the same cooler or God forbid, touching one another. I may not be a germaphobe, but I really don't think I'll be able to drink my tea if it's stored in the same cooler.

And I certainly don't want to impose on my host's hospitality by asking her to store either of these bottles in her refrigerator likely already packed-to-the-gills with dinner prep.

As much as I can, somehow, I want to keep a low profile and not be interjected into any of the proceedings/conversation. (Not that I'd be embarrassed since everyone in the house is family and familiar with my diagnosis/general circumstances.)

When the dinner/visit is over, we'll be driving home, coolers in trunk. If I need a rest stop, I'll have to pull over to use my bottle since I'm contributing until Wednesday morning, Dec. 26, after I'll have spent the night back at home. So Christmas won't be a total loss, as Thanksgiving nearly was, but it will be impacted nonetheless.

Still, if my creatinine level is low enough to once again enable me to be infused on Friday, Dec. 28, the awkwardness of the occasion/task will have been worth the trouble. (Besides, it was fodder for a column.)

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

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## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 12

information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions and explain the requirements to foster and/or foster to adopt. For questions or to RSVP, call 703-746-5858 or email Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 10

**Speaker Series: Telling Your Story - Leaving a Legacy.** 10 a.m.-noon at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Senior Services of Alexandria is kicking off its 2019 Speaker Series with a fun, interactive program about exploring the idea of preserving your own story. Historians and families used to have letters and diaries to construct their family history. In a world gone digital, how will they pass on experiences and life lessons? Come hear Anne Bolen, a professional story catcher, explain why a story matters and how to make sure it isn't lost. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up at seniorservicesalex.org/event/speaker-series-leaving-a-legacy/ or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

**RunningBrooke's Move2Learn Summit.** 4-7 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Join RunningBrooke for an afternoon of fun and informative learning on the direct benefits and proven science of regular physical activity before, during, and after school, and leave with ideas and tools to implement immediately. \$45. Email info@runningbrooke.org or visit www.move2learn.org for more.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 11

**Nomination Deadline.** The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts is in search of a Poet Laureate to promote an appreciation of poetry as an art form, promote creative writing and reading of literature, and promote literacy through poetry. The individual will serve as Poet Laureate for three years and receive a modest annual honorarium. Individuals can nominate themselves or be nominated by someone else. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Arts for more.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 13

**Application Deadline Extended.** The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts is extending the application deadline for Microgrants and Creative Partnership Grants. These two Community Engagement Grants will provide opportunities to support the goals and recommendations of the City's approved Arts and Culture Master Plan. Microgrants will be awarded up to \$1,000, no cash match required. Creative Partnership Grants will be awarded for \$2,500, applicants will be required to provide \$5,000 cash match. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Arts and click "Alexandria Commission for the Arts."

### THURSDAY/JAN. 31

**Writing Contest Entry Deadline.** For those in grades 6 through 12 and who love to write. Alexandria Library is hosting a "free write" or open-ended contest, which means there are no writing guidelines. Entries must be in middle school or high school (grades 6-12) to be eligible to win. Writing can be about any topic and written in any format. Email iwrest@alexlibraryva.org with contest questions.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 1

**Submission Deadline.** The "DASHing Words in Motion" program provides a venue for writers to display their poems. The competition is to encourage quality writing by writers 16 years or older, who live, work or study in the City of Alexandria. The participation in the "DASHing Words in Motion" is voluntary. Selected poets are not reimbursed for submittals or participation in the program. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Arts.

**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. This free class is limited to 45 participants per session. Participants must be at least 18 years of age and live or work in the City of Alexandria. The academy takes place Saturday, Feb. 23, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Alexandria Police Department Headquarters, 3600 Wheeler Ave. Visit the Community Police Academy at www.alexandriava.gov/Police or e-mail Virginia.obranovich@alexandriava.gov.



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McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. This year marks our 38<sup>th</sup> year in Alexandria, and we are celebrating our investment in helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit [www.WeAreAlexandria.com](http://www.WeAreAlexandria.com)

## #WeAreAlexandria



### Alexandria Waterfront | \$5,450,000

Attention to detail and fine custom features are seamlessly integrated in this warm and welcoming home. Revel in the 147 feet of waterfront luxury, including a 300-foot dock perfect for a large boat. Enjoy grand scale entertaining and comfortable weekend retreats. Featuring six plus bedrooms, seven full and two half baths, a private in-law suite and a four-car garage, this spectacular property will press all of your buttons for creature comforts. A heated pool and the various indoor/outdoor spaces all capture the essence of quality waterfront living.

Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984  
[www.JanetPriceHomes.com](http://www.JanetPriceHomes.com)



### Belle Haven | \$1,175,000

Open bright floor plan, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces. Kitchen/breakfast/family room combo walks out to screened porch and stone-terraced rear garden. 4 upstairs bedrooms w/ laundry. Gorgeous master suite has a luxury bath! 1 mile to Metro & 1 mile to Old Town. 6025 Grove Dr Gordon Wood 703.447.6138  
Chris Hayes 703.944.7737



### Potomac Greens | \$1,049,900

Fabulous former model with over \$230K in upgrades & almost 4,000 SF of living space. 4 fireplaces, huge 2-car garage. Custom cherry library, 10-ft ceilings and stone fireplace. Top level party room/optional 4th bedroom has wet bar and roof deck. 719 Bracey Lane Joan Shannon 703.507.8655  
[www.JoanHome.com](http://www.JoanHome.com)



### Alexandria | \$745,000

Beautifully renovated end-unit townhouse with 3 upper level bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Ample storage, main-level spacious formal living room & separate dining room, eat-in gourmet kitchen with new appliances. Garage, fully-fenced back yard. Fantastic location! 24B W Chapman St Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079  
[www.LaurenBishopHomes.com](http://www.LaurenBishopHomes.com)



OPEN SUN 1/6, 2-4

### Porto Vecchio/Alexandria | \$695,000

Spacious and elegant 2-bedroom plus library features open, expansive floor plan with freshly-painted, neutral décor. Kitchen remodeled in 2017, hardwoods, built-ins. Double exposure includes views of both river, formal gardens and views of trees. 1250 S Washington St #202 Susan Taylor 703.927.3000  
[www.CallSusanTaylor.com](http://www.CallSusanTaylor.com)



### Alexandria | \$599,000

Expanded Goodman contemporary with 4 or 5 bedrooms, 1.5 baths on lovely corner lot. Breezeway entrance and separate bedroom wing. Flexible living spaces, original parquet wood floors, wood-burning fireplace, great curb appeal. Well maintained, sold "as-is." 7214 Rebecca Dr Jodie Burns 571.228.5790  
[www.JodieBurns.com](http://www.JodieBurns.com)



### Woodbridge | \$525,000

Stunning center hall colonial! Curved staircase in foyer. Study is currently a playroom; living and dining room with bay window. Gourmet kitchen, breakfast area. Large family room, gas fireplace. Large master suite. Fenced back yard, lovely patio, sprinkler system. 12805 Chandon Cross Rd Phyllis Sintay 703.472.3563  
[www.PSintay.com](http://www.PSintay.com)



### Alexandria | \$269,000

Newly renovated and fantastic, first-floor, 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo. Contemporary wood tones compliment the open concept layout. Separate laundry with full-size washer and dryer. No stairs and walking distance to restaurants and shopping. Community pool. Sandy McMaster 571.259.2673  
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