

GenOn Site Sold

North Old Town site slated for mixed use development.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Potomac River Generating Station, a shuttered coal fired power plant in North Old Town, has been sold to Hilco Redevelopment Partners and is slated for redevelopment in a move that city officials hope will provide housing, jobs and improved public space along the Potomac River.

"The redevelopment of this site is a long time coming," said Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson. "I expect that Hilco Re-

development Partners will pursue an environmentally sustainable, economically vibrant mixed-used development that provides housing and neighborhood amenities in Old Town North."

Terms of the sale of the 71-year-old facility between the Chicago-based Hilco and the Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) were not disclosed.

Located at 1300 N. Royal St., the facility sits on approximately 20 acres and is one of the largest industrial sites in the city. It was decommissioned in 2012 and is included in the Old Town North Small Area Plan that was approved by City Council in 2017 and designates the area as an arts district.

Earlier this year, the city approved a request from Pepco to subdivide the 25-acre parcel, paving the way for a sale that allows Pepco to retain a portion of the site to continue to own and operate an electrical substation. In the agreement, Hilco acquired the majority of the site including the fee sim-

ple interest and leasehold interest which was previously under a long-term ground lease.

"We're excited for the opportunity to redevelop the old Potomac River Generating Station site," said Roberto Perez, Chief Executive Officer of Hilco Redevelopment Partners, in announcing the sale. "Hilco Redevelopment Partners is committed to remediating this extraordinary site to the most current environmental standards and transforming it into a new and exciting development that will best serve the community and create economic growth and opportunity for all stakeholders."

Known locally as Mirant or GenOn, the coal fired plant began operations in 1949 to provide power to Washington, D.C. In recent years, residents of the area united to protest the contamination of the air emitted by the plant and successfully forced the facility to cease operations.

"We approach every redevelopment opportunity in a way that is



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The shuttered coal fired power plant at the Potomac River Generating Station on North Royal Street has been sold and is slated for redevelopment.

sustainable for the environment, sustainable for the community, and sustainable for jobs," Perez added. "Alexandria will be no exception."

Hilco said it expects to work closely with the City of Alexandria, community members and other stakeholders in the coming months to reimagine the site into a mixed-use development that benefits the community.

"Every opportunity to transform sites like these into new spaces

that better serve the community is exciting for our firm," said Hilco Global Founder and CEO Jeffrey Heckman. "Given its location in historic Old Town Alexandria and within sight of the Washington Monument and our nation's Capital, this one is special. We're excited to begin the redevelopment process and work as a partner and good neighbor to the citizens of Alexandria."

Drawing the Line Newly created redistricting commission zooms toward new maps.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The history of partisan gerrymandering in Virginia dates back to the 1780s, when Gov. Patrick Henry tried to draw the congressional districts in a way specifically designed to deny his archenemy James Madison a seat in the House of Representatives. The plan failed, and Madison was elected anyway. Ever since then, the history of partisan gerrymandering has been a story of elected officials lusting after power for themselves and seeking revenge on others. The last redistricting in 2011 was so bad that courts threw out two of the three maps.

"There's a House district in the Richmond area that became known as the toilet bowl district because of the way it's strung around, and there's a congressional district that goes from North Carolina to Loudoun County," said Sen. George Barker (D-39), who led redistricting effort for Senate

Democrats in 2011. "I think with the new map, you'll be able to see that the districts are better and more compact."

Now that voters have approved a constitutional amendment creating a new redistricting commission, the pieces have already started falling into place for how the commission will work and who will serve on it. Leaders in the General Assembly have already named the judges for the selection committee that will name the citizen members, including retired Arlington Circuit Court Judge Joanne Alper. And party leaders in the General Assembly have selected the "Super Eight" lawmakers who will serve on the panel. All that's left now is for members of the general public to submit their application to the Virginia Division of Legislative Services.

"The more people that apply, the more diverse set of people we'll have to consider," said Barker, who is one of the eight lawmakers who will serve on the commission. "You don't have anything to lose by ap-



Sen. George Barker (D-39)

plying. Please apply if you're at all interested."

TO BE SELECTED, citizen applicants must first grab the attention of one of the four party leaders in the General Assembly. That could mean a letter of recommendation from an elected official who is close to the Speaker of the House. Or it could mean a call to the Senate Republican Leader. But that's only the first part of the process. The 64 resumes that are selected by the party leaders in the General Assembly will go to a five-judge

panel, who will get to make the final selection of the eight citizen members.

"They're basically seating a jury," said Brian Cannon, executive director of Fair Maps VA. "The judges are probably looking for people who are going to make really good commissioners because the partisan sorting has already happened at the first phase."

Applicants don't need to be demographers or lawyers to become part of the commission, although that wouldn't hurt. Elected officials or anyone who has ever tried to be an elected official in a partisan election will be excluded from being a citizen member now that lawmakers have approved implementing legislation. The deadline for applications is Dec. 28, and the commission will start meeting in February to prepare for the Census data to be available in April.

"If you are a former School Board member or a former city administrator, you're more likely to receive a favorable look from the

Five-Judge Panel

- ❖ Retired Petersburg Circuit Court Judge Pamela Baskerville, chairwoman
- ❖ Retired Arlington Circuit Court Judge Joanne Alper, chosen by House Democrats
- ❖ Retired Bristol Circuit Court Judge Larry Kirksey, chosen by House Republicans
- ❖ Retired Newport News Judge David Pugh, chosen by Senate Democrats
- ❖ Retired Hampton Circuit Court Judge Williams Andrews, chosen by Senate Republicans

Super Eight Lawmakers

- ❖ Sen. George Barker (D-39)
- ❖ Sen. Mamie Locke (D-2)
- ❖ Sen. Steve Newman (R-23)
- ❖ Sen. Ryan McDougale (R-4)
- ❖ Del. Marcus Simon (D-53)
- ❖ Del. Delores McQuinn (D-70)
- ❖ Del. Margaret Ransone (R-99)
- ❖ Del. Les Adams (R-16)

judges," said Cannon. "You don't have to be an expert to be on the commission, but if you have some

SEE DRAWING THE, PAGE 3

BABS BECKWITH

Specializing in Old Town Properties for 25+ Years



These Old Town Homes Have It All!



611 Queen Street ~ \$1,985,000



11 Wilkes Street ~ \$1,525,000



404 Oronoco Street ~ \$1,146,500

Call Babs to preview any of these wonderful homes and put her expertise to work for you!



Babs Beckwith
 703.627.5421 | Babs@BabsBeckwith.com
 www.BabsBeckwith.com
 109 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.549.9292 | Equal Housing Opportunity



NEWS

Drawing the Line

FROM PAGE 1

sort of expertise like you're a demographer or a mathematician you're likely to receive a favorable look from the judges."

THE EFFORT TO DITCH the old way of redistricting was decades in the making, stretching back to the civil rights movement. Back in 1965, a federal court ruled that Virginia's congressional districts were unconstitutional because they violated the principle of "one man, one vote." The map for the House of Delegates districts in the election of 1981 was so bad a judge ordered a new election in 1982, promptly followed by yet another election in 1983. One of the more notorious examples of partisan gerrymandering in Virginia happened after the 2010 Census, when Republicans drew maps that a federal court later determined packed Black voters into a handful of districts to dilute their influence throughout the state.

"Be careful in how you describe what you're seeking," wrote former Alexandria Republican Chairman Chis Marston in a 2010 email that later became evidence in a United States Supreme Court case. "We need to keep out any hint of unfairness (except the fundamental unfairness of the Voting Rights Act) or partisanship." As the 2020 Census approached last year, lawmakers saw a rare opportunity for compromise. Republicans were justifiably worried they were about to

lose control, and they were willing to set up a process to take some of the partisanship out of the process. Democrats were eager to finally score some kind of reform of a process they had long criticized while they were out of power. When the two sides became deadlocked, the process moved to a closed-door conference committee of three senators and four House members.

"At the time, it seemed like the best opportunity we had at getting rid of gerrymandering," said Del. Paul Krizek (D-44), who was

"There's a House district in the Richmond area that became known as the toilet bowl district because of the way it's strung around, and there's a congressional district that goes from North Carolina to Loudoun County."

— Sen. George Barker (D-39)

a member of the conference committee.

THE COMMISSION that voters approved last month was nobody's ideal model for what a redistricting commission should look like. Instead of an independent commission of retired judges, the panel is instead a bipartisan commission of elected officials and citizen members who have been selected by

elected officials and retired judges. Supporters say the two-step process of having party leaders identify a pool of potential candidates that are then selected by retired judges offers a series of checks and balances that will work out in the end.

"Having the judges and going through the process will put a certain degree of separation," said David Ramadan, a former Republican member of the House of Delegates who now at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University.

"It's less likely to have influence on them by individuals or by certain citizen groups that may want to push for one side or another."

The deadline for the five-judge panel to select citizen members is Jan. 15. The commission is expected to start meeting and select a chairman sometime in February. If all goes well, the Census data will be available in March or April. But because of delays caused by the pandemic, the Census numbers might not be available in time to accommodate an August primary for the House of Delegates. That could mean a series of elections in the future that will keep political consultants fully employed for years to come.

"There's some speculation that the current House members may run in their current districts in 2021 and then have to run in the new redistricted districts in 2022," said Del. Mark Cole (R-88).

Lyles-Crouch Student Andras Is Out of This World

For all those who hold a fascination with outer space, the chance to ask a question to an astronaut on the International Space Station is beyond their wildest dreams.

Not for Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy second grader Andras Jacobson, who is one of just a handful of children from across the United States about to get the chance to quiz their heroes.

On Dec. 3, during a NASA live streaming event, a question he submitted as part of a nationwide competition is expected to be answered by astronaut Victor Glover broadcasting from the International Space Station, 240 miles above earth.

According to his mother, Judit Csonka, her son's question relates to the muscular system in space. Last week, the astronauts were conducting a human research study observing their muscular system in space.

Andras said he is thinking about becoming an astronaut but "is not sure yet."

"I am very interested in space and specifically if there is life anywhere else in space."

When he got the news his question had been selected he said he felt, "excited and very happy. I could not believe that I was

chosen from thousands of people."

"Here on Earth I know how our muscles act, but in space it may act differently. I am also interested in the human body."

You can tune in to NASA's programming at 12:30 p.m. beginning with a pre-show so students can learn more about Glover and his collaboration with the Smithsonian before the livestream from space.

The entire show will be broadcast on the STEM in 30 and Air and Space Facebook page and the livestream from space can also be viewed on the NASA website.

Proud Lyles-Crouch Principal Dr. Patricia Zissios said, "As educators, we use platitudes with children to 'reach for the stars' and 'the sky's the limit,' never knowing what impact those phrases may actually have on our students. Well, at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy, second grader, Andras, took his natural inquisitiveness about the impact of weightlessness on the muscle strength of a human body to the real experts: NASA astronauts in space.

"Andras exemplifies critical thinking and scientific inquiry through the use of primary sources at it's best. I am so proud of our own LCTA Lion."



Andras Jacobson

BULLETIN BOARD

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

RESIDENTIAL LEAF

COLLECTION WEEKLY UPDATE

On Monday, November 2 the City of Alexandria began its annual leaf vacuuming and leaf bag collection program. Alexandria is divided into five collection zones, each with a specific start date and three separate passes. Residents can access the Residential Leaf Collection Viewer (an interactive map) to look up assigned leaf collection dates based on the home address. This week leaf collection was completed in Zone 1 Pass 1, residents in this zone should bag leaves for collection at their normal refuse collection location prior to the next scheduled pass.

Currently, they are completing leaf collection in Zone 2 Pass 2 and Zone 5D Pass 1. Tentatively, on November 30 leaf collection will start in Zone 3 Pass 2 and Zone 5A Pass 2. Tentatively, on Friday, December 4 leaf collection will start in Zone 4 Pass 2 and Zone 5B Pass 2.

Free leaf bags for residents who receive City trash services are available Monday – Friday at City Hall, recreation centers, and the City's self-serve shed on Business Center Drive on a first-come, first-served basis. Bags are replenished in centers on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Visit the City's website or call the leaf collection hotline at 703.746.LEAF (5323), which is updated by noon every Friday. To report a collection issue online use Alex311.

NOW THRU DEC. 15

Annual Membership Drive. The Port City Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL), a premier mother-daughter volunteer organization, invites women with daughters currently in 7th-12th grade, to join its chapter of 200-plus active mothers and daughters who reside in or attend school in Arlington, Alexandria, Springfield, Crystal City, or Washington, D.C. Visit the website: www.nationalcharityleague.org/chapter/portcity/

TUESDAY/DEC. 8

The Chamber ALX's 2020 State of Business: Annual Meeting, presented by Truist will be held Tuesday, December 8, from 9 - 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Chamber Chairman, Dave Millard, will provide an end-of-year recap, which will highlight Chamber happenings over the past 12 months. In addition, they will feature a presentation on the state of the economy from Jeannette Chapman, Director of the Stephen S. Fuller Institute in the Schar School of Public Policy and Government at George Mason University. Register here: <https://alexandriavacoc.wlinc33.com/events/The-Chamber-ALXs-2020-State-of-Business-Annual-Meeting-presented-by-Truist-2730/register>

DRIVERS NEEDED TO HELP SENIORS

Mount Vernon At Home is a nonprofit organization serving senior citizens in the Mount Vernon and Alexandria areas of Fairfax County. They are in critical need for volunteers to assist members with driving to medical ap-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

True Impact of Alexandria's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend

BY TAMMY L. MANN, PHD
PRESIDENT & CEO,
THE CAMPAGNA CENTER

This year will mark the first time in 50 years that the sound of bagpipes won't be heard in the heart of old town Alexandria on the first Saturday in December. For the last 50 years, the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center have undertaken the awesome task of organizing and bringing forward a beloved community tradition – Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend (SCWW).

Established to help invigorate business activity in the city while also raising funds to support the programs of The Campagna Center, the parade and the events surrounding it generate more than \$250,000 in vital revenue to support Campagna Center programs like Building Better Futures, New Neighbors, and the Early Learning Center at St. James.

In August, The Campagna Center decided that all events tied to the weekend would be cancelled due to the public health risks brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the streets will be quiet, the staff at The Campagna Center will be busy doing what we have done for 75 years – serving the community.

For months now, The Campagna Center has been actively working to provide in person and virtual services to our families. These ac-



There will be no Scottish Christmas Walk this year, 2020. But the Campagna Center needs your support more than ever. www.campagnacenter.org/get-involved

tivities were incorporated into existing programs that focus heavily on preschool education, access to child care for the school-age children of working parents, tutoring and mentoring for students across the education continuum, and English language classes for immigrants and refugees in our community.

For many Campagna families these services are essential. To qualify for free early care and edu-

cation programs families generally fall within 100 to 200 percent of the Federal poverty level, which today is considered \$26,200 to \$54,200 for a family of four. We serve children in our Campagna Kids program on a sliding fee basis to help ensure the program is accessible to all families. Tutoring and mentoring services through Wright to Read and Building Better Futures target significant populations of children who qualify

for free and reduced priced lunch. Many of the adults served in our New Neighbors programs are unemployed or underemployed. It has been vital for us to remain open and active during this unprecedented time of stress, anxiety, and worry for our families.

The Campagna Center has also expanded our network of services in 2020 to meet the needs of our community. In April, Campagna launched an emergency diaper

bank that has so far received 3,583 applications from parents in need. In July, The Campagna Center was selected as one of seven nonprofit organizations to participate in the ALX Grocery Gift Card program, allowing us to provide monthly gift cards to families who have lost income due to the pandemic and need support.

We were also able to open in person learning opportunities at our Early Learning Center as well as at two Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) to provide relief for parents who needed to leave home for work and wanted access to our Campagna Kids programs. Our strong partnership with ACPS has been vital to our ability to meet needs in this area.

In September, we increased the number of children we are serving in person to 135 while continuing to serve an additional 523 through virtual learning experiences. We have found ways to provide the technology and internet services to our families with children under five and those we are tutoring in our Wright to Read program. Thanks to a partnership with Goodwin House, Inc., we were able to introduce COVID testing on a monthly basis for all staff working in person with children.

On December 5, what would have been the peak of Scottish Walk Weekend, Campagna Center staff will hold a drive-through gift pickup for our Campagna families

SEE SCOTTISH, PAGE 7

'A Hard Year for Fundraising' Board of Lady Managers raises \$30k for Inova Alexandria.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The runway was dark this year as the Board of Lady Managers, known for its annual Fashion Show, Luncheon and Silent Auction, instead held what it billed as a "non-event," raising \$30,000 as part of an ongoing financial pledge to Inova Alexandria Hospital.

"This was a hard year for fundraising, but we knew the hospital had needs greater than usual, too," said Board of Lady Managers president Charlotte Tsoucalas. "We were heartened by the community's response to our non-event."

The annual fundraiser was one of many city-wide cancelations because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The idea for the alternative event was conceived to continue the mission of the organization to provide critical support to Inova Alexandria Hospital.

Formal invitations for the event were sent out, reading, "This Fundraiser is a Non-Event on a Non-Day at a Non-Time. Cocktails are not served at 11 a.m., lunch is not served at noon and speeches are not given

at 1 p.m. You don't have to dress up, get your hair done or fight for a parking spot." Instead, guests were invited to join in spirit in supporting the fundraising drive for the hospital.

Founded in 1872, the Board of Lady Managers helped establish the city's first medical facility, now known as Inova Alexandria Hospital. Over the years, the Board has provided funding for significant improvements to the hospital's medical technology and patient care.

Sponsors for the event included Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota, Koons Ford, Kiwanis Club of Alexandria, Van Dorn Diner, Alexandria Tax and Bookkeeping, Laporta Restaurant, McEneaney Associates Realtors and J&J Oriental Rug Gallery.

Proceeds from the event will go towards an internship program for hospital clergy and an O-arm intraoperative imaging system used in spine, orthopedic and neurologic procedures.

"Inova Alexandria serves its community with excellence and compassion," said Board vice president Mary Ryan. "We are honored to do what we can to support their extraordinary efforts."



Members of the Board of Lady Managers present Tempo Restaurant owners Serge and Wendy Albert, left, an appreciation award Nov. 18 for their longstanding and generous contributions to the Board of Lady Managers. The organization provides vital medical equipment and services to Inova Alexandria.

PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

American Legion Post 24 Commander Henry Dorton, left, looks on as a donation is made to the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign Nov. 28 at Market Square. The annual donation drive runs through Dec. 24.

For Whom the Bell Tolls

Red Kettle Campaign runs through Dec. 24.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The familiar sound of holiday bells can be heard across the region as the Salvation Army continues its annual Red Kettle Campaign with new safety measures in place amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“One thing different about this year’s bell ringing is that donations can be cashless and contact-free,” said Henry Dorton, Commander of American Legion Post 24 in Alexandria and longtime volunteer bell ringer at Market Square. “The Salvation Army has actually been ahead of its time since bell ringers never have to touch the cash and there are apps that allow you to make a donation using your phone. And of course all volunteers wear masks.”

Using the hashtag #RescueChristmas, this year’s Red Kettle Campaign began in Alexandria Nov. 14 and will run through Dec. 24. The tradition dates back to 1861 and this year the organization is promoting contactless giving in an effort to raise funds to address the dramatic increase in needs of those most impacted by the pandemic.

“We are in hopes of raising \$1.1 million,” said National Capital Area Commander Mark Woodcock. “Every donation helps a significant amount of people and this year has led to a million dollars more in requests for assistance from the Salvation Army.”

Dorton has been organizing the veterans of American Legion Post 24 as bell ringers



The contact-free 2020 Red Kettle Campaign of the Salvation Army is dubbed “Rescue Christmas” citing the increased need for services amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

for more than a decade. Other local organizations that will continue their own bell ringing traditions include the Old Dominion Boat Club, the Alexandria Rotary Club and Burke and Herbert Bank.

“We are usually out in force from Veterans Day to Christmas Eve,” Dorton said of the Legion volunteers. “Our first two Saturdays did well due to the nice weather but it was this past weekend that surpassed previous year totals despite the colder weather and smaller crowds at the Farmers Market. People recognize the need and want to help.”

Funds raised through the Red Kettle Campaign remain in the area and assist individuals and families with a range of emergency social services, helping 33,874 individuals

SEE FOR WHOM, PAGE 7



HOLIDAY MAGIC. HISTORIC STREETS.



Make Old Town part of your holiday tradition.

Browse things to do and ways to celebrate at
VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Holidays

OLD TOWN

Alexandria

ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST
MAGICAL CHRISTMAS TOWNS

- OPRAH MAGAZINE, 2020

Proposed Cuts to WMATA Would Be Devastating

Leaders must step up.

BY STEWART SCHWARTZ
COALITION FOR SMARTER GROWTH

The reality of proposed cuts to our Metrorail and Metrobus service in the absence of a rescue package is now clear. It would be simply devastating – to our work-

ers, our economy, our transportation network.

Congress needs to step up and this includes every Republican. We are one nation, one economy, with a huge share of our economy dependent on our cities and metropolitan regions.

If the cuts were to take place they would gut a system the DC region built over four decades and upon which our essential workers and economy depend. It would

undermine decades of real estate investment, prompt flight of our next generation workforce, and have a disproportionate impact on the essential workers upon whom our food and health and services systems depend.

We shouldn't let our two Governors and local elected officials off the hook either. We cannot afford to continue wasteful road expansion and sprawl, massive toll roads that benefit few, and boondoggles

like the Maglev when we can't afford to maintain and operate what we've already built.

We must be shifting funding from road expansion to save the transit system that is the backbone of our region's economy.

Fix-it-first: maintain, rehabilitate, and operate our existing infrastructure first. Locate new development in walkable communities with both jobs and frequent transit.

The New Redistricting Process Begins

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

With the approval of Amendment #1 by 66% of Virginia voters at the ballot box last month, the new redistricting process is now underway and the map-drawing is shifted to a 16-member bipartisan commission. While I did not support the passage of Amendment #1 due to concerns regarding partisanship and weak language regarding racial gerrymandering, among other reasons, I am hopeful that with strong leadership, this commission will help produce fairer electoral maps that will reduce gerrymandering and provide equal representation for all Virginians.

Last week, the five retired Circuit Court judges appointed to the commission met for their inaugural meeting to determine how they will go about accepting applications from citizen members to join the commission. The process to appoint these five judges was that one judge each was selected by the House Democratic leadership, House Republican leadership, Senate Democratic leadership, and Republican leadership, and then one chairman was chosen to serve by those four appointees. This week, Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn announced her appointment of Dele-

gate Delores McQuinn and Delegate Marcus Simon to serve on the commission as her two appointees. I have every confidence that they will serve with distinction, fairly, and honestly as new legislative boundaries are drawn. Eight total General Assembly legislators will serve on the commission. The other appointments must be made by Dec. 1, and at the time I write this column, six nominees from Republican House leadership and the Senate are still forthcoming.

The other half of the new Redistricting Commission will have eight citizen members. The appointments must reflect "the racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity of the Commonwealth," according to the constitutional amendment we just passed. The application to join the commission is now live. If you are interested in applying to work on the commission as a citizen member, I have outlined below the requirements that must be met and the on-line application link. Citizen members are required to be Virginia residents for the past three years and must have voted in at least two of



the last three general elections. Applicants CANNOT be considered if:

They currently hold, have held, or have sought partisan elected office or political party position

Employed or has been employed by the General Assembly or

Congress

Employed or has been employed by any campaign for local, state, or federal office

Employed or has been employed by any political party or a member of state party central committee

Has been lobbyist or lobbyist principal in the last five years

In addition, the prohibition extends to a parent, spouse, child, sibling, or in-law of anyone who would be disqualified for the five reasons stated above

To learn more and apply as a citizen member, you can visit <https://redistricting.dls.virginia.gov/RedApplicationDownload.aspx>. The deadline to submit an application is Dec. 28, 2020.

Jan. 1 is the deadline for legislators to submit names to the judicial panel from the applications collected to consider as the citizen nominees. Each of the four delega-

tions — House Democrats, House Republicans, Senate Democrats, Senate Republicans — can nominate up to 16 nominees. By Jan. 15, the judicial panel must select their eight final citizen members.

Then, on Feb. 1, the newly-formed commission will hold its first full meeting where they select a chairman from among the citizen members. The 2020 Census data is expected to be provided to Virginia by April 1, 2021. Receiving this Census data on time will be crucial to using these new district boundary maps for the Aug. 24 primary and November 2021 general elections. The Department of Elections requires 99 days between the approval of maps and the start of early voting for a primary election to give localities an opportunity to reassign voters to their new voting districts, as well as to allow candidates time to qualify to run for election. So, next year, we will not have the normal June primary elections. Instead, when I run for reelection as Delegate of the newly drawn 44th district, it will be an August primary, followed by the November general election. The 45-day early voting period for the primary would begin on July 9th. All of this is of course contingent upon the Census data arriving in time.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Meaning of 'Discover'?

To the editor:

Dino Drudi claims (letter, November 25th) that Christopher Columbus' discovery of the Western Hemisphere "galvanized Europe in a way that led to emigration, commerce, and colonization." What Drudi conveniently fails to mention is that Columbus' discovery also led to genocide and enslavement of indigenous peoples. And

on Columbus' achievement, comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory said it best: "Give me a break. Columbus discovered America? Everybody knew that punk got lost. I mean, where was the Indians when he got here? Trust me. If you can discover a country that's already occupied - I take it personal. I can walk out on the parking lot today and discover your car with you in it."

Craig Taylor
Alexandria

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

Send letters

Online www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/
By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com

By mail to: Letters to the Editor The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

You can comment on our Facebook page or find us on Twitter
www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers
<https://twitter.com/alexgazette>
<https://twitter.com/mtvermongazette>
<https://twitter.com/followfairfax>

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

@AlexGazette

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Jeanne Theismann

jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Janet Barnett, John Bordner,
Mark Mogle

Contributing Photographers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Shirley Ruhe

Contributing Photographer and Writer
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Eden Brown, Bridgette Adu-Wadier
Contributing Writers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Hope Nelson

Food Writer
hope@kitchenrecessionista.com
@kitchenrecess

Michael Pope

Senior Reporter
michaelleepope@gmail.com
@michaelleepope

ADVERTISING:

For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk

Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com

Tara Lloyd

Display Advertising, 703-740-7128
tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher

Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus:

Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION

Circulation Manager:

Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend

FROM PAGE 4

offering them a small token of holiday cheer in the form of grocery gift cards, pajamas, books, a toy, and stocking stuffers.

The students in our Wright to Read program will have access to similar supports through a distribution we are organizing for December 12.

While I can't think of a better way to celebrate the spirit of Campagna's mission, the revenues lost by canceling the SCWW festivities weigh heavily on my mind. This year has not been easy.

The cost of keeping children and staff safe is significant. In a year that has come with added and unex-

pected costs, Campagna will need the support of our community – visit www.campagnacenter.org/get-involved to learn about the ways you can support our work.

Tammy L. Mann, PhD, is the President and CEO of The Campagna Center, not-for-profit organization in Alexandria, equipping children and families with a comprehensive set of tools they need to thrive and succeed. Since 1945, The Campagna Center has served the community by offering a range of programs that foster a dedication to learning among children, youth, and adults. More than 2,000 children and families take advantage of their services on a daily basis.

For Whom the Bell Tolls

FROM PAGE 5

over the past year in D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

"We use the funds raised right here in the National Capital region to assist individuals and families from all walks of life without discrimination," Woodcock added. "With COVID-19 cases rising across the entire region, families within the DMV need our support to make it through the holiday season."

Nationally, last year's Red Kettle Campaign raised \$126 million but the Salvation Army, headquartered in North Old Town, expects an unprecedented decline as the pandemic forces many shoppers to stay home.

"In terms of fundraising, we anticipate about a 50 percent drop," said Salvation Army National Commander Ken Hodder. "There are fewer locations for the kettles because there's less foot traffic, and the coin shortage and local shutdowns will all combine to reduce the amount that we receive from the Red Ket-

tle Campaign by about \$60 million across the country."

At the same time, the organization is seeing an increase in demand. Already serving more than 23 million Americans each year, the Salvation Army expects to help an additional 6.5 million people this holiday season.

"Not as many people come out on cold and rainy days," Dorton said. "But I hope the generosity of Alexandrians continues since the need is greater than ever for the services that the Salvation Army provides."

Services available through the Salvation Army include emergency social service assistance, homeless nutrition, transitional shelter, an anti-human trafficking shelter, comprehensive substance abuse treatment, disaster relief and youth enrichment programs. To donate or learn more, visit SalvationArmyNCA.org or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY.



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

2020 CAR TAX AND BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ARE DUE DECEMBER 15, 2020

Due to COVID-19, City Council extended the 2020 Car Tax and Business Personal Property Tax due dates until December 15, 2020 to provide vehicle and business owners with additional time to pay. This is a reminder that the due date is quickly approaching.

Personal property tax (car tax) and the residential parking fee, if applicable, must be paid no later than December 15, 2020, to avoid a late payment penalty and interest. Business personal property tax must also be paid by December 15, 2020. Please see the City's website at alexandriava.gov/Finance for more information.

Avoid the crowds and use one of the City's contactless payment options. Pay by credit card or eCheck on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/Payments. Car tax payments can be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34710, Alexandria, VA 22334-0710. Business personal property tax payments can be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34901, Alexandria, VA 22334-0901.

Payments can also be made in person at the Treasury Division, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 1510, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, the Finance Department strongly encourages those who prefer to pay in person to pay early to avoid the crowds, and to use the drop box on the Royal Street side of City Hall, which is available 24 hours a day. Payment must be in the drop box by midnight on December 15, 2020, to avoid the penalty.

For vehicle assessment questions or to receive a tax bill, please email vehicle-tax@alexandriava.gov. For business assessment questions or to receive a tax bill, please email businessstax@alexandriava.gov. For payment questions, please email payments@alexandriava.gov. To speak with a Finance Department representative, please call 703.746.4800.



Campagna Center Video



Thank You Guardian Angels

Guardian Angels are philanthropic companies, organizations and individuals who ensure The Campagna Center's robust programs and services remain strong. These program-focused supporters receive year-round virtual recognition in celebration of their generous unrestricted gift. Join us as we serve our community, become a Guardian Angel.

Guardian Angels

CHAMPIONS: Walter & Joanne Lukens, Tim & Jennifer Gale

CURATORS: Sarah & Kevin Martin

PRESERVERS: Live Wire Communications, LLC, Karen & Bill Schuiling, Anonymous, A Friend of Campagna, Ann Gordon, The Goodhart Group

PROTECTORS: Windjammer Environmental, LLC, Richard Morton & Dottie Bennett, Bridget & John Weaver, Cedric & Tammy Mann, Dave Millard & Mary Ann Best, Matthew Melmed & Lynette Fraga, Steve & Liza May, Jacqui Michel & David E. Weisman

DEFENDERS: Debbie & Steve Cohen, Cas & Anne O. Hobbs, Hudgins Law Firm, LLC, Gregory C. Stieber, Bill & Janice Bassett, Hunt & Molly Burke, First Baptist Church, Deborah Warren & Jim Moran, Rebecca & George Bostick, Andrew & Denise Palmieri, Anne Marie & Chuck Chotvacs, Janice Curtain, Janet Von Sternberg, Gene & John Wilmer, Robin & William Blair, Karen & Jay Beckhorn, George & Patricia White, Joyce Shields, William & Sally Brierre

List as of Nov 24, 2020

Visit Campagnacenter.org/GuardianAngels to View Levels and Sign Up

LTA Presents “A Christmas Carol”

During Covid-19, the show will be seen through live acting, animation, and virtual reality.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Continuing with its holiday tradition (with Covid-19 restrictions), the Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting Charles Dickens’ classic, “A Christmas Carol,” from Dec. 4-19, 2020 through live acting, animation, and virtual reality.

According to co-producer Ira Forstater: “I was eager to contribute to LTA’s goal of continuing live theatre during this challenging time in a way that ensures the health and safety of our patrons, actors, production crew, staff, and volunteers. The technical challenge we faced was how to bring this timeless play, an annual LTA tradition, to the stage within the restrictions required in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Charlotte Corneliusen is the other producer.

Mike Baker Jr., ACC stage and film sequence director (as well as the Scrooge character), said he was able to get some talented actors to participate virtually who had concerns about Covid-19 and a few who were willing to do the 12 live performances. “Since this had never been done before on a live stage it was a brain teaser. I took it a step at a time — a month of Zoom rehearsals and one in-person rehearsal and we were off and running,” he said.

He said a huge green screen was brought in on Nov. 14 along with some lighting folks from “House of Cards” and “The Walking Dead.”

“Eight hours later Dickens’ characters came to life, including some who have never been seen before — Ali Baba, Robinson Crusoe, Tiny Tim in the church, the Minister in the Graveyard and so on,” he said.

Peter Fannon, who plays the roles of Charles Dickens and The Gentleman, added: “It’s a real Christmas treat to be cast as Charles Dickens, who is also the narrator of this telling of his enduring story. Dickens was, from a very early age, a strong social reformer, and used his immensely popular novels, short-stories and newspaper articles to illuminate the political and social changes he felt needed to stop Britain from ‘failing.’ He uses his story’s characters — including my other role as The Gentleman seeking alms — to humanize these needs. So, we’re trying to portray Dickens, the unmatched observer of human nature, as the passionate reformer, too.”

Dayna Wade, who plays the



Peter Fannon plays the role of Charles Dickens.



Mike Davis plays the role of Scrooge and is the Director.



Sidney Davis plays the role of Jacob Marley.

Ghost of Christmas Present, Caroline, and the waif, added: “Christmas Present has come to Scrooge as a teacher of sorts. She is his second spirit visitor and is a true representation of the holiday spirit and all it has to offer. Her presence allows Scrooge an opportunity to see what his actions have manifested for the people around him, and she is warning him. My director called her the jolly prosecutor — I love that! I also think about her as a very bold Mother Earth. She is intentional about her teachings and is confident in who she is and all that she represents.”

Sidney Davis, who plays the role of Jacob Marley, added: “One of the main challenges was rehearsing in our new format on Zoom. As a former dancer and pretty physical actor, I found it extremely difficult when reading the scenes with the company, not to get on my feet and really ‘feel’ the character in my bones. I imagine once I get into the rehearsal room or onstage it will be a shock to my body (especially since Marley has to carry heavy iron chains onstage). But, realizing that this might be the future of theater, and the way that most if not all companies will be rehearsing, it felt good to just be doing theater again.”

Larry Grey, who plays the role of Fezziwig, added: “Bringing this character to life has always been fun and somewhat challenging. He is loud, colorful, over the top. I am grateful to the costumers and makeup crew who help in that respect. He dresses flamboyantly and fun. It adds to his jovial character.”

He added: “Charles Dickens’ ‘A Christmas Carol’ is the story of the redemption of the human soul When it was first published it sold so fast and became so popular the stores could not keep it on the shelves. It was credited for re-inventing and reviving Old Christmas traditions in England, which



Anna Maria Shockey plays the role of the spirit of Christmas Past.



Dayna Wade plays the role of the spirit of Christmas Present.

had become dark and oppressive in the extremely harsh poverty of the industrial age.”

Patrick Mahoney, who plays the roles of Fred Scrooge, Ghost of Christmas Future, and Robinson Crusoe, added: “This hybrid stage-film technique is a new and exciting medium, and one that offers the new generation of actors a unique challenge. When no one is

giving you your cue lines, you are your own supporting actor. This can be a blessing or a curse. But as an up-and-coming actor, I revel in any opportunity for a challenge. Overcoming these roadblocks is how we grow as performers.”

Tickets to “A Christmas Carol” are \$20 per person. There will be 12 performances of this play, and audiences will be limited to

a maximum of 46 people. Seating will be arranged in sets of 2 or 3 seats, with the ticket price based on the number of patrons (1, 2 or 3) attending. Only members of the same household may sit together in adjoining seats. The theatre plans to stream it for those who can’t come see it in person. For details, visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU JAN. 3

Ice & Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run. At Cameron Run Regional Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Opens nightly 5 to 10 p.m. Ice and Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run will return this year, featuring an ice rink, more than a dozen holiday light displays perfect for Instagramming,

retail area, food, music and more. The Ice and Lights Village is a short drive from Old Town. Masks are required in all areas of Ice & Lights except when eating or drinking in the concession areas. Admission: \$8.16 for general admission to Village; \$20.68 for admission with skating; starting January 9, 2021, \$12.19 for skating. Visit novaparks.com/events/ice-lights

NOW THRU DEC. 6

Alexandria’s Holiday Market at Carlyle. Virtual now thru December 4, 2020; in-person December 5-6, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. At John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. Alexandria’s Holiday Market is an annual signature event that trans-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

forms John Carlyle Square into a lively open-air festival, perfect for children young and old. This year, shop online and preorder the perfect present prior to the in-person market, which will feature physically distant vendors and musical entertainment including Gretchen and the Sidecar Six. The holiday market and festivities are sponsored by The Carlyle Vitality Initiative. Visit thecarlylecommunity.com

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Christmas at Mount Vernon. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Visit Mount Vernon this winter to participate in holiday activities and meet special guest Aladdin the camel. Learn about camels and George Washington's interest in exotic animals during Camel Talks, offered Friday through Sunday beginning on November 27. Specialty tours give guests a deeper look into the holidays at Mount Vernon. During the tour "Mrs. Washington's Mount Vernon," hear Martha Washington discuss the day-to-day planning needed for a busy holiday season. The "Holiday Dinner for the Washingtons" tour shares how food was grown, preserved and served during the holidays. Mount Vernon is open 365 days a year, including on Christmas Day. Admission: \$23 for adults; \$12 for youth (ages 6-11); free for children age 5 and below; extra cost for some activities. Visit mountvernon.org/christmas

NOW THRU DEC. 6

Alexandria Shop Small Week. Experience Alexandria's biggest shopping week of the year, the first-ever Alexandria Shop Small Week, Now thru December 6, 2020. Alexandria Shop Small Week is an opportunity to show your support for the D.C. region's largest destination for independent boutiques with 10 days and two weekends of deals, promotions and Instagram giveaways. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/Holidays/Shop-Small-Week

NOW THRU THE HOLIDAYS

Art on the Avenue. The 25th Annual Art on the Avenue festival will move to a virtual format for 2020, running through the holidays. Over 150 artists will be featured, offering handmade items in a wide range of mediums, including wheel-thrown vases and bowls, tiles, sculpture, tote bags and purses, drawings and pastels, knitted and crocheted hats and gloves, woven scarves and shawls, gourmet food, fused and blown glass, jewelry, paintings, photography, and much more. Traditionally held each fall on Mount Vernon Avenue, Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival that strives to reflect the vibrant mix of the Del Ray community through the artists and their work, and draws an estimated 75,000 visitors each year. Visit www.artontheavenue.org

NOW THRU DEC. 9

Forty+ Project II. 3-4 p.m. Via Zoom. Forty+ celebrates the collective creativity of people past the age of 40. Fall Project 2 is directed by choreographer Kelsey Rohr through weekly sessions on Zoom (with outdoor or in-person meetings as conditions allow). The project is

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

open to people of all physical facilities. Cost is \$100. Visit the website: <https://www.janefranklin.com/adult-dance/forty-plus>

DEC. 1-31

Small Works Show. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. "Small Works, Great Joy!" an all-member, all-media show of compelling small-scale works by our artists, priced affordably for holiday shopping. Visit the website: <https://galleryunderground.org/>

STARTING DEC. 1

ArtWalk. At various locations along King Street (Union to Diagonal), and select side streets, Alexandria. Old Town Business Association is partnering with The Art League of Alexandria to offer a holiday themed ArtWalk in Old Town along King Street (Union to Diagonal) and select side streets. Each block will feature a work of art adorning a lamppost. Maps may be found at oldtownbusiness.org beginning December 1, 2020. Keep an eye out for holiday trees located on both upper and lower King Streets. Visit oldtownbusiness.org

DEC. 2 TO JAN. 30

Winter Wonderland. At King & Rye's courtyard (480 King Street, Alexandria) is transforming into a Winter Wonderland. In addition to general courtyard seating with heat lamps and holiday décor, new this year, book an igloo for private dining for up to eight guests. This is ideal for social distancing as you are only in the space with your party, and the area is sanitized between parties. The igloos will each have heaters as well as the option to play your own music via a Bluetooth speaker. The igloos will be reservation required with a \$50 rental and \$100 food and beverage minimum. The rental will include a hot cocoa and cookie bar. For food and beverage, enjoy a tapas style menu with a southern twist and, of course, festive cocktails. Reservations can be booked online or via info@kingandrye.com, available as of December 2, 2020. Visit kingandrye.com/event/winter-wonderland

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 2

Chopin Concert. 6:40 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon. A unique concert combining space technologies with the timeless beauty of Frédéric Chopin's music. Free online broadcast of the concert at <http://www.chopin.space/>

DEC. 3 AND DEC. 6

Holiday Kissing Ball Workshop. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Learn how to create your own traditional holiday kissing ball using fresh boxwood from Lee-Fendall's own garden. All materials are provided. Space is limited to 10 participants per workshop. December 3, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.; December 6, 2020 at 2 p.m. Admission: \$20. Visit leefendallhouse.org

DEC. 4-6

Artful Weekend. Fri. Dec. 5 from 3-7 p.m.; Sat. Dec. 5 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. At Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 24th Street, Arlington. Arlington Artists Alliance 18th Annual Artful Weekend: artwork show and sale by 30 local artists. Free and open

to public. Masks and social distancing required. Visit the website: <https://arlingtonartistsalliance.org/>

DEC. 4-20

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and more. Plus FUNd-raising 2021 calendars, cookbooks, and upcycled tote bags. Free admission. Market is December 4-6, December 11-13, December 18-20. Fridays 6-9pm and Saturdays & Sundays 11am-6pm. Please wear a face mask and maintain 6' personal space. Located at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2020

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

DelRay Art Show. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the Parking lot of Del Ray Psych and Wellness, 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The 7th Annual Studio Show and Sale. Moving outdoors due to Covid. Presenting work of Del Ray artists and friends. Fine jewelry, mosaics/stained glass, leatherwork, and stoneware and porcelain pottery. Visit the website: <https://www.stephenlallypottery.com>

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Outdoor Chamber Music: "A British Brass Holliday." 1 and 2:30 p.m. At The Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. A quintessential holiday experience, as you've never seen it before; great music inspired by the rich tradition of British holiday music for brass quintet. Featuring William Gerlach, trumpet | Amy McCabe, guest trumpet | Robert Rearden, horn | Kevin Carlson, trombone | Seth Cook, guest tuba. Cost is \$45. More details and tickets on website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts-2/>

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Outdoor Chamber Music: "A Renaissance Winter" Olde Musicke for the Season." 5 p.m. At The Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. A sublime selection of Renaissance music from the New and Old Worlds by composers including Leonora d'Este, Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla, Gaspar Fernandes and William Byrd, in addition to arrangements of classic English, French, Spanish and German carols, performed by an intimate ensemble of professional singers. Featuring Grace Srinivasan, soprano | Julie Bosworth, soprano | Janna Critz, mezzo-soprano | Benjamin Hawker, tenor | Corbin Phillips, baritone. Cost is \$45. More details and tickets on website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts-2/>

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival. Virtual / Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Art Center's annual holiday event moves online for a series of select art projects and download-ables to enjoy with your loved ones. Stop by the Art Center to visit artist studios and shop for your holiday gifts or browse Torpedo Factory's web site for links to studio artists' online shops. Visit torpedofactory.org




**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR
INDEPENDENT LEARNER
COMMUNITY MINDED CITIZEN
BALANCED INDIVIDUAL**

START STRONG. START HERE.

At ACDS, we challenge and inspire students with a rigorous curriculum in a safe, welcoming, and student-centered environment. The result: confident, caring, and future-ready community members who distinguish themselves as exceptional communicators.

acds ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
www.acdsnet.org

**Join us for a VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE:
Dec 8 • Dec 9 • Jan 7**



Northern Virginia Joint Transportation Meeting

Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 6-8 p.m.
www.virginiadot.org/novatransportationmeeting

You are invited to participate in a virtual joint public meeting held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI), Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and Virginia Railway Express (VRE). According to Virginia Code, these organizations shall conduct a joint public meeting annually for the purposes of presenting to the public, and receiving public comments on, the transportation projects proposed and conducted by each entity in Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia).


The virtual meeting will begin with a brief presentation followed by a public comment period. During the presentation you can learn about various transportation initiatives, including:

- Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
- VTrans Draft Mid-term Transportation Needs
- NVTA's FY2020-2025 Six Year Program; TransAction; COVID-19 analysis; and the Regional Multi-Modal Mobility Program (RM3P) in partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia
- NVTC's Commuter Choice program

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the meeting will be posted at www.virginiadot.org/novatransportationmeeting. The team of VDOT, DRPT, OIPI, CTB, NVTA, NVTC and VRE representatives will make a presentation beginning at 6 p.m. highlighting their transportation programs and receive public comments about Virginia's transportation network for about an hour after the presentation.

Give your comments during the joint meeting after the presentation concludes or submit your written comments by **January 4, 2021** by mail to Ms. Maria Sinner, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Northern Virginia Joint Transportation Meeting" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.



WELLBEING

Have Yourself a Sober Little Christmas

Batting addictions during the holidays.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

With the holidays come an increase in imbibing. For battling addiction, the ubiquity of temptations can make attending social events, even those that are virtual or small in-person outdoor gatherings can be difficult, but not impossible, say local mental health practitioners.

"Staying sober is a daily, sometimes even hourly, choice," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College and a private practitioner in Maryland. "During a pandemic, this may be especially difficult because of loneliness and social isolation. In order to protect ourselves from spreading the virus,

so many people are experiencing being lonely, which is hard at any time, but especially during the holidays."

Advanced planning when anticipating times when there might be triggers or temptations to drink is important.

"Build in activities, set up alternative things that are pleasurable," said Linda McKenna Gulyn, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Marymount University. "Keep yourself busy with tasks or appointments to greet or meet people virtually, by phone or go out on a brisk walk. And tell a trusted loved one that you are planning, too."

Have plans in place to help with those urges, says Lorente. "I also

encourage my clients to make a list of tools that they will use to counteract the urges that I call choosing health and happiness, such as going for a 15 minute walk," she said.

"Make a list on your phone of why ... you want to maintain your sobriety and check it whenever you start to get the urge."

— Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D.

Give forethought to situations that might lead to temptation. "It is important to have a plan and work your plan," said Lorente.

Even if conducted virtually, make sure to participate in regular meetings, advises Lorente. "Stay in touch with your recovery support person,

whether it is a sober friend or a dedicated sponsor," she said. "And to counteract the isolation that many of us are feeling, reach out to help another person."

There are a variety of options for those looking for support. "For instance, call someone you know is alone," said Lorente. "Meet up for a socially distanced coffee with a neighbor or friend where you each bring your own thermos and blanket."

Practice benevolence, suggests Lorente. "Volunteer to help provide food to those that need it," she said. "When we help others, we help ourselves."

It is important to acknowledge and understand the reasons why sobriety might be challenging during this time of year, advises Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University. "It may be difficult for people to stay sober during



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Alcohol can flow freely during the holidays. Develop a plan to maintain sobriety.

a pandemic holiday because many of us are experiencing anxiety, depression, or loneliness and want to feel better," he said. "We also have expectations that we should enjoy the holidays and do fun social activities. Alcohol and other substances may help us feel better briefly and stop thinking about problems."

When spending time with difficult family, or navigating gift giv-

ing and money shortages, alcohol or other substances might appear to provide temporary stress relief. "Those feelings are fleeting so engaging in or developing hobbies can help fill the void normally satisfied by substances," said Short.

Maintain one's physical health, continued Short.

"Get adequate sleep, exercise, and nutrition to reduce urges to use substances."

Advertising Opportunity

THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online

Children's & Teens' Connection 2020





During the last weeks of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette and Children's Almanac) is a long-time tradition.

With high visibility, this is a great advertising opportunity for every industry, so give us a call about rates and ad sizes at 703-778-9431 or email advertising@connectionnewspapers.com.

THE CONNECTION
Alexandria Gazette Packet
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac ALMANAC

DEL RAY ARTISANS HOLIDAY MARKET



2020



JOIN US

December 4th through December 6th
December 11th through December 13th
December 18th through December 20th

Friday 6-9 pm • Saturday & Sunday 11 am - 6 pm

Covid 19 Procedures in place
Different Artists Each Weekend

Del Ray Artisans Gallery
2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria
DelRayArtisans.org/holiday-market-2020

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

pointments and grocery shopping. Mount Vernon At Home will supply you with necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), and can provide a donation receipt for your millage. Volunteers can sign up for driving assignments through the online system which makes it easy to see and accept assignments. Give what time you can, there is no minimum or maximum number of hours. If you have some time to give to the community and can spare several hours a month, visit info@mountvernonathome.org, or call 703-303-4060.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsOfAMHC@gmail.com.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school

year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil (Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) at 703-324-4547.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and

social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com

Arts and Crafts Festival. Volunteers are needed on June 10 to help with the event including: greet and check-in vendors, children's area, clean up and tear down and beer tent. Shifts are available between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org/ for more.

SUPPORT GROUPS

The Parkinson's Disease Support Group of Alexandria meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson's patients and caregivers are welcome.

ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OPEN

COVID-19 BUSINESS UPDATES & RESOURCES

VISIT WWW.THECHAMBERALX.COM

**Same Company, Same Employees,
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!**

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Since 1999



10% down
nothing until the job
is complete for the
past 17 years

Free Estimates 703-999-2928

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

**Food fit for a king
on a family budget**

DAILY FEATURES FOR EVERYONE!

Monday - 1/2 Price Burger Night
Tuesday - Kids 12 & under Eat Free
with accompanying adult. 1 child per adult.
Wednesday - Roast Turkey Special
Thursday - Lasagna Night
Friday - Fish Fry
Saturday & Sunday - Full Brunch Buffet
with Omelette Station

734 North St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Royal Restaurant 703-548-1616
ALEXANDRIA'S NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT • SINCE 1904 RoyalRestaurantVA.com

Vaccinations Made Easy at Drive-In Clinics for Pets



A volunteer guides an eager dog into the AWLA shelter at a recent drive-in vaccination clinic.



Animal Welfare League of Alexandria staff prepare a dog for important vaccinations as volunteers stand by.



Shelter veterinarian Erica Caldwell administers a vaccination during a drive-in clinic at the AWLA shelter.



Volunteers ferry pets from cars into the AWLA shelter for their vaccinations at a recent drive-in clinic.



The AWLA shelter veterinarian and a staff member examine a cat in the shelter's community room.

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

At a time when vaccines are top of people's minds, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is offering a new way for the community to make sure their pets don't miss their own critical medical treatments.

Starting in September, the AWLA has been conducting monthly drive-in clinics, providing rabies and distemper vaccines to animals who need them. "We have seen high demand for affordable vaccinations, particularly as the effects of the pandemic continue to strain pet owners' financial resources in our area," said AWLA Director of Community Programs Joanna Fortin. "But pet owners are still committed to providing the care that their pets need, and we're proud to be able to support them in doing so."

The two-hour clinics are held monthly on Wednesday evenings and have so far have seen 76 pets, administering 138 vaccinations.

To register, pet owners reserve a five-minute appointment online in advance at <https://alexandrianimals.org/vaccine-clinics/>. When they arrive at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, they are greeted by volunteers who check them in and receive payment. Pet owners remain in the car as, household by household, animals are brought into the shelter's community room by skilled animal-handling volunteers, where they re-

ceive their vaccinations from a licensed veterinarian, assisted by a staff member. An AWLA volunteer then transports the pet back to the owner, who is provided with proof of vaccination as well as information on the AWLA's other services.

Shelter veterinarian Dr. Erica Caldwell says these core vaccines are recommended for all healthy pets, with few exceptions. "Rabies is a fatal disease in people and animals, and it can be found in our area," she said. "The vaccine is required by law for dogs and cats [over four months of age], primarily to protect the entire community — people and animals — from this horrible disease." The feline and canine distemper shots provided at the clinics target several other serious viruses present in the community and the environment, Dr. Caldwell said. She points out that it's important for pet owners to speak with their veterinarians every year about any other needed vaccinations and for regular check-ups.

Critically positioned volunteers help keep the drive-in clinics moving. "Dog runner" Jennifer Salan, who ferries dogs from cars to the clinic and back, says it's all done on the dog's terms. "You let the dogs go at their own pace, let them sniff, take treats, and if they're really uncomfortable, we let their people come along to the yard with them," she said. "So it's a really accommodating environment."

Salan said it's rewarding to witness people taking such good care

of their pets. "The owners are in their car, snuggled with their pet, and they know all the dogs' habits, what they're comfortable with and what they're not," she said. "You really get to see the human-animal connection."

Gergana Siteva has served as both a greeter and a dog runner at the clinics. "The first thing is to introduce ourselves to the owner and make them feel comfortable entrusting us with their pet," Siteva said. "Once we take the dog from the car, we try to make sure the animal's not scared or stressed. We walk them around while we're waiting to go in, pet and talk to them and if they're small, we'll carry them."

A tiny, dark brown-and-black Yorkie who had been adopted from the shelter about a year ago returned for vaccines — and needed a bit of extra affection from Siteva. With sweet eyes and silky fur, the dog was a "hugger" who was very afraid of leaving her "mom," Siteva said. With the team's soft touch, she made it through just fine.

Volunteer Jonathan Edwards-Opperman generally helps socialize cats at the shelter and also assists with feeding and clean-up on a weekly basis; he has also become a "cat runner" for the vaccination clinics. Edwards-Opperman picks the cats up in their carriers from the cars, places a towel over the carriers to reduce the cats' stress, and shepherds them into the community room for their shots. "While the vet is preparing

the vaccines, I try to keep the cats calm and make them feel secure," he said. "They're kind of hunkered down because it's so new and overwhelming, so petting them and letting them smell my hand generally helps." Edwards-Opperman then passes on to the owners any observations conveyed by the veterinarian, such as need for a teeth cleaning or other care and even tips on any suggested weight loss.

"The clinics are really well set up, with distance between volunteers, limited people in the room, and a layout as one big circle so we don't cross paths with each other as we take the animals through," Edwards-Opperman said. "Know-

ing how people in the community are struggling and that their pets can help with mental health, the low-cost clinic is a really good idea. It's a fantastic event."

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a local 501(c)(3) organization that operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, Alexandria's only open-access animal shelter. In response to the global pandemic, the AWLA has initiated a virtual adoption process and is operating a Pet Pantry that has provided more than 9,000 pounds of pet food and supplies. The AWLA also offers assistance to Alexandrians with questions about wildlife and animals in the community. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

Time to Send Art for Children's Gazette

Like everything else, the Children's Gazette will be different in 2020. With many schools virtual or with limited in-person classes, we know submissions will be different this year.

On our end, we will be unable to print every piece of art from classes this year, but we don't want to miss this beloved edition entirely.

During the last weeks of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a long-time tradition.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

For classes in 2020, please send a curated collection of no more than 5-10 pieces of art. Please realize that we will not be able to print every item submitted.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on flash drive. Writing should be submitted in text format. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions, but different ideas are welcome: Drawings or paintings or photographs of your fami-

ly, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

Short answers to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What makes a good friend? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

What are your thoughts on the pandemic and how it affected you and your family and friends?

Were you involved in November's elections? What did you think?

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 11, 2020.

You can see last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Gazette to with "Children's Gazette" in the subject line, to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

For advertising, contact sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Announcements

Announcements

Feeling Stressed about COVID?

Virginia C.O.P.E.S. Warmline

877-349-MHAV (6428)

Monday - Friday 9am - 9pm

Saturday - Sunday 5pm - 9pm

OPEN TO ALL VIRGINIANS | YOU ARE NOT ALONE



Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

Questions?

E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431



Announcements

Announcements

LeafFilter
GUTTER PROTECTION

✓ INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS

BEFORE LeafFilter AFTER LeafFilter

MADE IN THE USA ACCREDITED BUSINESS LIFETIME WARRANTY A COMPANY OF LHS

15% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*

AND!

10% OFF
SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS

+

5% OFF
TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!***

Promo Number: 285

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ** Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 27051321534 License# LEAFFNW822J2 License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

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

Announcements

Announcements

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!
844-947-1479

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid August 24, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval



*Terms & Conditions Apply

Announcements

Announcements

AN ORGANIZED HOME IS A HAPPY HOME

ShelfGenie
EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH

50% OFF INSTALLATION*

SPECIAL OFFER
0% Interest for 12 Months
***On Approved Credit

Schedule Your FREE Design Consultation:
(866) 982-2260

*Limit one offer per household. Must purchase 5+ Classic/Designer Shelves. EXP 12/31/20.

A Bone To Pick

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Not that I'm the most-stressed about it, but I am at least stressed about a bone scan I'm having this week. The reason being that thyroid cancer that's metastasized - which mine has, sometimes moves to the bones. And since I have some knee-hip discomfort, particularly when I get up from a seated position, my oncologist ordered this two-step diagnostic process: an injection of something followed a few hours later by the actual scan to assess the damage. Not that I want to look for trouble (since it has already found me) but it's important - though scary, to tell your oncologist about any new symptoms, especially, if this new symptom has persisted for more than a few weeks. Rather than be an idiot and not mention the problem, I mentioned it during our last phone call on Thursday the week before Thanksgiving and tomorrow, Monday, 10 days after the new fact, the bone scan will occur. I imagine I'll receive the results by the end of the week. Waiting for results all the time is another negative aspect of this disease. Very little happens while you wait, if you know what I mean?

I wouldn't say exactly that common sense has prevailed here. It really doesn't take a genius to call a doctor when you're experiencing some new and unusual pain. In fact, the first lesson of oncology 101 is to contact your oncologist if any new symptom presents. It might actually be serious. Moreover, you're never to presume anything. You are to let the doctor know and let him be the judge. Keep the self-diagnosing and self-medicating to a minimum, if at all. You don't know best. In fact, you hardly know at all.

Part of the occasional apprehension I've had in not sharing any new symptoms with my oncologist is fear. If I tell him about a new symptom, it might actually indicate a problem/complication with my disease/treatment. The illogic is: if I don't tell him, my overall medical situation can't get worse - which is obviously stupid, and not true. But since I'll never receive medical confirmation that my health situation has taken a turn, I can continue to delude myself. But my thought process - as a previously diagnosed "terminal" non small cell lung cancer patient stage IV, was just that. What I don't tell him won't hurt me. 'Hurt me' meaning leading to a premature death (I know, any death is premature). I realize even before writing this that it doesn't make any sense. As I have said on many occasions, I'll blame the cancer.

And why I'll blame the cancer is because more than the damage it does to your body, it is the damage (effect really) it has on your brain. In a subconscious kind of way, your brain is totally rewired. After receiving such a life-changing/potentially life-ending diagnosis, you begin to think differently about life. Your obligations change. Your priorities change. Your responsibilities change. Your perspective changes. As such, your answers to questions and preferences no longer seem to be coming from the same place as they were before your diagnosis. It's not so much physically as much as it is emotionally, psychologically, spiritually. You're almost an entirely new person. At a minimum, you definitely become a variation of the previous you. You might look the same, but you don't exactly act - or sound the same.

All your decisions become controlled by your disease, not literally, but made through the prism of your being a cancer patient. It's not that, if you're lucky, you need someone to prepare your meals/assist with your activities of daily living, but you do lose yourself in the disease with all the appointments, scans and treatments. And the worst part of it, none of it guarantees anything other than more appointments, scans and treatment. The bone scan I'm having is a perfect example. And unless I embrace the process, the stress and anxiety is likely to do as much damage as the cancer. Fortunately, I'm up to the challenge. Nevertheless, it's worrisome.

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004
FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	ELECTRICAL
K & D ELECTRIC	
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE	
Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc...	Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING	LANDSCAPING
Quality Tree Service & Landscaping	
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.	
Summer Cleanup...	
Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.	
25 years of experience - Free estimates 703-868-5358	
24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	

Patios & Drainage
Your neighborhood company since 1987
703-772-0500

J.E.S. Services
Free Estimates - Fully Licensed & Insured

- Planting & Landscaping Design
- Drainage & Water Problems
- Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New
- Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid
- Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose
- Retaining walls of all types

All work Guaranteed

Sign up for
FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
to any or all of our 15 papers
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE

NEWS

Alexandria Black History Museum to Host Free Zoom Kwanzaa How-to Workshop

The Alexandria Black History Museum will present its annual Kwanzaa How-to Workshop, virtually, on Saturday, December 5, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. The workshop is free, but Registration required. Learn how to do your own celebration as former Alexandria Black History Museum curator, Lillian S. Patterson, and Alexandria Black History Museum volunteers Cathy Riddick-Brown, and Linda Haughton, show you the origins, concepts, and practices of Kwanzaa. You will hear about principles, symbols, fun activities, and more that will enchant you all year long.

Begin the day earlier hearing the Kwan-

zaa story the Seven Spools of Thread as the Alexandria Black History Museum presents its monthly program, Story Time for Little Historians. The story will be posted on Historic Alexandria's YouTube Channel beginning Dec. 1.

Participants must register in advance for the free Kwanzaa How-to Workshop. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

This will automate the receipt of the Zoom link and a reminder an hour before the event begins. For more information contact 703-746-4356.

Mount Vernon High Brings Frankenstein to Audio Theater

By CAROLINE JAREB
CENTREVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, THE CAPPIES

Wind blew and whistled over a soft piano until cracks of thunder and a baby's cries punctured the surroundings. The audience felt as though they were surrounded by the walls of an old, dark mansion in a different time, but they opened their eyes and saw their modern home and laptop. Mount Vernon High School presented Danielle Mohlman's "Frankenstein, Episode 1," a radio play adaptation of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. They not only retold the classic tale of Victor Frankenstein and his creature but drew parallels with Mary Shelley's tragic life.

Mount Vernon faced the challenge of an online performance and overcame it by making the strong choice of using audio only. The actors and techs had the audience feeling like they were following the characters as they ran from one place to the next and created emotion and depth without the physicality that can feel necessary to put on a performance.

Bridget Snyder's emotional vocal delivery brought Mary Shelley's pain from her infant daughter's death to life and put an image in the audience's mind of her hunched over, paralyzed from her despair. Snyder conveyed a character different than herself and showed the audience Shelley's backstory through only her emotion, along with Katia Ramirez as Mary Wollstonecraft. The audience could tell they were mother and daughter from the chemistry and blend of their voices and could sense the passion for feminism and strength in Ramirez's words. Snyder was also able to change her voice to create a

completely different character as The Creature, along with Quinn Montgomery who played both Percy Shelley and Victor Frankenstein.

The characters were clear and easy to differentiate, which allowed the audience to see how Percy, as the man, created the public's perception of Mary just as Victor created The Creature.

The environment was most clearly shown through the outstanding soundscape created by Sebastian Fisher, Caden Mulvey and Katia Ramirez. At the beginning of the production, a minute and a half of only sound effects was crafted to place the audience into the world of Mary Shelley and Frankenstein. A chilling lullaby produced a creepy tone while background, forgotten sounds like footsteps and the clinks of a glass jar allowed the imagination to form a clear scene. Even the blending of voices and inclusion of breathing heightened the emotion and made the audience feel as though they were sitting with the characters. The beautifully themed and cohesive posters that included actors in perfect period clothes and tragic makeup prepared audience members for the environment they would be placed in and gave them a visual to facilitate their imaginations.

Theatre is currently limited by COVID-19, but Mount Vernon was able to exceed the expectations of the audience by creating such a strong environment with every single aspect of the show. And there is more than just "Frankenstein, Episode 1." They left the story on a cliffhanger and will keep audiences entertained for a total of 7 episodes. Instead of binging a TV show or podcast, allow Mount Vernon to bring you back to the theatre and immerse you in the world of Mary Shelley with just a computer and a pair of headphones.

SPECIAL SAVINGS FOR YOUR TOYOTA



**WELCOME TO ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA'S
PERSONALIZED CAR CARE EXPERIENCE**

**BUY 3
TIRES
AND
GET
THE
4TH FOR \$1**



See Service
Advisor for details.

GOT TIRES?
INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE
WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.

**BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL
ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95**

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA
VEHICLES ONLY COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND
SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/20.

**CHECK ENGINE
LIGHT DIAGNOSIS
NO
CHARGE**
INITIAL DIAGNOSIS

WE WILL RETRIEVE
VEHICLE CODES
& GIVE YOU
AN ESTIMATE
OF REPAIR COSTS.



NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA
VEHICLES ONLY COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP
SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/20.

Jack Taylor's
**ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA**

3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305



SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS!
Have Your Vehicle Checked
for Open Campaigns/Recalls
Recall Hotline: 703-684-0710

SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 6:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 7:00am to 5:00pm

**YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!**

ToyotaCare
Customers

Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service.
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000

NOW AVAILABLE Mile Services
Call your ASM for details

ToyotaCare Plus \$329⁰⁰
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL
\$69⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can
cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts
& shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/20.

**SIGHT LINE
WIPER BLADES**
**BUY 1
GET 1 FREE**
Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY GOOD THRU 12/31/20.

FREE
BATTERY CHECK-UP
Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of
battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/20.

BRAKE SPECIAL
\$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors
& drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.
MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/20.

BG VITAL FLUID SERVICE
10% OFF YOUR FIRST SERVICE
15% OFF YOUR SECOND SERVICE
Power Steering • Automatic Transmission • Brake System

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/20.

TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

SPECIAL OFFER
\$129⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION
Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement,
24 month free roadside assistance.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/20.

NEW HOURS SPECIAL!
DROP OFF YOUR VEHICLE BETWEEN 6AM & 7AM
WITH A SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT & RECEIVE
12% OFF ANY ONE REPAIR.

MAXIMUM DISCOUNT, \$150
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE.
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY GOOD THRU 12/31/20.

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

©SMS Productions, Inc. 1-800-289-7671 #202001025

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

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. This year marks our 40th 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

#WeAreAlexandria



Belle Haven | \$1,495,000

This 5,000-SF Colonial, 5-bedroom home was built in 2010 and is loaded with high-end upgrades and private spaces. The outdoor brick patio with fireplace and screened porch add private 9-month outdoor living! Work and luxuriate at home!

Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



OPEN SUN 12/6, 12-2PM

Chatham Square | \$1,149,900

Beautiful & light-filled townhome just blocks to shopping & restaurants on King St & to the Potomac River. Impeccably maintained 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath with spacious kitchen, top-floor loft and deck, finished basement, & attached private garage. 421 Oronoco St.

Sissy Zimmerman 703.989.9779
www.BBZgroup.com



OPEN SUN 12/6, 1-4PM*

Jefferson Park | \$979,000

Beautifully landscaped yard, screened in porch, gorgeous hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen & gigantic attic are just a few of the special features of this charming home. Facebook Live @sweethomealexandria 12PM.

*Masks & gloves (provided) required. 601 Fontaine St.
Lisa Groover 703.919.4426
www.LisaGroover.com



Rosecrest | \$892,000

Joyously sunny, absolutely charming city cottage. Covered front porch with swing, handsome wood floors on main level. Remodeled kitchen opens to added family room with vaulted ceiling. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, level lot. A heart string tugger. A must see.

Joel Miller 571.277.1321
www.McEneaney.com



OPEN SUN 12/6, 2-4PM

Belle Haven on the Green | \$719,900

One mile south of Old Town is this 5-bedroom, 3.5-bath with garage townhome! With a RARE main level master suite, this 3,000-SF townhome is freshly painted with new carpet, gleaming hardwoods, and classic updates throughout. 1788 Duffield Lane

Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



Midtown Alexandria Station | \$455,000

Spacious & luxurious, sun-washed condo just steps from the Huntington Metro Station. Two large bedrooms plus den make it easy to work from home. Beautiful wood floors, separate dining room, kitchen island with bar. Washer & dryer in the unit. Two garage spaces.

Donna Cramer 703.627.9578
www.DonnaCramer.com



Montebello | \$265,000

You never have to leave this premier gated community to enjoy the pool (indoor & out), fitness room, billiards, pub & dining room, tennis, and much more. Cozy yet ample 1-bedroom on the 3rd floor has a beautiful enclosed sunroom facing west. 5901 Mount Eagle Dr. #317

Peter Crouch 703.244.4024
www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com

MCENEANEY ASSOCIATES IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE

Old Town INOVA Blood Drive

Tuesday, December 15 | 10AM - 4PM | 301 King Street, Alexandria

Make Your Lifesaving Appointment Today! go.www.mceneaney.com/OTBloodDrive

Photo ID required. Allow up to one hour for donor visit. Please wear a face covering.

Serving the Washington, DC Metro Area since 1980.
703.549.9292 | 109 S. Pitt Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | McEneaney.com

