



Lights sparkle through Market Square as the holiday tree is lit on Friday evening, Nov. 23.



Sheriff Dana Lawhorne watched the festivities with his wife Linda and daughter Megan.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
GAZETTE PACKET

Luminous Evening

“... four, three two, one,” and the lights sparkled throughout Market Square as the holiday tree was lit on Friday evening, Dec 23. Hundreds of residents gathered for the annual tree lighting. Visitors were also treated to a visit from Santa, a performance of Santa’s Frosty’s Follies by the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, and caroling beneath the tree at the community sing-a-long.



Dancers from the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center wait for the call to go onstage.



Sofia waits by the side of the stage for her turn to visit with Santa.

A More Perfect Union?

Council to consider drastic change to Old Town street.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Union Street was the city’s first waterfront plan, a public works project funded by wealthy land-owners to extend the city east into the river in the 1780s. In the wake of the Revolutionary War, city leaders of the era were eager to promote the new republic of states. So they named the newly created road “Union Street.” Now, members of the City Council will be considering a plan to create a more perfect Union, although some in Old Town are calling it a Civil War.

“If this is funded, we are just going to have a rather expensive experiment.”
— Yvonne Callahan, president, Old Town Civic Association

Perhaps the most radical change is a proposal to create a “shared street” along the Union Street corridor. It’s a philosophy that has been used in Europe for decades, originally designed as a way to create a greater sense of

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A Taxing Debate

The recent campaign may be a thing of the past. But the debate about taxes lingers.

During a discussion of the city's economic health this week, Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** praised Alexandria for having a responsible debt burden and a thriving economy when other jurisdictions are struggling. Mayor **Bill Euille** added that the city's tax rate has been relatively constant since he was first elected to the City Council in 1994.

"I might be the Grinch that stole Christmas," interjected Councilwoman **Alicia Hughes**. "But, at the end of the day I don't want the viewing public to think that we're out of touch since we're having a pep rally here."

Hughes pointed out that tax bills have doubled over the last decade, even if the tax rate has remained flat. She said that she didn't want people in Alexandria to think that elected officials had a tin ear to the concerns of taxpayers, who have seen an increasing burden in recent years. Donley shot back that the rising property values are an indication of strong leadership in the city, and that taxpayers have funded investments that have added to the tax base.

"When you vote against those opportunities to expand your tax base," he said, "one of the consequences of those decisions to turn away from economic development and expand the tax base is a potentially higher tax burden."

Mayor of All Things

Being mayor of Alexandria has its perks. There are parades and speaking engagements and invitations to every reception imaginable. Then there are the occasions that call for kilts or bicycles. But Mayor Euille may have powers unknown to previous generations of city leaders — dominion over the weather.

During a discussion of the upcoming Scottish Walk festivities, Euille assured Alexandrians that they can expect a crisp and clear weekend.

"I talked to the man upstairs today, and we're going to have great weather," Euille announced. "Yes, the **Big Man** upstairs. Beautiful weather. Fifty-five plus degrees. Sunny, and the winds are going to be less than five miles and hour. So there's no excuse for folks not come out and enjoy themselves and be Scottish for that day."

Fake Blood Robbery

Not all of this season's holiday shoppers are above board. Just ask the folks at Wells Fargo Bank on North Washington Street. Last weekend, they confronted a bank robber wearing a read-and-white hooded sweatshirt. It happened around 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning, when the man brandished a knife and demanded money. Alexandria police officials say he had "fake blood" on his cheeks and around his eyes. He left with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Wasteful Spending

Leaders in Arlington and Alexandria are talking trash about each other again. But this time, it's about creating a new waste-to-energy agreement.

This week, the Arlington County Board and the Alexandria City Council both agreed to enter into a new agreement to create a waste-disposal service through 2025.

The agreement allocates ownership of funds as 60 percent Arlington and 40 percent Alexandria, which represents the amount of trash that would be taken to the facility. Revenues from the waste-to-energy operation would be split 60 percent to 40 percent.

"Industrial sites aren't the prettiest things to look at," said Councilman **Frank Fannon**, whose family has owned industrial properties throughout the city. "But they are very important to the economic health of the city."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Wheel Nuts Bike Shop owner Ron Taylor, standing, helps volunteers Chariolett Johnson and Linda Powell assemble a bike during the Alexandria Cares Bows, Baskets and Bikes event.

Bows, Baskets and Bikes

ACVA launches
"Alexandria Cares"
corporate service program.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Holiday spirits were high as the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association launched Alexandria Cares, a corporate community service program in partnership with the nonprofit Get Out and Give Back to offer corporate groups the opportunity to include service projects in their Alexandria-based business meetings.

"We've seen an increase in demand for social responsibility," said ACVA's Claire Mouledoux. "Our sales team launched Alexandria Cares to meet this need and provide a meaningful teambuilding experience, which is a growing trend in the meeting industry."

Held Nov. 8 at historic Christ Church, the kick-off event called Bows, Baskets and Bikes gathered DC-area event and meeting planners to help build bicycles for needy families through Christ Church's

holiday initiative, the Christ Child Project.

Alexandria Cares was created in collaboration with Alexandria-based Get Out and Give Back, a nonprofit matchmaking organization that pairs businesses with philanthropic opportunities. Founded by retired Air Force Colonel Jane Hess Collins, the program includes a variety of service project options, including bowling parties with nonprofit clients, holiday service events and personalized project requests made by the business or service organization.

"ACVA puts clients in touch with me," said Collins. "And while corporations are charged a fee for the service event, all proceeds go back to the community through the Hess Collins Family Fund with ACT."

Collins and ACVA have already partnered the Coca-Cola Company and the Greater Federation of Women with Friends of Guest House.

"We have wanted to offer CSR [corporate social responsibility] services for a long time," said ACVA vice president of sales Lorraine Lloyd. "It's a win-win for the community to benefit as meeting attendees get an even richer experience from their visit to Alexandria."

For more information about Alexandria Cares, call 703-652-5369 or visit www.MeetAlexandriaVA.com. To learn more about Get Out and Give Back, visit GetOutandGiveBack.com.



ACVA's Robin Roane assembles a bike as part of the new Alexandria Cares program.



Jane Hess Collins of Get Out and Give Back does a final check on a bike during the Alexandria Cares kick off.

Council To Consider Drastic Change to Union Street

FROM PAGE 1

uncertainty for drivers and force them to reduce their speeds. Here in Alexandria, the plan calls for a new design along Union Street in which both the street and the sidewalk are flush from building face to building face. Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians would all share the pavement.

"Pedestrians are the biggest user on Union Street, but they have the least amount of space," said Sandra Marks, acting deputy director for the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. "So this would equalize and better distribute the right-of-way and also allow flexibility for different uses."

"In general, the Waterfront Commission finds that current conditions on Union Street can be improved and that changes are needed."

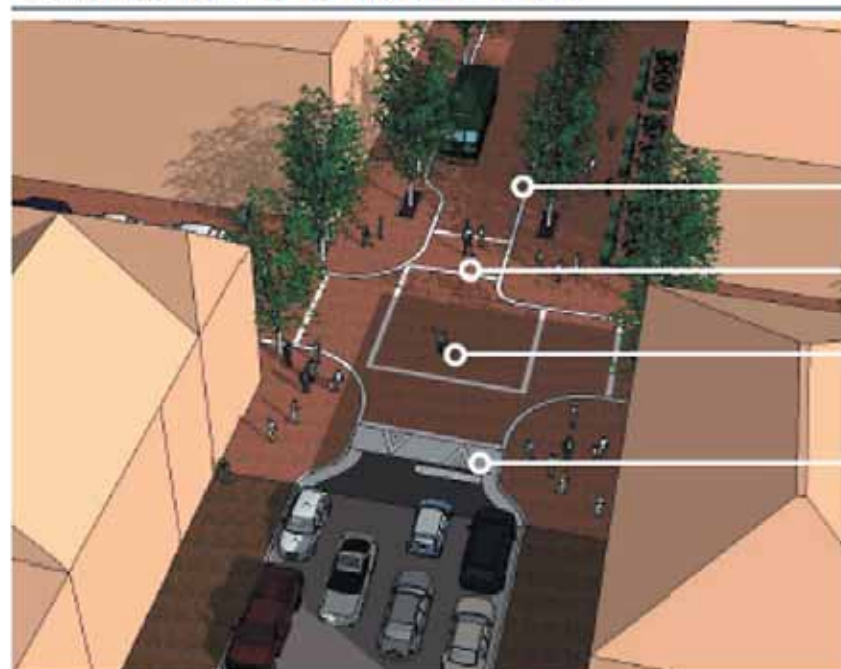
— Nathan Macek, chairman, Waterfront Commission

would be removed. Textured pavement and banding treatments would be added to separate pedestrian-only spaces. The document acknowledges that the cost would be "considerable," but no amount is specified.

"Implementation of this concept will require further design," wrote Waterfront Commission Chairman Nathan Macek in a letter endorsing the recommendations, "which should consider such factors as the optimal allocation of space between users,

TRANSFORMING UNION STREET into a "shared street" would take anywhere from five to 10 years, according to a memorandum outlining the proposed changes. Curbs and gutters

COMPONENTS OF A SHARED STREET



roadway is flush with sidewalk

textured pavement similar to sidewalk with curb line to delineate pedestrian-only space

motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians all share the road

level of street transitions similar to a raised intersection

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

delivery vehicle access, curb design and transition, traffic calming and right-of-way, materials and curb placement, drainage and accommodation of special events."

Critics say the idea will never work in Alexandria, where sidewalks play an important role in fabric of Old Town. They say creating more uncertainty for drivers on Union Street would only lead to chaos, perhaps even making the corridor more dangerous than it already is. Ultimately, opponents of the idea say, the shared streets philosophy is a European experiment that did not work there and should not be replicated here.

"It was a fad, and it's dying out," said Poul Hertel, former president of Old Town Civic. "As a philosophy it sounds good. But unfortunately it doesn't hold water."

THE RECOMMENDATIONS for Union Street are an offshoot of the controversial waterfront plan, a proposal to almost triple density at three sites on Union Street slated for redevelopment compared to what's there now. Neighbors in Old Town revolted, filing a series of lawsuits that have the zon-

ing changes in a legal limbo. One part of the plan that is moving forward, however, is a study of parking, bicycle, trolley, motorcoach and pedestrian use of Union Street.

The city selected the Toole Design Group as a consultant, and the Waterfront Commission began considering initial recommendations.

"In general, the Waterfront Commission finds that current conditions on Union Street can be improved and that changes are needed," wrote Macek. "Along the entire corridor, improvements should be high-quality and consistent with the historic character of Union Street."

The recommendations, which will be considered by City Council next month, include a variety of suggestions for Union Street. One of the more radical recommendations would be a pilot program to create of a new pedestrian plaza in the unit block of King Street. One version of the pilot would maintain one-way westbound access for motor vehicles and the trolley, yet provide more seating and gathering space on the south side of the unit block of King Street.

"The unit block of King Street has great potential to provide additional space for pedestrians to walk and congregate," wrote Marks. "A pilot of a pedestrian plaza on the south side of the unit block of King Street could be achieved using pavement markings, planters, tables and benches."

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS under consideration include a variety of changes, some of which could be achieved in the short term. For example, some of the recommendations include restricting parking along Union Street on Fridays and Saturdays, allowing pedestrians to reclaim the street. One of the most popular recommendations would be to add a raised crosswalk at the intersection of Union and Gibbon streets and another raised crosswalk with landscaping at the mid-block crossing where the Wilkes Street tunnel exists.

"Any traffic calming along the Windmill Hill Park area is a good idea," said Callahan. "Those cars can get a quite a head of steam, going mostly to the north. So I think that getting the traffic to slow down is going to be a benefit for all."

Recommendations Under Consideration

❖ **Sharing the Street:** Create a new design for Union Street in which both the street and the sidewalk are flush from building face to building face. Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians will all share the roadway. Curbs and gutters would be removed.

Textured pavement and banding treatments would be added to separate pedestrian-only spaces.

❖ **Pedestrian Plaza:** Pavement markings, planters, tables and benches could be added to the south side of the unit block of King Street.

❖ **New Crosswalks:** Widened and textured crosswalks will raise pedestrian priority and provide more space for pedestrians to cross, increasing the gap for motorists to pass the intersection.

❖ **Turn Restrictions:** New limitations on where drivers are allowed to make turns could be piloted and evaluated to see potential benefits of reducing conflicts between motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists.

❖ **Parking Restrictions:** Create new part-time parking restrictions that would allow pedestrians to reclaim some of the street currently used for parking and pe-

destrian circulation. Traffic counts indicate pedestrian volumes are highest during the afternoon and evening on Fridays and Saturdays.

❖ **Mount Vernon Trail Improvements:** Provide a designated space for bicyclists to make left turns onto Pendleton Street to the Mount Vernon Trail and vice versa.

Eliminate the crosswalk at the intersection of Union Street and Pendleton Street. Provide a designated walking corridor on the east side of Union Street between Oronoco and Pendleton streets. Reduce the

travel lane widths and shift the parking lane to the west.

❖ **Bicycle Transition:** Add new pavement markings at the intersection of Union Street and Queen Street to clearly communicate to bicyclists and motorists how to transition between bike lanes and shared-lane markings.

❖ **Windmill Hill Improvements:** Add a raised crosswalk at the intersection of Union and Gibbon streets and another raised crosswalk with landscaping at the mid-block crossing where the Wilkes Street tunnel exists.

NEWS

Desperately Seeking Santas

Black Fire Service Professionals to host annual toy drive.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Black Fire Service Professionals of Alexandria are looking for donations from community partners in preparation for its 12th annual holiday toy party for underprivileged and at-risk children.

An employee organization within the city, the BFSPA provides gifts for more than 150 children and relies on donations to make the yearly drive successful.

"I know the need that is out there," said Capt. Thurston McClain, founder of the annual toy party. "I went to a party like this as a kid when I was growing up

and starting one of my own is my way of giving back to the community."

The BFSPA hosts an annual holiday party where children enjoy lunch, games and a visit with Santa. This year's party will take place Dec. 22 at the Hilton Mark Center.

New unwrapped toys, new bicycles, retail gift cards and cash donations are welcomed. Donations by check can be made payable to "BFSPA."

Donations can be sent to Capt. Thurston McClain at Station 204, 900 Second St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Contact McClain at 703-746-5204 or Thurston.McClain@alexandriava.gov to make arrangements for a donation pick-up.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Black Fire Service Professionals gather for a group photo prior to distributing toys at the 2011 annual holiday toy party.

"I know the need that is out there. I went to a party like this as a kid when I was growing up and starting one of my own is my way of giving back to the community."

— Capt. Thurston McClain



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PEOPLE



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Boy Scouts from Troop 301, Will Schaefermeier, Henry Monroe and Noah Bobby Munis offer Advent candles for sale. The scouts are raising money for a planned 12-day backpacking trek in New Mexico at Philmont Scout Ranch next summer.

Holiday Market at St. Mary's

St. Mary's School held its annual holiday market on Saturday, Nov. 17, at the school. More than 100 vendors filled the gym at the school on Green Street. Children were treated to face-painting and holiday crafts.



Glorious Goblets owner and designer Mary Sears shows a few of her holiday designs.
www.gloriousgoblets.com



Katie Pallace greets shoppers to the annual holiday market at St. Mary's School.



Christina Flores, an independent consultant for The Pampered Chef, displays a few of her kitchen and cooking products.



Holiday show chairs Marianne McInerney and Emily Griant welcome visitors to the fair.

Building for Success

Commonwealth Academy dedicates new Lower School.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Parents, prospective parents, educational professionals and neighbors joined Mayor Bill Euille, Police Chief Earl Cook and Fire Chief Adam Thiel Nov. 13 as Commonwealth Academy officially dedicated its new Lower School.

"I am excited to welcome everyone to our new space," said Head of School Dr. Susan Johnson, who has been with the school since its inception and joked that "I've been here so long, I came with the building."

Following remarks by Johnson and other officials, tours were given of the new facilities, which added 2,000 square feet and more than doubled the outdoor recess area to create a dedicated and centralized Lower School. The school also boasts a Visual Thinking and Strategy Lab.

Commonwealth Academy is a coeducational college preparatory day school for students in grades three through 12 who benefit from small classes and instruction de-



Commonwealth Academy reading and writing specialist Jane Furey works with a student in the new Lower School addition following its dedication Nov. 13.

signed to address various learning styles, including those students who have organizational, attention and learning differences.

Started in 1997, Commonwealth Academy moved to its current location on Leslie Avenue in 2002. This is the second addition for the school, which now totals 22,000

sq. ft. for 146 students.

"Dr. Johnson has done an incredible job during her many years of service to you and the school," said Euille as he addressed the lower school students. "She has created an exceptional learning environment for you, the future doctors, lawyers, police chiefs and mayors



Joined by students and staff, Fire Chief Adam Thiel, Police Chief Earl Cook, Head of School Dr. Susan Johnson and Mayor Bill Euille cut a ceremonial ribbon Nov. 13 to dedicate the new Lower School addition to Commonwealth Academy.

of our community."

Lower School staff participating in the dedication were Matt Johns, director of academic and student programs, Tara Nappi, Maria Brinza, Jane Furey, Jane Hanson,

Evan Gropper, Rose-Marie Parker and Santiago Sere.

For more information on Commonwealth Academy, call 703-548-6912 or visit www.commonwealthacademy.org.

Sweet Charity

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

When Sabrina Campbell volunteered to help put together a tribute to local police and firefighters, she had no idea the event would lead to a chance meeting with Capt. Willie Bailey, founder of the Firefighters and Friends Holiday Toy Drive.

"Capt. Bailey told me about the needs in the community so I asked how I could help," said Campbell, owner of Occasionally Cakes, a specialty bakery and cupcake shop with locations in Mount Vernon and Old Town. "As a local business, we want to make a difference and help organizations close to us so we decided to support our local firefighters and their holiday toy drive."

Both Occasionally Cake locations will be collecting toys and cash donations for Firefighters and Friends through Dec. 14.

"For each toy that someone donates, we'll give them a free gingerbread man cookie," Campbell said. "We want to collect a lot of toys. We want to make sure Capt. Bailey gets to his goal."

The Firefighters and Friends toy drive was founded in 1995 by Bailey as a way to help 50 struggling families in the Gum Springs community along the Route 1 corridor. This year, the annual drive hopes to serve more



Occasionally Cake owner Sabrina Campbell is joined by firefighters Megan Rowan, Dale Barr, Phil Perry, Willie Bailey and Tim Curley Nov. 27 to kick off the 2012 Firefighters and Friends Holiday Toy Drive. The store will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for distribution by firefighters to local nonprofits and schools serving children in need.

than 4,000 children in need throughout Northern Virginia through schools and organizations such as Community Lodgings and Carpenter's Shelter.

"When we're not running 911 calls, we're trying to find ways to make a difference in the community," Bailey said. "We are hoping folks will help out by donating new, un-

Occasionally Cake partners with Firefighters and Friends Toy Drive.

wrapped toys for elementary, middle and high school kids or cash to allow us to buy gift cards for the older students."

For Campbell, the partnership between Occasionally Cakes and Firefighters and Friends is a good fit.

"We want to collect a lot of toys. We want to make sure Capt. Bailey gets to his goal."

— Sabrina Campbell, owner Occasionally Cake

"As a mother, anything to do with children is important to me," said Campbell, who plans to take her 7-year-old daughter Jasmine to the toy distribution set for Dec. 18. "I want my daughter to see what Capt. Bailey is doing for children like her in the community. She needs to be grateful for what she has and see that while cupcakes are fun, giving back can change lives."

For more information, call Bailey at 703-909-0523 or visit www.ffandfriends2therescue.org.

LIVING LEGENDS

Mike Oliver: A Volunteer for All Seasons

Santa is in his blood, and he's donated more than 35 gallons.

BY SHERRY WILSON BROWN

One does not often get to sit down in a chair next to Santa Claus; the usual seat is in his lap. But Mike Oliver, who is Santa's number one helper in Alexandria, took time during a respite after the busy Christmas rush to be interviewed about the numerous activities that led to his selection as an Alexandria Living Legend.

A transplanted West Virginian, Mike Oliver was born in Parkersburg, the second son (behind Art, Jr.) of Art and Lura Oliver. His father was secretary/manager of an American Automobile Association (AAA) affiliate which in addition to the usual AAA duties also fulfilled many functions normally handled by a state's Department of Motor Vehicles. His mother was his father's bookkeeper.

Mike's father had a second, secret identity. He was Santa Claus's local alter ego appearing at many events, especially those for the Community Chest (now United Way). Clearly, Mike comes by his Santa's helper role naturally and for years he wore the Santa suit he inherited from his father until he received a generous donation which enabled Mike to replace the deteriorating family heirloom. The sleigh bells he uses to announce Santa's arrival are the same bells his father used.

Mike received his BA degree from West Virginia University (WVU) in 1961. (Several years ago, he was named WVU's Outstanding Alumni for Community Service.) While at WVU in Morgantown, he met Mary Linda Burks, who received her BS degree in 1961 as well. They married on Dec. 27, 1961 and have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Together Linda and Mike raised two daughters, T.C. Williams graduates Kathleen, who now lives in Ashburn, and Sarah, who is married to fellow teacher Brian Maceyak. They live in Manassas. Sarah is the mother of Mike and Linda's 6-year-old grandson, Will. After raising the girls, Linda who Mike freely admits is "considered by all who know us as the Brains of the Oliver Outfit," worked for the Alexandria City Public Schools as a cafeteria manager and retired after 24 years. (For many of those years she was the cafeteria



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

Mike Oliver is Santa's number one helper in Alexandria.

manager at T.C. Williams High School.)

Mike enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves in 1959, eventually attaining the rank of Sergeant 1st Class (E7) before retiring in 1973. He had the distinction of serving in the 80th Division, his father's old World War I unit. The newlyweds moved to Richmond and Mike went to work for VEPCO, continuing with them until 1965.

That same year, Mike, Linda, and baby Kathleen, moved to an apartment in Fairlington. Shortly afterwards, Mike began working at the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (which became the U.S. Office of Education in 1980). He retired in 2000 as student financial specialist. They bought their first Alexandria home in 1967 and Sarah joined the family two years later.

The next year, Mike's mentor, Bob Miller, recruited Mike into the George Mason PTA. PTA became a theme in Mike's life as George Washington (PTA president three times) was followed by Minnie Howard (PTA president twice) and T.C. Williams. He served as Alexandria PTA Council president (1984-

85) where he was supported by an excellent board of parents and teachers. In nominating Mike for the Living Legend recognition, Harlene Clayton described Mike as "a life-long cheerleader at T.C. Williams football and basketball games." He and Linda are "Grandpa and Grandma Titan" at these events to this day.

Mike established close ties with his daughters' schools and their activities. He coached Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA) teams throughout the 1970s and served as ASA area vice president for three years. Given his background in the Office of Education, it is not surprising that early on Mike became involved with The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. He currently is an applications reader and sometimes scholarship presenter (1990s -2011). This connection to his youngsters' schools expanded to include serving as parent representative to the Youth Services Commission (1980s -1990s) and parent representative to Project Discovery (1980s-1990s).

In 1979, Mike began volunteering at Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically (ALIVE!) as the representative of his church, St. Clement Episcopal. He pitched in everywhere: delivering furniture and participating in the Turkey Trot collection of food donations. He served as the ALIVE! board president (1993 -1994). Throughout this 30-plus years of involvement with ALIVE!, Mike served as Santa's helper for the children of the ALIVE! Child Development Center. He fulfills other Santa duties throughout the community for various organizations and schools, including 25 years as the City's Market Square Santa as well as for

Del Ray and North Ridge tree lightings. For all these appearances, Mike accepts no payment but instead requests any donations go to the ALIVE! Child Development Center.

For years, Mike volunteered at the Carpenter's Shelter and until recently at 6 a.m. when everyone else was waking up on Christmas morning to open gifts, Mike could be found filling in for Santa Claus and giving out gifts to children and families at the Carpenter's Shelter. He and Linda have volunteered at all three locations of the Carpenter's Shelter between 1988 and 2010.

Mike is not always in a red suit. In mufti, he has served as a member of the Alexandria 250th Celebration Committee (1999) and a member of the Alexandria George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee (2000-2009). He served on the boards of Community Lodgings (1988 -1991) and Network Preschool (1990-1997). He served many years with the Friends of Alexandria Community Mental Health Center.

He and Linda have been active members of St. Clement Episcopal Church for over 40 years. Mike has been a Sunday School teacher and Vestry member serving as Junior and Senior Warden. During this time, he participated in various other church activities such as selling Christmas trees and helping with the church's winter Overnight Hypothermia Shelter for men. Pam St. Clair who also nominated Mike for Living Legend recognition tells about a time when she needed someone to fill in at the Overnight Hyperthermia Shelter. She called Mike who readily agreed to fill in at the last minute. It was only later that she discovered it was Mike's birthday and he put his plans on hold to be there for the shelter clients.

He has served many years on the North Ridge Citizens Association board of directors, working on fall festivals, selling Christmas trees, and helping with just about everything else happening in the neighborhood. He was a frequent Red Cross whole blood (and more recently platelet) donor, with over 35 gallons donated in his lifetime.

Mike does find occasional time for himself and enjoys blue grass, folk, and Celtic music. He and Linda take full advantage of the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage presentations and attend many free concerts by the service bands. They also enjoy lectures at the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the Lyceum. Mike just finished reading "The White War: Life and Death on the Italian Front 1915 - 1918," the story of Italy's tragic experiences in World War I.

Given all that Mike has accomplished in Alexandria, it is not surprising that he was named the Alexandria Times' Citizen of the Year in 2007.

Whether dressed in his red suit with an excited youngster on his lap or in his regular clothes, Mike Oliver has truly become an Alexandria Living Legend.

Sherry Wilson Brown is director of Agenda:Alexandria.

Living Legends: The Project

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle Alexandria's Living Legends. The project was conceived by artist-photographer Nina Tisara to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.

Platinum and Gold sponsors this year are the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, Club Man-

agers Association of America, Dominion Foundation, Erkiletian Real Estate Development, John McEneaney in memory of Ginny, Renner & Company, CPA, P.C. and the Rotary Club of Alexandria.

This is one of a series of profiles that will appear this year. For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a Legend for 2013, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com or contact Nina Tisara, Legends@AlexandriaLegends.com.

PEOPLE

Alexandria's Fashion Archivist

An Old Town native with vintage style helps others keep their memories alive.

BY CHELSEA H. BRYAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Siohban "Bunny" McDonough grew up running through the alleys on Prince Street, playing games with her brothers and living it up as a tomboy.

She was prone to sulk whenever she had to wear a dress.

But it wasn't long before McDonough's memories would feature the feminine world, too.

Walking proof, McDonough stepped across the street from her childhood home on Thursday, Nov. 8, entering Cindy Conner's house full of artfully strewn items from McDonough's own vintage collection, a centerpiece of her vintage hats and handbags, fashion books and Vivienne Westwood pink plastic slingback pumps gracing the dining room table.

Approximately 80 guests — hailing from Alexandria, Baltimore, Richmond and West Virginia — witnessed the long-time Old Town resident in an element just as natural to her as the outdoors: fashion.

The occasion was McDonough's book release party for her new work, "My Mother's Dressing Room." The collection of essays — and thoughts on life and the role of dress — archives McDonough's own fashion collection. Pieces of jewelry and vintage-wear serve as focal points for McDonough's vignettes on what memories and feelings surround each piece of her wardrobe.

The nostalgic nature of McDonough's fashion sense harkens to the time she spent with her mother, Janet Watkins, in her Prince Street home dressing room.

In the small, white room with little more than two normal sized closets and room for a dressing table, McDonough grew up watching her mother get dressed: "I remember sitting in this chair and looking out at the room and just thinking it was so big."

Mother-daughter time shopping, getting dressed, and eventually pushing fashion limits led to bonding: "I watched a lot of movies growing up," said McDonough. "Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire ... and being athletic I totally loved all her moves."

Nostalgia is popular these days, but that wasn't the case in the '70s, said McDonough. "Nobody ever



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Siobhan McDonough with her mother Janet M. Watkins in the dressing room.

really cared to do that kind of stuff. Wanting to throw that cool piece on, to celebrate it." But that's what McDonough loves most.

"I get a feeling of what is true to myself. I want to feel the piece when I'm wearing it, whether it's the Walmart sweatshirt, hunting, fishing ... It's this truth about how I feel."

"Clothes are art," she said. "They don't even have to be on the body — I would frame it." In the living room of her mother's home, McDonough picks up a 1960s Emilio Pucci shirt in velvet. "It doesn't get much better than that when it comes to art," she said. "I try to read about the designers. I want to know what they were thinking or feeling when they were creating."

But even the best art is hard to love until it becomes personal. McDonough may love jeans and a t-shirt for their simplicity and comfort, but she finds meaning in fashion because of its power to hold memories. "The milestone pieces worn for prom and

SEE KEEPING MEMORIES, PAGE 25

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Sometimes, Just Vote and Move on

This is the second in a series of columns, coordinated by former council member Lonnie Rich, that will also include other past city leaders writing on governance and politics.

BY LONNIE C. RICH

Process is very important — indeed critical. It is important to democratic self-government that the people know how and when they can participate. It is important that as much of the decision making as possible be transparent, so people understand how decisions were made and what the tradeoffs were. It is important that elected officials listen to the public.

COMMENTARY

But process can also become the enemy of effective governing. Alexandria is one of the most organized cities anywhere; and there are more opportunities for participation here than in most other places. While that is all good, at some point, decisions have to be made.

On any major decision, there will always be some group or individual who arrives at the last minute and says, “Stop. I just got here. I just heard about the issue. I want to share my opinion.” To avoid a tough decision, it is often easy to say, “OK, one more hearing or study group.” Or “Let’s refer this back to staff to smooth out tough political differences.” I would encourage you to resist this temptation.



Over the years, I have (not always, but too often) watched City Council delay, defer, refer back to staff, because they did not want to make a tough political decision. The problem is that most decisions do not get easier over time. At some point, the City can seem incapacitated. Endless process is tiring and discouraging not only to residents but the business community. (By the way, I want to make clear that I am referring not only to land use decisions, but also other hotly contested issues that come before the council, like taxi regulations.) Does this mean that council should never defer? Absolutely not. Most answers lie in the balance. There is always a need to balance the desire for more information with the benefits of closure on the merits; and this is a judgment call. The danger I am warning against is the easy habit of deferring because there is a political conflict and because the decision is hard.

One other point about process — every vote does not need to be unanimous vote. Consensus is good and should be pursued ... to a point. But if you have to go with a 4-3 vote, that is OK. You vote and move on. I was once on the losing end of a 4-3 vote (stopping the lawsuit over the Woodrow Wilson Bridge). The issue

was very important to many in the community, but once that vote was over, I never heard a peep. I had my chance to argue against dropping that suit; the other side had its arguments and they prevailed. We all just moved on to the next important matter that deserved our attention.

You may come to learn that many “process” arguments mean “I can’t win on the merits” or “let’s delay and maybe the opposition will become so discouraged that it will quit.” Rarely does process equal substance. A monarchy can make good decisions or bad decisions; a democracy can do the same thing.

In a representative democracy, a minimum level of process is necessary for an informed electorate, but we rely chiefly on our elected officials — those people we have elected because of their political views, but mostly because of their character and judgment — to make decisions on our behalf. You need to ensure that you can get to the merits of the public’s business.

To summarize: while clear, open process is important, it is equally important that you be willing to press for a vote on the merits, even if not a unanimous vote. In other words, at some reasonable point, you must make decisions.

Lonnie Rich served on the Alexandria City Council from 1991 to 2000. He is a law partner in Rich Rosenthal Brincefield Manitta Dzubin & Kroeger, LLP.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lessons from School Board Election

To the Editor:

In Alexandria you have to know the players to understand the scorecard. The city’s campaign finance records reveal that Alan Hilburg contributed \$500 to Helen Morris’s successful 2009 School Board run. A year later, Mr. Hilburg was given a \$12,000 a month consulting contract to advise ACPS on communications issues. Given ACPS’s many public relations gaffes in the past few years, the newly elected School Board may want to take a closer look at the school system’s use of consultants.

Seen in this light, Mr. Hilburg’s recent panegyric to Ms. Morris (Letters to the Editor, Nov. 14) is understandable. He suggests she lost the 2012 race “because she was a board member during the Mort Sherman era.” Indeed, the School Board election in many respects was a referendum on the performance not only of Dr. Sherman but of the board itself. Six members prudently decided to not to run again and the two successful incumbents placed third in their respective districts.

However, Ms. Morris was not victimized by chance association with a divisive leader. The fact that building a new Jefferson-Houston School across the street from Ms. Morris’s home suddenly moved up in priority on the school district capital project list during her term indicates a close working relationship with the superintendent. Many voters in District A apparently didn’t forget their controversial public-private partnership proposal either. When Vice Mayor Kerry Donley called for Dr. Sherman’s resignation following a capital spending scandal earlier this year, Ms. Morris rose to the superintendent’s defense.

If Mr. Hilburg truly seeks answers about the election results, he must first stop defending someone he says “worked tirelessly” to make Jefferson-Houston School “a representative model of the evolutionary success in our schools.” The fact is that Jefferson-Houston has not turned around during Ms. Morris’s and Dr. Sherman’s tenures. Currently the school does not even meet the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) and is under a state mandate for improvement. Only a handful of schools in the state are in this category.

Last month the state Board of Education rejected ACPS’s appeal

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Holiday Judging

The Old Town Walled Garden Club will be judging holiday decorations in the Alexandria Old and Historic District the week of Dec. 10. Prizes will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners. Photographs of the winning doors will appear in the Gazette Packet before Christmas. Judging will be based on originality; the use of all natural materials is strongly preferred. Other factors considered are scale, color, contrast, and visibility. The decorations also have to be done by the homeowners themselves — no purchased professional arrangements. For additional details, contact Pete Farnham, with the Old Town Walled Garden Club, at pdfarnham@aol.com

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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10
to grant Jefferson-Houston conditional accreditation after questioning Dr. Sherman about the plunge in performance that occurred on his watch. Parents as well as voters in District A are asking similar questions. It's time to hold the Superintendent and those who defend him accountable.

Leslie Zupan
Alexandria

An Early Scottish Christmas Walk?

To the Editor:

Advent is from Dec. 2 through Dec. 24. Christmas begins on Dec. 25. So why is the Scottish Christmas Walk on Dec. 1? It cannot even be called the Scottish Advent Walk this year.

Kenneth J. Wolfe
Old Town

No Basis For Complaint

To the Editor:

In response to the recent letter to the editor: "Sermonizing At Poll Site," I am compelled to take is-

sue with Ms. Downs who complained about a normal function in Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community. As precinct captain at Temple Beth El and a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament, there is absolutely no basis for this outrageous complaint.

Religious facilities exist for worship by members of their congregations. Occasionally a part of the facility may be utilized as a polling place or for other public events. However, it is imperative that the space is respected so as not to interrupt religious functions or to impede access for members of the congregation in a facility dedicated for their worship.

On Election Day, Ms. Downs escaped the cold by standing in Blessed Sacrament's "Gathering Space," that is not designated as part of the polling place. This space is an integral part of Blessed Sacrament's church. The area is equipped with a sound system and windows so that mothers, their small children, and handicapped or ill parishioners can be outside the sanctuary but in an area where they participate in the ceremony. What occurred on Nov. 6 was the normal, daily, weekday schedule of two masses celebrated at 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. The priest's sermon was consistent with the

gospel of the day, the teaching of the Catholic Church and the clergy's obligation to educate and inspire the faithful about Catholic teaching. For many years, while serving as a precinct captain at Temple Beth El, it has been my responsibility to remind greeters, poll workers and voters that members of the congregation must not be impeded from access to exercise their 1st Amendment right to practice freely their religion.

Churches will continue to teach their congregations about the value of the family, religious liberty, the dignity of life and moral and ethical behavior equally respecting the constitutional right for citizens to vote.

K. Eileen Giglio
Precinct Captain at
Temple Beth El

Focus on Jefferson-Houston

To the Editor:

The Gazette Packet's story ["New Direction for Schools," Nov. 22] relied on the overquoted, yet curiously ignored public relations

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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PEOPLE



Jane King, At Home in Alexandria's 1st National Spirit awardee Elinor Ginzler and board president Carol Downs.



Pru and John Bobee with Sally Murray



Alvin Trask and Leon Anderson of Alvin Trask Krewe 'tet.

Ginzler Receives 1st National Spirit Award

Currently the senior director of the Center for Supportive Services at the Jewish Council for the Aging in Rockville, Md., Elinor Ginzler was presented with the At Home Alexandria's 1st National Spirit Award last month.

Ginzler oversees a medical adult day center, a social day program for adults with early stage memory loss, caregiver education support, senior transportation services and mobile management programs.

The National Spirit Award recognizes an individual, organization or business that meets one or more of the following criteria: has made significant contributions in support of the independence of older adults; has influenced American communities to plan for their rapidly expanding aging populations; is recognized for innovated approaches to accommodating the needs of older adults, and has recognized the importance of addressing the needs of baby boomers.

"In addition to meeting the criteria we established for the National Spirit Award, Elinor's accomplishments reflect the mission of At Home Alexandria — an organization that provides members of the Alexandria community tools that enable them to age independently in their own homes," said AHA! board president Carol Downs.

For more information about AHA! Visit www.AtHomeInAlexandria.org or call 703-231-0824.



Dodo Ablard and Mary Kay Ryan



David and Debbie Ludington



Jean Woodman, Marsha Murphy and Alexandra Johnson



Tom Fitzgerald and Monica Estabrooke

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PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
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Gina Malone, Jane Mayfield and Maryanne Filipkowski



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OPINION



PHOTO BY ANDREA BLACKFORD

Front: Janet Barnett, executive director, Senior Services of Alexandria; Gregg Murphy, president of the board of directors of Senior Services of Alexandria; Mayor Euille, and Jim Lindsay, owner, Adult Companion Care. Back: Dan Carlton, pastor, Downtown Baptist Church; Jim Roberts, Old Presbyterian Meeting House; Mary Lee Anderson, Senior Services of Alexandria resource center director and William Vosbeck, founder of Senior Services of Alexandria.

SSA Kicks Off Friendly Visitor Program

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
SSA VOLUNTEER

On Oct. 24, Senior Services of Alexandria kicked off its Friendly Visitors Program with the support of Alexandria's Mayor Bill Euille and members of the faith community from Old Presbyterian Meeting House and Downtown Baptist. We are thankful for their support to get this exciting program off the ground. Friendly Visitors will match seniors with members of the community with the goal of relieving loneliness and the feeling of isolation experienced by many of Alexandria's seniors who may lack the local support of friends and family.

"We expect our visitors to become like family to many of our seniors who do not have a network of friends and family," said Janet Barnett, SSA's executive director. We are pleased that the community has confidence in SSA to fund this program and to help us enhance the lives of homebound seniors. We are grateful to Adult Companion Care, Downtown Baptist

Church and individuals who have funded the program. We continue to find additional funding."

SSA is looking to start the program by visiting seniors in local nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the city.

Friendly Visitor volunteers and their paired seniors will meet weekly to talk, play games or whatever activity the senior would like to do. Volunteers will receive training and must pass a background check.

SSA is currently looking for volunteers to be matched with seniors. So if you want to make a difference in a senior's life, we need you. It's easy, just call SSA directly at 703-836-4414, ext 13 or email resourcecenter@seniorservicesalex.org.

Seniors interested in the program may be referred by their senior housing facility, city government or local congregation or may contact SSA directly.

SSA was founded nearly 45 years ago by a visionary group of citizens with a mission to enable seniors within the City of Alexandria to age with dignity. Please visit SSA's website at www.seniorservicesalex.org for programs and services offered to Alexandria's seniors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

expert Alan Hilburg's recent editorial lament. Hilburg's letter to the editor expressed sadness upon hearing of School Board Vice Chair Helen Morris' electoral passing. Morris like several past and present Jefferson-Houston PTA presidents are the architects of the school's academic decline.

It took the Virginia State Board of Education (October 2012) to confirm what the rest of us have always known. Hilburg donated \$500 to Ms. Morris' 2009 school

board campaign. Then shortly thereafter he received a lucrative ACPS consulting contract.

Hilburg failed to acknowledge Jefferson-Houston School's and Ms. Morris' failure for what it is.

Jefferson-Houston principal Kim Graves once told us parents "children can be educated in a barn." The issue is not a new school building.

Nor is it about modular units and overcrowding. It is about academic failure and overbuilding, and about how well ACPS does or

does not recover from this board's failures. Perhaps we expect too much from a School Board that cannot rightly pass monthly financial statements.

The School Board fails, Ms. Morris has failed, but hopefully the incoming School Board will not. It is time to pull back the new building and reevaluate Hilburg's spin. Does City Council has the chutzpah to do so before year's end?

Elizabeth Harrison

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OPINION



Keller Williams staff and friends after sorting and bagging 126 Thanksgiving dinners in the Old Town office last week.

Fundraiser Yields 126 Thanksgiving Dinners

More than 75 Keller Williams Realty Old Town staff and friends volunteered on Tuesday, Nov. 20, to sort, bag and deliver 126 complete Thanksgiving dinners to families in Alexandria. The dinners included a turkey, pumpkin pie, bag of potatoes, dinner rolls, stuff-

ing, green beans, corn and yams, cranberries and more. Families were recommended by ALIVE! Brenda Stone and volunteers from Keller Williams raised more than \$4,500 to purchase food items. Donations of canned foods contributed to the success of the food drive this year.

A History of Healthcare Excellence

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO, FACHE
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL

Exactly 140 years ago this month — December 1872 — a woman of remarkable spirit, com-
passion and vision called upon a group of friends to help her open a hospital in the City of Alexandria. They formed the Alexandria Infirmary Association, which later became Alexandria Hospital, the first full-service hospital in Northern Virginia.

Our long and proud history includes many other “firsts” as well:

- ❖ We performed the first local surgery in 1882, opened the first area nursing school in 1894, ushered in outpatient care with the region’s first dispensary in 1900, and moved medicine forward with the first clinical laboratories and X-ray units in 1921.

- ❖ In 1961, we were the first hospital in the country to staff an emergency department around the clock with full-time, dedicated ER physicians. Known as The Alexandria Plan, it set the standard in emergency medicine nationally.

- ❖ We were the first local hospital to offer full-body CT scanning, the first to combine labor, delivery and recovery in a single birthing room, and the first to open an MRI center.

- ❖ We have moved cancer and cardiac care forward, opening the first peripheral vascular lab, perform-



ing the first prostate seed implants, and offering both Trilogy and NanoKnife technologies in Northern Virginia.

- ❖ Last year, in partnership with generous local donors, we completed Project 2010, our ambitious expansion initiative to meet the community’s most pressing healthcare needs.

As we celebrate our 140th birthday, we honor the past and look forward to a bright and successful future. Much has changed, but much remains the same: the compassion and expertise of our hospital staff, and the commitment to safe, high quality healthcare for all who need it. The founders live on in The Board of Lady Managers, which continues to support the hospital today.

This is Julia Johns’ legacy and we are eternally grateful to her and the many individuals, past and present, who have made a notable contribution to advancing healthcare for the Alexandria community. They are the living tradition of community care that is the hallmark of our hospital.

Watch for our Alexandria Babies celebration, coming in 2013. If you were born at the hospital, or had a baby or grandchild here, we invite you to share stories and photos, and join us to celebrate a special mothers’ day in the spring. We’ll share more information soon.

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Pictures with Santa

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King Street, just west of Quaker Lane in Alexandria

Photos with Santa



Join your Alexandria Firefighters & Paramedics

for photos with Santa Clause at Firehouse 201 at
317 Prince Street on Saturday, November 24th,
Sunday, November 25th and
Sunday, December 2nd between 10am and 3pm.

A \$10 donation includes your photograph with Santa in front of the historic 1863 “Champion” Steam Engine in one of Alexandria’s oldest operating firehouses’ as well as a credit for one medium resolution digital image or one 4x6 print.

All images taken are available to view online and our reprints are affordably priced starting at \$2.99 for a 4x6.

Proceeds benefit the Helping Hands Relief Fund and the Alexandria Fire Department Children’s Holiday Toy Drive.

Visit <http://local2141.smugmug.com> for more information.

Thanks to the Alexandria Gazette and the Alexandria Fire Department for their support of this Old Town tradition.



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OPEN SUN **NEW HOME**

5211 Polk Ave
\$1,085,000
Just Completed - Grand Opening!

Best of both worlds-new home size and amenities combined with "in-town convenience". Spacious new home with all the bells and whistles: high ceilings, gourmet kit, upgraded trim detail, gorgeous hardwood flrs, 4 large BR including luxury MBR. Fin basement, 4.5 baths and 2 oversize 2 car garage. Nothing like it in City for close to this price! **OPEN SUN, 12/2, 1-4!** From 395, Seminary Rd E; R-N. Pickett; R-Pegram; R-Polk.

NEW HOME **OPEN SUN**

8313 Mount Vernon Hwy
\$789,000
Brand New!
Amazing Price!

Area's best new home value just became even better! Brand new custom home now offering free finished lower level with full bath (\$35,000 VALUE!) for any offer accepted by 12/31/12. Special features include: high ceilings, open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, luxury baths, stunning master suite. Nothing like it on market for close to this price! **OPEN SUN 12/2, 1-4!** GW Pky S; Sharp R on 235 N; continue to property on Right.

OPEN SUN **INTERVIEW**

4003 Belle Rive Ter
\$1,495,000
AMAZING \$500,000 BELOW TAX VALUE!

8775 square feet river front mansion at incredible bargain price. Owner wants immediate sale & close by end of year. One of area's best water front opportunities in years! Designed by leading custom builder to capitalize on stunning water views from virtually every major room in house. **OPEN SUN 12/2, 1-4!** GW Pky S; L-Old Mt Vernon; L-Rive; R-Belle Rive.

INTERVIEW

1250 S. Washington St
Porto Vecchio #824
\$599,000
Best Value!

Spacious residence with breathtaking panoramic river views from every major room. Special features include: glass walled great room, luxury MBR, marble foyer, & bright white kit. Elevated views of bridge & National Harbor. Unique opportunity-typically units with similar combination of views & elevation cost thousands more!

JUST LISTED **CONTRACT**

4002 Belle Rive Terr
\$798,500
Classic Colonial Near River!

Unique opportunity to purchase river view home in prestigious Belle Rive for under \$800K! Fabulous custom all-brick colonial on cul-de-sac with stunning views of Potomac River! Gorgeous kitchen featuring all SS appliances, farmhouse sink and carrera marble counters. Hdwd flrs and plantation shutters abound. Recently finished walk out lower lvl. New Pella doors.

CONTRACT

9317 Old Mansion Rd
\$859,000
Stunning Colonial in Riverfront Community!

Classic colonial tastefully expanded and landscaped. One of area's most distinctive properties! Fab features: 3 fin levels, expanded custom kitchen opening to sunroom and elevated stone terrace overlooking garden. MBR with dual granite vanities, separate shower & whirlpool tub. 4BR, 3.5BA, 2FP and 2 car garage. Community path to river access.

CONTRACT

3618 Old Vernon Ct
\$839,000
Stately Columned Colonial!

Fabulous opportunity! Spacious 5BR Colonial with updated modern floor plan. Numerous features include: high ceilings, 3 finished levels, stunning master suite, custom built-ins and oversize two car garage. Prime location on large, fenced lot fronting quiet cul-de-sac in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Nothing like it on market at close to this price.

CONTRACT

8614 Camden St
\$525,000
Spacious Contemporary! One Level Living!

One of Stratford's largest contemporary models featuring striking open floor plan with 4-5 bedrooms & exceptionally large room sizes. Numerous updates include roof, thermal windows, water heater & electrical. Features include large deck with hot tub, private rear deck & covered parking.

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Location, Assigned Parking and Renovations... make this 1BR + Den and terrace Penthouse the perfect 10! It's all here - hardwoods thru-out; French doors; 12' ceilings; granite in kitchen and baths; wood-burning fireplace; skylights; master BR with heated master BA floors; Euro shutters; W/D; built-ins; extra storage; sunny eastern exposure and Low Condo Fee.

Kendra Carey 703.887.2117

\$489,900
Alexandria
"ABINGDON ROW"

Built in 2007, this 2BR/2BA condo has an open floor plan including a large kitchen island, breakfast bar, granite counter tops, cherry cabinets and stainless steel appliances; hardwood floors. Huge master BR with walk-in closet features custom organizers. Both baths have granite and cherry. 2 full-size parking spaces. Community roof-top terrace. Located one block from the Potomac River.

Bob Skinner 703.585.6683

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$223,500
Alexandria South
7520 SNOWPEA CT, #M

Top floor unit. New carpet, new paint, newer furnace, newer W/D. Kitchen features oak cabinets with Corian countertop. Pantry. Great roommate setup. Vaulted ceilings. Living room with gas fireplace. Sunroom. Assigned parking. Low fees. Pool and tot lots. EZ commute/minutes to Huntington Metro and Old Town and close to schools, shopping/eateries.

www.brianandjerry.com
Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$699,000
Alexandria South
2914 POPKINS LN

Celebrate the holidays with room for all your family and friends. Custom-built in 2006, this 3,444SF beauty has 3 finished levels with 6BR/3.5BA, 2-story foyer and family room with massive stone fireplace, spacious kitchen with granite and maple, master BR with sitting room and so much more. Call for details...

Call for more information:
Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$879,000
Hollin Hall Knolls
8115 YORKTOWN

NEW PRICE - ONLY 2 LEFT of these luxury 5BR/4.5BA homes with all the upgrades and options - gourmet kitchen with all SS, center island, granite and breakfast area. Built by Long Homes of VA located in heart of Mt. Vernon. Easy access to GW Parkway, shopping, bike trails, swimming and more.

www.thebendergroup.net
Randy Bender 703.906.1749

\$385,000
Fairfax City
"CAMBRIDGE STATION"

Brick 3 level end unit townhouse surrounded by trees/nature located on a cul-de-sac with 2 parks nearby. 3BR with 2 full and 2 half Bas - 1 assigned parking. Hardwood floors on MN/UL - replacement windows - MBR has updated bath. There is a walk-out basement and a spacious backyard. Newer gas furnace and HWH(11). This location is convenient to commuter routes and Metro rail. Call...

Louise Devers 703.795.9944

\$595,000
Alexandria
"MAKE AN OFFER"

Fabulous N Old Town home with 3lv/3BR/2BA. Open floor plan has wood floors, fireplace. French doors, balcony and slate patio. Italian-like eat-in kitchen with SSA and custom tile. Fully finished basement has separate entrance, kitchen and fireplace. Award winning garden oasis. Metro, 2 lights to DC.

Georgia McLaughlin 703.628.4463

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$824,900
Alexandria / Old Town
716 N COLUMBUS ST

Larger than it looks! Gorgeous renovation with 4BR/2.5BA and 3 levels. Gourmet kitchen with upgraded SS appliances, gleaming hardwood floors, crown molding, and brand new heat/a/c systems, plumbing and electrical. Master BR with vaulted ceiling, walk-in closets and master bath.

marytaylorrealtor.com
Mary Taylor 703.785.5619

\$510,000
Alexandria
"EXPANSION POTENTIAL"

2BR/1BA brick ramble with den, unfinished basement with high ceilings and finished attic. Hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace, pretty old wood doors. Large lot with brick patio. Garage parking. Minutes to "the avenue" and Crystal City.

Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$1,399,000
Alexandria
909 N QUAKER LN

Over 4,000 fin sq ft in this expanded brick center hall Colonial, sited on 3/4 acre lot, in much sought after Chapel Hill. 4BR/4.5BA, deck, sunroom, family room, formal living/dining rooms; and 2 fireplaces make this home ideal for entertaining and comfort.

Pat Wilson 703.598.7279
Glenn Witucki 703.518.8708

\$725,000
Alexandria
"QUAKER RIDGE"

Beautiful brick townhome offers you luxurious space with custom paint, blinds and shutters, elegant crown and chair moldings, fine ceiling details, beautiful hardwood floors, stairs and rails, and lots of lighting throughout. 4 levels, 3BR/2.5BA, 2 fireplaces and 2-car garage.

Marc Foster 202.550.6042

\$695,000
Alexandria
"THIS IS THE ONE YOU WANT"

Gorgeous top floor spacious 3BR/2.5BA facing southeast for maximum light and unobstructed Old Town views. Bamboo floors, enclosed sunroom, generous closets, extra storage and 2-car garage parking. Full service resort-like building (pool, gyms, putting green and more) plus quick commutes by road or Metro.

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Scottish Walk Weekend Events

The 42nd Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend kicks off the holiday season Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 as more than 30,000 participants and families descend on Old Town for a weekend of festivities that is consistently ranked by the Southeast Tourism Society as one of the top 20 events in the South.

With the exception of the Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market, parade, tour of homes and Holiday Boat Parade, all listed events take place at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30

Christmas Marketplace — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Heather and Greens sale — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Deck the Halls With Santa, A Children's Party — 1-3 p.m.

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market — reception 6-9 p.m., 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

Taste of Scotland — 7 p.m. for Patrons Pub, 8 p.m. general reception.

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Holiday Homes Tours — 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (various locations)

Heather and Greens sale — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

Scottish Walk Parade — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Massed Band finale — 1:30 p.m. at Market Square

Holiday Parade of Lights along the waterfront — 5:15 p.m.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market — noon to 4 p.m., 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

Find more information on these and other holiday events at www.visitaalexandriava.com.



The Holiday Boat Parade of Lights will wrap up Saturday's festivities.

Drum major Brian Brendel salutes visiting dignitaries as the Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band passes the reviewing stand.



Drums kick off last year's Scottish Walk Parade in Old Town.



Megan Murchie-Beyma performs with the Thistle Dancers to begin the Mass Bands finale of the 2011 Scottish Walk Parade in front of Market Square.



ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

THURSDAY/NOV. 29

Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Open House. 6-9 p.m. Free. Join the Torpedo Factory Art Center's artists for the annual Holiday Open House. Shop for one-of-a-kind gifts while enjoying sweets and savories from Bread & Chocolate. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/NOV. 29-30

Will Downing. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$69.50. Visit www.willdowning.com. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 29-DEC. 1

The Nutcracker. West Potomac Academy and Alexandria Community Dance present their fourth annual joint performance of The Nutcracker, at West Potomac High School at 6500 Quander Road. Thursday, Nov. 29, at 5 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 30, at 6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$12 for adults in advance, or \$12 for students and \$15 for adults at the door. Visit www.Alexandriadance.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30

Free Concert. 8 p.m. Enjoy an evening of music for Clarinet at The Lyceum located at 201 S. Washington St. This

free concert is offered as a public service. Call The United States Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

Book Signing. 6:30 p.m. Hooray for Books is sponsoring a book signing at their store at 1555 King St. Author/archaeologist Jordan Jacobs will be signing copies of his book, "Samantha Sutton and the Labyrinth of Lies." Hooray for Books is located at 1555 King Street. Visit www.hooray4books.com or call 703-548-4092.

THROUGH NOV. 30

Art Exhibition. The Gallery at Convergence presents "pitture e parole" ("Paintings and Words"), a solo exhibition from artist, Lynne Elizabeth Heiser. A portion of all sales benefit Convergence programs including Artist's Way, Convergence Shared Artists Studios, and the Lab All Ages. Opening reception on Oct. 6 from 7-9 p.m. Email Lynne@in2itCreative.com or call 703-915-0917 to RSVP. Call 703-998-6260 or visit www.convergenceccf.net.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 30-DEC. 1

Alexandria Harmonizers Holiday Dinner Theater. Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Featuring seasonal favorites in caroling and choral masterpiece sets; a light hearted musical play starring the one and only "Jack In The Box"; plus a delicious dinner served by your singing Harmonizer waiters. Reserved table seating. Adults \$30, children \$15, seniors \$25. Purchase tickets at www.harmonizers.org. Venue: First Baptist Church of

Kwanzaa Celebration

The Alexandria Black History Museum and Culture Kingdom Kids will host a Kwanzaa Celebration program on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Museum. The cost of admission for this event is \$5.

The museum's annual program explores the history and significance of Kwanzaa. Learn about the principles of Kwanzaa, a seven-day cultural celebration that begins Dec. 26 and ends Jan. 1, and find out how to incorporate it into your holiday season. The program will be produced by Culture Kingdom Kids. Jessica Smith, Director of Culture Kingdom Kids and a Kwanzaa expert, will lead participants in learning fun ways to celebrate the seven days of Kwanzaa through a variety of creative games, interactive songs, dances and hands-on crafts.

Culture Kingdom Kids is an educational arts company that produces children's programs celebrating African-American cultures. Since 2010, Culture Kingdom Kids has promoted cultural pride and heritage awareness through fun and interactive performances and workshops at schools, festivals, community centers and museums. In 2011, Culture Kingdom Kids founder and owner Jessica Smith received the Africa Showcase Award for Excellence in Children's Cultural Programs. In 2012, Smith was recognized as one of the Forty UNDER 40 by the Prince George's County Social Innovation Fund for her exceptional contributions in education through Culture Kingdom Kids. Visit www.culturekingdomkids.com.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street in Alexandria's Parker-Gray Historic District and is open from Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Patrons needing special accommodation must notify the museum two weeks prior to the event. The Museum is within walking distance of the Braddock Road Metro on the Yellow and Blue Lines. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Alexandria, 2932 King St. Call 571-969-1377 or visit www.harmonizers.org.

Craft Sale. Heritage Presbyterian Church will hold a "Made By The Bell" Christmas Boutique on Nov. 30, from 3-7 p.m. and on Dec. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Handmade Christmas décor, ornaments, hand knitted items, baked goods, and unique gifts

are among the items for sale. Heritage Presbyterian Church is located at 8503 Fort Hunt Road. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to support Heritage Presbyterian Women's outreach programs for children and women. Call 703-360-9546.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 30-DEC. 2

Del Ray Artisans' 17th annual Holiday Market. Handmade work from local artists plus bake sale. Reception is on Friday, from 6-9 p.m. The hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and noon-4 p.m. on

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20



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Christmas on the Potomac at Gaylord National® Resort

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PLUS afternoon adventures with the Fourth Annual Fun Hunt and new creative and culinary activities all around town

Don't miss the area's largest, safest, family-friendly, budget-friendly New Year's Eve celebration!

Children 12 and under, and active military are **FREE**




Badge and schedule information at FirstNightAlexandria.org



The Fireworks are Back!

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 19

Sunday. Visit TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket.

Artfête Weekend. Open house and holiday party celebrate expansion of Madison Annex. Exhibits of instructor artwork, artist demos, a wearable art runway show. Food and drinks are provided by Chadwick's and Lavender Moon Cupcakery. Live music by Orquesta Tropikiimba. Ceramic and jewelry sales continue throughout the weekend. Artfête holiday party is on Friday, Nov. 30, 6-9 p.m. Ceramic sale is noon-9 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, and noon-5 p.m. on Sunday. Jewelry sale is noon-9 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday. At The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison St. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-2323.

NOV. 30 THROUGH DEC. 16

The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol." 8 p.m. Ring in the holiday season with a return of the classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge. Complete with special effects, Victorian carols, and Tiny Tim, "A Christmas Carol" is a must for the entire family. Little Theatre of Alexandria is located at 600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com for showtimes or to purchase tickets. \$15 (does not include service fees).

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.

Alexandria's Historic Waterfront at the foot of Cameron Street. At sundown, Alexandria's harbor lights up when more than 50 illuminated boats cruise the Potomac River at the historic waterfront, led by Alexandria's fireboat Vigilant and Washington, D.C.'s fireboat John Glenn. Call 703-746-3301 or visit www.visitalexandriava.com.

An Advent Quiet Day Workshop.

9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. With David Vryhof, SSJE of The Society of Saint John the Evangelist. Pause to consider the nature of gratitude, the expression of gratitude, and the lens of gratitude through which we can see the world and all its creatures. In McMurray Commons. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The \$35 fee covers breakfast and a light lunch, as well as tea and coffee. Contact Phil Lyons at PhilipBLyons@AOL.com or 703-960-6468.

Barbershop Harmony Concert.

1 p.m. Free. Celebrate the holiday season with the Harmony Heritage Singers at Sherwood Regional Library. In classic barbershop style, the 40-member Harmony Heritage Singers perform traditional Christmas songs such as "It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas" and "Angels We Have Heard on High" spiced with a few chorus favorites like "Delta Dawn" and the Beach Boys hit, "Barbara Ann." All are welcome. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Call 703-765-4779 or email brandtron@verizon.net.

Holiday Craft Fair.

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Alexandria Unit 24, The American Legion Auxiliary, is having a holiday craft fair in Gadsby's Tavern located at 400 Cameron St., featuring 20 crafters of wide variety and homemade baked goods.

Christmas Walk. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Stroll through lovely properties in the historic district of Alexandria dressed up for the holidays by acclaimed interior designers and local florists. Part of the 42nd Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, the proceeds from the tour go directly

toward the programs of The Campagna Center. Purchase tickets at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. Chris Smither will bring his new album Hundred Dollar Valentine to The Birchmere at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are \$25. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAYSUNDAY/DEC. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16

Historic Candlelight Tours.

5-8 p.m. Join "Mrs. Washington" as she hosts an evening of candlelight tours, fireside caroling, and hot cider and ginger cookies. Tours include merry music, and characters from the Washingtons' world guiding visitors through the first and second floors of the home, adding ambiance and authenticity to a traditional Christmas evening at Mount Vernon. Tickets may be purchased at the Ford Orientation Center (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily), or through MountVernon.org. Admission is \$22 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Call 703-780-2000 or 703-799-8697 or visit www.MountVernon.org.

DEC. 1-25

The Christmas Attic's Holiday Advent Calendar.

Each day at sundown, the store will reveal "advent art" featuring a variety of local holiday creations. All art will be placed either in the windows or on the brick of the building on the front side facing Union Street. Visitors can picture the entire building being transformed into an advent calendar. There will be holiday entertainment and activities inside the store for shoppers to enjoy on a variety of nights. At the closing of the Advent Calendar event, the canvases of advent art will be available for auction at a post-event celebration (to be scheduled). Proceeds from the auction will go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic. At The Christmas Attic, 125 S. Union St. Call 703-548-2829 or visit www.christmasattic.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Christ Church's Nine Lessons and Carols service.

5 p.m. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a worship service celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. Contact Jason Abel at jabel@calex.org or 703-549-1450 ext. 104. Christ Church is located at 118 N. Washington St.

Photos with Santa Claus.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Join Alexandria Firefighters & Paramedics for photos with Santa Claus at Firehouse 201 at 317 Prince St. A \$10 donation includes photograph with Santa in front of the historic 1863 "Champion" Steam Engine in one of Alexandria's oldest operating firehouses' as well as a credit for one medium resolution digital image or one 4x6 print. All images taken are available to view online and reprints are affordably priced starting at \$2.99 for a 4x6. Proceeds benefit the Helping Hands Relief Fund and the Alexandria Fire Department Children's Holiday Toy Drive. Visit <http://local2141.smugmug.com>.

Annual Toys for Tots.

1-5 p.m. The City's 38th annual Toys for Tots Benefit Square Dance will be held at Lee Center Exhibit Hall, 1108 Jefferson St. This year's theme is "Feelin' Great at Thirty-Eight" and features a special 3 p.m. performance by Capital Squares Demonstration Team. The annual square and round dance benefits the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Drive. Recommended donation for each couple is a new, unopened toy or a \$10 minimum contribution (singles \$5). All toys and proceeds

from this dance will remain in the Washington metropolitan area. To donate a toy, drop off donation until 3 p.m. at the Lee Center. Call 703-746-5592 or 703-746-4343.

THROUGH DEC. 2

Free Art Exhibition. This juried photography exhibition — open to all artists nationally and internationally—explores the theme of upheaval in our personal lives and throughout the world. A reception on Nov. 8, from 6-8 p.m. occurs during 2nd Thursday Art Night and features a talk by juror Brie Castell at 7 p.m. Target Gallery (Studio 2), 105 North Union St. Call 703-838-4565, x4 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

MONDAY/DEC. 3

Fabricated: An Exhibition of Wearable Art.

(Deadline for entry is on Dec. 3. (Exhibition will be from Feb. 2 through Mar. 3, 2013. Fabricated is an all-media exhibition featuring "wearable art." While the making of any article of clothing or other wearable object typically involves aesthetic considerations, the term wearable art implies that the work is intended to be accepted as a serious and unique artistic creation or statement. It is open to all artists nationally and internationally. Visit www.targetgallery.com.

THROUGH DEC. 3

Free Photography Exhibition.

Andrew Zimmermann: Cold River. This solo exhibition of large-format black and white photographs captures the "character of blankness." The opening reception takes place on Nov. 8 from 6:30-8 p.m., during 2nd Thursday Art Night. The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org.

TUESDAY/DEC. 4

Author Series with Nathan Leslie.

7-8:30 p.m. Leslie will discuss his book, The Tail of Tommy Twice at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

Free Concert.

7:30 p.m. Guest violinists Jonathan Carney and Benny Kim join the National Chamber Players, a chamber ensemble made up of members of the National Symphony Orchestra, in a performance of Corelli's Christmas Concerto and Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. The concert is free and open to the public. At Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3900 W Braddock Road. Visit www.episcopalhighschool.org, or email vdp@episcopalhighschool.org, or call 703-933-4135.

Researching George Washington's Religious Convictions.

6-8 p.m. Free. Mary Thompson, research historian at Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, will discuss George Washington's religious values through research using the assembled primary documents at Mount Vernon Estate. At Morrison House located at 116 South Alfred St. Call 703-838-8000 or visit morrisonhouse.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 5

Author Series.

7-8:30 p.m. Free. Elizabeth Schuch will discuss her personal memoir, "More Than Bipolar: A Memoir of Acceptance and Hope," at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR



Five of the small works from Target Gallery's 5x5(x5) show.

5x5(x5) exhibition

Target Gallery hosts 5x5(x5), which examines artwork on a very intimate scale, with all work being no larger than 5 inches in any direction. This all-media, juried exhibition includes 112 works by 68 artists and runs Dec. 8-30. Target Gallery will host a reception Thursday, Dec. 13, 6-8 p.m.; and a juror talk with Stefanie Fedor at 7 p.m. Target Gallery is located in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

FROM PAGE 20

THURSDAY/DEC. 6

A Peter White Christmas. With Peter White, Mindi Abair and special guest at the Birchmere. \$49.50. Visit www.peterwhite.com. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

Art Focus Group. 7:30-9 p.m. Clay in the Classroom: Sculpture, Sensory Exploration and Community Building. Learn about the many benefits of good clean play with mud in the classroom. Classes are \$25 each or \$200 for the 10 class series. A school or group of teachers can share the registration for the full series. At 2804 Sherwood Hall Ln. Call 703-201-1250.

Free Concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. The 2013 Living Legends of Alexandria nominees will be introduced with a musical tribute, featuring music by the NOVA Community Chorus, the NOVA Jazz Ensemble and the NOVA Alexandria Band in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. The nominees of 2013 Living Legends of Alexandria are introduced to the community at 6:30-7:15 p.m. Free, parking in the Beauregard Parking Garage is \$6. Contact Nina Tisara at NinaT@ninatisara.com or Lisa Eckstein at leckstein@nvcc.edu.

FRIDAY/DEC. 7

Holiday on the Avenue. 6-9 p.m. The entire community comes together to light the neighborhood Christmas tree. Even Santa attends. This joyous celebration is followed by an evening stroll down the Avenue, which is illuminated by thousands of candles, called "luminarias." Del Ray Farmer's Market at Mount Vernon Ave. and E. Oxford Ave. Call 703-746-3301 or visit www.visitalexandriava.com.

1964 The Tribute. 7:30 p.m. 1964 The Tribute is cheered worldwide by recreating a Beatles concert performed live, with exact detailed reproduction of the songs, voices, instruments, suits, haircuts and even the iconic "Beatle Boots" made famous by the Fab Four. Now it will appear at The Birchmere Music Hall located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are priced at \$35 available at www.ticketmaster.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 7-8

Sweeney Todd at TJ. 7 p.m. For a bloody good time, attend Stephen Sondheim's classic tale of "Sweeney Todd - the Demon Barber of Fleet Street" about a vengeful London barber and his landlady's scrumptious but mysterious meat pies as performed by the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology's student choir along with the TJ faculty, parent and alumni choirs. Tickets are \$10 at the door on performance days at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology at 6560 Braddock Road in Alexandria. Visit www.tjchoir.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 7-9

Del Ray Artisans' 17th annual Holiday Market. Handmade work from local artists plus bake sale. Reception is on Friday, from 6 to 9 p.m. The hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday. Visit TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Christmas Open House. 12-4 p.m. Join a Civil War-era Santa at this family-fun holiday event that explores how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Rd. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.historicalexandria.org.

Breakfast with Santa. 9 a.m. The elves will begin seating at 9 a.m. to await Santa's arrival. There will be plenty of time to sit on Santa's lap and share lists with him. A full breakfast buffet will be available. At Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St., Call 703-548-8899 or visit www.thecarlyleclub.com. Admission is \$28.95 for adults; \$15.95 for kids age 4-12; free for age 3 and under.

Holiday Gifts Jewelry Workshop. 2-3 p.m. Free. Make four unique holiday gifts, stamp tags, and make your own gift boxes. Limited to 12 participants. At the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

Artisans Holiday Marketplace. 3-6 p.m. At Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St. Entrepreneurs Class 2012, Fall Semester Showcase of Graduates' Micro-Businesses Graduation Ceremony Artisans Holiday Marketplace. Complimentary homemade appetizers and art desserts. Proceeds benefit EWI and our local artists and creative entrepreneurs. Holiday selection include one-of-a-kind jewelry, scarves, designer aprons, skin and beauty products, fine art, note cards, holiday ornaments and more. Free, but RSVP required. Visit ewint.org.

Free Ice Skating Show. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The public is invited to watch figure skaters show off their moves at Mount Vernon RECenter's Holiday Ice Show, where most experienced skaters, as well as beginners of all ages will perform together. Mount Vernon RECenter is located at 2017 Belle View Blvd. Contact Carl Kirtley at 703-768-3224 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Civil War Christmas in Camp. noon-4 p.m. Learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War by attending Fort Ward Museum's annual "Christmas in Camp" Open House. Suggested donation is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site is located at 4301 West Braddock Road. Call 703-746-4848, or visit www.fortward.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 8-9

Historic Alexandria Candlelight

Tours. Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House and the historic Bank of Alexandria building by candlelight. Special this year - a holiday taste of historic chocolate, co-sponsored by the Historic Division of Mars, Inc. Saturday from 6-9 p.m.; Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.historicalexandria.org. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$5 for children.

SUNDAY/DEC. 9

Christmas Music. 9:45 a.m. The Plymouth Haven Baptist Church Children's Choir will present their Christmas music presentation in the Fellowship Hall, 8600 Plymouth Dr. Open to the public.

Holiday Evening with Raul Malo. 7:30 p.m. \$29.50. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

Bell Ringing. 2-3 p.m. Alexandria's Browne Academy musicians will deliver their Handbells performance at the Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Refreshments will be served. Open to the Public. Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Concert. 4 p.m. New Dominion Choral, conducted by Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge, will present J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard St. Tickets \$5-\$30. Tickets at the door or online. Parking is free. Call 703-442-9404 or visit www.newdominion.org.

Holiday Market - Women, Art and Shopping. 1-5 p.m., Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St. Free. More than 25 local, female artisans will display their wares during an afternoon of fun, art and friends. Proceeds will benefit the Alexandria Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs. This event is also a collection site for new toys and gifts for children of the clients of the Alexandria Battered Women's Shelter. Call 703-746-3123 or visit www.alexwomen.com.

THROUGH DEC. 9

Old Town Boutique District's Window Wonderland. Come out to Old Town Alexandria and view the festive Window Wonderland of holiday lights and decorations on display at our local boutiques. Throughout Old Town Alexandria. Visit oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 10

A John Waters Christmas 'Command Performance' at the Birchmere. \$49.50. John will be signing copies of books purchased at the show. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Christmas Celebration. 10:30 a.m.

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MUSIC

Soprano Voice Radiates along Waterfront

Impromptu singing gathers audiences.

BY KAREN L. BUNE
GAZETTE PACKET

The sound emanating from King Street in the area of Old Town Alexandria will cause people to stop in their tracks and turn their heads. What they will see is a young woman standing on the street corner, not far from the harbor, singing with a soprano voice that radiates throughout the area. It is there that Krista McClelland, 26, displays her talent. Her performance captivates the audience of passers-by who gather around her. With a wooden box that sits on the ground in front of her, it is not uncommon for her impromptu audience to throw in some dollar bills to show their support and appreciation of her singing.

Born in Georgia, McClelland has moved 21 times, and her longest stay anywhere has been in Virginia. She currently resides in Alexandria.

Her involvement with music goes back to her early childhood days. Her grandmother played the piano, guitar, and also taught voice; she was passionate about teaching children. When McClelland was approximately two or three years old, her grandmother gave her private lessons on the keyboard. Her grandmother had a method of teaching notes and rhythms, and she put flashcards on the floor in the shape of a piano. She color coded the keys and had a 15-page booklet which was known as Delia's method for

teaching and singing music.

McClelland sang her first solo at age 5, and she began singing in the church chorus when she was 7 years old. The pastor was impressed, and her parents were supportive. "It sparked a very positive reaction," McClelland said. She played the trumpet at age 8. "I wanted to be like [Louis] Armstrong," she said. At the same time, she was in the choir and the band until middle school when she moved three times in one year. She moved to Brazil for five months and then returned. While she was there, she met a rock star. "He forced me out of my shell," McClelland said. Because she followed him around, her nickname became "Shadow." Not only did she gain confidence from that trip, but it was also inspirational regarding her desire to sing.

In 2009, McClelland went to Boston and participated in a program that had 50-60 singers. "I was able to train with some huge names," she said. Simon Estes was one of her close mentors. "Jerry Hadley made a big difference to me," she said. Hadley was a world-class tenor. He gave McClelland an hour of his time. "That hour completely changed me," she said.

McClelland pursued a degree in music at Boston University. "My last year in college, we geared toward an hour long recital. My recital was the day before graduation. I got my first role in the opera

SEE MCCLELLAND, PAGE 30



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Krista McClelland singing in Old Town.



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Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Alexandria Gazette Packet turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: gazette@connectionnews.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 5, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

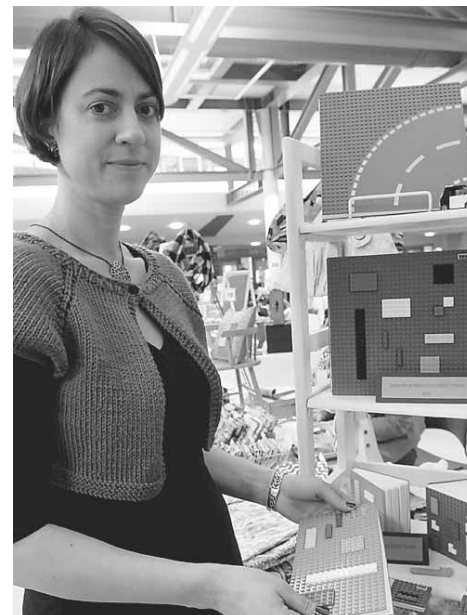
PEOPLE



Betty Mudd of Bette's Bags works on a knitting project at the annual holiday fair.
www.bettesbags.etsy.com



TC seniors Maitoz Hassan, Syed Kazmi, Kadeem Morris, Syed Shah, Aaron Ford-Wright, Richard Ausems, Matthew Sinkin-Berends and Mohammed Yaziji take seats in the cafeteria as the T.C. Williams High School jazz band warms up for a set of holiday music.



Katie Wagner of Moonlight Bindery displays a selection of playful covered journals made with Lego boards and tiles.
www.moonlightbindery.com

TC Hosts Annual Holiday Craft Fair

More than 45 vendors filled the cafeteria of T.C. Williams High School on Saturday, Nov. 17, for the annual Holiday Craft Fair.



Natalie Eppolito of Artifackt Apothecary ties off a small giftbox.
www.etsy.com/shop/ARTIFACKT



Emily Van Scoy, owner of Boutique Girl, knits a coffee cozy.
www.boutiquegirl.etsy.com



Owner/designer of Open Eyes Press Rachael Kondylas displays a selection of her vintage inspired handmade goods.
www.openeyespress.etsy.com



Knotty daughters Jennifer Vydareny, Shanna Hampton and Jessica Hodanich. www.knottydaughters.com

Members of the TC jazz band warm up for a set of holiday music.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
GAZETTE PACKET



Students To Dance at Kennedy Center

Roxanne King and Kyra Smith, both 15, of Alexandria, were selected from more than 100 dancers to be part of the Kennedy Center's tap performance, "JUBA! Masters of American Tap!" at the Eisenhower Theater on Friday, Dec. 7 at 8 p.m.

Both are students of the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center of Alexandria and Fairfax Station. Tickets can be purchased at the Kennedy Center box office or www.kennedy-center.org/tickets.

Sixteen teenagers representing six youth tap ensembles from across the United States will perform in the show. King and Smith represent the Washington, D.C. metro area as members of the Metropolitan Youth Tap Ensemble and as students of the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center. They have been dancing with MYTE for five years and

Roxanne King (left) and Kyra Smith, students at Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, both 15, of Alexandria, have been selected to perform in "JUBA! Masters of American Tap!" at the Kennedy Center.



PHOTO BY LAURA MANN

King is a founding member of MYTE. They also serve as dance captains for MYTE. King and Smith will perform in two dances choreographed by Michelle

Dorrance, "Machine" and "Waltz." Metropolitan Fine Arts Center founder and executive director Melissa Dobbs was classically trained at Duke Ellington School

of the Arts in Washington, D.C., George Mason University and the Royal Academy of Dance in London, where she became a registered teacher.

OBITUARY Hansel "Hank" Mundy

Hansel "Hank" Mundy died on Nov. 25, 2012 in Alexandria. Hank served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific during World War II and later retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He spent the rest of his career as a Construction Estimator in the Philadelphia area.

In 1995 he moved to Alexandria. He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Patricia Ann Pietro Mundy.

Hank is survived by his daughter Alicia Mundy and sister Jackie Mundy.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, Nov. 30, at 3 p.m. at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Interment will be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

Flowers and a guest register may be found at www.everlyfuneralhomes.com.



From left: Elena Pipkin, owner and director Sally Tierney, Sydney Webster, Kailey O'Farrell and Emma Feddo at the Just Dance Studio.

Dancers To Perform in 'Billy Elliot,' 'Nutcracker'

Dancers from Just Dance Studio in Alexandria will make their dance debut at The Kennedy Center and Hippodrome Theatre in Baltimore this month.

Natalie Edwards, 11, of Alexandria, who joined the U.S. touring production of "Billy Elliot the Musical" in September, will perform with the cast when it stops at The Hippodrome Theatre in Baltimore, Md. Dec. 18-30. Natalie has been studying dance for eight years under Sally Tierney, owner and director of Just Dance in the Fairfax County part of Alexandria, in the Belle View Shopping Center off Fort Hunt Road.

Other students and former students of Tierney's, Emma Feddo, Kailey O'Farrell,

Elena Pipkin and Sydney Webster, will perform in Ballet West's "Nutcracker" at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Dec. 5-9. Emma, 11, has been dancing for six years; Kailey, 13, has been dancing for nine years, including six with Tierney; Elena, 12, has been dancing for nine years; and Sydney, 10, has been dancing for three years.

Tierney opened her school in 2003 for girls ages 3 through 12 for instruction in classical ballet, Broadway tap, Broadway jazz, Cecchetti and pointe. She has 25 years of teaching experience, is an American Ballet Theatre certified teacher and member of the Cecchetti Council of America and Dance Masters.

Krotine Wins Athletic Council Award

Fairfax County's Athletic Council has selected Bishop Ireton freshman Amy Krotine as an honoree in its 10th annual Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards presented on Oct. 23 at a ceremony at the Fairfax County Government Center. The Cardinal soccer player is a varsity goalkeeper on the 2012 team as well as an active member of a travel team in Alexandria. She was selected as a female athlete from the Lee District of Fairfax County. Amy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Krotine of Alexandria.

The award recognizes athletes, coaches and parents. Athletes honored demonstrate respect for opponents, officials, and teammates, including those of every skill level. They encourage and inspire teammates, play within the rules, promoting friendly competition, demonstrating courage in defeat and moderation in victory.

These award winners show a willingness to sacrifice personal goals for team goals, and give back to the team and honor the game.

In recognizing the young Cardinal, the council noted in its award that she plays goalkeeper for the U-15 LMVSC Patriots. The citation read in part: "Amy hasn't always played goalkeeper for the Patriots, however.

When the Patriots found themselves without a keeper three years ago, Amy was the first one to step up to say she would play that position. Since that time, she has been 100 percent committed to being the best goalkeeper she could be.



County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova (left) with Bishop Ireton freshman Amy Krotine, at the "Champions of Character" Award ceremony.

Due to her incredible work ethic, Amy has earned a position as a goalkeeper on the Virginia State ODP [Olympic Development Program] team for the past two years.

In keeping with her commitment to her team as its goalkeeper, Amy was honored by earning a position at the next level, the Regional ODP team. Amy is a champion with extraordinary character."

Keeping Memories Alive



"My Mother's Dressing Room" author Siobhan McDonough.

FROM PAGE 9

weddings, etc., as well as the everyday pieces or splashy pieces that accentuate our time going to . . . work, parties, on trips . . . [they] provide good memories," wrote McDonough in an email.

And as much good art is born out of passion and personal feeling the artist cannot contain, it isn't enough for McDonough to keep her vintage sensibility to herself either.

She wants to help others cherish their memories.

Her plan is this: "Make people archived books. I would photograph their pieces and put together a personal book they can put on their mantle, so they can have catalogues, so they can share it. I do know there are women who have these amazing closets in Georgetown, just like they are, they've got their own art collection."

On Friday, Nov. 30, McDonough's second book party takes place at Corinne Winburn's house at 417 Prince Street at 6 p.m.

A third book party is slated for Thursday, Dec. 13 at Taylor Kiland's house on S. Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria.

Hysteria will host a book signing on Tuesday, Dec. 18. After the Alexandria book parties and signings, McDonough will continue the book tour in Florida, Maine and other locales. For more information on McDonough's signing at Hysteria, call 703-548-1615 or visit www.shophysteria.com/pages/home.

My Mother's Dressing Room is available at www.amazon.com and www.bn.com.



The dressing room at the McDonough home.

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Walter Clarke and John Bordner at the Nov. 17 SCAN Toast to Hope reception.



Dave Davies and Elizabeth Harmon of Dogfish Head Ale House receive the evening's culinary award from Dominion Power's Kimberly Campbell and SCAN executive director Sonia Quinonez.



SCAN board member and event co-chair Tim Gale welcomes attendees to the Toast to Hope fundraiser Nov. 17 at the Patent and Trademark Office.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

10th Annual Toast to Hope Raises \$65,000

Event supports SCAN's local child abuse prevention programs.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 270 people turned out Nov. 17 for the 10th annual Toast to Hope, a garden-party themed gala that raised more than \$65,000 for SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) of Northern Virginia, a local nonprofit that leads child abuse prevention efforts across the region.

"Tonight is about raising awareness for



SCAN founder David Cleary, right, presents the 2012 Cleary Award to Bernie Lucas of Clear Channel Media at the Toast to Hope fundraiser Nov. 17 at the Patent and Trademark Office.

our CASA [court appointed special advocates] program, our parent education programs and public education initiatives," said event co-chair Christian Lapham. "The CASA program is especially important as the volunteers are the eyes and ears for children in our court system."

Held in the atrium of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, a highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2012 Cleary Award to Clear Channel Radio's Bernie Lucas for his commitment to producing SCAN's monthly radio show Parenting Today. "SCAN is thrilled to recognize Bernie Lucas and Clear Channel this year," said SCAN executive director Sonia Quinonez in presenting the award.

"Time after time a parent, grandparent, teacher or neighbor has contacted SCAN after hearing a show, wanting more information or support to make a report of sus-

pected abuse, identify a parenting resource or inquire about parent education opportunities.

"Bernie, in particular, has always been an advocate for our issues, a patient mentor about radio communications and a networker who helps connect SCAN to other outlets for our messages."

Lucas is public affairs director for the company's Washington DC stations and since 2005 has produced thousands of Sunday morning "Community" segments for 98.7 WMZQ, 97.1 WASH-FM, BIG 100.3, HOT 99.5 and DC101. The 12-minute Parenting Today segments air Sunday mornings and enable SCAN to educate parents, caregivers and community adults about SCAN's programs and initiatives in the fight against child abuse.

For more information about SCAN, call 703-820-9001 or visit www.scanva.org.



Deborah Warren and event co-chair Tim Gale listen to remarks during the SCAN Toast to Hope awards presentation.



Former SCAN executive director Diane Charles and Patsy Ticer enjoy a treat from Lavender Moon Cupcakery.



Charmayne Macon places a bid during the silent auction, which raised more than \$65,000 for SCAN of Northern Virginia.

TC Girls' Basketball Still Gunning for West Springfield

Titans start season with just nine players on the roster.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams girls' basketball program lost six seniors, many of whom were key contributors, from last year's team that won 19 games and reached the Northern Region quarterfinals. This year's team is light on depth and experience, but the Titans' goal remains the same.

"We still," junior guard Angie Schedler said, "want to beat West Springfield."

T.C. Williams has its sights set on a Patriot District title, which would require dethroning three-time champion West Springfield. The Titans entered last season determined to knock off the Spartans, but ended up losing each of the teams' three meetings, including the district tournament championship game. West Springfield won the first meeting, 49-48, despite standout point guard April Robinson not playing due to injury. The Spartans won the second game, 40-37, and the district final, 78-63.

West Springfield beat T.C. Williams seven times during the last two seasons and has won its last nine games against the Titans. TC last defeated West Springfield in the 2009 district championship game. TC head coach Kesha Walton described the Titans as being "so close, yet so far away" from winning a district title.

If TC is going to make a run at a district championship, the Titans will need several players to grow into more significant roles. TC graduated its primary ball-handler



T.C. Williams junior guard Angie Schedler is the Titans' top perimeter-shooting threat.

(point guard Sofie Schedler) and top offensive threat (guard Gaby Moss), along with other key contributors.

"We had some of the top guards," Walton said. "Our backcourt was vicious last year."

Taking over ball-handling duties will be 5-foot-8 sophomore Rejoice Spivey, who saw significant playing time as a freshman.

"She's stepped right in," Walton said, "and accepted the challenge."

Junior guard Angie Schedler (5-9) is the Titans' top perimeter-shooting threat. She saw significant time as a sophomore but will likely need to score more for TC to be successful.

Sophomore point guard Megan Laychak (5-4) is one of the team's top defensive players. Senior guard Christian Roberts (5-11) will be looked upon to do a little of everything.

"She's kind of a special player because she can play 1-5," Walton said. "She can handle the ball, she can shoot, she can rebound, she can play down low [and] she can post up. ... I'm expecting her to step up and kind of help take the other ones under her wing and guide us."

Sophomore guard Rejoice Spivey will take over primary ball-handling duties for the T.C. Williams girls' basketball team.

Senior forward Baylee Simpson (5-9), juniors Ebonee Green (6-0 forward) and Amon Lipford (5-9 forward), and sophomore Kaylah Davis (5-8 guard) are also on the team.

TC's roster has just two seniors and is composed of just nine players. While Walton said the team's bench could grow around midseason, she's relying on the group she has now to be mentally and physically tough.

"They definitely have to stay in shape,"

Walton said. "We harp on that now. We've got to be able to knock down shots in late quarters of the game. They've got to be able to play for 32 minutes."

Roberts said the Titans will have to overcome fatigue.

"When we're tired," she said, "we've got to suck it up."

TC will open the season on the road against Edison on Dec. 7. The Titans' first meeting with West Springfield is Jan. 4 at home.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

Capitals Alumni Bondra and Burton Host Hockey School

Washington Capitals alumni Peter Bondra and Nelson Burton and mascot Slapshot visited Alexandria Country Day School in Alexandria on Wednesday, Nov. 7, for the fifth Capitals Hockey School assembly of the 2012-13 school year.

Hockey School is a free program, designed to be instructional and interactive, with the goal of exposing students to floor hockey while teaching proper technique.

Bondra is a former Capitals right wing who played in 961 games with the Capitals from 1990-2004. Burton, a former Capitals left wing, played with the team from 1977-1979.

Following the clinic the Capitals donated a set of street hockey equipment to the school. All students received an autographed alumni card, a hockey 101 booklet and a Capitals squishy puck. Alexandria Country Day School also received a Capitals Hockey School banner to display in their school gymnasium.



Washington Capitals alumnus Nelson Burton demonstrates a shot during a Washington Capitals Hockey School at Alexandria Country Day School.



Washington Capitals alumnus Peter Bondra participates in a scrimmage during a Washington Capitals Hockey School at Alexandria Country Day School.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The 2012-13 season marks the sixth consecutive year the Capitals have conducted their Hockey School program. The Capitals

have hosted more than 70 clinics and reached more than 10,000 students in the past four years.

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- Nov. 29 **Torpedo Factory Art Center's Holiday Open House**
- Nov. 30 - Dec. 16 **Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market**
- Nov. 30 - Dec. 16 **Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol"**
- Nov. 30 **A Christmas Marketplace**
- Dec. 1 - 24 **The Christmas Attic's Holiday Advent Calendar**
- Dec. 1 **42nd Annual Campagna Center Scottish Christmas Walk Parade**
- Dec. 1 **The Campagna Center Holiday Designer Tour of Homes**
- Dec. 1 **Soldier's Christmas**
- Dec. 1 **Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights**
- Dec. 1 **Ornament Decorating Workshop**
- Dec. 7 **Holiday on the Avenue in Del Ray**
- Dec. 8 **Christmas in Camp Open House**

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PHOTO BY MATT KLEINROCK

Black Friday

Nearly 100 shoppers lined the sidewalks outside of fibre space early Friday morning, Nov. 23 to take advantage of the 6 a.m. discounts.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday by noon. Photos welcome.

THURSDAY/NOV. 29

Autism Insurance Seminar. 6-8 p.m.

CARD will host a series of workshops to educate parents on the new law and the most effective ways to access the coverage. Learn about what insurance companies will and will not cover, types of plans and rules regarding coverage, effective strategies to maximize your benefits, how to understand the complexities of different insurance carriers, which plans will have to comply with (S 1062/H 2467) and what to know during open enrollment. RSVP by Nov. 26 at s.price@centerforautism.com. At 5400 Shawnee Road, Suite 208.

Public Meeting on Transportation.

6:30-8 p.m. The City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services will be hosting a public meeting to discuss transportation issues in and around Del Ray including traffic, Route 1 Transitway, and the Del Ray/Arlandia Trolley. The meeting will take place at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., in the Multipurpose rooms.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30

Church Service. 7:30 p.m. St. Andrew & St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church is holding a Kirkin of the Tartan and Evening Prayer service on Friday Nov. 30 when is St. Andrew's Day. St. Andrew, one of Jesus' 12 disciples, is the Patron Saint of Scotland. The service will include a blessing of Scottish tartans, a bagpiper, and Scottish music. It will be followed by a reception with Scottish foods and beverages. The church is located at 402 E. Monroe Ave. Call 703-683-3343 or visit www.standrewandstmargaret.org.

DEC. 1-5

Holiday Tree Decorating Contest.

The Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Ave., will host a holiday tree decorating contest in the community's Sky Room. Residents of The Fountains at Washington House will choose the contest winner on Dec. 6 and trees will remain on public display in the Sky Room through Dec. 31. A contest entry fee of \$50 includes a tree for the first ten participants. All proceeds will benefit Watermark for Kids, a non-profit organization committed to helping local kids thrive. Individuals and organizations wishing to enter the contest should register by calling The Fountains at Washington House at 703-845-5000. Visit www.watermarkforkids.org or www.watermarkcommunities.com/WashingtonHouse.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 5

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Group Tours.

8:30-11 a.m. This is an opportunity to tour our Lower School campus, meet administrators, and see our outstanding faculty in action. Reservations necessary. Call 703-212-2705, email KCarbo@ssas.org. Visit www.sssas.org/admission Lower School, 400 Fontaine St.

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Middle School Visiting Day.

8 a.m.-12 p.m. Prospective students shadow current Middle School students for a half-day of classes. Reservations necessary. Call 703-212-2706 or email JKunz@ssas.org. Visit www.sssas.org/admission Middle School, 4401 W. Braddock Road.

THURSDAY/DEC. 6

Public Hearing. 7-9 p.m. Members of the Alexandria General Assembly delegation will hold a public hearing to listen to constituents' suggestions on priorities for the 2013 legislative

session at Alexandria City Hall, 301 King St. Senators George Barker (39th District), Adam Ebbin (30th District) and Richard Saslaw (35th District), and Delegates Charniele Herring (46th District) and Rob Krupicka (45th District) will attend the public hearing.

FRIDAY/DEC. 7

Christ Child Project Christmas Store.

5-9 p.m. The Christ Child Project Christmas Store helps low income families of Alexandria provide Christmas gifts for their children. Families are chosen, registered with the help of Alexandria Social Services, Head Start, the Public Housing Community, and other programs which serve low income families in the city. The Christ Child Project Christmas Store is volunteer run. Contact Michele Smith at msmith@calex.org or 703-778-4937. Christ Church is located at 118 N. Washington St.

THROUGH DEC. 7

Free Medicare Counseling.

Enrollment for Medicare D and Medicare Advantage plans will be available from now until Dec. 7. Changes made during this period will be effective Jan. 1, 2013. Free counseling will be provided in Alexandria through VICAP, the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program, and the Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Appointments will be available on Nov. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and on Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Counseling appointments will be held at the St. Martins Senior Center located at 4650 Taney Avenue. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 703-746-5999. Eligible seniors may utilize Senior Taxi for this counseling. For more information on Senior Taxi, call 703-836-4414, ext. 15.

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The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North
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Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac

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The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
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21 Announcements

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Arlington, Virginia 22203-1853. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for Wine & Beer On & Off Premises & Keg License to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Evan Matz, Managing Member.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

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21 Announcements

OBITUARY
Robert D. Martini "Bob"

Robert D. Martini "Bob", 78, of Alexandria and Arrington, died Friday, November 23, 2012 at his home in Arrington. Born June 6, 1934, he was a son of the late Thomas Martini, Sr. and Geneva Zehring Martini. Robert had been a self-employed meat broker. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bertha M. Martini; a son, Robert Martini, II and a daughter, Lisa Martini. A graveside memorial service will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday, November 28, 2012 in Mount Comfort Cemetery by Pastor Dan Lee.


21 Announcements

OBITUARY
Hansel "Hank" Mundy

On November 25, 2012 in Alexandria, VA. Hank served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific during World War II and later retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He spent the rest of his career as a Construction Estimator in the Philadelphia area. In 1995 he moved to Alexandria, VA. He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Patricia Ann Pietro Mundy. Hank is survived by his daughter, Alicia Mundy; and sister Jackie Mundy. A memorial service will be held on Friday, November 30, 2012 at 3 PM at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302. Interment will be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery. Flowers and a guest register may be found at www.everlyfuneralhomes.com

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Joyce Diane Helmus, 64, of Rineyville, died Monday, November 19, 2012 at Hardin Memorial Hospital. She was a native of Earle, AR. She served in the U. S. Army for eight years and retired after 30 years from Civil Service in Alexandria, VA with Human Resources Command. As a member of the Screen Actors Guild, she portrayed a Soldier in the 1981 movie "Stripes". She was preceded in death by her brother, Howard Hodo. She is survived by her husband, Mark Helmus; a daughter, Shelley L. Hermann of DE; a son, Bart Allen Helmus of VA; mother, Virginia Bowen of W. Memphis, AR; father, Jesse Hodo of Huntingdon, TN; a step-brother, Dwayne Hodo of Huntingdon, TN; a step-sister, Laura Hodo of Huntingdon, TN; and two grandchildren, Kati A. Hermann and Gavin C. Helmus. The funeral will be 10 a.m. Monday at Brown Funeral Home with Rev. Chris Thorson officiating. Burial will follow in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central in Radcliff. Visitation will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to Brown Cancer Center. Condolences may be expressed online at www.brownfuneral.com.

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MUSIC

McClelland

FROM PAGE 22

my last semester, and I used my final recital as a benefit for Save the Children," McClelland said.

Following a medical leave of absence from attending graduate school at Brigham Young University, McClelland returned to Virginia. She had the opportunity to hear and meet the diva of a generation of opera singers — Evelyn Lear. Lear, a soprano, became McClelland's mentor and teacher for the following one and a half years and taught her free of charge. "She saw something worth training. We adopted each other as grandmother/granddaughter," McClelland said. Recognizing McClelland's talent, Lear encouraged her to get involved in The Wagner Society which is a group of opera singers who specialize in singing Wagner's music. "I was so very much vocally a baby," McClelland said.

In April 2011, McClelland went to Brazil to compete in the Maria Callas competition. She achieved second place and a prize for

"It can be a difficult place to sing, but I love singing there. It's a special place. I can go and sing anything."

— Krista McClelland

the best interpretation of Mozart. "I got into that competition because I have a Brazilian passport. I was the only American in that competition," McClelland said. She also did a lot of concert in one city, Maringa, where her cousin is the mayor.

McClelland began street performing a few years ago for the fun of it. During the summer of 2012, she befriended a character artist in Old Town who drew a sketch of her as an opera singer, and McClelland sang. The entire boardwalk of people stopped. "People really responded well," McClelland said.

She continued to sing near the water by the boardwalk and also further up on King Street in the heart of the shopping district one to two times per week. "I started leaving with no less than \$50 to \$60 a night. One Saturday, I was there for four hours and left with \$495," she said. Having suffered huge financial fallout in 2012 and working temporary jobs, McClelland's street singing has been an added resource for her. "It's been a major source of keeping me afloat," she said.

Despite the environmental hazards that King Street presents including noise, traffic, smoking, smog, and dogs, McClelland has found a niche there. "It can be a difficult place to sing, but I love singing there. It's a special place. I can go and sing anything," she said. There are times she has left with no voice.

Karen L. Bune is a freelance writer. She serves as an adjunct professor at Marymount University in Arlington and George Mason University in Fairfax.

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Nancy Dunning was my friend. Thirty years ago, she envisioned Del Ray as a community full of active citizens, thriving businesses and excellent schools. Not only did she work tirelessly over the years to help create this community, but she inspired many of us to join in her effort. For those of you who did not know Nancy, read this beautiful tribute written by her daughter, Elizabeth. For those of you who did, join me in remembering her contribution to Del Ray and Alexandria.

—Jack Taylor, Alexandria Toyota



*Nancy
Dunning*

The Best Mom In The World

A Eulogy for Nancy Dunning written and read by her daughter, Liz

A lot of people, I think, have moments when they imagine that they have the best mom in the world. I was lucky enough, however, to be absolutely certain – for a long time – that I actually did. My mom was my best friend. We talked just about every day. And, anyone who knows her, knows a couple of things about my mom, one of which was that she was more or less always right. When I was a teenager, that pissed me off sometimes. I mean, seriously, when you're sixteen and supposed to be going through that phase where you know everything, it puts a crimp in it to live with someone who actually does.

But, another thing that you must know if you met my mom was that she wasn't smug about her omnipotence. Like any good superhero, my mom used her powers for good, not evil. To make other people – not just herself – feel good and be better. She taught my brother and I how to do that, too. I hope we were paying attention. I'm pretty sure we were.

My mom also taught me just about everything I know about optimism and joy. Those were things at which she excelled. It started, when my brother and I were kids, with crazy names for things. I bet that you thought that playground on Old Dominion was just the Beverly Hills Co-op. Nope. It was the Super Deluxe Playground. And, back when the Mt. Vernon school playground was that log-thing which is probably now illegal in most states, a trip to the Super Deluxe Playground was an adventure indeed. Every day was an adventure. Whether we were sneaking food into movies when I was younger, or she was singing hilariously bad opera while she made breakfast, my mom made clear that every day had something good in it, something to be happy about. Even if it was just that they'd just started selling Christmas Blend at Starbucks. These small events and details weren't small – they were big. They warranted a phone call. So did a great song on the radio. So did anything that made her smile. These were great calls to receive. Random, sometimes, but great. I mean, who doesn't want to know that she busted the person next to her at the last traffic light picking their nose in the car? Who didn't want to hear her joyful voice, her laugh? She loved to laugh and there isn't a better feeling than making my mom laugh. Because, if you really got her going – and there are lots of ways to do this – she'd just get to that level where she's crying because she's laughing so hard. That's when you know that you've really won. Bonus points are given if you do that while one of you is driving.

Her gift with joy, with optimism, gave her part of her gift with people. She had, what I jokingly called, her secret decoder ring. That was our short-hand – and there is always short-hand – for her ability to listen, really listen, to people when they talk. And, more than that, to understand what they're really saying and, who they are and where they're coming from. That's why she wasn't just people's neighbor, or real estate agent, or neighborhood activist, or columnist, she was their friend. It didn't take much to be my mom's friend. She didn't make you jump a lot of hoops. Or wear overalls and a baseball cap with the same aplomb that she did. (And thank god, because really? Who can pull off overalls and a baseball cap like my Mom? Nobody.) She wanted to learn more about people and know more people. So she lit people up when she talked to them.

And, as a consequence, people mostly did what my Mom wanted them to do, or what she asked of them. Because her ideas were smart. They were filled with the energy and the joy that she carried with her all the time. And they reflected an understanding and awareness of the thoughts and values of everyone involved. So, if you did what she wanted you to do, you were also doing the right thing.

But, mostly, she wasn't a superhero – complete with secret decoder ring – to me. She was my Mom. She was better at that than anything else. She told my brother, and me, and my Dad that she loved us at the end of every phone conversation. That's what our family does. And so, individually, knowing that the last words we said to each other were, "I love you," helps.

There wasn't a day of my life – and there won't be one – when I wasn't sure that my mom loved me, that she believed in me, that she was proud of me. And with or without a secret decoder ring, a cape, or a phone booth to change in, it truly takes a superhero to, in this crazy messed up world, love people so well and so much. So perfectly. It takes all that to be what I have – the best mom in the world.

On December 5, 2003, Nancy Dunning was murdered in her home in Alexandria, VA. Nancy's family, friends and co-workers have not forgotten her and celebrate her life daily. We will not give up and believe that the person who murdered her will be caught and prosecuted.

A \$100,000 reward available for the individual who comes forth with information leading to the arrest and conviction of this murderer.

If you have any information, we urge you to please call the Alexandria Criminal Investigations Section at 703-838-4711 or e-mail them at <http://alexandriava.gov/dunning>.



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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

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This corner property is a fabulous example of the Second Empire style of architecture. With period detailing, double door entry, and wonderful double parlors with pocket doors and gas fireplaces, this home makes an enduring statement. Offering three finished levels as well as a basement, there is a detached garage and off-street parking as well! Presently utilized as a private commercial entity.



Kate Patterson
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ALEXANDRIA

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Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
www.LizLuke.com
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ALEXANDRIA

\$349,500

One Level Living

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ALEXANDRIA/ROSEMONT

\$699,900

Charming California Style Cottage in Rosemont!

This sun-drenched home offers three bedrooms, two full baths, gleaming hardwood floor and a vaulted bead-board ceiling in the living room with a wall of custom-built bookcases. Charming inside and out, this whimsical home will delight one and all! Updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, fenced-in rear garden, and lovely front patio.



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