

Alexandria Gazette Packet

25 CENTS

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NOVEMBER 28, 2024



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED/FACEBOOK

A crowd of hundreds watch as a 40-foot tree is lit with 40,000 lights at the annual holiday tree lighting ceremony Nov. 18 at Market Square.

Let There Be Light

Holiday tree lights up Market Square.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand to ring in the holiday season as elves and city officials officially kicked off the holiday tree lighting ceremony Nov. 23 at Market Square.

Arriving from the North Pole by the Old Town Trolley, Santa and Mrs. Claus made their way through the crowd of hundreds to join Mayor Justin Wilson and city officials in the countdown of the lighting of the tree.

Wilson led the crowd in the countdown that ended with cheers from the crowd as 40,000 lights began to glow on the 40-foot artificial tree.

The event also served as the closing ceremony of a year-long celebra-

tion of the 275th anniversary of the city's founding.

"This has been an incredible year for our city," Wilson said to a cheering crowd. "We've been celebrating 275 years of Alexandria's history this year. I want to thank all the folks who helped put this together, helping to keep us safe; our public safety team, and all of the businesses who have been a part of this incredible celebration both tonight and throughout the year."

The evening began with the Town Crier, Ben Fiore-Walker calling the crowd to gather as he read a welcome proclamation. Joining Wilson on stage were members of City Council along with Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker and City Manager Jim Parajon.

A natural tree will be on display in Del Ray when a tree and menorah lighting ceremony will be held Dec. 8 in Pat Miller Neighborhood Square at the corner of Mount Vernon and E. Oxford avenues.

King Street Pedestrian Zone Expanded

200 block part of a pilot program through 2025.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The pedestrian zone on lower King Street in Old Town has been expanded to include the 200 block of King as part of an extended pilot program that took effect Nov. 22.

The new pedestrian zone runs from the waterfront to Fairfax Street at the eastern corner of Market Square and City Hall.

The pilot program will run from Nov. 22 to Jan. 6, 2025, and again from March 14 through Sept. 30.

City Council unanimously approved the program, which was proposed earlier this year by Mayor Justin Wilson and Councilman John Chapman, at its September legislative meeting.

SEE KING STREET, PAGE 5

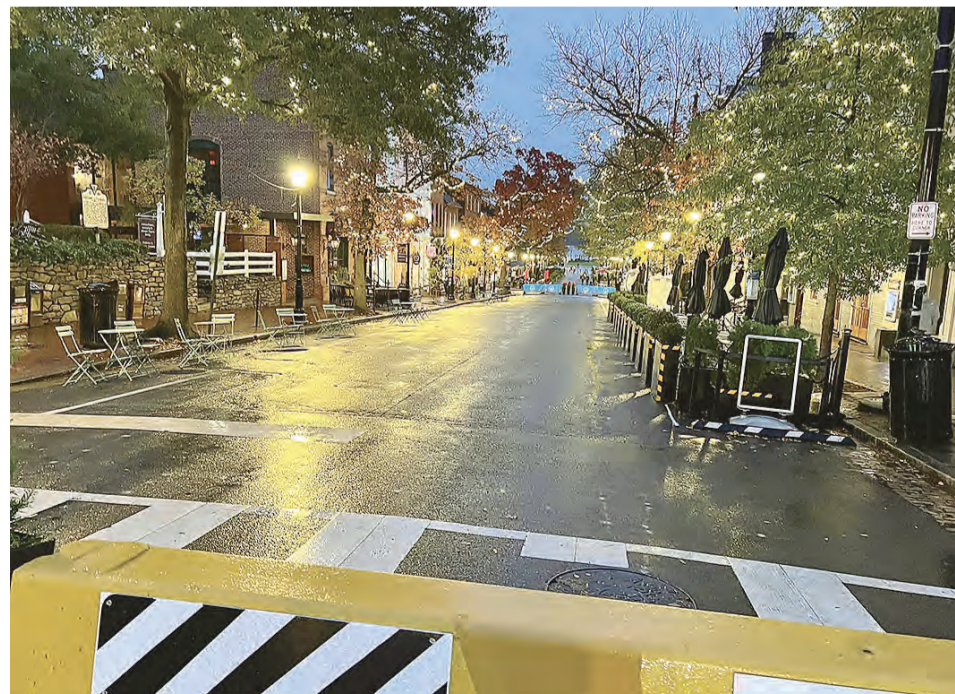


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED/FACEBOOK

The 200 block of King Street in Old Town is pedestrian only through Jan. 6 as part of a pilot program.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED/FACEBOOK

The 200 block of King Street is now part of the pedestrian only zone in Old Town.



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COMMUNITY

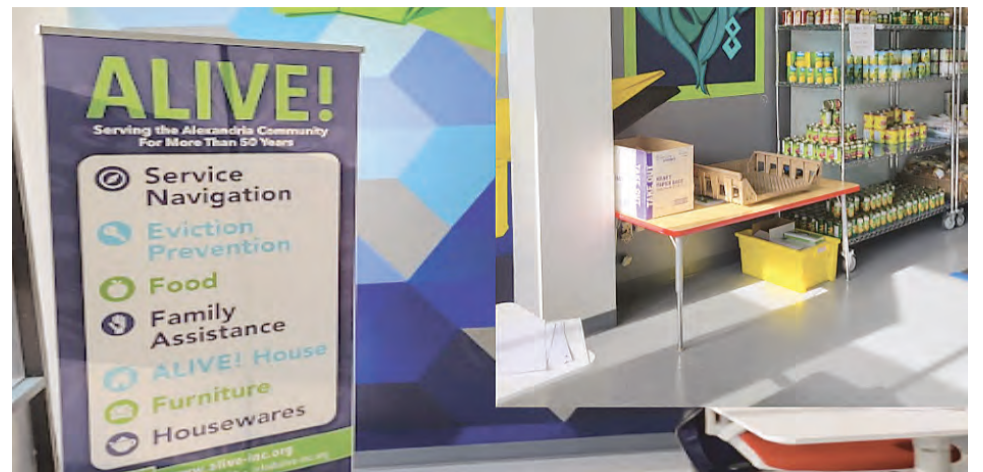


PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

ALIVE! is the oldest and largest private safety net in the City of Alexandria dedicated to fighting poverty and hunger. They opened their first brick and mortar food hub at 501-F South Van Dorn Street in 2022.

Where To Give Locally in Alexandria and Mount Vernon

Local nonprofits serve critical roles in the community, and they need your help.

A September, 2024 survey by No Kid Hungry Virginia showed that more than three-quarters of Virginians (78%) say groceries have become harder to afford in the last year and 62% of families have had to decide between purchasing food and paying for another essential bill, such as rent, utilities, gas or home or car repairs. Parents of students are more likely to sacrifice healthy foods in response to costs, with 55% buying less or no produce or 54% buying less or no protein. Nearly half of Virginians (42%) report at least one sign of food insecurity, such as not having enough to eat, eating low-quality food or eating a limited variety of food due to cost. Two-thirds (68%) of Virginians would worry about their ability to afford food if faced with an unexpected \$1,500 expense.

The need extends beyond hunger.

There are literally thousands of ways to give locally. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed and any corrections. Send corrections or updates to mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com with "Give Locally" in the subject line.

❖ **ALIVE! Alexandria; 2723 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302; 703-837-9300;** ALIVE! serves thousands Alexandrians annually with shelter; low-cost early childhood education and childcare; financial help for rent, utilities, medical care and other critical needs; emergency food; and deliveries of donated furniture and houseware. www.alive-inc.org

❖ **Alice's Kids (@alicewillhelp) aliceskids.org P.O. Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121** When a child is raised in poverty they suffer both publicly and privately. When there is no food in the refrigerator, no electricity or heat, these are hardships that

they can keep hidden from their peers. But, when that same child can't afford to pay for the band field trip, a pair of glasses, a chorus outfit or a new pair of shoes, these are indignities that are evident to their classmates. Alice's Kids pays for these relatively inexpensive items in the hopes of preserving the dignity of the child. It helps children from all over the Mount Vernon area and beyond through small acts of kindness. Alice's Kids aliceskids.org 703.746.8108 contact@aliceskids.org

❖ **United Community, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306** assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UC provides housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center. Make a Financial Contribution to support the Holiday Gift Room 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306. www.ucmagency.org

Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are also welcome.

❖ **At Home in Alexandria (AHA) is a nonprofit village that builds and sustains a 55+ community to successfully navigate aging. Together, we share activities, programs and services, including access to needed assistance. Our vision is for AHA to be an advocate for older Alexandrians to live safe, active and connected lives. AHA is a membership organization, which means you pay an annual membership fee that, in turn, entitles you to request services from AHA for an entire year. These services include transportation, errands, technical support, light maintenance, organizing and decluttering, short-term pet or lawn care, and much more. 3139 Mt. Vernon Ave. Alexandria, VA 22305-2669 (703) 231-0824 Email: aha@athomeinalexandria.org Website: www.athomeinalexandria.org**

SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 3
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COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Guest House celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 6. Guest House provides a residential program with individualized support services including job assistance and counseling for formerly incarcerated women with non-violent offenses.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Just Neighbors is dedicated to serving and supporting the immigrant community of Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia by providing high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, asylees and refugees.

Where To Give Locally

FROM PAGE 2

❖ **Animal Welfare League of Alexandria**, 703-746-4774, www.alexandrianimals.org, Pet adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education, wildlife management, community service and outreach. See pages 14-15 for more.

❖ **ACT for Alexandria**, 703-739-7778, www.actforalexandria.org, Nonprofit and donor services, Alexandria's community foundation.

❖ **Alexandria Tutoring Consortium**, 703-549-6670 ext. 119 <https://alexandriatutors.org/>, Tutoring for Alexandria City Public Schools kindergarten and first grade students who are struggling to read. Mission: To help Alexandria City Public School students read on or above grade level by the end of kindergarten and first grade.

❖ **Bethany House**, 6121 Lincolnia Rd #303, Alexandria, VA 22312; 703-658-9500; <http://www.bhnv.org/>; Bethany House provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding DC metro communities.

❖ **The Campagna Center**, 703-549-0111, www.campagnacenter.org, Educational and social development programs for children, teens, and adults.

❖ **Carpenter's Shelter**, 703 548-7500, www.carpentersshelter.org, Homeless services and programs including education and case management.

❖ **Center for Alexandria's Children**, 703-838-4381, www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org, Child abuse and neglect

and parent support.

❖ **Child and Family Network Centers**, 703-836-0214, www.cfnc-online.org, Provides caring, high-quality, free early education and related services to at-risk children and their families in their own neighborhoods to prepare them for success in school and life

❖ **Community Lodgings, Inc.**, 703-549-4407 Transitional and affordable housing, youth education, adult education, bilingual staff assistance.

❖ **The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia**, www.cfnova.org The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in the region. Make grants in its focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists.

❖ **Computer C.O.R.E.** 703-931-7346, www.computercore.org, Adult education, computer training and career development. Email: info@computercore.org

❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)** ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. Mailing address: 4201 Wilson Blvd., #110-284, Arlington, VA 22203, CFC #33011, Phone 703-591-4965, cause-usa.org

❖ **Hopkins House**, 703-549-8072, www.hopkinshouse.org, Preschool academy, family budgeting and literacy, family education and youth summer enrichment camp, Early Childhood Learning Institute.

❖ **Literacy Council of Northern Virginia**, 703-237-0866, www.lcnv.org, Teaches adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and understanding English.

❖ **Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center**, an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves as a safety net for clients of the CSB who encounter extraordinary or emergency financial needs. More than 98 percent of donations and grants go to direct client support and co-sponsorship of free public educational programs. bit.ly/friendsoftheAMHC

❖ **Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia** offers structure, supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, info@friendsofguesthouse.org, friendsofguesthouse.org/

❖ **Just Neighbors** is dedicated to serving and supporting the immigrant community by providing high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, asylees and refugees. <https://www.justneighbors.org/>

❖ **Neighborhood Health**, 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. Partners with patients to treat the whole person through medical, behavioral health and dental programs. Ten clinics throughout the region taking a leading role during COVID. Participating with all insurance including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid, 703-535-5568, www.neighborhoodhealthva.org

❖ **Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC)** seeks to provide low-income indi-

viduals, senior citizens, and families residing in Fort Belvoir, Lorton, Newington and other portions of southeast Fairfax County with access to basic needs and the opportunity to empower themselves through LCAC's self-sufficiency programs. <https://lortonaction.org>

❖ **Mount Vernon At Home**, 703-303-4060, www.mountvernonathome.org. Mount Vernon At Home membership helps connect senior members of our community, neighbors helping neighbors with volunteer support. Mount Vernon at Home has stepped up its efforts to help members stay safe, secure, and connected during the pandemic crisis. More grocery shopping and errand services to members; online activities and support for members to access these new technologies; members check in with members by phone regularly; weekly email newsletters with helpful, important and enjoyable items to keep members connected during this time.

❖ **NAMI Northern Virginia (National Alliance on Mental Illness)** works to raise awareness and provide education, advocacy, and support programs for people living with mental illness, families, students, educators, law enforcement, and the public throughout our neighborhoods. Many excellent programs. NAMI Northern Virginia serves Fairfax, Falls Church, Arlington, Alexandria, and Loudoun www.nami-northernvirginia.org/ HelpLine: 571-458.7310, Email: info@nami-nova.org

❖ **New Hope Housing**, ending homelessness in Northern Virginia by providing housing, offering hope, and building community. We currently offer various Housing Programs, and Support Services. 8407E

For Scholarship Fund of Alexandria

Use the Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program for Education.

BY KEVIN W. JAHNS
SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF
ALEXANDRIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

If you could pay part of your annual tax bill in the form of a donation to a very worthwhile local charitable organization - instead of through a check to the government - would you?

Believe it or not, a little-known Virginia program called The Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program for Education allows you to do just that! The program, offered through the Virginia Department of Education, offers tax credits of up to 65% for donations to just over 80 approved neighborhood organizations, including the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.

These tax credits are a powerful tool for Virginia taxpayers, both individuals and companies, interested in supporting education at the local level. Approved organizations like the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria can offer you a 65% tax credit to be applied to your Virginia state income taxes. If you were to give \$1,000 to the Scholarship Fund, you would receive a \$650

tax credit to pay your Virginia state tax bill. This is a tax credit, not a tax deduction - directly reducing your total tax bill.

There are also ways in which this tool can be even more powerful. When you pay your tax bill, you must pay it in cash. But your donation to an approved neighborhood organization like the SFA can be made with appreciated securities, enabling you to avoid a potentially substantial capital gain on the eventual sale of the securities. Or it can be made as part of your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your Individual retirement account (IRA).

Your donations to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria are also an amazingly powerful tool! As an SFA donor and volunteer I'm overwhelmed each year by the impact I see our supporters have made in the lives of Alexandria City High School (ACHS) students and their families in our community. Beyond the scholarships, many students would never make it through the complicated college application process or know how to apply to career and technical programs

without the substantial advisory help provided by our SFA staff, housed in the two main campuses of ACHS.

Our dedicated staff helps students find their way to the right program and decipher the financial aid package to make sure it works for their family. Often, they'd still have a tuition gap to close - which is where an SFA scholarship often makes the difference in making those college dreams possible.

Some compelling numbers that help illustrate the need, the effort and the support provided by SFA:

- ❖ More than 60% of Alexandria City High School students are living at or below the federal poverty level.

- ❖ More than 60% of SFA scholarship recipients are the first in their family to apply to college.

- ❖ \$1.5 million in scholarship funds were provided through SFA in 2024 alone.

- ❖ Community members and businesses, including SFA recipients, have helped thousands of students attend college.

- ❖ Since 1986, SFA has granted more than \$20 million in 4-year

scholarships to 5700 Alexandria students.

Since its inception, SFA has been a great example of broad community support at work. The vast majority of SFA funding comes via relatively modest donations from parents, teachers, administrators, businesses, neighbors and friends who understand the importance of supporting education at the community level. While the amount of each donation certainly matters, the sheer number of supporters is what has made the difference to so many students over time.

I hope you'll consider joining me and so many Alexandria community members in supporting the SFA and taking advantage of the Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.

For information, I encourage you to contact the Scholarship Fund today at scholarshipfund@acps.k12.va.us or (703) 824-6730 and our staff will be happy to provide you with the necessary information to make the tax credit process quick and easy.

Thank you!

Constitutional Amendments - Putting it to the Voters

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

On Nov. 13, my colleagues and I on the Privileges & Elections committee (which is responsible for legislative matters related to elections, campaign finance, constitutional amendments, approving interstate compacts, confirming gubernatorial appointments, and more) met to hear testimony and vote to advance three proposed constitutional amendments for the upcoming 2025 legislative session.

These amendments include HJ1, the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, HJ2, restoration of rights for returning citizens, and HJ9 enshrining marriage equality.

As each of these amendments were "continued," or deferred, to 2025 during last year's session, last week was the deadline for the House Privileges and Elections to take action on these amendments before next session. We heard from dozens of Virginia citizens who traveled to Richmond or joined us online to give testimony on these critical amendments, and I want to extend my gratitude for your advocacy and making your voices heard.

❖ HJ1: The Fundamental Right to Reproductive Freedom

In response to the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 Dobbs decision, which overturned federal protections for safe and legal abortions, this constitutional amendment aims to reestablish the right to reproductive freedom for Virginians. This measure, championed by Leader Charniele Herring, was reported out of the Committee by a vote of 12-9 and will be considered by the full House during the 2025 Session.

❖ HJ2: Restoration of the Right to Vote

This proposed amendment to Virginia's Constitution seeks to restore constitutional rights, including the right to vote, to individuals reentering society after incarceration. It aims to create a clear and transparent process for restoring voting rights to those with felony convictions, fostering fairness and inclusivity in the electoral system. In 38 states, individuals with felony convictions regain voting rights automatically after serving their prison sentence or completing parole or probation. Two states and

Washington, D.C., never revoke voting rights. In contrast, Virginia currently requires residents to petition the Governor to have their rights restored. This measure, introduced by Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, also reported out of the House Committee on Privileges and Elections by a vote of 12-9 and will be considered by the full House during the next Session which begins in January.

❖ HJ9: Marriage Equality

Same-sex marriage has been legal in the United States since the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015. However, our Virginia Constitution still contains obsolete language that defines marriage exclusively as a union of a man and a woman. HJ9 recognizes as lawful a marriage between two adult persons and thus puts Virginia in alignment with federal definitions of legal marriage. This resolution, carried by Delegate Mark Sickles was reported out of the Committee on a bipartisan basis of 16-5 and will also be considered by the full House.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections and the full

Senate will also consider similar constitutional amendments.

As I discussed in a previous column, making any change to the constitution is lengthy and cumbersome by design to prevent the adoption of frequent or impulsive amendments. First, an amendment must be proposed by the House of Delegates or Senate and agreed to by the majority of the members in each chamber. If any of the three aforementioned amendments pass both Chambers during the 2025 session, the House of Delegates must undergo an election in November 2025. These newly-elected or re-elected members must then pass identical amendments during the 2026 session. Only then can the amendments be printed on ballots for voters to decide during the November 2026 election. Virginia voters will then have the opportunity to vote on reproductive rights, marriage equality, and restoration of voting rights in the November 2026 elections. Stay tuned for more as these amendments move through the legislative process, and you can hopefully look forward to seeing these questions on your ballot in November 2026!



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PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

A GIVING HEART - Ed Arthur, center, founder of the Hearts of Love Foundation, presents a check Nov. 22 for \$5,000 to John Porter and Educational Opportunities for Alexandrians to fund an annual scholarship for a student from the Chirilagua community to attend Northern Virginia Community College. The scholarship will cover tuition, books, materials and a computer. Adriana Gomez, a Casa Chirilagua volunteer, looks on.



ICE! A CHARLIE BROWN Christmas

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SO MUCH CHRISTMAS

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King Street Pedestrian Zone

FROM PAGE 1

The walk zone project will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 will run through Jan. 6, 2025, closing the 200 block of King Street to vehicular traffic. After Phase 1, the block will reopen in January and February to address any issues.

The second phase will run from March 14 to Sept. 30, 2025. This extended period will allow for additional community engagement and data collection. Based on the outcomes of the pilot, City Council will consider a permanent walk zone ordinance in the fall of 2025.

The pedestrianization of lower King Street began during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic with the 100 block and unit blocks of King Street and Strand Street permanently

transitioning to pedestrian-only in 2022. Referred to as the Lower King Street Pedestrianization Project, the pedestrianization process went through several iterations of pilot closures and community engagement to achieve community support.

Community feedback will be collected during the winter reopening and Phase 2 to refine plans. Public meetings and updates are planned to keep residents informed. If successful, the 200 block could be permanently pedestrianized by late 2025.

To provide feedback, visit www.alexandriava.gov/transportation-planning/lower-king-street-pedestrianization-project

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Turning Adversity Into Purpose



A model gets last minute alterations prior to the IMperfeKtlymade Foundation fashion show Oct. 19 at The Garden in Alexandria.



A volunteer model walks the red carpet with her assistant at the IMperfeKtlymade Foundation fashion show Oct. 19 at The Garden in Alexandria.



A makeup artist puts the finishing touches on model Angela Harris backstage at the IMperfeKtlymade Foundation fashion show Oct. 19 at The Garden in Alexandria. Harris, who is blind, founded the organization to assist blind and low vision members of the community.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Angela Harris was still a newlywed when she began experiencing severe headaches and blurred vision just five months after marrying Alexandria school board member Chris Harris in 2019. Following a series of tests, a doctor delivered the news: Harris had a brain tumor that required immediate surgery.



Maurice Crittendon walks the red carpet modeling a cotton cream colored sweater and dark jeans at the IMperfeKtlymade Foundation fashion show Oct. 19 at The Garden in Alexandria.



A volunteer model walks the runway IMperfeKtlymade Foundation fashion show Oct. 19 at The Garden in Alexandria.



Konisha Brown models a jumpsuit at the IMperfeKtlymade Foundation fashion show Oct. 19 at The Garden in Alexandria.

The risky procedure was a success but it came at a cost. Harris awoke from the procedure to find she had lost her vision.

Adjusting to her new reality, Harris founded the IMperfeKtlymade Foundation, a nonprofit organization to support the blind and visually impaired of the community. On Oct. 19, Harris and IMperfeKtlymade held its first fashion show fundraiser at The Garden in Alexandria, featuring models who are blind and visually impaired.

"This foundation assists other organizations to provide services and glasses to people that can't afford it or don't have in-

urance," said Harris of the two-year-old nonprofit. "Events like today's fashion show gives individuals like myself that are blind or have other visual impairments the opportunity to be a part of these community events that we're sometimes excluded from."

The fashion show, emceed by Tei Pearson-Hall, featured blind and visually impaired models strutting the runway in collections by local designers.

"We have four designers showcasing everything from active wear to formal dresses to casual jumpsuits," Harris said of the show featuring designers including Say Less Apparel, I Lyn Fashion Lounge, and Lor'Faye

Boutique. Approximately 150 guests attended the show, including the Mayor Justin Wilson and Mayor-elect Alyia Gaskins, who was a sponsor of the event.

"I was honored to sponsor," said Gaskins on social media. "All the models proudly identify as blind or low vision ... this remarkable show is a celebration of creativity, diversity, and inclusivity and was so much fun."

Other sponsors included National Federation for the Blind, Beyond the Classroom, Queen's Tees, Firefighters and Friends, Hands of Christ Ministries, and Wasinger & Compa-

ny Properties. Harris' husband Chris was also on hand for the event.

"When Angela lost her vision five years ago, I wasn't sure what that meant and where we were going," Chris Harris said. "To be honest there were a lot of challenges but after we got through the initial shock we transitioned into our new life. My wife Angela is extraordinary and has turned this into a beacon of hope for the visually impaired, a true testament to the power of turning adversity into purpose."

For more information, visit www.imperfeKtlymade.com



Blind and visually impaired models prepare to walk the runway at the IMperfeKtlymade Foundation fashion show Oct. 19 at The Garden in Alexandria.



A model at the IMperfeKtlymade Foundation fashion show Oct. 19 at The Garden in Alexandria.



Alexandria Sportsman's Club president Ryan Fannon, left, poses for a photo with the November Athletes of the Month Nov. 20 at the Old Dominion Boat Club. Pictured from left: ASC president Ryan Fannon; Cate Messing, Bishop Ireton High School -- Girls Cross Country; Garrett Lian, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School -- Boys Soccer; Nick Milewski, Bishop Ireton High School -- Football; Addie Youree, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School -- Field Hockey; Kalina Janevski, Alexandria City High School -- Volleyball; and Virginia Coulby, Alexandria City High School -- Girls Cross Country.

Student-Athletes Honored ASC names Athletes of the Month.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club recognized the accomplishments of six student-athletes from Alexandria's high schools at the organization's monthly meeting Nov. 20 at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

ASC president Ryan Fannon recognized the scholastic and athletic achievements of Cate Messing, Bishop Ireton High School -- Girls Cross Country; Garrett Lian, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School -- Boys Soccer; Nick Milewski, Bishop Ireton High School -- Football; Addie Youree, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School -- Field Hockey; Kalina Janevski, Alexandria City High School -- Volleyball; and Virginia Coulby, Alexandria City High School -- Girls Cross Country.

The award presentation was the highlight of the organization's Careers in Sports night. "The Alexandria Sportsman's Club celebrated six outstanding City of Alexandria high school Athletes of the Month," Fannon said. "Coaches introduced their students,

touting their many accomplishments and the tremendous contributions they bring to their teams and school communities."

Following the awards ceremony, Fannon held a fireside chat with Kate Schanuel, former collegiate student-athlete golfer at the University of Maryland and current head women's golf coach at Georgetown University. Schanuel talked about the role that athletics played in her formative years and the positive impact of playing multiple sports. She also provided guidance for student-athletes as they navigate the college application and recruitment process.

Schanuel earned a master's degree in sports management from Georgetown University, and she discussed the multiple career opportunities in that field.

The next Alexandria Sportsman's Club meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan 15, 2025, at the Old Dominion Boat Club with doors opening at 6:30 pm and the meeting starting at 7 pm. ASC meetings are free and open to the public. www.alexandriavasports.org

ENTERTAINMENT

OCT. 31 TO DEC. 8
Susan J. Goldman Exhibit. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Artist talk, Saturday, November 30, 1 p.m.

OCT. 24 TO DEC. 21
"A Focus on Nature."

At Coldwell Banker Realty, 310 King Street, Alexandria. Art exhibit featuring the nature-themed photographs of Steven Halperson and mosaics of Nina Tisara. Steven Halperson, Tisara Photography, has over 30 years' experience in portrait and event photography. For this exhibit, he is returning to his roots in fine art photography and making use of digital camera software to create strikingly beautiful images. Nina Tisara retired from the photography studio in 2007 and began creating intricate mosaics which are now widely exhibited and collected. Nina is the founder of Living Legends of Alexandria. A portion of all sales will be donated to the Coldwell Banker Realty Cares Foundation, a program that helps support selected nonprofits in Alexandria and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. For additional information, contact Rachel Carter, RCarter@cbmove.com or Nina Tisara, Ninat@ninatisara.com.

NOV. 1 TO DEC. 1
Del Ray Artisans "\$100 & Under" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Showcases members' artwork all priced at \$100 or less. The art is sold on an art-to-go basis. The gallery walls are packed with great art at prices all art-lovers can afford. Opening Reception: Friday, November 1, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm. Closed Thanksgiving Day. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

NOV. 10 TO DEC. 10
Pope-Leighey House Tours. 12-1 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. By 1941, the year Pope-Leighey House was completed, Frank Lloyd Wright had studied Japan for almost a half-century. He had become a serious collector of woodblock prints--even writing a book on the subject--and had won acclaim for his design of the Tokyo Imperial Hotel, one of the few buildings to survive the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. On this special tour, visitors will discover how the famous American architect incorporated his love of Japanese art, architecture, and philosophy into Usonian homes, and how this East Asian influence shines in Wright's Pope-Leighey House.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29
Plaid Friday Alexandria. Alexandria's 50 Small Business Black Friday returns for another holiday season to highlight and celebrate Alexandria's iconic array of independent businesses. Known as the top destination for locally owned retail, 50 participating businesses are asking customers to shift their shopping this holiday season by kicking off Black Friday shopping at Alexan-



Plaid Friday Alexandria takes place on Friday, Nov. 29, 2024 in Alexandria.

dria boutiques for steals and deals on Friday, November 29. Several participating businesses will open at 6 a.m. For more details on participating businesses and special offers, visit plaidfridayALX.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1
8th Annual Old Town Tuba Christmas. Presented by WMPA - Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. 3 p.m. At Market Square/Old Town Farmers Market by City Hall, Alexandria. Free. Christmas carols and holiday tunes with tubaists of all ages. Free.

MONDAY/DEC. 2
Annual Holiday Party. 6-8 p.m. At Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 100 W. Luray Ave., Alexandria. Friends of Guest House welcomes you to join in the annual holiday party. This is an opportunity to enjoy a community meal with the board, staff, and women of Guest House. If you volunteered in the past year, supported them with a financial gift or would like to join the mission in the future, you are welcome to attend!

TUESDAY/DEC. 3
Yoga Nidra. 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Experience Pope-Leighey House in a unique way through Yoga Nidra, a type of guided meditation that allows participants to achieve deeper states of relaxation. Cost: \$25. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents/2024/12/3/yoga-nidra>

DEC. 6 - 8
Alexandria's iconic holiday weekend. Taste of Scotland. Friday, Dec. 6. The 53rd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade is Saturday, Dec. 7, followed by the 24th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. <https://visitallexandria.com/holidays/biggest-weekend/>

FRIDAY/DEC. 6
Taste of Scotland Event. 6:30-10:30 p.m. At The Atrium, 277 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Campagna Center and partners will celebrate the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend from December 6 - 7, 2024. This holiday party always occurs on the Friday before the Scottish Christmas Walk parade and offers guests the chance to sample Scotland via its distinct spirit, Scotch, as well as to enjoy delicious catering, music, and entertainment, with all proceeds

supporting the nonprofit's work. For the past 50 years, Campagna Center, which is committed to improving the lives of Alexandria's children and families through a variety of impactful programs that promote learning and growth for everyone, has embraced the Scottish-filled event as tradition. Visit the website: <https://www.campagnacenter.org>.

DEC. 6-21
Holiday Tours. 5-7:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Tour the Pope-Leighey House during special evening tours and see the home decorated for a mid-century holiday. Tours are offered Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, with tours every half hour between 5 and 7 p.m. Space is limited, advance registration is recommended. Cost: \$20. Visit the website <https://www.woodlawn-popeleighey.org>

DEC. 6-22
29th Annual Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans 29th Annual Holiday Market offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Plus 2025 wall calendars support Del Ray Artisans nonprofit. Free admission. Holiday Market is the first three weekends in December (Dec 6-8, Dec 13-15, Dec 20-22). Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/holiday-market-2024

SATURDAY/DEC. 7
Holiday Parade Day. Alexandria's two signature holiday parades starting with the 53rd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade sponsored by Wegmans at 11 a.m. followed by the 24th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights sponsored by Amazon at 5:30 p.m., with riverside festivities for the whole family starting at 2 p.m.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7
Fall Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. The Friends of Barrett Library will hold their annual Fall Book Sale. Come browse a great selection of fiction, nonfiction, and children's books, as well as DVDs and CDs.



The 8th Annual Old Town Tuba Christmas takes place on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024 in Alexandria.

Prices are \$3 for hardbacks, \$2 for paperbacks, and vary for special volumes and collections. Info: (703) 746-1703.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7
Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7
Support Youth Musicians. WMPA - Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. 3 p.m. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Join both the Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and the Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra as they perform. The program offers a variety of music: Hoffmeister Viola Concerto, Mvt. I - Isaiah Reed, soloist Seitz Viola Concerto, Mvt. I - Tate Commission, soloist Capriol Suite - Peter Warlock Slavonic Dance in C - Furiant - Antonin Dvořák. Free.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8
Holiday Dreams Orchestra Concert. 3 p.m. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Street, Alexandria. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic performs with the Alexandria

Choral Society. Duke Ellington's "Nutcracker Suite" headlines, under the baton of Music Director Anna Binneweg. This concert promises to transport the audience into a realm of festive delight, "Holiday Dreams" offers a captivating blend of seasonal cheer and musical charm. Grace-Evangeline Mason's "The Imagined Forest" sets a magical tone, weaving together melodies that evoke the spirit of the holidays. Tickets \$35 adults, \$30 seniors, 18 & under just \$5.

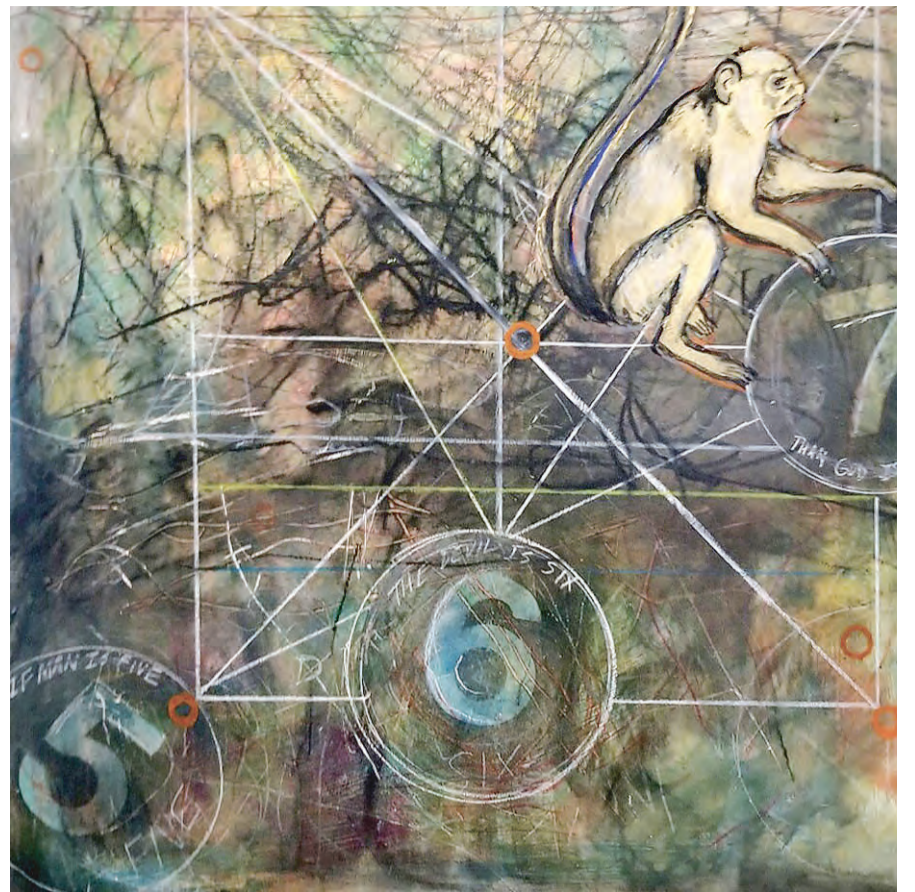
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
At Joe Theismann's Restaurant. 8 a.m. Located at 1800A Diagonal Road, Alexandria. Dates: Saturday, Dec. 7, 14, 21; Sunday, Dec. 8, 15, 22. This holiday season, create unforgettable memories with Breakfast with Santa in the enchanting Old Town Alexandria at Joe Theismann's Restaurant. Start with a festive family-style breakfast featuring delectable options like french toast, smoked salmon, and tater tots. Children will love the take-home treats and a magical moment meeting Santa Claus, complete with a keepsake photo. Adults can indulge in bottomless Prosecco bellinis or classic mimosas for \$15. Babies join for free, while kids are \$29.50 plus tax and adults are \$53 plus tax.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
At Mia's Italian Kitchen. 8 a.m. Located at 100 King Street, Alexandria. Dates are Saturday, Dec. 7, 14, 21; Sunday, Dec. 8, 15, 22. Celebrate the season with a festive breakfast feast featuring a delicious spread served family-style, including breakfast pastry & bagel

ENTERTAINMENT



The Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library is holding a Fall Book Sale on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 in Alexandria.



The Del Ray Artisans "\$100 & Under" exhibit runs now through Dec. 1, 2024 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, Alexandria.

basket, smoked salmon, and scrambled eggs. At Mia's Italian Kitchen, children will enjoy take-home treats and a magical visit with Santa Claus, complete with a keepsake photo that captures the Christmas spirit. Adults can enjoy bottomless classic mimosas and Prosecco bellinis for \$18. Babies join for free, while kids are \$34 plus tax and adults are \$57 plus tax.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

At Ada's on the River. 8 a.m. Located at 3 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Dates are: Saturday, Dec. 7, 14, 21; Sunday, Dec. 8, 15, 22. Join Ada's on the River for a festive breakfast feast, where you'll enjoy a delicious family-style spread including breakfast pastries, pancakes, yogurt parfait, and tater tots. Children will receive take-home treats and a magical visit with Santa Claus, complete with a keepsake photo that captures the Christmas spirit. Adults can indulge in classic mimosas, bellinis, or Prosecco. Adults can indulge in bottomless Prosecco bellinis or classic mimosas for \$15. Babies join for free, while kids are \$29.50 plus tax and adults are \$53 plus tax.

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

Del Ray Holiday Sip & Shop. Special promotions and complimentary wine and refreshments.

DEC. 13-15

Gustave Marche de Noel Gift Market. New this year, be immersed in a magical new European Christmas market experience in Del Ray during the inaugural Gustave Marché de Noël Gift Market, a weekend chock-full of holiday happenings including the Old Town North Holiday Market & Farmers Market, Christmas Market & Holiday Craft Show at John Carlyle Square and more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Fine Art Photography, Food and Merriment. 2-4 p.m. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Studio 312, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Enjoy

light refreshments, the Capital Perspectives exhibition that decks the walls, and an abundance of holiday cheer. This Holiday Open House is also a special chance to wish MEG member Tim Hyde a fond farewell as he gets ready to leave at the end of the year. (Special bonus — you might also meet the two talented artists who'll be joining us in 2025.)

DEC. 14-15

Nutcracker Ballet. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. At 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. both days. Presented by the Metropolitan School of the Arts. Veronica Quezada, MSA alumnus and part of the International Tour of West Side Story, will play the part of Sugar Plum Fairy, joining a cast of 150 MSA students. Tickets are \$21 to \$35. Visit www.metropolitanschoolofthearts.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 21

The Gift of Music. 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Alexandria. Join the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra with this holiday musical tradition. Celebrate the season with family and friends. Join Conductor James Ross and the Alexandria Symphony for carols, classics, and sparkling holiday favorites. Plus, special guest violinist, Chelsey Green and The Green Project, fuse classical and contemporary, jazz and R&B.

TUESDAY/DEC. 24

Waterskiing Santa Show. 1 p.m. Begins at BARCA Pier, 2 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. For a sight you have to see to believe, head to the waterfront between BARCA Pier and Founders Park to witness the Waterskiing Santa Show, featuring Santa and his friends gliding along the Potomac River. There is also a rumor the Grinch will try and steal the show at 12:45 p.m. before the show starts. Santa and his pals begin at BARCA Pier at 1 p.m. and ski north to Founders Park before circling back south and finishing at

Ford's Landing.

CHRISTMAS EVE DINING, DEC. 24

Ada's On the River, 3 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Open from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Ada's will be serving two delicious Christmas Eve specials, the Chilean Seabass made with cherry tomatoes, asparagus, fingerling potatoes, herbs, and miso brown butter for \$45 or the Prime Kansas City Strip 24 Oz for \$89.

BARCA Pier & Wine Bar, 2 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria.

BARCA Pier is inviting guests to enjoy two festive specials in addition to their regular menu on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Featured specials include the Catalan Lamb Kebab for \$26 or the Crab Stuffed Jumbo Shrimp for \$27. BARCA Pier will open on Christmas Eve from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and 12 to 9 p.m. on Christmas Day.

The Majestic, 911 King Street,

Alexandria. Open from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Majestic will offer two special additions to their regular menu on Christmas eve. Guests can enjoy Pan Seared Duck Breast made with butternut squash purée, honey glazed parsnips, and orange sauce for \$35 or Oven Roasted Rockfish made with zucchini, eggplant, red peppers, onions, tomato-caper sauce, and herb oil for \$32.

Mia's Italian Kitchen, 100 King Street, Alexandria.

On Christmas Eve, Mia's will be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., offering two special dishes. Guests can enjoy Veal Chop Parmigiana, made with a pounded and breaded bone-in veal chop, spicy rigatoni pomodoro, melted mozzarella, and saba for \$39, or Lobster Ravioli, featuring Maine lobster, pecorino, lobster sauce, ricotta, and sherry cream sauce for \$29.

Vola's Dockside Grill, 101 North Union Street, Old Town Alexandria.

On Christmas Eve, Vola's

will be open during regular hours, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., ensuring a smooth and festive transition into the holiday spirit. For \$35 each dish, guests can enjoy two special dishes: Lobster & Spinach Ravioli with asparagus, tomato cream sauce, pecorino romano, and fried sage, or King Salmon with quinoa, confit pearl onions, roasted butter-nut squash, watercress, and salsa verde. The regular menu will also be available.

CHRISTMAS DAY DINING, DEC. 25

Ada's On The River, 3 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Ada's will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Christmas Day, offering a three-course prix fixe menu for \$79 per person. The menu features dishes like Preserved Root Vegetable Tartare, Shrimp-Stuffed Halibut, Coal-Roasted Rack of Lamb, and more. For \$29, kids can enjoy options such as White Cheddar Mac & Cheese and Petite Filet Mignon.

Joe Theismann's Restaurant, 1800A Diagonal Road, Alexandria.

Indulge in a sumptuous Christmas Day Buffet, available from 11:30am to 9pm. The buffet features a Carving Station, a Salad Table, a Bread and Dessert Table, and a Hot Table. Priced at \$59 per person and \$19 for kids, this festive buffet promises a delectable spread to satisfy every palate with dishes like Praline-Sweet Potato Casserole, Spiral Ham, Brioche Stuffing and more.

The Majestic, 911 King Street,

Alexandria. On Christmas Day from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Majestic will offer a Christmas dinner for \$79 per person, featuring a four-course prix fixe menu with a variety of delicious options. Dishes include Butternut Squash Soup, Crab Croquettes, Roasted Turkey, Truffle Mash Potatoes, and more.

The Majestic will also offer a Thanksgiving Bar Menu with an array of starters, main dishes, sides, and desserts. Children ages 12 and under can enjoy the Kids Menu, which includes three delicious courses.

Mia's Italian Kitchen, 100 King Street, Alexandria.

Mia's Italian Kitchen, the beloved traditional Italian eatery located at the riverside end of King Street in Old Town Alexandria, is offering a three-course Christmas feast for \$49 per person. The menu includes dishes like Shrimp Fra Diavolo Bruschetta, Lobster Ravioli, Braised Lamb Shank, and more. The restaurant will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Christmas Day.

Royal Restaurant, 730 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria.

Royal will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., offering its regular menu, along with a new breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu, plus two Christmas specials. Guests can choose between Prime Rib with garlic mashed potatoes, honey-glazed carrots, horseradish cream, and au jus for \$35, or Spiral Ham with mashed sweet potatoes, candied pecans, garlic green beans, and pineapple glaze for \$25.

Vola's Dockside Grill, 101 North Union Street, Old Town Alexandria.

Spend Christmas Day at Vola's Dockside Grill and enjoy a special three-course prix fixe menu for \$49 per person. The menu includes dishes like Charred Octopus, Pork Shank Osso Buco, Lobster & Spinach Ravioli, and more. Vola's will be open from 11:30am to 10 pm, offering plenty of time for friends and family to gather and savor a festive holiday meal with a beautiful waterfront view.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

Before

After

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BULLETIN

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

- VOLUNTEERS WANTED**
- Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteeral-alexandria.org
 - ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. www.volunteeralalexandria.org/ALIVE
 - Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.
 - Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.
 - STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaledge@aol.com.
 - Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.
 - RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

DEC. 31, 2024

30th Annual First Night Alexandria. 2 p.m. - 12 a.m. Throughout Old Town Alexandria. Experience the region's signature family-friendly New Year's Eve festival of music and more. A community celebration of the performing arts, First Night Alexandria rings in the new year with music, comedy, and dance. This year's celebration will feature a twilight fireworks display at 6 p.m. on Alexandria's waterfront geared to families who want to enjoy the show with their kids and loved ones. First Night Alexandria will also still host an abbreviated encore display of the New Year's fireworks at midnight on the waterfront. Visit <https://visitallexandria.com/events/30th-annual-first-night-alexandria>

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.birchmere.com.

NOVEMBER

Fri. 29: The Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad \$45.00
Sat. 30: The Manhattans Featuring Gerald Alston \$65.00

DECEMBER

Mon. 2: Shawn Colvin \$65.00
Tue. 3: Aimee Mann & Ted Leo Xmas Show ft. Paul F. Tompkins, Nellie McKay & Josh Gondelman \$69.50 SOLD OUT!
Wed. 4: Aimee Mann & Ted Leo Xmas Show ft. Paul F. Tompkins, Nellie McKay & Josh Gondelman \$69.50 SOLD OUT!
Thu. 5: Hot Tuna Acoustic \$69.50 SOLD OUT!
Fri. 6: Chris Botti \$110.00



"A Focus on Nature" can be seen Oct. 24 to Dec. 21, 2024 at Coldwell Banker Realty in Alexandria.

Sat. 7: Chris Botti \$110.00 SOLD OUT!
Sun. 8: The Musical Box - The 50th Anniversary of Genesis - "Selling England By The Pound" \$59.50
Mon. 9: Musiq Soulchild \$95.00 SOLD OUT!
Tue. 10: Musiq Soulchild \$95.00
Thu. 12: Micky Dolenz of The Monkees: Songs & Stories \$75.00 SOLD OUT!
Fri. 13: Don McLean "A Starry Starry Night" A Night of Hits & Holiday Favorites \$79.50
Sat. 14: Southside Johnny & The

Asbury Jukes \$59.50
Sun. 15: The String Queens "Home For The Holidays" \$35.00
Mon. 16: A Christmas Brass Spectacular feat. The Capitol Bones All-Brass Big Band \$39.50
Tue. 17: Tab Benoit w/ Jesse Dayton \$49.50
Wed. 18: A John Waters Christmas 2024 \$59.50 SOLD OUT!
Thu. 19: Carbon Leaf "Time Is The Playground Tour" \$49.50
Fri. 20: Carbon Leaf "Time Is The Playground Tour" \$49.50 SOLD OUT!
Sat. 21: Pieces of a Dream \$49.50

Sun. 22: Luther Re-Lives 'Holiday Show' starring William "Smooth" Wardlaw \$49.50
Thu. 26: Tarsha Fitzgerald Prod. Presents VOICES OF MOTOWN Christmas Concert! \$39.50
Fri. 27: Charles Esten "Love Ain't Pretty Tour" \$59.50
Sat. 28: A Very MAYSA Christmas \$69.50
Sun. 29: Bela Dona Band \$39.50
Tue. 31: New Year's Eve with The Seldom Scene and Tim & Savannah Finch & Eastman String Band -7:30pm- \$49.50

Tick, Tick, Tick



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After picking three ticks off myself yesterday afternoon, including one so embedded in my upper right arm, my wife, Dina practically had to dig it out with an "entrenching tool," to invoke a phrase from 1970's comedy troupe, "The Firesign Theater," I am once again reminded of the risk/disease associated with ticks: Lyme disease. Having known a few friends "diseased" with Lyme and likewise having heard and read multiple first-person accounts of life with Lyme, I'd just as soon skip the experience. Moreover, I can't imagine that being an active thyroid cancer patient with kidney issues would likely simplify my treatment. A treatment which has continued for nearly 16 years with ups, downs and all-arounds and has seen me outlive my original "13 months to two years" prognosis by leaps and bounds. 'Leaps and bounds' which likely would have been almost impossible if I had been afflicted with Lyme, on top of my underlying morbidity - as is the medical jargon for complications - now papillary thyroid cancer, with a side of chronic kidney disease, with a GFR at stage 3b, a stage or two above the threshold for dialysis. A possible development which scares the s*** out of me.

In addition, there's another variable, though hardly unique to me, which increases the likelihood of yours truly being subjected to this very unpleasant experience: Burton the dog. He must go out. We don't have a fenced-in yard. And even though he's almost always on a leash, our neighborhood is very woody and I'm guessing the trees, and all make for a very inviting and hospitable environment for ticks. I don't see much tick-mitigation going on under the power lines behind our house or above the fuel pipeline bordering our property. In short, it's tick central over here and every time I walk Burton (four to five times a day), I feel like there's a ticking time bomb ready to explode - with my name on it, and infect me with this most insidious and hard-to-defeat disease - despite the deet that I'm spraying on myself as I prepare to venture into our "backwoods."

What I really need to do is inject myself with anti-tick venom. Or maybe take the deet internally? Now that Trump is back in The White House - or soon will be, perhaps he'll sign an executive order co-signed with Robert F. Kennedy Jr. authorizing the treatment, so long as Dr. Deborah Birx has not been rehired to lead the newly-authorized tick-elimination group. She might veto this bleach injection-type treatment on the grounds that it's ill-advised, shall we say. Besides, we've all been there and done that during the pandemic, so I don't foresee a repeat of this similar-sounding solution. But Trump has returned/prevailed to be president for another four years and with his hands on the tiller, surrounded by legions of sycophants, there may be very little that anybody governing for the other team, can do. But I semi digress. The issue is Lyme disease and the consequence of animals being vaccinated against it while their human owners are left to fend for themselves and as a result, must constantly look over their body for ticks and be sure to have a ready supply of "Off" on hand.

All kidding aside, I don't know why there isn't a Lyme disease vaccine for humans. My dog is vaccinated against Lyme. Why not me? In fact, he's due Jan. 16, 2025, for a renewal. As is said about the goose and the gander, isn't it true that what's good enough/appropriate for the dog is good enough/appropriate for the dog owner? Granted, one wouldn't want to be injected with animal vaccine but is bleach somehow better? Do we take better care of our dogs than we do ourselves? After all, dogs are so dependent on their owners for food, water, and overall health and welfare - not to mention bathroom breaks, that shouldn't us dog owners receive similar preventive treatment to assure our availability? I love my dog and I'm sure he loves me (despite his getting neutered last week), but if I'm unable to provide the same T.L.C. as he's come to expect, we all lose.

Maybe what's needed to guarantee me, and my pet's simultaneous good health/Lyme disease-free existence is for President-to-be Trump to create a new cabinet level department: Dept. of Veterinary Affairs? Perhaps he could fund it with some of the savings that will accrue in the budget with the dismantling of the Dept. of Education? I imagine it would make us pet owners, regardless of party affiliation safe and secure. And isn't that what the government is supposed to do?

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

Where To Give Locally

FROM PAGE 3

Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22309 www.newhopehousing.org/how-to-help/donate/

❖ **Potomac Riverkeeper Network** works to protect the public's right to clean water in our rivers and streams; to stop pollution; to promote safe drinking water; to protect healthy river habitats; and to enhance public use and enjoyment.

3070 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007. (202) 888-2037 www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org

❖ **Potomac Conservancy, 962 Wayne Ave, Suite 540, Silver Spring, MD 20910; 301.608.1188; potomac.org**, seeks to improve the Potomac River's water quality by building an impassioned base of river advocates to impart change at the local level. www.potomac.org

❖ **Rebuilding Together Alexandria, 703-836-1021, www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org**, Home repair and main-

tenance for vulnerable veterans, elderly, disabled and families with children.

❖ **Senior Services of Alexandria, 703-836-4414**, Senior Services of Alexandria provides support services for older adults enabling them to maintain independence and age with dignity. Services include the City's Meals on Wheels program, daily meal delivery to homebound older adults; Groceries to Go, no fee, no minimum shopping and delivery service; DOT Paratransit Program, low-cost transportation for people who live in Alexandria with a disability; Friendly Visitor Program, pairs volunteers with socially isolated seniors for once a week visits; Senior Ambassador Program, over 100 volunteer leaders, including a new program for Spanish-speaking residents, delivering information on senior resources to their communities; Speaker Series, robust monthly education program covering important topics of interest to seniors; and more. 703-836- 4414, www.seniorservicesalex.org.www.seniorservicesalex.org

❖ **Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, 703-820-9001, www.scanva.org**, Parent education, public education — re: child abuse and court advocacy for abused and neglected children.

❖ **United Community, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306** assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, Make a Financial Contribution to support the Holiday Gift Room 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306. www.ucmagency.org

Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are welcome.

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