



PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

**Clan MacLeod Pipes and Drums walks through the streets of Old Town during the Campagna Center's 49th annual Scottish Walk Parade Dec. 7.**

## Plaid Tidings Scottish Walk events benefit Campagna Center.

**P**ipes, plaids and pageantry filled the streets of Old Town Dec. 7 for the Campagna Center's 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Parade, the centerpiece of a weekend of holiday events across the city.

The parade, along with other weekend events including the Taste of Scotland, Holiday Designer Tour of Homes, Heather and Greens sale and the Holiday Marketplace, serves as the largest fundraising activity for the Campagna Center and is coordinated and planned by The Junior Friends of The Campagna Center.

In addition to traditional Scottish bagpipes and

drum corps, marching units included tartans of Scottish Clans, Scottish dancers, reenactment groups, Scottie dogs, Scouting troops, classic cars, Santa Claus and numerous local nonprofit organizations.

Proceeds from the events of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend raise funds for The Campagna Center's core programs for children and families. Passport Auto served as Premier Sponsor and is the 2019 Business Partner of the Year for the organization.

[www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org)

— JEANNE THEISMANN  
SEE MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 16



**Santa and Mrs. Claus wave to dignitaries on the reviewing stand during the Dec. 7 Scottish Walk Parade.**

## Post-Election, Virginia Dodges Medicaid Work Requirements

BY RODNEY ROBINSON  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

**V**irginia residents with Medicaid will not be required to work in order to keep their policies since Gov. Ralph Northam halted the work requirements he previously agreed to implement nearly two years ago as a bipartisan agreement.

House Republicans said in a statement that the previous agreement was made in "good faith" and Northam gave his "personal assurance" to implement Medicaid expansion with a work requirement, where most Medicaid recipients would have to work a certain number of hours each month to keep their coverage.

"Broken promises like this are the reason so many people hate politics," Del Todd Gilbert, R-Shenandoah, said in the statement.

Stephen Farnsworth, professor of political science and director of the University of Mary Washington's Center for Leadership and Media Studies, said that moving forward, Republicans have "little ability" to retain the previous agreement from a couple years ago.

"This is an example of how elections have consequences," Farnsworth said. "The new Democratic majorities taking office next month have little interest in the work requirement as a condition for Medicaid expansion and seem very likely to abandon that provision in the next session."

In 2019, Virginia expanded eligibility for health coverage to 400,000 people. So far, 342,000 Virginians have signed up for health insurance coverage

through Medicaid expansion. Work requirements for Medicaid could lead to between 26,800 and 74,000 people losing their health insurance coverage, according to The Commonwealth Institute.

The work requirements previously agreed on would apply to able-bodied Medicaid recipients who would need to work and pay premiums. For the first three months, enrollees would start with a work requirement of 20 hours per month. The workload would have increased to 80 hours per month after a person was enrolled for 12 months, according to the amended budget.

"In order to work, you have to be healthy, so work requirements for Medicaid expansion make no sense at all," said Anna Scholl, executive director of Progress Virginia, in a press release. "We're thrilled that Democrats are taking steps to halt the implementation of punitive work requirements to qualify for Medicaid Expansion and we hope that it means even more people will be able to benefit from the program."

Arkansas was the first state to implement a work reporting requirement for Medicaid. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities concluded that 18,164 people lost coverage within the first seven months of the program and approximately 23% of all people subject to work requirements lost coverage. There is no evidence that work reporting requirements led to any major increase in work participation or hours worked, the study found. The policy is no longer being enforced in Arkansas, due to a recent court decision.

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## Ambush Motion

Was the Seminary Road diet a good idea? Now that the new bike lanes have been installed and the median has been constructed, Councilman **Amy Jackson** says she thinks the city is moving too fast. Earlier this week, she surprised her colleagues on the City Council by introducing an unexpected late-night motion to rescind the decision to slim the four-lane road to two lanes.

“All this came to us on the ruse of this was about cyclists,” said Jackson, who voted against the road diet. “There aren’t any.”

Vice Mayor **Elizabeth Bennett-Parker** interjected to say she had personally seen cyclists on the Seminary Road bike lanes, and she would be happy to share the videos. Councilman **Canek Aguirre** added that Jackson’s argument that outside interests were the only advocates of the road diet was flat out false. The public hearing included many people who live near Seminary Road who supported the idea.

“I can’t sit here as some conspiracy theories and other things that are just blatantly inaccurate [are] said up here,” said Aguirre. “I strongly feel, especially with what is happening in the administration across the river, that when false narratives are being pushed they need to be pushed back on.”

Jackson eventually backed down and tabled her motion to rescind for now, to resume the discussion again at a later date.

## Shared Disregard

Consider the pedestrian who is looking at her smartphone and trips on a broken sidewalk. Should she be able to recover money from the city? What about the bicyclist who rolls through a stop sign and is hit by a texting drunk driver? The way Virginia law works, people whose negligence contributes in any way to their accidents are barred from recovery. It’s a concept known as “contributory negligence,” and Virginia is one of only a handful of states that operates this way.

“This is an old archaic rule,” said Councilman **Mo Seifeldein**. “It serves no one except the insurance companies.” That’s why Seifeldein suggested council members add an item to the legislative package encouraging the General Assembly to pass a bill outlawing contributory negligence.

Sen. **Scott Surovell** (D-36) says he’s already working on a bill that would do away with contributory negligence for cyclists and pedestrians. “This gets raised all the time, and juries tend to lack sympathy for cyclists and pedestrians,” said Surovell.

During a discussion of the legislative package earlier this week, City Attorney **Joanna Anderson** pointed out that the city routinely uses this provision as a tool to defend itself against claims. Seifeldein said that was not a compelling argument.

“We have every obligation to make sure that our roads and our streets are safe, and in the event that we fail to uphold that we should be held accountable by the people we serve,” said Seifeldein. Council members agreed with Seifeldein and added the item to the legislative package.

## Parking Disputation

Parking in Old Town is an exercise in inconsistency. Some blocks allow two hour parking while other blocks allow three. Some blocks have enforcement that ends at 9 p.m. while others are enforced until 11 p.m. Sometimes there are contradictory rules on opposite sides of the street.

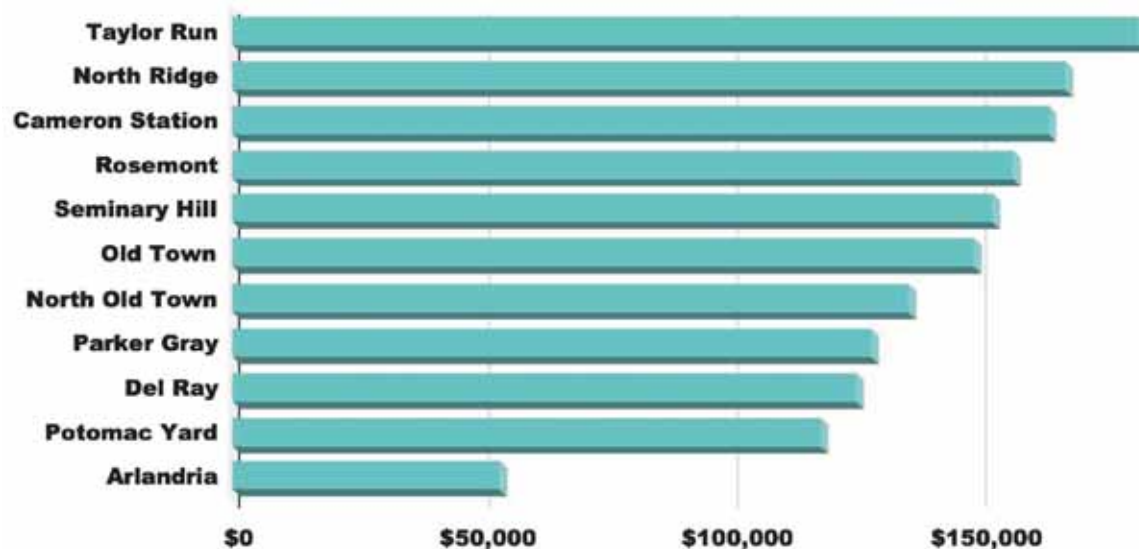
That’s why city officials are proposing a plan to standardize this hodgepodge of uncertainty, although the solution may end up causing serious problems for theatergoers. The plan is to resolve conflicts by going with the more restrictive option. So any area that had both a 9 p.m. end time and an 11 p.m. end time would end up with the latter. And any block that allowed two hour parking and also three-hour parking would end up with three-hour parking.

“All of our shows have run times over two hours,” said **Ashley Amidon**, a board member of the Little Theatre of Alexandria who recently played Melissa in the Savannah Disputation. “So this idea that a two-hour zone would work for patrons is not true. It means that people would be leaving during intermission to move their cars.” Amidon says she’s hopeful the city will recognize the needs of theatergoers and allow for three-hour parking around the theater, ending enforcement at 9 p.m. instead of 11 p.m.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## NEWS

### Median Household Income



source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Wealthy Homeowners, Poor Renters

Income disparity is highest in Arlandria, which trails the city in median household income.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE PACKET

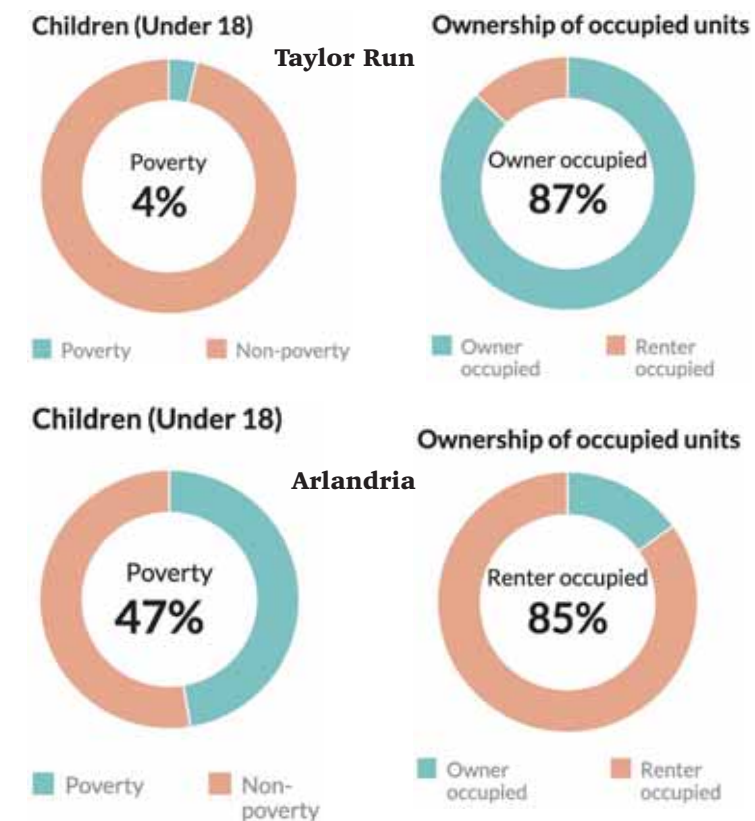
**T**aylor Run is about three miles from Arlandria. But it might as well be on the other side of the planet in terms of median household income.

Census records show that the leafy suburban Taylor Run neighborhood, which is just behind the George Washington Masonic Memorial, has the highest median family income in Alexandria, more than \$180,000 a year. The low-income neighborhood of Latino residents near the border with Arlington, on the other hand, has the lowest, less than \$55,000 a year.

“We’re quiet and hard-working folks, very hard working hence our number,” says Councilman John Taylor Chapman, who has lived in Taylor Run since he was in high school. “I think it’s reflective of the households where we have double-income earners, who are probably executives or mid-level to upper-level people in their organizations.”

At the other end of the spectrum is Arlandria, a neighborhood that is home to a large population of low-income Latino residents who are renters. As the region prepares for the arrival of the new Amazon headquarters across the border with Arlington, many people are worried about what will happen to all those low-income renters once their landlords get hit with higher property taxes.

“Those renters are going to be forced to move somewhere else,” says Frank Shafroth, director of



the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. “It’s certainly what we saw in Arlington a long time ago, and the county put a lot of effort into ensuring there would not be forced displacement out of the county, so there was a lot of assistance for Section 8 and elderly housing.”

Over the summer, Tenants and Workers United published findings of a survey about income in Arlandria. The neighborhood advocacy organization concluded that low-cost housing is needed to prevent displacement of low-

come Latino residents near the new Amazon headquarters across the border in Arlington. Specially, the group is asking for housing programs to focus on the two-thirds of households that earn less than 30 percent of area median income.

“Since they announced Amazon, the rents have already increased,” said Evelin Urrutia, executive director of Tenants and Workers United. “The city has to be creative and bold on decisions about development in Arlandria because we want to make sure this community stays.”

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## NEWS

# Senior Services of Alexandria January Speaker Series: Caregiver Support: Resources to Guide You

BY MARYANNE BEATTY  
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) will host its annual Caregiver Workshop on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, at Immanuel Church on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Road in Alexandria. The program will run from 10 am (Registration at 9:30) until 12 noon.

This year's program titled, "Caregiver Support: Resources to Guide You" will feature presenters representing the Institute for Innovations in Caregiving, Insight Memory Care, PRS CareRing and Synergy HomeCare. Local experts will be discussing various topics important to those serving as caregivers as well as persons who may need care, including the latest trends and innovations in caregiving, home care options, specialized memory care programs as well as the city's initiative to support those living with dementia – Dementia Friendly Alexandria. Dr. Richard Lindsay from the Lindsay Institute for Innovations

in Caregiving will kick off the session and highlight the latest trends and concepts in caregiving. He brings a vast knowledge of aging and caregiving issues as a Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center. Dr. Lindsay served as the President of the American Geriatric Society and has worked with many other aging-related organizations including AARP. He had the honor of representing the state of Virginia at three White House Conferences on Aging.

Insight Memory Care is located in Fairfax, and has served over 1,500 individuals through its day center services, and provides support for families and caregivers in the community. They will discuss their specialized and innovative care programs for people with Alzheimer's disease and other memory impairments and for their family caregivers.

Synergy HomeCare is a homecare agency that provides much needed respite and personal

care as well as compassion and companionship for those who in need. They will discuss the range of services available to families looking for service in the home.

PRS CareRing is a free program for the Northern Virginia 60+ community dedicated to providing clients with daily phone call to chat, remind them of their medications and make sure they are okay. It is a 24/7 operation to support older adults who are living

alone and need an extra level of security in order to remain safely in their homes.

Representatives from AARP and the City of Alexandria's Division of Aging and Adult Services will be at the event to provide information on caregiver resources.

The event is free, open to the public with light refreshments. We ask that you RSVP online at seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

## Free Holiday Lyft Rides To Prevent Drunk Driving

A local nonprofit organization announced today that free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-area during beginning Dec. 20.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2019 Holiday SoberRide program will be in operation nightly, 10 p.m. until 4

a.m. from Dec. 20, 2019 to Jan. 1, 2020 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

Enter the day's SoberRide code in the Lyft app's "Promo" section to receive no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. A separate Holiday SoberRide promo code will be posted at 9 pm on Dec. 20, 27 and 31 on www.SoberRide.com.

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PEOPLE

# Jason and Loren Yates

2019 Living Legends of Alexandria.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he busy intersection of Braddock Road and Mount Vernon Avenue is a vibrant hub of community activity, with a lively restaurant and retail businesses that serve as an anchor for the Del Ray and Rosemont neighborhoods.

It wasn't always this way. For more than 30 years, the intersection was an eyesore, a 50-year-old strip mall and abandoned service station and typewriter repair shop with boarded up buildings and potentially hazardous soil contaminants. But Loren and Jason Yates envisioned something more for the desolate property sitting across from the family-owned Yates Automotive Service Center.

"It was very run down and dangerous and nobody wanted to go into the 7-Eleven," said Jason Yates. "But Loren and I had a dream and believed it could be transformed into something that could benefit the entire community."

The dream didn't become a reality overnight. In 2005, the Yates' began the years-long process of negotiating with three different property owners, handling the remediation of the soil contamination and navigating the city's building and permitting processes. Finally, in October of 2012, ground was broken and a year later the 7-Eleven became the first business to open at Yates Corner.

"The neighbors in Del Ray and Rosemont were fantastic and we had complete com-

munity support for the project," Jason said.

That relationship began decades earlier, when Jason's father John, a retired Navy veteran, purchased his first service station in Alexandria in 1964. Jason, the youngest of five brothers born to John and Lena Yates, grew up working alongside his father.

"I always liked mini-bikes, go-karts, cars — anything with an engine," Jason recalled. "With my dad having a repair shop it was a wonderful childhood."

John Yates purchased the Braddock Road Mobil station in 1977 and Jason spent all his free time working there. In 1986, Jason purchased the Braddock Road station from his parents and that same year, he married Loren.

Together the couple set out to improve the appearance of Yates Automotive. Two additional repair bays were added in 1982. A brick façade was added to the station's exterior along with a copper roof in 1994.

"My dad always taught me that a service station is just as important in the community as a doctor or lawyer," Jason said. "It was important to me to change the perception of the service station industry in the neighborhood."

The couple's vision expanded to include



PHOTO BY TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

2019 Living Legends of Alexandria Loren and Jason Yates

the abandoned properties on the 1-acre lot across from their own business. The result of their hard work and perseverance is Yates Corner, which includes Lena's Woodfired Pizza & Tap restaurant, Yates Dry Cleaning and a new Yates 7-Eleven.

The building was constructed using LEED technologies, including geothermal heating, a rain catchment system and other eco-friendly features. The businesses are thriving,

with Lena's being named by the Washington Post as one of the top 12 restaurant patios in the Washington metro area. And the 7-Eleven? Today it is recognized by the 7-Eleven Corporation as one of the top 10 performing 7-Elevens in the DC metro area averaging 1,500 customers a day.

"The primary focus for Jason and Loren has always been providing neighbors with products and services to make their personal and professional lives easier and more convenient," said Lee Emery, who nominated the couple as Living Legends of Alexandria. "A byproduct of their vision is that they now employ nearly 150 team members providing jobs with benefits and directly helping their families. It should be noted that they were providing health insurance benefits years before it was mandated by the government."

Over the past 30 years, the couple has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in support to various nonprofit organizations in the community. In 2017, they began the "Give Your 2 Cents" program, which donates 2 cents of every gallon purchased at Yates Automotive to a different local charity each month.

SEE YATES, PAGE 7

## Stay! Long-term Foster Caregivers Ease the Way for Shelter Animals

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

**I**t was about six months into foster caregiving for a puppy from the Animal Welfare League, and on this July day foster "parents" Jackie and Lloyd Graybill were expecting a visit from a potential adopter. They were full of hope that this encounter would translate into a new home for the shy but playful pup.

The Graybills had grown very attached to Vixen, a white German shepherd mix who had come to the shelter with seven young siblings late last year and were dubbed the "reindeer dogs." Before arriving at the shelter, Vixen had developed a serious skin virus that caused frequent sores on her face and paws, as well as causing her eyes to protrude. Yet, she was a joyful animal who loved playing in the couple's yard in Fairfax with their collie-schnauzer mix, Bentley, whom they had adopted in Ukraine while on a military assignment.

Jackie Graybill, who also volunteers with dogs at the AWLA shel-



PHOTOGRAPH BY WENDY SCHUDMAK

**Cambridge learned to relax outside with the guidance of long-term foster caregiver Wendy Schudmak.**

ter, didn't think twice when a staffer asked her in January if she would take Vixen on for a while. "I love animals," she said. "If it were up to me, I would have a whole house full."

About 20 percent of the shelter's 150 foster caregivers host animals long term — for at least two months — says Foster Coordinator Kimberly Weilnau. "Long-term fostering gives special-needs animals a temporary home and the extra care they need to thrive," Weilnau said. "Having some animals in homes also increases the



PHOTOGRAPH BY JODI HORTON

**Julie eventually relaxed enough to play with toys if her long-term caregiver remained at a distance.**

capacity of our shelter to care for more animals in need." Long-term fostering benefits very young animals and animals who need extra medical attention or socialization or behavioral training.

A young female calico cat with expressive green eyes and a sweet personality found refuge in the Springfield home of long-term foster caregiver Jodi Horton. When the cat, known as Julie, arrived at Horton's home in May of last year,

SEE AWLA, PAGE 18



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF AWLA

**Vixen on adoption day — with foster caregivers Lloyd and Jackie Graybill and adopter Amanda Paz.**

# PEOPLE Yates

FROM PAGE 6

“The most important thing we wanted to do was add value to the community,” said Jason. “With responsible growth and great service, creating jobs and a positive environment that’s good for our employees and good for the neighborhood.”

The Yates family business, which began expanding into the Kingstown area in the 1990s, is now on its third generation of Yates service providers. Jason Yates Jr., a University of Virginia graduate with a degree in mechanical engineering, has been learning the business from the ground up and was hands on in the design and building of Yates Corner.

“Without the vision and commitment of Jason and Loren, the Yates Corner lot would most likely still be the eyesore it was for 30 plus years,” Emery said. “With Jason Jr., the presence of the Yates family will bless Alexandria for years to come.”

Among the many accolades the Yates family has garnered is the 2017 Washington Business Journal’s Family Owned Business Award.

“To look back on it now, we have done so much,” said Loren Yates. “But we have enjoyed it every step of the way because we have done it together as a family. Jason and I have been together ever since our first date almost 39 years ago and he was the same ambitious, charismatic man back then that he is today. He loves what he does, and it shows in everything he has done.”

John Yates passed away in 1989 and his wife, Lena, passed away the following year. But Jason and Loren’s commitment to their customers lives on.

“We have customers that have been coming to us for 40 years and have built community relationships on trust,” Jason said. “My dad taught me to take care of our customers no matter what. We aren’t a gas station, we are a service station. Service is what we do.”

### Living Legends: The Initiative

The mission of Living Legends of Alexandria, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is to identify, honor and chronicle the lives of individuals who have made significant contributions to improve the quality of life in Alexandria. For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit [www.AlexandriaLegends.org](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.org) or contact [AlexandriaLegends@outlook.com](mailto:AlexandriaLegends@outlook.com).

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## Celebrating the Bill of Rights

Dec. 15, Bill of Rights Day, celebrates its 1791 addition to our Constitution, mainly due to the persistence and wisdom of Alexandrian George Mason. On June 12, 1776 our General Assembly had adopted his Declaration of Rights, which served as the introduction to our state's first Constitution. Mason, unlike his frequent collaborator George Washington, believing that it was essential for the people's rights to be protected against the heavy hand of government at every level, was among the leading opponents of the adoption of the Constitution without a Bill of Rights. Furious, Washington ended their long friendship. His loyal Federalists who wrote the history books generally omitted Mason's name and contributions, so he is little known today.

Mason's documents were among the first to list specific rights of the people and were more comprehensive than their predecessors, the English Magna Carta of 1215 and 1689 Bill of Rights.

His work provokes the questions: what is a right and how do we know it is a right? The Declaration of Independence (borrowing from Mason's Declaration) had already noted that "... all men are created equal, ... endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happi-

ness ..." This inspiring statement needed a specific listing of rights so people would know exactly what they were and be able to protect them. Having seen how the English king, Parliament and the courts had violated the people's rights, the Founders resolved our new government must be restrained from doing so.

Today some politicians are claiming other "rights" such as health insurance, health care, tuition at government (taxpayers) expense, etc. These assertions are of entirely different from those in our founding documents. Such new "benefits" would come from government, not the Creator, and require someone else to pay for them. Logically, if someone else can compel me to pay for his benefits, I have an equal right to do the same and to the same extent, so our "benefits" cancel each other. Alarming, instead of remaining a republic with self-reliant citizens, our country would become a socialist one whose politics are based on greed and envy of others. The incentive to work hard will be lost because one cannot enjoy the results of his industry/creativity. Like the joke in the Soviet Union, the workers pretend to work and the government pretends to pay them. That system failed and is still failing wherever it has been tried. Our system is based on equality of opportunity; it cannot promise equal results.

The "Equal Rights" Amendment has resurfaced. No proponent, in-

cluding our elected officials, has been able to tell me what ill it alone can correct. Women - and men - have made amazing accomplishments without it. Passage will complicate matters such as access to what are now women's rest and locker rooms and athletic competitions. Passage of the ERA will ensure this Constitutional disadvantage for girls and women.

Let's celebrate Mason's beneficial contributions, comprising probably the best known section of our Constitution, and echoed in the 1789 French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen and the 1948 UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They have stood the test of time admirably, and he deserves our thanks and praise.

**Ellen Latane Tabb**  
Alexandria

## Braddock Road Metro Station Bus Shelters for Route 10A and 10B

During Metro's Platform Improvement project, in addition to upgrading the platform, the project included upgrading the bus shelters. At the completion of the project, most DASH routes and Metro riders can now enjoy better shelters.

Regrettably, the "temporary" bus stops for Metro Buses 10A/B and one DASH route along Braddock

Road...and outside the Metro station proper, have become permanent as of 12/15/19. Those of us who ride these buses are now exposed to whatever winter weather Mother Nature decides to thrust on us.

When I queried Metro about this situation, on 11/15, they responded: "The City of Alexandria has requested that the temporary bus stops on Braddock Road be made permanent as this change saves approximately 3-4 minutes per trip through the area. The City is currently working on upgrading the bus stops on both sides of the street, up to and including shelters, lighting and passenger information systems. Any further questions should be directed to the City of Alexandria T&ES Department."

When I contacted T&ES, their response was: "We are in the process of designing improvements on Braddock Road and will require the approval of some City officials. We are working as quickly as we can to make these improvements but we do not have a definite schedule as of yet...nor an estimate of when we will have a schedule".

Since Council is elected at large, rather than by Ward (thanks Dillon Rule), I expect this project doesn't merit much priority. Perhaps this letter will generate enough interest from the riders, that somehow, we can elevate the need for quick action on this project.

**Julie Gentry**  
Alexandria

# Lighting Up the Avenue

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Del Ray community kicked off its holiday season Dec. 8 with the lighting of a 35-foot Christmas Tree at the Pat Miller Neighborhood Square.

The evening's festivities included a menorah lighting, a performance by the T.C. Williams High School Choir and a visit with Santa.

Lighting Mount Vernon Avenue were hundreds of luminarias in honor of Nancy Dunning, a Realtor and wife of then-sheriff Jim Dunning who was known as "the queen of Del Ray." Dunning was slain in her Del Ray home in December of 2003.

On hand to kick off the festivities were Washington Nationals broadcaster F.P. Santangelo and Bob Fitzgerald, father of longtime

SEE DEL RAY TREE, PAGE 17



**Hundreds gather for the lighting of a community Christmas tree and Menorah Dec. 8 at the Pat Miller Neighborhood Square in Del Ray.**

PHOTO BY "MANCO" MIKE ANDERSON

**Del Ray kicks off holiday season.**

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# LETTERS

## Fighting Isolation at the Holidays

Dear Editor,

During the holiday season, many will struggle with increased feelings of loneliness – especially seniors, who spend more time alone than the average adult.

According to Meals on Wheels America, one in four US seniors live alone.

Isolation can cause detrimental health issues, including heightened risk of heart disease, dementia and premature death. The holidays also bring their own challenges for isolated seniors, as they may struggle with increased lack

of mobility and grief over lost loved ones.

In September, the Jean Griswold Foundation partnered with Meals on Wheels America to tackle the senior isolation epidemic. We at Griswold Home Care have seen first-hand how companionship improves one's well-being, and we're proud to support an organization that shares our mission of helping people live fulfilling lives at home.

This season, we encourage you to join our efforts by checking on your aging loved ones often.

**Christine Friedberg**

Alexandria

Owner and Director, Griswold Home Care of Northern Virginia East

## Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor  
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By e-mail: editor@connectionnewspapers.com

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# HOME LIFE STYLE

Erica Burns of Erica Burns Interiors designed a holiday tree that features bright colors, sparkling materials, and soft and textured finishes to engage the senses.

PHOTO BY RICHIE DOWNS/ASICO PHOTO



## Lighting Up the Season

Holiday designs to benefit Children's National Hospital.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**H**oliday trees donned with a wide array of décor that ranges from musical instruments and fairies to dollhouses and mice will be on display to raise money for charity later this month. "Light Up the Season," the annual event that highlights creative collaborations between Children's National Hospital patients and notable area artists will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C.

As part of the project, patient-designer teams created custom holiday trees, mantelpieces, menorahs and dollhouses — all available for purchase — with proceeds going to Children's National to support programs that improve the health and well-being of children across the Washington, D.C. region.

Inspired by the children's Christmas book, "If You Take a Mouse to the Movies," the tree created by Quintece Hill-Mattauszek of Studio Q Designs in Alexandria features mice decorating the holiday tree while under a whimsical snowfall.

"Through a child's eyes mice are symbols of youth and innocence with their resourceful courage, adorable curiosity, and their perspective of seeing the world from a different point of view, just like children," she said. "We have embraced them in children's literature for decades because of the lessons they teach, the values they instill, and playfulness they leave in our hearts."

Using a recording of "O Tannenbaum" and musical-themed ornaments, Potomac, Md. designer Sharon Kleinman of Transitions by Sharon Kleinman, assembled a melodious creation. "During our get-to-know-you session, I discovered that my partner is quite the musician," she said. "He plays several instruments and is passionate about music. We decided

to make our tree a musical tree."

Taking inspiration from their patient-partner's love of animals, the design team at Pamela Harvey Interiors in Oak Hill, created a display that includes a dollhouse and a fully decorated 7.5 foot tree with a modern farmhouse vibe.

"Our team had a lot of fun decorating ... we added lighting, wallpaper, area carpets, wood furniture and soft furnishings," said Harvey. "We even decorated it with tiny wreaths and Christmas trees complete with tiny presents. Our tree includes a selection of handmade clay ornaments. Each ornament is stamped with a different animal and attached with a simple satin ribbon."

Keeping the modern farmhouse theme continuous, the Harvey team combined green, plaid, white, silver and natural wood tones to complement the animal ornaments. "We are presenting our patient with a barnyard animal farm, which is decorated with the same theme, as our gift for inspiring us to create holiday decor that can be enjoyed for many years," said Harvey.

Fairies and folklore were the basis for the Christmas tree created Sandra Meyer of Ella Scott Design in Bethesda. The patient's predilection for all things mythical was brought to life in a tree filled with flowers, fantasy and mythical fairies in nature-themed setting. "Fairies have a long history [of] symbolizing kindness and a desire to help humans," said Meyer. "Light Up the Season" is a fairy-like event that exists to help others."

Light Up the Season will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. Tickets for the event are \$50 per child (ages 16 and under), \$85 per adult and \$250 for a family of four (package includes two adults and two children 16 and under). For more information, visit [www.childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason](http://www.childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason) or email [lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com](mailto:lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com).

**"My partner is quite the musician. He plays several instruments and is passionate about music. We decided to make our tree a musical tree."**

— Sharon Kleinman,  
Transitions by Sharon Kleinman

# NEWS

## Senior Services of Alexandria Joins Meals on Wheels America and Subaru of America, Inc. in Sharing the Love this Holiday Season

BY CATE PEABODY  
MEALS ON WHEELS  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) is proud to announce that it will be participating in the 2019 Subaru Share the Love Event as a member of Meals on Wheels America — one of four national Share the Love charitable partners supported through the campaign. Through Jan. 2, 2020, Subaru of America will donate \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased to the customer's choice of participating charities.

"We are pleased to participate again in the Share the Love Campaign to bring awareness to senior hunger and the important role that Meals on Wheels plays in providing nutrition to homebound older adults," said Mary Lee Anderson, Senior Services of Alexandria's Executive Director. "We are also grateful for the support of Beyer Subaru of Alexandria to SSA's Meals on Wheels Program. Subaru employees

have been delivering Meals on Wheels on a monthly basis for more than 5 years."

Since 2008, the Subaru Share the Love Event has helped deliver more than 2.2 million meals and friendly visits to vulnerable seniors nationwide. Over the last 11 years, Subaru of America and its participating retailers have donated more than \$145 million to its charity partners. This year's Subaru Share the Love Event is on track to bring that total to over \$170 million, proving there's no limit to the amount of love we can all share.

By purchasing or leasing a new Subaru during the Subaru Share the Love Event and selecting Meals on Wheels as your charity of choice, you can help deliver nutritious meals and other important services to seniors right in Alexandria, Virginia. [www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/sharethelove](http://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/sharethelove).

For more information about SSA's Meals on Wheels Program and volunteer opportunities, go to [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) or call 703-836-4414, ext. 112.

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

## Suit Up for the Candy Cane Bar Crawl

BY HOPE NELSON

**A**mid the hustle and bustle of Christmas tree lightings, boat parades, holiday parties and card-mailing, there's one Del Ray tradition that has planted its feet firmly on the holiday schedule from year to year: The Candy Cane Bar Crawl, scheduled this year for Saturday from 1 to 6.

Now in its fourth year, the crawl has grown exponentially from its humble beginnings, says Crawl committee member Lola Capps. What started with a handful of about 50 participants has grown to an expected 500 this year, she said, founded largely on community support and neighborhood foundations – and strengthened by an all-volunteer cast.

"We've gone through and done it a couple of times, it always has a pretty good turnout; it's grown every year," Capps said.

And with 15 restaurants on board, participants will have no shortage of food and drink options as the afternoon ticks by. Everyone will start their day at either Lena's Wood-fired Pizza or RT's – the designated check-in points – and will then mosey their way through Del Ray, stopping off at the likes of Hops n Shine, St. Elmo's and more.

Along the way, their participant lanyards will earn bar-crawlers food and drink specials at each stop, Capps said. But the best part is the social aspect.

"Walking around with your friends – or new friends – having different drink specials, festive drinks ... Typically all the restaurants will have something specific to the bar crawl," she said.

And participants can rest easy that their admission fee helps support a good cause: Community Lodgings, which provides transitional housing and housing assistance to neighbors experiencing homelessness. A portion of the proceeds from the Candy



Cane Bar Crawl will help fund Community Lodgings' programs and mission – helping make the afternoon fit into the holiday spirit in yet another way.

Participating restaurants include: Rt's Restaurant, Hops N'Shine, Northside10, Cheesetique Del Ray, Catch on The Ave, Stomping Ground, Pork Barrel BBQ, Del Ray Pizzeria, St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, Evening Star Cafe, KAIZEN Tavern, Live Oak Restaurant, Charlie's On The Avenue, The Garden, and Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap.

With one foot in a fun social outing and

## IF YOU GO

### Del Ray Candy Cane Bar Crawl

**WHEN: SATURDAY, 1-6 P.M.**

Check in or register: Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza and Tap, 401 E. Braddock Road, or RT's, 3804 Mount Vernon Ave.

Tickets: \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. Dress for success: "We do have a costume contest," committee member Lola Capps says. "People need to wear fun, funky, festive attire."

another in supporting nonprofit causes, the whole afternoon comes down to community, Capps says. And that's what makes the bar crawl so special.

"It's truly community," Capps said, adding that the businesses and residents have come together to build the community, "making it that Del Ray is a great place."

*Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

## CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

**Mount Vernon Farmers Market.** Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee!). 17 local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets).

**Creature Comforts Art Exhibit.** Now thru Jan. 26, 2020. At VCA Alexandria, 2660 Duke Street, Alexandria. The "Creature Comforts" art exhibit at VCA Alexandria through the Gallery Without Walls program features artwork of the animals in our lives by Del Ray Artisans members. Showcasing animals that lift and fill our hearts is a popular theme at VCA Alexandria and coincides with the season in which creature comforts of all types are appreciated. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww)

## Holidays and Christmas

### NOW THRU DEC. 22

**DRA Holiday Market.** The Market is Dec. 13-15; and Dec. 20-22. Hours are Fridays 6-9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. The artists are presenting a variety of media, including botanical drawings, fiber/textiles, glass, jewelry, mixed media, mosaics, painting, paper crafting, photography, pottery/ceramics, sculpture, watercolor, wood turning, and more. Different artists each weekend. Free admission. Visit the website: [DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2019](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2019)

### FRIDAY/DEC. 13

**Holiday Sing-Along.** 7:30 p.m. At Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave., Alexandria. Experience a jolly good time at the always popular – and free – Alexandria Holiday Sing-Along. You'll join in song with your neighbors as Conductor Mike Evans and the hometown Alexandria Citizens Band play your holiday favorites. Elisa Ravas will lead the singing. And to make it easy for everyone, we'll have the lyrics in brand new song books. Free tickets are available on eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/alexandrias-annual-holiday-sing-along-free-tickets-79959949361>

### SUNDAY/DEC. 15

**ASO Presents: Nutcracker & Ellington.** 2-3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Audiences will enjoy the Nutcracker presented in two ways – favorite excerpts from Tchaikovsky's ballet and Duke Ellington's version that swings. Stay after for a family-friendly reception. Cost: \$20-\$65 adult, \$5 youth, \$10 student. Visit the website: [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org)

**Handel's "Messiah."** 4 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NVCC Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. Presented by New Dominion Chorale and Orchestra. The performance, conducted by Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge, Soprano Natalie Conte, Mezzo-Soprano Melissa Kornacki, Tenor Patrick Kilbride and Bass Jeffrey Tarr. Ticket prices are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors 62 and older, and \$15 for students ages 5 to 22. Group tickets are available for groups of 10 or more at \$25 per ticket. Visit [www.newdominion.org](http://www.newdominion.org).

### TUESDAY/DEC. 24

**Waterskiing Santa.** 1 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront. Now in its 34th year, this favorite D.C.-area Christmas Eve event returns to Old Town Alexandria. Gather along historic Alexandria's Potomac River waterfront for a spectacular show by Waterskiing Santa and his merry crew. The prime viewing area is Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), with more great views from the Alexandria City Marina (O Cameron St.), Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), and Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.). Come early to see the pre-show (on jet skis). Visit the website: [waterskiingsanta.com](http://waterskiingsanta.com)

### TUESDAY/DEC. 31

**First Night Alexandria.** 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Carnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Carnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit [firstnightalexandria.org](http://firstnightalexandria.org).



## Pet Photos with Santa at Pet Valu

**Have your pet's photo taken with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 14. at Pet Valu in Alexandria.**

### SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Pet Photos with Santa.** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Pet Valu, 3652 King Street, Alexandria. Now that we are officially less than a month away from Christmas, the Pet Valu in Alexandria is welcoming Santa to the store to take holiday pictures with pets! Santa will land his sleigh at the Bradlee Shopping Center Pet Valu for pet pictures. Pet Valu will also provide visiting furry friends with Primal Goats milk and Three Dog Bakery Cookies. Additionally, a representative from Stella and Chewy will be onsite to answer questions about products. Free.

## Local Calendar

### NOW THRU DEC. 21

**"Squeakers & Mr. Gumdrop."** At the Lab Theatre at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. One snowy morning, Mr. Gumdrop prepares for his annual holiday party. When an unexpected and curious mouse appears, Mr. Gumdrop's routine is thrown for a loop. Can these two wildly different characters work together to get the holiday preparations done in time? This nonverbal production captures the magic of making new friends and sharing ideas to accomplish big goals. The show was written and directed by Arts on the Horizon members Natalie Cutcher and Amanda Forstrom, was created for an audience of children ages 2-5. Show times are Dec. 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, and 20 at 10:30 a.m.; Dec. 14 and 21 at 10 a.m. and

11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10 for children and adults and can be purchased online at <http://www.artsonthehorizon.org> or at the door on the day of the performance.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 13

**Nature Collage Workshop.** 10 a.m. to noon. At River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Local artist/author Kathryn Coneway will lead a nature collage-making workshop. Participants will create an accordion book of collage images using translucent mulberry paper. Cost: \$65 AHS members; \$75 non-members. Info and registration: <https://bit.ly/2Xsayvn>

**Quercus in Concert.** 7-9 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Come celebrate the holidays with the tuneful playing

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



## Holiday Open House

The Holiday Open House will take place Saturday, Dec. 14 at River Farm in Alexandria.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Holiday Open House.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. Enjoy the American Horticultural Society's free holiday event featuring seasonal decor, food and drinks, music by the Southside Singers, and crafts from local vendors. The Garden Shop will be open. Free. Email Nora McDonald at [nmacdonald@ahsgardening.org](mailto:nmacdonald@ahsgardening.org).

## CALENDAR

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and melodious singing of Quercus. For years David McKindley-Ward (banjo, guitar, voice) and Marty Frye (flute, fiddle) have been steeping themselves in the D.C.-Baltimore area's lauded Irish music community, like a good pot of Barry's tea. Apart from craic of the finest quality, Marty and David seek to cultivate a musical sensitivity that does justice to the masterful touch of the old players, while being honest to their own creative instincts. Free for members of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington; \$5 for non-members.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Holiday Open House.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. Enjoy the American Horticultural Society's free holiday event featuring seasonal decor, food and drinks, music by the Southside Singers, and crafts from local vendors. The Garden Shop will be open. Free. Email Nora McDonald at [nmacdonald@ahsgardening.org](mailto:nmacdonald@ahsgardening.org).

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p.m. At Pet Valu, 3652 King Street, Alexandria. Now that we are officially less than a month away from Christmas, the Pet Valu in Alexandria is welcoming Santa to the store to take holiday pictures with pets! Bradlee Shopping Center Pet Valu. Pet Valu will also provide visiting furry friends with Primal Goats milk and Three Dog Bakery Cookies. Additionally, a representative from Stella and Chewy will be onsite to answer questions about products. Free.

**Interactive Kwanzaa Workshop.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. This interactive workshop will present what you should know about Kwanzaa and how to do it. Included will be history, principles, symbols, activities, and decorating ideas to aid in planning your own Kwanzaa Celebration. The program will be entertaining and educational for children, youth, and adults. Register at the website: <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/> or call 703-746-4356.

**Del Ray Candy Cane Bar Crawl.** 12-

6 p.m. At various locations along Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Take a break from the bustle of holiday preparations and enjoy specialty cocktails, beer and food specials at select Del Ray restaurants during a neighborhood bar crawl to benefit local nonprofits. Admission: \$15 for advanced tickets; \$20 at the door. Visit the website: [visitdelray.com](http://visitdelray.com)

**Civil War Christmas in Camp.** 12-4 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Get in the holiday spirit and learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. The program features a Civil War-era Union Santa Claus who will interact with the public, present readings of "The Night Before Christmas," and visit soldiers in camp. The Museum will be decorated with festive greenery and a Victorian parlor tree. The reconstructed Officers' Hut is the setting for holiday decorations in camp and soldiers opening Christmas boxes from home. Reenactors will interpret army life in winter camps, and soldier-led tours of the historic

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

Feel like you're facing life's challenges alone?

**Never Alone:**  
how spiritual ideas work in us

A free talk by Melanie Wahlberg, CS

**Saturday, December 14, at 2:00 pm**

First Church of Christ, Scientist  
1709 Russell Road  
Alexandria, VA 22301

Arrive early for seasonal music starting at 1:30 pm.

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

DAILY FEATURES FOR EVERYONE!

Monday - 1/2 Price Burger Night  
Tuesday - Kids 12 & under Eat Free with accompanying adult. 1 child per adult.  
Wednesday - Roast Turkey Special  
Thursday - Lasagna Night  
Friday - Fish Fry  
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734 North St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

**Royal Restaurant** 703-548-1616  
ALEXANDRIA'S NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT • SINCE 1964 [RoyalRestaurantVA.com](http://RoyalRestaurantVA.com)

CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

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

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New Year's Eve Chef's Special Menu & A La Carte  
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Luncheon Buffet Every Day  
A La Carte Dinner Every Night

**Innovative Indian Cuisine**

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

## ASO Presents Nutcracker & Ellington

**2019 Mary Graham Lasley Scholarship Competition Winner, harpist Morgan Short, will present Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez.**

**SUNDAY/DEC. 15**

**ASO Presents: Nutcracker & Ellington.** 2-3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Audiences will enjoy the Nutcracker presented in two ways — favorite excerpts from Tchaikovsky's ballet and Duke Ellington's version that swings. Stay after for a family-friendly reception. Cost: \$20-\$65 adult, \$5 youth, \$10 student. Visit the website: [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org)



## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

fort will be conducted. Visit [alexandriava.gov/Historic](http://alexandriava.gov/Historic)

**SATURDAY/DEC. 14**

**Alexandria Choral Society Holiday Program.** 3 and 7 p.m. At Convergence Arts Initiatives, Westminster Presbyterian, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. This joyful program features Will Todd's *Among Angels*, a setting for choir and two harps, evoking images of "angels in flight." A number of traditional holiday carols and works by composers like Elizabeth Poston (*Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*), Susan Labarr (*Huron Carol*), and Herbert Howells (*Magnificat Collegium Regale*) will ease you into the winter season ahead. This season marks the 50th Anniversary for the Alexandria Choral Society. For tickets visit, [www.alexandriachoralsociety.org](http://www.alexandriachoralsociety.org).

**Touch a Truck.** 4-6 p.m. At First Christian Church of Alexandria, 2723 King Street, Alexandria. Enjoy the lights of fire trucks and police cars and meeting the first responders. There will be other vehicles including a motorcycle. They are collecting toys for the Women's Shelter and police toy drive. Please don't bring weapon toys. Gift cards for older children are welcome. Dress warmly and have fun meeting fire fighters and police in the parking lot. There will be hot cocoa and pizza. Visit the website: <https://www.fcalexandria.com/>

**Community Nativities Festival.** 5-8 p.m. At Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 6219 Villa Street (corner of Franconia Rd. & S. Van Dorn St.), Alexandria. Join in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ as you enjoy an evening of community nativity displays and hymns of Christmas. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.festivalofnativities.com/>

**Yuletide by Candlelight.** 5-9 p.m. At Alexandria's Historic Sites. Cost is Adults (13-64) \$30, Seniors (65+)

and Active Military \$25, Children (5-12) \$8. Experience the holiday season with festive activities and fare at historic sites throughout Alexandria. Enjoy seasonal decorations, refreshments, and take advantage of a 10% discount at the participating Museum Shops. A cash bar for adult beverages will be located at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Ticket includes admission to Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House Historic Park, Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary. A free shuttle will run between all participating sites throughout the event. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/yuletide-by-candlelight-tickets-66041366505>

**Classical Nutcracker Potpourri.** 7 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. Want your holiday concert with a twist? Families and the young-at-heart will enjoy the Nutcracker presented in two ways — favorite excerpts from Tchaikovsky's ballet and Duke Ellington's version that swings. Attendees at Saturday's performance will also experience a video presentation with the Nutcracker and Hansel and Gretel. The winner of the 2019 Mary Graham Lasley Scholarship Competition, Morgan Short, will present Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org)

**Holiday Sing-a-Long.** 7:30-10 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The holidays are a time for great music, great family, and great fun. Celebrate the season with your entire family at SONOVAs Holiday Sing-a-long. Cost: \$20 General Admission, \$15 Students and Seniors. Prices increase \$5 at the door. Visit <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4328181> to purchase tickets.

**DEC. 14-15**

**A Victorian Christmas.** 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco Street, Alexandria. Experience the wonder of the season by joining in a Victorian Christmas at the Lee-Fendall House! Enjoy traditional décor, seasonal crafts and story time, sweet treats, photos with Santa, an antique toy exhibit, and more. Cost is \$8 to \$12. Visit the website: [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org)

**SUNDAY/DEC. 15**

**Christmas Around the World.** 10:45 a.m. At Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. The Trinity choirs will offer a special service of worship with music from several countries, accompanied by strings, harp, percussion, flute and organ. The congregation is invited to sing a traditional medley of favorite Christmas carols. Contact Music Director Linda Cancellieri [music@trinityalexandria.org](mailto:music@trinityalexandria.org) or phone 703-549-5500.

**Naughty or Nice Party.** 12-3 p.m. At Industrious Alexandria, 2461 Eisenhower Ave., Second Floor, Alexandria. Join in a joyous celebration of community. The first-ever Holiday Party will be cohosted by the SOAR Community Network. It will be a festive gathering with an abundance of wine, sushi, heavy hors d'oeuvres and laughter. Plus swag bags, door prizes and more. Cost is \$24. Visit the website: <https://dcfempneur.com/events/#!event/2019/12/15/naughty-or-nice-holiday-party>

**Colonial Handbell Ringers Concert.** 2 and 4 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. The Colonial English Handbell Ringers perform clad in colonial attire, bringing a 5-octave set of nearly 80 handbells from the world-famous Whitechapel foundry in London. The ringers will perform children's classics, timeless

## ASO Presents: The Nutcracker with a Twist

BY MELINDA KERNC

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro James Ross continues the 2019-2020 Season on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019 (7 p.m.) and Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 (2 p.m.) with an unconventional holiday concert. In his second year as ASO's Music Director, Ross endeavors to present symphonic music in unconventional and creative ways.

The audience will experience the Nutcracker in two ways: excerpts from Tchaikovsky's ballet and Duke Ellington's version that swings. Attendees will enjoy visual accompaniments to Saturday's performance from video artists Tim McLoraine and The New Live.

"Tchaikovsky is only one point along a long line of creativity starting with E.T.A. Hoffman's original story." Says Maestro Ross. "It continues through Ellington's big-band re-imagining to resetting the story in Harlem through the eyes of a African-American young girl with the magic of New Live's imagery."

holiday tunes, and original show-stoppers. Audience participation in the sing-along is encouraged. No reservations will be accepted in advance, and seating capacity is limited. Free. Visit the website: [colonialringers.com](http://colonialringers.com)

**The Mount Vernon Flutes Holiday Concert.** 2 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Free. The Mount Vernon Flutes have been an Athenaeum favorite for many years. This small ensemble from the Mount Vernon Concert Band will perform holiday songs in the gallery.

**Classical Nutcracker Potpourri.** 2 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Want your holiday concert with a twist? Families and the young-at-heart will enjoy the Nutcracker presented in two ways — favorite excerpts from Tchaikovsky's ballet and Duke Ellington's version that swings. The winner of the 2019 Mary Graham Lasley Scholarship Competition, Morgan Short, will present Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org)

**A Very Mason Christmas.** 3:30-5:30 p.m. At Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Many of the Christmas traditions we celebrate today began in the 1850s. Come to Historic Huntley House and join in a celebration of Christmas that the Mason family might have enjoyed when they were the residents. Taste a non-alcoholic English syllabub drink, make your own luminary, and create a Christmas decoration or small gift to bring home. For ages 12 to adult. Cost is \$10 per person. Call the park at 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley).

The program will open with the Prelude to Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hänsel and Gretel*, an opera traditionally performed during the holiday season throughout Europe. The prelude foreshadows the drama to come later in the fairytale, including a children's prayer and a dance-like sequence.

Joining the ASO is harpist Morgan Short, winner of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mary Graham Lasley Scholarship Competition. Ms. Short will perform Joaquín Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*, originally written for guitar and later rendered for harp. Ms. Short is a Classics Alive Artist, sought-after touring soloist, and enrolled at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

Patrons attending both performances are invited to attend a family-friendly post-concert reception, immediately following the concert. Performances will be presented with no intermission and one hour earlier than usual to accommodate families and young children. "It's a wonder-worthy, multi-sensory concert experience for the whole family," says Maestro Ross.

**WEDNESDAY/DEC. 18**

**T.C. Williams Winter Concert.** 7:30 p.m. At T.C. Williams High School auditorium, 3330 King Street, Alexandria. This is the 10-Year anniversary of Theodore Thorpe as the T.C. Williams High School choir teacher and director. Alumni and current choirs will share the stage. Cost is \$20/adults; \$10/students; kids under 12 free.

**DEC. 20-21**

**Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon.** 5:30-8:30 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Join Mount Vernon for an evening of family-friendly fun and fireworks choreographed to holiday music. Before the fireworks begin around 8 p.m., take a stroll through the estate while being serenaded by local choirs and visit with re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment. Martha Washington will also be on site to greet holiday guests. Watch colonial artisans demonstrate the 18th-century process of creating chocolate and visit with Aladdin the camel on the 12-acre field. Keep toasty by warming up by a bonfire, enjoying some hot chocolate or cider. Admission: \$36 adult/\$26 youth with mansion tour; \$30 adult/\$20 youth without mansion tour. Visit the website: [mountvernon.org/illuminations](http://mountvernon.org/illuminations)

**SATURDAY/DEC. 21**

**Puppet Show.** 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. At Oswald Durant Center, 1605

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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Cameron Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$6. Featuring the Silly Goose and Val Holiday Extravaganza. Val returns for a fast-paced, humorous musical treat celebrating snow, jingle bells, elves, Santa, reindeer and more. Enjoy a family afternoon out with music, ventriloquism, comedy, dancing, singing, and 100% audience participation.

**Alexandria Harmonizers Holiday Concert.** 4-6 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Dr., Alexandria. Tickets \$35-\$75. The Alexandria Harmonizers present their annual Holiday Show featuring the Pratt Street Power and the 2019 BHS International Junior Quartet champions, "Quin-Tones," for a fun-filled evening of music and laughter. There will also be a silent auction during the show with dozens of items to bid on. Visit the website: [harmonizers.org](http://harmonizers.org)

**Country-Western Dance.** At Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss Street, Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance. Lessons, 6-7 p.m. Open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Trial memberships available at door for member level entry fee. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org)

## SUNDAY/DEC. 22

**MIN~Contemporary Flute and Guitar Duo.** 2 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. MIN~Contemporary Flute and Guitar Duo makes its highly-anticipated winter season return to the Athenaeum with a varied program that includes many beloved holiday classics. Flutist Saïs Kamalidiin and guitarist extraordinaire Rick Peralta comprise one of the few remaining, regularly performing, professional flute and guitar (chamber music) duos in this part of the country. With their 15 year legacy of musical excellence, the repertoire of MIN consists of music of the baroque, ballads, bossa novas, blues, Broadway and beyond.

**S.O.M.E. Benefit Recital.** 3-4:30 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. An afternoon of violin and cello music to benefit So Others Might Eat (SOME). Tickets \$20. Featuring international artists Rachelle Hunt, violin; and Katie Tertell, cello. The program will include works by Beethoven, Mozart, Handel-Halvorsen, and new work by Mark Boden (UK). Tickets available on Eventbrite. Suggested donation \$20. Visit the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/some-benefit-recital-tickets-75172225149?aff=eprosfaved>

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

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



## First Night in Alexandria

**The 25th Anniversary First Night in Old Town Alexandria takes place Tuesday, Dec. 31.**

### TUESDAY/DEC. 31

**First Night Alexandria.** 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Carnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Carnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit [firstnightalexandria.org](http://firstnightalexandria.org).

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

## ONGOING

**Post-Grad Residency Program.** At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. For the fifth year, the Torpedo Factory Art Center welcomes four emerging artists to participate in the Post-Grad Residency Program: J Houston, Michaela Japac, Nava Levenson, and Kim Sandara. The jurors were Nicole Dowd, program director at Halcyon Arts Lab, and Leslie Holt, artist and co-director of Red Dirt Studio. This competitive juried program provides three months of exclusive access to a studio in the Art Center. Therein, artists can create and sell work, interact with the public, and connect with other arts professionals. The residency addresses the critical post-graduation juncture in an emerging artist's career, offering an opportunity for professional development, networking, and a chance to define their practice outside of the academic context. The program culminates in a group exhibition in Target Gallery, the Torpedo Factory's contemporary exhibition space, Nov. 8-Dec. 8.

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

and events from the Revolutionary War and the new nation's diplomatic endeavors. Visit [mountvernon.org/warandpeace](http://mountvernon.org/warandpeace).

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

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

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

**Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.** Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. visit [www.dcmilitarytour.com](http://www.dcmilitarytour.com) for more

**The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History.** Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) for more.

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

**Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit.** Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. visit [www.alexandriava.gov/forward](http://www.alexandriava.gov/forward)

**Alexandria's Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War.** Ongoing at

The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama "Mercy Street," with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. visit [www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum)

**Shield of Earth: Defending the Heart of the Union exhibit.** Ongoing, museum hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Sundays, noon-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Highlights of the exhibition include military passes issued by Provost Marshal's Office, construction tools, and original photographs of some of Washington's defenders. 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

**Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital exhibit.** Ongoing, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Come see the site that inspired "Mercy Street," the new PBS' series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House. [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) or call 703-549-2997

**Color Disorder Exhibit.** Ongoing, Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A joint exhibition of artists Katie Baines and Amy Chan who use diverse painting materials such as acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print to build energized abstract paintings. Visit [www.nfaa.org](http://www.nfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Flamenco Show.** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit [www.latascausa.com](http://www.latascausa.com).

**French Movie Night.** Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe and Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit [www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html](http://www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html).

**Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812.** Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789.

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

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

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

# HOLIDAYS



**Best Powerboat: “Carol of the Bells” – A Blast, Captain Steve Gwensberg.**



PHOTOS BY  
“MANGO”  
MIKE ANDERSON

**A record number of boats participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights Dec. 7 along the Potomac River waterfront. In the foreground is American Girl, with Captain John Gaydos, winning the Best Try category with the theme “Santa Claus is Coming to Town.”**

## Nauti and Nice Record turnout in Holiday Boat Parade.



**Best in Show: “Peace” – Anamchara, Captain Steve Preda.**

**T**housands of spectators gathered along the Old Town waterfront as a record 60 boats lit up the Potomac River Dec. 7 in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.

The mile-long parade was led by Alexandria’s fireboat Vigilant and Washington, D.C.’s fireboat John Glenn and closed with Alexandria’s tall ship Providence.

Prizes were awarded in 10 categories, with Best of Show going to Anamchara and Captain Steve Preda, who presented the theme “Peace” featuring a rotating lighted globe, glowing doves and a peace sign.

The 2019 Winners include: Best of Alexandria Show — “Peace,” Anamchara, Captain Steve Preda; Best Powerboat — “Carol of the Bells,” A Blast, Captain Steve

Gwensberg; Best Sailboat — “Under the Sea,” Tuesday, Captain Joe Landa; Thinking Outside the Christmas Box — “Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights,” Letter of Marque, Captain Walter Weiss; Most Holiday Cheer — “Christmas on the Potomac,” Kairos, Captain Tipper Williams Bradford; Best Theme — “A World Series Christmas,” Escape Plan, Captain Timothy Smith; Best Spirit of America — “Go for the Moon — Merry Astronautical Christmas,” Dark Star, Captain Doug Savage; Most Spirited Crew — “Disco Christmas,” Moondance, Captain David Huebner; Hardest Soul — “Santa Goes Fishin’ with Buddy the Elf,” Canoe See Me?, Captain Adam Cope; and Best Try — “Santa Claus is Coming to Town,” American Girl, Captain John Gaydos.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



**Most Holiday Cheer: “Christmas on the Potomac” — Kairos, Captain Tipper Williams Bradford.**



**Thinking Outside the Christmas Box: “Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights” — Letter of Marque, Captain Walter Weiss**



# HOLIDAY SEASON

## Del Ray Tree lighting

FROM PAGE 8

Del Ray volunteer Pam Fitzgerald, who died earlier this year following a battle with breast cancer.

Located at the corner of Mount Vernon and East Oxford avenues, the tree was provided by "Mango" Mike Anderson and Bill Blackburn of Pork Barrel BBQ, Holy Cow Del Ray and the Sushi Bar. The restaurateurs selected and cut down the tree while Smoot Lumber do-

nated a flatbed truck for transportation to Alexandria from Western Maryland. Mike Dameron of Windmill Hill Design Build created a custom heavy tree stand and donated a crew to erect and decorate the tree.

"Thanks guys! You make it possible for us to live in the absolute best, most generous and giving community," posted local resident Gayle Reuter on social media.

Also lining Mount Vernon Av-

enue are 12 holiday trees decorated by local nonprofits. Voting for the best decorated tree contest began Dec. 8 and will continue through 5 p.m. on Christmas Day with the winning nonprofit receiving a \$500 donation from the Del Ray Business Association.

Del Ray holiday festivities will continue with Twelve Days of Wellness from Dec. 9-20; the Shops of Del Ray's Ladies' Night Out on Dec. 12; and the Del Ray Candy Cane Crawl on Dec. 14.

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

### Legals

### Legals

### Legals



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, December 14, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Chapter 1 (GENERAL PROVISIONS) of Title 6 (PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES) and Chapter 1 (GENERAL PROVISIONS), Chapter 3 (OPERATION OF VEHICLES), and Chapter 7 (BICYCLES) of Title 10 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, 13 as amended.

The proposed ordinance enacts new regulations for micromobility devices, such as motorized scooters and electric power-assisted bicycles, consistent with Title 46.2 of the Code of Virginia. It prohibits the use of micromobility devices on certain City sidewalks and Market Square and provides for regulation of micromobility devices in City parks. It also adds a definition for "micromobility device," and moves the definitions listed in Chapter 7 (BICYCLES) to a more centralized location in Section 10-1-1.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN ARTICLE F (PERMIT PARKING DISTRICTS) of Chapter 8 (PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

This ordinance is a comprehensive update to the City Code provision governing residential permit parking districts. The purpose of this amendment is to better address current residential parking issues, improve the City's ability to proactively manage parking, and make understanding, enforcing and administering the standards more straightforward for citizens and staff.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Chapter 4 (Human Rights) of Title 12 (Education, Social Services and Welfare) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance would add "gender identity" and "transgender" as protected statuses under the Alexandria Human Rights Act. As a reference for City Council members, please see the Confidential Memo from the City Attorney dated November 20, 2019 for the legal analysis regarding this proposed amendment. In addition, "sexual orientation" is proposed to be added to §§ 12-4-2(B) and 12-4-15(a)(7) where it was previously omitted.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-603 (SPECIAL USES), Section 3-703 (SPECIAL USES), Section 3-803 (SPECIAL USES), Section 3-903 (SPECIAL USES), Section 3-1403 (SPECIAL USES), Section 3-1405 (BULK AND OPEN SPACE REGULATIONS), and Section 3-1406 (FLOOR AREA RATIO) of Article III (RESIDENTIAL ZONE REGULATIONS); Section 4-103 (SPECIAL USES), Section 4-105 (AREA REGULATIONS), Section 4-106 (BULK REGULATIONS), Section 4-203 (SPECIAL USES), Section 4-205 (AREA REGULATIONS), Section 4-206 (BULK REGULATIONS), Section 4-303 (SPECIAL USES), Section 4-305 (AREA REGULATIONS), Section 4-306 (BULK REGULATIONS), Section 4-403 (SPECIAL USES), Section 4-405 (AREA REGULATIONS), Section 4-406 (BULK REGULATIONS), Section 4-503 (SPECIAL USES), Section 4-505 (AREA REGULATIONS), Section 4-506 (BULK REGULATIONS), Section 4-603 (SPECIAL USES), Section 4-605 (AREA REGULATIONS), Section 4-606 (BULK REGULATIONS), Section 4-803 (SPECIAL USES), Section 4-805 (AREA REGULATIONS), Section 4-806 (BULK REGULATIONS), Section 4-903 (SPECIAL USES), Section 4-905 (AREA AND BULK REGULATIONS), Section 4-1003 (SPECIAL USES), Section 4-1005 (AREA AND BULK REGULATIONS), 4-1103 (SPECIAL USES), Section 4-1105 (AREA AND BULK REGULATIONS), Section 4-1404 (SPECIAL USES), and Section 4-1408 (BULK REGULATIONS) of Article IV (COMMERCIAL, OFFICE AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES); Section 5-103 (SPECIAL USES), Section 5-105 (FLOOR AREA RATIO), Section 5-107 (OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS), Section 5-203 (SPECIAL USES), Section 5-205 (FLOOR AREA RATIO), Section 5-207 (OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS), Section 5-303 (SPECIAL USES), Section 5-305 (FLOOR AREA RATIO), Section 5-307 (OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS), Section 5-403 (SPECIAL USES), Section 5-406 (FLOOR AREA RATIO), Section 5-408 (OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS), Section 5-503 (SPECIAL USES), Section

5-504 (FLOOR AREA RATIO), Section 5-508 (OPEN AND USABLE SPACE), and Section 5-602 (COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS CREATED, CONSISTENCY WITH MASTER PLAN, REQUIRED APPROVALS) of Article V (MIXED USE ZONES); Section 6-702 (USES) and Section 6-705 (BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS) of Article VI (SPECIAL AND OVERLAY ZONES); and Section 8-200 (GENERAL PARKING REGULATIONS) of Article VIII (OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING); add new Section 2-129.2 (CONTINUUM OF CARE FACILITY) of Article II (DEFINITIONS); Section 3-608 (CONTINUUM OF CARE FACILITIES), Section 3-708 (CONTINUUM OF CARE FACILITIES), and Section 3-808 (CONTINUUM OF CARE FACILITIES), and Section 3-909 (CONTINUUM OF CARE FACILITIES) of Article III (RESIDENTIAL ZONE REGULATIONS); and delete Section 2-156 (HOME FOR THE ELDERLY) of Article II (DEFINITIONS) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2018-0008.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2018-0008 to add continuum of care facility as a special use and establish the zoning regulations for the use in residential, commercial, office, industrial, mixed use, and special and overlay zones.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article C (COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT) Section 3-3-24 (PURCHASES UNDER CONTRACTS COMPETITIVELY ENTERED BY OTHER PUBLIC BODIES), Article D (CONTRACT FORMATION AND METHODS OF SOURCE SELECTION), Division 1 (COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDDING); Section 3-3-33 (PUBLIC ACCESS TO PROCUREMENT INFORMATION), Section 3-3-39 (BID BONDS ON CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS), Division 2 (COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATION); Section 3-3-64 (PUBLIC NOTICE), Section 3-3-69 (CONTRACTING FOR 16 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATION), Division 3 (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS); Section 3-3-72 (SMALL PURCHASES), all of Chapter 3 (PURCHASES AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES) of Title 3 (FINANCE, 19 TAXATION, AND PROCUREMENT), of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 20 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance amends the Code of Virginia of the City of Alexandria, 1981, as amended, in order to make the procurement provisions comply with the Code of Virginia to the extent required under the law; to raise the purchasing thresholds of the City - not to exceed those set forth by the Virginia Public Procurement Act (VPPA) and clarify the process of purchase of legal services by the City Attorney; section 3-3-72 to provide for the City Managers' authority (per section 3-3-14(b)) to raise the purchasing thresholds of the City - not to exceed those set forth by the VPPA.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Chapter 8 ("JUNK DEALERS, ANTIQUES DEALERS, CANVASSERS, PAWN BROKERS AND DEALERS IN SECONDHAND ARTICLES, PRECIOUS METALS OR GEMS") of Title 9 ("LICENSING AND REGULATION") of The Code 11 of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. Chapter 8, Article A of the City Code establishes a policy for the City to exercise its powers to regulate the purchase or pawn of junk, antiques, and secondhand articles, precious metals and gems by pawnbrokers and other dealers by requiring the holding of each article for a 15 day period and requiring that records be kept for each purchase. Furthermore, Chapter 8, Article B, Sections 9-8-15 and 9-8-16, establishes requirements for recording of transactions and 20 reporting the details of such transactions to the Police Department. The ordinance amendment 21 updates the City Code to make it current with emerging technologies, to allow the most 22 efficient method of delivery of transaction records, and to eliminate burden on businesses of 23 extraneous reporting requirements. It further provides an enforcement measure for the Police 24 Department if a regulated business refuses to report the transaction records electronically. 25 26 This Ordinance is part of the comprehensive effort to update the City Code.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday December 21, 2019. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

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### Obituary

### Obituary



**Ralph J. Trout, 90**, passed away on December 3, 2019 after a tragic accident. He was born on June 19, 1929 in Pittsburgh, PA to Helen and Edward Trout. He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Loretta, his children, Robert and Roberta, four grandchildren, Timothy, Jennifer, Devin, and Sydney, a great-grandchild, Aubrey, and nieces and nephews.

His viewing and memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Following the service, the reception is to be held at Del Ray United Methodist Church located at 100 East Windsor Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301.

Ralph J. Trout entered the army military service when he was nineteen years old and served as a Staff Sergeant in the Korean War. After eight years of employment, he married Loretta B. Taylor of Beaufort, NC on April 1956 and resided in Alexandria, VA. Two years later, they raised twins, Robert and Roberta. Mr. Trout was a resident of Alexandria, VA for 63 years.

After his marriage, he became self-employed and worked as a painter, a carpenter, a handyman, and a property manager for the Alfred Street apartments until he was 89 years old. Mr. Trout was heavily involved in the local community preparing monthly pancake breakfasts, being president of the Del Ray Methodist's Men and ushering at the Del Ray Methodist Church for 40 years.

He could be found every week enjoying a hearty lunch with his best friend, working in the yard, fixing lawnmowers, or watching old westerns on TV. He was very knowledgeable, talented, a workaholic, and helpful to many people in the community. His most blessed joy was spending time with his granddaughter, Jennifer. They were inseparable.

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**-Werner Heisenberg**

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### Announcements

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# Still Processing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Off we go — or not — into the wild blue yonder. It seems that my most recent CT scan's results, described as "a little worse" by my oncologist are indeed cause for some reflection and change. (I'm not quite able to say "cause for concern," yet.) As such, to make the most effective change, per my oncologist's orders, I am scheduled for a needle biopsy on the Wednesday this column publishes. This procedure will determine, if there is a match, to the specific type of cancer tumor that I have. (Without boring you with too many details, the short version is that all cancer tumors are not alike. Biomarkers/genetic mutations such as ALK, BRAF, EGFR, NTRK, PD-L1 and ROS1 are the most common, and certain medicines work better against certain tumor types. Variation in the tumor types, such as the ones I've described, is a relatively recent discovery in lung cancer research.)

What this research has led to is another new kind of cancer treatment known as "targeted therapy." This means than rather than "flying blind," to use one of my brother, Richard's, favorite expressions, and employing a one-size-fits-all kind of approach to treatment, oncologists now have specific medicines to infuse when the tumor's genetic mutation is confirmed. Wednesday hopefully, will confirm something. However, researchers have not discovered all the tumor types so it's possible that this biopsy will reveal nothing useful for me and in effect, I'll be back to square one-ish.

As for what 'square-one-ish' means? It means that I'll likely be infusing medicines that previously worked for a time but whose infusions were stopped after they all ran their successful course years ago. As I've been told whenever this change became necessary, cancer cells eventually figure out what's happening to them and then the tumors begin growing. Once this growth is indicated on the CT scan, a new medicine is usually started, and on and on it goes until, apparently now, for me anyhow. "Targeted therapy" offers lots of new medicines. I just need a match. Unfortunately, there's no guarantee the biopsy will provide just such a match. There's only one way to find out. On Wednesday, we will begin to find out. To say I have a lot riding on this determination is the understatement of the year; at least for Team Lourie, it is. If I'm forced to repeat infusions from medicines that stopped working years ago, it'll be "Katie, bar the door," as we say in Boston which means, "Look out!"

I'm trying not to 'look out' though. I'm trying not to look anywhere, except straight ahead. Just because my life may be at stake, is no time to deviate from the norm that has been my modus operandi over the past 11 years. I'm not quite ready to consider that my stage IV lung cancer survival is coming to an end. Maybe it's just staggering and within a week or so, I'll get my bearings again. New medical information getting me new medical treatment is sure to put a bounce back in my step. For the first time in 11 years, to quote George Costanza from Seinfeld: "I'm back, baby." This could be the jolt my body needs to get me through to the next

research level. The Team Lourie strategy has always been for me to try and live long enough to reach the next medical breakthrough. So far, I've benefited from a few: tarceva, avastin and alimta; all miracle drugs according to my oncologist, and here I am, living proof that it has all worked.

Until I hear, post procedure, from my oncologist, in the interim, I am re-experiencing many what-happens-if-and-when emotions that I've not wrestled with for years. Unfortunately, this hospital visit is taking me back to the visit/biopsy I had in Feb. 2009 which confirmed the malignancy in my lungs in the first place. And here I am, hopefully not in the last place, waiting for the results of a biopsy yet again. It didn't work out so good in 2009. I just hope I have better luck in 2019.

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

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# AWLA

FROM PAGE 6

she staked out a safe place under a dresser and wouldn't come out. "I had to set up a baby monitor in her safe room so I could learn about her and her activities — I couldn't go in there," Horton recalled.

But over several months Julie expanded her horizons, roaming the house while keeping her distance from Horton's four pet cats. Julie also warmed up enough to allow Horton to come close to her and occasionally pet her, even chasing a toy if Horton remained at a distance. "She never hissed — there's really not a mean bone in her body," Horton said. "She was just very, very nervous around people."

After eight months, Julie was able to move on to the home of another generous foster, who connected the cat with a retired woman in the area who could give Julie the space she needed. The two fosters had concluded that despite her fears, Julie was a happy cat who loved to play and experience nature, albeit through the window. Julie had found her home.

A black terrier mix named Cambridge had been a fixture at the shelter since early 2019, and by April it was time for a change of scenery. Enter AWLA volunteer Wendy Schudmak, a school teacher who volunteers at the AWLA with dogs who have special behavioral needs and also occasionally fosters them. When Cambridge arrived at her home, she was very energetic but also quite shy and fearful of anything new, Schudmak said, and would often bark and growl when people approached.

Slow, methodical exposure to new people and animals paid off, and Cambridge soon became comfortable interacting with neighborhood dogs — and people. Indoors, Schudmak said, Cambridge turned out to be a snuggler, sleeping with her at night and joining her to watch television, her paw stretched over Schudmak's leg or arm. Visits to the shelter led to a successful meeting with an adopter, and Cambridge went to her new home in August. "With Cambridge, I really saw a change over time," recalled Schudmak. "The longer she stayed, the greater her comfort and confidence level became. I was thrilled when she got adopted, though it was bittersweet."

For the Graybills' foster dog Vixen, the July visit from the potential adopter helped realize their fondest hopes. After several such meetings that did not lead to adoption, the Graybills had even considered adopting the dog themselves. But on that summer day the young woman who visited was instantly drawn to Vixen, unconcerned about the costly medical care required for her skin condition. She suggested taking Vixen on a walk with her two dogs, who had accompanied her on the visit. All three dogs seemed to get along well, and they all immediately went to the AWLA to complete the adoption papers. "I took Vixen on one last walk around the shelter area," Jackie Graybill recalled. "I was a complete mess — I bawled all day."

But the Graybills' sadness was coupled with satisfaction that Vixen — now known as Stella — had found a new, happy home. "The foster animals bring so much joy to our lives," Jackie Graybill said. "And having them long term provides time to gauge their temperament and habits. It just makes it easier for adoptions to happen."

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