

Run This Town

Ultrarunner Stephanie Lasure traverses every Alexandria street

BY MISSY SCHROTT

It's been said that there's no better way to discover a city than to explore it by foot. Alexandria resident Stephanie Lasure took that piece of advice to heart.

Between November 2018 and September 2019, Lasure ran every single street in Alexandria, logging 330 miles total. In November, city council presented Lasure with a proclamation recognizing her efforts.

Lasure got the idea to run every street in Alexandria from Rickey Gates, a runner she follows



COURTESY PHOTO

Stephanie Lasure has run 12 marathons and 18 ultramarathons.

on Instagram who was doing the same thing in San Francisco.

"He would start posting on Instagram the different runs that he

was doing and how he was getting to know his neighborhood," La-

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City prepares for scooter vote

Staff, mayor, police and residents talk the future of scooters ahead of public hearing

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

City council is set to vote on the future of the e-scooter pilot program on Saturday.

The vote is the culmination of a year's worth of work and data collection by staff and controversy and concerns among residents.

Department of Transportation and Environmental Services staff are recommending that council approve a phase II e-scooter pilot program, an ordinance to adopt scooter regulations in city code and a resolution that would create an ad hoc scooter task force.

Doing so would extend the program another year, providing staff time to adapt and change the program, according to staff.

"I think we've learned a lot from the pilot and we still feel like there's a lot more to learn. That's why we're recommending a phase II," Katie North, Mobility Divisions chief, said.

After scooter companies started deploying fleets of dockless electric scoot-

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Holiday Gift Guide

Eco-friendly gifts to give this holiday season.

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PHOTO/EVAN MICHIO FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA

Happy Holidays

There was no shortage of holiday events in Alexandria last weekend. See photos from the Holiday Boat Parade of Lights, the Scottish Christmas Walk Parade and Holidays on the Avenue on pages 18 and 19.



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WEEKLY BRIEFING

T.C. Williams teacher Kimberly Wilson named ACTE National Teacher of the Year

T.C. Williams High School teacher Kimberly Wilson was named the Association for Career and Technical Education's National Teacher of the Year.

The award recognizes the finest career and technical education teachers at the middle and secondary school level who have demonstrated innovation in the classroom, commitment to their students and dedication to the improvement of CTE in their institutions and communities.

For the past 28 years, Wilson has served students and families of Alexandria City Public Schools, first at the middle school level and, most recently, for nine years at the high school level. She currently teaches Early Childhood Education and Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow



PHOTO/ACPS

T.C. Williams teacher Kimberly Wilson.

row in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department to students at T.C. Williams who are interested in pursuing careers in the profession of education. In addition to teaching, Wilson is also a mentor coordinator for new teachers in her building.

Wilson has inspired T.C.

Williams graduates to become long-term teachers with ACPS and has set up more than a hundred placements in internships, field assignments and full-time jobs for others who have earned their Childhood Development Associate Credential through her class.

Local audiologist wins national award

Jennifer Gaston, an Alexandria resident who works as an audiologist at Kendall Demonstration Elementary School in D.C., received the 2019 Oticon Focus on People Award for Best Practitioner last month.

"I've always loved my job and I've always worked hard to provide the best care that I can and to be nominated and recognized for it is doubly special," Gaston said.

Gaston was born with hearing loss herself, but was not diagnosed until she was 5 years old, she said.

Gaston has worked as an audiologist at Kendall, a school for the deaf and hearing impaired based on Gallaudet University's campus in D.C. since 2013, but her passion for the field goes all the way back to middle school in upstate New York.

"I can remember sitting in the booth having my hearing testing done and I was just like, 'I am so curious as to what all this is,'" Gaston said.

From that point on, Gaston said she never wavered.

At Kendall, Gaston serves every student from kindergarten to eighth grade by providing hearing aid and cochlear implant programming and maintenance. She also provides education sessions for families curious about new technology.

"I've always loved children and I love being part of that team that helps them in developing when they're young," Gaston said. "They're craving language and they're craving access, so whatever I can do to help that."

Gaston found out she was nominated for Oticon's award during the summer. After

voting for the award closed on Nov. 21, she said she was surprised, more than anything, to find she had won the award for Best Practitioner.

"Hearing care is a profession that requires a level of caring and understanding that goes well beyond technical and audiological skills," Nancy Palmere, director of consumer marketing and public relations for Oticon, said. "Winners in the Practitioner category, like Dr. Lightfoot, stand head and shoulders above the rest in their commitment to making the world a better place for people with hearing loss."

"I just love my job and I love the kids, and I think I have a very close personal connection to it because of my experience throughout my life," Gaston said. "It was just a huge honor to even be nominated."

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WEEKLY BRIEFING

'Virginia' visits Alexandria



PHOTO/ HAL HARDAWAY

Scientific research vessel "Virginia."

The Port City received a visit from the scientific research vessel "Virginia" this week.

From Sunday to early Wednesday morning, the 93-foot state-of-the-art ship was docked next to the Cherry Blossom at the city marina behind the Torpedo Factory.

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science purchased the ship last year for \$10 million. According to VIMS printed materials, the ship is "big for the ocean, nimble for the bay." The ship's five berths provide bunks for up to 12 scientists and crew members on trips for up to 10 days.

VIMS, which conducts coastal research on marine

life and geology, is home to the College of William and Mary's Marine Science program. The vessel visited Alexandria as part of an outreach and fundraising effort, according to Lorie J. Gomez, VIMS associate director of advancement.

"It seemed fitting to take the 'Virginia' out and show her off around the state since her purchase was made possible by the commonwealth. She was docked in Richmond last month, and in the spring we will take her down to Norfolk for a few days. Most days she is hard at work, so it's nice for her to be out and admired by the public," Gomez said.

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Scholarship fund's women's soiree raises almost \$20k



COURTESY PHOTO

Guests gather at the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's Women's Holiday Soirée.

The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's Women's Holiday Soirée took place on Dec. 5, according to a news release. About 125 women attended the event at restaurateur Stephanie Babin's house, where they enjoyed bourbon cocktails

and jambalaya from the Neighborhood Restaurant Group.

The holiday soirée raised \$18,000, which will provide scholarships for six students in the T.C. Williams Class of 2020, according to the release.

The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria is a local non-profit that awards \$1 million in college scholarships to T.C. Williams students with financial need every year, according to the release.

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Bike campus opens at Jones Point Park

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association, the George Washington Memorial Parkway and the City of Alexandria held a ribbon cutting for the Alexandria Bike Campus at Jones Point Park on Saturday, according to a news release.

The bike campus, which features a training course and small scale model of city streets, is open to the public for self-learning and will be used to host bicycle education classes, according to the release.

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Councilor Amy Jackson calls for reversal of Seminary road diet

Unexpected proposal disgruntles other councilors

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

In a surprise to fellow members of council and city staff, Councilor Amy Jackson made a motion during Tuesday's legislative meeting to rescind council's approval of the Seminary Road project.

Council voted 4-3 on Sept. 14 to reduce a 0.9-mile section of Seminary Road from four to three lanes and add bike lanes. The decision was the culmination of a year-long process that pitted neighbor against neighbor.

Those in support of the decision believed the "road diet" would improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety, while those who opposed the decision, including 13 civic associations, believed the lane reduction would result in cut through traffic in surrounding neighborhoods, bumper to bumper slow-downs on Seminary and challenges for emergency services staff.

Jackson, who voted in opposition to the "road diet" at the Sept. 14 public hearing, made her motion late in the meeting during council's oral reports. She called for council to pause the Seminary Road project before its completion in order to reconsider removing the medians, which were implemented as part of the repaving and restructuring project, and regain the public trust.

"The Seminary Road diet has caused what I believe to be an erosion of public confidence," Jackson said, reading from her statement. "The bottom line is that our constituents are upset and question



PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

Councilor Amy Jackson in the 2019 George Washington Birthday Celebration.

our ability to lead the city. I'm not trying to reverse a decision that went against my point of view. I'm seeking a way to take a time out, which would allow us the opportunity to reevaluate what has occurred."

Jackson cited public safety concerns around the medians – and their impact on emergency services vehicles – and a sidewalk that is in the process of being funded. Those who live on and around Seminary Road have "anxiety and fear" after council made a decision that impacted the area in ways that were not intended, Jackson said.

"If we don't pause this today and continue to allow the construction to move forward, it will be too late," Jackson continued. "You must admit this moved too fast and there is an appearance that we are in a hurry to complete it in order to seal the deal, and that bothers me a lot."

The section of Seminary Road was repaved about a month ago, and signal timings were adjusted the week before Thanksgiving, Yon Lambert, director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, said. A crosswalk, additional signage and rapid flash bea-

cons at the crosswalk have yet to be installed.

Although Jackson's motion initially died for lack of a second, Councilor Mo Seifeldein later seconded the motion for the sake of discussion, he said.

In the ensuing discussion, Jackson's fellow councilors expressed surprise and, at times, displeasure with how she had chosen to present certain information.

"I'm hoping that our colleague will share her statement with all of us because frankly I think there are things that are inaccurate," Councilor Canek Aguirre said, citing Jackson's implication that the majority of people in the affected area opposed the "road diet."

Mayor Justin Wilson vehemently opposed Jackson's decision to spring her motion on council, staff and the community with no prior notice.

"Nobody is aware that council is considering this issue. Nobody who weighed in on this issue has any idea what is going on right now under the cover of darkness in city hall," Wilson said. "Regardless of my view on this issue, I think this is highly inappropriate."

Jackson went on to question Lambert about accidents and the cost of the "road diet." There have been five crashes, only one of which was reportable, on the stretch of Seminary in question between Oct. 30 and Dec. 5, Lambert said.

Jackson cited the concerns of the 1,000-member Alexandria Residents Against the Seminary Road Diet Facebook group, claiming that there are very few bicyclists on the road to have justified such a decision.

"I can't sit here idly as, frankly, some conspiracy theories and other things that are blatantly inaccurate [are] said up here," Aguirre said. "... When you are looking at a Facebook group, what hard data are they using?"

Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker seconded Aguirre's comments and said she would send Jackson pictures of bicyclists on Seminary Road.

Wilson suggested Jackson and council request staff make an update at a later date.

Seifeldein asked Jackson if she would consider withdrawing her motion and bringing it forward at a future legislative meeting to allow council, staff and the public to prepare for the discussion. Jackson ultimately withdrew her motion and tabled it for a later date.

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Port City Profile

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AT A GLANCE

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FILE PHOTO

SCOOTERS

FROM | 1

ers in the city without notice during summer 2018, staff recommended council adopt a pilot program that could provide a regulatory framework for the disruptive new technology.

Council approved the program in November 2018 and the pilot launched in January.

Since then, seven scooter companies have signed the city's memorandums of understanding.

From the get-go, scooters attracted riders, whether they were commuters making a last mile connection to the Metro or joyriders out for a weekend ride. On aver-

age, there are about 15,000 users per month who have taken 230,000 total trips, according to a Nov. 26 staff presentation to council. That averages out to about 26,000 trips per month.

In determining the future of scooters in Alexandria, Mayor Justin Wilson said it's important to remember the sheer number of riders using the devices every month.

"I think a good many of our residents are voting with their feet and using these devices and I think that's something that we have to keep in mind," Wilson said.

The program has also drawn a significant amount of criticism from residents,

particularly in Old Town where around 60 percent of deployment takes place.

Improper parking, sidewalk riding and inadequate enforcement and responsiveness by companies have been consistent points of concern for residents. Some residents have little faith that staff can get any closer to addressing these concerns.

"If they can't collect enough data in eight months – and people would be wise to question the city's data and its claims to being data-driven – then something's wrong," Hal Hardaway, an Old Town resident and vocal critic of the program, said.

Staff made changes to the program over the summer in an attempt to address certain concerns. T&ES worked with companies to geofence areas of the city, using GPS-based technology to prevent scooters from starting or ending rides on the waterfront, in Market Square and at Metro stops during the summer Metro shutdown. Staff also installed parking corrals in Old Town.

"Over the time of the pilot, we have worked to address some of the most extreme challenges," Wilson said. "The number of complaints that we have gotten has gone dramatically down. I think some of the accommodations that we've put in place have dealt with that for sure."

Since riders first started hopping on these electric scooters, residents have been complaining about sidewalk riders jeopardizing the safety of pedestrians. During the initial pilot, the city did not institute a defined policy for sidewalk riding, based on state legislation that made doing so complicated.

Under the phase II pilot, sidewalk riding would be banned in Old Town from the waterfront to West Street and from Montgomery to Wilkes streets. In Del Ray,

“If they can't collect enough data in eight months – and people would be wise to question the city's data and its claims to being data-driven – then something's wrong.”

– Hal Hardaway,
Alexandria resident

zsidewalk riding would be banned along Mount Vernon Avenue.

The proposed change does not sit well with Wilson, who said he wants to see a citywide sidewalk riding ban.

"My feeling is the scooters shouldn't be ridden on the sidewalks at all, but I think there's probably ways to adjust what they've recommended to prevent that," Wilson said.

According to North, the decision to ban sidewalk riding only in specific areas had to do with the safety of both pedestrians and riders.

"It's largely based on the prevalence of narrower sidewalks, brick sidewalks ... higher density of pedestrians or people on those sidewalks and then shorter blocks, which keep the speed lower in general," North said.

As of Dec. 10, staff included a condition that would allow other areas to be added in the future. Council could expand the area of prohibition through ordinances, according to North.

Staff's recommendation also involves approval of an ordinance that would define e-scooter regulations in city code, giving the Alexandria Police Department more power to enforce a new, ever evolving mode of transportation, North said.

APD Captain Jamie Bridgeman clarified that sidewalk riding enforcement would be most improved by the change.

"We'll know that if you're in that area on the sidewalk, that's prohibited by city code, if it passes," Bridgeman

said. "There's really gonna be no guessing. 'Well, is it this block? Is it that block?' It defines it and makes it more clear."

However, enforcing traffic violations will likely remain a challenge for APD officers. Although some officers have written scooter riders the occasional citation, there has been very little concrete enforcement of traffic violations, Bridgeman said.

"There's been very little enforcement of scooters," Bridgeman said. "A lot of it has been having conversations, like, 'Hey, that was dangerous.' 'You should probably wear a helmet.' 'You ran that stop sign' or 'You didn't look going that way.'"

Police will continue to treat scooter riders the same as bicyclists, observing a traffic violation and then making stops or issuing citations if appropriate.

Aside from the question of enforcement, staff is still trying to address inequitable distribution of scooters and the potential environmental impacts of the devices.

The phase II pilot would require each scooter company to deploy 15 percent of its fleet west of Quaker Lane and east of I-395, another 10 percent west of I-395 and another 5 percent in Arlandria, according to a staff document provided at a Tuesday legislative meeting.

Councilors John Chapman and Mo Seifeldein pushed back on the proposed change on Nov. 26, claiming staff needed to think about equi-



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sure said. "I was like, 'That's a great way to get re-inspired with running and do something different.' So I literally knocked on my running partner's front door, Marianne, and I said, 'Guess what we're going to do?'"

"She just said, 'We're going to run every single Alexandria street,'" Marianne Nazzaro, Lasure's neighbor and running partner, said. "And I was like, 'You're going to run every single Alexandria street. I will be happy to support you as much as possible.'"

Lasure said she saw the endeavor as more of a project than a challenge, having already completed 12 marathons and 18 ultramarathons – races of distances greater than 26.2 miles.

"I've been running for probably 25, 30 years, and as runners, we always go travel to places to go run, like, I want to go run in South Dakota,



Lasure, joined by friends and neighbors, runs through Old Town on the last mile of her 330-mile journey.

let's go pick a marathon anywhere but here," Lasure said. "I was like ... I've been living in Alexandria for so many years. I love these streets, but there's probably a number of streets I don't know of. And I just wanted to get out and get to know my community."

Lasure officially began the project on Nov. 17, 2018. Throughout the journey, she didn't follow a strict process.

While she started out using her phone to navigate, she quickly switched to small cut-outs of a city zoning map.

"I hate carrying my phone when I run, and I decided this would be much more sort of old school, retro way to go knock this stuff out. I re-learned my brain to look at maps," Lasure said.

"When we first started ... she couldn't read a map to

save her life," Nazzaro said with a laugh.

After each run, Lasure traced in the roads she'd covered in different colored crayons on her cut-out maps. She also tracked her progress on a larger zoning map she kept on the wall in her home.

Lasure also didn't follow a set timeline or distance schedule.

"Instead of a time, it would

be like, 'I'm going to go knock this out. I don't know how long that is,'" Lasure said. "And I wouldn't know the elevation either. Marianne and I would go out and I'd be like, 'We're just doing this neighborhood' and then we'd turn and it'd be uphill, downhill, uphill, downhill. ... I found so many hills that I didn't know existed in Alexandria."

The journey was stunted by injuries for both Lasure and Nazzaro in the spring. In March, Lasure broke her shoulder when the dog she was running with got spooked, causing her to fall. About a month later, Nazzaro got a concussion. After about a four-month hiatus, the two were able to begin running together again.

"We were laying down some pretty good mileage up until the injury, and then after the injury, our five, seven, 10 miles became three, four,

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Chamber holds State of Business meeting

Panel features Amazon, Virginia Tech representatives

BY MISSY SCHROTT

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual State of Business meeting at the Alexandria Hilton Mark Center on Tuesday morning.

During the meeting, a panel of National Landing speakers discussed Amazon and Virginia Tech, the chamber announced a rebranding and outgoing board chair Charlotte Hall of Potomac Riverboat Company passed the baton to incoming 2020 chair Dave Millard of Avison Young.

The featured panelists of the Amazon discussion were Matt Kelly, chief executive officer of JBG Smith; Holly Sullivan, director of World Wide Economic Development of Amazon; and

Brandy Salmon, managing director of the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus.

The three gave updates related to their respective roles with National Landing, discussing steps that have been taken in 2019 and what to expect in the coming years.

Amazon already has about 400 employees in an office space it is leasing from JBG Smith in Crystal City, according to Sullivan. This weekend, a site plan review of the Amazon headquarters is going before the Arlington County Board.

“Once the site plan review is hopefully approved on Saturday, then we will move forward with actually breaking ground on the development site, which is right behind the Whole Foods in ... Pentagon City, for our initial 2.1 million square feet,” Sullivan said.



COURTESY PHOTO

The audience at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce's 2019 State of Business meeting.

It's going to take about three years to build the first piece of the new headquarters, but Amazon plans to continue hiring employees during construction, with the

goal of having about 1,000 employees by the end of summer 2020, Sullivan said.

When moderator Ken Broussard asked about the timeframe for hiring Am-

azon's eventual 25,000 to 38,000-person workforce, Sullivan said, “Think about us hiring anywhere between 1,500 and 2,500 employees on an annual basis.”

Kelly said a lot of the design plans for the new headquarters have been informed by the goal of making the new National Landing neighborhood a multi-use community.

“When you think about the Crystal City neighborhood historically, it's been viewed as more of a 9-to-5 kind of neighborhood,” Kelly said. “It doesn't have a ton of activity on weekends and the evenings and one of the reasons for that is it doesn't have the ideal mix of multifamily and office and part of how we will

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Out of the classroom

Education section

ACDS students participate in multiple service learning activities

Over the last six weeks, every Alexandria Country Day School student, grades K-8, has participated in two different days of service: World Food Day on Oct. 16 and the school's Fall Half-Day of Service on Nov. 26.

ACDS was proud to join Hunger Free Alexandria in celebrating World Food Day for a second year. To support Hunger Free Alexandria's efforts, ACDS faculty first created lessons about food insecurity that were shared with ACDS students as well as made available to all the other schools in Alexandria. Then, over the course of the day, students worked on a variety of food-related service projects. They visited and helped out at food pantries like the ALIVE! Food Warehouse and the Cap-

ital Area Food Bank, soup kitchens like Christ House and farms like Common Good City Farm. Second graders planted a winter garden, and kindergarten and first grade students started planning for their Blessings in a Backpack food drive. Rain forced the sixth grade to reschedule their trip to Arcadia Farm, but when they were able to visit a week later, they planted strawberries, sorted tea leaves and sampled edible plants.

For ACDS' annual half-day of service, eighth graders headed to Meade Memorial Church and Alexandria Food Warehouse to help prepare for Thanksgiving, while the seventh and third graders continued work that began last year as part of ACDS' PARKnership proj-

ect to improve Monticello Park. Sixth graders made dog blankets for Homeward Trails Animal Rescue Center and delivered them, and the second graders visited the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, delivering pet toys and treats they had collected. Fifth graders headed to Dale Street Community Garden to learn about a plot they will be planting in the spring, and fourth graders learned about People Animal Love efforts to promote literacy and read to PAL's dogs. The youngest students in kindergarten and first grade remained on campus to make a fruit salad snack for Casa Chirilagua with Tiny Chefs and pack their first 50 bags of food for Blessings in a Backpack.



COURTESY PHOTO

In honor of World Food Day, ACDS students worked on a variety of food-related service projects.

Burgundy on Broadway



COURTESY PHOTO

Students perform in Burgundy Farm Country Day School's annual Burgundy on Broadway show.

Burgundy Farm Country Day School's sixth graders performed an eclectic mix of jazz and musical standards for this year's Burgundy on Broadway entitled "Jazz Nation: Don't Throw Away Your Shot!"

A packed house enjoyed two shows featuring a

multi-talented ensemble of singers, dancers, musicians, poets and actors. This year's BoB performance also featured a special guest, Director of Admission Lori Adams, who, along with the sixth graders, brought down the house with a rendition of "Summertime" by George Gershwin.

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Out of the classroom Education section

SSSAS hosts student diversity conference

It was a day of inspiration, empowerment, bonding and fun - the St. Stephen's and St. Agnes sixth annual Middle School Diversity Conference welcomed more than 175 students from 15 schools on Nov. 15 to help them learn to be leaders in their schools and communities.

The conference, "Building Bridges: Stories Told - Stories Heard," allowed students to participate in interactive activities, engage in thoughtful conversations and challenge themselves to examine who they are, why it is important and the impact they can have on the world. The student sessions were led by SSSAS Upper School students who are leaders in the school's diversity efforts.

The 2019 special guest speaker was master storyteller and educator Diane Macklin. She gave a storytelling performance for the students and a session on the power of stories in education for the adult attendees.

The middle school years can be some of the most challenging, so it is the



COURTESY PHOTO

Students at the SSSAS Middle School Diversity Conference.

perfect time to give students the skills and confidence to make a difference for their generation.

"We live in a complicated world, and students are aware of the circumstances that create a not-so-equitable society," KiKi Davis, SSSAS director of institu-

tional equity and diversity, said. "It's important for middle school students to know they have the power to affect change. This conference gives them the tools and encouragement they need to be upstanders when they see injustice instead of the easier path of a bystander."

Grace Episcopal School builds Tom the Turkey

Grace Episcopal School students built their annual Tom the Turkey in late November, just before Thanksgiving.

Over the years, Tom has become the mascot for the Grace community food drive that serves Grace Episcopal Church's Food Pantry, with all food donations going directly to local families in need.

Each year Tom the Turkey is outlined on the floor and Grace students of all ages work together to slowly create the shape using boxes of cereal donated by Grace fam-

ilies. Altogether, 209 boxes of cereal were given to the Food Pantry - a healthy and happy "Tom."

This school-wide event is one of Grace Episcopal School's most cherished traditions, not only because it is a time for Grace's preschool through grade five students to work together, but because it brings Grace's mission of service to others to life. These moments reflect Grace's core beliefs and bear witness to students of all ages growing in Grace.



COURTESY PHOTO

A Grace Episcopal student helps build Tom the Turkey out of donated cereal boxes.

Fusion Academy holds community-building event



COURTESY PHOTO

Students, families and teachers at Fusion Academy's Thanksgiving potluck lunch.

Fusion Academy held its first community Thanksgiving potluck lunch on Nov. 20. Fusion is a small private school in John Carlyle Square for students in grades six through 12.

The lunch was a joyful affair with more than 50 people participating in the feast. In addition to students, faculty and staff, Fusion was joined by more than a dozen parents.

"At Fusion, we place a very high value on relationships and interconnectedness. Our Thanksgiving community potluck was a representation of this core value in action," Brian Duggan, head of school, said.

The event was an opportunity for parents to see their children with their friends in their natural habitat and mingle with their children's teachers.

"It was wonderful to engage with the parents of our students and brag about ev-

eryone's growth in such a relaxed and homey setting," Lara Sierra, Fusion math and science teacher, said.

The generosity of the families was evident in the array of delicious salads, sides and desserts that overflowed from the tables.

"It was the first time I'd ever seen spaghetti and meatballs on a Thanksgiving table, and the kids loved it, so shout out to Marjorie Greenberg for that one," Bridget Berry, admissions coordinator, said.

"As one of the original Fusion Academy families, it has been wonderful to watch our school's community grow. I was thrilled to see so many students and their parents at the Thanksgiving potluck," Fusion parent Kim Moore said.

With so much positive feedback, Fusion looks forward to making this an annual tradition.



Out of the classroom

Education section

ILS Veterans Day and Day of Service

Immanuel Lutheran School hosted its annual Veterans Day and Day of Service on Nov. 11. During the morning, more than 20 veterans and active duty service members joined students in their classes to discuss their service.

Following the presentations, students then participated in a variety of different service projects to give back and serve members of the community. Several classes were also able to welcome representatives from different organizations to learn more about how their projects will serve neighbors within our community.

Jr. Kindergarten and first



COURTESY PHOTO

Students participate in the annual ILS Veterans Day and Day of Service.

grade students created artwork and assembled care packages to be delivered to shut-ins. Kindergarten and fifth grade classes gathered

and packaged supplies for Assist Pregnancy Center. Fifth grade boys also helped package 100 meal kits for Christ House in Alexandria,

which they later delivered to the Christ House Food Pantry with parent volunteers. Second graders created cards for Meals on Wheels and also assembled hygiene kits with Blessing Bags International. Third graders made cards, hats and paracord bracelets for Operation Gratitude.

Fourth grade students put together care packages for the homeless and created Christmas ornaments to be delivered to residents of the Springfield Sunrise Senior Living Center. Sixth grade students filled a suitcase with school supplies and other materials for an orphanage and also made blankets to deliver to Proj-

ect Linus. Seventh graders walked more than six miles around the Del Ray neighborhood to clean up area parks. Eighth graders were busy cleaning up the school campus and baking homemade treats that they then delivered to Immanuel neighbors.

"Our ILS Veterans Day and Day of Service is one of our special traditions that help shape and define our school culture and community," Julia Habrecht, ILS headmaster, said. "Alongside our parents, we are trying to help our students understand what it means to serve and prepare to live a life of service to their neighbors."

School Profile

Immanuel Lutheran School

Immanuel Lutheran School offers a Christian and classical education with a liberal arts curriculum for Junior Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Immanuel Lutheran has served families for more than 70 consecutive years and instilled in students a genuine love for learning through a strong liberal arts curriculum, Lutheran catechesis and a rich academic environment that encourages subject mastery.

ILS teachers emphasize academic excellence, the development of curiosity, consistency, perseverance and discussion. Together, teachers and students in Junior Kindergarten through eighth grade embark on a shared journey to experience the beauty in the complexity of the natural world, great literature, history and the Cre-

ator who made us all.

Wisdom, eloquence and virtue – these are the aims of a classical education at ILS. More than the acquisition of basic skills and mere competency, ILS believes the purpose of education is to transform, elevate and refine the mind and the soul. At the center is an emphasis on the good, the true and the beautiful. Because these universal values serve as the building blocks of classical learning, the classical arts are timeless and proven and have been known to produce many eloquent confessors and wise leaders. Classical education is a holistic approach to education, and a return to excellence in teaching, curriculum and expectations.

This is advertorial content.

AT A GLANCE

School Name: Immanuel Lutheran School
Address: 1801 Russell Road, Alexandria
Years in operation: 1870-1910; reopened in 1945
Grades: Pre-K to eighth grade
Number of students: 191
Organization/Church Affiliation: Lutheran
Tagline: Training the next generation of classical thinkers.
Mission: To nurture the minds, hearts and bodies of students in grades Jr. Kindergarten through Eight with classical education and Lutheran Catechesis.
Website: www.ilsalexandria.org
Contact: 703-549-0155 or admissions@immanuelalexandria.org



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Holiday Gift Guide



Where to buy eco-friendly gifts in Alexandria

BY LUKE ANDERSON

Christmas lights burning all night, wrapping paper strewn across the floor — the holidays can be a difficult time to remain eco-friendly. More than ever, now is the time to consider ways to reduce our footprint beyond simply recycling.

This week, we are featuring environmentally responsible gifts available around Alexandria. Whether you are shopping for someone who cares a lot about the planet or for your own sustainable self, these gifts are sure to bring a smile to everyone on your list.

With so many green gift options at your fingertips, there is no reason not to take advantage of them. After all, it is the only way to ensure future generations have an abundance of Christmas trees and don't see Frosty melt away for good.

Be sure to check out next week's holiday gift guide,



PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

Lisa Maddox works on a project for her family heritage business, Narratio Vitae.

which will focus on last minute gifts to buy locally.

Narratio Vitae

All around town, Christmas trees have been decorated and wrapped in lights, but there is another tree that could use some light shed on it — your family tree.

Narratio Vitae is a family history business owned by former Central Intelligence Agency analyst Lisa Maddox. Her research goes more in

depth than a standard DNA test and can focus on a specific branch or individual within your loved one's lineage.

"The final product is a private, personalized website that contains narratives of the client's ancestors' lives, to include historical context, photos, documents and even audio or video clips of family interviews," Maddox said.

Unlike a photo album or a



Eco-Friendly Gifts



Left: The recycled keyboard at Ten Thousand Villages is the perfect gift for the writer or IT wizard in your family.

Right: Ten Thousand Villages' cat basket is made from recycled saris.



COURTESY PHOTOS

GIFT GUIDE

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Foundation, said.

book, Narratio Vitae's websites are 100 percent paperless and can be shared with a relative who lives across town or across the world. A blog feature allows family and friends to post comments and start meaningful family discussions that can be shared with generations to come. It is the gift that keeps on giving.

Pricing varies based on the scope of the project. To learn more, visit narratiovitae.com.

Tall Ship Providence

Gift cards for tours and cruises of Providence, the Revolutionary War reproduction ship docked in Old Town, are now available, just in time for the holidays.

"The gift cards are available in \$25 denominations from \$25 to \$200 and can be used for tickets for both tours and cruises, but not merchandise in our gift shop," Diana West, director of programs and communications for the Tall Ship Providence

Foundation, said. Gift cards can be used online or in-person at foundation's ticket counter at 1 Cameron St., West said. Right now, tickets are available for tours and cruises scheduled for March 9 or later, according to West. Once the schedule has been posted online for January and February, tickets for those months will be available as well.

Print out the gift cards and stuff them in your family's stockings or choose the zero-waste option and send them via email.

The ship uses very little power. During tours, the only energy used is the electricity to keep the lights on. During cruises, wind and sail is used to power the ship as much as possible.

For pricing, scheduling and updates, visit tallship-providence.org.

Ten Thousand Villages

People often emphasize good will toward others during the holiday season. Why not buy a gift that will



PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

Tall Ship Providence is docked at the Alexandria Marina.

make your loved one happy and give back to a disadvantaged community?

Every purchase from Ten Thousand Villages at 915 King St. helps fund its business model, which is to give money back to the artisans and communities across the world who create the products in the store, according to the business' website.

Additionally, products

SEE GIFT GUIDE

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Eco-Friendly Gifts



Left: Customers of BW Antiques can browse hundreds of rings, necklaces and other jewelry.

Right: Mint Condition has plenty of items to set under the tree.



PHOTOS/LUKE ANDERSON

GIFT GUIDE

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are manufactured with the environment in mind and recycled materials are used whenever possible. Take a woven saddle purse, made of eco-leather. The tanning process avoids using hazardous chemicals and instead uses materials derived from sustainable tea bark extracts and waxes, a process used in ancient India, according to owner Kate McMahon. It is available for \$99.99.

Keyboard frames are an interesting recycled gift for a writer or a loved one who works in IT. The store also sells frames made from recycled

hard drives. Depending on size, the frames cost between \$20.99 and \$24.99.

There are also plenty of gifts for your furry friends. On top of treats, your dog might enjoy a new pillow made out of upcycled cotton saris for \$89.99. The cat basket is also made from recycled saris and, for \$39.99, offers the perfect spot for your feline to curl up beside a warm fireplace.

Mint Condition

Whether you are searching for the perfect holiday dress or the perfect gift, you can find both at Mint Condition. The women's clothing

and consignment shop is located at 103 S. St. Asaph St. – just look for the mint green exterior.

Mint Condition offers items from more than 4,000 consignors, both local and across the country, owner Megan Podolsky said. All of the items are gently used and from various designer brands, from J. Crew to Valentino.

A few items currently for sale include a clutch, wallet and bum bag – a chic, modern-day fanny pack – all by Gucci. There are also jewels from Chanel and a make-up bag by Louis Vuitton.

With so many clothes,

shoes and bag options, whoever you are buying for will be overjoyed.

BW Antiques

Some things never go out of style. Many vintage items are well-made, having stood the test of time, and are one of a kind, which make them wonderful eco-friendly gifts.

The shop, located at 108 N. Fayette St., has three floors full of treasures, such as “museum-worthy” paintings, books, beer steins, silver, porcelain and china. It also has shelves upon shelves of jewelry.

The business is owned by Pierre-Yves and his mother, who came from Austria and has collected antiques for more than 40 years. For 15 years, Alexandria families

and antique-lovers have come to BW Antiques to fill their historic homes.

Some other notable customers include the Kennedy Center Opera and Katy Perry, who paid the shop a visit in October to purchase jewelry, Pierre-Yves said.

Prices vary depending on the piece, but if you are shopping for someone who appreciates a gift with some history, look no further than this one-stop shop for all things vintage.

Vélocity Bicycle Cooperative

Tucked away in the garage, your old rusty bike keeps catching your eye. Instead of throwing it away,

SEE GIFT GUIDE

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ten thousand villages.

915 King St, Alexandria
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Ten Thousand Villages empowers women and other marginalized populations to build lives of dignity through reliable work, fair living wage, direct, interest-free financing, safe working conditions, and strong partnerships.

As a local non-profit organization, we appreciate your support over the last 25 years! Every purchase helps break the cycle of poverty and ignite social change. Your Ten Thousand Villages Family in Old Town.

A Wine Gallery 108 special for your holiday table. Pick up an original bottle of wine paired with these one-of-a-kind table mats to thrill anyone on your list!

WINE GALLERY 108

108 N. Patrick Street, Alexandria Va
winegallery108.com



Eco-Friendly Gifts



COURTESY PHOTOS

Left: Many of Your CBD Store's products are affordable and make great stocking stuffers.

Right: Mara Benner, president and founder of Four Directions Wellness, helps a client get focused during an individual session.

GIFT GUIDE

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have it fixed up and re-gift it.

Vélocity Bicycle Cooperative is a used bike store at 2111 Mt. Vernon Ave. in Del Ray, and it will make you ditch the idea of buying a new bike. For \$75, you can get a full tune-up no matter what shape your bike is in, though part replacement could be extra.

If you do not have a bike, Vélocity has a large selection of used and refurbished bikes for purchase. Choose from all different sizes, shapes and brands.

"When we receive bicycle donations, we do our best to restore the bicycles and keep them riding," Vélocity Board Chair Joe Davison said. "If we cannot, we usually strip off the usable parts for others to purchase from our co-op at a low cost."

All other unusable parts go to recycling..

For more info on Vélocity and their services, visit velocitycoop.org.

Your CBD Store

Have your family and friends toast to good health and a pain-free New Year

when you get them the gift of CBD oil.

Find it at Your CBD Store in suite B of 301 S. Washington St. Manager Shells Karle said their products contain the highest quality raw materials from their farms in Colorado and Oregon and follow the strictest regulations on hemp. All of their products are tested before consumption to ensure the utmost safety.

They have many affordable products ranging between \$10 and \$40, including CBD bath bombs, lip balms, collagen cream, lotions and edibles. Gift baskets are also available, starting at \$80.

In December, Your CBD Store is running a special for certain tincture, water soluble, topical and large edible products — buy two and get the third half off. Gift cards are also available.

If you would like to pick up some reading material to learn more about CBD oil, the shop carries copies of Shira Adler's book, "The ABCs of CBDs."

Four Directions Wellness

Many New Year resolu-

tions consist of eating better, working out and improving overall health, both mentally and physically. Of course, some of us might need help reaching these goals.

Four Directions Wellness "helps people intuitively connect with mind, body, emotions and spirit," president and founder Mara Benner said.

The business is affiliated with the GW Center for Integrative Medicine and is located at 2001 Mt. Vernon Ave. in Del Ray.

Services include meditation and mindfulness, integrative reflexology, finding your true North sessions, Reiki and nutrition coaching. Clients can explore any or all of these through individual sessions, classes and consulting services. Gift certificates are available.

Classes for next year include Reiki training, nutritional classes, planning with purpose for 2020 and mind-body-spirit classes, Benner said. For those who would like to try out these services before committing, a complimentary Reiki session will be offered Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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A festive weekend in Alexandria

The holidays were in full swing last weekend throughout Alexandria. From Old Town to Del Ray, there was no shortage of festive activities. The weekend kicked off on Friday with a Scotch tasting and heather and greens sale. Festivities continued Saturday with the annual Campagna Center Scottish Christmas Walk Parade and Home Tour and the Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. The weekend concluded with Del Ray's Holidays on the Avenue on Sunday.



PHOTO/LOUISE KRAFFT
Left to right: Ms. Ireland USA 2019 Julie Wilson, Devon Snodgrass as Mary Queen of Scots, Allison Priebe of Queen Bee Designs, Heidi Schneble as Queen Victoria and Heidi's mom Jane as Queen Elizabeth II.



PHOTO/WILL NICCOLLS
A crowd gathers at the annual Del Ray tree and menorah lighting in Pat Miller Square.



PHOTO/WILL NICCOLLS
Santa made an appearance at Del Ray's Holidays on the Avenue last weekend. **From left to right:** Sue Kovalsky, Carol Bailey, Santa, Kate Moran, Patty Moran and Ryan Bailey.



PHOTO/LOUISE KRAFFT
The Alexandria Pipes & Drums.



PHOTO/LOUISE KRAFFT
Chuck Kaba performed as a guest drum major this year while marching with the Clan MacLeod.



PHOTO/WILL NICCOLLS
The live Del Ray Christmas Tree.



PHOTO/EVAN MICHIO FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA
The Thinking Outside the Christmas Box award went to Letter of Marque, led by Captain Walter Weiss. The boat featured a "Hanukkah Festival of Lights" theme.



PHOTOS/LOUISE KRAFFT
Left: Lizzie Kuletz, a Westie rescue, takes her place with the dozens of other Westies that arrived for the parade.
Right: Cathy Olsen performs with the Shamrock & Thistle Pipes & Drums from Ocean County, New Jersey.



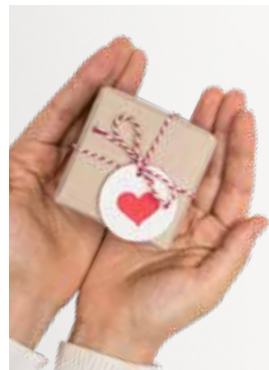
PHOTO/LOUISE KRAFFT
Charlie Schwartzman from the Mount Vernon Estate, hands out candies and postcards to young parade-goers.



PHOTO/EVAN MICHIO FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA
The winner of Best Sailboat was Tuesday, led by Captain Joe Landa. Tuesday's "Under the Sea" theme featured jellyfish, animated lights and a crew dressed as sea creatures.



PHOTO/EVAN MICHIO FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA
The boat American Girl, led by Captain John Gaydos, won the Best Try award for its "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" theme.



Give back to Alexandria Nonprofits

You can make a difference with your tax-deductible donation. Please consider donating to these worthy causes. Honor a loved one with a gift to their favorite nonprofit.

Ways to give back during the holidays

'Tis the season for giving, and there's no better time to give back to your local community.

There are several ways to share the love during the holidays, thanks to the many local nonprofit organizations collecting donations and offering volunteer opportunities.

If you have an hour, day or weekend to spare, one of the best ways to give back is with the gift of time.

If you're already a volunteer at a local church, shelter or other organization, be sure to put in a few extra hours over the holidays. If

you aren't a regular volunteer, there's no time like the present to get started.

Volunteer Alexandria is a great resource to find volunteer opportunities near you – both one-time and ongoing. Become a Meals on Wheels deliverer for Senior Services of Alexandria; help serve dinner as part of Meade Memorial Episcopal Church's Saturday Hot Meal event; sign up to be a Snow Buddy and help remove snow for low-income residents who are unable to this winter – opportunities are everywhere. To learn more, visit [www.volunteeral-](http://www.volunteeral-alexandria.org)

alexandria.org or contact your favorite nonprofit.

Volunteering can also be a great family bonding activity over the holidays. Find a group or organization seeking several volunteers and bring the whole family. Or, come up with your own way to give back together. This could involve baking a casserole for an elderly neighbor, delivering care packages with snacks, water bottles and gloves to the homeless people in your neighborhood or something else.

We all know it can be difficult to find time over the hol-

idays, so another great way to give back is by donating.

Clear out the toy box, coat closet or bookshelf for things that you don't use that are still in good condition. Or, as you're going down your holiday shopping list, consider adding a few items for those in need.

There are various places you can donate. On page 21, see our list of specific items needed and where to donate them. For contact information and addresses of the listed shops and nonprofits, see page 22. The list is not meant to be exhaustive – there are

numerous nonprofits around Alexandria that accept donations both during the holidays and year-round.

Beyond in-kind donations, money can be one of the most valuable gifts to give a nonprofit, as it allows them to buy the things they know they need, and it gives them the funding to continue operating and giving back to the community throughout the year. Donating is typically easy – it can often be done online – and it can make a huge difference in the community this holiday season.

-mchrott@alextimes.com

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

We invite you and your family to celebrate the birth of Christ at St. Paul's this Advent and Christmas!

Christmas Pageant | December 15 at 9:00 am

Advent Lessons and Carols | December 22 at 9:00 and 11:00 am

Christmas Eve Services | December 24

12:00 pm Quiet Holy Eucharist

2:00 and 4:00 pm Family Service with Children's Sermon

6:00 and 10:00 pm (9:30 prelude) Holy Eucharist with Choir and Brass

Christmas Day | December 25 at 10:00 am (pajamas encouraged!)

Christmas Lessons and Carols | December 29 at 10:00 am

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Give back

Here's where you can donate:

New or gently used baby items:

- Amvets Thrift Store
- MaRiH Center

Bikes:

- Amvets Thrift Store
- Velocity Bike Co-Op

Books in good condition:

- Alexandria Public Libraries
- Amvets Thrift Store
- Center for Alexandria's Children (children's books)
- Look Again Prevention of the Blind Shop

Cat related food, bedding, and kitty litter:

- Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
- King Street Cats
- Tails High Cat Rescue

China, crystal, artwork, vases:

- ALIVE!
- Amvets Thrift Store
- Catholic Charities Christ House Shelter & Shop
- Look Again Prevention of the Blind Shop
- TWIG Shop

Clean and gently used clothes:

- Amvets Thrift Store

- Catholic Charities Christ House Shelter & Shop
- Center for Alexandria's Children (children's clothes only)

- Look Again Prevention of the Blind Shop
- MaRiH Center (maternity clothing only)
- TWIG Shop
- Velocity Bike Co-Op (biking related apparel only)

Packaged and sealed food:

- ALIVE!
- Catholic Charities Christ House Shelter & Shop

Household goods:

- ALIVE! (Small household appliances and kitchenware, dishes)
- Amvets Thrift Store
- Catholic Charities Christ House Shelter & Shop (dishes and glasses only)
- Look Again Prevention of the Blind Shop
- TWIG Shop (small items in excellent condition)

Large furniture, kitchen cabinets, household fitting and working appliances:

- Amvets Thrift Store (no appliances)
- Look Again Prevention

of the Blind Shop (no extremely large furniture. No appliances or cabinets)

Pet food, toys, pet beds, leashes, etc.:

- Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

Miscellaneous things:

- Amvets Thrift Store

New or like new toys:

- Amvets Thrift Store
- Center for Alexandria's Children



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Wish List

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Nonprofit Details

Shop or Charity	Address	Phone Number	Website
Alexandria Public Libraries	various	703-746-1701	alexlibraryva.org
ALIVE!	2723 King St.	703-837-9300	alive-inc.org
Amvets Thrift Store	3115 Sherwood Hall Ln.	703-360-1919	amvets.org/thrift-stores
Animal Welfare League of Alexandria	4101 Eisenhower Ave.	703-746-4774	alexandriaanimals.org
Catholic Charities Christ House Shelter & Shop	131 S. West St.	703-548-4227	ccda.net
Center for Alexandria's Children	1900 N. Beauregard St. Suite 200	703-746-6008	centerforalexandriaschildren.org
King Street Cats	25 S. Dove St.	703-231-7199	kingstreetcats.org
Look Again Prevention of the Blind Shop	900 King St.	703-683-2558	youreyes.org/resaleshops/look-again-alexandria
MaRiH Center	3230 Duke St. #B	703-370-4774	marih.org
Restore Habitat	869 S. Pickett St.	703-360-6700	habitatnova.org/restore
Tails High	—	703-819-5240	tailshigh.org
TWIG Shop	106 N. Columbus St.	703-683-5544	thetwig.org
Velocity Bike Co-Op	2111 Mt. Vernon Ave.	703-549-1108	velocitycoop.org

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Times Living

ARTS

‘A Christmas Carol’ returns to LTA

BY LUKE ANDERSON

‘Tis the season once again in Alexandria. The Christmas tree is lit in Market Square, storefronts are decked with wreaths and garland and the Little Theatre of Alexandria is showing its annual and much-loved “A Christmas Carol,” adapted from the novella by Charles Dickens.

Set in London in 1843, the play sticks with the traditional storyline: Ebenezer Scrooge, a stingy and crotchety old man, sees the ghost of his deceased business partner, who tells him that he will be visited by three spirits — the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. The spirits show him the follies of his past and the present effect of his greed and cynicism. When he is shown his unfortunate fate, he undergoes a heart-warming metamorphosis and attempts to make amends with the people he has neglected.

In the production’s program, director Kelsey Yudice writes that she first fell in love with theatre at 12 years old, when she got her first part in “A Christmas Carol” at her community theatre. While watching and performing the play as a child, “[she] was in awe of the magic

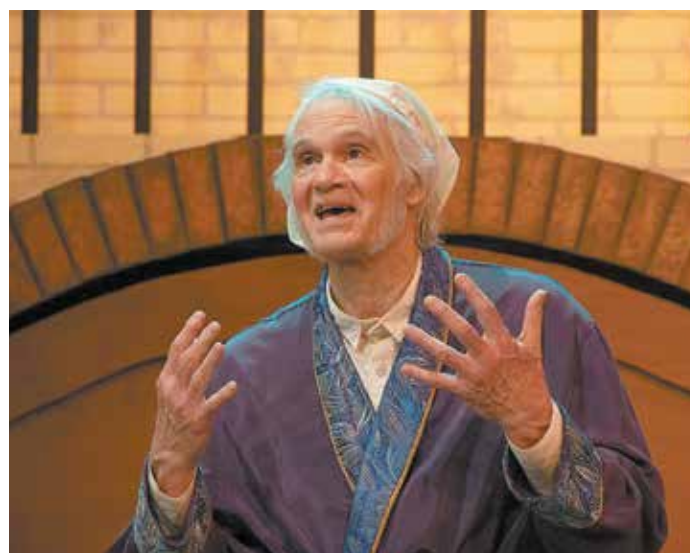
brought to life on the stage and the camaraderie between audiences and performers,” Yudice wrote.

The multi-level set, designed by John Downing, helps create that magic. The right and center stage looks like brick buildings lining an old London street, while the left side is designated as Scrooge’s bedchamber, which is a cold, dark gray stone wall crowned with a gothic, hand-painted stained glass window.

Bob Chaves is not the meanest version of Scrooge ever portrayed, but his tall stature and facial expressions in the opening scene are intimidating enough. He was a convincing misanthrope and delivered several rich lines. Fed up with the cheerfulness of his neighbors in one scene, Scrooge says that he hopes they will be “boiled in pudding and buried with holly through their heart.”

Sharon Fernandez deserves praise in her role as the Ghost of Christmas Past, which she depicted as an angelic and soft-spoken spirit. In a very different part, she brings humor to the stage as Mrs. Dilber, Scrooge’s maid.

In some darker renditions of the show, the mood turns frightening when the Ghost of Christmas Future shows up.



PHOTO/MATT LIPTAK

Bob Chaves as Scrooge.

A man sitting beside me later said that he would have preferred the final ghost in this production to be face-less and scarier. In her role as the Ghost of Christmas Future, Florence Ferraro shows Scrooge his future while wearing a long black dress and cloak. She does not speak directly and her face is very visible.

Ferraro could have been made more mysterious by wearing a hood, but this would deny the audience the pleasure of a small yet substantial moment in the last scene where Ferraro returns on stage as a beggar. Scrooge does not see her at first, but when he turns and sees her

familiar face outside of his haunting dreams, he jumps subtly and then, having learned his lesson, places a coin in her cup.

In a few instances, the dual roles seem to work well, but not so much in others. The play is approximately an hour and a half and most of the actors play between two and four different roles, one prominent and the others supporting. Despite speedy wardrobe changes, the variances in costumes were not always significant enough to differentiate between characters, making things somewhat confusing when the same actor is on stage in

IF YOU GO

Run dates: Through Dec. 22

Where: The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St.

For tickets and information: 703-683-0496 or www.thelittletheatre.com

alternating roles.

This is perhaps the production’s Achilles heel, although it does not ruin it. The talented cast still delivers a moving performance, and the story still illustrates the importance of kindness and selflessness.

The rest of the cast includes Alexandra Beach, Tom Bethards, Chase Bolden, Kevin Broderick, Emily Hemmingson, Luca Lorenzen-Schmidt, Aimee Meher-Homji, Charlotte Nichols, Erika Olander, Tyson Samuels, James Senavitis, Arielle Senavitis, Julia Stimson, Zoey Vaghin-Canks and Devin Walsh.

At the end, Tiny Tim proclaims, “God bless us, every one!” and the cast sings “We Wish You A Merry Christmas,” leaving only warm and happy feelings after the curtains close. It is perfect for family-friendly fun and recommended to anyone who needs an extra push to get into the holiday spirit.

FOODIE

CALENDAR

HOMEIES

I propose a toast

Sparkling wines make every day special | Page 24

December events

Attend a Kwanzaa workshop, go on a candy cane bar crawl and more | Page 25

Eco-friendly gardening

Take care of your planet while taking care of your plants | Page 26

Foodie

RECIPES, TRENDS and TIPS

Sparkling wines make every day special

BY JILL ERBER

I'd like to propose a toast... Wait a minute. It's time to rethink how and when we select, drink, share and pair sparkling wines.

Everyone knows sparkling wines are one of the great treasures of the wine world, but this style has become almost too precious. Typically reserved for holidays and other special occasions, sometimes hosts will offer a quarter-glass just for a ceremonial toast. When else would you offer guests a quarter glass of anything?

Henceforth, let us agree that sparkling wine should not be used sparingly and is not just for special occasion sipping.

First, some background on our beloved bubbly

Sparkling wines were invented by French monks some 500 years ago. While using the same grapes as many still wines, the process



JILL ERBER

is a bit different. As any wine ferments, yeast converts sugar to alcohol and emits carbon dioxide as a byproduct. With still wine, fermentation occurs in a barrel or tank, so the CO2 dissipates. In contrast, sparkling wines are fermented in sealed systems – pressure tanks or glass bottles. The resulting CO2 “dissolves” into the wine, only to be released in the form of cheerful bubbles upon opening.

The pinnacle of sparkling wines, French Champagne, is famous for the complex flavor and delicate effervescence that results



FILE IMAGE

from a second yeasty fermentation in the bottle. Other sparkling wines, like delightfully crisp Italian Prosecco, are fermented in the barrel or tank and then bottled with their bubbles, but without a second fermentation. Still others are artificially pumped full of CO2, just like soda, resulting in harsher, more volatile bubbles. Not surprisingly, those are the least expensive, but also the least respected.

The amount of labor, degree of delicacy and regional pedigree of any sparkling wine is directly related to its availability and price. True Champagne, produced only in the tiny northern-French region of the same name, has such name recognition and worldwide demand that its price puts it out of reach of most for daily drinking. Happily, some non-Champagne wines like Spanish Cava and French Crémant mimic this traditional method of preparation, resulting in stunningly similar results, but at a fraction of the cost. In other words, there are so many lov-

ingly prepared, high-quality alternatives out there, one should never be without bubbly in the fridge.

Wait, it comes in pink?

Just when we thought sparkling wine couldn't be any more festive, we encounter sparkling rosé. Like still varieties, these rosy sparklers are left to rest on the grape skins to absorb color, flavor and structure. Possessing round flavor and vibrant color, sparkling rosé simply cannot be beat on the wow scale. Nothing makes “just because” feel more special.

Now that we've explored the “how,” let's get to the “when”

Almost no wine on earth pairs better with food than sparkling wine. That is because crisp acidity and “scrubbing bubbles” clean the palate with every sip, making each bite taste like the first. Nuanced flavor development means that bubbly will enhance other flavors without overpowering them. Sparkling wines can range from neutral to

full-bodied, from white to pink to red, from completely dry to quite sweet. This means that various well-chosen bubbly can carry you through an entire meal, from delicate starters to heartier fare to dessert.

Regardless of style or pairing partner, sparkling wines must always be served chilled. Tall, slim flutes are ideal for sipping, as they keep bubbles contained and prevent sloshing. But I will admit that there is nothing more devil-may-care than drinking bubbly from a wide-mouth coupe glass. I urge you to try it at least once.

You cannot top bubbly's celebratory spirit or festive feel. Especially at this time of year, sparkling wine enhances any holiday gathering. But don't let your enjoyment stop there — drink bubbly with abandon and every day will feel like a celebration, as it should.

Happy holidays, and cheers to you and yours.

The writer is owner and “Cheese Lady” of Cheesetique.

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CALENDAR

DECEMBER 12

DEL RAY LADIES NIGHT OUT

Let the Shops of Del Ray take the stress out of holiday shopping. Enjoy a night out with friends, shop local and enjoy special promotions and discounts all while sipping wine. Grab a friend and sip and shop at Del Ray's top retailers, who are offering a one-night only 20 percent discount.

Time: 6 to 9 p.m.

Location: Del Ray

Information: www.visitdelray.com

DECEMBER 13

ALEXANDRIA'S 2019 HOLIDAY SING-ALONG

Experience a jolly good time at the always popular – and free – Alexandria Holiday Sing-Along. Join in song with neighbors as conductor Mike Evans and the hometown Alexandria Citizens Band play holiday favorites. Elisa Ravas, with her magical voice, will lead the singing. And to make it easy for everyone, the lyrics will be available in brand new song books.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave.

Information: tickets-sing-along.eventbrite.com

DECEMBER 14

ALEXANDRIA CHORAL SOCIETY'S "SEEK OUT LIGHT"

Bring the whole family to the Alexandria Choral Society's "Seek Out Light" show. This shorter, 45-minute kid-friendly holiday program is packed with seasonal choral favorites like Morten Lauridsen's "Sure on this Shining Night," William Averitt's "Masters in this Hall" and Christopher Hoh's "Good People All, This Christmastime" as well as lots of familiar carols like "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas," "O Christmas Tree" and "Deck the Halls."

Time: 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road

Information: www.alexandriachoral-society.org/seekoutlight

YULETIDE BY CANDLELIGHT

Experience the holiday season with festive activities and fare at historic sites throughout Alexandria. Enjoy seasonal decorations and refreshments and take advantage of a 10 percent discount at 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.

Time: 5 to 9 p.m.

Location: Throughout Old Town

Information: www.eventbrite.com/e/yuletide-by-candlelight-tickets-66041366505

WORKSHOP: KWANZAA Join the Alexandria Black History Museum for an annual Kwanzaa workshop suitable for adults and children. The

workshop will focus on the history, principles, symbols and activities related to Kwanzaa.

Time: 11 a.m.

Location: Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St.

Information: shop.alexandriava.gov

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Bring the family to the American Horticultural Society's free holiday event featuring seasonal decor at the River Farm manor house, festive food and drinks, a musical performance by the Southside Singers and crafts and other gift items from local vendors. The River Farm Garden Shop will also be open for last-minute gift ideas.

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Dr.

Information: www.ahsgardening.org

DEL RAY CANDY CANE BAR CRAWL

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.

Time: 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Mount Vernon Avenue

Information: www.visitdelray.com

DECEMBER 14 & 15

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS Experience the wonder of the season by

enjoying a Victorian Christmas at the Lee-Fendall House. Enjoy traditional décor, seasonal crafts and story time, sweet treats, photos with Santa, holiday shopping and more.

Time: 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Location: 614 Oronoco St.

Information: www.leefendallhouse.org

DECEMBER 15

THE MOUNT VERNON FLUTES HOLIDAY CONCERT

Join The Athenaeum for this free and festive performance. 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.

Time: 2 to 3 p.m.

Location: The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.

Information: www.nvfaa.org

DECEMBER 20

CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AT MOUNT VERNON

Join Mount Vernon for an evening of family-friendly fun and fireworks choreographed to holiday music. 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. Keep toasty

SEE CALENDAR

| 29



PHOTO/P.J. BARBOUR

DECEMBER 14 TO 15

NUTCRACKER POTPOURRI Want a 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 Alexandria Symphony Orchestra 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.

Time: Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m.

Location: Saturday at Schlesinger Concert Hall, Sunday at the George Washington Masonic Memorial

Information: www.alexsym.org



A Christmas Carol

12/6-12/22

Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. **A Christmas Carol is a must for the entire family!**

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ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK



~ A Home for the Pawlidays ~

The Shelter is waiving adoption fees in December for all adult pets as part of our Home for the Pawlidays promotion. Is a new pet on your wish-list this year?

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The Alexandria Animal Shelter's Pet of the Week is brought to you by Diann Carlson, finding homes for pets and people, too.



HOMES

Climate-smart gardening ideas

BY MARTY ROSS

Take care of your plants, and you're taking care of the planet: There are lots of ways to make a difference for the environment and keep a beautiful garden, too.

Landscape architect Pamela Conrad grew up on a farm in Missouri and took her love of nature and the outdoors out west to a professional practice in San Francisco, where she puts environmentally smart landscaping ideas to work. Her climate-positive design initiative, launched for landscape architects and garden designers, was founded to help these professionals manage the carbon footprint of their projects. But the concepts she advocates apply just as well to our own backyards. Even a tiny garden can conserve precious resources.

Right off the bat, it's important to put certain assumptions aside.

"People associate green with good, and that's not always the case when it



PHOTO/MARTY ROSS

Local, natural materials, such as the bluestone in this parking area, are an environmentally smart choice, and they look great, too. These homeowners have also eliminated lawn from their garden. If you don't have a lawn to mow, you're saving time and precious resources.

comes to high-maintenance, high-resource landscapes," Conrad said.

Typical lawns, pampered with frequent watering, pumped up with chemical fertilizers and maintained with gas-powered equip-

ment, are actually carbon emitters, she said. In projects large and small, reducing the size of a lawn saves resources in many ways – including reducing the amount of time and energy spent on its maintenance.

"[Homeowners] have lots of opportunities to make a difference in the way they design or maintain their landscapes," Conrad said.

One easy way to support a healthier environment is to plant more trees, she

suggested.

Trees, especially deciduous trees, are environmental heroes that remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it, which helps slow the warming of the Earth's atmosphere. Conrad also recommends reducing the use of hard, impermeable paving, substituting with gravel or permeable paving, so rainwater can seep into the ground instead of running off into storm drainage systems. She suggests using compost or organic fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizers, and, in her projects, she specifies native plants wherever possible. Although her projects tend to be large in scale, these practices are all perfectly appropriate for home gardens, she said.

Conrad's tool kit for de-

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HOMES

GARDENING

FROM | 26

signers on the Climate Positive Design website lists dozens of tips and ideas for environmentally friendly landscape practices. If you're redesigning an existing landscape, you may be able to re-use existing pavers or bricks in a new design instead of sending old materials to a landfill, Conrad said. She also advocates planting in layers – with a canopy of trees, an understory of shrubs and groundcover perennials – to give a garden dimension and character, to reduce runoff and to create habitats for birds, butterflies and other pollinators.

The positive results of



PHOTO/MARTY ROSS

Reduce the size of a lawn by adding a flower bed. Shrubs, perennials and a fountain are all pretty garden features, and they make this garden more attractive to birds and pollinators.

these efforts are not just a matter of speculation. In case studies of design projects, Conrad discovered that making a few changes – such as planting more trees and shrubs, reducing

lawn area and using permeable paving instead of concrete – made a significant difference in the projects' carbon footprints.

The changes reduced the carbon footprint by 80

percent or more in some cases, and often shaved 20 years or more off the time required for a project to achieve the final goal of becoming carbon neutral.

By encouraging designers to make a few environmentally friendly design changes, "within the next 10 years, we could take more carbon dioxide out of the air than we are emitting," Conrad said.

It's a lofty environmental goal for garden professionals, but it also pays off economically because environmentally sound landscapes cost less to maintain than designs with extensive lawns and plants that are not adapted to the site.

Regulations of emissions are already moving to the forefront of environmental policy in every region, but there's no reason to wait for regulations, Conrad said.

"We have ways to take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere every day," Conrad said.

Her pathfinder tool, and the projects she and colleagues are already working on, are designed to set an example right now, to help inspire change.

Ecologically smart landscaping is "a type of activism that does not require policies," Conrad said.

You can be an environmental champion in your own backyard.

HOME OF THE WEEK

Old Town flounder house on double lot

Built in 1750, this gem is brimming with historic integrity. Once the residence of Colonel John Fitzgerald, Alexandria's mayor from 1792 to 1794, this home sits on a rare double lot, complete with a garden and three off-street parking spaces.

With rooms suitable for entertaining and comfortable everyday living, this historic home exudes classic charm and character, offering an original entry foyer staircase, rich hardwood floors, moldings and five woodburning fireplaces. The main level living and dining rooms have fireplaces flanked with built-ins. A sunny eat-in kitchen features a wall of windows with views of the landscaping, a large island with seating and abundant cabinetry.

A rustic family room with a cooking arm from centuries ago, exposed brick walls, built-ins and a fireplace is ideal for warming up on winter nights.

A second staircase leads to the master suite with wood beamed ceilings, hardwood floors, his and hers closets and a master bath with a soaking tub. The additional bedrooms provide flexible space for an office and plentiful storage. A second-story Charleston-like balcony is great for relaxing while overlooking mature greenery.

Two brick patios offer a setting for lounging or outdoor dining while surrounded by lush landscaping including mature trees, boxwood, roses, hydrangeas, azaleas, tulips and magnolias.



PHOTOS/BOB NAROD

AT A GLANCE

Location: 317 S.

Saint Asaph St.

Neighborhood: Old Town

Price: \$2,475,000

Square feet: 3,329

Bedrooms: 5

Bathrooms: 3.5

Year built: 1750

Contact: Babs Beckwith,

703-627-5421,

McEneaney Associates,

babs@babsbeckwith.com,

www.babsbeckwith.com

Top: The home is located steps to fine restaurants and boutiques.

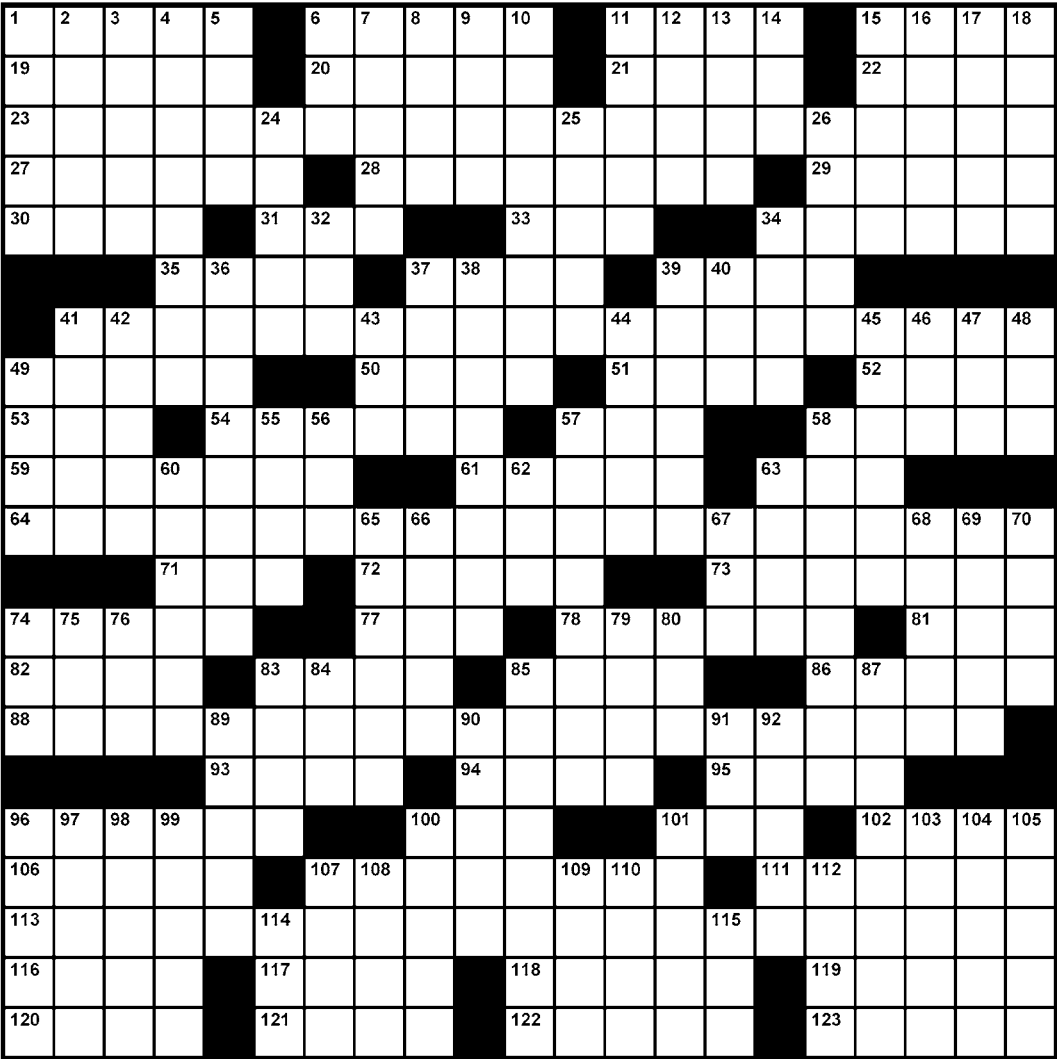
Bottom: Formal living room with a bay window.

HOMES ADVERTORIAL



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Weekly Words



DEATH NOTICES

EVELINA BATES (86), of Alexandria, Dec. 8, 2019

ANNE S. GRAY (84), of Alexandria, Nov. 30, 2019

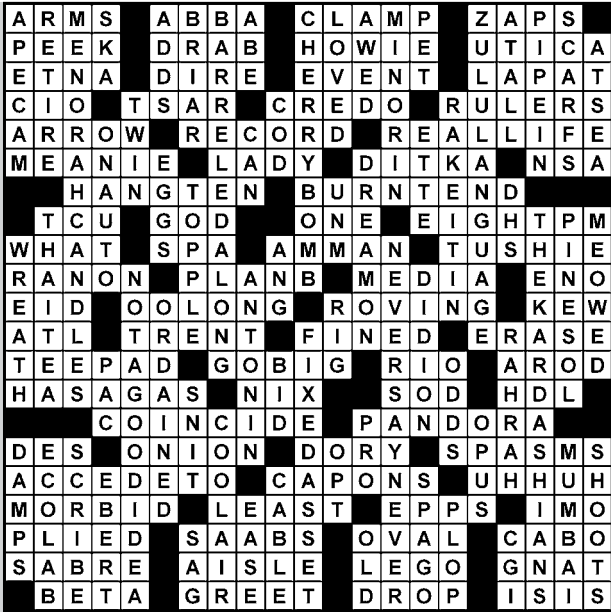
DOROTHY L. NELSON (51), formerly of Alexandria, Nov. 29, 2019

DEAN M. SPEARS (17), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 7, 2019

MARJORIE E. THARPE (92), of Alexandria, Dec. 3, 2019

CLAUDIA WALDREP (99), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 5, 2019

Solutions from last week



TIMES HEADLINES by Trent H. Evans, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1. Proverbial waste maker
- 6. Bee Gees genre
- 11. Sports datum
- 15. Hint such as this
- 19. Spaceship Earth's theme park
- 20. Coral reef's place
- 21. "That's gotta hurt!"
- 22. Many a tweetstorm
- 23. [THIS JUST IN: Cap'n hands out cereal at noon]
- 27. Cab Calloway's catchphrase
- 28. Dolce and Gabbana
- 29. "Skyfall" singer
- 30. Princess who built Olaf with Anna
- 31. Mounted a campaign
- 33. "___ up to you"
- 34. Stinky fuel
- 35. Philosopher Descartes
- 37. Cup alternative
- 39. Burn a bit
- 41. [... Armie takes the reins after Santa falls ill]
- 49. Bette's "Divine" nickname
- 50. Old phone abbr.
- 51. More or ___
- 52. Comedian Rudner
- 53. H, to Hera
- 54. Cousin of C major
- 57. Typical kosher diet adherent
- 58. Bewitched

- 59. Cool solar patch
- 61. Oldest Hawaiian island
- 63. One might "splain"
- 64. [... Astronauts heat more food than ever before]
- 71. "___ dead, Jim" (Dr. McCoy)
- 72. Baseball's Bud
- 73. Racing series
- 74. Lubricate again
- 77. Sidekick
- 78. Anne Rice antihero
- 81. Major entertainment grp.?
- 82. With, in France
- 83. Ernie's best friend
- 85. "I can't ___ myself"
- 86. Bowling venue
- 88. [... McGwire blows it in his debut as an umpire]
- 93. Toe the line
- 94. Increase
- 95. Poetic "soon"
- 96. Ancient Colosseum visitors
- 100. Paddle's kin
- 101. ATM entry
- 102. Lady Grantham on "Downton Abbey"
- 106. Rip-snoiting mad
- 107. Fresh hires may bring them to the office
- 111. Password partner
- 113. [... White House occupants make a Caribbean purchase]

- (Theme hint: What can follow each word of the bracketed clues' answers?)
- 116. The stuff of legends
- 117. "I got this round"
- 118. Ron Weasley's owl
- 119. False
- 120. One-named Irish singer
- 121. Tampa Bay team
- 122. Lathered up
- 123. Dutch painter Jan
- DOWN
- 1. Anne of "Wag the Dog"
- 2. March follower
- 3. Gulf War missiles
- 4. They put cartridges on records
- 5. Engrave
- 6. A couple, in Caracas
- 7. Trap, as by sleet
- 8. Noted Spanish muralist
- 9. Vena ___
- 10. Apt joke to tell on a cruise?
- 11. Many are between end tables
- 12. Rotate
- 13. Unreturned serves
- 14. "___ Shawshank Redemption"
- 15. Like some PG-13 humor
- 16. Expressway divisions
- 17. "I give up!"
- 18. Lucy's neighbor
- 24. Grammy winner Lena

- 25. Etsy and eBay
- 26. Hideouts
- 32. ___ Lingus
- 34. Speaker's spot
- 36. Diana Rigg's role in "The Avengers"
- 37. Mafia boss
- 38. It's way too much
- 39. Furry "Star Wars" sidekick, familiarly
- 40. Week's 168 (Abbr.)
- 41. Ask for dough
- 42. Yoga posture
- 43. Grandpa, to great-grandpa
- 44. Easy to understand
- 45. Like the latest thing
- 46. Combine
- 47. Had a snack, say
- 48. Feeling down
- 49. Predicament
- 55. Comfy, soft shoes
- 56. Lance with a gavel
- 57. Some keep balls in the air
- 58. Crispy edible shell
- 60. Gillette competitor
- 62. Singer DiFranco
- 63. "___ Lisa"
- 65. Fish-eating raptor
- 66. Romantic poet John
- 67. Op. ___
- 68. Racing boat
- 69. It elevates art

- 70. City where Helen lived
- 74. Lamb's dad
- 75. Senora Peron
- 76. "The Star-Spangled Banner" contraction
- 79. River to the North Sea
- 80. Jacuzzi product
- 83. Streisand nickname
- 84. Just make, with "out"
- 85. Salon coloring products
- 87. Guinevere's love
- 89. Impression, Sunrise" painter
- 90. Holy object of a Monty Python quest
- 91. Moo goo ___ pan
- 92. Listlessness
- 96. Rummage (through)
- 97. Sky hunter
- 98. Perform a wedding
- 99. On a pirate ship, say
- 100. Boo-boos
- 101. Military mind game, briefly
- 103. Speak on a soapbox
- 104. Lather, ____, repeat
- 105. Append
- 107. Certain grandkid spoiler
- 108. TV award
- 109. Iberian river
- 110. Psychic energy field
- 112. Nine-digit figs.
- 114. Supporting
- 115. Underhanded

CALENDAR

CALENDAR

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by warming up by a bonfire, enjoying some hot chocolate or cider or visiting the Museum and Education Center.

Time: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: 3200 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway

Information: www.mountvernon.org

DECEMBER 21

ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOW

Come celebrate the season with a cappella vocal harmony. The Alexandria Harmonizers, the area's premiere a cappella chorus, present their annual holiday show: "The Secret of Christmas." In addition to the award-winning Harmonizers, the show features a smaller ensemble and a new quartet, Better Together. It's a great addition to the holiday season that is fun, moving and suitable for the entire family.

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Dr.

Information: www.harmonizers.org

DECEMBER 22

CHRISTMAS WITH THE RAT PACK

A toast to the original Rat Pack, "Rat Pack Together Again," takes listeners on a musical journey featuring the greatest hits from the legendary Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. This production will treat listeners to Sinatra classics including, "Come Fly With Me" and "My Way," Dino's great songs like, "Everybody Loves Somebody" and "That's Amore!" and "Mr. Bojangles" and "Candy Man" from the dynamic Sammy Davis Jr.

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave.

Information: www.thecarlyleclub.com

BENEFIT RECITAL FOR SOME

Join The Lyceum for an afternoon of music with international artists Rachelle Hunt, violin, and Katie Tertell, cello. The program includes works by Mozart, Beethoven, Halvorsen and a new work by Mark Boden commissioned by the artists. The suggested donation is \$20, and all proceeds will benefit So Others Might Eat.

Time: 3 to 4 p.m.

Location: The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

Information: www.eventbrite.com/e/some-benefit-recital-tickets-75172225149?aff=eprofsaved

DECEMBER 23

A FAMILY CHRISTMAS FOR YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Bring the kids for an unforgettable holiday experience as the Choral Arts Chorus fills the concert hall with holiday classics just for them. We'll take listeners on a merry tour of holiday sing-alongs and Christmas favorites that will have the family singing all the way home. Expect a visit from Santa, Frosty and Rudolph. This one-hour concert is perfect for children ages 5 and up.

Time: 1 to 2 p.m.

Location: Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive

Information: www.choralarts.org

DECEMBER 24

WATERSKIING SANTA Now in its 34th year, this favorite D.C.-area Christmas Eve event returns to Old Town. 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, with more great views from the Alexandria City Marina, Founders Park and Point Lumley Park. Come early to see the jet ski pre-show.

Time: 1 p.m.

Location: Alexandria waterfront

Information: www.waterskiingsanta.com

DECEMBER 27

CHARLES ESTEN AT THE BIRCHMERE

See Charles Esten on tour with Taylor Noelle this fall at The Birchmere. Esten is an American actor, singer and comedian, best known for his role as Deacon Claybourne on the TV series "Nashville." He previously appeared on the improvisation show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" regularly between 1999 and 2005.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Information: www.birchmere.com

DECEMBER 31

25TH ANNUAL FIRST NIGHT ALEXANDRIA

Celebrating 25 years, First Night Alexandria, an annual New Year's Eve live music and performing arts festival and the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family, returns to Old Town. Enjoy music ranging from country to Caribbean, rock to reggae, jazz to swing, folk to a cappella or comedy and magic shows. Then, gather with family and friends and enjoy a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight.

Time: 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Location: Old Town

Information: www.firstnightalexandria.org

CHAMBER

FROM | 10

address that is by building a lot more multifamily."

The Virginia Tech Innovation Campus in Potomac Yard is also being designed as a mixed-use community, according to plans submitted to the city last month.

As for the campus' progress, Salmon said the school took major steps last month alone.

"We're making really great progress," Salmon said. "The month of November, we submitted our plan, ... the MOU with the state was signed, we're getting close on hiring a vice president to run the campus, [the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia] approved our first master's program and we launched our website to recruit students."

Following the panel, Hall gave a speech applauding the growth in Alexandria's business community that has taken place over the last year, including progress on the Potomac Yard Metro Station, new business openings in Carlyle and Eisen-

hower and the new Waterfront Park.

Hall also announced the chamber's rebranding. With a new logo and an updated look, the chamber will now go by "The Chamber ALX."

"As we roll into 2020, The Chamber ALX will be a channel to boost your brand, a resource to find opportunities to build relationships and the seal of approval to give your business credibility in our community, whether we're advocating on behalf of businesses to local government, hosting events to help you connect with others, offering innovative business programming and resources or giving visibility to businesses that Alexandrians should know about," Hall said.

Following the rebranding announcement, various chamber members were recognized for their work in 2019. Committee member of the year went to Adam Frommeling, board member of the year went to Robert Shea and Hall's chairman's award went to Trae Lamond.

-mschrott@alextimes.com

ULTRARUNNER

FROM | 9

five, so it was so hard," Lasure said. "Our mileage kind of scaled way back after the injury but we're back. We're getting there."

This past weekend, Lasure and Nazzaro completed a half marathon in New York City, their first official race since their respective injuries.

Despite the setback, Lasure accomplished her mission of running every street in the city with a one-mile run through Old Town on Sept. 21. Friends and neighbors, including Nazzaro, who completed about two-thirds of the project with Lasure, joined Lasure for the final mile.

"It just got to be so much fun. I didn't want it to end,"



PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

Stephanie Lasure colored in the streets on cut-out maps of the city to track her progress.

Lasure said.

Lasure said one of her favorite things about the project was meeting different residents.

"We went through this neighborhood over off of Glebe, and we called it the

friendliest neighborhood we ever ran by because everybody up here ... every single person that was out picking up their newspaper, walking their dog, working on their lawn, nobody didn't say, 'Hi,'" Lasure said.

In the instances she told people about her project, they were often excited.

"Most of the time it's because I'm standing at the end of the street [looking at my map] and everybody's like, 'Are you lost?' And I'm like, 'Well, not exactly.' So they would always kind of point me, and they were always super excited about what I was doing."

Mayor Justin Wilson, a runner himself, was among those happy to hear about Lasure's project.

"Stephanie and I met when I did one of my running townhalls a couple of months ago, and she told me that she was doing this kind of bizarre thing," Wilson said at the legislative meeting where he presented Lasure's procla-

mation. "We thought it was a pretty creative thing and we wanted to recognize it. We appreciate you showcasing the city in this way."

When asked what's next for her, Lasure said she's going to run in a long, straight line on the Mount Vernon Trail.

As for her colorful, mismatched city maps...

"My sister is an art history teacher so I was showing her all of these and she said, 'Don't do anything with those. I'm going to do some art project for you,'" Lasure said. "These are treasured memories for sure. It makes me weepy thinking about it. I don't know why. I really didn't want it to end. It was just such a fun project."

-mschrott@alextimes.com

Our View

Is approval the only option?

The language in dockets prepared by city staff for council to consider is strange. The dockets say that all items being discussed at a public hearing will be approved.

That's right, approval of items is the only listed option. The language is the same for all items up for a vote: "Public Hearing, Second Reading, and Final Passage of ..."

Perhaps there's an arcane legal reason that proposed ordinances are worded this way in dockets. We're just not familiar with it – and would guess the public isn't either.

For instance, the docket for city council's public hearing on Saturday informs us that there will be final passage of the Phase II Dockless Mobility Pilot Program, of an ordinance to amend permit parking districts and changes to three other existing ordinances – after public hearings on each item.

Councilors clearly have the ability to take action other than passing items that come before them. Our city's legislative body can amend, defer or defeat as well as pass items such as the proposed Phase II scooter program.

If the city isn't required by law to word dockets in this way, then the current language should be changed. Because intentional or not, saying on the docket that the item in question will receive final approval begs the question of why a public hearing is even being held on said item.

There are several better ways to word docket items. Perhaps, "Public Hearing, Second Reading, and Final Consideration of ..." That's better, but still leaves out the possibility that an item might be deferred, in which case it's not the final consideration.

Or perhaps the docket should read, "Public Hearing, Second Reading, and Council Vote on ..." This wording would be more accurate, as it would encompass acceptance, rejection, amendment or deferral of whatever is being considered.

Yes it's a small thing, but semantics matter. Wording in dockets that appears to say there's no alternative except acceptance of whatever city staff proposes only reinforces the perception of many in the city that their input at meetings is for naught.

In fact, our residents do have a say on issues before council. Language in our dockets should reflect that.

Responsiveness on parking

Saturday's public hearing is an example of the city heeding the wishes of residents on an issue important to them.

After city staff proposed limiting street parking to two hours in parts of Old Town where it's currently three hours, there was an uproar from residents of those streets. In addition, advocates for The Little Theatre of Alexandria rightly stated that play-goers who drive would get parking tickets because their productions often last longer than two hours.

Listening to the public input, staff has since removed the elimination of three hour spots from its list of proposed changes.

Perhaps ironically, we actually think residents in the far southeast quadrant of Old Town may come to rue their pushback on this issue. When the three restaurants at Robinson Landing are completed, we think patrons of those establishments will gladly seek out three-hour street parking. Residents are likely to be squeezed more than they would be with two-hour parking.

But if that winds up being the case, then residents can petition at that time to change the parking on their streets. The point is that changes to a particular residential street should generally be inhabitant- not staff-driven.

City staff deserve credit for listening to residents and heeding their concerns.

Opinion

"Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe."

- Thomas Jefferson



Your Views

Our sons saved 10 lives

To the editor:

Within a year of each other, we lost our sons. Suddenly and heart-wrenchingly. Nothing could have prepared us for the way in which our lives were upended.

Jake was an athletic 15-year-old who loved the Washington Capitals and was a talented hockey player himself and played on his high school team. Junior came to the United States from Colombia when he was five, had recently graduated from high school and was working toward his goal of becoming a cardiovascular surgeon. Both had so much more to accomplish.

While our own lives and backgrounds may appear very different, we have one, beautiful thing in common – our sons are heroes. They were organ donors and together saved the lives of 10 dying strangers. The knowledge that Jake and Junior gave these patients and their families the miracle they needed gives us hope.

In the case of Junior, the decision to be a donor had already been made. He was 18 at the time of his death and had checked the box to be an organ donor on a recent trip to the DMV. This was his selfless decision, and

something I supported.

With Jake, his father and I knew he would have wanted this. Organ donation was a true testament to his incredibly loving soul. And, as a health professional, I understood the critical importance of organ donation from a clinical perspective.

Because we both live in Northern Virginia, we were guided through this process by Washington Regional Transplant Community, the nonprofit organ procurement organization that facilitates the organ donation process in the D.C.-metro area. WRTC professionals were compassionate and helpful, explained our options, walked us through the process, asked about our sons' medical and social histories and supported us in our crushing grief.

Before our sons' deaths, we knew little about WRTC and the complexity of the organ donation process. Today, because of our shared experience, we are both vocal and proud advocates on behalf of organ donation.

There are so many people in need of a life-saving transplant, more than 113,000 nationally and nearly 2,500

SEE SONS

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The opinions expressed in letters and columns are those of the writers only and do not reflect the views, nor receive the endorsement, of the Alexandria Times.

My View | Denise Dunbar

Scooters are not for commuters

My final 2019 missive on scooters deals with the data, and it demonstrates that scooters are primarily being joy-ridden and are not serving as a meaningful form of transportation in Alexandria, which is the major justification given by city officials for allowing them in the city.

In addition, some of the data that city staff has presented to council has been misleading, while other data unfavorable to a second pilot has been buried in the appendix of the report. The data presented to council has been cherry picked and packaged in the most favorable way possible. Let's examine this first, as I recognize this is a serious allegation.

In staff's presentation to council and in the executive summary of their evaluation report, it is stated that

around 50 percent of scooter riders said they would have driven if scooters were not available. This is technically true, though it was actually 46 percent, not 50. That's a sizeable round up.

More importantly, what staff did not present to council or put in the executive summary is that more respondents said they would have walked if scooters were not available than would have driven.

Fully 49.8 percent said they would have walked without scooters, and another 12.73 percent said they would have bicycled. That's 63 percent of scooter users who said walking or biking would have replaced their scooter rides compared to 46 percent who would have driven their personal vehicles.

This information was buried on page 46 of the report, in the appendix. Is council even aware of these numbers?

The data is also difficult to interpret because respondents were asked to list their top two alternative transportation options to scooters, so the data does not add up to 100 percent.

But think about what this data reveals: We are encouraging peo-

ple to give up walking and biking, which is healthy, by subsidizing a program in which residents, visitors and their young children ride motorized scooters without helmets. And a sizeable majority of respondents say they would have walked or biked without scooters.

In another section of the appendix, respondents reported frequency of scooter use. Fully 71 percent of respondents said they have ridden once or twice total or up to a few times a month, meaning more than 2/3 of scooter riders use them sporadically.

Only 6 percent of respondents reported riding scooters daily – and this number is probably high as heavy users of a product are more likely to respond than one-time, vitising joyriders.

Again, this information is buried in the report's Appendix A, while it's unmentioned in the staff presentation to council or in the body of the report on the pilot program. Interested readers have to pour over the raw data in the appendix to find data that's unfavorable to the program.

Two other interesting pieces of data from the report's Appendices A and B:

- The change most respondents want to see in a Phase II pilot is "enforcement of traffic rules for e-scooter riders," with 52 percent citing this as their top priority.

It's worth noting that although proposed changes to city code could enable police to enforce scooter rules, there are no plans in place detailing how or with what frequency this would happen.

In Appendix B, 53 percent of respondents said they think the Phase I pilot was either generally or very unsuccessful, while only 43 percent said the Phase I pilot was either generally or very successful (another 4 percent had no opinion).

This information was not part of the staff presentation or the report.

My question remains: why



DENISE DUNBAR



Filling in the Blanks

with Dr. Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D.

Our work on school facilities continues

As we head into the holiday season – which also happens to be the start of the budget season in Alexandria – our thoughts go to what we need to keep our students engaged in high-quality learning with our schools warm, safe and dry in the colder months ahead and what our buildings need to be able to deliver this for many years to come.

The majority of our buildings in Alexandria City Public Schools are more than 50 years old, with George Washington Middle School, Mount Vernon Community School and Matthew Maury Elementary School close to 100 years old. We are fortunate to have built and opened four new schools in the past five years and this fall 2019 began the process to modernize Douglas MacArthur Elementary School. But our older facilities continue to require our full attention to ensure they remain warm, safe and dry.

To this end, ACPS carried out a Targeted Facility Condition Assessment on six schools during the summer of 2019. This has given us a clearer idea of our immediate facilities priorities in these six schools.

All of the items established as a priority one were either included in the superintendent's proposed Capital Improvement Program Budget, previously funded or funded through the superintendent's proposed Combined Funds Budget, which funds our school maintenance projects.

The School Board will vote on the superintendent's proposed Capital Improvement Program budget on Dec. 19 after two work sessions to decide their changes.

These priorities include work to ensure the environments inside our schools remain healthy, safe and secure. They include resolving water intrusion issues in our schools – which are a frequent occurrence in any aging building.

Priorities also include courtyard redesign to redirect water at John Adams Elementary School and Francis C.

Hammond Middle School, window replacement at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy, continued roof replacement work and bathroom upgrades at George Washington Middle School and roof work at George Mason and Matthew Maury elementary schools.

The independent Targeted Facilities Assessment, alongside the expert opinions of our staff who are in all of our schools every week, have provided many pieces to a complex puzzle that our team needs to piece together and view as a whole.

You can follow the work being done at our schools through the Facility Modernization & Maintenance pages of our school websites. Every school has a web page where facilities maintenance updates are posted and shared publicly. ACPS has web pages for every large-scale modernization project. There are also new modernization project pages for each school so that you can follow the quarterly progress of all modernization projects, regardless of their scale. You can access these updates via our school websites, under the Quick Links area on each school homepage.

But what should you do if you still have a concern, inquiry or suggestion?

This month, we launched a new inquiries, suggestions and concerns procedure to ensure that you know how to get to the right person so we can resolve your situation promptly. Many questions or issues involving a specific school or student can actually be resolved at the school level.

Start by contacting your child's teacher, school support staff or the front office, and then you can take the issue to an administrator or principal if it doesn't get resolved at that level. We want to ensure we are addressing your issues where they can be addressed. You can find the flow chart at www.acps.k12.va.us/concerns, or via the Contact Us tab on the



DR. GREGORY HUTCHINGS, ED.D.

Terrifying street crossings

To the editor:

Have you ever had to cross Mount Vernon Avenue or East Custis Avenue? It's a terror. Cars are parked all the way to the corners so you can't see if anyone is approaching. You have to pull halfway out into the road to see if the coast is clear. It's terrible.

Whoever designed this should be fired.

You've got Gilligan's Island at East Custis and Commonwealth avenues, which cuts off all of your vision of the road when cars are parked there. It's a mess.

-Patrick Kirby,
Alexandria

Be more prudent with city resources

To the editor:

Recently, various local newspapers printed the munificent salaries of City of Alexandria employees. I was aghast that the city manager is drawing about \$300,000 a year and his three deputy city managers pull in around \$200,000. Most of the other upper echelon employees are also making high salaries.

These figures are considerably higher than federal employees with much more responsibility, since the top SES pay is under \$200,000, and the President of the United States only makes \$400,000. Which jurisdiction is Alexandria comparing itself to? Certainly not Washington D.C., Arlington County or Fairfax County, all of which have much larger populations.

Another apparently extravagant expenditure is the Capital Bikeshare program, which is a

public-private partnership between the City of Alexandria and a commercial operator, Motivate International – which also operates in D.C. – where the ridership pays for 77 percent of costs, as of 2015.

Over the next five years, the city will expend \$1.6 million into this company, which is an average of about \$300,000 a year. It just doesn't make sense that our city funds are being spent in this manner.

Capital Bikeshare is essentially a private company, and we need to treat it as such. In other words, they profit from their rentals, so the city should not need to subsidize them. They should eventually stand on their own merits, and pay taxes to Alexandria for the privilege of operating within the city.

Let's be more prudent with our resources, Alexandria.

-Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet,
Alexandria

SONS

FROM | 30

right here in the Washington region. One organ donor can save eight lives and heal many more through tissue donation.

Together, Jake and Junior saved 10 lives by donating their kidneys, livers, lungs, pancreas and hearts.

The entire process was conducted with respect and compassion. First and foremost, organ donation can only be considered after all life-saving efforts have been exhausted. We know the first responders and hospital care teams did everything they could to save our sons.

Also, donation can't take place unless it's been designated by the potential donor, also called first-person authorization or approved by the legal next-of-kin.

Strict standards are in place to ensure the ethical and fair distribution of these precious gifts.

So, if you aren't already signed up to be an organ donor, please consider it. All of us have these precious gifts inside us and may be a hero someday by giving individuals a second chance of life – just like our sons.

We encourage you to visit BeADonor.org and sign up today. As we enter the holiday season, we find solace knowing other families will make more memories with their loved ones because of Junior and Jake's last acts of generosity.

-Silvia Leitch, mother
of Robin (Junior),
Deborah Levine-Kotin,
mother of Jacob (Jake)

Alexandria Inova should go green

To the editor:

Recently, one of our family members was treated at Inova Alexandria Hospital and we are grateful to the doctors, nurses and staff who provided excellent care. While there, we also witnessed one of the unintended consequences of hospital care: the huge amount of waste generated. On average, it's 30 pounds of waste per patient per day. We applaud Inova's efforts to reduce waste by removing drinking straws and Styrofoam, and to move toward green cleaning products and local food suppliers.

As a community leader, Inova Alexandria Hospital is uniquely positioned to set the standard in not only sustainability, but also clean energy consumption. The health sector generates 10 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change. And we know that climate change is already having a significant impact on public health.

One of Inova's sustainability principles is "Do No Harm," and moving from zero use of renewable energy to 100 percent in the next decade is a key

way to meet this objective. Hospitals across the country have successfully transitioned to a clean energy supply and Inova Alexandria can too. We also respectfully suggest the following:

- Making any major hospital renovations LEED platinum certified – the highest standard in green building design.

- Creating initiatives that enable employees to bike, use public transportation or carpool.

- Implementing more ways to reduce waste.

- Establishing a community interest group to engage citizens in hospital sustainability initiatives.

Inova Alexandria Hospital provides outstanding care to keep us healthy. As an institution dedicated to public health it only makes sense for Inova Alexandria Hospital to demonstrate with its practices that creating a successful patient-centered business model can also be good for the environment.

-Chris Matthews, Susanna
Carey, Jennifer Roda,
1Planet Co-Founders

Seminary decision an example of non-representative government

To the editor:

Recent changes on Seminary Road from four lanes to three lanes and the addition of two bike lanes has sparked major controversy.

To paraphrase one of the most famous quotes in history, "Never in the course of civic issues have so few owed so much to so few at the expense of so many."

The majority in the four-to-three city council decision ignored the facts regarding the historical safety of this stretch of Seminary Road, the oppo-

sition of hundreds of the immediately affected residents and the city transportation director's opposition. Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker also conducted a survey that cannot be reconstructed or verified.

So much for the promise of transparency by council. This example of non-representative government should be remembered by all voters, Democrat and Republican.

-Charles Fellows,
Alexandria

MY VIEW

FROM | 31

would the city approve a second pilot for a program that's dangerous, detracts from public health by encouraging people to ride in the streets rather than walk or bike and has no meaningful enforcement mechanism?

The data shows scooters are not being used in a significant way by commuters, which is the only logical jus-

tification for continuing the program. Since Alexandria's leaders have repeatedly said their decisions are data driven, here's a clear chance to prove that.

Instead of a second pilot, council should be discussing how to penalize riders and companies that bring scooters into Alexandria.

The writer is publisher and executive editor of the Alexandria Times.

OUT OF THE ATTIC

The history of Kwanzaa

Habari Gani? Or What's the News? This is the greeting given during the seven days of Kwanzaa. Celebrated from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, Kwanzaa is a Pan-African holiday that commemorates family, community and culture.

It was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chair of African studies at California State, in Long Beach. Derived from the term "Matunda ya kwanza," meaning "first fruits" in Swahili, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa.

The Swahili language is the most extensive African language spoken and was chosen by Karenga to be the language that represents Kwanzaa. Karenga is also an author and scholar-activist who stresses the indispensable need to preserve, continually revitalize and promote African American culture.

Established in 1966 in the midst of the Black Freedom Movement, Kwanzaa reflects concern for being culturally grounded in thought and practice, as well as promoting unity and self-determination. The holiday was created to serve



PHOTO/OFFICIALKWANZAWEBSITE.ORG

several functions.

- First, Kwanzaa reaffirms and reestablishes African American ties to African culture.

- Second, it serves as a festival to reestablish and strengthen the bonds between African Americans and Africans as a people.

- Third, Kwanzaa emphasizes the Nguzo Saba or the Seven Principles, which are a set of ideals created by Karenga. They highlight the significance of African communal values such as family, community and culture and the best aspects of being African and human in the fullest sense.

Another common greeting during Kwanzaa is "Harambee," which means, "Let's pull together." This greeting embodies the celebration in

one word and signifies the coming together of families and friends to work for the common good and to make the world a better place.

Each of the Seven Principles has its own special meaning.

- Umoja or unity: To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

- Kujichagulia or self-determination: To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

- Ujima or collective work and responsibility: To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.

- Ujamaa or cooperative

economics: To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

- Nia or purpose: To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

- Kuumba or creativity: To always do as much as we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited.

- Imani or faith: To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

The Alexandria Black History Museum will host its annual Kwanzaa Workshop Saturday at 11 a.m. It is a family friendly, interactive workshop covering the history and principles of the holiday. It will also include activities and decorating ideas to aid in planning your own Kwanzaa celebration. Reservations are suggested. For tickets, go to <https://shop.alexandriava.gov>.

Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.

HUTCHINGS

FROM | 31

ACPS website.

Our goal each day is to provide a comfortable, safe and dry building in which all our students can learn

in a high quality educational environment. We want to provide each of our students with an array of opportunities in a learning environment in which they can grow and thrive. Please know that

this is our priority as well as yours. We will be able to better achieve this through collaboration and continued commitment to keeping education a priority in the City of Alexandria.

As we head into the holidays, I would like to wish you all Happy Holidays and a successful New Year.

The writer is superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools.

Weekly Poll

Last Week

There are several holiday events taking place in Alexandria this weekend. Do you plan to attend any?

40% I won't attend any events.

23% I will attend multiple events.

20% I will attend the Scottish Christmas Walk Parade.

9% I will attend the Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.

4% I will attend the Campagna Center's Holiday Homes Tour.

4% I will attend the Del Ray tree and menorah lighting.

This Week

Take the poll at alextimes.com

Council will consider the future of the city's e-scooter program on Saturday. What outcome do you prefer?

A) Make the current pilot program permanent.

B) Adopt a phase II pilot to work out kinks in the program.

C) Ban scooters in the city.

D) I'm not sure.

Alexandria Times

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Request for Qualifications to replace domestic water service lines

Virginia American Water is seeking qualifications from plumbing contractors to replace customer-owned water service lines in Alexandria, Va.

A two-phased process will be utilized to select the contractor. Phase 1 consists of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ); Phase 2 includes a Request for Proposals (RFP).



A. Project Description

Virginia American Water is replacing aging water mains in the City of Alexandria, Va. As part of these projects, Virginia American Water will hire a certified plumbing contractor to replace lead- and/or ferrous-based domestic water service lines owned by customers, typically from the company's meter yoke or curb stop to the first indoor shutoff valve or 5 feet inside the home.

Project will include:

- Verifying material of existing domestic water service line.
- Coordinating work schedule with water main construction contractor and customers.
- Checking and maintaining electrical grounding and bonding. Furnishing all materials, equipment, labor and means to replace water service line, including but not limited to bracing, rodding, concrete thrust and reaction blocking, wall crossing, sealing, caulking, accessing and modifying customers' indoor plumbing pipes as required.
- Guarding the job site. Sheet, brace and support adjoining ground where necessary; handle drainage and groundwater removal, provide erosion and sedimentation control and clean site.
- Performing pressure and leakage tests in accordance with specifications and city plumbing code.
- Flushing and disinfecting new service lines and household plumbing and collecting water samples.
- Removing and disposing of surplus excavated material, including abandoned lead and/or ferrous-based service lines.
- Restoring the site to its former condition, including but not limited to, restoration of paved surfaces, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, grass strips, driveways, walkways, handicap aprons, topsoil, seeds, mulch, fertilizers, lawns, landscapes at public right of way, and also at private properties.
- Submitting schedules, shop drawings, as-built documents (including photos, videos and paper records), as required.
- Managing traffic, if necessary.

B. Information to be Submitted

- **Past work experience with City of Alexandria, Va.**

Describe familiarity with the City of Alexandria, including past project experience; working relationship with City of Alexandria Transportation & Environmental Services and Permits departments, and Virginia Department of Health.

- **Past work experience with American Water**

Describe familiarity with American Water, especially with its subsidiary, Virginia American Water. Include past project experience, knowledge, current project needs and staff.

- **Experience with domestic water service line replacement and repairs, including trenchless method**

List major projects involving the replacement of domestic water service lines, especially the replacement of lead or ferrous-based service lines. Include résumés (one or two pages) describing the qualifications and experience of each individual (including a listing of similar projects worked on).

- **Quality management plan**

Provide an organizational chart showing reporting lines and responsibilities for your proposed team. Include references to company procedures to be used to manage this project. Provide the method of management of the subcontractors. Provide safety plan to the project.

- **Contractor work experience questionnaire and qualification statement**

Interested parties must request a questionnaire via email. To receive a questionnaire, email Gia Ha at gha@gfnet.com. Complete the questionnaire and submit it with the above information. The qualification statement should be no more than 20 pages in length (not inclusive of the questionnaire).

Certified minority Business and Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit bid proposals directly as prime contractors. Non-minority contractors will solicit proactively and encourage Certified Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises to submit competitive written bids or quotes for system facility projects.

- **Contractor Certified Statement of Compliance**

Bidders must comply with the following: the President's Executive Order #11246 prohibiting discrimination in employment regarding race, color, creed, sex, or national origin; the President's Executive Order #12138 and 11625 regarding utilization of MBE/WBE firms; the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Davis-Bacon Act,

and Section 436 of P.L. 113-76, American Iron and Steel.

Bidders must certify that they do not or will not maintain or provide for their employees any facilities that are segregated on the basis of race, color, creed, or national origin." By execution of the Bid Form and Contract Documents the contractor certifies to the aforementioned requirements.

C. Where to Send Your Information

Mail one (1) hard copy and one (1) electronic copy (on flash drive or CD) of your complete submission. Submissions must be received by Virginia American Water no later than 2 pm. EDT on Monday, January 13, 2020. Mail submissions to:

Gia Ha
Project Designer
Gannett Fleming, Inc.
4097 Monument Corner Drive, Suite 500
Fairfax, VA 22030

Emailed submissions and information received after the deadline will not be accepted. All submitted materials will become property of Virginia American Water and will not be returned.

Contractor submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Experience with domestic water service line replacement 30%
- Past work experience with American Water 20%
- Past work experience with City of Alexandria, Va. 20%
- Quality management plan 15%
- Contractor work experience 15%

Virginia American Water will select two (2) of the most qualified contractors. These contractors will be invited to each submit a proposal to replace customers' lead and/or ferrous-based water service lines as part of Virginia American Water's main replacement program in various areas in the City of Alexandria.

Questions should be directed to Gia Ha, project designer, Gannett Fleming, Inc., at gha@gfnet.com. Thank you for your interest in working with Virginia American Water.

Classifieds

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SCOOTERS

FROM | 8

ty in light of what's best for residents, not a company's business model.

Seifeldein also implored staff to explore potential environmental impacts by adding an impact analysis to its recommendation. The environmental impact would be a focus of the phase II pilot, North said.

Seifeldein cited several studies, including one from North Carolina State University, that have looked into scooter lifecycles and emissions.

Council's vote on Saturday is further complicated by the state code: Starting Jan. 1, scooter companies can operate unregulated in localities if there is no pilot or permanent program in place.

"If we don't have a pilot program, the scooter companies would be allowed to operate and if we don't have anything saying they're banned, they would be allowed to operate," North said.

Residents like Hardaway believe the city should do

“I think my head is probably of the mind that you want to try to provide a regulatory structure that can be enforced and address the complaints we hear from residents ... There's an argument to be made that you have some ability to control them a little bit more inside a regulatory framework than you do if you do not [have one]. That's one of the balances the city is going to have to strike.”

– Mayor Justin Wilson

what several other municipalities across the country and world have already done: cancel the program.

"Cities around the world are clamping down on scooters and even banning them. And Alexandria is heading in the other direction?" Hardaway said in an email.

For Wilson, banning scooters altogether could result in problems down the road, he said. For the mayor, the best path forward is one defined by regulation.

"I think my head is probably of the mind that you want to try to provide a regulatory structure that can be enforced and address the complaints we hear from residents," Wilson said. "... There's an argument to be made that you have some ability to control them a little bit more inside a regulatory framework than you do if you do not [have one]. That's one of the balances the city is going to have to strike."

– cmelloklein@alextimes.com



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