

Zebra

December 2012

Arlington/Alexandria • It's **read** all over!



Alexandria Sensibility, European Flair

See page 4

ALSO INSIDE: NEW LIFE FOR OLD TOWN THEATER ■ LAST MINUTE SHOPPER'S GUIDE ■ GOOD TIME FOR SPARKLING WINE



Happy Holidays and a Peaceful New Year!

— From Christine Roland Garner

BEVERLEY HILLS

\$964,900

Spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath Arts & Crafts home with a fabulous Great Room and Master Suite addition, 2 fireplaces and 3 finished levels. Fenced yard with deck, patio, mature landscaping and off street parking.



SEMINARY

SOLD!

\$550,000

Wonderfully updated and surprisingly spacious 5 bedroom, 3 bath home with a new kitchen, 3 season sunroom and 3 finished levels. Beautiful yard, (approx. 10,000 sq ft) with patio & off street parking. Close-in neighborhood just minutes to Old Town, Arlington & D.C.



BEVERLEY HILLS

\$974,900

Spacious 4/5 bedroom, 4 bath home with a fabulous Great Room and Master Suite addition with over 3,100 sq ft of living space. Gourmet kitchen, breakfast room and home office. Custom built-ins throughout, rooftop deck & rear stairs. Lower level recreation room, fenced yard with wrap around deck and off street parking.



BELLE HAVEN

\$749,000

Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bath home situated on a quiet cul-de-sac. Spacious living room with fireplace & formal dining room with French doors to the family room. Home office with custom built-ins and bay window. Three main level bedrooms including a Master Suite plus a 2nd Master Suite on the 2nd floor with a sitting room!



ROSEMONT

\$717,000

Deceivingly spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home ideally located blocks from METRO, Old Town and Del Ray! Light filled living room with fireplace & formal dining room. Updated kitchen with granite counters. Three

main level bedrooms & updated bath. Huge finished lower level with access to the lovely fenced yard.



SHERWOOD FOREST

\$499,000

Spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with attached garage convenient to Old Town & Ft Belvoir. Open floor plan with lots of light, gleaming hardwoods and new windows! Kitchen with granite breakfast bar, ample counter & cabinet space! Lower level family room with fireplace, full bath & 2 bedrooms has access to the large fenced yard.



COMING SOON!

MT. VERNON GROVE

\$524,000

Awesome opportunity! Spacious 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on over 1/3 acres across from the Mansion House Swim and Tennis Club. Generous room sizes, 2 wood burning fireplaces, main level family room and recently finished lower level with high ceilings. Upper level with 5 bedrooms including a Master Suite with sitting room and fireplace. Hardwood floors, attached garage and lots of potential.



FAIRFAX HOMES

\$349,000

Charming 4 bedroom, 2 bath rambler on nearly 1/2 acre close to shopping & restaurants in Kingstowne & Rosehill. Living room with picture window and dining room. Large kitchen with newer appliances, ample counter and cabinet space and an adjacent mud room with access to the yard. Sundrenched family room with new windows looking out to the beautiful yard with a manicured lawn, patio and mature trees. Gleaming wood floors throughout, new AC & Heat!



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Zebra's Spotted in TOMBSTONE!

PAMELA FISK sent in this photo of Zebra being read by Michael Benjamin in Tombstone, AZ.

If you have a photo of Zebra taken on your travels, please send it in to mary@thezebra.org and when we have a chance to publish it, we'll send you a \$25.00 gift certificate to an area retailer or restaurant.



Arrgh! Catch our mistakes.

We proofread but know we make mistakes, so to make a game of it, we encourage you to find the errors we missed. The entry who finds the most wins a \$25 gift certificate from an area retailer or restaurant.

ANNE MARIE BRADFORD of Alexandria beat out all the other entries by catching **61** (a record since we started this monthly contest!) grammatical and punctuation errors in our November 2012 edition. Bradford has won a gift certificate from Chez Andrée restaurant.

If you think you have a keen eye and a sharp pencil, send your catches to mary@thezebra.org, or by mail to ZEBRA, PO Box 6504 Arlington, VA 22206.

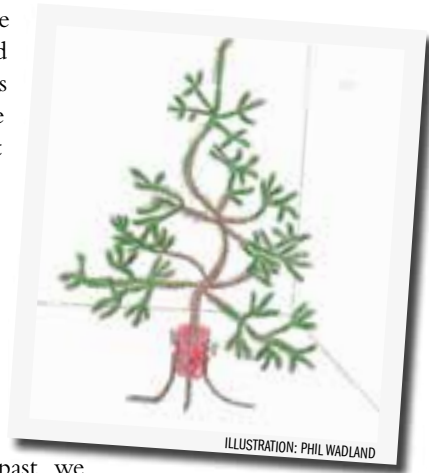
PUBLISHER'S NOTE

[Publisher's Note: I called my Dad this month and asked if he could remember the name of the little tree we had one year. He quickly said, "Scruff!" A few days later he sent me a card with a drawing and this true story.]

My Dad Remembers a Special Christmas

It was 1976. There had been "up" years and "down" years, but this was my family's lowest. The year before was a great year and money was abundant but something had gone wrong. The economy was upside down and it landed on us. I knew it was only a temporary setback but this Christmas was going to be very tight.

In every Christmas past we had loads. This year I had to speak to my wife and tell her a truth, "Honey there is no money this year." We talked late into the night about our options and came to some answers. First we decided that whatever money we had would be spent on the children. Next we would call the relatives and tell them not to spend any money on us as we could not buy gifts for them. They understood because we were not alone when the economy declined. We also decided that we must tell the children the truth about what was going on. My oldest was 10 and the youngest was 7. They listened but I don't think they knew what it meant when dad said, "Kids we don't have any money this Christmas." All they ever knew about money was that it just always came out of dad's pocket. They never thought how it got there. So this



▼ See **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS** on page 19

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Mount Vernon
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Rosemont
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Shirlington

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PHOTOS: SUSAN HALETHOMAS

What people are saying about the Del Ray Café

“A neighborhood cafe with good value for the food and warm service.”

“If anything better epitomizes Del Ray than this (dare I say it) adorable little cafe, I’m not sure what it is.”

“Fabulous service and amazing food.”

“The best addition to the neighborhood in a decade.”

“What a beautiful, delicious, welcoming treasure of a restaurant. A little slice of France in Del Ray.”

“This place is great! Welcome to the neighborhood.”

Alexandria Sensibility, European Flair

BY HOLLY BURNETT

It was the mid-1990s. She was an accountant. He was a restaurant manager.

She was the daughter of Patsy Ticer, the then Mayor of Alexandria.

He was from the Alsace region of Eastern France and had immigrated to America.

She had piercing eyes, dark hair and facial angles that could have graced any fashion magazine as a reincarnated Natalie Wood. He was pure European sophistication with a charmed accent, wavy hair controlled with a run of his fingers and a delightful glimmer in his eyes.

Each loved dogs. Each had a dog. And each had difficulty locating housing that would accept their canine companions. Enter fate, luck, magic or a little bit of all three (it can’t hurt) – ingredients to a secret soup, stirred for days until the melding of flavors had reached its most potent. A modern-day fairy tale courtesy of a pet-friendly apartment building on Alexandria’s Bashford Lane where one day, while each was walking their own dog, the accountant and the restaurant manager met.

No, this is not the book jacket summary of the latest Harlequin romance or a classic Barbara Cartland novel. This is the true story of Margaret and Laurent Janowsky, local restaurateurs and keepers of an Old Town flame, so to speak, when they purchased La Bergerie, one of Alexandria’s most revered French restaurants, in 2000 from brothers Bernard and Jean Campagne-Ibarcq.

The Janowskys chose to make few

changes to the elegant venue on Lee Street, while instead capitalizing on the traditions of exceptional cuisine and five-star customer service that had originally brought acclaim to the Campagne-Ibarcq brothers. As a result of the Janowsky’s efforts, La Bergerie (labergerie.com) is celebrating its 36th anniversary this year – an Alexandria icon with enduring appeal that has stood the test of time.

However, never ones to rest on their

laurels, Margaret and Laurent had a strong desire to put their own stamp on a restaurant – from the ground up this time, foundation to weathervane. So in June 2011, they purchased a 1925 Del Ray house at 205 East Howell Avenue and began restoration the following October on what would become Del Ray Café, a casual, unpretentious eatery that would complement the tenor of its neighborhood, offering good food, reasonably priced,

in a relaxed, idyllic French farmhouse atmosphere. “The community was ripe for this concept,” Margaret exclaimed.

Both Janowskys share a commitment to sustainability, and this philosophy encompasses the mission statement of the restaurant – “Local. Natural. Organic.” – as well as its refurbishing, while also embracing the Del Ray community conscience towards “green” trends.

“It’s all Margaret,” when Laurent is asked about East Howell’s transformation. While she, in turn, sings the praises of Vice President Brandon Barg of Virginia Commerce Bank who helped them secure an SBA loan. And Margaret is quick to point out that she worked with local businesses whenever possible to keep the project within the community, benefitting the community. Larson Koenig Architects, two blocks away, and Harry Braswell, Inc. Contractor, a half mile away, shared Margaret and Laurent’s vision and sustainability credo. From sketches to scaffolding, these companies were instrumental in making Del Ray Café a reality.

The two-story facade was in a rather sad state of disrepair before renovations began. But the previous owner had done some upgrades inside, installing several kitchenettes with the original intention of renting out individual office space. Margaret donated the kitchenettes to Habitat for Humanity and, refusing to waste any usable materials, relocated all the fixtures to areas in the building that would best serve the restaurant. Blending the old and the new (much like a secret soup), the

▼ See DEL RAY CAFE on page 5



Margaret and Laurent Janowsky of La Bergerie and The Del Ray Café.

PHOTO: HARRY MERRITT

house boasts reclaimed pinewood floors, restored vintage lanterns, a large antique mirror and even an authentic cow bell hanging on the rear entrance door to announce guests.

From the tables and chairs to the carpet and window treatments, even the red gingham napkins and waitstaff shirts, sustainable or recycled fabrics and materials were selected. The state of the art kitchen utilizes the most energy-efficient processes available. A custom water filtration system and on-demand hot water heaters as well as a multi-faceted recycling and composting program were also implemented throughout the entire operation.

The menu, created by the Janowskys and Sylvain Tonello, executive chef over both restaurants, again adheres fiercely to the “Local. Natural. Organic.” mission. Product is selected because it is natural (not altered chemically or synthesized in any form), organic (free of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and preservatives) and local (supporting farmers, suppliers and producers who share the Janowsky’s commitment to sustainable agriculture). The café offers numerous gluten-free menu options and is also a peanut-free environment for the safety of all its customers.

With breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday; brunch on Saturdays, Sundays and major holidays; dinner seven nights a week; and an extensive children’s menu for each service, the menu is resplendent with options. Among them, such French classics as Eggs Benedict, Crêque Monsieur and Madame, Duck Leg Confit and a variety of crêpes. Simple pearls of genius dot the offerings as well: a warm croissant with butter and organic jam to start your day or risotto with seasonal vegetables for lunch. The desserts are sumptuous with the Chocolate Mousse the equivalent of culinary bliss.



Chef Sylvain Tonello at work in the open kitchen.

PHOTO: HARRY MERRITT

Opened in May 2012, Del Ray Café (delraycafe.com) features a glistening, pristine white farmhouse with red front doors and a wrap-around, screened-in porch, navy shutters and window boxes overflowing with tousled fresh herbs highlight the landscape. Just beyond a white picket fence stands a vintage Coca-Cola cooler repurposed as a garden planter alongside old Jack Daniels whiskey barrels converted to rain collectors. The ambiance is fun, colorful and enticing. You want to go inside. (This writer would like to live there!)

Host to neighborhood foot traffic, including families with strollers, as well as driving diners amply provided for with a large private parking lot behind the farmhouse (including a special entrance for disabled patrons), Del Ray Café welcomes all, whether you arrive on foot, by car or even by bike. And a diverse and knowledgeable staff are there to ensure you feel like a member of the Janowsky family and the Del Ray community.

Along with their daughter, Sandrine, and son, Marcel, Margaret and Laurent are a homegrown family, living their commitment to sustainability on every level. They honor the past with La Bergerie and honor the future with Del Ray Café, like a delicious, warm and inviting secret soup brought to the family table for everyone’s nourishment.

“By way of
nourishment,
not by way of
knowledge.”

— Rabbi Isaac the Blind



Anne Alden
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The former Del Ray home at 205 East Howell has been lovingly restored to resemble a French farmhouse.

PHOTO: HARRY MERRITT

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UPDATE:

La Strada Restaurant to Close December 31

The economy and family health concerns have struck an award-winning and well-loved Italian eatery at 1905 Mount Vernon Avenue. They will serve their last meal on December 31, 2012.

The La Strada family opened Osteria 1909 next door to La Strada in November 2011. Osteria, which has its own separate kitchen from La Strada, will not be affected by the closure.

Commonwealth's Attorney Sengel Plans Retirement in 2013

On December 4, 2012, Commonwealth's Attorney S. Randolph Sengel released the following statement:

"At the conclusion



Randolph Sengel

of my current term as Commonwealth's Attorney in December, 2013, I will have served over 34 years as a prosecutor for the City of Alexandria, including 16 years as the elected Commonwealth's Attorney. I will not seek re-election in 2013 as I intend to retire from office when my current term ends. Service in this office is always a collaborative effort. I am honored to serve with a skilled, dedicated and professional staff of assistant prosecutors and support personnel. We have worked very hard to establish the highest standards of efficiency, fairness and accountability in the prosecution of criminal cases. I am certain that the office has a great depth of talent and experience which will sustain these efforts. I appreciate the support the City has extended to my office. Thank you for the opportunity to serve."

DASH Sponsors Drive at the King Street Metro

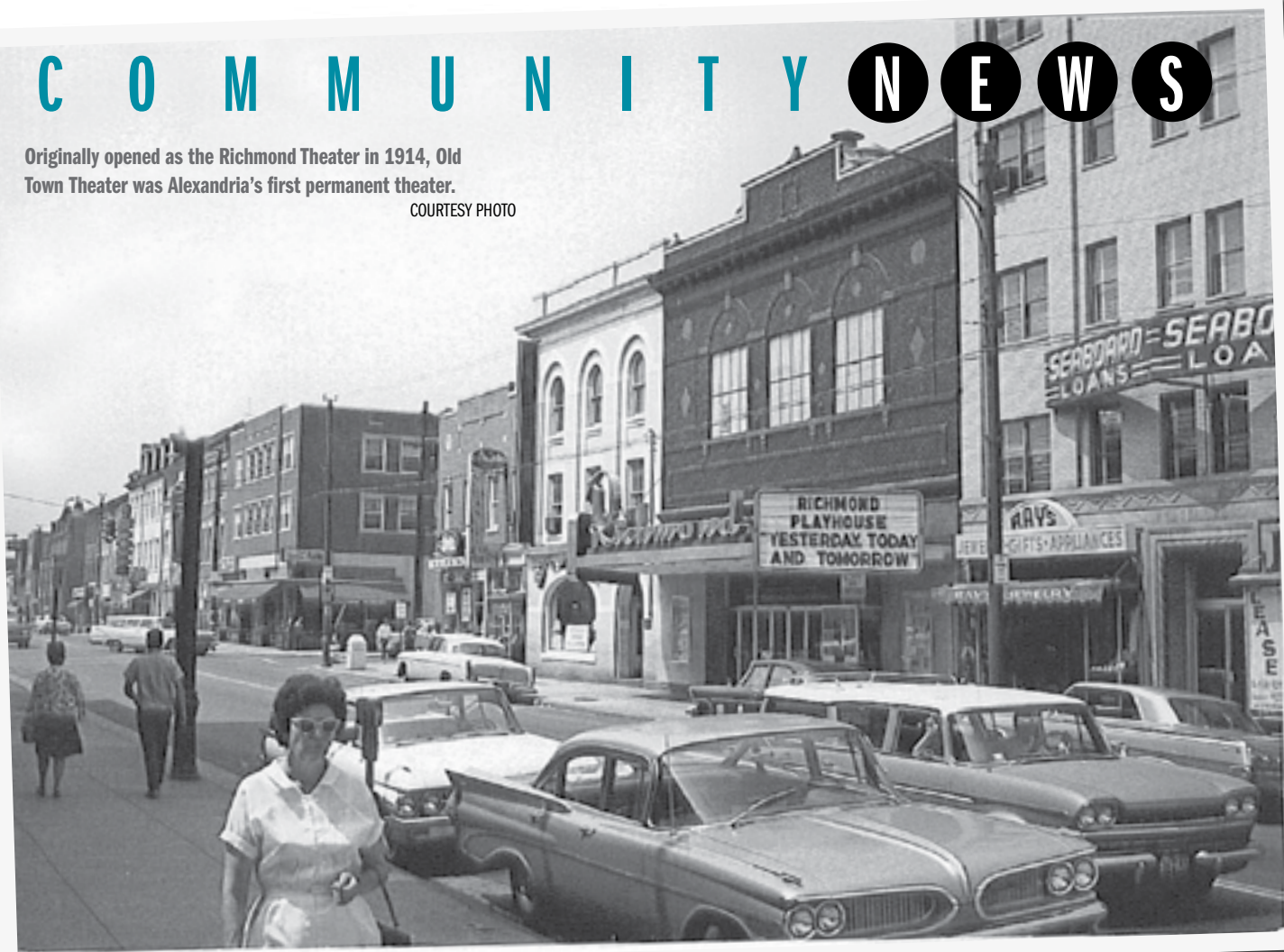
DASH representatives will be at the King Street Metro Station collecting donations for Toys for Tots. Help make this holiday season special for Alexandria's disadvantaged children. DASH will be onsite inside the entrance to the King St. Metro station on Tuesday, Dec. 18 from 4 - 7 p.m. and

▼ See UPDATE on page 8

C O M M U N I T Y N E W S

Originally opened as the Richmond Theater in 1914, Old Town Theater was Alexandria's first permanent theater.

COURTESY PHOTO



RESURRECTION

Reliving its Grandeur, Old Town Theater Reopens

BY JOHN ARUNDEL

Since the Old Town Theater closed in January, new owner Rob Kaufman of PMA Properties has been restoring it to its classic form to live out some faded grandeur, in time for its Dec. 12 reopening.

Originally opened as the Richmond Theater in 1914, Old Town Theater was the first permanent theater constructed in Alexandria. The owners reportedly operated a vaudeville theater on the first floor and a dance hall on the second floor until around 1932, and the dance floor was later replaced with a balcony. The cinema was twinned in 1980 and re-opened as the Old Town 1-2.

As Kaufman and the construction crew he hired for renovations started working on all three levels of the theater, they started uncovering things no one had seen in 90 years. Workers found a cast-iron staircase covered over in the 1920's, and on the third level the crew uncovered a dance floor where Alexandrians danced the night away after Woodrow Wilson was elected President.



The theater reopened on December 12 after extensive renovations. Many Old Town residents pleaded with Kaufman to keep it open as a theater, after it fell on hard times when moviegoers migrated to the multiplexes with expensive Dolby Sound systems and grander screens.

A local production company will operate the theater as a live performance venue. A full calendar of matinee and evening performances featuring comedy, music, magic, and dance will be offered along with weekly appearances from nationally touring entertainers.

In addition to soft drinks and concessions,

a gourmet, light fare menu will be offered, as well as a select list of beer and wine. Special events, catering, and full service production capabilities will also be available.

As an interesting aside, in June, Old Town residents awoke to see signs posted for "COMING SOON...Hooters Restaurant" at 815 1/2 King Street, site of the vacated theater. The Hooters chain is known primarily for its wait staff of mostly young, attractive waitresses usually referred to as "Hooter Girls" whose revealing outfits are played up to restaurant patrons.

But, Kaufman assures there will be no fried chicken wings or scantily clad waitresses any time soon. The signs had been a hoax. "I don't know who posted those signs but I found the prank very funny," Kaufman said. "Many people didn't which is unfortunate. There appear to be a lot of people who have lost their sense of humor."

Alexandria's Board of Architectural Review approved Kaufman's plans to revitalize the building, and Kaufman has signaled that the building will re-live some of its grandeur as a theater. "We developed a plan which I believe will satisfy everyone," he said.

Chapel to be Restored at Virginia Theological Seminary

On October 22, 2010, fire ravaged and destroyed the 19th-century Immanuel Chapel on the Virginia Theological Seminary campus, located at Seminary and Quaker Lane, on October 22, 2010.

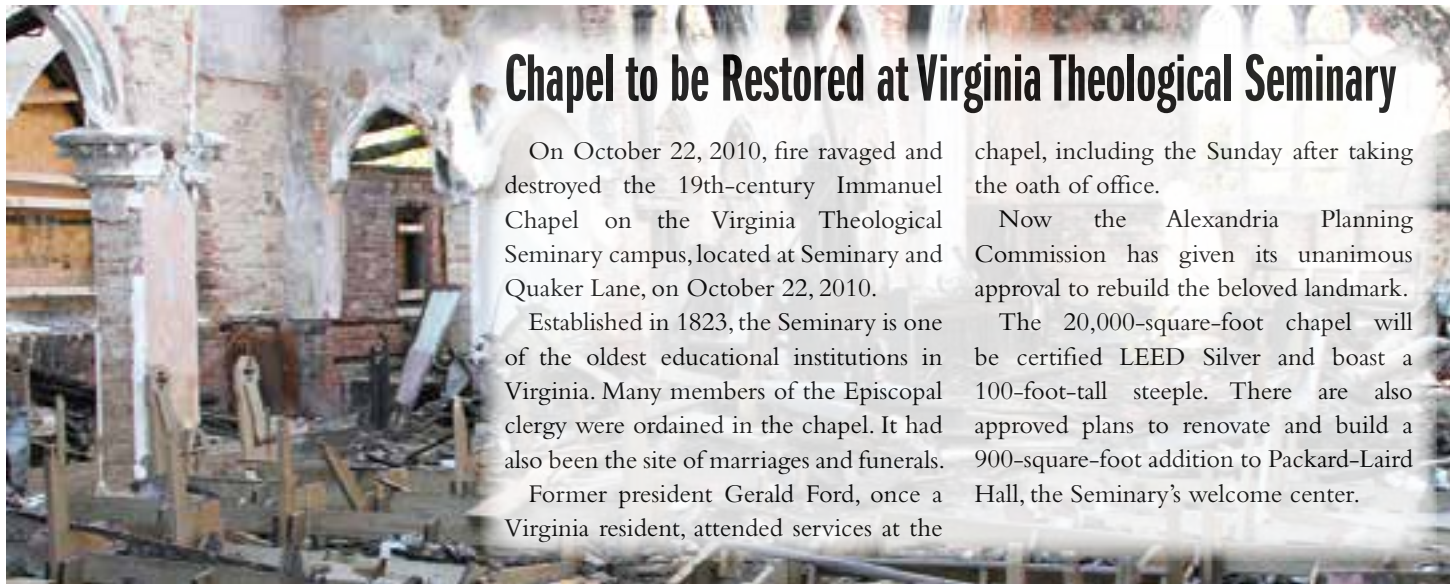
Established in 1823, the Seminary is one of the oldest educational institutions in Virginia. Many members of the Episcopal clergy were ordained in the chapel. It had also been the site of marriages and funerals.

Former president Gerald Ford, once a Virginia resident, attended services at the

chapel, including the Sunday after taking the oath of office.

Now the Alexandria Planning Commission has given its unanimous approval to rebuild the beloved landmark.

The 20,000-square-foot chapel will be certified LEED Silver and boast a 100-foot-tall steeple. There are also approved plans to renovate and build a 900-square-foot addition to Packard-Laird Hall, the Seminary's welcome center.





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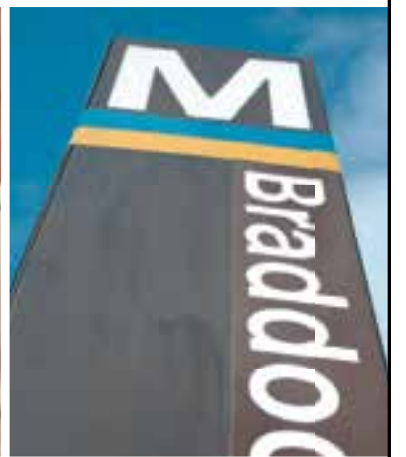
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Old School to Become New School

Alexandria’s Planning Commission approved a \$36-million proposal to rebuild Jefferson-Houston School at Cameron and North West Streets. The project plans a 130,000 square foot L-shaped, Art Deco flavored modern facility surrounding a turf athletic field.

The project also includes improvements to the Durant Arts Center, which occupies the same section of land as the school. The school’s gym, field, play areas and a white-box theater will be available for community use to varying degrees.

Enrollment is expected to grow to approximately 700 students in grades kindergarten through 8th grade, a sizable increase from its current enrollment of 364.

If approved by City Council the new school might be ready in the fall of 2014.



A rendering of the rebuilt Jefferson-Houston School at Cameron and North West Streets.

UPDATE from page 6

Thursday, Dec. 20 from 6 - 9 a.m.

Donations will be given to the Community Partners for Children (CPC) of Alexandria. CPC provides toys and clothing to 600 of Alexandria’s children during the holiday season. Families receive a special invitation to attend the CPC Distribution Day in time to wrap their children’s gifts before the holidays.

Needed items are new toys, infant and toddler items, gifts for 10 to 12 year olds and grocery store gift cards. Every little bit helps, and is greatly appreciated.

City of Alexandria Prepared for 2012-2013 Winter Weather

As the 2012-2013 winter season approaches, emergency response, including snow and ice removal operations, continue to

be a top priority and core service for the City of Alexandria’s snow response teams, public safety and emergency management.

Residents are reminded that sidewalks, driveways, and entrances abutting residences and businesses are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner, occupant or business for snow removal. Snow and ice must be cleared from all paved sidewalks abutting your property within 24-72 hours of the end of the snowfall, depending on the storm response level.

When up to eight inches of snow or other winter weather conditions are in the forecast, city snow removal crews will first work to make snow-covered roads and sidewalks passable for emergency vehicles and ensure schools are accessible. Roadways and/or sidewalks may not be completely clear for as many as

MORE UPDATE on page 9



PHOTO: MIKE ANDERSON

A River of Lights

The 13th Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights sparkled at Alexandria’s historic harbor on December 1 when more than 40 colorful and brightly lit boats cruised the Potomac River. Crowds packed waterfront parks and the docks at the Torpedo Factory Art Center to see boats compete in 11 categories. The parade’s Best in Show went to SUMMER C’S, a catamaran houseboat featuring a light show animation of a Christmas tree set to festive music. WII FISH snagged Best Powerboat, decked out to resemble Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer with tall antlers and red nose in lights. The sailboat FIREFLY took the prize for Thinking Outside the Christmas Box with an all-green Christmas tree shape that cascaded from its tall mast.



Tanger Factory Outlet Centers and the Peterson Companies hosted an official Ground Breaking Ceremony to signal the start of construction on Tanger Outlets National Harbor.

COURTESY PHOTO

Shoppers, Start Your Engines

New Shopping Mecca Takes Shape at National Harbor

BY JOHN ARUNDEL

Weeks after Maryland voters gave the green light for what could become a \$1 billion MGM casino along the banks of the Potomac by 2015, National Harbor Founder Milt Peterson dug another shovel in the ground on a \$100 million outlet shopping mall which could throw open its doors to price-conscious outlet shoppers by the end of next year.

The 340,000 square foot Tanger Outlets National Harbor will complement the scores of restaurants, retail and hotels already open, including the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, the largest non-gaming hotel on the eastern seaboard. Developed by Peterson and opened in 2007, National Harbor now comprises 350 acres of prime real estate along the scenic Potomac River in Prince George’s County.

Tanger Outlets will be located at the base of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and directly accessible from the Capital Beltway, I-295 and Indian Head Highway, and Peterson said the new center will serve as a leading outlet destination for the five million residents in surrounding Maryland, Virginia and D.C..

“The Tanger Outlets brand is synonymous with quality and we are thrilled to partner with them to bring these high quality retail brands to the area,” said Peterson, chairman of the Peterson Companies. “This is an exciting new chapter in the evolution of National Harbor and we believe it will be a tremendous complement to our existing shopping, dining, entertainment and hospitality offerings.”

The center is located three miles from Old Town Alexandria and eight miles southeast of Washington, which each year welcomes 33 million annual visitors.

The center’s features will include a modern design with a pedestrian friendly layout that will function as an open-air mall with both covered and uncovered landscaped courtyards and park-like settings throughout the complex.

“We are pleased to begin construction in this dynamic lifestyle destination,” said Steven B. Tanger, president and CEO of Tanger Factory Outlet Centers, Inc. “

Shoppers will soon find about 80 brand name and designer outlet stores, including Calvin Klein, H&M, IZOD, Gap Factory Store, American Eagle Outfitters, Tommy Hilfiger, Banana Republic Factory Store, White House Black Market Outlet, Chico’s Outlet, Columbia, Brooks Brothers Factory Store, Aéropostale, P.S. by Aéropostale, J. Crew Factory, Le Creuset Outlet and others.

The project stands to create about 600 jobs during construction and 1,000 full and part-time retail jobs once open. It is predicted that the center will create an additional \$6.5 million in annual sales tax revenue for the state.

Tanger and Peterson will each own a 50 percent interest in the project and will jointly provide site development and construction supervision services to the venture. Tanger Outlet Centers will provide management services, leasing and marketing to the joint venture.

“Our goal is to create an exceptional outlet experience,” Tanger said. “We’ll have great designer and brand name stores with on trend, in season value priced merchandise.”



Vintage-Inspired Boutique Cuts Ribbon in Old Town

The Bucket List Boutique located on South Royal Street held its ribbon cutting ceremony this past month. Performing the event are Susi Mathy Patterson, John Long (President, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce) Cody Eyre, Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille, Tom Curcio, Gale Curcio, John Renner and Jane Eyre.

PHOTO BY HARRY MERRITT



A rendering of the planned new Safeway

CREDIT COURTESY CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

West End Safeway Slated for Rehab

The Safeway supermarket on King Street in West End Alexandria will likely close early next year for redevelopment into a larger store with more amenities.

Safeway spokesman Greg Ten Eyck said the store, located at 3526 King St., is awaiting final comments from the city to receive a building permit. The store will close after the final permits have been received, he said.

“We don’t expect that happen until sometime in early 2013,” Ten Eyck said.

The supermarket will be closed for about a year for remodeling, he said. The pharmacy will remain open, operating out of a mobile unit.

The current store is 44,000 square feet. The remodeled store will be 61,000 square feet and offer a wider selection of products, outside seating area, bakery, deli, floral department and dry-cleaning service through Bergmann’s. The new store will also feature a Starbucks.

▲ UPDATE from page 8

three days.

New Hope Housing Awarded Freddie Mac Foundation \$50K Grant

New Hope Housing has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Freddie Mac Foundation for its permanent supportive housing program for families in need in Northern Virginia.

The New Hope Housing program provides long-term housing with ongoing support services for previously homeless families in which a parent has a significant disability. The program helps support the parent(s) to ensure stability for the family and a supportive home environment for the children. New Hope Housing currently assists 14 families with permanent supportive housing, and the Freddie Mac Foundation provides critical funds to maintain the program.

New Hope Housing is a non-profit agency providing shelter, transitional and permanent housing, outreach and support services for homeless families and single adults in Fairfax County, the city of Alexandria, Arlington County, and City of Falls Church. New Hope Housing is committed to finding creative and lasting solutions to end the cycle of homelessness by offering homeless men, women and children the services they need to change their lives and succeed. In FY 2012, New Hope Housing

served over 1,500 individuals including more than 250 children. For more information, visit www.newhopehousing.org.

BI Rowers Set to Paddle Off to College

Bishop Ireton senior rowers, Lyndsay Martini and Allison Lee each signed College Commitment Letters this week.

Lyndsay, daughter of Christopher and Beth Martini and a resident of Falls Church, VA, committed to rowing at University of Virginia.

Woodbridge, VA resident and daughter of Richard and Kelly Lee, Allison will be going north to Boston College.

Bishop Ireton Athletic Director Bill Simmons commented that these two seniors represented the best of Bishop Ireton’s student-athletes. Their families and teammates were on hand to cheer on their commitment, and both women thanked their team and their coaches for always pushing them to do their best.



Senior Crew team members Lyndsay Martini and Allison Lee sign college commitment letters.

More Just Window Dressing

Walker Home of 1125 King Street was named winner of the 2012 Old Town Window Wonderland Contest. Pictured here, (l to r): Patricia Washington, CEO, ACVA; B. Giannini-Gambino Walker, Walker Home; Mayor Euille; Alphonse Costanza, Walker Home; and Amy Rutherford, Old Town Boutique District.

PHOTO BY SPOTTED MP

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We want to congratulate Laurent and Margaret Janowsky on the success of their new restaurant, The Del Ray Cafe. It has been a pleasure working with them to help create a friendly neighborhood restaurant.



Emma's, a new project LKA is designing for the Del Ray neighborhood.

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PHOTOS: TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

MIKE OLIVER:

Alexandria's Secret Santa

BY SHERRY WILSON BROWN

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

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

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

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

Manager and retired after 24 years. (For many of those years she was the Cafeteria Manager at T.C. Williams High School.)

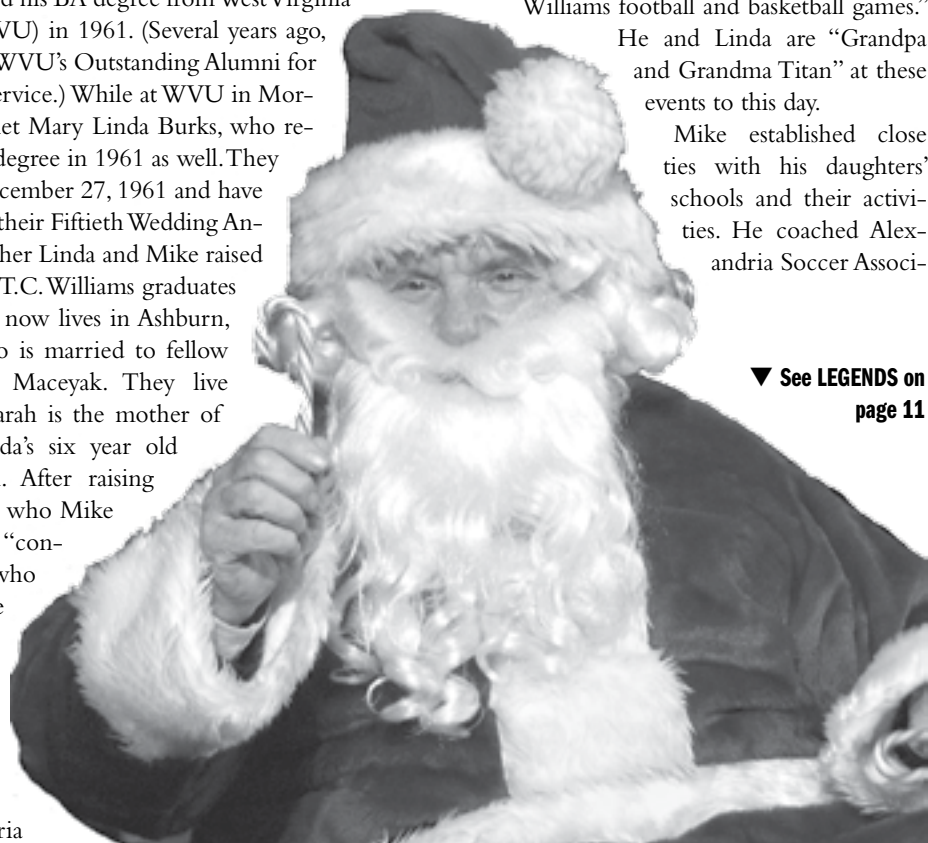
Mike enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves in 1959, eventually attaining the rank of Sergeant 1st Class (E7) before retiring in 1973. He had the distinction of serving in the 80th Division, his father's old World War I unit. The newlyweds moved to Richmond and Mike went to work for VEPCO, continuing with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

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

The next year, Mike's mentor, Bob Miller, recruited Mike into the George Mason PTA. PTA became a theme in Mike's life as George Washington (PTA President three times) was followed by Minnie Howard (PTA President twice) and T.C. Williams. He served as Alexandria PTA Council President (1984-85) where he was supported by an excellent Board of parents and teachers. In nominating Mike for the Living Legend recognition, Harlene Clayton described Mike as "a life-long cheerleader at T.C. Williams football and basketball games."

He and Linda are "Grandpa and Grandma Titan" at these events to this day.

Mike established close ties with his daughters' schools and their activities. He coached Alexandria Soccer Associ-



▼ See LEGENDS on page 11

▲ LEGENDS from page 10

ation (ASA) teams throughout the 1970s and served as ASA Area Vice President for three years. Given his background in the Office of Education, it is not surprising that early on Mike became involved with The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. He currently is an applications reader and sometimes scholarship presenter (1990s -2011). This connection to his youngsters’ schools expanded to include serving as Parent Representative to the Youth Services Commission (1980s -1990s) and Parent Representative to Project Discovery (1980s-1990s).

In 1979, Mike began volunteering at Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically (ALIVE!) as the representative of his church, St. Clement Episcopal. He pitched in everywhere: delivering furniture and participating in the Turkey Trot collection of food donations. He served as the ALIVE! Board President (1993 -1994). Throughout this thirty plus years of involvement with ALIVE!, Mike served as Santa’s Helper for the children of the ALIVE! Child Development Center. He fulfills other Santa duties throughout the community for various organizations and schools, including 25 years as the City’s Market Square Santa as well as for Del Ray and North Ridge tree lightings. For all these appearances, Mike accepts no payment but instead requests any donations go to the ALIVE! Child Development Center.

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

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

years with the Friends of Alexandria Community Mental Health Center.

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

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

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

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

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

Sherry Wilson Brown is director of
Agenda: Alexandria



Mayor Bill Euille greets Blanche Maness and 2013 Legends nominees Maudy and Gilbert Mays.

LEGENDS

NOVA Honors Living Legend Nominees with Musical Salute

The 2013 Living Legends of Alexandria nominees were honored with a musical tribute at NOVA’s Schlesinger Center on December 6. Nominees, nominators, board members and council are seen here gathered for pre-concert refreshments.



Nominee Warden Foley greeted by nominee Joe Guiffre with Bill Aramony and nominee Bill McNamara looking on.

PHOTOS BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY.

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American Idol?

“The fault, dear Brutus, in not in our stars, but in ourselves.”

Act I, Scene ii - *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare

I was a baby boomer and grew up in the era of New Frontier idealism, rabid optimism and the calamitous changes of the 1960s and 70s. Back then in my naive Pollyanna mind, my life was simple – high school, graduate from the Naval Academy, go to sea, go to war, distinguish myself there and in a civilian career, maybe run for Congress and continue to serve my country. During my formative years I lived in Ohio, Colorado, North Carolina, Germany, Thailand, Virginia, California and Virginia (again), and visited 23 countries as a result of my Navy career. During those years I saw some squalid, some corrupt and also some very magical places. Yet through it all, I truly believed that nothing compared to the good old USA.

Today, however, that idol has been permanently smashed. The past three decades have been a moral and ethical rollercoaster that has caused me to question the very oath I took as an Officer in the Navy.

After days, months and years of standing watch on a warship in a freezing rain, riding ‘point’ in a patrol boat on some godforsaken river or dodging IEDs on some hideous back street in Baghdad, I found myself asking, ‘What am I doing? Who am I protecting? Exactly what country am I defending?’ Was my country, this place I called ‘home’ – a place I had left countless times as a result of duty – worth protecting? Had our culture so eroded that what was once a great country had become a mere shell of itself with little or no redeeming qualities?

As an amateur historian, I can see the easy comparisons to the Roman and British Empires. Our technological innovation, wealth, boundless enthusiasm and rugged individualism – once considered virtues, had now taken on the ugly veneer of arrogance. This great country had once appeared to the rest of the world as the global adolescent, the new kid on the block and a shining light for others. And for nearly 200 years, we enjoyed beginner’s luck, choosing the right fight, supporting the right causes and through it all, we were known for our magnanimity in victory.

Our common sense and our sense of decency were our greatest attributes, and these virtues led us to world leadership. We honestly believed that our system of democracy and our very way of life was good and the rest of the world should share in that same goodness.

World War II was the turning point. Our armies smashed Nazi Germany, forced a then-belligerent Japan to its knees, brought our GIs home, got them into college or into a home with the GI Bill, our economy boomed, people had babies, Detroit was the envy of the automobile manufacturing world and the oil industry was ramping-up to quench that thirst. We were enjoying the fruits of ‘Empire’ without ever needing to shoulder the burden of being one.

Today, however, we have become a fat country where our citizens enjoy the fruits of our success without enduring sacrifice. Americans walk the streets texting on Facebook and Twitter without ever looking up to cross the street or greet someone. We care more about what Lindsay Lohan wore on the red carpet at the Oscars than about our neighbor



ON WATCH BY MARCUS FISK

down the street with leukemia. ‘All-you-can-eat’ buffets and ‘super-sized’ portions have us eating ourselves into a permanent plus size society. Our kids play video games more appropriate for an Army Ranger battalion; we watch ‘reality’ television shows about teenage mothers, Honey Boo-Boo; and business ‘Sharks’ as they eviscerate some young entrepreneur with a new

idea.

‘Democracy’ has so consumed our art and cultural pursuits that we vote to determine the most ‘talented’ singer on ‘The Voice’ and we care more about some poor former Gansta girl in tight jeans and effusive cleavage from the ‘hood’ than we do about the daily trials of a wounded warrior enduring his 23rd surgery to reconstruct his face.

We worship the stock market and the carnivorous wealth of Angelo Mazilo, so we can’t quite hold them totally accountable for their crimes. We feel remorse for a Jovan Belcher or the victims of the Aurora Colorado movie massacre, but we seem dumbstruck that our bellicose society could have even produced such tragedies. We vociferously rail against taxes and super-PACs, yet we turn right around and give presidential candidates \$1.5 billion in campaign contributions and add some \$14.5 billion to their PACs.

This is the same country where the comatose housing market is on life support, yet our banks continue to foreclose on homes and are risk averse to bankrolling new mortgages. This same country glorifies ‘equality’ and ‘fairness,’ yet we can’t see the folly of increasing the tax burden on the backs of the middle class and cutting our workforce, creating a reverse welfare system for the wealthy and well-to-do. That’s tough to defend when you are walking point in Afghanistan.

Don’t get me started on Congress.....

Finally, our justice system has become an oxymoron where ‘equal justice under law’ now carries a hefty price tag and only the very wealthy or the abject poor can afford to have their day in court. In court, the only winners are attorneys.

For all this I am disappointed in what we have become as a nation, going down the same road that took down Rome and Britannia, often at the expense of the men and women of our armed services who have defended their country’s citizens’ lives, rights, beliefs, interests and livelihoods. They, and not the headline-grabbing political, sports, entertainment and business gurus that take main stage in the media, are the ones who have truly sacrificed, carried the heaviest burden and have lived up to the oath they took.

Has our culture been so exposed to so much political, economic and social corruption that we have become numb? Have we become a paper tiger? Yes. Will we ever wake up? Unfortunately it might take a disaster or another revolution to awaken our conscience.

I think Shakespeare got it right.

Marcus Fisk is a retired Navy Captain, Naval Academy graduate, actor, sculptor, pick-up soccer player, and playwright. He and his wife Pamela live in Alexandria.



COFFEE WITH GINGER

Don't Fight the BRIGHT

After the hoopla of the holidays is over, and the decorations are put away, what are we left with? A house that suddenly feels bare and unwelcoming inside, and grey skies, cold and

gloom outside. That's no good folks! Plan now for a Pick-me-up Program for your house and have what you need on hand to smoothly transition into an uplifting new look. With a few well-placed hints, you might get everything you need as holiday gifts!

Color is the key... embrace it, don't fear it! No matter what your décor is, there's always a bright color that can be added for that exuberant pop. It's like an instant facelift for the room. Like many of my clients, I do often gravitate toward neutrals, and neutrals from top to bottom can be a wonderful thing. But, the dead of winter is not one of those times, and it's great that a neutral décor can also serve as the "blank canvas" backdrop for whatever accent color perks up your spirit.

Because most of my clients are somewhat reserved, I have to do

some convincing to get them to upholster dining chairs in a bold green fabric, try a piece of red or pink furniture in their living room, or go for an indigo blue headboard. But once they see it in context presented in a sketch I prepare, most people really "get it" and are very enthusiastic.

In addition to furniture for color splashes, I also love quirky accessories! I never overdo it, but I also never finish a room without at least one bold statement piece; if it's a treasure that emphasizes the client's personality or interests – even better! You can find amazing deals for these special additions on Etsy, EBay and Overstock, but the most stunning usually come from my "to-the-trade-only" sources.

Color makes us happy and banishes Winter Blahs. Give it a try. Don't Fight the Bright! Call me for back-up if you get.... cold feet!



Ginger Rodriguez is an Alexandria interior designer and can be reached at info@westbayinteriors.com

“

What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day.”

— Phyllis Diller

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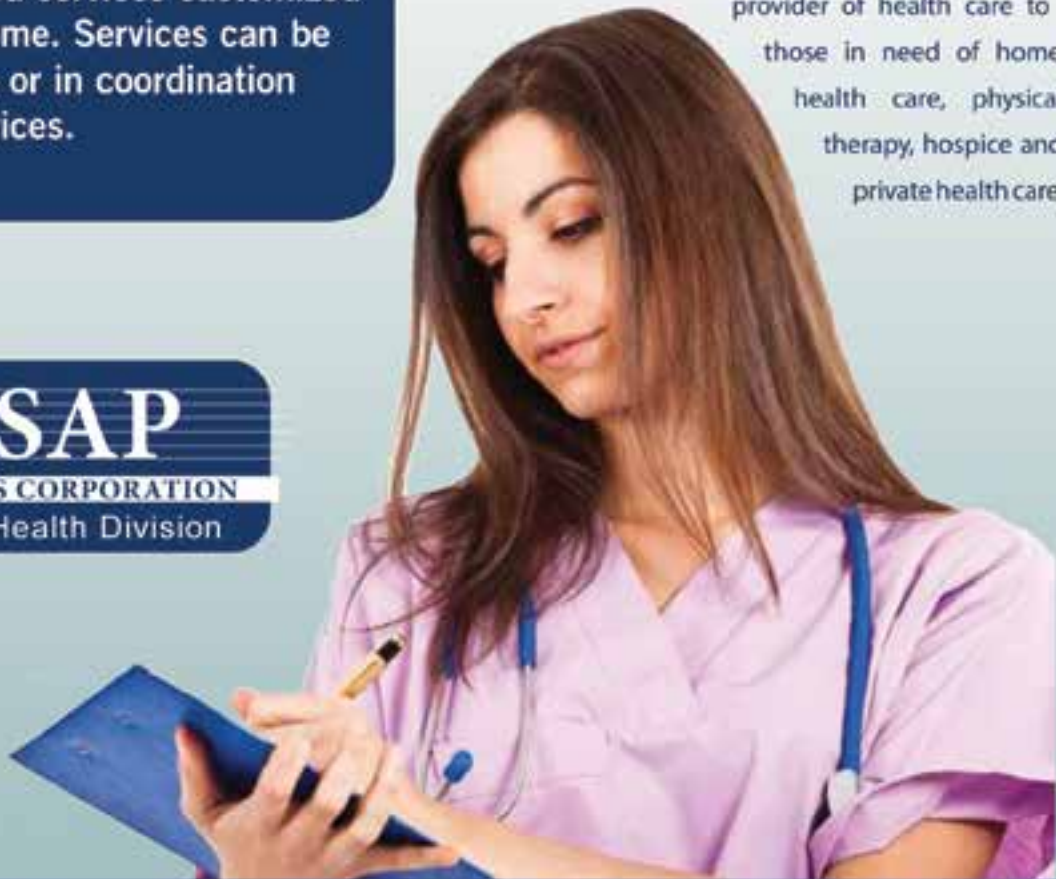
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As with every yuletide season some of the most spectacular and desirable gifts can be found at **THE SHOPS AT MOUNT VERNON** at the Mount Vernon Estate. As a sampling, consider an un-aged 3.75 mil. bottle of G. Washington's personal rye whiskey created at his reconstructed distillery. It is hand-bottled with a handmade special Mount Vernon label and sells for \$95. If you would prefer something a little more distinctive to the taste buds try a bottle of the 2-year aged rye from the distillery for only \$185.

Something that is destined to become a holiday keepsake, passed from one generation to the next, is the Reed and Barton snow globe that plays "Carol of The Bells." It rests on a silver plated base that depicts many of the buildings on Mount Vernon Estate including the Distillery and Grist Mill. It is priced at \$55.

Either for a little girl or a serious doll collector there is the Baby Madame Alexander "Suzanna" doll priced at \$89.95. She is dressed in a delicate pink traditional southern belle gown as worn in 18th century Williamsburg as she is a joint offering from Mount Vernon and Colonial Williamsburg.

Finally there is the one **MUST** for every holiday season — The Mount Vernon Christmas Ornament. This year's presentation, priced at \$18.95, is a glazed porcelain rendition of Mount Vernon Mansion inspired by artist G.F.Gilman's 1878 original painting and framed with ornate gold. The back is inscribed with Eliza Powel's compliment to Martha Washington in 1787: "The elegant hospitality exercised at Mount Vernon ... renders it a most delightful Residence to your Friends."

A short distance north on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, toward Alexandria, from Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens is the Belle View Shopping Center. Any shopper seeking last minute gifts needs to visit **THE VIRGINIA FLORIST** and **RICHARD CARROLL** at 1632 and 1600 Belle View Blvd. respectively.

Once again Owner Kevin Green of The Virginia Florist has stocked his enterprise with some of the most unique items in the Washington Metropolitan area. The same is true of his shop in the Hollin Hall Shopping Center on Fort Hunt Road.

As tangible proof of that, check out the various selections of glazed pottery offered by the Emma Bridgewater Co, entitled "Black Toast." Created at Stoke-

on-Trent in England these pieces bear the wording "mashed potatoes," "strawberries and cream," and other foodstuffs. There are serving dishes, bowls, cups, and glass ware of all shapes and sizes. The various pieces range in price from \$39 to \$105.

This collection is joined by another that is featured in the shop's front window. Known as Juliska, it comes from Czechoslovakia and is known as "Country Estate." Each piece of dinnerware highlights a different building on an English Estate. This collection is the result of a dual endeavor between Juliska designers and Deborah Sears, renowned designer and painter of Isis Ceramics in England.

One of the most eclectic shops in Belle View Shopping Center is Richard Carroll. As stated on their card, "Purveyors of precious jewelry, art glass, home decor, fashionable women's clothing and women's/men's accessories."

In the latter category is an assortment of men's fun ties that speak to any number of events and causes. For the politician, real or wannabe, there is the Eisenhower/Nixon or Harry S. Truman creation. Then for the cautious type or pragmatist, whichever the case may be, there is the pre-nuptial agreement cravat. They are all priced at \$29.99.

For wine lovers there is the combination wine bottle stopper/cork screw made

out of turned wood and metal by Anna Riggiero of South Carolina at \$39.99. For male recipients there is an elegant wooden handled razor for \$49.99. And, for any ladies on the list there are the pashmina scarves at \$18.99.

Throughout the shop the buyer is attracted to such a wide range of possibilities that it is often hard to make a selection. So, for those with a large list, Richard Carroll is the place to go.

In Old Town Alexandria some of the very best deals this holiday season can be found at **GALLERY LAFAYETTE** in Gatsby's Arcade at 320 King Street. Unfortunately this marks the last holiday season for owner Todd Healy at this location since he has lost his lease due to the expansion of Coldwell Banker.

Consequently there is a wide array of items on sale that would please any aficionado of this historic seaport city. Some of Healy's most unique offerings this year are jigsaw puzzles of 19th century prints colored by Healy. They are priced at \$25 each.

There are many items now discounted 50 percent. They include Old Town mugs at \$5.50; Rock Glasses — a box of four priced at \$22.50; Old Town note cubes at \$6.48; and tote bags at \$15, just to mention a few.

Complementing the many sale items are Gallery Lafayette's myriad of historic prints in all sizes, framed and unframed; Todd's annual Old Town calendar featuring his hand painted Old Town homes and buildings; and many other items that have been the mainstay of many Old Town homes' decor for nearly 40 years.

And, of course what would the holidays be without a visit to the one shop that is the essence of the season — **THE CHRISTMAS ATTIC** at 125 S. Union St. If it's Christmas it's there — in abundance.

There is everything from the tried and true Christmas ornaments and scenery display items by Department 56 to the whimsical, such as the white or red spanish wine named "Bitch" at \$16.95. Another, with the label "Boom Boom," a Syrah, sells for \$21.95.

Speaking of Department 56, in addition to their various collector pieces, such as a Dickens Village, they now have an ornament line known as "Bead It." Each is a self-made ornament constructed by the buyer with separate faces and other parts of their choosing. The price per piece differs.

In the true spirit of Christmas of spreading good tidings throughout world



THE ZEBRA 2012 PROCRASTINATOR'S

SHOPPING GUIDE

BY CHUCK HAGEE



See key to pictographic on page 16

▼ See PROCRASTINATION on page 16

Need more help?

Crunchy Scott's Top 5: Last-Minute Tips for a Green Holiday

Santa is due to arrive any day now and if you're having a tough time pulling off an eco-friendly and economical holiday, then I'm here to help! There's still plenty of time to decorate and celebrate with a crunchy twist.



TRIM YOUR TREE!

#1 Nail Polish Ornaments

Eco-friendly holiday ornaments don't always involve popcorn garlands and pine cones. Here's a crafty project that's easy and eco-chic.

First, dig up all those half empty bottles of nail polish. If you don't have any, make a plea to the women in your life.

Next, get some of those cheap, glass balls from the craft store. Remove the hanger and pour in your nail polish.

Swirl the paint around until the inside is covered.

Let it dry upside down. After an hour or two you can replace the cap and hang your ornament.

So why is this crunchy? Nail polish is a hazardous waste product, so instead of your leftovers ending up in the trash, you've transformed it into an ornament that will be the talk of your holiday party.

#2 Recycled Snowflake Ornaments

Not into making your own ornaments? How about buying some that are made from recycled glass? Even better, the artist behind these abstract snowflakes is a local gal. Her name is Alison Sigethy and her snowflakes add a touch of eco-glitz to any tree. You can buy them from her studio at the Torpedo Factory in Old Town Alexandria. They're \$25 each. Her website is www.AlisonSigethy.com.

GREEN PRESENTS!

#3 For her...

Perfume again? Not exactly. How about a SOLID PERFUME from Truly-Life. TL is based in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria and its owner, Mellenie Runion, is a goddess of all things eco. Her solid perfumes are made from beeswax and essential oils and they're under \$10. Mellenie also makes soaps, lotions and lip balms. Order from Truly-Life.com or pick up her soaps at Whole Foods.

#4 For him...

Books are the bomb when it comes to guy-gifts! And author Matthew Iden's A Reason to Live is the perfect eco-inspired present for the man in your life. Iden is from Alexandria, his book is about a DC Homicide Detective and it's an e-book! How green is all that! Order from Amazon, Barnes & Noble or his site, Matthew-Iden.com.

"HAPPY" HOLIDAY FARE

#5 Local treats

Let's face it, food is a huge part of the holidays. And if you're looking for tasty stocking stuffers, something sweet to take to that last-minute holiday soiree or maybe an extra special cookie to leave Santa – you'll find plenty of local options at The Happy Tart. It's a 100% gluten-free bakery in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. Check 'em out at HappyTartBakery.com.

So decorations – check. Presents – check. And food – check! Feel better? I hope so because if you follow my 5 festive tips, your holidays are sure to be stress-free, inexpensive and totally crunchy. I've got more recipes and craft ideas on my site, www.CrunchyScott.com. Happy holidays!!!

Signature's 'Dreamgirls' Sparkles



There's no better way to enjoy the holidays than taking in a performance of Signature Theatre's production of *Dreamgirls*.

A fictionalized account of Diana Ross and "The Supremes" as they rose to fame, *Dreamgirls* was a 1985 smash Broadway hit as well as an acclaimed 2006 motion picture. In both, the actresses to emerge as the real stars of their productions were not those portraying "Deena," the lead singer of the trio, but, ironically, "Effie," the replaced group member who laments her tragedy in the musical number "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going." This song catapulted Jennifer Holliday and Jennifer Hudson to genuine fame, and the same can be said for Signature's "Effie," Nova Y. Payton. She steals the show every time she steps on the stage, with a vocal range and dynamic presence that will cause the hairs on the back of your neck to stand... and, perhaps, even applaud.

Don't miss Signature's *Dreamgirls*. Payton's performance alone is worth the price of admission. Extended through January 13, visit signature-theatre.org for tickets.

— Mary Wadland

Pictured here, Headstrong lead singer Effie White (Nova Y. Payton) climbs the charts single-handed. Photo by Christopher Mueller.

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PROCRASTINATION KEY (FROM PAGE 14)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Un-aged whiskey from the Distillery at Mount Vernon Estate | 9. "Bead It" ornaments from Department 56 at The Christmas Attic | 17. Aged whiskey from the Distillery at Mount Vernon Estate |
| 2. Reed and Barton musical snow globe at Mount Vernon Shops | 10. Hand carved wooden hippo eyeglass holder at Ten Thousand Villages | 18. Assortment of items featuring Todd Healy's Old Town Alexandria scenes from Gallery Lafayette |
| 3. Baby Madame Alexander doll at Mount Vernon Shops | 11. Handmade wooden tractor trailer truck at Authentically Amish | 19. Handmade quilted table runner at Authentically Amish |
| 4. Mount Vernon Christmas ornament at Mount Vernon Shops | 12. The book "Bird Watching for Cats" at One Good Tern | 20. "Adments" by Charley Harper at One Good Tern |
| 5. Mashed Potato bowl from the Bridgewater Co.'s "Black Toast" glazed pottery collection at Virginia Florist | 13. Women's bird socks at One Good Tern | 21. Mark Roberts' limited edition Santas at Greenstreet Gardens |
| 6. Serving plates from the Bridgewater Co. "Black Toast" collection at Virginia Florist | 14. Vintage TV music box with winter scene inside at Greenstreet Gardens | 22. Gingerbread dog cookie treat at Barkley Square |
| 7. Vintage political ties at Richard Carroll | 15. Complete Holiday Meal at Barkley Square | 23. Ice bucket and glassware of Bridgewater Co. "Black Toast" collection at Virginia Florist |
| 8. Hand painted puzzle of the Nation's Capital at Gallery Lafayette | 16. Vietnam coffee/tea mug with oriental tea at Ten Thousand Villages | 24. Bottle stopper/cork screw and wooden handled razor at Richard Carroll |

▲ PROCRASTINATION from page 14

there is **TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES** at 915 King Street. An enterprise of the Mennonite Central Committee, they provide vital fair income to third world people by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories throughout North America.

Items in this shop are not to be found anywhere else. Some of the most unusual include the Haitian River Stone that include two faces — one happy and one sad — priced at \$16.

There are also the hand carved wooden Hippo eyeglass holders from Kenya, that make the hippo look as if he were wearing the spectacles and the coffee/tea mug from Vietnam. The latter is accompanied by Fair Trade Tea from various parts of the world.

In Alexandria's West End Fox Chase Shopping Center there is **AUTHENTICALLY AMISH** at 4609 Duke Street. Every item in this shop is handmade by the Pennsylvania Amish and personally brought to Alexandria by the shop's owner Christopher St. Pierre.

For the child who seems to have everything, it's a pretty sure bet they don't have handcrafted wooden toys, such as tractor trailer trucks, trains, and various pull toys representing an assortment of animals. Prices range from \$35 to \$85 depending on the item. For little girls there are Amish dolls from \$19 to \$25.

Adult gifts cover the gamut from home and office furnishings to home accessories such as loom woven place mats at \$10 each, quilted table runners for \$65 and hot mats for \$10 each.

Alexandria's Quaker Lane area features two must-visit shopping spots that will thrill not only the late shopper but also anyone hunting for that something out of the ordinary. They are **ONE GOOD TERN** at 1710 Fern Street. and **GREENSTREET GARDENS** at 1721 Quaker Lane.

One Good Tern is primarily geared to the fun loving bird watcher as compared to the more serious ornithologist. To emphasize that point one of their most popular items is a book entitled "Bird Watching for Cats" by Kit and George H. Harrison. It is described as "an entertainment guide for indoor felines" by One Good Tern owner Charles

Studholme. The cover alone draws in the shopper as the leering cat's eyes stare out. It sells for \$19.50.

Other items include a wide selection of fun socks made in the U.S.A. for women that feature all varieties birds at \$9.99 a pair and "Adments" by Charley Harper, so called because "they are not just for Christmas," according to the store's primary salesperson, Shelia Morris. They are priced at \$19.99. Finally, there is a large selection of Amber jewelry from \$16 to \$100.

At Greenstreet Gardens, in addition to an overwhelming variety of floral possibilities that includes poinsettias ranging from \$5.25 to \$50 of all colors and variations, they have one of the most varied gift shops in the area.

How about a miniature "TV Set" that is also a music box for \$170. Or perhaps a music box Christmas ball with a winter scene inside \$95 or elegant jewelry box with a winter panorama for \$100.

Anyone interested in creating the ultimate holiday home display should consider the Mark Roberts' limited edition Santas which start at \$270 and go up to \$400. For less wallet impact there are snow globes at \$40 and frazer fir candles by Archipelago at \$30. The latter brings a Christmas tree scent to any room, even those with artificial trees.

And last, but never least, are gifts for pets. The four legged kinds of course that rule the family.

For the best of those choices go to **BARKLEY SQUARE**, otherwise known as Karing By Katrina. Once a bricks and mortar shop in the Del Ray section of Alexandria its gifts and services are now found only on-line at barkleysquare.com.

Barkley Square treats for pets include holiday meals at \$14.95, a chicken treat in the shape of a tree at \$3.50, and a gingerbread man at \$3, to mention only a few of the delicacies awaiting pets this holiday season.

Barkley Square Gourmet Dog Bakery and Boutique specializes in delicious treats, gifts and furnishings for dogs and cats. They also provide reliable and friendly pet sitting services.

Happy shopping! And, have A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a rewarding and prosperous NEW YEAR!



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I N T H E D I R T



Caring for Your Holiday Poinsettias

Deck the halls with a holiday classic: poinsettias. Available in shades from traditional red, to pastel pink, to purple, to white, to marbled and painted shades, you can easily find a plant to match your seasonal décor.

These timeless holiday bloomers do more than spread good cheer. According to studies by NASA, poinsettias purify indoor air, removing common household pollutants released by things like building materials, plastic grocery bags, inks, and man-made fibers.

Keep your poinsettias looking their best by following our list of do's and don'ts.

Poinsettia to-do list

- Transport your poinsettia in a sleeve or roomy shopping bag that covers the plant.
- Place your plant in bright, indirect light—enough light to read by.
- Give poinsettias temperatures of 65° - 70° F.
- Water when soil is dry to the touch.
- Remove any decorative plastic or foil sleeves around the pot. Set the plant in a saucer to catch water from drainage holes.

Don't do to poinsettias

- Don't expose plants to temperatures below 50° F.

- Don't place a poinsettia in direct sunlight.
- Don't position a plant near cold drafts or hot blasts of air. Display plants away from fireplaces, furnaces, heating ducts, or frequently used exterior doors.
- Don't allow a poinsettia to sit in water overnight.
- Don't keep your poinsettia in a sleeve for longer than transport time. When buying plants to give as gifts, don't store them in sleeves. Remove sleeves until you're ready to transport plants to their final destination.
- Don't fertilize your plant while it's flowering.

Are poinsettias poisonous?

Despite oft-repeated tales regaling the toxicity of poinsettias, these holiday trims lack a poisonous punch—to people or pets. Some individuals who are allergic to latex may experience a mild reaction if they contact the plant's milky sap. Other than that, this holiday charmer is a mild-mannered, safe addition to your seasonal celebrations.

A Few More Tips

- Place poinsettias in indirect light and away from hot or cold drafts.
- Water poinsettias only when the soil is dry. Don't allow plants to sit in water overnight.
- Remove poinsettias from sleeves as soon as you get them home.
- Keep plants warm. Temperatures below 50° F shorten the plant's life.

THE HOT SAUCE OF THE MONTH

We are on the brink of winter and the temperature outside is falling. So why not warm the heart and palate by adding some hot sauce to your favorite dishes?

This month I am recommending Chili Willy. Made in Belize, it is an all-natural hot sauce sharpened by West Indian Red Habanero peppers. The peppers used for this sauce are tree-ripened and hand-picked at the peak of their flavor and hotness to intensify the flavor. This is the first hot sauce I have discovered that uses tree-ripened and hand-picked ingredients. It shows. It is one of the most flavorful hot sauces I have tried.

On the hotness scale (one being Tabasco and five being hot as heck) Chili Willy rates a 2.5. Depending on how much you use it can add a mild heat or a good burn. Regardless of how much you use it will add great flavor to any dish. I added it to a egg and sausage sandwich and it was great. I also recommend using it in any chicken or meat dish, or even a bloody mary on a cold Sunday morning. This would be a great addition to a beef stew.

HEAT INDEX

You can find this wonderful hot sauce at www.chili-willy.com. They have some really good recipes on the site. Check out the Winter Cabbage Soup. I'm making some this weekend!

Contributed by Mike Sade

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Our Unique National Park

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH

There are many scenic vistas from the parkway, including this one at Dyke Marsh

Few of the harried commuters in the 50,000 to 70,000 vehicles that whiz up and down the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) realize that they are zipping through a national park. After all, there's no "Old Faithful" spewing gases or buffalo grazing in a broad valley. No one plans a trip to visit it and there's no visitor center, but the parkway is in fact a unique national park.

You might see – twelve-spotted skimmer dragonflies fighting for territory or big bluet dragonflies mating, as a jet approaches National Airport; ospreys, gripping a fish in their claws, en route to their nestlings as a Blackhawk helicopter passes overhead; great egrets and great blue herons feeding in mudflats under Interstate I-95; red-eared slider turtles sunning on a log; a nodding pogonia, a rare forest plant, or if you really look, Stygobromous tenuis potomacus, the Potomac ground-water amphipod; and wild rice billowing in the breeze.

The Parkway's planners envisioned a unique roadway to preserve and enhance the Potomac River valley, to keep both banks of the river in public ownership and to pay tribute to the nation's first President, George Washington by creating a grand gateway to the first president's home, Mount Vernon, at the road's southern terminus. Lt. Col. Peter Hains, who conducted the first land survey told Congress that the parkway should "have the character of a monumental structure, such as would comport with the dignity of this great nation . . . and the grandeur of character of the man to whom it is dedicated. . . It should be such a work as no American need feel ashamed of."

Today, unlike the multi-laned, superhighway gray slabs of pavement with views of a tractor trailer in the next lane, the parkway is in fact a people-oriented national park, with many sweeping vistas,

tion, compared to other national parks especially. It is a slow-speed thoroughfare, an array of units combining the natural, historic and recreational sites with over 7,000 acres of parkland along its 40 miles mostly paralleling the Potomac River shoreline. There are 25 possible stops in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D. C., many associated with the first president.

The first part built, the pre-World War II Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway, was designed for vehicles going 35 to 45 miles per hour (mph). Its successor, the George Washington Memorial Parkway, anticipated speeds of 59 to 60 mph. Post-war sections have longer curves and continuous safety medians.

When the first segment from Arlington Memorial Bridge to Mount Vernon was dedicated in 1932, the parkway was hailed as "America's Most Modern Motorway." Its builder, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Public Roads demonstrated principles of modern highway design like overpasses, cloverleaves, limited access, widely-spaced exits and entrances and tree-lined rights-of-way. The road became a model all over the world. Its plans were used to develop Germany's Autobahn.

In 2005, the Virginia section was designated by the U.S. Department of Transportation as an "All-American road" in the National Scenic Byways program because of its multiple intrinsic qualities that are nationally significant and one-of-a-kind features.

Today the George Washington Memorial Parkway has two sec-

tions: the 25-mile Virginia section from Mount Vernon estate north to I-495 and the seven-mile Clara Barton Parkway in Maryland.

Local "Pork"?

The Parkway was built in stages from 1929 to 1970.

The genesis is attributed to a group of local business people called the Mount Vernon Avenue Association, who in the 1880s hatched a grandiose plan for a national road from Washington to Mount Vernon. They envisioned each state having a section with grand monuments honoring its most famous and noble people, an American Appian Way. The road project idea was set aside in the 1890s when between 1892 and 1896 the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Electric Railway was built through Alexandria to Mount Vernon Estate, a popular trolley that transported Mount Vernon visitors, locals and even farm goods.

In the early 1900s, as tourists in automobiles mushroomed and getting to Mount Vernon was six-hour slog via what some called an "unsightly" U.S. 1, Congress decided to celebrate the bicentennial of George Washington's birth by authorizing the construction of the Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway, connecting sites associated with the first president and offering recreational opportunities. The first segment was completed on time in 1932.

Stop-and-go construction, hampered by funding disputes, proceeded for the next 40 years. By the late 1940s, the road went as far north as Spout Run. The

northern part of the parkway was mostly built in the 1950s and 1960s. A major driver was deciding to locate the Civilian Intelligence Agency's (CIA) headquarters at Langley. President Eisenhower formally opened this part of the road to traffic at a 1959 ribbon cutting. By 1962, the parkway reached the new Beltway to facilitate traffic to the new Dulles Airport.

While crawling through Congress over the years, the parkway plan survived a number of hurdles. The Potomac River Corporation unsuccessfully pushed a hydroelectric dam above Great Falls and Chain Bridge. In what may be an early example of those infamous Congressional "earmarks," some members of Congress decried the parkway proposal as "pork." Threatening to defund it, Michigan Representative Louis Cramton labeled it "the most extravagant piece of road building that this country has ever known." New York's Congressman Fiorello LaGuardia complained that it was "sordid material," really a local project deceptively disguised as a memorial: "O Memorial, how many appropriations have been passed in thy name?" he thundered. The bill passed.

Originally, the parkway was supposed to go from Mount Vernon to just above Great Falls in Virginia and in Maryland, from Fort Washington to just above Great Falls. The Maryland part was never built, some say because there was no equivalent to the CIA and Dulles Airport driving it on the Maryland side. A Mary-

▼ See EXPLORE on page 30



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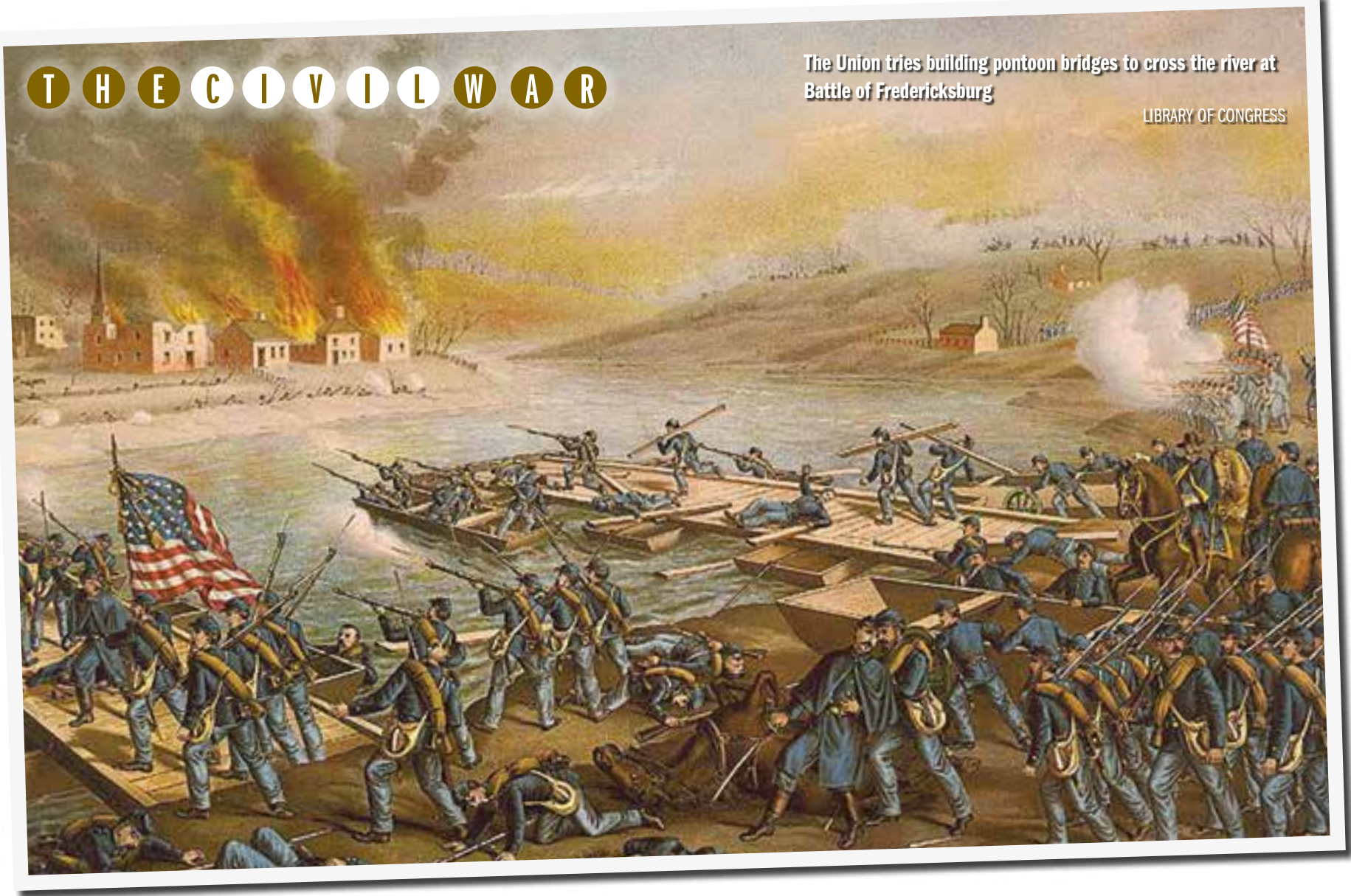
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CIVIL WAR SERIES NO.15

Merry Christmas Mr. Lincoln

1862: New General's Christmas Attempt to End the War Fails

BY CHUCK HAGEE

Christmas season 1862 was anything but “peace on earth -- goodwill toward men” when it came to the American Civil War. Instead, it heralded another horrendous battle between the North and South that solidified the realization that the nation was in for a long, brutal struggle that would soak the earth with blood.

Following the Battle of Antietam, which remains the costliest battle in number of lives lost in a single day in American history, there was a feeling of optimism in the North that the war could be brought to an early end. This evaporated on December 16, 1862 with the final shots at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia.

As the smoke cleared and both sides disengaged, The Union counted 12,700 killed, wounded, and missing while The Confederacy suffered 5,300 in those categories. And, President Abraham Lincoln concluded that his newly appointed General of The Army of The Potomac had gotten him no closer to peace than the one he had just removed from Command.

The genesis of the Fredericksburg battle occurred on November 7, 1862, when Lincoln replaced General George B. McClellan with General Ambrose E. Burnside. Totally frustrated with McClellan's overly cautious approach to combat, Lincoln saw Burnside as someone who would be more aggressive in taking the war to the Confederacy and thereby bringing it to an early conclusion.

Shortly after taking command, Burnside proposed a bold move to take the 120,000 troops of The Army of The Potomac from its encampment near Warrenton to Fredericksburg. The plan

had a two-fold objective: First, to position an overwhelming Union force between General Robert E. Lee's Confederate forces and Richmond, the Capital of The Confederacy; and secondly, establish a secure supply line for the Union forces.

Lincoln not only gave his full support to Burnside's plan but urged that it be activated quickly. With the support of his Commander In Chief, Burnside did just that, putting his troops on a fast march for Fredericksburg on November 15.

He also initiated a new command structure dividing the Union juggernaut into three “grand divisions.” The first arrived just opposite Fredericksburg on November 17.

This fast pace and change in strategy caught Confederate Commanding General Robert E. Lee off-guard after he had also split his 78,000 man force into two units – one under the command of General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson and the other commanded by General James Longstreet. Jackson and his forces

were in the Shenandoah Valley and Longstreet was in Culpeper. Neither was anywhere close to Fredericksburg.

However, the weakness of Burnside's strategy was that he could not establish his Fredericksburg base of operation without first crossing the Rappahannock River. He also had to bring in engineers and pontoon bridge equipment to enable his troops to cross because the regular bridges had been destroyed earlier in the war.

Both the engineers and equipment were delayed through a series of events ranging from Washington bureaucracy to bad weather which caused his troops to arrive before the work was completed placing them in a critical defensive position. Fredericksburg is situated in a geological bowl bordered by the river on the east and hills on the west.

Burnside had counted on a swift, unopposed crossing of the river. That was now impossible. But, Lincoln was counting on the Burnside plan because winter was closing in which would soon

bring fighting to a near halt until spring, allowing Lee time to rebuild after the Antietam slaughter. Inaction was not an option.

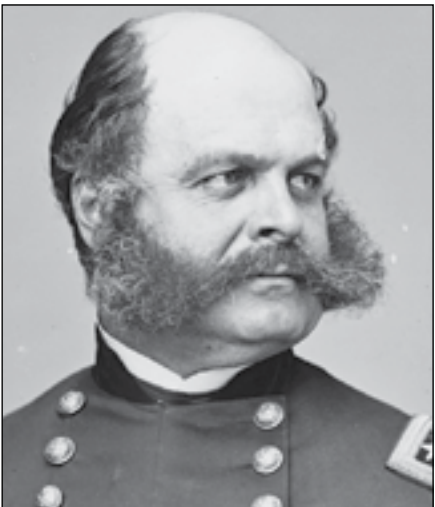
In the meantime, Lee had made strategic adjustments to his plans and now ordered both Jackson and Longstreet to head for Fredericksburg. Longstreet's forces arrived November 19 and fortified the hills behind the city with heavy artillery. Jackson arrived a week later and took up a position 20 miles downstream on the Rappahannock.

This dual positioning gave Lee two advantages over Burnside. He oversaw a long stretch of the river that Burnside needed to cross and he held high ground forcing the Union troops to literally fight an uphill battle.

Burnside came up with a bold plan to have his engineers build pontoon bridges in three locations thereby presenting the Confederate forces with multiple defensive actions and splitting their effectiveness. He theorized this would allow him to get his superior forces across the river, route Longstreet and his troops and force them to retreat toward Richmond.

Burnside put his plan in motion on the morning of December 11. As the Union engineers pushed their bridge pontoons into the river, rifle fire rang out from the Fredericksburg side. The Union troops were sitting ducks. After nine attempts by the engineers the effort was halted due to heavy casualties.

Frustrated, Burnside decided to blast Fredericksburg into oblivion by turning the 150 cannons of General Henry Hunt loose. He assumed that this barrage would obliterate Longstreet's infantry troops thus allowing his engineers to complete their



Generals Burnside (left) and Jackson faced off during the winter of 1862.

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▼ See CHRISTMAS '62 on page 21

work. Hunt maintained his bombardment for two hours. When it ended the engineers again went into the river to complete their task. But, again they were greeted with rifle fire. And, again the river claimed their bullet-riddled bodies.

Burnside changed strategy again. This time he ordered a pontoon boat crossing of the 400 foot expanse of water. Once on the Confederate side Union troops encountered a fierce defense by Confederates that resulted in one of the few instances of urban warfare during the Civil War.

This went on until nightfall when the Confederate troops fell back and the fighting subsided allowing the engineers to complete their bridge building, enabling Burnside's main force to enter the city the next morning – December 12.

Burnside could have then seized the initiative to put his strategy in motion. Instead the Union troops spent the day looting and destroying property allowing Lee time to bring Jackson up from this position downriver.

Now the Confederate troops, composed of both Longstreet's and Jackson's forces, were able to take up critical positions without any interference from the Union Army. Longstreet positioned cannons on high ground along five miles of Lee's front and five divisions of infantry at the base area behind a protecting stone wall.

Jackson "stacked" his infantry to a depth one mile. This put any Union offensive in a cross-fire on an open plain.

Burnside commenced his attack on the morning of December 13. It was led by General George Meade's Pennsylvania Division and headed straight for Jackson's stepped defense one mile in front of them. Then all hell broke loose as artillery fire from Confederate Major John Pelham's guns rained down on the advancing Union forces.

When the bombardment ceased due to Pelham running out of ammunition, Burnside had Meade return to his game plan and again advance on the Confederate entrenchment. However, this time they were up against the battle-hardened and experienced "Stonewall" Jackson who let them advance to within 500 yards of the tree covered hills where 14 Confederate cannons were silently positioned above them.

At just the right moment Jackson unleashed his artillery blasting large holes in Meade's advance. This was met by a Union cannon bombardment which triggered an hour-long artillery duel.

As the big guns fell silent Meade ordered a bayonet charge against the Confederate troops. However, when they got to what should have been the point of engagement they found only

open space -- a 600 yard gap in Jackson's defense line.

The Confederate General, upon learning of this gap, ordered it filled from his reserve troops and subsequently drove the Union forces to the Richmond Stage Road. But, the Confederate counterattack was then stopped by Union artillery.

When Union forces were unable to dislodge Jackson's defenses, Burnside abandoned his original plan and ordered Major General Edwin Sumner's Right Grand Division to attack. This meant Union forces had to leave the city and advance over open ground to the base of the hills guarded by Confederate infantry protected by the stone wall and overseen by Confederate cannonade above.

The outcome was predestined. Advance after advance met with withering cannon and rifle fire. In just one hour 3,000 Union soldiers lay on the battlefield. Not one even got close to the stone wall.

Burnside's fruitless assault continued through December 14 and 15. Then, on the evening of December 15-16, under the cover of darkness, Burnside gave up the assault and withdrew his remaining troops to Stafford Heights as his engineers destroyed the very bridges they had paid so highly to construct.

The Battle of Fredericksburg was over and the hopes for a quick end to the United States Civil War vanished with it. Lee had suffered approximately 5,300 casualties while Burnside's numbers reached nearly 13,000.

As bloody as it was and as significant a victory it was for the Confederacy, the Battle of Fredericksburg, in the final analysis, had little impact of the outcome of the war except to guarantee its elongation for another three years. The North was more than able to replenish its supply of troops and supplies for the future while the South struggled to do the same.

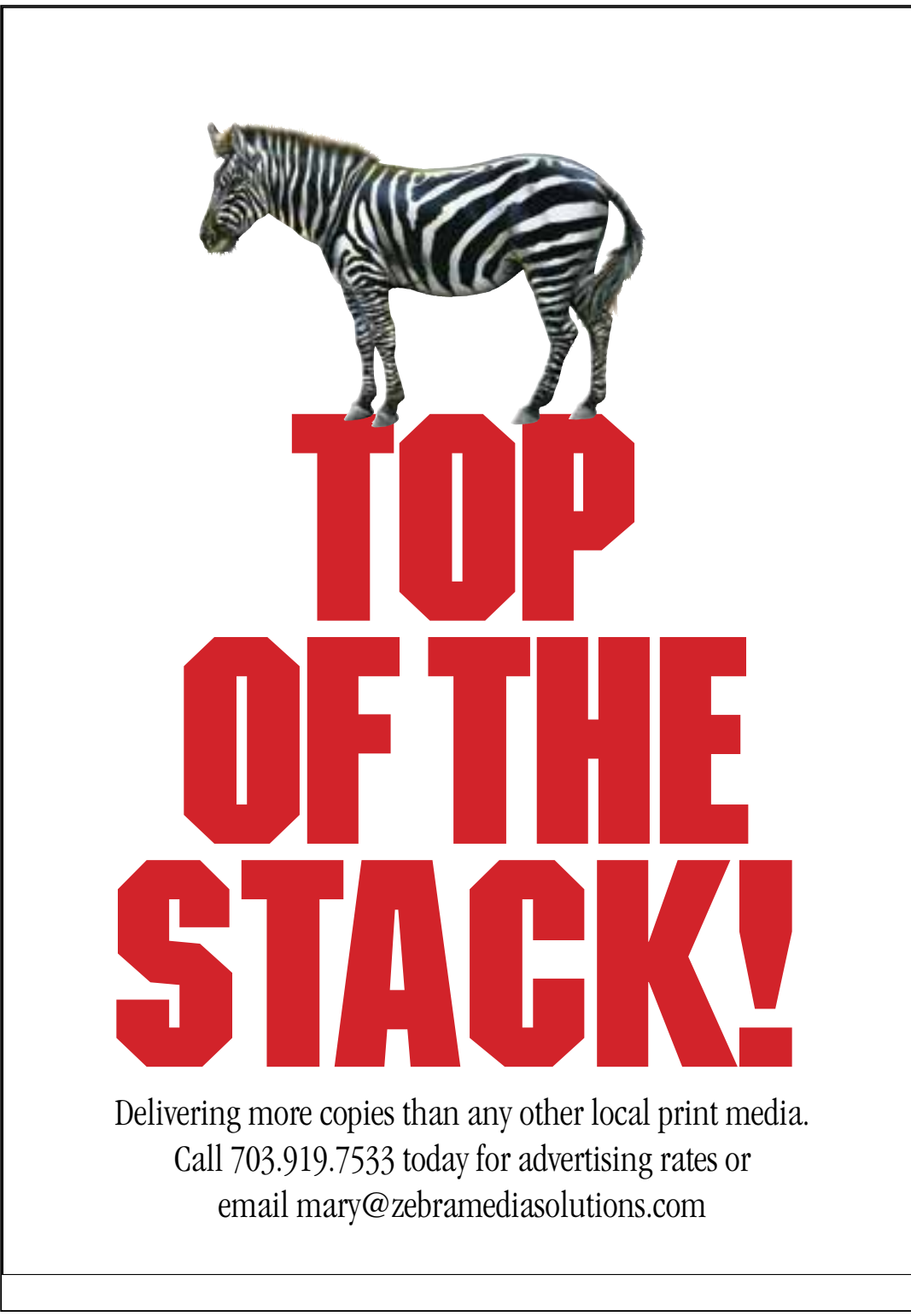
On December 31, 1862, instead of any New Year celebration President Lincoln met with General Burnside to discuss what went wrong with his grand plan to end the war early. On that same day the Union's ironclad "Monitor" sank in a storm off the east coast.

A friend of Lincoln's, who visited him in the White House following the Battle of Fredericksburg, reported the President asking rhetorically, "What has God put me in this place for?" and stating, "If there is a place worse than hell, I am in it."

The only good thing to come out of December 1862 was that the U.S. House of Representatives on December 10 passed legislation to formally create the State of West Virginia. It came about when the citizens of western Virginia refused to secede from the Union and join the Confederacy.



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Grave markers at Freedmen's Cemetery
COURTESY PHOTO

Alexandria's Misplaced Honors

Freedman's Cemetery: A reminder of our inextricable link to the institution of slavery

BY CHUCK HAGEE

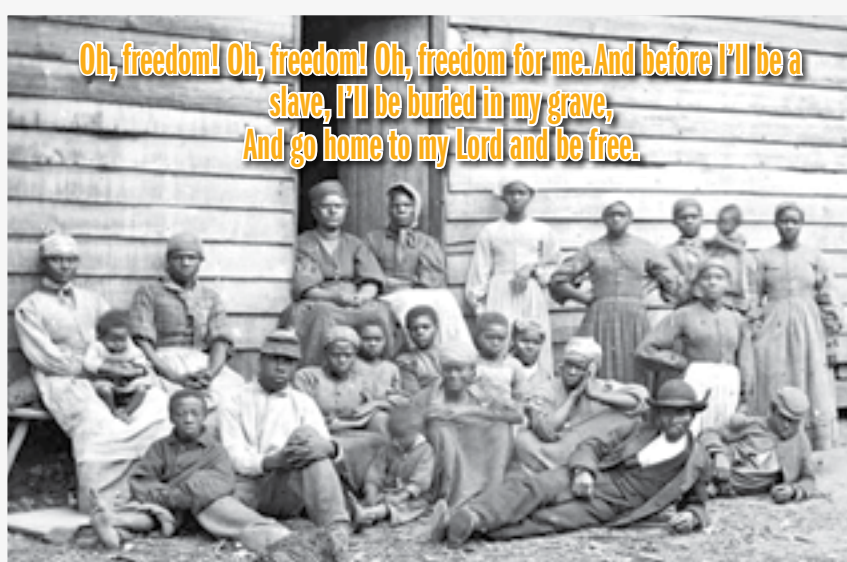
Anyone driving along Alexandria's South Washington Street, entering or leaving the City, has noticed the construction underway on the southwest corner. Most know that it is site of the future Contraband and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial to be dedicated to freed slaves who were buried on the site during The Civil War.

But, how many actually know the history behind the cemetery's establishment, its years of desecration, and its ultimate rediscovery and rededication? Or how it was rediscovered, originally in the 1890's by the Alexandria Brick Company, and then again during the construction of the new present Woodrow Wilson Bridge?

The original burial land was established by the federal government in January 1864 by Brigadier General John P. Slough, military governor of Alexandria and Superintendent of Contraband, who confiscated it from a family of Confederate sympathizers who fled the area upon the occupation of Alexandria by Union forces at the commencement of The Civil War. During its existence it became the final resting place for an estimated 1,700 freed slaves and some African American Union soldiers.

However, in the latter case, many of those soldiers, who were being treated in the city's hospitals, demanded that they be interred in the "Soldiers Cemetery" on Wilkes Street along with their white comrades. That caused the transfer of many already buried at Freedmen's Cemetery to Alexandria National Cemetery in 1865.

The last recorded burial at Freedmen's Cemetery took place five years after its establishment in January 1869. Most of those buried there had been residents of what is now Old Town Alexandria and rural areas adjacent to the city. A record book from that period provides the names, ages, sex, and in some cases, the cause of death and next of kin of those buried there. More than 800 were



"Contrabands" at Cumberland Landing, Virginia, 1862.

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children under the age of five.

In 1869 when federal control of the city ended, Freedmen's Cemetery, which had never been purchased by the federal government, reverted to private ownership. From that point on it went

through a series of uses that obliterated not only the history of the site but also, in many cases, the gravesites themselves.

"The story of this site is the story of survival. The slaves who came here did so through Confederate lines from

further south. They were trying to get to Alexandria to be behind Union lines. And, since in many cases, they were not legally free, they were considered "contraband," said Pam Cressey, Alexandria archaeologist, at the 2008 Memorial competition event.

Over the years, from its reversion to private ownership, the plot underwent a wide array of uses. Prior to the city's acquisition it was the site of a gasoline station and office buildings. Some of the graves even stretched under South Washington Street, according to URS Greiner Woodward Clyde, a cultural resource management firm who conducted test excavations in 1999-2000.

Rediscovery of the cemetery occurred in 1987 through archival research by then City Historian T. Michael Miller. In 1997 Lillie Finklea and Louise Massoud formed the Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery "to protect the site and increase awareness."

In 2007 the City officially acquired the site which led to the removal of the gasoline station as well as the office buildings immediately behind it on Church Street. Following that an archaeological dig commenced to identify as many grave sites as possible.

In May 2007 a rededication/reconsecration ceremony was held highlighted by 1,800 luminaries acknowledging those buried there. It also signified the opening of a design competition for the memorial.

It is intended that, upon completion, the memorial site will be a solemn and reverent place, offering opportunities for reflection, commemoration, and education. As Cressey noted at the time, the ultimate goal of the memorial is to say "Yes, your name will be remembered."

As significant as it is, the discovery of Freedmen's Cemetery is only a small part, historically speaking, of this site. Through the efforts of Alexandria's archaeological team, it has been established that its identifiable history dates back at least



This photograph may be the only extant image of Freedmen's Cemetery. Taken in 1899, it depicts an Alexandria Brick Company wagon with Freedmen's Cemetery atop the hill in the background. The brick manufacturer was located to the southwest of the cemetery, and removed clay from the west slope of the hill, reportedly exposing some graves in the early 1890s.

COURTESY PHOTO

▼ See FREEDMAN'S CEMETERY on page 23



Freedmen's Cemetery Site Before the Spring 2007 demolition of the gas station

COURTESY PHOTO

▲ FREEDMAN'S CEMETERY from page 22

13,000 years.

That occurred with the discovery of a Clovis Point. It comes from an era known to archaeologists as the Paleo-Indian period that took place between 18,000 and 12,000 years ago. Until this discovery, the oldest known Alexandria artifact was a 9,000 year old Kirk point found at Jones Point Park.

Discovery of the Clovis point provides the first concrete evidence that Native Americans inhabited Alexandria during the Paleo-Indian period. Clovis points were crafted and used by bands of hunters as the glaciers from the last Ice Age began to melt. Discovery of the tool indicates that the Freedmen's Cemetery site was once occupied by early Native Americans.

Upon analysis it was concluded that the broken point was once part of a spear that had been



An example of a typical Clovis Point made 13,000 years ago found at Freedmen's Cemetery site.

COURTESY PHOTO

reworked or reshaped so that it could continue as an effective implement. Clovis is often identified by its ground, concave base, bifacial blade, and fluted channel, which allows the point to be halved or attached to a spear.

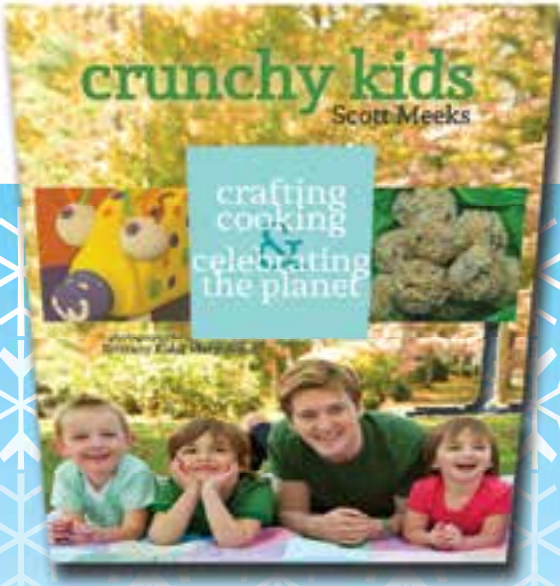
After the Civil War, Freedmen's Cemetery was transferred to the newly created Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands. When Congress curtailed the Bureau's functions in 1868 the cemetery was closed.

In 1917 it was conveyed to the Catholic Diocese of Richmond which maintained the oldest southern Catholic cemetery, Saint Mary's, immediately across South Washington Street, in the Commonwealth. In 1946 the plot was rezoned for commercial use and sold. The rest is history -- before and into the future.

“

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— Bernard Manning



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“My only regret in life is that I did not drink more champagne.”
John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946)

Time for Sparkling Wine

‘Tis the season to enjoy a bit of effervescence and ascending stars in our glasses – in short, ‘tis the season for Champagne and other bubbles. Good thing the Vino Vixen™ has been sampling the bubbly all year round and perfectly pleased to be your guide to pouring the perfect potation for the season...

The Basics

Champagne VS Sparkling

Champagne is a region in France – just outside of Paris. Only those sparkling wines produced in Champagne, France may rightly be called “Champagne.” The designation “Champagne” was legally protected in 1919 with the Treaty of Versailles – the treaty that ended World War I. All countries who signed this agreement committed to protecting the Champagne denomination. Sparkling wine from Spain would be called Cava. From South Africa – Cap Classique. From Germany – Sekt. From Italy – Asti. Although the United States was not a signatory to the Treaty, the majority of the American wine industry respects the Champagne designation and refrains from labeling their sparkling wine as “Champagne.”

The Grapes

Champagne is produced with one or all of three grapes – Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Meunier. A Champagne produced solely with Chardonnay grapes is normally referred to as a “Blanc de Blanc” (white wine from white grapes). If made Pinot Noir and/or Pinot Noir are used, the Champagne is normally labeled “Blanc de Noir” (white wine from black grapes). The prime difference between the two is that blanc de blancs are typically a bit more delicate and blanc de noirs have a tad more backbone. As a general rule of thumb, I serve blanc de blancs as aperitifs and blanc de noirs with food. The third type of Champagne is Rose. A rose is beautiful to look at, and even more gorgeous to sip. Produced in two ways – most typical with a bit of Pinot Noir or Pinot Meunier added to the Champagne cuvee. The other method is allowing the skin of the “noir grapes” (Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier) to stay in contact with the must long enough to impart the



THE VINO VIXEN

desired salmon or pink color. Rose Champagne is not sweet.

VINO VIXEN PICKS

Under \$20

At this price range, you will not find a true Champagne. But, some lovely bubbly do exist under \$20. Two of my favorites:

Jean Baptiste Adam \$15

Cremant D’Alsace - Alsace, France

The winery was founded in 1614 and remains in the same family today. Cremant is a French term for a sparkling wine outside of Champagne that is produced in the Méthode Champenoise (the Champagne method) – meaning this sparkler has the veritable quality of a Champagne for half the price. This is a delicate Cremant with fine, pinpoint bubbles, and light citrus fruit. Great value and all that French on the label makes it look misleadingly expensive.

Domaine Chandon \$15

Sparkling Rose - Carneros, CA

This gorgeous salmon colored sparkler gets that lovely hue with an added dose of Pinot Noir just before final bottling (triage). The fruit is bright and lively with notes of juicy strawberry and a hint of green apple.

Under \$50

Piper-Heidsieck -\$38

N/V Brut - Champagne, France

Toasty oak with just a hint of nutmeg, and a lingering citrus finish. This Champagne has been one of my favorites this year. It has the structure to complement a meal, and the balance to enjoy as an aperitif. For a stunning visual presentation of their Champagne, check out their website at www.piper-heidsieck.com.

Taittinger -\$38

N/V Brut Reserve - Champagne, France

This Champagne is the Audrey Hepburn of Champagnes. Delicate, refined, and elegant. The perfect aperitif to kick off a party – for two or two

▼ See BUBBLES on page 25

CAT IN A BOX

This is Jim, taking it easy in a Christmas box.

— Kelsie, Alexandria, VA

Send your **Cat in A Box** photos to mary@thezebra.org and we'll get them published as soon as we can.

▲ BUBBLES from page 24

hundred and two. Has a creamy mousse (bubbles) and notes of pear and a hint of floral.

Over \$50

Veuve Clicquot - \$58

2002 Vintage (Gold Label) - Champagne, France

Produced only in exceptional years, the most recent being 2002, this Champagne is big, yeasty, and very gutsy. Skip the typical yellow label Veuve and spend a few extra dollars for the vintage. 2002 is made up of 60% Pinot Noir, 7% Pinot Meunier and 33% Chardonnay from only Premier or Grand Cru lots. This Champagne has powerful notes of brioche and hints of spice. Not for the shy or reserved, this Champagne is a show stopper. Cliquot is famous for their whimsical Champagne cases and buckets that often accompany their prestige bottles. Ask your retailer if she has any extra in the back room with your purchase.

Gosset - \$80

1999 Grande Millesime - Champagne, France

Founded in 1584, Gosset is the oldest Champagne House in France. With over 400 years of experience, you just know they can turn out a fabulous Champagne. The 1999 vintage

is 56% Chardonnay and 44% Pinot Noir. The blend results in a racy Champagne with notes of apricots and fig – a very exotic and evocative wine. \$80 is a relative steal for a Champagne of such complexity and quality. This one will age well for at least 8 more years – growing more complex and interesting with each year.

The Last Word

Now is the time to find Champagne values. Retailers stock up during the holidays and for the New Year's celebrations. Distributors and importers often run discounts during this very competitive period and are vying for your palate's attention. Check the Times Community wine inserts and ads for prices even lower than I listed here.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

The Vino Vixen™ is Mari Stull – Syndicated wine columnist, correspondent for Wine Taste TV, and member of the Society of Wine Educators. See her picks in this month's Travel Girl Magazine. Have a wine question or comment for Mari? She can be reached at VinoVixen@vinovixen.org.

2 PICK OF THE MONTH!



Do you like getting samples at the cosmetics counter or want to try the newest and hottest products in your own home without having to invest big bucks? Then **BIRCHBOX** is for you! For only \$10 a month, you can receive a Birchbox sampler (or order a gift subscription) filled with the latest cosmetics, body care and “lifestyle extras,” such as healthy snacks.

Packaged in an elegant, petite box, it's like receiving a little (budget-friendly) gift every month. November's Birchbox for women (they also have one for men) included good-size samples of Archipelago body soap, Lulu Organics hair powder, Mox Botanicals lip butter, a SOYJOY snack, and a full-size ModelCo lengthening mascara featuring a mirror on the tube for easy applications on the go. Visit birchbox.com for more information.

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A Light for All Reasons

’TIS THE SEASON OF BRIGHT LIGHTS AND MERRIMENT, BUT NOT IF THOSE LIGHTS ARE FLASHING ON YOUR DASHBOARD

They are there to warn you of a possible problem that either is occurring or is about to occur. There are red ones and yellow ones. In keeping with the season, keep a sharp eye out for the red ones – they are the really important ones. Many of these lights are in the form of symbols depicting the operating system experiencing trouble.

There are three red lights that appear when particularly critical trouble arrives:

Engine Temperature Light

If this warning signal comes on while the car is in operation stop as soon as safely possible and call for help. However, NEVER open a hot radiator. Doing so can result in severe scalding

Engine Oil Light

If this appears while driving, again stop as soon as it is safe and seek help. If the car is only low on oil add what is required. If this extinguishes the warning light you can then continue. But, it is wise to have the engine checked for any leaks as soon as possible.

Battery/Alternator Light

This indicates that trouble is brewing within the vehicle’s electrical system. This warning light does not mean you have to stop immediately. But, it does require investigation as soon as possible or the vehicle will stop on its own and that usually occurs at the least convenient time and location.

In addition to these three harbingers of trouble there are a whole series of other warning lights in most of today’s vehicles that are important alerts of potential trouble. But, these indicators most often do not require immediate stopping.

The Anti-Lock Brake System Light

ABS is an alert to have the vehicle’s brakes checked. This should not be delayed any longer than absolutely necessary in order to prevent serious damage to the overall braking system which can result in a major expense.

SRS

If the Supplemental Restraint Light (SRS), which pertains to the seat belt and air bag, comes on after your seatbelts have been properly engaged it’s a warning to get the restraint system checked. If this is not operating properly driver and passengers could be at serious risk in the event of an accident.



DENNIS WHITESTONE

TPMS

With the price of gasoline today, it is financially prudent to have your vehicle operating as efficiently as possible. One way to accomplish this is to make sure the tires are properly inflated at all times.

That’s what the Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) is designed to do. And, in many vehicles, there is a dashboard light

for that as well. If it glows check all tires for the proper pressure. Low tire pressure not only reduces gasoline mileage but also results in undue wear on the tire which shortens its life span at the least and/or possibly can cause an accident in a worst case scenario.

Check Engine Light

Many vehicles also have a Maintenance Service Light. If that is illuminated it’s time for a regular checkup or there could be a malfunction within the engine of some nature.

All dashboard warning lights are there to alert the driver of some possible trouble. They are NOT to be ignored. That is particularly true of the Check Engine Light.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has mandated standards for pollution control in order to lower greenhouse emissions. The Check Engine Light or, in some vehicles, the Service Engine Soon Light, is a warning that your vehicle is not in compliance with these standards.

However, don’t rush to get service before you check the gas cap to make sure that it is properly tightened. A loose gas cap can cause this light to illuminate. A few clicks while tightening is sufficient. If the light remains on after a few days of driving then service is needed.

If the light is flashing seek service as soon as possible. This means you are damaging the catalytic converter which is an expensive item to replace coupled with repairing the root cause of the problem.

During this holiday season enjoy the decorative lights shining throughout area. But, don’t ignore the ones on your vehicle’s dashboard or any others referred to in your owner’s manual. It’s a sure way to take the “jolly” out of this holly, jolly time of year.

Editor’s Note: Washington Magazine in May 2012 selected Automotive Service Garage and Olde Towne Auto Body, 500 N. Fayette St, Alexandria, VA, owned and operated by President Dennis Whitestone, to its list of Top 70 Auto Repair Shops in the Washington Metro Area.

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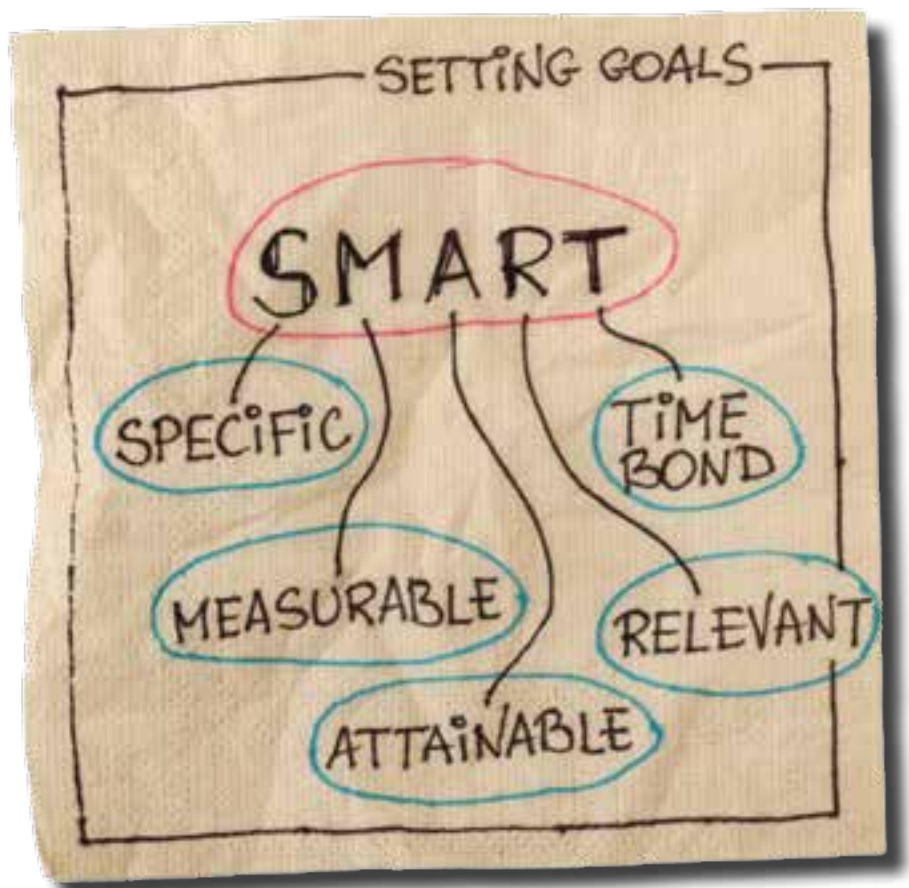
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Set SMART Goals for Success in the New Year

BY JASON LINETT, BCH, CI

Are you ready to set some big goals for 2013? Or are you ready to address the goals you previously set in 2012 and never got around to achieving?

As a Board Certified Hypnotist, I help people take control of their lives. My job is to help my clients get from where they are in life to where they want to be. We help people lose weight, quit smoking, overcome fears, improve confidence, and much more. In this column, I'll share with you some tips I've found to be helpful in setting goals and actually reaching them.

You may have heard of SMART goals. SMART is a helpful acronym to guide people setting goals. When you arrange the following themes in order, they spell the word "Smart:"

Specific:

What do you want to accomplish? Do you want to lose weight, or do you want to lose 20 pounds of unnecessary fat and fit into that suit you haven't worn in five years? Do you want to feel more comfortable speaking in public, or do you want to receive five new testimonial letters from business groups for whom you've spoken?

The more specific you make your goals, the better odds you'll have of achieving greatness.

Measureable:

How are you going to track your goals? How do you know when you'll be done? This may be just an extension of having truly specific goals, but it opens up the pathway to breaking a larger goal down into smaller ones.

I once had an airline pilot as a client who described the task of flying a plane as starting out with a perfect plan, and then constantly trying to get back on course. He shared that the moment the plane leaves the gate, it is as if it was already off course. The role of the pilot is then to adjust for wind, communicate with the ground, and safely land the plane at its destination. How will you track your progress even in moments if you get off track?

Attainable:

Is your goal realistic? Reaching a new goal may require some creativity, passion, and work. Is it something you can actually do?

How will you go about doing it? For example, if you want to lose weight, you're going to have to change some of your behaviors.

Do you have the skills necessary to reach the goal? I often give my clients the metaphor that

I can help an opera singer remove her stage fright, but her skill at hitting specific notes comes down to practice. I can help the golfer remove negative thoughts and performance anxiety, but it's up to him to pick the right club.

Relevant:

It needs to be YOUR goal. Can a real estate agent set the goal to make the world's biggest pancake? Sure she can ... but why?

We work with teenage athletes frequently in the office. They respond very well to hypnosis. I recently had a gymnast who absolutely loved the sport and wanted to overcome a fear of jumping and flying through the air, and a baseball player who told me he hated baseball and only played because it was what his dad wanted. Which client do you think was the easiest to motivate?

When a client shares a goal or a benefit they'd like to achieve through our process, I'll often ask, "What is it going to feel like once you've done that?" We call this Emotional Identification, the naming of an emotion that's either driving or will drive the behavior. If you can connect with the positive feeling associated with receiving the benefits of your goal, it is meaningful to you.

Timely:

What is it going to be like a month from now, a year from now, or even five years from now? Perhaps this is a goal that may take some time. Perhaps a bit of urgency is really what you need to stop procrastinating.

Keep track of your process, consider finding an accountability buddy, or seek the help of a professional who can help guide you efficiently to your result.

As a final thought, well-formed goals should always be positive. Give yourself positive incentive to achieve those goals, and strive toward what you want – not what you don't want.

Jason Linett is a Board Certified Hypnotist and the Director of Virginia Hypnosis, a solution-oriented hypnosis practice in Alexandria, Virginia. For more information, visit www.VirginiaHypnosis.com or call (703) 341-6655 for a free confidential consultation.




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Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Now thru December 23

Every Saturday and Sunday
Bike and Roll Alexandria
One Wales Alley
Alexandria
Santa and Mrs. Claus are back in Old Town Alexandria to take pictures with children every Saturday and Sunday between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The cost for pictures is \$15 for a 5x7 photo print, with other photo packages available on site. Presented by the Old Town Boutique District in partnership with the City of Alexandria and Bike & Roll Alexandria and area businesses.



Downton Abbey Marathon

December 26 - 28

Beatley Central Library
The library is airing seasons 1 and 2 in late December to give fans a chance to catch up on the series before season 3, which has already aired in the United Kingdom,

runs in the United States beginning Jan. 6. Marathon will run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 26, 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 27 and from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 28 at Beatley Central Library. Tea and biscuits will be served.

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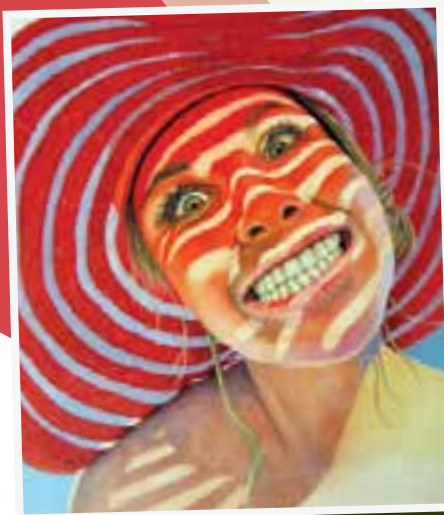


First Night Alexandria

December 31

Old Town Alexandria
firstnightalexandria.org
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This annual New Year's Eve bash takes over Old Town Alexandria with over 100 performances at 21 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, and children's face painting and games. The afternoon's Fourth Annual Fun Hunt is joined by all-new activities for families - and dogs! First Night's beloved fireworks finale returns at a NEW location, with a spectacular display over the Potomac River at midnight. Afternoon activities, 2 to 5 p.m. Performances, 7 to 11:45 p.m. \$15 before December 17; \$20 after. Children 12 and under and active military are free.



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Dreamgirls

Now thru January 13

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Dreamgirls captures the spirit and hope of Motown when a girl group from Chicago makes it big. In a business controlled by men, the female trio fights for recognition, fellowship and love as superstardom challenges their musical and cultural identity.

Joys of the Season Exhibit

Now Thru January 20

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Torpedofactory.org/target

An all-media exhibition featuring work by five Torpedo Factory artists. The artists were asked to respond to the question, "What does the winter season mean to you?"

Tavern Toddlers

Now thru April 30

10:30 am - 12 pm
Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134, North Royal Street
Gadsbystavern.org
703/746-4242

A special program for toddlers (walkers through 36 months) and their caregivers, featuring a weekly open playtime in the historic ballroom on Mondays, excluding Federal holidays, through the end of April. Craft changes weekly. \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, or purchase a 5-week pass for \$30. No reservations necessary.

If you want to have an event listed, please send an email to mary@thezebra.org.

A FH is always in need of foster homes!

It is fun and rewarding. Without enough foster homes we can't save as many pets. Since AFH tries hard to not use boarding facilities, we cannot accept new, deserving animals into our program without ready foster homes. If you are interested in making your home available for a deserving pet, please drop us an email at Foster@foreverhome.org.



Abner

(Male) • Breed: Maltese / Poodle Mix
Age: 5 Years • History: Shelter

Abner is a very sweet little guy. He's a bit hard of hearing, but nothing distracts him from flying to his foster mom and dad.



Baylie

(Female) • Breed: Boxer Mix
Age: 4 Years • Weight: 60 Pounds
History: Owner Release

I am housebroken and crate-trained, love to play, but might not do so well with a cat as I am fascinated by squirrels and would chase them if they let me.



Coaster

(Male) Breed: Cocker Spaniel
Age: 11 Years • History: Owner Release

Hi my name is Coaster. I am a healthy Cocker looking for a new home. I am very sweet and would love to find someone to love me like my mom loved me. I love to play with toys snuggle next to you.

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is a non-profit dog rescue group located in Chantilly, Virginia that operates in the Northern Virginia / Washington Metropolitan area. We strive to make quality dogs available for adoption and do our best to match prospective adopters with the right animal!

Because AFH is a 100% volunteer-run organization, we cannot function without your help. In particular, we need: foster homes, transporters for adoptions and vet visits, handlers at adoption days, and helpers at fundraising events. If you think you would like to help, e-mail: volunteer@foreverhome.org.



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The Perfect Dog

My son asked a question as little boys do
Of me in my wisdom and all that I knew.

"Is there a dog that is perfect?" he asked on a whim,
Well, I thought and I thought about where to begin.

"He'd have ears that were floppy... or cropped and alert
And eyes that were sleepy... or perky and pert,
He'd leap like a bunny or sit in your lap
And run fast as horses... or opt for a nap.

"A dog that is perfect would be covered in spots
Or maybe one-color ... and then have spots-not.

"He'd be small as a teacup... or big as a house,
With a nose that seemed flattened ... or long like a mouse,

"He'd swim and he'd hunt with a coat flying free
Or be dainty and delicate ... and 'He'd' be a 'She'

As I struggled to answer, and not with a clue,
My son, with a smile, said, out of the blue,
With the wisdom of children, what he already knew...

The dog that is perfect ... is the one next to you.

- John O'Hurley



Fiona

((Female) - Breed:
English Bulldog
Mix
Age: 14 Weeks •
History: Shelter

Fiona is a sweet little pup and a typical 3-month old; not housebroken as yet, into everything in a curious way, plays hard and then sleeps hard.

(Female) -
Breed: Terrier/
Hound Mix
Age: 5 Months
• Weight: 30
Pounds
History:
Shelter

Marcie is a sweet and smart puppy who is thought to be a hound-terrier mix. She is crate-trained, leash-trained, and housebroken. She learns quickly what she is allowed to play with and what is off limits.



Marcie

Snowy & Siblings

(Mixed Gender) • Breed: Great Pyrenees /
Labrador Retriever Mix
Age: 13 Weeks • History: Owner Release
to Shelter

Four pups were born to a pure-bred Lab mom and a Pyrenees dad.

Snowy (female),
Sneakers (female),
Stormy (male) and
Shadow (male) are
very sweet, playful
pups. They are smart
and gentle.





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**December 17, 6-8 pm: Animal Welfare League
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www.AlexandriaAnimals.org

December 18, 6-8 pm: Mines Advisory Group
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**December 20, 7-9 pm: Good Shepherd
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▲ EXPLORE from page 18

land section, today called the Clara Barton Parkway, did survive. Congress rejected suggestions that this road be called the Martha Washington Parkway and chose Clara Barton, to honor the founder of the Red Cross because her former home adjoins the parkway at Glen Echo.

In Harmony with Nature

Parkway designers sought to integrate the road’s design with the undulating terrain following natural contours and winding in gentle curves, featuring natural areas and scenic vistas of the Potomac River. Forested areas contrast with grassy areas. Over 250,000 trees, shrubs and vines have been planted over the years.

Sections between the 14th and Memorial Bridges were left open for sweeping views of the city across the river. Signs and lights are minimized; billboards are barred.

Most of the bridges consist of reinforced concrete faced with hand-laid, rough-cut stone for a natural look.

Today, the parkway’s natural areas are especially rich in biodiversity for an urban park. Identified so far are 245 species of birds, 25 mammals, 21 reptiles, 16 amphibians, 76 butterflies, 722 moths, 38 arachnids, 91 bees, 37 dragonflies and damselflies, 28 caddisflies, 466 beetles, 61 fish, 43 mollusks and 11 crustaceans.

The natural areas of the parkway are home to 81 species of plants and animals listed in Virginia or Maryland as rare, threatened or endangered. In 1995, *Stygobromus* sp. 15, a species of crustacean new to science was found in a freshwater seep. Another may have been found in Fort Hunt Park more recently. Turkey Run Park is the only known Virginia site for the Spectacled Nettle Moth (*Abrostol urentis*).

A 2011 plant survey by Brent Steury, National Park Service Natural Resources Program Manager of GWMP, documented 298 new vascular plants in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., bringing the known plants of the parkway to 1,313 taxa, representing 1,284 species. Seventeen may be the first records for Virginia and 15 of the newly-documented taxa are listed by Virginia as rare in the state, bringing the total to 37 state-rare plants found within GWMP. Despite management efforts, non-native plants comprise a disturbing 29 percent of the total.

Sites Known and Unknown

This national park offers some intriguing visitor experiences, some well-known and some tucked away. Examples:

Glen Echo Park, site of a 1921 restored Dentzel carousel and a 7,500 square foot dance hall where bands like the Dorsey Brothers, Woody Herman and Bill Haley and the Comets once performed.

The Potomac Gorge, a 15-mile, rugged river corridor, home to many rare plants, diverse habitats, one of NPS’s most significant natural areas. Nearby lie the remains of the former town of Matildaville.

Great Falls, a series of cataracts and falls, one of the most ecologically significant natural areas in the entire U. S. national park system. The Great Falls were extolled by one preservationist, quoting Lord Bryce who in 1913 wrote, “No European city has so noble a cataract in its vicinity as the Great Falls of the Potomac. . . .”



Turkey Run Park, which puts on a spring wildflower show when Eastern Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) carpet acres.

The 17-acre Lyndon B. Johnson grove with hundreds of white pines and dogwood trees, azaleas and rhododendrons and a 43-ton granite monolith quarried 35 miles from former President Johnson’s Texas ranch.

Jones Point, one of the few east coast lighthouses surviving today on the spot George Washington chose as the southern tip of the new 10-mile square U.S. capital district.

Tributes to war heroes, like the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Robert E. Lee Arlington House, Arlington Cemetery and the “Waves and Gulls” memorial, a tribute to the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps unique in the area because it is made of cast aluminum instead of stone.

A forest as natural as one could be in the metropolitan area at Theodore Roosevelt Island, formerly Analostan Island. Planners intended it to be “similar in character to the natural primeval forests which once covered this and others of the Potomac islands.” In the center is a memorial to Roosevelt.

The Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, a rare, 480-acre, freshwater, tidal, narrow-leaved cattail wetland, where marsh wrens that weave globular nests are barely hanging on.

The ruins of the J. W. Kruettner mansion near the Morningside Road turnoff. Kruettner was president of the American Portland Cement Association and the house may have been the first concrete house in the U.S. Visible today are the wine cellar, some walls, a balustrade and pieces of columns.

Near the Kreuttner ruins, waterlogged posts and beams protrude from the river, likely abandoned barges from the mid-20th century dredging that hauled away around half of Dyke Marsh or perhaps remains from the old Dodson Marina operated by a squatter known as Cig. Dodson whom NPS evicted.

Fort Hunt Park, with the Battery Commander’s Tower today looking much as it did when completed in 1902, built for the Spanish-American War and the nation’s coastal defense system. The commander, who could see down the Potomac River from the top, coordinated all the firing from the still-standing batteries.

Fort Hunt also was a top-secret World War II camp known only as P.O. Box 1142 and used for interrogating over 3,500 German prisoners of war.

And many romantic overlooks.

For more information, visit
www.nps.gov/gwmp

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