# **DECEMBER '14**









"A dog doesn't need to show his teeth as long as his growl's deep enough, his food bowl is full and he knows where all the bones are buried."

- Frank Underwood



Kevin Spacey talks to us about his lifelong love of the D.C. region, learning his craft and how Frank Underwood has changed entertainment for ever.

FREE

# CHINESE SNAPPING UP REAL ESTATE IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Looking south from Central Park at the Manhattan skyline. The tall building at center is the under-construction, The Chinese shopping spree of Northern Virginia real estate is beginning to ramp up, with wealthy buyers arriving by the droves from Shanghai, LAUNCH OF APP TO MOBILIZE DEL RAY COMMUNITY

The Mobile Pages, a mobile community growth-aggregating platform, has announced the launch of their first mobile community app, Mobilizing Del Ray, available for iOS and Android December 12, 2014. This mobile application offers Del Ray residents the ability to view local businesses' coupons and specials.

# EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

In the heart of Del Ray, at 203 East Custis Avenue, is a genuine find. With a spacious parking lot and more than 5,000 square feet of store space, is Del Ray Variety, an enchanting throwback to the old-fashioned general store meets the old Five and Dime or Woolworth's. You can walk in and buy a piece of penny candy and a Coke.

# ON THREATS, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

"I \_\_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear, that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same." It's a simple oath, taken by every single person who serves in the military. It is basically the same oath for EVERYONE.

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**DOGS DESERVE BETTER** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to freeing the chained and penned dogs and bringing our 'best friend' into homes and family. Our chapter in the Washington metropolitan area is part of the national website, www. dogsdeservebetternova.org.

We are a voice for chained and penned dogs, whose sadness speaks only through the eyes. As the days become years, many of these dogs sit, lay, eat, and defecate within the same 10-foot or less radius. They exist without respect, love, exercise, social interaction, and sometimes even basic nourishment. They live as prisoners, yet long to be pets. These dogs have love to give and want only to be part of a family. Once rescued, there is nothing but love to share with people. Dogs live in the moment and do not think about the past which is why dogs really are man's best friend.

## www.dogsdeservebetter.org



Angel (Spayed Female) Breed: Pit Bull mix Age: 7 years old Weight: 40-50 lbs

Angel, rescued due to neglect, is a wonderful girl who loves people. She has not been exposed to children and does not get along with other dogs.

So, Angel will do best as a single dog in an adult-only home. Angel will be thrilled to get all the attention from her people. Can you give this darling girl the forever home that she desires? She promises to love you forever.



#### Beanie (Neutered Male) Breed: Rat Terrier Mix Age: 2 years old

Beanie, an owner surrender, is an adorable and feisty little guy. His smile is so sweet and winning. This cutie has more energy than a Mexican jumping bean and loves to play. Beanie

gets along with other dogs. We are not sure how much obedience training he has had. But he is young and smart, so he should learn his lessons quickly. Since he is a very adept escape artist, Beanie must go to a home where he is not left unsupervised in a fenced yard or tied/chained up. His ideal home will be with someone who will provide him with daily vigorous exercise and/or playtime. Won't you make his dream of becoming the best friend of someone special come true? Beanie will repay you with cuddles, kisses, and lots of love.



#### Billy (Neutered Male) Breed: Chihuahua/ Dachshund Age: 2 years old Weight: 12 lbs

Billy, an owner surrender, is a nice little fellow who likes to be around people. Since Billy likes to play follow the leader, he

follows his people wherever they go. He can be playmates with both big and little dogs. While he likes being petted, he prefers that you pet him under his chin and not on his head. Because of his small size, he could live anywhere. He needs to find a new person or family to call his own. Can you provide Billy with the loving home that he needs? He will bring joy and laughter to those he loves. male dog to keep her company. Can you give Bonnie the chance to become the dog she is meant to be? She will repay you with adoring gazes, happy tail wags, and love always.



Chase (Neutered Male) Breed: Beagle mix Age: 5 years old Weight: 44 lbs.

Meet your new best pal – Chase, rescued from a hoarder! He is a wonderful guy who just wants to hang out with his person. Chase enjoys meeting

children in public, but prefers not to have children living full-time in his home. His favorite activities are going on long walks around the neighborhood, accompanying you on car rides or just sleeping by your feet. Chase also greets even the most simplistic tasks with enthusiasm. When it is time to check the laundry or wash dishes, he is right there with you. If you want to go to the dog park, he will beat you to the door. He is so cute that everyone wants to give him lots of hugs and belly rubs. Having his own dog bed, good food, and treats makes Chase very happy. Chase plays well with other dogs in day care and at the dog park. However, he would prefer to be the only dog in his home so he gets all of the attention. Chase wants to love and be loved by someone. Do you think that this happy, upbeat guy might be the dog for you? He will repay you with cuddles, kisses, and tail wags for life.



#### Chip (Neutered Male) Breed: Miniature Pincher mix Age: 4 years old Weight: 16 lbs

Chip, rescued due to neglect, is a super cute boy with a great personality. He is very amiable and gets along with

people and other dogs. This is a very fun-loving boy. Chip would like to find an active family with whom he can take walks, play a game of fetch or just watch TV. Because he was mistreated as a puppy, Chip is a little fearful of strangers. He would do best in a home with someone who is patient and understanding. Chip warms up quickly and gets very attached to his people. He must be placed in a home where there are no small children. Chip would like to find his special someone to love forever. Can you give this sweetie pie a loving home? He will give you his whole heart in return.



#### Lola (Spayed Female) Breed: Purebred Chihuahua Age: 3 years old

Lola, a puppy mill rescue, was used for breeding and was living outdoors. A rescuer found out about her situation and persuaded the owners to surrender her. She is such a

sweet, affectionate dog. This cutie pie just wants sit on your lap and give kisses. Because of her size, Lola does best with older children. She also gets along with other dogs. If you are looking for a wonderful companion, then Lola is your girl. Are you the special someone who will give Lola a forever home? She will repay you with adoring looks, happy tail wags, and loving years.



#### Lovey (Neutered Male) Breed: Jack Russell Terrier mix Age: 7 years old

Since being rescued from a shelter, Lovey is bouncing around happily. He has the most soulful eyes that are sure to win your heart. Lovey got his

name because he is so sweet and lovable. He wants to be a lap dog and get lots of hugs. His biggest wish is to find someone who will take him for walks, play with him, and love him always. Since he has not been around children, we do not know how he will react with them. It is best that he go to a home where there are no children or only children who are ages 14 and up. He plays nicely with his doggy pals. Can you provide Lovey with his forever home? He will entertain you with silly antics, give you memorable moments, and make you very happy every day.



#### Rocky (Neutered Male) Breed: Saluki mix Age: 1 year old

Rocky, an owner surrender, is a friendly guy who was brought to America from Qatar. This boy is very sweet, happy, and loving. He is good with children and other dogs of his size.

Rocky is very playful and needs a back yard or another place where he can run (je loves the dog park). Since Rocky has expressed a dislike for all things feline, he can only be placed in a cat-free home. Can you give him a forever home? He will repay you with adoring gazes, warm cuddles, and enough love to last a lifetime.



Bonnie (Spayed Female) Breed: American Staffordshire Terrier mix Age: 7-8 months old

This beautiful girl is Bonnie, rescued due to neglect. She has had a very rough life. This poor girl and her brother Clyde lived outdoors through heat,

wind, and rain. They had no food, very little water, and no medical care. When they were only five months old, Bonnie and Clyde were slowly starving to death. Luckily, they were rescued and got the medical attention they needed. Despite her horrible past, Bonnie has bounced back. She has a very sweet personality. This friendly girl likes people and other dogs. Since she had to chase small animals for food, a home with cats would probably not be a good idea. She needs to find an indoor home where she will get a soft bed, good food, and the comfort of loving arms. Her ideal home might also have a medium or large laid-back Dogs Deserve Better is in need of foster homes with extra love and patience to help shy dogs learn how to be brave and happy dogs. There is nothing like the delight you will feel when your foster dog feels safe and begins to enjoy life!

If you are interested in making your home available and are willing help a dog in need, contact info@dogsdeservebetter.org.



Sammie Sue (Spayed Female) Breed: Chihuahua mix Age: 2-3 years old

Sammie Sue wound up on Craigslist after she produced a litter of puppies for her owners. Luckily, a kind person saw her ad and rescued her. She

is such an adorable little gal with a delightful personality. Sammie Sue is wonderful with people, children, and other dogs. One of her favorite activities is playing with toys. This sweetie is working on refresher training in basic obedience. She is almost fully housebroken. Sammie Sue likes walks and does well on a leash. Please give this lovebug a home to call her own. She will repay you with happy times, gleeful fun, and unconditional love always.

#### Μ Ε C Ε B 2 4 D

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CHINESE SNAPPING UP REAL ESTATE IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA HEALTHY VENDING MACHINES ARRIVE AT CITY FACILITIES APOTHECARY MUSEUM TO CLOSE FOR REPAIRS LAUNCH OF APP TO MOBILIZE DEL RAY COMMUNITY POLK HONORS CROSSING GUARD OF ALMOST 50 YEARS CITY SEEKS HOLIDAY SHARING SPONSORS FOR CHILDREN. FAMILIES AND SENIORS IN NEED

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**'LIFESTYLE' SAFEWAY SET TO OPEN** WANDERING THE WEST END **COMING SOON** IN PASSING

# 

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA INVITES FAMILIES BEHIND THE SCENES **TENNIS COURTS GIVEN APPROVAL TO GO AHEAD BI COACH BERKMAN PREDICTS "IMPROVEMENT"** T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL GETS ITS FIRST HALL OF FAME ACPS EARNS HIGH MARKS FROM AP **U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES T.C. STUDENT AS ITS NEWEST BAND MEMBER** 

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# **Publisher's Note**

I have just about had it with Comcast. Unfortunately my neighborhood is held hostage by them because we are not allowed satellite systems and Verizon FIOS has not dug their trenches to install their fiber optic systems for us yet. So here I am, with the newest cable box they offer that has all sorts of bells and whistles as well as a hefty "bundle price" deal which included a land line I don't even have connected, and all the thing does is freeze and freeze all the while throwing up screen images that suggest I unplug the box and reboot the system. Aarghhhhhhhh!!

That's my holiday rant. On the brighter side, enjoy our latest issue and we will see you in January!

Happy Holidays, Mary Wadland, Publisher

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# **PUBLICATION DATES**

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# DANUBE!

Brenda Stanley and Pete Ruchlewicz cruising the beautiful Danube River in Budapest, Hungary in September 2014.

**ZEBRA SPOTTED ON THE** 

Send photos of Zebra read around the world, and we'll publish them as well as send you a gift certificate from an area restaurant or retailer. Submit to editor@thezebrapress. com with a caption.

it, we encourage you to find the errors we missed. The entry who finds the most wins a gift certificate from an area retailer or restaurant.

**CATCH OUR MISTAKES** 

If you have a keen eye and a sharp pencil, send your catches to editor@ thezebrapress.com.

Laurie Stearns of Alexandria caught more than 78 in our last issue!!! She wins a \$25 gift certificate from Greenstreet Gardens.



# DEADLINES

The deadline for the receipt of all new advertising materials is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, seven days prior to publication. Materials and space reservations will be accepted for proofed unchanged camera ready repeat ads until 5:00 p.m. Friday, the week before publication. Cancellations and changes cannot be accepted after Monday, the week of publication and no refunds will be made after that time. For advertisers wishing to see a proof before publication, the deadline for approval is Wednesday, seven days prior to publication.

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THE ZEBRA PRESS

Brenda and Pete just picked up a \$25 gift certificate from **Greenstreet Gardens!** 

44 FRIENDS MAKE THE WORST ENEMIES. SHAKE WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND, BUT HOLD A ROCK IN YOUR LEFT. WHEN YOU'RE FRESH MEAT, KILL AND THROW THEM SOME OF FRESHER. THE HIGHER UP THE MOUNTAIN, THE MORE TREASED OF THE PATH. WHEN THE MONEY'S COMING YOUR WAY, YOU DE COMING YOUR WAY, YOU DE COMMATS AND MATADORS. 77

# A LIFELONG ARTIST REDEFINES TELEVISION WITH 'HOUSE OF CARDS'

**FT'S BE FRA** 

#### **BY JOHN ARUNDEL**

In a city heavily populated with Hill staffers, lobbyists and other politicos who help run the machinery of government, Alexandria may be ground zero for Netflix watchers when the third season of "House of Cards" launches in the New Year.

The uber popular original series starring Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright has nearly 40 million fans, but perhaps few more obsessive than the ones who live here, who have taken to re-watching the second season (also available for streaming with audio commentary by the directors) and are awaiting Season 3 with nearly breathless anticipation.

"We'll watch until we're bored or pass out from exposure to sheer awesomeness," 26-year-old Brittney Morrett of Alexandria wrote in a Facebook invitation to a recent viewing party. When the new season arrives, around Valentine's Day, Morrett plans to invite more than a dozen friends into her living room to lap up the new episodes. Morrett, who says she's not a "huge TV watcher," is hooked on the show's sophisticated twists and unexpected turns, as are many of her friends, many of whom work in the political arena and see the true-to-life correlations in Frank and Claire Underwood. A staffer for a non-profit organization catering to Hispanic communities, Morett expects her guests to bring their own booze, and crash overnight if they over-indulge. In addition to chips and dip, Morett says she plans to serve homemade barbecue pork ribs, a nod to the specialty at Freddy's, the fictional hole-in-thewall restaurant frequented by Spacey's character.

The role of Francis Underwood a South Carolina congressman and House Majority Leader who plows his way through the Washington political thickets to become President of the United States — appears to have been tailor made for Spacey, who tends to be attracted to complex characters, exploring the darker sides of his character.

"I enjoy the process of working on a role, trying to serve the writer and bringing life to a part – no matter what the tone or material requires," Spacey told me during an interview on the House of Cards set near Baltimore. "With respect to House of Cards, we all wanted Season 2 to be better than Season 1 - and we are doing our level best to make Season 3 better than that." its annual meeting last July, attended by 7,000 travel professionals.

"Kevin Spacey has led a career of exceptional projects extending into various roles within the arts in front of the camera, on-stage and behind the scenes, continuing to entertain audiences while also working hard to defend the value and integrity of the arts," said Michael W. McCormick of Alexandria, the group's executive director.

"We were thrilled to have Kevin as a speaker for our 2014 Convention. His achievements and versatility are examples of the importance of adaptability and strong will to be successful in all walks of life."

Spacey's production company Trigger Street Productions, which he runs with his producing partner Dana Brunetti, has produced multiple award-winning movies including "Captain Phillips" (2014), starring Tom Hanks and "The Social Network," which won a Golden Globe for Best Picture and received multiple Oscar nominations. As executive producer playing the role of Frank Underwood, the beguiling, charismatic and ruthless House Majority Whip, Spacey won a Webby Award and was nominated for both an Emmy Award and a Critics Choice Award. The series was also nominated for nine Emmy Awards in its first season; winning three of those

awards including Best Director.

Spacey has won Academy Awards for his performances in "The Usual Suspects" and "American Beauty." He has also been nominated for seven Golden Globe Awards, most recently for his role in "Casino Jack." Spacey's film credits include "Swimming with Sharks," "LA Confidential," "Glengarry Glen Ross," "The Negotiator," "Superman Returns," "Horrible Bosses," and "Margin Call."

#### A Mischief Grows Up

A lifelong artist, Spacey began his acting career at a young age and later attended the Juilliard School of Drama and began his professional career on the New York stage, which eventually propelled his career into film.

Spacey, 55, grew up in South Orange, N.J., the son of a secretary and technical writer, and is of Swedish, English and Welsh ancestry. He attended Northridge Military Academy and then Chatsworth high school in Los Angeles, where he graduated as valedictorian. Known as a bit of a mischief growing up, he apparently once burned his sister's treehouse to the ground as a prank. He first tried succeeding as a comedian in New York City, before enrolling in the Julliard School to study drama. On the side, he

# Fans of Every Walk

That may have been the expectation of the Alexandria-based Global Business Travel Association which booked Spacey as keynote speaker for

**CONTINUED NEXT PAGE** 



# **SPACEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

performed stand-up comedy during bowling alley talent contests.

A year after leaving Julliard, Spacey says he took his first trip to the Washington area, for one of the earliest acting gigs of his professional career.

"I came to begin performances in 1982 in my first pre-Broadway tryout for Ibsen's Ghosts," he said of the production that year starring Liv Ullmann and directed by John Madden. "We

When I spotted him at the end of the evening, it almost appeared that he had exhausted the room of people to engage in one of his famously engaged conversations.

Singing, his second passion after acting, clearly had him revved.

"Well, I grew up in a house where music was in constant play," Spacey said. "From 78 records of the great big bands, to Sinatra, Bennett, Bing Crosby, Perry Como, Bobby Darin and nearly every great jazz artists going as well as the great movie musicals - I was exposed to these great sounds from York to offer KSF Scholarships and funding to support rising, talented applicants for the performing arts.

"It should be noted that the foundation does not only support and nurture emerging actors - but emerging talents in many of the disciplines in the arts; certainly actors, directors, writers and producers, the four major disciplines of the living theatre," Spacey said, noting that his foundation offers scholarships for Bachelor of Arts degrees in such disciplines as acting for film, voice-over and commercials, dance, musical theater, production and design, directing,

Beauty in 1999.

"I don't see my career as having had some specific 'breakout' role," he said. "I think my experience shows a slow, gradual build - from role to role, working with director after director and learning my craft, working in front of a camera - as a slow burn - rather than any immediate reaction from a specific part."

#### Transforming Entertainment

With "House of Cards," Spacey's Netflix debut turned the traditional television business model on its head,



"I have been involved in politics for most of my life, so I've learned a good deal from my exposure to the process, campaigns and relationships."

# - Kevin Spacey

played the Eisenhower Theatre at the Kennedy Center."

Spacey said this early exposure to the seductive charms of living in Washington sparked a lifelong love affair with the Capitol Region, including Alexandria. "I love using the bike trails for long rides past the memorials out to Old Town or through Georgetown," he said.

His passion for Washington appears to have only grown since 2013 when Netflix tapped him for what may be the seminal role of his career, that of the crafty, conniving, paranoid megalomaniac Frank Underwood, a politician who thinks nothing of crushing anyone in his way of reaching the pinnacle of the power pyramid, from pesky reporters to the Leader of the Free World.

But despite his frequent visits to the city, and his long and deep friendships with President Bill Clinton and other political leaders here, Spacey denies basing the character on no one in particular. "I have not based the character of Frank Underwood on any specific real political figure," he said.

a very early age. So my influences are broad and inspiring."

One can only imagine the inspiration and material he draws from these trips to D.C.

"I have been involved in politics for most of my life, so I've learned a good deal from my exposure to the process, campaigns and relationships," Spacey said. "But I mostly have relied on the brilliant writing and powerful direction to create Frank Underwood. In addition, we have several key advisors who help us to maintain accuracy, even though at times we will stretch the actual for the dramatic."

#### A Nod to Jack Lemmon

Now in its fourth year, he said the Kevin Spacey Foundation was founded as a means of continuing Spacey's educational initiatives undertaken at London's Old Vic Theatre.

"There is no doubt that part of my motivation in beginning the foundation was to continue the kind of work that I have been doing through Old Vic/New Voices - our program at the Old Vic Theatre for emerging artists, but also to repay the debt I owe to the many individuals who took me under their wings and gave me opportunities and chances early in my career." When Spacey was just starting out as an actor, he said he was lucky enough to meet Jack Lemmon, who encouraged him to be an actor and became a great mentor in his life. "Jack had a phrase that that he used all the time that I've now adopted as my own," he says. "He believed that if you've been successful in your chosen path, if you've been able to realize your ambition, then you are obligated to 'send the elevator back down."" Sending the elevator back down has been a mantra of the foundation, as it has worked with Regent's University London and Pace University in new and stage management.

"The tools and artists of theatre can be a very exciting, productive and unusual way for young people to learn about collaboration, self-esteem and confidence," he said.

"Whether the talents we work with - around the world - decide to go into the arts or not, is not really the point. Those that are determined to do so will. But it's the value these experiences have in helping educate and teach our participants how to better represent themselves, their ideas and their ability to stand up for themselves - that can have a significant impact on how they interact and relate to the world around them."

The foundation expanded two years ago while Spacey was on world tour playing the role of Shakespeare's Richard III. Spacey brought on Steve Winter as president of the foundation, and the two looked for ways to deepen the engagement of schoolchildren in the arts, and started Master Classes led by Spacey and his team as they toured nine countries.

transforming the industry.

With \$100 million invested in the original series, Netflix has a lot riding on Spacey, his co-stars and creator Beau Willimon in capturing new subscribers by re-defining the Hollywood medium, shaking up traditional role of distribution for filmed entertainment.

With 17 million new subscribers added since the launch of House of Cards last year, the studio's risky strategy has appeared to have successfully panned out, with 50 million viewers now receiving on-demand streaming media in their homes, with Spacey becoming the first actor in the Emmy's history to be nominated for Best Actor for a streaming media site.

"The release pattern really has nothing to do with the creative experience working on House of Cards," Spacey argues."And we should never forget that the way in which audiences are devouring episodes is not unlike the way audiences have been since the Gutenberg Press. I believe that the Netflix model has indeed been embraced and that appointment viewing is more the

Unlike many of Hollywood's biggest stars, who parachute in for a film premiere or for some face time on Capitol Hill, Spacey often lingers when he comes to town.

At a September fundraiser at Shakespeare Theatre's Harman for his London-based Kevin Spacey Foundation, "Kevin Spacey in Concert," he sang for nearly two hours, mostly the great American classics (including a heavy dose of Sinatra), with members of the Fairfax County Symphony Orchestra providing the musical backdrop.

Afterwards, he conversed with just about everyone invited to the postconcert reception, hosted by the philanthropist Adrienne Arsht and her honorary co-chairs, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and House Minority Leader Steny Hoyer.

It's not lip service for Kevin,"Winter said in an interview from London. "I've known Kevin for ten years and he's hugely genuine about it. We have since engaged with nearly 1,500 emerging artists and playwrights who we found temping or working in bars and restaurants just to get by. We give them the financial freedom so they can take the time off and pursue their talents."

In many of Spacey's roles early in his career, he was often relegated to offbeat supporting parts, but later graduated to more major parts, none of which he views as having singularly put him on the map. His two Academy Awards were awarded for such characters, with his first Oscar for Best Supporting Actor in The Usual Suspects (1995), and the second for Best Actor for American

past than the future.



John Arundel of Alexandria is the founding Editor and Publisher of The Alexandria Times and is currently the Associate Publisher of Washington Life magazine. This is his second interview with Kevin Spacey.





# **HEALTHY VENDING MACHINES ARRIVE AT CITY FACILITIES**

The City of Alexandria has adopted a new policy requiring vending machines in city facilities to stock only healthy beverages and snacks, and new machines will soon arrive at city recreation centers, offices, and other locations. The "Healthy Alexandria" initiative requires vending items to adhere to the u.S. Department of Agriculture's "Smart Snacks in School" nutrition standards. The new machines will offer name-brand bars, chips, and other satisfying snacks that provide healthy choices, including fresh fruit and vegetables. The Healthy Alexandria initiative was made possible with funding from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth.

"We're proud to be a leader in modeling healthy choices for the entire Alexandria community," said katie leonard, a public health planner in the Alexandria Health "This policy Department. recognizes that in addition to being a large employer, the city is also a public health agency, adult and youth fitness organizer, children's activity provider, and public facility operator. We want to respect, protect, and enhance the health of everyone in Alexandria."

The new nutrition standards generally require snacks to contain at least 50% whole grain or have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product, or a protein food. Snacks must also contain no more than 200 calories, 35% fat, 35% sugar, or 200mg salt. Healthy beverages include water, nonfat or low-fat milk, 100% fruit juice, and low-calorie flavored or carbonated drinks. The new machines will also accept credit cards, meet Federal Energy Star requirements to operate with greater energy efficiency, and offer improved customer service.

# CHINESE SNAPPING UP REAL ESTATE IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

#### **BY JOHN ARUNDEL**

■ he Chinese shopping spree of Northern Virginia real estate is beginning to ramp up, with wealthy buyers arriving by the droves from Shanghai, Beijing and other parts of Mainland China, focusing on the more expensive listings, according to local realtors.

With Chinese money having already poured into dense urban areas in California, New York and Florida, many buyers are now focusing on this area, driven by a favorable exchange rate, increased access to credit and a quest for more secure investments.

"With our internationally recognized school systems and a regional economy that's rebounded faster and stronger than many other parts of the country, this area is a natural fit for many Chinese families looking to invest in American real estate," says Kira Elvey Lopez, a broker with TTR Sotheby's International Realty in Old Town. "Catering to the Chinese and other foreign buyers has become a growing part of my real estate business."

Lopez, licensed in Virginia, Florida and New York, has begun working with Chinese real estate buyers who come to the area, showing them listings that are mostly in the \$2 million to \$6 million range.

Lopez started studying Mandarin Chinese in 1998 when she lived for long stretches at a time in Taiwan, working as a shoe designer. She now lives in Old Town with her husband and triplet daughters who have been taking Mandarin language classes since they were three.

Two years ago Lopez traveled to Beijing for real estate investment shows, courting Chinese investors along the way. There she met a "finder" of Chinese real estate investors, Bryan Withall, of Sino-Outbound LLC, who assembles groups of Chinese real estate investors for tours of properties in the United States.

"I had been living in China for coming ," Withall said during a visit to Alexandria in November. "Nearly every person who was rich in China was either in real estate or controlled real estate."

comparison, the Canadians have spent less than 5 percent per year, or worse, \$13.8 billion here in 2014, the Brits \$5.8 billion, India \$5.8 billion and Mexicans \$4.5 billion.

Among foreign buyers, the Canadians still ranked highest in the share of transactions, at 19 percent, but the Chinese are buying the most expensive homes, with a median price of \$500,000. By comparison, about \$213,000 was spent on U.S. real the market could pop altogether.

Withall's simple pitch to the Chinese: "Come over and see this market. I can probably get you a lot more for your investment in the U.S. than in Beijing or Shanghai."

## **A Buyers Group Visits**

In November, I tagged along with Withall and Lopez as they led a group



Kira Lopez (third from left) and Bryan Withall pose with a group of Chinese real estate investors this month. **Photo: John Arundel** 

estate by the average Canadian buyer, \$141,000 by the average Mexican, and about \$200,000 spent by the average American.

While in the past, foreign buyers usually made up 10 percent of the region's residential real estate market these days that figure is closer to 20 percent.

Nationwide, foreign buyers make up about 7 percent of transactions, though that share is rising too. And while Canadians and Europeans remain prominent buyers, the Chinese share of purchases has grown at a far faster pace. Lopez and Withall say they are following a dynamic trend, replete with good reasoning.

"The number one reason for a Chinese head of household to buy real estate here is not for investment; it is for ten years, and I saw this megatrend their kids' educations,"Withall says."By buying up property in say McLean, it might be because top ranked Langley High School is in that school district. By buying a home in the Fairfax County section of Alexandria, it might be because one of the nation's highest ranked high schools, Thomas Jefferson School for Math and Science, is nearby." The second ranked reason for Chinese home purchases here is for wealth preservation. "In China, they use real estate as a safe deposit box," he says. "Once the engine of appreciation disappears, it becomes an illiquid investment."

of eight Chinese investors for a daylong tour of luxury homes in Great Falls, McLean and Alexandria. The group had arrived on a red eye flight from Los Angeles, where they toured residential real estate in places like Beverly Hills and Pasadena.

The group stayed in luxurious suites at the Ritz Carlton Tysons Corner, and rode in a Mercedes Benz Sprinter, a bus-limo rented by Lopez, which ferried them from listing to listing in McLean, Great Falls and Alexandria.

Hopscotching from home to home, the Chinese started at a \$4.3 million home for sale on Seneca Road in Great Falls, viewing five more homes along the way, before ending up at the most expensive listing of the day, a \$6.9 million listing on Basil Road in McLean. The final home was owned by a Chinese businessman who invited them for tea service and extolled the virtues of great schools, well-kept parks and a high quality of life. The Chinese visitors appeared amazed at the grandiosity of the homes, with one extolling on the grand expanse of lawn and towering trees in the backyard."In Beijing, this would be a public park," he marveled, speaking through a translator. "A lot of my clients don't speak English," says Withall, who speaks fluent Mandarin. "You really have to understand your buyer and educate them on why they should take this route. With Kira Lopez I am assured that the cultural differences of working with the Chinese are fully taken into account, as I know that aspect can be



This is an example of one of the many new vending machines replacing the old junk food models throughout Alexandria's City facilities. Photo courtesy City of Alexandria

## A Dynamic Trend

While in the past it may have been Japanese businessmen, Russian oligarchs or the Saudis snapping up real estate in the area, now it's the Chinese more than any other foreign buyers of residential real estate in the United States, Withall says.

The Chinese poured nearly \$22 billion into the U.S. housing market in the 12 months through March 2014 — 72 percent more than they spent the year before, according to survey by the National Association of Realtors. By

In recent years, the Chinese real estate market has slowed from a 25-30 percent growth rate to a 7 percent growth rate. By 2020, he says, real estate in China is expected to appreciate by

**CONTINUED NEXT PAGE** 



# **APOTHECARY MUSEUM TO CLOSE FOR REPAIRS**

The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum will be closed December 3 through January 30 for repairs and restoration. Projects include roof replacement, plaster repairs, and repainting of the historic retail space. The repainting is based on a paint analysis and will return the room to its circa 1900 appearance when the watershed Food and Drug Act was passed, forever changing the American pharmaceutical industry. The Museum will be posting updates on its Facebook page to track the progress of the projects and plans to reopen to the public on Saturday, January 31.



The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum is noted for its outstanding collection of medicinal herbs, shop furnishings, and apothecary bottles and equipment. It also has a collection of archival materials, including journals, letters and diaries, prescription and formula books, ledgers, orders and invoices. The names of famous customers appear in the documents, including Martha Washington, Nelly Custis, and Robert E. Lee.

Courtesy photo

# **CHINESE BUYERS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

challenging."

The visiting Chinese are all pre-qualified buyers, with liquid assets of between \$5 million and \$10 million. This makes it easier to buy real estate here, as better terms are often offered to clients paying all cash for their home purchases.

"The boom in China's economy has left Chinese investors with more disposable income to invest," he says. "Their savings rate is very high. Nearly 76 percent of Chinese real estate buyers are paying for their new American homes in cash.You can usually get a better price on a home if you pay in cash...Cash is king."

During a recent trip, two of his clients snapped up condos in Florida. "Both are investment properties," he says. "They simply can't be a loss-maker."

With 22 million people living in Beijing and 37 million residing in Shanghai, China's economic boom has led to a near bubble status in its real estate market.

"China has never experienced a financial crisis or a real estate crash," he says. "So it's important for me to get them into a market which is sustainable, and to provide amazing service."

In China, one can buy a home but you don't own the land underneath it. In most cases, the buyer has land use rights of the property for 70 years. This, he says, also makes American real estate more appealing.

#### **Commercial Real Estate**

The trend of overseas investments has already hit the commercial real estate market, where foreign investors have been snapping up office buildings and shopping centers at an accelerated clip.

While many properties in the suburbs have struggled with stagnant leasing and growing vacancies, foreign investors are pouring billions of investment into downtown D.C. office buildings.

Last year, overseas investors purchased nearly \$3 billion in Washington office properties, according to Jones Lang LaSalle. That figure tripled the total of \$1 billion for all of 2012.

With billions of stimulus dollars from the federal government boosting the economy, the region has been emerging from the great recession at a more rapid pace than most commercial hubs, and foreign investors - in pursuit of more stable assets — have placed big bets on some of the city's marquis properties and development projects. But the story of DC's commercial real estate rejuvenation is less about the Chinese. It is principally Middle Eastern sovereign wealth funds who have become the principal investors in the city's biggest projects, such as the Marriott Marquis Convention Center Hotel (Abu Dhabi) and CityCenterDC (Qatar), both of which opened this year. Foreign sales accounted for 75 percent of all investments in Washington commercial real estate this year, after barely breaking 30 percent in the previous three years and registering just 1 percent in 2006. Companies from Korea, China, Germany and Saudi Arabia have been scouring the Washington market for fully leased downtown office buildings.



# Why are the Chinese investing in Northern Virginia real estate?

# **SAFE INVESTMENT**

Many Chinese see the U.S. as a "good" or "profitable" investment.

## THE WEALTH FACTOR

The Chinese are richer due to China's economic growth, and thus have more access to credit.

## **CURRENCY FACTORS**

The Chinese are benefiting from a stronger yuan. Exchange rate movements over the last several years have made U.S. assets more appealing to Chinese buyers.

## **COOLING HOUSING MARKET**

The Chinese are dealing with a possible housing bubble at home. After years of strong gains, the housing market in China appears to be cooling.

#### **IT'S ALLOWED**

# Launch of App to Mobilize Del Ray Community

The Mobile Pages, a mobile community growth-aggregating platform, has announced the launch of their first mobile community app, Mobilizing Del Ray, available for iOS and Android December 12, 2014. This mobile application offers Del Ray residents the ability to view local businesses' coupons and specials. The app also provides these same businesses a simple, but robust rewards and loyalty program for their customers.

As a niche-focused business, The Mobile Pages helps local businesses market their products and services to the communities where they reside. Through the use of the app, users will be able to view and select the businesses in the Del Ray community, enroll in the businesses' loyalty program, redeem e-coupons, and receive personalized notifications on their mobile device. With an easy-touse interface, the user experience is simple, intuitive, and informative.

"Technology should not be a barrier for growth, no matter how old you are," said Marci Weis, founder of The Mobile Pages. "Our concept is simple - we mobilize merchants and connect communities. In order to do this, we had to create an app that spans generations and would be quickly adopted. People truly want to support the communities they eat, shop and live in. Though commerce has globalized thanks to the internet and technology, I believe that people find comfort in supporting local businesses.

#### The Mobile Pages app features

- Business Listings: users find a particular business through a search or categorized directory
- Rewards and Loyalty Program: customers receive points or punches for every purchase made
- Add Favorites: users mark favorites to keep track of new specials and coupons
- Community Focused: important notifications are sent to app users relating to their particular community
- Mobile Payment Ready: secure

D.C.'s big numbers downtown are in contrast to the suburbs, where vacancies have been rising. The officevacancy rate in Northern Virginia has grown to nearly 16 -----

In the United States there is no limit to the number of homes a buyer may purchase, while in China two houses is the maximum per household. Also in the U.S., one purchases the land as well as the land in which it sits. This is not the case in China, where the State owns the land and it is leased to homeowners in 70-year increments. Buyers thus appreciate being able to pass down their purchases from generation to generation.

percent, according to CBRE Group, the highest it has been in 11 years.

Withall has just opened a second sales office in China, this one in Shanghai, where office space is at a premium. "It's a happy place with lots of pictures on the walls of American real estate," he says. "It's a place for the Chinese to come and dream about their overseas real estate investments." payment technologies are supported such as Apple Pay and Google Wallet

The Mobile Pages plans to bring similar solutions to other surrounding communities and beyond. Some of the Del Ray businesses already enrolled are Dos Amigos, the Purple Goose, and St. Elmo's.





The Supreme Court has ruled that they cannot have a nativity scene in Washington, D.C. This wasn't for any religious reasons. They couldn't find three wise men and a virgin.

- Jay Leno





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# **POLK HONORS CROSSING GUARD OF ALMOST 50 YEARS**

Alexandria's longest serving crossing guard was honored by her school this month when she finally returned her uniform after deciding to retire almost 50 years to the day.

Charlotte Ross, 89, said she was ready to cry, as she was so moved when James K. Polk Elementary School students surprised her with a thank you ceremony in front of television cameras. She was presented with cards from every single student in the school and a round of applause that seemed to never end.

"This has been my life for so many years, but now it's time to move on," said Ross, who is moving to Greensboro, North Carolina, to be near her daughter.

"I would get up every morning regardless of what mood I was in and stand on that corner and by the time the school bell had rung in the morning I had met so many people that I was always in a good mood going home."

When the school opened in 1964, Ross, then a stay-at-home mom, received a knock on the door from a school official asking if she would like to be a crossing guard. In 2015, Polk will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

For almost 50 years, Ross stood still on the corner of Polk Avenue and North Pegram Street in Alexandria every weekday, at dropoff and dismissal, making sure students safely crossed the street to arrive at the school.

She would listen to the children as they walked to school and help teach them manners when they forgot how to behave.

"One day, a little boy crossed when he was not supposed to and I called him back, but  $% \left( {{{\rm{D}}_{{\rm{B}}}} \right)$ 

Charlotte Ross, 89, says good-bye after 50 years crossing kids at the same corner in Alexandria.

Photo provided by the City of Alexandria

he refused. So when he arrived at school, the principal sent him back to apologize, which I thought was actually a nice thing to do," Ross said.

She became such a regular fixture helping people when they had personal problems that her husband used to joke that she should put a sign on the pole saying "Charlotte Ross is open for business."

They all love and respect her; we wanted to do something to show it," said Polk Principal PreeAnn Johnson.

# City Seeks Holiday Sharing Sponsors for Children, Families and Seniors in Need

The Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) encourages the public to help make the 2014 holiday season brighter for the most vulnerable members of our community – low-income families, foster children, and elderly and disabled residents - through the annual Holiday Sharing program. During Holiday Sharing, sponsors purchase gifts for designated eligible families and individuals, which then can be delivered directly or distributed by DCHS staff and volunteers. Gifts of household necessities, clothing, toys, and gift cards help ensure that no Alexandria residents are left wanting during the holidays.

Community volunteers have already registered 675 families in need of assistance and expect at least an additional 100 families to sign up through their caseworkers. Last year, we assisted 727 families, 220 senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and nearly 100 children in foster care, in the process distributing thousands of donated items, as well as \$31,000 worth of gift certificates and grocery cards.

For more information about Holiday Sharing and how you can make a difference, contact Suzanne Kratzok at 703.746.5663, email holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov, or visit alexandriava.gov/HolidaySharing.







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# **COOL COMPOSTING**

Autumn's to-do list: Rake leaves. Dig up annuals. Cut back perennials.

Check. Check. Check.

Tasks completed, and now you've got a pile of yard debris to deal with. Sure, you could stuff it all into a big bag and head to the landfill. But a better idea – for the environment and for your garden – is to gather and pile. Done right, you'll have black gold for next spring.

To compost successfully through chilly winter, your compost pile must stay "active" – and this requires generating enough heat even in cold temperatures to allow microbes work, breaking down the material. A frozen heap won't do you much good.

Ideally, compost in an enclosed bin with insulated sides. A black bin situated in a sunny spot can help trap heat from solar radiation. If you don't have a commercial bin, you can still create a compost heap. It can be freestanding, but it's nice to have it defined. Three pallets

held together with zip ties work well. Try to get the pile as large as you can, at least 3 feet high and wide. To help insulate it through the winter, stack bales of straw along the sides. It's also a good idea to maintain a thick layer of bedding over top of your composting mass to further trap the heat. Loose straw and fall leaves are very well suited for this task.

Don't over-think the ratio or formula; make it about 50% greens and 50% browns. Green material (nitrogen) includes grass clippings or perennial trimmings, green leaves, and animal poop from rabbits, goats, horses, guinea pigs, chickens and the like (but no dog or cat poop as it can harbor unwanted bacteria). And don't use any diseased plant material.

Brown material (carbon) can be straw, newspaper, dried

leaves, wood shavings, or shredded

paper.

Don't

forget kitchen waste. Fruit and vegetables, tea bags, coffee grounds and egg shells are all valuable additions to the compost pile.

Once you have a pile, grab a pitch fork and mix it up. And do it again every week to ten days to keep the pile aerated and provide plenty of oxygen, necessary to the composting process. And all that tossing is a good excuse to get outside – and supplement your winter exercise regime.

Moisture is as important as heat in the composting process. Your compost pile should always be slightly damp, either from added material, rainfall, or snowfall. If it dries out, add some water. Don't drown it; if it is too wet, there won't be enough air space in the pile to provide needed oxygen.

To keep your compost chugging along all winter, keep adding fresh waste materials. Purchase a countertop compost bucket – or use a large plastic container with a tight fitting lid – and keep it handy for collecting kitchen scraps. It won't be long before you get in the habit of dumping the cutting board into the bucket instead of into the garbage disposal or waste basket.

And you condo or apartment dwellers with not a lot of outdoor space can compost, too. Use a sturdy plastic bin with a tight-fitting lid, add some soil or spent potted plants, and kitchen scraps. Stick to manageable amounts of vegetable and fruit peelings, coffee grounds and tea leaves, shredded paper, egg shells, etc., and you'll have compost for spring's potted annuals.

By following a few simple rules - keep it hot, keep it moist, and keep it turned - when spring rolls around you will have a pile of garden gold.Add your homemade compost to the vegetable or flower garden for robust, healthy plants.

Composting is a great way to get rid of yard and kitchen waste – and benefit both the den and the environment.





# **AN AMERICAN ROADWAY FOR AN AMERICAN DREAM**

#### **BY CHUCK HAGEE**

ighty one years ago the roadbed of an old trolley line became, not only for America but also for the world, the first true parkway designed specifically for that new-fangled contraption known as the automobile. And, it was named, most appropriately, for the nation's first Commander-in-Chief, the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Unfortunately, that event, which occurred on November 15, 1932, was overshadowed by the landslide victory of Franklin D. Roosevelt to become the nation's leader in the depths of the worst economic depression of its short history. And, coupled with Roosevelt's election as President was the election of what came to be known as the "WET" Congress which would end prohibition.

Even though the new parkway received little notoriety in the national press, except for the District of Columbia newspapers and the Alexandria Packet, it was widely heralded throughout Europe. It was originally known as the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway.

This was not only America's first roadway dedicated primarily to the automobile but the world's first such thoroughfare. It's opening was specifically planned to mark the bicentennial of George Washington's birth in 1732. And, it did so in grand style -- depression or no depression.

On the occasion of its 75th anniversary, Timothy Davis, PhD, lead historian of the National Park Service noted, "It is hard for us today to recall how big a deal George Washington's bicentennial birthday was at that time."

During that event it was pointed out that this was not just another highway. It was a particular kind of highway that meshed the enhanced ability to get from point A to point B while enjoying scenic beauty and historic sites. It was the epitome of driving pleasure. And, in many ways it remains so to this day.

Alexandria, Mount Vernon Railway built a trolley line connecting the District of Columbia with Collingwood and eventually with Mount Vernon Estate. The circle at the southern terminus of the GW Memorial Parkway was originally designed as a turn-

citizens all along the nation's streets and FDR's so called "alphabet soup" agencies were yet to be formed, this signal event almost seemed like an omen that the worst was over - things were turning round - at least economically. But, the clouds of World War II were

#### G.W. PARKWAY MILESTONES

1761	George Washington inherits Mount Vernon					
1790	Congress establishes District of Columbia					
1799	Washington dies and is buried at Mount Vernon					
1858	Mount Vernon Ladies' Association purchases estate. Roads in poor condition. Most tourists travel by steamboat.					
1888	Mount Vernon Avenue Association formed to promote national road to Mount Vernon					
1890	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducts survey for national road to Mount Vernon					
1892	Electric railway constructed between Alexandria and Mount Vernon; extended to Washington in 1896					
1901	Senate Park Commission endorses national road to Mount Vernon					
1904	First automobile tourists arrive at Mount Vernon.					
1920s	American automobile ownership rises from 8,000 in 1900 to 8 million in 1920 and 22 million in 1930					
1928	Congress authorizes memorial boulevard between Washington and Mount Vernon					
1929	Mount Vernon Memorial Highway construction begins					
1932	Mount Vernon Memorial Highway completed					
1940	Parkway relocated for construction of National Airport					
10700	Mount Verses multi use trail constructed					

Mount Vernon multi-use trail constructed 1970s

also gathering.

The Parkway, in fact, became a tourist tradition. If you went to Washington for a visit you had to go to George Washington's Mount Vernon home to celebrate his bicentennial birthday.

That triggered the push to get the parkway done in time for that anniversary. Construction commenced in 1929 and was completed just shy of four years at a cost of \$6 million. At the ribbon cutting, it was described as "America's Appian Way." It was nation's first cultural/historical highway.

The idea of parkways had been around for many



took six hours. It was bumpy and either dusty or muddy depending on weather conditions.

That all changed on November 15, 1832 – at least for the section from Arlington to Mount Vernon Estate. The parkway's northern element was not completed for another 38 years. Although most of the work was undertaken in the 1950's and 60's it did not open until 1970.

Today, this 40-mile long scenic ribbon contains 7,000 acres of parkland. It offers a wide variety of recreational facilities, has two wildlife refuges, numerous historic sites, and a wide array of civic and military memorials, back-dropped by panoramic views of the Potomac River, the District of Columbia and the Maryland shoreline.

It also remains one of the best designed roadways of its class in the nation, as noted by the former Superintendent, GWMP, David Vela. "This roadway helps people to remember George Washington and the people that established this nation,"Vela stated.









# **SHARK TEETH**

#### BY DANIEL F. BABIEC. DMD. MAGD. FICOI

We occasionally get telephone calls to the office from anxious parents about their child, usually aged between four and a half and six years old. They are concerned that their child's permanent teeth are coming in behind the "baby" teeth, and resemble "shark's teeth." A related concern is that a baby tooth has fallen out months earlier, and the permanent tooth has not yet made an appearance.

First, this is a temporary condition, and the baby

tooth will eventually get pushed out. In over 30 years of practice, we have only assisted a baby tooth once, and I believe if we had waited longer, it would have fallen out on its own.

Secondly, this is a symptom of a developing orthodontic problem that can be improved by some medical intervention.

Normally, the smile of a toddler should be "gappy" with multiple spaces between the teeth. If you think about it, the baby teeth are "saving" the space for the permanent teeth, which are bigger, so the extra space is necessary for a smooth transition. The cute little chin on your 18-month-old is their adult chin. The face gets longer from the back.

The problem is when we see young children with little or no spaces between their baby teeth, which usually guarantees there will be orthodontic problems in the future. With insufficient room, the teeth will crowd into position or will not erupt into the mouth due to lack of room.

#### What Causes This?

First, it's NOT genetic. Tooth size, general face shape and allergies are genetic, but crowding is not. The main culprit is how your child breathes. Normally, when you swallow with your lips together, the tongue goes behind the upper front teeth and expands during the swallow. However, if the lips are apart, the tongue drops back and expands across the back teeth to create a seal. This constant abnormal swallow is what causes orthodontic problems in children AND adults.

If your child has their lips apart during the day, and especially at night, or snores or is a noisy sleeper, then these habits lead to the wrong swallowing pattern. Keeping the lips apart also causes the development of lower crowding and overbites. Your physician, or a pediatric ear, nose and throat specialist should be consulted to improve your child's breathing. Literally tons of literature and research exists on the topic.

Dental expansion devices have been used since the 1800s to treat crowding and are very successful. These are best implemented while the child is young and actively growing, when they will have a more significant and positive effect on their developing face.



Normally, the smile of a toddler should be "gappy" with multiple spaces between the teeth which make room for the permanent teeth to come.

#### What Happens If We Wait?

The face is growing roughly 10 percent a year when a child is young, and, if a deviant growth pattern is present, it will be harder or impossible to deal with later. These expansion devices can't work as designed on the adult face. So there is no advantage to waiting except for compliance issues.

#### Can't We Take Teeth Out Now?

Of course you can. But the result, although it might look good tooth-wise, often leads to poor profiles and disappearing chins, as the face never has the chance to develop to its potential.

## What If We Don't Do Anything?

You can. The crowding will persist, tooth wear will increase with time, the chances of developing periodontal (gum) problems will also rise, certain postural problems may occur and the chance of developing sleep apnea escalates significantly.

Bradlee Dental Care has articles and videos posted on our Facebook page, (www.facebook.com/ BradleeDental) related to this discussion, with new materials added weekly. .

Daniel F. Babiec, DMD, MAGD, FICOI is a partner at Bradlee Dental Care, 3690 King Street, Suite KL in the Bradlee Shopping Center in Alexandria. If you have questions, please contact our office at 703/820-0809 or visit us on the web at www.BradleeDentalCare.com.

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# CATHAL ARMSTRONG'S MY IRISH TABLE: IRISH CUISINE IS A LOT MORE THAN BAR FOOD



#### **BY CHRISTINE CHIAO**

Chances are that much your knowledge of of Irish food is informed by classics you've come across at a neighborhood pub: Guinness stew, shepherd's pie and corned beef. It's a tidy commonplace collection, enough to mask the fact that we don't know that much about Irish cooking, particularly compared to other European cuisines.

These traditional dishes are on many menus, often with a

range of other bar fare, from tacos to Cajun chicken. But what exactly constitutes Irish cuisine? It's a question that's oddly difficult to answer, as there are few Irish restaurants in this country that are not pubs.

This question is not as much answered as it is expanded in Cathal Armstrong's My Irish Table: Recipes from the Homeland and Restaurant Eve (Ten Speed Press). The cookbook, a first from the chef-author, in collaboration with David Hagedorn, is a collection of contemporary takes on dishes both familiar and lesser-known.

Each time you may want to lock down one of Armstrong's recipes as wholly Irish, he'll challenge your attempt by tracing a technique or ingredient off the Emerald Isle. According to Armstrong, what makes shepherd's pie Irish is the potatoes that top a stew



Chef Cathal Armstrong and his business partner wife, Meshelle.

inspired by a French dish known as hachis parmentier. He includes a recipe for

gravlax with dill sauce and brown bread, beloved from his encounters with a Dublin

Photo by Ralph Alswang





National Harbor & Gaylord National **Convention Center** 





colleague who had worked at a Norwegian restaurant.

Just when you think Armstrong's approach to the cuisine is an amalgam of various outside influences though, he ties in anecdotes, locales and traditions that are distinctly Irish. A chapter on seafood, dedicated to the Irish Catholic ritual of eating fish on Fridays, showcases a few fish and crustacean particular to the region. There's panfried plaice, a coastal fish akin to flounder, sauced in lemon caper brown butter.

My Irish Table is in large part Armstrongs ode to a childhood simultaneously rooted in Ireland and bevond. While growing up in Dublin, Armstrong often traveled along the Atlantic. His father Gerry at one point worked as a tour operator, which meant he and his five siblings were often exposed to a range of tastes early on through their travels to Greece, Spain and Tunisia. For several summers, his parents sent Armstrong to France, where he learned about French food as an exchange student.

And yet, many of the dishes featured in the cookbook are those picked up from family members, amongst whom his father prominently figures. His father often cooked with the 60-plus fruits and vegetables grown in their garden. That experience planted an appreciation for locally-sourced ingredients, picked up again in his repertoire as a chef.

Armstrong's cosmopolitan Irish upbringing is most apparent in the dishes he developed for Restaurant Eve. He and his wife Meshelle opened the restaurant in Alexandria, Virginia, a decade ago. Since then, Armstrong has garnered critical attention, including a top chef award from Food & Wine in 2006, to visits by luminaries, including President and Mrs. Obama.

10 shares Armstrong recipes from the restaurant's menu, each highlighting an Irish element, such as Cashel blue cheese in a toasted pecan terrine; and house made potato rolls for a braised lamb sandwich with harissa mayonnaise. While he calls these recipes Irish-inspired, with this book you can cook and perhaps eat with a broadened understanding of the term. My Irish Table is available locally and through Amazon.

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#### 'Lifestyle' Safeway set to open

The completely rebuilt Safeway next door to Bradlee shopping center in Alexandria will be opening soon. According to employees at the Safeway Pharmacy, the big date is Friday, Dec. 5. The new "Lifestyle" format of the store includes an earth-toned décor, subdued lighting, custom flooring and unique display features to impart a warm ambiance that enhances the shopping experience. Some of the highlights of the new store at 3526 King St. include a hearth oven for baking bread, expanded deli, gourmet cheese department, beer and wine department with a wine steward, extensive natural and organic products including organic produce, extensive health and beauty aids department, and the pharmacy.

#### Wandering the West End

I've been sampling a few of the restaurants in the West End along Duke St. **Reynolds Street Bar and Grill** offers a nice local atmosphere with a reasonably priced menu. It reminds me of Cheers. My English friends say they like the fish and chips, tastes like home. They also serve a good burger. Almost across Duke is **Shooter McGee's**. Now that there is no smoking allowed inside, I find myself there a lot more often. Owned by the same folks as **Ramparts** and **TJ Stones**, you'll find great elegant place to celebrate a life event. They offer dinner for two for \$55 on Monday and Tuesday evenings. The price includes a bottle of house red or white wine. They also feature a Sunday Jazz Brunch from 12:30–2:30 p.m. with both lunch and brunch items. Try the Trota "James Ritter, with fresh trout, creamed spinach, 2 poached eggs, and hollandaise sauce. Love it!



If you have not been to the **West End Farmers Market** at Ben Brenman Park on Sundays from 8:30 AM - 1:00 p.m., check it out. With the motto: Eat Well and Have Fun, you are sure to find something you will like. There are farmers, bakers, cooks, and artisans to meet your needs. Tom the Amish Cheese Man is there along with Billie the flower and plants vendor. Try a glass of fresh squeezed OJ. The composting folks are there too.

#### Coming soon ...

Looks like a new restaurant may be opening called **1106 Steak** at 1106 King St. This is the former location of **Nottinghill** Restaurant. **Lost Dog Café** is applying for a wine & beer license for a location at 808 N. Henry St. Speaking of

new restaurants, I was lucky enough to be invited to the soft opening of **Thip Khao**, the first Laotian restaurant in DC. It's owned by Chef Seng of **Bangkok Golden** fame. I had an amazing meal. And the pumpkin coconut sticky rice for dessert made me love coconut!



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127 N. Washington St., Alexandria • 703-548-4661 Smoke-Free Restaurant www.LeRefugeAlexandria.com BBQ ribs (special pricing on Thursdays) and ½ price burgers on Mondays. They have a great patio for warmer weather dining.

Mango Mike Anderson replaced the eponymous restaurant with Tres Hermanas. We lost the Mangorita but gained Chucho's Cantina. Chucho's hosts a happy hour daily from 4-7 p.m.. You will find seven varieties of fajitas Mike Anderson and an assortment of the usual Mexican-American enchiladas, tacos, burritos, and the like in the restaurant. Another gem in the West End is Tempo. They serve a splendid mix of northern Italian and French cuisine. I love 'doing' lunch there.

White tablecloths, beautiful place settings, and delicious food make it a secret hideaway or an

# In passing ...

One last note, we lost Andree Lecureux of **Chez Andree** on October 24 at age 90. Mrs. Lecureux came to the US in the mid-1950s where she met her husband, Stanley, who passed away in 2005. They founded the Auburn Bar and Grill, later renaming it Chez Andree. The restaurant has been running successfully for 50 years. A celebration of her life was held on Nov. 8, 2014 at Chez Andree. Until next time, eat and enjoy!



Recently I received a special culinary gift. It is one of the finest mustards I have ever tasted – Cherchies Hot Banana Pepper Mustard from Intercourse Canning Company. With the perfect balance of tart, sweet and heat it can complement many foods. Don't be afraid of the heat. This mustard is about a one on the heat scale and adds just the right zest to any sandwich or dish.

This mustard contains vinegar, banana peppers, sugar, mustard seed, cornstarch, salt, turmeric, and spices. Better yet, its gluten free and high fructose corn syrup free. It is a wonderful complement to any dish that calls for mustard. As you prepare your holiday menus consider incorporating Cherchies Banana Pepper Mustard into your recipes such as deviled eggs, gravy, or as a dipping sauce for veggies and chips.

We are in the middle of football season and this is the perfect accessory for tailgating. Add to hot dogs, sausages, hamburgers and potato salad.

Banana Hot Pepper Mustard was the Gold Medal Winner of the World Wide Mustard Competition held at the Napa Valley Wine Festival.

Nestled in the heart of Intercourse, PA, Intercourse Canning Company offers over 300 varieties of sauces and condiments that are freshly packed by local Amish and Mennonite folk. You can find them and purchase items online at www.icanning.com.



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# QUOTABLES

The main reason Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live.

- George Carlin



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After a good dinner, one can forgive anybody, even one's own relations."

- Oscar Wilde, A Woman of No Importance



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# ON THREATS, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

"I \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear, that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same."

It's a simple oath, taken by every single person who serves in the military. It is basically the same oath for EVERYONE, with a minor difference between an officer's oath and the enlisted oath - "…obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of all officers appointed over me."

What's most interesting about the United States Military Oath of Allegiance is that it is different than any other country in the world. The oath is not to a government, a political party, a president or prime minister, a monarch or as is becoming highly popular now in the Middle East – to a religion. Every soldier, marine, sailor, airman, and coast guardsman takes an oath to a piece of paper – the Constitution. They all serve – work, deploy, train, patrol, walk point, stand the midwatch, maintain station 24/7 to preserve other's rights – the citizens of the United States.

Eric Frein, the former 'survivalist,' military re-enactor, film technical advisor (yup - that's right!), sniper, cop-killer, and on the FBI's 'Most Wanted' list and fugitive for 7 weeks, is one of those most dangerous that we are sworn to defend against - a terrorist - and a domestic one at that. No, he didn't fly into the U.S.A. from one of the 'Stans' (Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, etc.) slip through TSA and CBP, toting a Koran, a bomb-making recipe book he obtained online hell-bent on lighting-up the nearest IRA Office he could find. He didn't change his name to Mucqutada Al-Hus-Frein and leave the US headed for the desert to offer his sniper services to ISIS against the infidels from the west. Instead, this son of a retired Army major decided to shave his head into a mohawk, load up his Jeep with weapons, pipe bombs, ammunition, face camouflage, then setup a sniper position where he successfully killed Corporal Bryon Dickson, a former marine, and wounded trooper Alex Douglass, and beat-feet into the Pennsylvania woodlands for seven weeks of hide-and-seek with law enforcement.

There are several ironies about Frein's spree against authority. Unlike Rambo, as his closest military-militia-wannabes-comrades characterized Frein, this wasn't Frein's first tryst with the law. He was arrested and convicted of larceny and burglary of WWII memorabilia from

Eric Frein in his favorite attire, a Serbian uniform, and his favorite weapon, an AK-47. He was also partial to sniper rifles and pipe bombs. Courtesy photo.

vendors at a military simulation fair in Odessa, NY in 2004. Second is the irony of his love of wearing a Serbian Army uniform, toting his AK-47 semi-automatic rifle. Favoring Serbian made cigarettes, and spouting the glories of freedom from big brother – the U.S. government. Ironic, too, that he espoused freedom from tyranny, yet he wore the very uniform of a totalitarian regime that perpetrated dozens of atrocities in the Balkan Wars in the 1990s.

Third, it is ironic that he is the son of a career Army officer and frequently waxed poetically on YouTube about the plight of veterans, yet Frein never enlisted, took the oath, nor stood the watch or walked point in the U.S. military. He is a Rambo-without-a-cause.

And for someone who was considered to be clever, quick, and a 'professional' survivalist, he committed the most egregious of all sins; he took his war to law enforcement – the very people who protect his right to bear arms, run around in the woods on weekends with other like-but -also-equally-feeble-minded-minions, dressed like characters from the film Platoon, eat MREs (Meals Ready-to-Eat), and blow things up. Unlike other military re-enactors who effectively recreate Revolutionary or Civil War battles for historic purposes, Frein was a one-off who obviously missed the memo about

The Rock It Grill sticks a defiant finger-in-the-eye to the creeping tide of upscale establishments lining the elegant streets of Alexandria. — Neal Learner, *The Washington Post* 

# HAPPY HOUR DAILY 3 – 7 P.M.



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The posse for Frein was comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement who used everything in their inventory to bring the killer to justice. Courtesy Photo.





Del Ray Variety has an expansive building and ample parking and the store is loaded with holiday toys, trimmings and treats.

**Photos by Mary Wadland** 

# **IT'S JUST G** BUSINFSS

# **EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN**

#### **BY MARY WADLAND**

203 East Custis Avenue, is a genuine find. With a spacious in and buy a piece of penny parking lot and more than candy and a Coke. To see a 5,000 square feet of store space, is Del Ray Variety, an

enchanting throwback to the old-fashioned general store In the heart of Del Ray, at meets the old Five and Dime or Woolworth's. You can walk soda fountain churning out egg creams and chocolate

sodas would not be out of It is a one-stop shopping destination with everything from party supplies to household items. "Think about us before trudging off to Target or Michael's," co-owner Debra Arnett insists. She and Erik Dorn, longtime family friends, remember going to the Hollin Hall Variety Store as children, and wanted to pay homage to those memories by opening Del Ray Variety in

their neighborhood. The building at East Custis was a former community church, completely renovated except for the huge original front windows, which allows

place.

for beautiful store displays, now loaded with items for the wintertime. The holiday season is one of their busiest times, and it is no accident that they stock such nostalgic items as wrapping paper, boxes, gingerbread house kits, snowball makers and snow scoot sleds. It will be impossible to visit Del Ray Variety this winter without finding something that draws you back to your childhood.

But if you need a box of paperclips, a pair of pliers, a bag of wild birdseed, some batteries, a pair of socks, a balloon or two for a last minute party plus the card you forgot, then Del Ray Variety hits the

mark on all counts.

And never worry about finding a parking spot. Adjacent to their building is a huge space that is all yours to use.

This store is a dream for Arnett and Dorn, and I'm sure you will share their passion for this truly unique journey back to sweeter times when all you wanted was a pixie stick or an atomic fireball. It's definitely a trip worth taking.

Del Ray Variety is open from 9:00 AM to 8:30 PM Monday through Saturday and 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM Sundays. For further information, visit delrayvariety.com.



\* DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE: NO SERVICE AFTER 7 P.M.



# **MOUNT VERNON LAUNCHES NEW VIRTUAL TOUR**

Website users can now transport themselves to George Washington's Mount Vernon in a click of a mouse or touch of a screen through an immersive new virtual tour. Featuring 29 stunning, 360-degree panoramic images, more than 200 points of interest, and dozens of in-depth videos highlighting architectural details, objects, and anecdotes, the virtual tour recreates the experience of being at the estate in an unparalleled way.

"We've created a more extensive and immersive virtual tour than you'll find at any other historic site in America. We want you to feel as if you are a guest in George Washington's home, and to give you access to more information than we can share during a public tour," said Mount Vernon's president, Curt Viebranz. "You can visit us any time of day, from your home or from a classroom, and stay as long as you like."

Mount Vernon's virtual tour guides visitors behind the ropes for a closeup look—from the floorboards to the ceilings—at the rooms that Washington designed. By using a touchpad or mouse, the tour user can scan the room, clicking on objects to examine them in greater detail. By clicking on a video point of interest, the tour user can listen as curators describe the furnishings and historians describe the architectural details. The tour also lets visitors explore spaces not readily available on a public tour, including the cupola and the cellar.

In addition to better sharing the fascinating history of George Washington's estate, the new virtual tour is also designed to enhance the experience for future and past Mount Vernon visitors. Guests who are in the process of planning a visit to Mount Vernon may tour the mansion beforehand, allowing them to arrive better prepared and oriented. After visiting, they will be able to "return" to linger over places and items that sparked their interest and share their experiences with others. For schools and teachers, this new virtual tour provides a new way for educators to take a "field trip" to Mount Vernon.

While the new mansion tour is now available, Mount Vernon is expanding the digital tour experience to other parts of the estate, including the outbuildings, gardens, distillery, and gristmill. A virtual tour of George Washington's Presidential Library, the Fred W. Smith Library for the Study of George Washington, launched in late 2013. To see the tour, visit www. mountvernon.org/virtualtour.



Mount Vernon Estate becomes more alive than ever with new virtual tour. Courtesy photo.

# **CAN YOU HELP FORT WARD PARK?**

## Photographs Documenting Gravestones at Fort Ward Park before 1980 Sought

The Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), the comprehensive public history agency of the City of Alexandria, is seeking the cooperation of residents in the local region with an ongoing historical research project at Fort Ward Park, located at 4301 West Braddock Road in Alexandria. Specifically, OHA seeks to identify images that may exist in private hands that provide photographic evidence of once-standing gravestones in the city parkland. Archaeological investigations have recently confirmed locations of at least 40 unmarked graves. These gravesites post-date the Civil War fortification for which the park is named, and are associated with a significant African American community known as "The Fort" that developed at the site after the Civil War period and remained until the park was created in the 1960s. Three additional graves, still marked by gravestones, also remain within the



Civil War Infantry Camp located at Ford Ward 1962. Photo provided by Library of Congress.

park boundaries.

Over the years, several personal memories of extant gravestones, either neglected, discarded in pieces, or marking burial sites in the park have been recorded, but to date researchers have had little success in identifying physical evidence to confirm if or from where such stones may have been removed. Other oral histories and interpretations of documents note that a number of graves were relocated when the park was built;

however, recent archaeological work indicates that the burials in question remain intact at Fort Ward, but have been unmarked for many years. OHA is appealing to the public for personal photos showing gravestones in the park that may have been taken within the current park boundaries at any time during the late 19th or 20th centuries, even those that may have been captured in the background of family pictures or recreational activities. A record of such visual evidence would be invaluable to assist in the research of park resources, guide future archaeological investigations, and protect and restore the appropriate dignity and respect for those buried on the property.

For more information on "The Fort" community, please visit www. historicalexandria.org.

Those who suspect they may have such photographic evidence of gravestones in Fort Ward Park may email archaeology@alexandriava. gov or call 703.746.4399 for more information.



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ZEBRA PRESS

# **ZEBRA HIRES NEW ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER**

Melinda Sigal joins the Zebra Press team in the role of Associate Publisher, with roles on both the advertising and editorial divisions. She has been a marketing sales consultant and since she moved to Northern Virginia from Chicago in late 2004, providing on-going marketing leadership, counsel, direction and



**Melinda Sigal** 

coordination. She continues to own her company, The Sales & Marketing Connection which integrates marketing consulting and services providing agency/account management services, innovative business building ideas, integrated marketing plans, flawless program execution and business development

Known to be a "strategic visionary," Sigal's niche is helping companies develop their strategic marketing plan and direction, and then implementing the marketing communications tactics to execute those programs. She accomplishes this by sitting down with her clients and looking at what they are doing, how they are doing it, and then coming up with very original thinking that produces measurable results and sales.

Sigal is very active in the Alexandria Community: Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber, Alexandria Old Town Roundtable, West End Business Association (WEBA), Old Town Business & Professional Association, (OTBPA), Nova Networking Referral Group, Alexandria Professional Women's Network, and other community groups. She is also involved in a number of professional national/local networking organizations: The Center for Association Leadership (ASAE), Marketing Executives Networking Group (MENG), a network of senior marketing executives, American Marketing Association (AMA), International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), and Washington Women in PR (WWPR).

Sigal has a BA in Journalism from Florida Southern College and a Certificate of Proficiency in Sales Promotion and Public Relations from NYU School of Business Management. Melinda resides in Alexandria with her husband Phil, and their cat Catfish.

# **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16**

how bad it is to kill a cop.

Finally, the ultimate irony, like the Viet Cong, he chose to maneuver, duck, dodge, hide, and generally terrorize his own neighborhood. It was surely ideal for him initially since he knew the terrain and figured he could operate better than the opposing force. But he forgot that we have all learned from the past experience in Vietnam about how to defeat an enemy in his own backyard. You do it with others from the same neighborhood. Frein may have been on his home field - but the local constabulary was also on their home turf as well. "If you attack Troopers and a civilized society, the Pennsylvania State Police will bring you to justice," the Pennsylvania State Troopers Association said in a statement. It went on to say, "Eric Frein is a coward." Amen to that. In addition to a coward, Eric Frein also typifies the worst of the worst – a domestic enemy – that the military and law enforcement are sworn to protect against. By killing one of their own, law enforcement had a keen interest in finding Frein and they used every tool in their kit, from dogs to imaging technology to tighten the noose around his flight. In the Navy, the flag signal for a job well done - the highest commendation one can receive - are the signal flags 'B' and 'Z' or phonetically pronounced - BRAVO ZULU. So, to all law enforcement personnel and agencies that had anything to do with bringing this domestic terrorist to justice we fly the signal to you from the yardarm - BRAVO ZULU - translated - 'WELL DONE.'



## Bob the dog does not understand why UPS won't help him out and pick up Kiki the cat!

Submitted by Barbara Bach of Alexandria.

The truth is the truth. Cats love exploring boxes. The next time your kitty finds his or her way into a cardboard predicament, snap a photo and send it to us and if yours is the cutest, you will be published. Be sure to include your name and neighborhood as well as your cat's moniker. Please send photos and copy to editor@thezebrapress.com.



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

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NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2014



"Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall."

OUOTABLES

- Larry Wilde



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# HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA INVITES HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES BEHIND THE SCENES

# Explore four City museums through monthly program

Office of Historic Alexandria is welcoming homeschool families "behind the scenes" of four of the City of Alexandria's historic sites through the 2014-2015 Homeschool Class series. From December through April, each month participants will have the opportunity to see collection items not typically on display, meet with museum staff, and engage in hands-on activities and discussions.

All classes are designed for family groups, recommended for ages 6 and up, and will be hosted on select Tuesdays from 1-2:30 p.m. with check-in opening at 12:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8 per child, adults free. Pre-registration is required, and tickets can be purchased online at shop.alexandriava.gov or by calling 703.746.4242.

The dates, themes, and locations are as follows:

Tuesday, December 16— Chocolate: From Bean to Drink. Learn how chocolate goes from cocoa bean to beverage in the 18th century. Participants will participate in the process and taste a final

product.

Tuesday, January 27—The Making of an Exhibit. Meet the curator of The Lyceum's new exhibit, Explore the Attic, and learn how an exhibit goes from concept to script to objects on display.

Tuesday, February 17— Bringing History to Life: Recreating Washington's Birth Night Ball. In honor of George Washington's birthday, learn how the citizens of Alexandria would celebrate his birthday in the late 1790s at Gadsby's Tavern. Includes opportunity to wear reproduction clothing and a period dance lesson.

Tuesday, March 17—How Museums Care for Objects. Learn how museums store, care for, and treat an object in order to preserve it for generations to come.

Tuesday, April 21— Honoring the Past: Alexandria Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery. Join the Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum as she takes you through the 20-year process from rediscovering to reopening and remembering this significant part of Alexandria's story.



Home schoolers get special access to Alexandria museums. Photo provided by Northern Virginia Home Schooling Organization.



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# **TENNIS COURTS GIVEN APPROVAL TO GO AHEAD**

Alexandria City School Board approved a contract to proceed with installing tennis courts at T.C. Williams High School and crews are expected to break ground on the project after Thanksgiving.

The courts are anticipated to be ready for use by the start of the competitive interscholastic tennis season in March, dependent on the winter weather.

"These tennis courts serve more than just the tennis team. Our students who are not at the competitive level can be exposed to a sport that provides the opportunity for learning teamwork and sports etiquette," said Niandra Sinclair, T.C. Williams student liaison to the School Board.

School Board Chair Karen Graf said,

"We are very excited about this project finally moving ahead. We have had to overcome hurdles along the way."

The scope of the project has undergone many changes, including site relocation, the addition of lights and extensive buffering, since its original conception. As a result the original project budget was not sufficient to cover the total scope of work.

Superintendent Alvin L. Crawley said, "The unveiling of the CIP budget in December will show a new approach to planning and managing our projects. We are moving toward modernization and maintenance for our properties and applying proper and consistent account reviews."

"It has been a great

accomplishment for

me. I have grown more

mature as a player, I

am more connected with coach and with

my teammates, I share

the ball more and I

am more focused on

winning then I am

had this to say about

the fan's excitement

for this upcoming

Berkman

about myself."

Coach

# **BI COACH BERKMAN PREDICTS "IMPROVEMENT"**

This is the word Head Coach Neil Berkman uses to describe Bishop Ireton's men's basketball this upcoming season. After defeating a nationally ranked, undefeated Gonzaga team two years ago and the defending champion O'Connell Knights in the WCAC quarterfinals this past year, Coach Berkman

looks to keep moving forward. With a new look roster Coach Berkman decided to change the style of play as he describes as "doing a complete 180" from playing back within a 2-3 zone to an aggressive full court press, with the goal to be "the fastest playing team in the league."

Among the players returning junior Jeremiah Brooks looks back at his first year playing varsity and how he has improved in the offseason.



Coach Berkman looks ahead with optimism.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Ireton

With year.

"There is an abundance of exuberance in the room and a lot of excitement around us."

After only losing three seniors, Coach Berkman looks to pick up where he left off. With Brooks hopefully to have more of a leadership role and the new incoming players stepping in. It gives Cardinal fans high hopes to be a team to watch this year. All of us have moments in our lives that test our courage. Taking children into a house with white carpet is one of them."

- Erma Bombeck



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NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2014

# T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL GETS ITS FIRST HALL OF FAME

T.C.Williams will remember Titans this the month when Alexandria City Public Schools gets its first-ever Athletic Hall of Fame. The Alexandria City School Board is expected to vote to approve a list of nominees that includes the first black player in the NBA, an Olympic silver medalist and the captain of the 1971 football team.

Despite a reputation as a high school that regularly produces Olympians and world-class athletes, T.C. has never had its own way to recognize its famous athletes until now.

"This truly is a fantastic way to honor Alexandria's athletes. We have had so many athletes come out of Alexandria's public high schools that we really needed to do something acknowledge lasting to them," School Board said Member and Hall of Fame Liaison Bill Committee Campbell.

Twenty former athletes will be officially inducted into the Hall of Fame at halftime at the game between Parker-Gray and Hoffman-Boston on Friday December 5.

Gerry Bertier of the famous '71 Titans football team, threetime Olympic team rower Chip Lubson and Earl Lloyd, the first African-American player to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA), are slated to be among the first alumni to be officially recognized for their contributions.

"We will be inducting new people each year, probably five to six new members. However, we felt we needed to start off with a larger inaugural group and so 20 amazing former student-athletes will make up this first class," said Campbell.

There are also plans, in future years, to select and induct outstanding teams into the hall.

Lloyd, whose jersey is still worn by the captain of the basketball team for the Parker-Gray game and whose name is given to the high school's court, became the first African-American player in the NBA on Oct. 31, 1950, when he played for the Washington Capitals against the Rochester Royals. Five years earlier, Lloyd, nicknamed "Big Cat" for standing over 6 feet 5 inches tall, had graduated with stellar grades from Parker-Gray High School, as Alexandria high schools were still segregated at that time. While he did not experience racism during his decade in the NBA, he said some of the fans drove him on with their racist remarks. "My philosophy was that if they weren't calling you names, you weren't doing anything. If they were calling you names, you were hurting



them," Lloyd said. He now lives in a retirement home in Tennessee and covets his quiet life and his reputation as a

largely overlooked pioneer. Gerry Bertier is best known for his portrayal in the Disney "Remember movie, the

Titans" which tells the story of the 1971 Virginia State Championships in high school football.

**Titanic Champs!** 

First time T.C. Williams

inductees are Gary Bertier

of the famous '71 Titans football team (left), Earl

Lloyd, the first African-

American player to play

Association (right) and

rower Chip (bottom -

second from right).

three-time Olympic team

in the National Basketball

**Athletic Hall of Fame** 

His exceptional skills on the field and his exceptional high school grades while attending Francis C. Hammond High School, which later merged to become T.C. Williams High School in time for the 1971 Championships, won him scholarships to numerous schools, including Alabama and Notre Dame. He was named National Prep School Football Player of the Year and received All American honors.

He became best friends with one of his black team mates, Julius Campbell, and the two of them gained a reputation as an example for the team, school and city. Bertier was known at the time for the phrase: "There is no black or white - we are a team."

Bertier's sister Becky Britt said the award would have

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

# A Different Kind of Family Portrait



"Crabs at Dogfish"

size  $4' \times 5$ 

acrylic on canvas



Tobey Frederick wanted to surprise Joe with a special 15th anniversary gift. She had been following Dave Cochran's ads and admired how he interpreted the likeness and personality of his clients, so she finally contacted him.

She learned that he worked from photos (NO sittings!) and that she could be involved in determining the background. Dave came to her home to help determine the best size for the painting and to look through photos of her family members. Tobey wanted to depict all seven dogs that she and Joe had since they were married (past and present). In the foreground, Dave painted the family's beloved bulldog, Chopper, who is constant entertainment and fun loving, just like her blended family.

The background that Tobey chose was the beautiful home they built on Plaindealing Creek in Easton, MD. It reflects many of the activities that the family loves, such as eating crabs, messing with dogs and boating.

This 4ft x 5ft painting was ready and unveiled on their anniversary. Joe was completely taken by surprise and rendered speechless by this thoughtful and very personal gift.

Tobey now worries what she possibly can do for their next anniversary.

Giclée prints of this painting were given to various family members.

Email: cochranstudios@aol.com Studio: 703.684.7855 Web: www.davidcochran.com

The Perfect Anniversary Gift





# **ACPS EARNS HIGH MARKS FROM AP**

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has earned a place on the fifth Annual District Honor Roll for increasing access to AP course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams.

ACPS is one of 547 school districts in the United States and Canada being honored by the College Board for its successes.

To be included on this list, the division must successfully identify motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for the opportunity of AP. Since 2012, ACPS has increased the number of students participating in AP while improving the number of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

In 2014, more than 3,800 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, and/or consideration in the admission process, with many colleges and universities in the United States offering credit in one or more subjects for qualifying AP scores.

Inclusion on the 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2012 to 2014, looking across 34 AP Exams, including world language and culture.



Photo (I to r): Maddy's mother Sharon Dooley, Maddy Dooley, T.C. Williams Band Director Carlos Gonzalez, Maddy's father Kevin Dooley

# **U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES T.C. STUDENT AS ITS NEWEST BAND MEMBER**

A team of U.S. Army officials descended on T.C. Williams High School in October to announce the latest member of the 2015 U.S.Army All-American Marching Band.

Tuba player and T.C. Williams senior Madeline "Maddy" Dooley said she felt surprised and honored to be named one of the top 125 musicians in the country. She will fly to San Antonio, Texas, over winter break to practice with other band members selected from all over the United States. She will then take the stage during halftime at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl football game on January 3, 2015.

"I never thought when I picked up a tuba in fourth grade when I was nine years old that I would have this amazing opportunity. I am so excited to be a member of the U.S. Army All-American Band and I can't wait for January," Maddy said.

Maddy currently plays tuba in the Wind Ensemble and sousaphone in the marching band at T.C. Williams. When she broke her ankle in the past year and could not march with a sousaphone, she learned to play marimba, vibraphone and cymbals in the front ensemble, where she did not need to march.

"As a musician, Madeline has proven herself to be both talented and dedicated. I am confident that she will rise to and above the high standards of this group," said T.C. Williams High School Principal Suzanne Maxey.

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# CHAMPS **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22**

meant a lot to him.

"Gerry loved working with the community. He worked hard, striving T.C.Williams High School in 1971. He for equality for handicapped persons. I'm sure Gerry would be quite proud to know that after he is long gone, that his name still is a source of aspiration, inspiration, and hope. He would want today's youth to keep their heads up, their lives in order and to do the right thing. Stay in school, have a goal and find an inspiration," Britt said. After the conclusion of the 1971 season, Bertier, captain of the 1971 team, was involved in a car accident that left him paralyzed from the waist down. Despite this injury, however, Bertier remained an active athlete who went on to win gold Paralympic medals in the discus and shot put. He was killed in another car accident 10 years later but his name continues to be associated with raising funds for spinal cord injury rehabilitation and research.

Olympic silver medalist Walter Harry "Chip" Lubsen Jr. also graduated from was part of the American men's eight that won the silver medal at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. He also participated in the men's eights at the 1976 Summer Olympics and was named to the 1980 team, which boycotted the Olympic Games. "I don't live very much in the past and all this seems like years ago, but it is certainly an honor to be nominated. It is always an honor to be recognized for what you have done," Lubsen said. Lubsen, who now lives in Herndon, was a member of Cornell University's varsity heavyweight eight boat that won the Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championship in 1977. He rowed in all three Olympic teams with his fellow T.C. alumni Fred Borchalt. The two of them still get together for Olympic reunions in Boston every few years.

Joseph Lopez, DMD, MPH

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## **NOW THRU 2014**

Journey to be Free: **Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery** Exhibition

Alexandria Black History Museum 902 Wythe Street

Tuesday thru Saturday 10 am - 4 pm A new exhibit tracing the 150-year history of the long-forgotten Freedmen's Cemetery, how the new Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial was created at the site. 703-746-4356

Free but donations are appreciated.

# **NOW THRU 2014**

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812 Exhibition

Lee-Fendall House and Gardens 614 Oronoco Street

A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. For further information, visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789. Free

#### **NOW THRU 2014**

#### Fifty Years of Collecting: An Anniversary Exhibit of **Objects from the Fort Ward Collection Exhibition**

Tuesday thru Saturday 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday noon - 5 pm

Fort Ward Museum

4301 West Braddock Road

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the opening of Fort Ward Museum & Historic Park, this new exhibition offers a glimpse into the growth and holdings of the Museum's fine Civil War collection. The exhibit features some rare items related to



"We'll try to cooperate fully with the IRS, because, as citizens, we feel a strong patriotic duty not to go to jail."



the Defenses of Washington, such as an 1862 panoramic drawing of Fort Albany by the soldier-artist William Lydston,

a folding camp chair that belonged to an officer in the 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery, and a Lambley's portable copying machine used by an officer from the 57th Massachusetts Infantry. Objects that interpret the Union occupation of Alexandria, such as a proclamation declaring martial law in the city, are also featured. Fort Ward is the best preserved of the extensive network of Union forts and batteries known as the Civil War Defenses of Washington. For more information, call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org. Free

#### N**OV.** 27

#### **Thanksgiving Day**

Volunteer at a soup kitchen or help deliver meals to those who have no Thanksgiving dinner of their own while waiting for your dinner. It will make you truly thankful for what you have.

#### NOV. 28

**City of Alexandria Tree Lighting Ceremony** 

6 to 8:00 p.m. Market Square 301 King Street

At this official kickoff to the holiday season, the Mayor and Santa Claus will light the city tree in Market Square. Entertainment features a visit from Santa, live performances, caroling and a community sing-along. 703-746-3301 Free

## NOV 28 — JAN. 6 Christmas at Mt. Vernon

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Mount Vernon: George Washington's Estate & Gardens 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Mount Vernon is joyfully decking the

halls for Christmas at Mount Vernon, a special daytime program offered through January. Themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees) and historical chocolate-making demonstrations will be offered. Tour the rarely-open third floor of the Mansion and learn how the Washingtons celebrated Christmas. In 1787, George Washington paid 18 shillings to bring a camel to Mount Vernon for the enjoyment of his guests. During Christmas at Mount Vernon, visitors can meet a camel on the grounds. Event included with purchase of a general admission ticket \$18 adults (\$17 online); \$8 children ages 6-11; free children ages 5 and under. 703-780-2000

#### NOV. 29

#### **Small Business Saturday**

After Black Friday comes Small Business Saturday! Support your local businesses throughout Alexandria by shopping with them. Over 40 of Alexandria's independent boutiques will offer special promotions, gifts with purchase, complimentary services, treats, and/or festive activities inside their stores for shoppers to enjoy

## DEC. 5 – 21

#### Alexandria's Holiday Market

11am - 8pm every Fri., Sat. and Sun. John Carlyle Square 300 John Carlyle Street garlands, flatwoods and much more to add festive flair to any home or office this holiday season. Pre-orders are available online at www.campagnacenter.org/events/ scottish-christmas-walk-weekend/heather-and-greens. 703-549-0111

# DEC. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21

#### 19th Annual Holiday Market at Del Ray Artisans

Nicholas A. Colasanto Center 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

Fridays Reception 6-9 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sundays 12 – 4 p.m.



The Market offers unique handmade crafts from local artists including wall art, botanical, pottery/ceramics, photography, jewelry, cloth, paper crafts,

and fused glass with completely different artists each weekend, so visit us all three weekends!. Participating artists donate a percentage of their sales back to Del Ray Artisans. All day Saturday and Sunday shop with the artists, enjoy hot apple cider, pick up some bake sale goodies, and maybe even find a handmade ornament made by Del Ray Artisans members to purchase. Sales from the Bake Sale this year will benefit Alexandria Tutoring Consortium (alexandriatutors.org), a local nonprofit working to make sure every child in Alexandria can read and succeed., Alexandria, Virginia 22301. Free

#### **DEC.** 6

#### Annual Family Ornament Decorating Workshop

1–4:00 p.m. Alexandria Archaeology 105 North Union Street, #327

Decorate a take-home artifact-shaped dough ornament inspired by colors and patterns from the City's finest collection of 18th and 19th century excavated artifacts. 703-746-4399 Free

#### DEC. 6

# **15th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights** 5:30 p.m.

Alexandria Marina, Behind the Torpedo Factory

At sundown on the day of the Scottish Christmas Walk parade, Alexandria's harbor lights up as more than 50 illuminated boats cruise the Potomac River at the historic waterfront, led by Alexandria's fireboat Vigilant and Washington, DC's fireboat John Glenn. New this year, DC media personality Tommy McFly of 94.7 Fresh FM will be the parade announcer. At the marina before and after the parade, stop in to the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Holiday Open House between 4 and 7 pm to enjoy performances by the Alexandria Choral Society plus gift shopping in open artist studios. 703-746-3301 Free

#### **DEC. 6**

#### **44th Annual Campagna Center Scottish Walk Parade** 11 a.m.

Parade begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets

The Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade draws nearly 30,000 individuals and families. Tourists travel from throughout the Mid-Atlantic region to participate in this celebrated community event. Dozens

# QUOTABLES

A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.

## - Garrison Keillor



thusiasts willing to work including actors, backstage "techies," set builders, designers, ushe catering staff, and box office workers. Visit our website to see how you can get involved.

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Alexandria's Holiday Market is an annual signature event that transforms the Carlyle District into a lively outdoor Holiday Market. While shopping for unique art and craft items for your loved ones, enjoy live entertainment,

for ns for your tertainment,

traditional European food and sweets, wine, and beer. Local non-profit organizations are invited each weekend to be part of the event. Enjoy and spend quality time with their friends and family. Visit the children's corner for kid's activities to learn more about European traditions and culture. Free

## DEC. 5 & 6

#### **Heather and Greens Sale**

Fri., 9 am-5 pm; Sat., 8 am-4 pm Campagna Center 418 South Washington Street

Purchase fresh heather bundles or a variety of wreaths,

## **DEC.** 6

#### Holiday on the Avenue in Del Ray

#### 6-9 p.m.

Along Mount Vernon Ave. in Del Ray

Visit Del Ray for the annual holiday tree lighting and a special appearance by Santa Claus, who will lead carols and sit for photos with children. The celebration continues with an evening stroll down Mount Vernon Avenue, which will be illuminated by thousands of candles called "luminarias." In the true spirit of the holidays, the community will be collecting items such as canned goods, diapers and towels for the Carpenter's Homeless Shelter. 703-683-2570 Free

#### December 12-23

The popular holiday cabaret returns! Tune that piano to the key of glee for a jolly festivity featuring special guest performers, buckets of cheer and all your cherished yuletide tunes.

Tickets \$32 for subscribers or \$35 for general public.

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# DECEMBER PUZZLERS (ANSWERS ON PAGE 28 - NO PEEKING!)



- 1. After an awful day at work, a man wishes he'd never been born, and with an angel's help, sees what the world would be like without him.
- 2. A miser in Victorian London is visited by three spirits.
- 3. A couple of misfits sing songs, play reindeer games, and learn about Christmas, friendship, and individuality.
- 4. Children make a new friend out of snow!
- America's most beloved homemaker is revealed as a fraud – and falls in love - when a national hero joins her pretend family for a homemade Christmas dinner.
- Adults conspire to convince a boy that he really doesn't want a marvelous Red Ryder BB Gun for Christmas.
- 7. A young boy fends off hapless burglars after his family leaves for Christmas vacation without him.
- 8. A father learns the importance of having Christmas spirit and reading the fine print.
- 9. The King of Halloweentown tries his hand at Christmas with unintentionally terrifying results.
- 10. Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, and Marjorie Reynolds sing and dance their way through the holidays.
- 11. Kris Kringle is put on trial.
- 12. A human raised by Santa's elves attempts to reunite with his birth family for the holidays.
- 13. A notorious grouch's heart grows three sizes when his plans to ruin his neighbors' Christmas go awry.
- 14. Brothers Heat Miser and Snow Miser hope to convince an ailing Santa Claus to skip Christmas this year.



#### ACROSS

3. Jack ...... was the star of Tim Burton's animated "The Nightmare Before Christmas" in 1993.

8. The first name of Macauley Culkin's character in the "Home Alone" movies.

10. ".....'s Christmas Carol" starred Rowan Atkinson in a Victorian-era incarnation of his BBC sitcom character, joined as ever by his sidekick Baldrick.

11. "..... on 34th Street" appeared in 1947, and was remade in 1994. The 1947 movie won three Oscars.

12. "Frosty the Snowman" was narrated by Jimmy ....., whose large nose earned him the nickname "Schnozzola".

#### DOWN

1. What Ralphie wanted to receive in "A Christmas Story".

2. The fictional town that's the setting for "It's A Wonderful Life". (7, 5)

4. The star of "National Lampoon's

Christmas Vacation". (5, 5)

5. Billy-Bob Thornton stars in this 2003 spoof. (3, 5)

6. Will ..... plays the lead in the 2003 comedy, "Elf".

7. "Babes in ....." was first made in 1934, starring Laurel and Hardy. It was later released under the title "March of the Wooden Soldiers".

9. Seymour Hicks played the lead in this 1935 movie, the first in the talking era made from a Victorian classic tale.



SUDOKO

Fill in the bland squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits, 1 thru 9. If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

# 

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NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2014



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# LEGENDARY RESTAURATEUR

#### **BY JOSEPH S. SHUMARD**

harles Eugene "Tony" Gee is more than just legendary. He was a pioneering African American business leader during a period of profound social change in Alexandria and played a critical role in the economic development of lower King Street.

What many people think of when they think of Tony Gee is the Snack Bar restaurant, which started out on lower King Street in Alexandria. It was originally owned by Ruth and Salvatore Galardi, who first hired Tony as a porter in 1958. He quickly became the manager and ultimately the owner. The Snack Bar later moved to Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray, where it continued in operation until 1993. At both locations, the Snack Bar was a groundbreaking enterprise and Tony was its face—serving a sizeable clientele of loyal patrons and helping it become a significant community institution. The Snack Bar served more than 500 meals each day, five days a week. Tony made it a point to know the name of every one of his customers and developed good friendships with many of them. At the same time that he was building his own business, Tony was encouraging other local businesses to get started and to grow. While at his King Street location, he helped organize 84 Alexandria business owners and became the founding president of the Old Town Business Association. Tony has served on more than fifteen local advisory boards, business organizations, and public commissions, including service as chaplain of the Alexandria Jail, as a trustee of the Alexandria Hospital Foundation, as a member of the Election Board of Alexandria, and as a

member of the advisory boards of Virginia Power, the George Washington National Bank and Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust.

As president of the Alexandria Kiwanis Club (2003-4), he led a major project to renovate the Guest House (a non-profit residential facility that helps women make successful transitions from incarceration back into the community). In addition to persuading Kiwanians to donate funds to the project, Tony developed a partnership with Habitat for Humanity (which did most of the major construction work) and procured interior decoration, plumbing, and other materials donated by Alexandria business community.

Another example of Tony's leadership was his organizing a "Law Day" while serving as a member of the Criminal Justice Advisory Council of Northern Virginia. It was held at Charles Houston School, and attended by 11th and 12th grade Alexandria City Public School students. A "first of its kind" event it, featured the Alexandria Chief of Police, City Attorney, Commonwealth Attorney and more than 30 others from the legal communities of nine NorthernVirginia counties. The highlight was a question and answer session devoted to the law. Throughout his years as an Alexandria businessman, Tony found time to pursue the study of religion. He became a Baptist minister and served three congregations for more than 30 years, including four years as Pastor of the Third Baptist Church in Alexandria. These are examples of what Tony Gee has accomplished on an ongoing basis over several decades. He is recognized as a leader for his many contributions to the Alexandria community and exemplifies what is meant by 'good citizen" and Living Legend.





One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly.

- Andy Rooney

"By way of nouríshment, not by way of knowledge." — Rabbí Isaac the Blind



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# ARTIST PHOTOGRAPHER GREG KNOTT





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# **DLII**

#### ACROSS

3. Jack ..... was the star of Tim Burton's animated "The Nightmare Before Christmas" in 1993. [SKELLINGTON]

8. The first name of Macauley Culkin's character in the "Home Alone" movies. [KEVIN]

10. ".....'s Christmas Carol" starred Rowan Atkinson in a Victorian-era incarnation of his BBC sitcom character, joined as ever by his sidekick Baldrick. [BLACKADDER]

11. "..... on 34th Street" appeared in 1947, and was remade in 1994. The 1947 movie won three Oscars. [MIRACLE]

12. "Frosty the Snowman" was narrated by Jimmy ....., whose large nose earned him the nickname "Schnozzola". [DURANTE]

#### DOWN

1. What Ralphie wanted to receive in "A Christmas Story". [BBGUN]

2. The fictional town that's the setting

# MOVIETRIVIA

After an awful day at work, a man wishes he'd never been born, and with an angel's help, sees what the world would be like without him. - It's A Wonderful Life

A miser in Victorian London is visited by three spirits. - A Christmas Carol

A couple of misfits sing songs, play reindeer games, and learn about Christmas, friendship, and individuality -**Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer** 

Children make a new friend - out of

snow! - Frosty the Snowman

America's most beloved homemaker is revealed as a fraud - and falls in love

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your dog!

Е for "It's A Wonderful Life". (7, 5) [BEDFORDFALLS]

M I R A C L E

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4. The star of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation". (5, 5) [CHEVYCHASE]

5. Billy-Bob Thornton stars in this 2003 spoof. (3, 5) [BADSANTA]

6. Will ..... plays the lead in the 2003 comedy, "Elf". [FERRELL]

when a national hero joins her pretend family for a homemade Christmas dinner. - Christmas in Connecticut

Adults conspire to convince a boy that he really doesn't want a marvelous Red Ryder BB Gun for Christmas. - A **Christmas Story** 

A young boy fends off hapless burglars after his family leaves for Christmas vacation without him. - Home Alone

A father learns the importance of having Christmas spirit - and reading the fine print. - The Santa Clause

The King of Halloweentown tries his hand at Christmas with unintentionally terrifying results. - The Nightmare Before Christmas

Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, and MarjoriE

7. "Babes in ....." was first made in 1934, starring Laurel and Hardy. It was later released under the title "March of the Wooden Soldiers". [TOYLAND]

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9. Seymour Hicks played the lead in this 1935 movie, the first in the talking era made from a Victorian classic tale. [SCROOGE]

Reynolds sing and dance their way through the holidays. - Holiday Inn

Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, and Rosemary Clooney sing and dance their way through the holidays. - White Christmas

Kris Kringle is put on trial. - Miracle on 34th Street

A human raised by Santa's elves attempts to reunite with his birth family for the holidays. - Elf

A notorious grouch's heart grows three sizes when his plans to ruin his neighbors' Christmas go awry. - How the **Grinch Stole Christmas** 

Brothers Heat Miser and Snow Miser hope to convince an ailing Santa Claus to skip Christmas this year. - The Year Without a Santa Claus

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8	1	3	9	5	4	7	2	6





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NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2014

# BOO BOO

Boo Boo would be a perfect dog for any family! An absolute sweetheart of a dog, Boo Boo is always looking for a lap to cuddle on or someone to give her bellyrubs. She is a spayed female Welsh Corgi-Pembroke mix, estimated to be about seven years old. Being an adult, Boo Boo is past her "crazy puppy" stage and leads the life of a calm, mature lady! We hope you'll visit Boo Boo today and see what a gentle girl she is!!



#### CARL

Carl is one of our more social guinea pigs here at the AWLA. Like many of our small animals he needs a little bit of time to warm up to strangers, but once he gets to know you he is as friendly as can be! He is a handsome tricolor guinea pig who would be sure to fill your home with extra love and joy, as well as a symphony of excited squeaks! Carl is quite a catch, so don't let him be the pig that got away! He would love for you to adopt him today!

ЕΤ

Sassafrass is a sweet, petite rabbit looking for a loving home to spend the holidays with! He is a neutered male shorthaired rabbit, estimated to be about six years old. He would like you to know that he can be a bit shy at first, but he opens right up after you give him a carrot or two. Sassafrass loves munching on fresh fruits and veggies, enjoys getting pets on his head, and you can usually find him hanging out on top of his hut to survey the scene. If you are looking for a nice, mellow rabbit to welcome into your family, Sassafrass may be a terrific pet for you!

SASSAFRASS



Zeus is a big guy with a big heart to match! Zeus may be on the large size but that just means there is more of him to love! He is a neutered male American Bulldog mix, estimated to be about three years old. This handsome dog enjoys running in the play yard and chasing tennis balls. He also likes to go for walks around the neighborhood and meet new friends. Zeus has a lot of energy, but he knows the joys of relaxation, toohe loves lounging on his fluffy bed for a nice afternoon snooze. Come to the AWLA and meet Zeus today!!



HERMES

Hermes is a very stylish gentleman, sporting a tuxedo to show off his sophisticated taste in fashion. He is a neutered male Domestic Shorthair cat, estimated to be about five years old. If you are looking for a quirky cat who will make you feel needed, Hermes is your man! He loves serenading us with his melodic meows, letting us know that he desires our presence. This charismatic cat also enjoys playing with ping pong balls and wand toys, affectionately rubbing up against his visitors, napping inside of boxes, and indulging in the finest tuna fish. Do you think Hermes could be your new best feline friend? Take a trip to the shelter and get to know him today!



#### TIGER

Tiger is a sweet, loving boy looking for a home to spend his quieter years in. This good-looking feline is a neutered male Domestic Shorthair, estimated to be about 12 years old. Tiger loves greeting people at the shelter and is always seeking out some extra pets and attention. He loves to lounge around in his favorite bed and take lots of cat naps. He is the perfect mix of playful and calm, he has had plenty of time to perfect it! If Tiger sounds like the perfect match for you, come to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and meet him today!!

# LIBBY

Libby is a dog looking for a home where she can unleash all the love she has in her heart! She is a spayed female American Staffordshire Terrier mix, estimated to be about three years old. Libby is an upbeat lady with a vigorous zest for life, and would make an excellent new best friend/work out buddy for anyone with an active lifestyle! This beautiful dog loves giving kisses, playing outside, and chewing on raw hide treats, but most of all she LOVES being around people. We think that she would thrive in a household that has plenty of time and energy to give her the attention she deserves, preferably with older kids. If you think Libby would be the perfect match for you, she would love to meet you today!

# MISCHIEF

Mischief may sound like a troublemaker, but she's no Dennis the Menace! She is a spayed female Domestic Shorthair, estimated to be about three years old. Her favorite hobbies include: playing huntress with all sorts of toys, eating the most exquisite salmon, and getting chin rubs from people. While she pretends to live up to her rebellious title, Mischief would like you to know that her front paws are declawed so she couldn't tear up your carpet even if she was feeling mischievous. Aside from the fun and games, Mischief also enjoys hanging out in the background looking pretty while observing the scene. She is a sweet, beautiful kitty looking for the right person to be her "partner in crime," and to help keep her out of trouble! Come fall in love with Mischief today!





# Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (703)

# (703) 838-4774



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Sponsoring this page to help pets locate foster caregivers

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King Street Cats is proud to be the only all-volunteer, cat-exclusive, no-kill rescue facility in Alexandria, Va. Because we are a free-roaming facility, you can come visit with the "cat-friendliest cats" in town.

> *To meet a King Street Cat, please email contact@kingstreetcats.org.*



WILMA Female, Age 2 Quiet, polite girl wants to be your best friend



CHARLIE Male, 9 months Nicest boy you'll ever meet



MAMA Female, Age 4 People-lover will win you over



**JORDY** Male, Age 4 Handsomest boy wants to love you - and your dog too



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THE COVERT RE

Dreams of Christmas, Santa and Toys

BY HARRY M. COVERT

# WHEN DOWNTOWNS WERE THE BEST

hildhood days make the Christmas season the happiest times in most lives. In this particular case Christmas trees were the real thing, artificial trees had never reached my family and it was usually on Christmas Eve that most families brought in felled cedars and spruces.

Firemen, policemen, service clubs and churches had the lots. It never occurred to children that the delay for most households was simple; tree prices were slashed in half.

There was no such thing as Black Fridays. Department stores and downtown shops were open on the day after Thanksgiving and it was a delight to window shop and browse in and out and see the toys, candies and other assorted things available.

Greeting cards abounded with such words as Merry Christmas, Season's Greetings. Few and far between were words like "Happy Xmas." Cards with only "City" inscribed were mailed with three-cent stamps to names and addresses.

The mailman in the neighborhood knew the people closely on his route because he saw them twice daily, usually by 10 o'clock in the morning and no later than 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

During the season of joy and pleasantries, it was not an unusual sight for the mailman to be refreshed on door stops and front porches with eggnog, cookies, pound cake and fruit cake. Neighborhood youngsters often took advantage of the sweets at the Gaskins, Jones and Goodson houses. Mince meat pies and fruit cakes were plentiful.

Up and down the neighborhoods and downtown, midway through December, schools closed until after New Year's Day for Christmas, not for a winter celebration. Christmas was Christmas period. Candies of all sorts were available. Every child was anxious during this happy time. Each store, the big ones then like Sears Roebuck & Co., Nachman's, Leggett, Kresge's and Woolworth were prepared. Lots of part-time workers helped bicycles, where little red wagons, 8mm film projectors, cowboy and Indian cap guns and bows and arrows, lots of clothes school clothes - and fountain 003 pens and watches were available.

## Happy Days of Christmas Week

Christmas decorations were beautiful everywhere. Every home tree had special colors, angels perched on the top of trees, and every window had various lighted "candles."

As shopping days passed (slowly for youngsters), Christmas Eve finally arrived. Carolers of all ages dressed with corsages and scarves, their nightly strong voices filled the air. Inside every home on my block families were busy wrapping presents. Most of the time tree decorating was left to Santa Claus.

How to sleep with such youthful excitement? This was difficult at best, especially after eyeballing the "The Night before Christmas" display in a downtown showroom for weeks and devouring numerous peppermint candy canes.

Going to sleep counting the minutes before getting up, imagination leaped into the bedroom thinking we had heard Santa's arrival. Since there was no fireplace, he was surely coming in the front door.

The hour came. At 2:30 in the morning, quietly slipping down the stairs, sleepy eyes met a bicycle, a projector with old-time Castle films and a change carrier. It wasn't long before the parents heard the commotion.

Many years later the parents admitted going to bed only moments earlier. They didn't have a "long winter's nap."

Every December 25 since those happy moments, that morning still resonates. Not one gift was ever returned to a store, especially the bike, which seemed vaguely familiar. I'd noticed it a few days earlier in the ceiling of my grandfather's garage. Santa had done his job. City streets had another user who enjoyed every moment. Uncle Carlyle brought some maturity to a boy learning about giving and the meaning of Santa and Christmas.



**BIZZIE BEE** Female, Age 2 Fluffy chocolate tortie is a complete snuggle bug

*Our adoption open houses are every Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.* 

KING STREET CATS 25 Dove Street • Alexandria, VA 22314 www.kingstreetcats.org







# The Little Prince At Bishop Ireton

This year Bishop Ireton is celebrating its 50th anniversary. In order to celebrate such momentous а occasion, Bishop Ireton has decided. as



school, to participate in the One Book Program by reading the classic novel, "The Little Prince" on "R" days. The One Book Program, in which a community reads the same book, has been going on since 1998. It was introduced by Nancy Pearl who came up with the idea to have the city of Seattle read one book together. This idea has permeated places like schools and businesses, including Bishop Ireton. Ireton has named this new tradition "On 'R' days we read". Bishop Ireton Librarian Mimi Marquet said, "We built in 20 minutes for reading into a regular cycle of school days. Each department shares in the time allotted so students have the experience of reading not just in English class but also in Math and Science."

On November 10th, Ireton held a symposium where the book was discussed. A seven member panel discussed The Little Prince. Topics of the panel included themes of the Little Prince, history of the book, and the author of the book, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Reading The Little Prince as a school not only gave Ireton students an opportunity to read an interesting book, but also to be able to share ideas and find common interests with others. The symposium included



members of the Bishop Ireton community, including Risabel Magalong, a freshman English teacher and Kristine Keeney, Ireton's French teacher.

# Holiday Season Fun at "Tavern Toddlers"

With the busy holiday season picking up, parents and caregivers can still bring their little ones to play at Tavern Toddlers! The weekly open playtime at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, continues every Monday morning from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Caregivers, toddlers (walkers through 3 years) and visiting relatives are welcome to play, read, dance, and color in the historic ballroom.

No reservations required. Each week costs \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, and additional people are just \$3. A three-visit pass costs \$18, never expires, and includes up to three people. Program continues weekly through the end of March. On Monday, February 16 — President's Day — Tavern Toddlers will be closed.

Gadsby's Tavern was the center of social and political life in Alexandria as well as the new Federal City of Washington. The tavern served as the premier gathering place for residents including George Washington - and visitors to eat, drink, learn, and influence history. Tavern keepers John Wise and John Gadsby hosted balls, performances, and meetings, and their accommodations were known as the best by travelers near and far.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum is located in the heart of Old Town Alexandria and is owned and operated by the City of Alexandria. For more information, please call 703.746.4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.



# Off-Street Parking and a Garage with 3 Bedrooms, Two and a Half Baths in Heart of Del Ray

Nestled on one of Del Ray's most picturesque streets and a stone's throw from "the Avenue," the semi-detached brick townhouse located at 18



West Mt. Ida Avenue presents an alluring blend of gracious finishes and modern features: Original pine floors, wood-burning fireplace, luminous natural light on three sides, rear deck and fenced yard, garage and off-street driveway parking.

A foyer leads to the main level with an eat-in kitchen, dining room, and sunken living room with French doors to the deck. The upper level offers a master bedroom with master bath, in addition to two bedrooms serviced by a hall bath. And the lower level features a family room adjacent to storage and the garage. The front flower bed and the backyard accommodate a range of Del Ray's favorite pastimes: Gardening, grilling, recreational area for pets and humans alike.

Ready to stroll or grab a bite to eat? Nearby Mount Vernon Avenue offers dozens of dining and retail options, attracting locals and visitors alike who are drawn to Del Ray's quirky, small town friendliness. As the Washington Post observed of Del Ray: "Norman Rockwell would run out of paint within two hours here."

Offered by Morgan Knull at \$624,900 · e: morgan@knull.com

# Fair Trade comes FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Bring new warmth and meaning to your holiday gatherings with tableware, gifts, and décor that bring hope and a better life to artisans in developing countries



# HOLIDAY SHOPPING

# to Benefit our Community

When you shop at Ten Thousand Villages you know you are "giving twice," with unique handmade items for your loved ones, and much-needed income to Third World artisans, enabling them to feed, house, and educate their families.

And for several evenings this December, you can also support favorite charities, because a percentage of the evening's sales will go to non-profit organizations working to improve our community and the world. Do your holiday

Buy One, Get One 50% Off All Jewelry November 28, 29

Open 8 am - 9 pm November 28!



915 King Street 703-684-1435

Celebrating 20 Years in Old Town!

shopping and support local charities at the same time!

December 1, 6-8 pm: Coexist Foundation December 3, 7-9 pm: Dining for Women December 6, 7-9 pm: Computer C.O.R.E December 7, 5-7 pm: Haiti-Micah Project December 9, 6-8 pm: Alexandria Senior Services

December 10, 6-8 pm: Latin America Working Group



915 King Street Old Town, Alexandria 703-684-1435

Celebrating 20 Years in Old Town!



NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2014



# **DECEMBER 31, 2014**

An Old Town New Year's Eve Party

23 indoor venues with live music, dancing, and family entertainment **FIREWORKS ON THE POTOMAC** 



**PLUS** afternoon adventures with the **SIXTH ANNUAL FUN HUNT** and new creative and culinary activities all around town

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

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

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# Badge and schedule information at **FIRSTNIGHTALEXANDRIA.ORG #FNA20TH**

