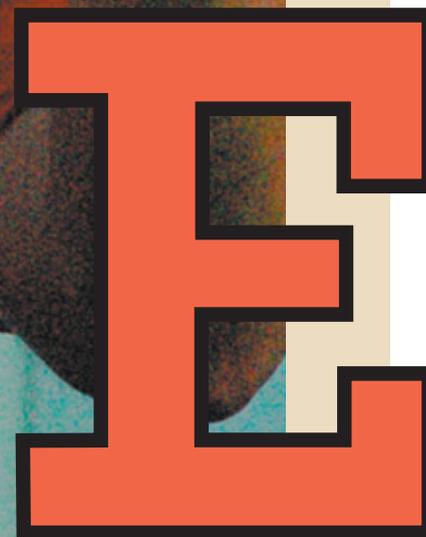
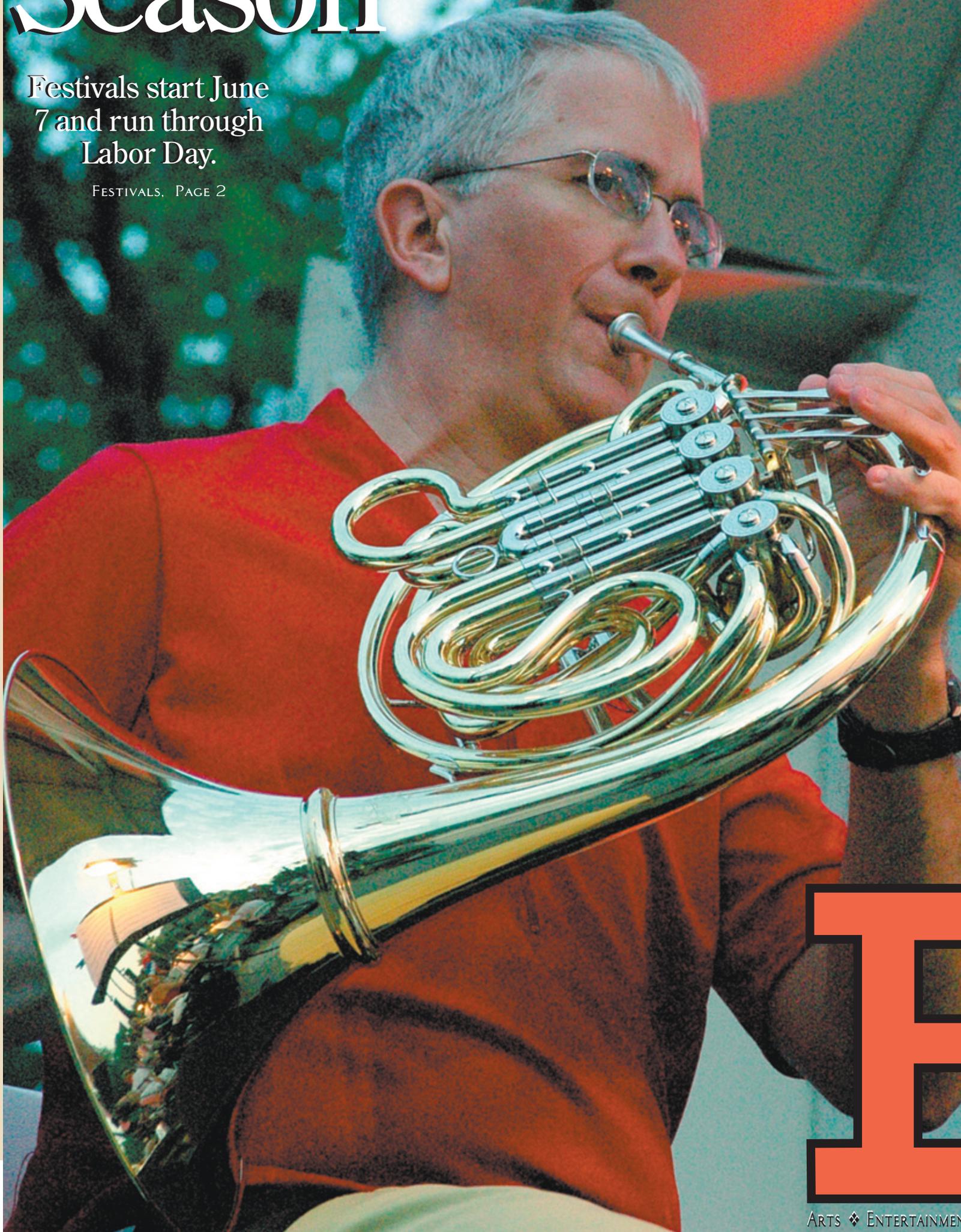


Festival Season

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

Festivals start June
7 and run through
Labor Day.

FESTIVALS, PAGE 2



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

FESTIVALS

A Summer Of Festivals

Alexandria offers a variety of events, from birthday to cultural events.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE PACKET

In many places summer is a time for carnivals. In others its rodeo season. And, in still others it signals outdoor arts and craft shows. In Alexandria, summer is for festivals —highlighting multiple cultures, customs, foods and entertainment.

All in all, there are a dozen festivals throughout the city this year from June until Labor Day. Most feature the customs, traditions, dress, music and food of a particular ethnic group or geographic location. The one thing they all have in common is a learning experience encased in a day, or days, of fun.

Alexandria summers offer a microcosm of America on parade.

The first of 2008 is the 16th Annual Armenian Festival on Saturday, June 7, from noon to 6 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St.— rain or shine. It began as a way for Alexandrians to support the earthquake victims in Gyumri, Armenia, which became an Alexandria Sister City as a result of that humanitarian effort.

Now co-sponsored by the Alexandria-Gyumri Sister City Committee and Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, the festival continues to benefit a wide array of humanitarian endeavors. To accomplish that mission it offers food, arts and

crafts, live entertainment, dancers, instrumentalists and vocalists.

Metered street parking is available surrounding Market Square and throughout Old Town's core area. There are also a variety of public parking facilities, including a multi-level garage under Market Square that can be accessed from South Fairfax Street. For additional information call 703-883-4686.

The next day, Sunday, June 8, is the eighth annual Arlandria-Chirilagua Festival from noon to 7 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Village Shopping Center, 3700 block of Mt. Vernon Ave. Free parking is available at 221 Glebe Road.

Co-sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department working conjunction with Tenants and Workers United, this festival offers not only food and beverages but also children's activities and live entertainment. It will be canceled in case of inclement weather. For additional information call 703-684-5697.

THE LARGEST EVENT of the summer, as far as multiple activities, space and attendance, is the Annual Red Cross Festival June 14-15. Held each year at Oronoco Bay Park, 7 N. Lee St., at the river's edge in Old Town, it serves as the primary fundraiser for the Alexandria Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Featuring a series of activities, rides, and a wide assortment of food, it runs from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day. For additional information contact Sharon Grant at the Alexandria Red Cross 703-299-2524.

July holds special meaning for Alexandria. It does not officially celebrate the national patriotic holiday of July 4. Instead it celebrates its own birthday that preceded the nation's by 27 years.

On July 12 Alexandria will hold its 259th Birthday in Oronoco Park, 7 S. Lee St. Eight days after the nation marks its 232nd birthday on July 4.

Featuring a concert by the Alexandria Symphony Or-



Photo from a previous year's Armenian Festival.

chestra, the evening will be topped off by a fireworks display over the Potomac River and the ceremonial cutting of birthday cakes by members of City Council. Included will be refreshments, novelty sales, and exhibits. The rain date is July 13. But, that will entail only a fireworks display.

July 26, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Market Square hosts the 2008 African Heritage Cultural Festival. Its theme this year is "Reaching Back Moving Forward."

Commencing with the Grand Processional, events include Pouring of Libation, African drummers, dance, gospel, jazz and reggae music, children's activities, community exhibitors, and cultural commercial

sales. There will also be plenty of food and beverages. For additional information call 703-883-4686 or visit alexandriava.gov.

Aug. 2 Alexandrians have the opportunity to participate in one of the most historic activities of this early American community — The Friendship Fire Company Festival is held at the home of what is known as George Washington's Fire Company, 107 S. Alfred St. Co-sponsored by the Alexandria Fire Department, this festival is specially designed to delight Alexandrians of all ages.

On display is firefighting equipment from Colonial times to the present. The Friendship Fire Co. museum offers a glimpse into the past of fire firefighting. Its early membership included the Father of this nation.

Various pieces of equipment and apparatus are on display as well as participation by various vendors and the cutting of the traditional birthday cake. For additional information call 703-838-4994.

On that same day, Aug. 2, beginning at

SEE FESTIVALS, PAGE 8



Afro American Festival



Juneteenth

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET

ON THE COVER: A musician provides entertainment at a previous birthday celebration for the City of Alexandria.

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Life On Two Wheels

A local bike event highlights the area's cycling amenities.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
GAZETTE PACKET

In recent years, both Arlington County and the City of Alexandria have taken strides to make their respective communities more friendly to cyclists.

They have created hundreds of miles of dedicated bike lanes, repaved existing bike trails and installed dozens of bike racks, all in an effort to make the area more amenable to cyclists.

“Arlington and Alexandria are both well-positioned to be heavy bike usage communities,” Alexandria City Council Member

Participate

The 2008 Arlington & Alexandria Community Bike Ride is taking place on Saturday, June 7. Check in for the event begins at 7 a.m. at 2121 Crystal Drive in Arlington, two and a half blocks from the Crystal City Metro Station.

Riders can go on the 23-mile Community Tour route, which goes along trails and streets, or the eight-mile Family Ride route, which goes only on trails. There will also be food, music and other entertainment at the finish line in Crystal City after the race.

For more information, visit the Washington Area Bicyclist Association at www.waba.org.

Rob Krupicka (D) said. “I think we’re better than most right now.”

Now Arlington and Alexandria will be teaming up to host the fourth annual Community Bike Ride as a way to show that, in this area, cycling can be a practical substitute to driving.

“With the increase in gas prices and focus on the environment, people are starting to see the bike as a viable means of transportation,” Chantal Buchser of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association said. “If you’re just running up to the grocery store, you don’t need to take your car.”

THE COMMUNITY Bike Ride began in Arlington in 2005 as a way to encourage bike use in the County. “It’s to show people how they can get around by bike,” Buchser said. Her organization, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, is organizing the

event.

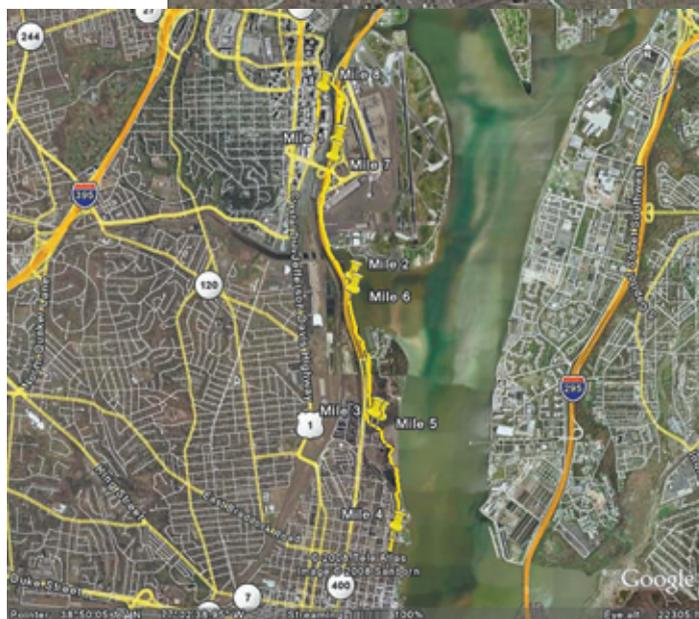
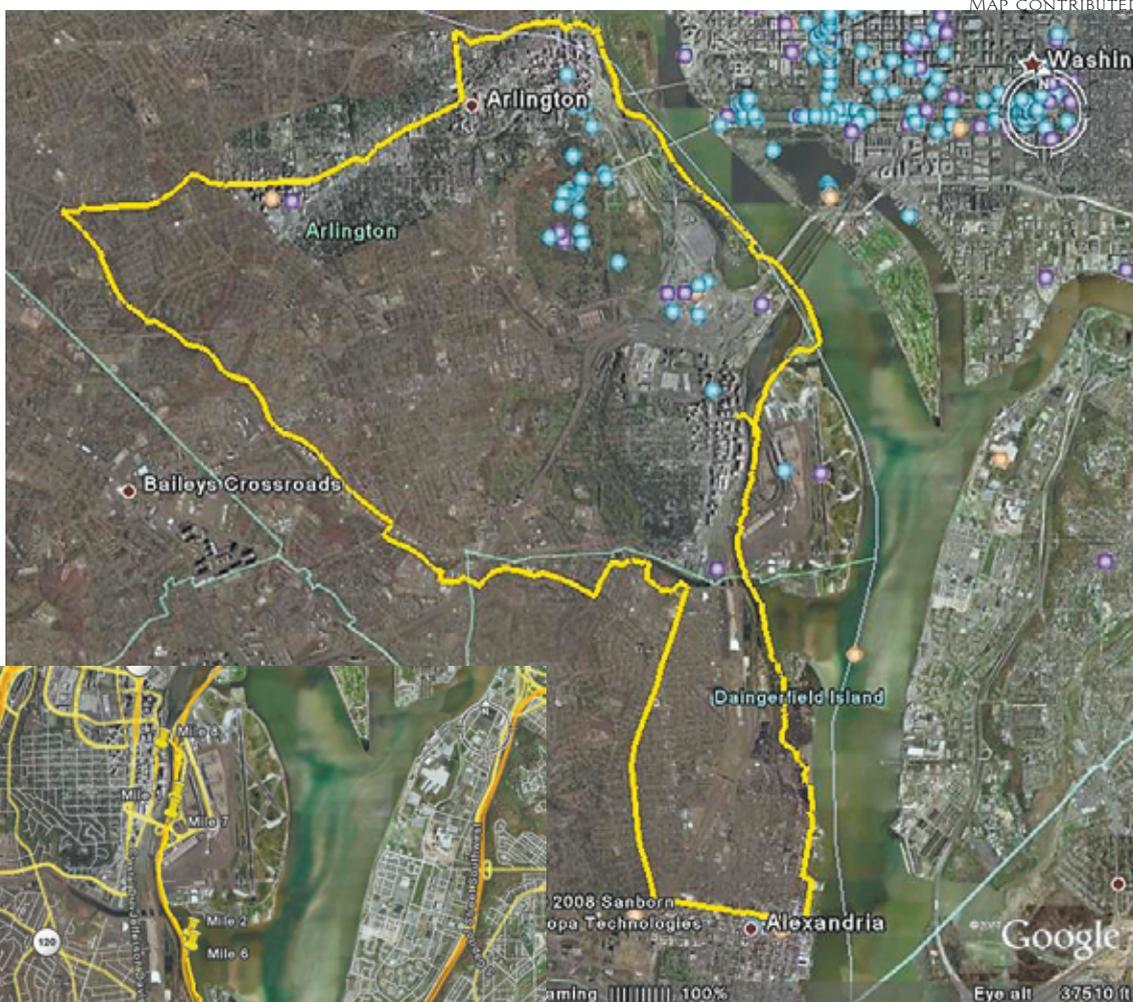
She said that Arlington and Alexandria are both exemplary in what they offer to cyclists. One of the most helpful things for cyclists, Buchser said, are the detailed maps that show the bike routes of the area. “They have great maps,” she said. “If you know you want to get from point A to point B you can get there using the maps.”

Arlington County Board Chairman Walter Tejada (D) said that the Community Bike Ride is an important part of the effort to encourage bike usage in the area. “We are

promoting as much as we can the use of bicycles,” he said. “Not just as an alternative means of transportation. It’s also healthy.”

Last year, the City of Alexandria joined in the act. “We have some very involved advocates here in

town who knew of the Arlington ride and we all felt like a ride done jointly by the jurisdictions would be good for people,” Yon Lambert, a manager in the City’s transportation department, said. “[It] would help us show the connectivity particularly, between the trail systems”



The 23-mile Community Tour goes to Rosslyn, East Falls Church, Del Ray and Old Town Alexandria. Pictured left, the eight-mile family tour goes up and down the Mount Vernon Trail in Alexandria and Arlington.



An Arlington cyclist uses the Mount Vernon Trail, which goes from Rosslyn to Mount Vernon.

FILE PHOTO

“It’s nice to have a partner like Arlington who can show us the way in some areas,” Krupicka said.

The focus of this year’s event, organizers said, is to show participants how easy it is to travel between the City and the County on a bicycle. Combining the two jurisdictions was a natural, Arlington County bike expert Paul DeMaio said, because they share several trails and dozens of routes.

“Alexandria and Arlington are so similar,” he said. “If we were to do the ride separately it would just be duplicative of all the work.”

THIS YEAR’S Community Bike Ride starts and ends in Crystal City, an area that is trying to project a cyclist-friendly image.

“We’re very excited to be the main host,” said Angie Fox, the president of the Crystal City BID, a group that promotes the area’s businesses. “It’s a showcase for the active side of Crystal City.”

“We have the lovely Mount Vernon Trail that gets heavily used here,” Fox’s colleague Maurisa Turner-Potts said. “We have open

spaces and dedicated bike lanes.”

This year’s bike ride offers two routes for cyclists to choose from. One is an eight-mile course that goes up and down the Mount Vernon Trail, which runs alongside the Potomac River from Rosslyn to Mount Vernon. DeMaio said that this course is for “younger individuals or maybe people who haven’t been on a bicycle in a while.”

The other course offered is a 23-mile tour around the Arlington and Alexandria area. It goes from Crystal City up to Rosslyn, out to the East Falls Church neighborhood, along the Washington & Old Dominion Trail, down through Del Ray and into Old Town Alexandria before finishing back up to Crystal City.

But make no mistake, event organizers said: this is not a race. Rather, it is a chance to get a scenic tour of the area while discovering all Arlington and Alexandria has to offer cyclists.

DeMaio said, a crew of police escorts will be at the front of the pack and “No one is allowed to pass them. If anything, the police will be the winner.”

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CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

ONGOING

Bike Ride. Every Sunday at 2 p.m. at Cameron Run Regional Park Parking lot, 4100 Eisenhower Ave. Come ride on the Holmes Run Greenway. Anyone can ride, children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Ride either 5.6 miles or 6.9 miles. Visit <http://bike.meetup.com/288> or call Susan Schneider, BikeWalk Alexandria, at 202-403-1148.

Visit **George Washington's Distillery & Gristmill** through Oct. 31 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. See how whiskey got started. \$4/adult; \$2/child. Get discounts with admission to Mount Vernon Estate. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Take a **seasonal walking tour** from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. This 30-minute tour explores a variety of contributions. Free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

On **Sundays** take a Potomac River Sightseeing Cruise at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. \$9/adult; \$5/child in addition to Mount Vernon Estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for schedules.

Every **Tuesday and Thursday** through October from 5-8 p.m. at Hotel Monaco Alexandria, enjoy **Doggie Happy Hour.** Enjoy doggie treats and human treats.

Join City archaeologists and trained volunteers for an exciting program for kids of all ages at **Alexandria Archaeology Family Dig Days.** Be part of the fascinating archaeological investigation and discover firsthand the hidden clues left behind by the people who lived and worked there hundreds of years ago, by helping screen excavated soil. Monthly Family Dig Days will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, in Alexandria. The 2008 dates are on Saturdays: May 31; June 14; July 12; Aug. 16; Sept. 20 and Oct. 18. \$5/person and spots fill up fast. Call 703-838-4399 or visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org to reserve a spot.

On **Sundays** from noon-5 p.m., visit the Waterfront and see **history-inspired performances** near the Torpedo Factory; do a "meet and greet" of early Alexandria residents and travelers near the Waterfront and lower King Street. Free. Visit www.historicalexandria.org for more.

In celebration of the exhibition "**Setting the President's Table: American Presidential China**," visitors to Mount Vernon will have a chance every day from June 1 to Aug. 31 to win a piece of porcelain featuring the Martha Washington "States" pattern. Drawings occur daily at 3 p.m. in the Shops at Mount Vernon, and the grand prize will be drawn on Aug. 31. No purchase is required, and visitors do not have to be present to win. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

On weekdays from **June through August**, from 10-11 a.m. or 11 a.m.-noon., children ages 6-12 can **hunt for Harry Potter's** favorite plants and explore their lore. Learn how to craft a wand and make potions. Groups welcome. \$6/student. 703-

642-5173. At Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road.

On Saturdays from **June 7 through Aug. 16** from 1-3 p.m., children ages 8-12 years can learn how to **create a garden** with hands-on activities and will be able to grow a garden. \$10/student. At Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. To register, 703-642-5173.

See Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., in a whole new light - **lantern light.** Tour the 1785 tavern and 1792 City Hotel during the summer season with costumed guides as you experience the tavern as patrons did more than 200 years ago before the advent of electricity. Tours are every Friday night, **June through August**, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person ages 5 and up. Tours last approximately 30 minutes, with the last tour starting at 9:15 p.m. Call ahead to confirm tour date. For more information, call 703-838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 30

Lunch Bunch. Noon at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children up to age 5 can bring a lunch and listen to stories. Free. 703-971-0010.

Time For 2s. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children ages 2-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900 ext. 4.

Performance. The upper elementary students of Aquinas Montessori School, 8484 Mount Vernon Highway, will show "Aladdin, Jr.," for the Fete celebration from 6-8:30 p.m. Visit www.aquinasmontessorischool.com for more.

Theatre Performance. George Mason Elementary School will perform "Storyville" at 7 p.m. at the school, 2601 Cameron Mills Road. Free. 703-706-4470.

SATURDAY/MAY 31

Spring Perennials - Design & Combination Planting. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. Bring a garden design to life by exploring the world of perennials and beautiful woody plants. \$18/session. Call 703-642-5173 to register.

Car Show. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Lyceum. See orphan cars from companies such as Willys, Nash, Packard and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or 703-838-4994.

Car Show. 8 a.m.-noon at Mount Vernon High School. Browse through a flea market, entertainment and



Audrey Andrist and Kaleigh Acord (pictured) will perform on Monday, June 2 at The Lyceum.



The bands at George Washington Middle School will perform on Thursday, June 5 at 6 p.m. as part of the First Thursday in Del Ray, at 7 p.m. at the school.

more. \$10/car and free for spectators. 703-781-0826.

Dance Concert. The Choreographers Collaboration Project presents "Celebrate Del Ray" at 7 p.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. \$10/adult; \$5/child.

Saturday Stories. 10:30 a.m. Time For 2s. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900 ext. 4.

Saturday Stories. 2 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Free. For all ages. 703-519-6000.

Movie Watch. 8:30 p.m. at FireFlies Restaurant, 1501 Mount Vernon Ave. Watch "Noise" by Aussie writer/director Matthew Saville. Free. Visit duncanfilms.blogspot.com or 703-548-7200.

Music Performance. Hear performances by the winners of the APAA music competition at 4 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Free. 703-505-0700.

Author Reading. Robert Patton will discuss his book "Patriot Pirates: The Privateer War for Freedom" at 7 p.m. at Olsson's-Old Town, 106 S. Union St. Free. 703-684-0077.

Dance Concert. 8 p.m. at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. See a performance by the Metropolitan Youth Tap Ensemble. \$15/adult; \$10/child. Visit www.metroyouthtap.org.

Civil War Camp Days. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road. See Union and Confederate reenactors. Suggested donation of \$2/adult; \$1/child. Visit www.fortward.org or 703-838-4848.

Family Dig Day. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. \$5/person. Excavate soil for artifacts. Reservations required, 703-838-4399.

Old Town Medicine Show. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at The Athanaeum, 201 Prince St. See "doctors" demonstrate remedies and services from the 19th century. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-838-3852.

Horse Event. 1-4 p.m. at Little Burgundy Fair, 5715 Sable Drive. Enjoy grooming demonstrations, prizes, crafts and more. Free. 703-549-4912.

SUNDAY/JUNE 1
Celebrate Life. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Stardust Restaurant. Children and adults will celebrate life at a "Mad Hatter" tea party. Features portraits,

auction, music and more. Benefits the International Morquio Organization. Visit www.morquio.org for more.

Opening Reception. 5-9 p.m. see art by Wesley Clark from June 1 through June 21 at Blueberry Art Gallery, 3112A Mount Vernon Ave. Free. 703-894-8854.

Bridge Club. 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2500 Sherwood Hall Lane. Beginners and advanced players age 12 and up can learn. Free. 703-765-3645.

MONDAY/JUNE 2

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear music by Audrey Andrist and Kaleigh Acord. Free. 703-838-4994.

Martha Washington's Birthday. All guests named Martha get in free to Mount Vernon Estate. Must show id. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-765-2000.

TUESDAY/JUNE 3

Birthday Talk. 7-9 p.m. at Sacred Circle Bookstore, 919 King St. \$30/person. Presented by Rev. Charlene Hicks. Visit www.violettefireenterprises.com.

Music Performance. The West Potomac High School Orchestra will perform at 7 p.m. in the Springbank Auditorium. Free. Hear music from the 18th century as well as music scores.

Lullaby Stories. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 1-5 can wear pajamas and enjoy bedtime stories. Free. 703-339-4610.

Tiny Tots. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 13-23 months can enjoy stories and songs. Free. 703-768-6700.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 4

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Lee District Park Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road. Hear the United States Navy Band Cruisers perform. Free. 703-922-9841.

Intro to Knitting. 6-8 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Learn the basics. \$55/person. Register at "Danielle@knit-a-gogo.com."
Picnic Times. 10:30 a.m. at John

Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. 703-971-0010.

THURSDAY/JUNE 5

First Thursday. Noon-9 p.m., artists "Think Green" at the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., from June 5-29. Artists thought about the environment through their artwork. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org or 703-838-4827.

Music Performance. The George Washington Jazz Band will perform at 7 p.m. as part of Del Ray's "First Thursday." Free.

Music Performance. The George Washington Orchestra will perform at 7 p.m. at the school. Free.

Music Performance. The West Potomac High School, Carl Sandburg and other local school choirs will perform songs from Broadway at 7:30 p.m. in the West Potomac Auditorium. \$10/person. Visit www.westpotomacchoirs.org for more.

Garden Stroll and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Take a relaxing stroll through the gardens and enjoy a tea. \$25/person. To register, 703-941-7987.

Garden Sprouts: Lamb's Ears and Dandy Lions. 9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Children ages 3-5 years can search for spider plants, elephant's ears and more. \$6/child. To register, 703-642-5173.

Book Discussion Group. 12:15 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Adults discuss "Dreaming of the Bones" by Deborah Crombie. Free. 703-339-4610.

First Thursday. 6-9 p.m. on Mount Vernon Ave. Enjoy booths and other items related to "Health and Wellness." Free. Visit www.delraycitizen.org for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 6

Opening Reception. 7-10 p.m., artists "Think Green" at the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., from June 5-29. Artists thought about the environment through their artwork. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org or 703-838-4827.

Mount Vernon Nights. Listen to a variety of music at 7:30 p.m. on Friday nights at Grist Mill Park, 4710

Mount Vernon Memorial Highway starting June 6. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances for more.

Music Performance. The West Potomac High School, Carl Sandburg and other local school choirs will perform songs from Broadway at 7:30 p.m. in the West Potomac Auditorium. \$10/person. Visit www.westpotomacchoirs.org for more.

Landscaping. 9 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to create a garden. \$160/two sessions. 703-642-5173.

Eco Savvy Rose Gardening. 1:30-3 p.m. at Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. Design a rose garden with low maintenance roses and ecologically savvy plants. \$15/person. 703-642-5173.

Lunch Bunch. Children up to age 5 can bring a lunch and enjoy stories at noon at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Free. 703-971-0010.

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

BBQ and Music. Noon-5 p.m. at Lee Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Enjoy bluegrass music by Dead Men's Hollow and more while eating BBQ. 445/adult; \$30/student; \$15/child. Proceeds benefit Lee-Fendall House. 703-548-1789.

Fun Fair. Noon-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Rec Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Features moonbounces, slides, face painting, music, games, food and more. \$10/family. E-mail lizwixson1@hotmail.com

Opening Reception. 5:30-8 p.m., see "2 Visions," at Gallery West, 1213 King St., from June 4 through July 6.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

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June 23 Live and Let Die (1973)
June 30 The Man with the Golden Gun (1974)
July 7 The Spy Who Loved Me (1977)
July 14 Moonraker (1979)
July 21 For Your Eyes Only (1981)
July 28 Octopussy (1983)
Aug 4 A View to a Kill (1985)
Aug 11 The Living Daylights (1987)
Aug 18 License to Kill (1989)
Aug 25 GoldenEye (1995)
Sept 1 Tomorrow Never Dies (1997)
Sept 8 The World is Not Enough (1999)
Sept 15 Die Another Day (2002)
Sept 22 Casino Royale (2006)

TOURS

Friday Night Lights

Lantern-led tours will allow visitors to see Gadsby's Tavern by candlelight.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

In the garish light of day, Gadsby's Tavern could be mistaken for just another old building. Historic, of course, but old and strangely distant from the modern world. At night, however, the tavern is transformed by candlepower. In the flickering glow of lanterns, the tavern seems alive with shadows from the past. People who work at the tavern say that experiencing the tavern at night in the glow of candlelight is an experience altogether different from touring the museum during the day.

"I know this sounds kind of dorky," said Liz Williams, assistant director at Gadsby's Tavern. "But we always say that the building seems happier when it's lit up by candlelight. There's just something about it that's different."

Experiencing Gadsby's Tavern by candlelight has become such a popular experience that annual lantern-led tours have become a fixture of the Old Town scene. That's why the museum will offer lantern-led tours every Friday in June, July and August unless the building has been rented for a special occasion. Even those who have already toured the tavern by day may be surprised at the secrets it yields at night.

"The people who stayed at Gadsby's 200 years ago would have seen it by candlelight," said Amy Bertsch, spokeswoman for the Office of Historic Alexandria. "So this will give people a chance to experience the tavern the way Alexandria's early visitors did."

THOSE WHO venture to follow the lantern into the darkened tavern will tour two buildings, one that was built in the 1780s and one that was constructed in the 1790s. Although they are from the same period, times had obviously changed for Alexandria after the American victory against the British. People who were staying for the night in the 1780s tavern would have slept in the crowded third-floor "dormier," sharing a bed with strangers. Those who ventured upstairs too late would end up sleeping on



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
A guide at Gadsby's Tavern.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET
A view of one of the bedrooms in Gadsby's.

the floor.

"Ladies would not have stayed in a dormier," said Williams. "But they would have stayed at the City Hotel. So the contrast between the two buildings lets you see the evolution of hospitality in Alexandria."

The 1790s building on the corner of North Royal Street and Cameron Street, known for many years as the City Hotel, had the luxury of offering private rooms. One of the highlights of the lantern-led tours will be seeing the room where the mysterious Female Stranger died in 1816, undoubtedly more spooky at night when visitors are likely to get a chill up their spine when they learn about her strangely anonymous male companion.

Another highlight will be learning about George Washington's many visits to the tavern, where he enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. According to one account of a 1798 visit documented by George Washington Parke Custis, John Gadsby announced that he had a "good store of canvas-back ducks in the larder."

"Very good sir," responded the former president in the candle-lit tavern. "Give us some of them, with a chafing-dish, some hominy and a bottle of good Madeira, and we shall not complain."

Feel the Candlepower

See the 18th century through a whole new light by touring Gadsby's Tavern Museum, an experience that includes both the 1784 tavern and the 1792 City Hotel. The lantern-led tours will be offered Friday nights between 7 and 10 p.m. The tavern is located at 134 North Royal Street. For more information, call 703-838-4242.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 5

Features the work of two of the gallery's newest members, Linda Bankerd and Robinwyn Lewis. Visit www.gallery-west.com or 703-549-6006.

All About Kittens. 1-3 p.m. at Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave. Learn about kittens. Free. Visit www.alexandriaanimals.org or 703-838-4774.

Armenian Festival. Noon-6 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Enjoy homemade food, music and handcrafted items. Free. 703-883-4686.

Lee District Nights. 7:30 p.m. at Hayfield Elementary School, 7633 Telegraph Road. Hear Deanna Bogart perform. Free. 703-324-SHOW (7469).

Music Performance. The West Potomac High School, Carl Sandburg and other local school choirs will perform songs from Broadway at 7:30 p.m. in the West Potomac Auditorium. \$10/person. Visit HYPERLINK www.westpotomacchoirs.org for more.

Container Workshop: Pots. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. Design a container garden. \$55/person. 703-642-5173.

Garden Sprouts: Lamb's Ears and Dandy Lions. 10 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Children ages 3-5 years can search for spider plants, elephant's ears and more. \$6/child. To register, 703-642-5173.

Kelley Cares 5k Run. 8 a.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Proceeds will benefit a Mobile Multi-Sensory Room for the Therapeutic Recreation Program of Alexandria. Visit www.delraycitizen.org for more.

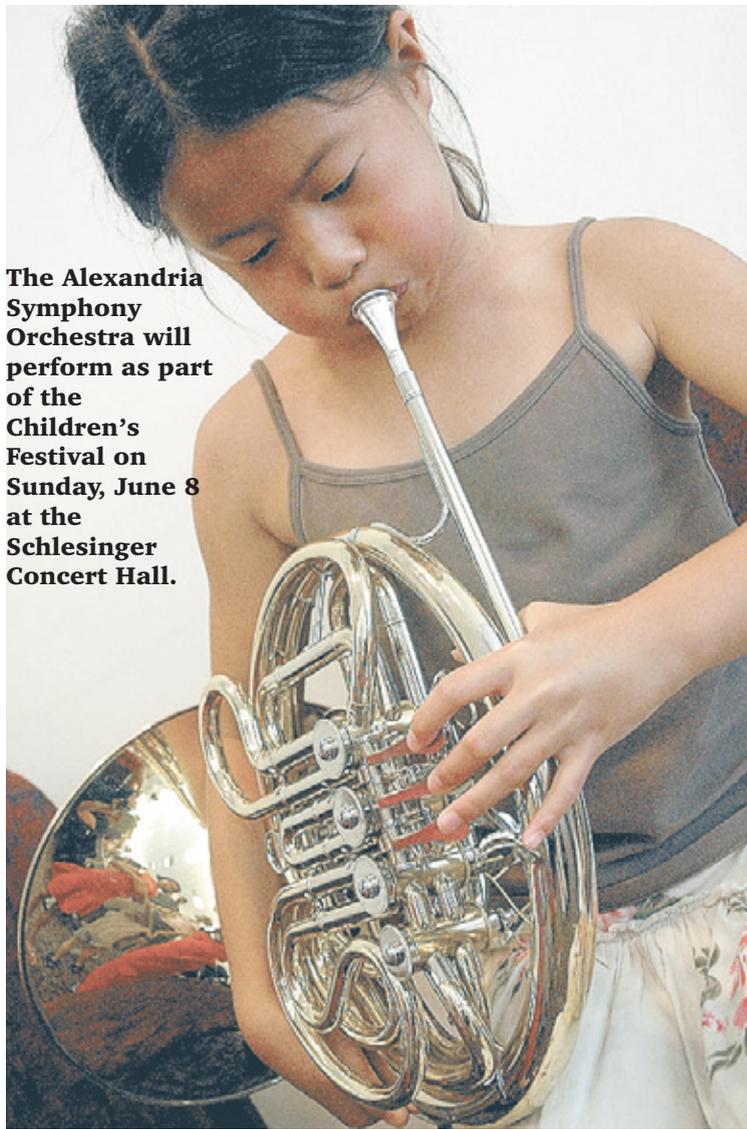
School Fun Fair. Noon-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Rec Center. Free. www.delraycitizen.org for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 8

Music Performance. Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will perform selections from "The Pirates of the Caribbean" at 2 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. \$5/person. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

Songs of Freedom. 1-5:30 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Hear music by the Alfred Street Baptist Church Male Chorus,

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will perform as part of the Children's Festival on Sunday, June 8 at the Schlesinger Concert Hall.



see hearth cooking demonstrations and take tours www.gunstonhall.com or 703-550-9220 for ticket information.

Music Performance. Focus Inn Alexandria presents Ellis with Bob Sima at 7 p.m. at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. \$15/adult; \$12/member. Visit www.focusmusic.org or 703-380-3151.

Arlandria-Chirilagua Festival. Noon-7 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Village Shopping Center, 3700-3800 blocks of Mount Vernon Ave. Free. Features music, food, activities, arts and crafts and more. 703-883-4686.

Picnic and Party. 11 a.m., at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane. There will be a

moon bounce, face painting, games, music, and food. 703-765-6118 or visit www.mvponline.org.

Summer Table Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn outdoor entertaining tips while enjoying an English tea. \$25/person. To register, 703-941-7987.

Bridge Club. 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2500 Sherwood Hall Lane. Beginners and advanced players age 12 and up can learn. Free. 703-765-3645.

Medicine and Advertising. Robert E. Greenspan will talk about his book "Medicine: Perspectives in History and Art" at 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Free, but reservations required, www.nvfaa.org or 703-838-8352.



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End Note

Keegan Theatre Portrays Pub Life In Ireland

Keegan Theatre explores fate of famed institution.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
GAZETTE PACKET

It may be hard to imagine Ireland without its famed pubs. It would be even harder to imagine Irish theater without them, for the image of the Irish wrapping palms around pints is indelibly etched on the consciousness of anyone who attends an Irish play from time to time.

The Keegan Theatre, a company that started out in Arlington and has developed strong ties to all things Irish (including being the only American theater company that annually tours the Emerald Isle) is presenting the American premiere of a play by Owen McCafferty that taps into the problem Irish pubs are having.

With the increasing affluence of the Irish

LOCAL THEATER

Send listings to Gazette at gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions.

Other News

Act III Theatre Company is holding auditions for "A Year with Frog and Toad" for men and women ages 15 and up on June 2-3 from 7-9 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. 703-548-1154.

Just Starting

The Port City Playhouse presents "Split Sec-

Where and When

The Keegan Theatre's production of "Closing Time" plays through June 7 at Theatre on the Run, 3700 South Four Mile Run Drive. Performances are Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. with a matinee on Sunday, June 1 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 - \$20. Call 703-892-0202 or log on to www.keegantheatre.org.

people, they have many new options for their free time and they are spending less and less time sitting in pubs knocking back a brew or a shot. As a result, many pubs are going out of business. The BBC reported last year on the decline in pub licenses and the closings among rural pubs, especially in the Republic of Ireland where smoking has been banned in pubs.

McCafferty's play isn't set in a rural pub or even in the Republic of Ireland. It takes place in a small bar in a hotel in Belfast in Northern Ireland - but the trend is hitting there as well. As the owner of the establishment contemplates shutting down, his few regulars sit watching the news on TV (and discussing the death of Charlton Heston). As local audiences learned last year when Keegan produced McCafferty's

ond" from June 6-21 at Lee Center for the Performing Arts, 1108 Jefferson St. All shows start at 8 p.m. \$15/adult; \$13/senior, student. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.com or 703-838-2880.

See "The Visit" through June 22 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave www.signature-theatre.org or 703-820-9771 for more.

From June 12 through June 15, Neelam Patel presents "Stripping Borders" at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. www.strippingborders.com for more.

See "The Underpants" from June 7 through June 28 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600

"Mojo Mickybo," the playwright captures the language of his home country with an uncanny touch.

For this new production, the co-artistic directors of Keegan's "New Island Project" which specializes in smaller works, Eric Lucas and his wife Kerry Waters Lucas, both direct and appear in the show. He's one of the pub's regulars who's not above sneaking behind the bar to add to his pint when left alone. She's the owner's wife who works as a barmaid and is tempted to take off to escape the atmosphere of failure in her husband's world.

Playing the owner/proprietor is Bruce Rauscher, who is discovered at the start of the play with his head on his arm, slumped over a table where he passed out from too much drink the night before. (The drool

Wolfe St www.thelittletheatre.com or 703-683-0496 for tickets.

See "The Lion and the Mouse" from June 14 through Aug. 16 at Classika Theatre, 4041 S. 28th St. Visit www.classika.org or 703-824-6200 for tickets and more.

Last Chance

Zemfira Stage presents Aaron Sorkin's classic military courtroom drama, "A Few Good Men," through May 31 at The Lyceum, located at 201 South Washington St. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, seniors and military personnel. For

puddle on his sleeve attests both to his unconscious state and to the attention to detail of the production.)

Ian LeValley and Mark A. Rhea are the other men in the bar - LeValley as a customer honest enough to put the payment in the till whenever he pours himself a shot and Rhea as a neighbor who is handicapped by the effects of a gunshot wound to the head on the mean streets of Belfast.

As can be expected from this cast at this theater, the acting is expressive, well conceived and highly entertaining. This is especially true of Rhea who stretches his skills to handle a part that is quite different from many of the roles he has taken in the past. He's marvelous in this one.

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway, and edits Potomac Stages, a website covering theater in the region (www.PotomacStages.com). He can be reached at Brad@PotomacStages.com.

reservations or more information, contact Zemfira Stage at 703-318-0619 or zina@zemfirastage.com, or visit www.zemfirastage.com.

Teatro de la Luna presents "Volvio Una Noche" (She Returned One Night) through May 31 at Gunston Arts Center, Theatre Two, 2700 S. Lang St. Performances are Thursdays-Saturdays at 8p.m. and Saturday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets range between \$20-\$30. Visit www.teatrodela luna.org or 703-548-3092.

Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., presents "The Happy Time" by Kander and Ebb through June 1. Listen to the story of Jacques Bonnard. Visit www.signature-theatre.org or 703-820-9771 for tickets and times.

Festivals Come To Alexandria

FROM PAGE 2

noon and running until 7 p.m., is the annual Irish Festival at Waterfront Park, 1 A Prince St., sponsored by Ballyshaners, Inc. For the Irish challenged Ballyshaners is Gaelic for "Old Towners."

As from its conception, the Master of Ceremonies will be Alexandria's own irrepressible Irishman Pat Troy. And, from all indications, he will still be insisting that Waterfront Park, which he dubbed several years ago "No Name Park," be renamed "Fitzgerald Park" in honor of the most prominent Irish founder of Alexandria.

In addition to Irish arts and crafts, Irish-American food and beverages, the festival also features all day entertainment by such groups as the Maple School, Culkin, Boyle, and O'Neill-James schools of dance; City of Alexandria Pipes & Drums; and Washington Scottish Pipes and Drums. There are also concessions throughout the park selling Irish memorabilia and heritage items.

For additional information call the events hotline at 703-883-4686 or the Ballyshaners

at 703-237-2199 or visit www.ballyshaners.org.

Rounding out the festival season on Sunday, Aug. 24, from noon to 6 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive, next to Cameron Station, is the "Festival of Cambodian Culture." It features artistic performances, arts and crafts exhibits, folk games and sports, traditional Cambodian games, a live band, as well as food and refreshments.

Proceeds from this festival go toward promoting Cambodian Culture in the United States as well as funding Cambodian higher education. It is co-sponsored by the Cambodian Community Day Committee and the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs.

For additional information contact: Sophia Tep - 571-218-9513; Mony Suong - 571-234-7074; or Mealy Chhim - 571-228-4142. Information is also available at www.CambodianCommunityDay.org.

In addition to the festivals, Alexandrians can also enliven their summer evenings by attending:

Various Cinema Del Ray outdoor film festivals beginning June 21 at the Mount Vernon Avenue ball field commencing at dusk. Known as "Del Ray Movie Night," they are sponsored by the Potomac West Business Association.

An Outdoor Film Festival at Ben Brenman Park from July 25 through July 27.

Finally, there is the "One Love Community Festival" on August 16 from noon to 8 p.m. at the Braddock Fall Field. It is under the sponsorship of Operation HOPE. For information call Lenwood Harris at 202-285-1240.

A scene from a previous Scottish festival. It is held either in September or October.

PHOTO BY LOUISE
KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

