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OCTOBER 9, 2008

Affordable Housing Remains In Limbo

Both the “old plan” and “new plan” boil down to \$20 million.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE PACKET

When is a deal not a deal until there is a deal? That seemed to be the essence of the puzzle facing the Alexandria Planning Commission Tuesday night when it came

“There is no guarantee we will ever get the affordable housing units.”

—Eric Wagner, chairman, Alexandria Planning Commission

The hearing had been closed after the matter was thoroughly aired and then deferred at the Commission’s February 2008 meeting. This is normal procedure when a

public hearing on a particular subject has been held, but the subject is carried over due to concerns with various elements of an application by the Commission and/or staff. Those points are to be worked out, brought back to Commission, and reviewed again by the Commission in open session, but without public comment or further comprehensive statements by the applicant.

Normally, the dialogue is confined to a question and answer scenario between the commissioners, the applicant and the applicant’s representative. However, Tuesday night there was a glitch in the game plan.

Planning Commission Chairman Eric Wagner announced that the Alexandria Office of Housing had delivered “extensive” new material to the Commission Monday night concerning IDI Companies’ application for Hunting Creek Plaza/Hunting Terrace which “might cause reopening the public hearing.” He cautioned that this could raise serious legal questions since the docket and public notice had stated “the public hearing has been closed.”

At the core of this new material was the fact that IDI, headed by Guiseppe Cecchi, had agreed to increase the number of affordable/workforce housing units from the original proposal of 100 units to 265 units, or one complete building of Hunting Towers. It would be sold to the city for \$15 million.

The proposal also provided that either the city or the developer would rehabilitate the units at an estimated cost of \$90,000 per unit. If the work was done by IDI the reha-

SEE AFFORDABLE HOUSING, PAGE 7



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Cellphone Causes Crash

A woman’s cell phone was the culprit in a nasty crash on King Street this week, although no one was injured and traffic was restored to normal within a few hours. The woman told police investigators that she remembers hanging up when suddenly she found herself in a garage. In the process, she crossed over a lane of oncoming traffic, careened through a grassy lawn and crashed into a freestanding garage.



Fighting Domestic Violence Where it’s Hidden

Alexandria’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month focuses on abuse in the LGBTQ community.

BY ALISSA FIGUEROA
GAZETTE PACKET

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Alexandria. The Sexual Assault and Awareness Program (SARA) and the Domestic Violence Program (DVP) of the Alexandria Office on Women held a silent auction and presentation on Friday, Oct. 3 to kick off a month of outreach, fundraising and educational activities.

The featured speaker of the event was

famed Olympic diver Greg Louganis, who became an outspoken advocate for domestic violence survivors in the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning) community after the 1995 publication of his auto-biography, “Breaking the Surface,” which detailed his own abusive relationship.

Friday’s event highlighted the work of Alexandria’s LGBTQ Victim Services Advisory Board, which was created in 2007 to intensify efforts to reach out to and provide services specifically aimed at assisting

members of the LGBTQ community. The Advisory Board staff works in conjunction with the Office on Women and the Police and Fire Departments to ensure that LGBTQ domestic violence survivors receive “informed and respectful treatment.”

Karen Gautney, who heads the Advisory Board, opened this year’s presentation by acknowledging that “domestic violence is a downright secret in the LGBTQ community.” She went on to state that though it is estimated that intimate partner abuse happens

SEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PAGE 32



Alexandria Gazette Packet

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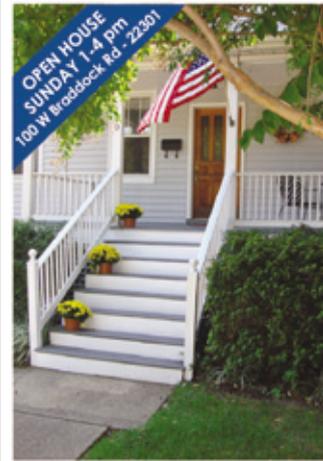
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Targeting the Middle

Sherman sets his sights on achieving accreditation at Alexandria's two middle schools.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Andrew Claros has always had trouble with math. His numbers don't always add up the right way, and his teachers have long recognized that he needs extra help grasping some of the

"Increasing rigor is a great idea, but I'm more concerned about the basics."

— Pam Smith, co-president of the George Washington parent-teacher association

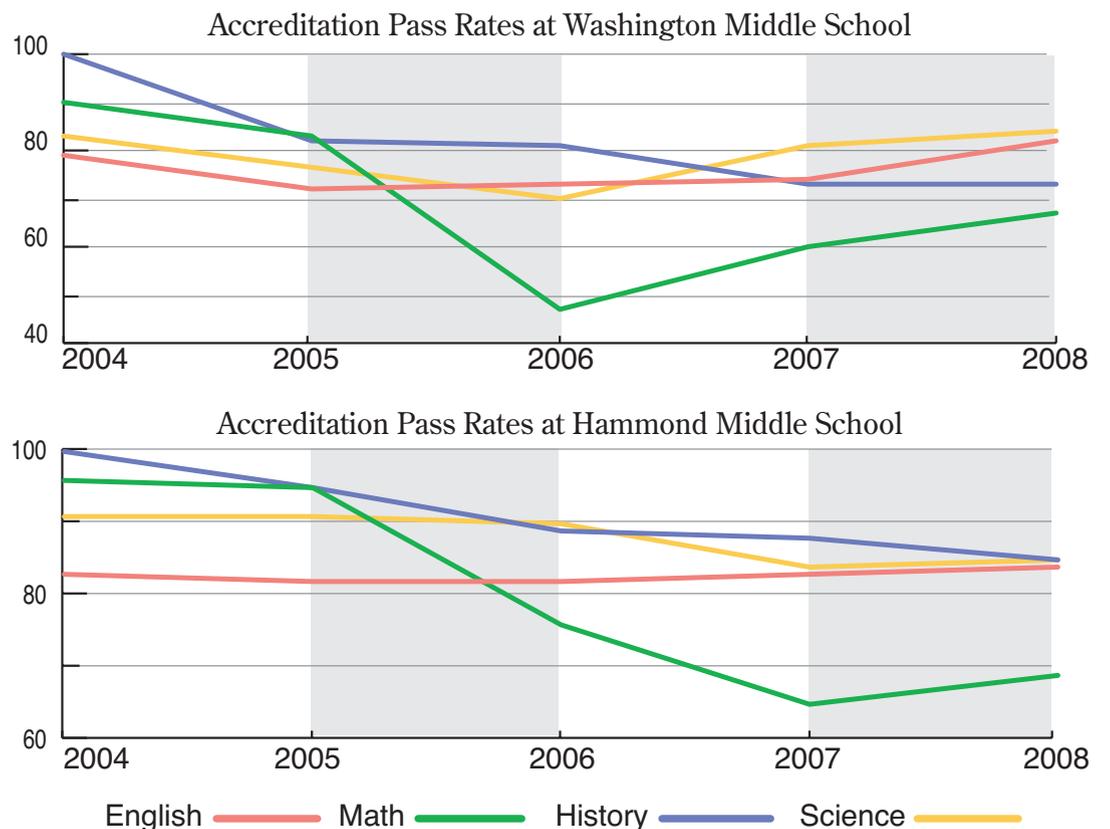
fundamental concepts. Like many of his fellow students at Hammond Middle School, Andrew has a strategy for improving his sagging grades. Twice a week, he attends an after-school tutoring session. When other students are studying science or language in the school's daily "Tighten

Up" sessions, Andrew is honing his math skills. And when he takes the state-mandated standardized test at the end of the school year, perhaps his score will improve. "If there's a problem that I'm having difficulty with, I'll try doing it twice to make sure I've got it," said Andrew. "When I get stuck on stuff, I'll stay after school."

For Andrew, improving his grade in math is a personal goal. But for Superintendent Morton Sherman, improving the level of performance at Alexandria's two middle schools has become an organizational target. Last month, he presented School Board members with a list of specific action items he wanted to tackle in his first year at the helm of the city's school system. One of those items was achieving accreditation at both middle schools. When board members evaluate his performance next year, they will use the list as a scorecard.

"This is a new way of doing things in the school system," said Amy Carlini, spokeswoman for Alexandria City Public Schools. "The superintendent is outlining very specific goals and asking School Board members to judge him on those things."

FOR YEARS, parents and School Board



GRAPH BY STU MOLL/GAZETTE PACKET

members have been talking about increasing the "rigor" of middle school in Alexandria. In a five-to-four vote last year, the Alexandria School Board opened enrollment to all students who want to take honors Language Arts at both middle schools. Previously the classes had been open only to those who qualified as "Talented or Gifted," a select group of students who score well

on standardized tests. Although former Superintendent Rebecca Perry wanted more time to implement the program over a number of years, the board overruled her and voted for a sweeping change that provided opportunities for all middle school students in Alexandria.

"I don't want to tell the children that
SEE MIDDLE SCHOOL, PAGE 33

N. Va.'s Black Businesses Organize

A new group seeks to increase networking among the region's African American business owners.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Billy Caldwell is a hardworking African American entrepreneur based out of Ashburn. A 22-year veteran of the Air Force, he started his own home security business four years ago and has been busy looking for clients ever since.

Caldwell hands out flyers with his business' information and has made ballpoint pens with his company's slogan and phone number on them. These promotions have been going OK, he said, but Caldwell is looking to open up an avenue where he can find more clients.



PHOTO BY FELISHA GASKINS

Randy Philip, Gaea Honeycutt and Joan Davion are the founders of the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce.

Last week, he attended the kickoff party for the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce, a new group that advocates for the region's African American business owners and professionals. The event attracted more than 200 prominent businesspeople to Arlington's Busboys and Poets restaurant and, for Caldwell, a room full of successful, high-powered African Americans was a networking bonanza.

"All levels of people are here, from senior [businesspeople] to those just getting started," he said. "The income is here. [These] people can afford my products."

CALDWELL is one of many local entrepreneurs looking to tap into Northern Virginia's black community. The Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce was created to help people like Caldwell do just that, its founders said. "We want to have a conduit where people can say 'Here's a place I can go where I can find people and I can find partners,'" Randy Philip, one of the group's founders, said.

Philip is an insurance broker who has

SEE CHAMBER, PAGE 33

Calculate Your Commute

Alexandria Registrar **Tom Parkins** wants you to do the math about your Election Day schedule. Do you plan to spend eight hours at work that day? Will you be taking an hour for lunch? Does it take you an hour to commute to work in the morning and an hour to get home at night? Do the math. That's an 11-hour commitment on a day when the polls will only be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"Voters need to consider a worst-case scenario," said Parkins. "What if something happens and you are not able to make it to the polls on Election Day?"

Recent elections have seen a number of unforeseen events that prevented scores of people from casting ballots. During the election for the Virginia General Assembly last year, a Metro service disruption prevented many commuters from returning to Alexandria in time to cast a ballot in state races. Then in February a nasty ice storm created safety hazards during Virginia's presidential preference primary. As a result, Parkins said, those who feel their ability to vote could be jeopardized should consider becoming one of the 10,000 Alexandria voters who are expected to vote absentee this year. His office began accepting absentee ballots last month, and he's already received 1,000 votes.

"We've already mailed out more ballots this year than were received in 2000," said Parkins. "We expect about 14 percent of the vote this year will be from absentee ballots."

Those who wish to request an absentee ballot can call 703-838-4050.

Solicitation About Nothing

The television sitcom "Seinfeld" was supposedly a "show about nothing," yet its broad popularity still has wide appeal. Now one of the show's stars has joined forces with former Gov. **Mark Warner**, the Democrat who is facing former Republican Gov. **Jim Gilmore** for an open seat in the United States Senate. In an e-mail to Warner supporters last month, **Jason Alexander** (who played George Costanza on the show) announced his endorsement for the Democratic candidate and asked supporters to make a donation to the campaign. Criticizing Republican senators who blocked Democratic initiatives, Alexander used a comic touch to solicit campaign cash for Warner.

"If you thought Seinfeld was a show about nothing, you should check out Congress," Alexander wrote in the e-mail. "I can't remember such a lack of productivity since the Summer of George."

The Politics of Pastries

It's not everyday that broadcast television sets up shop in an Alexandria pastry shop, but that's exactly what happened on day last week. One of the producers for "Good Morning America" is a regular customer at the Alexandria Pastry Shop, which is located in the Bradlee Shopping Center. Last month, she approached shop owner **Tom Lally** about broadcasting from the shop the morning after the vice presidential debate on Oct. 2. Lally agreed, and the crew arrived at 5 a.m. the next morning to start setting up. Shortly after 7 a.m., the cameras went live.

Producers found a Democrat, a Republican and an independent to give their views from inside the pastry shop as the nation watched on ABC. The hot topic of debate that morning was, of course, the debate between Democrat **Joe Biden** and Republican **Sarah Palin**. Lally, who describes himself as an independent, told ABC that he still hasn't made up his mind yet about which candidate he will support in November.

"I thought they were both motivated and intelligent, although I thought Joe Biden was more persuasive," said Lally. "But I wasn't swayed one way or the other."

Although Lally hasn't made up his mind, his customers seem to have already made their choice. The pastry shop's Democratic and Republican cookies are a popular item, and customers can cast a virtual ballot by buying one or the other. Lally said cookie sales from the last election closely mirrored Alexandria election results, and politics have never been so sweet.

"This is a Democratic town," said Lally. "So far, the Democratic cookies are selling 30 percent more than the Republican cookies."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

ELECTION 2008

The Bridge to Somewhere

Love them or hate them, earmarks fund important local projects.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Ever since a \$400 million project connecting the Alaskan mainland to the Gravina Island became known as the "Bridge to Nowhere," the subject of earmark spending has been a heated topic of debate in the halls of Congress. Some criticize earmark spending as funding items that allow politicians to reward their supporters. Others say that the process allows members to secure needed funding projects located in their districts. Few members of Congress are as outspoken in their support for earmarks than U.S. Rep. **Jim Moran** (D-8), who secured \$44 million worth of earmarks last year.

"Some people view these kinds of projects as unnecessary pork," Moran explained last year during a meeting at City Hall when he asked council members for their earmark requests. "But in my experience these are projects with significant regional and national significance."

A review of Moran's earmarks from last year reveals that the congressman successfully added 44 different items to the budget through earmark spending — everything from \$282,000 for a foster-care program for at-risk children in Arlington to \$2.4 million for a "comprehensive national incident management system." The vast majority of Moran's earmarks are in the area of defense, with the congressman securing \$40 million worth of earmarks for defense appropriations. Because Moran is a senior member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and because the eight congressional district includes a number of military contractors, Moran is at the center of a network connecting federal dollars to military projects.

"He's too close to lobbyists, especially lobbyists for bankers and defense contractors," said Matt Famiglietti, who launched an ill-fated effort to challenge Moran in a Democratic primary earlier this year. "How can somebody be anti-war one minute and then turn around and accept thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from the defense industry?"

ON THE CAMPAIGN trail, both of Moran's November opponents have been critical of the incumbent

congressman's support for the earmark process creating one of the starkest points of contrast between the candidates. During a televised debate last month, Republican **Mark Ellmore** called on Moran to return thousands of dollars worth of campaign contribu-

tions he received from **Henry Samueli**, a California businessman who is currently waiting to be sentenced for lying to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Because Moran helped Samueli acquire an earmark securing millions of federal dollars for his Alexandria-based nonprofit organization, Ellmore said, his campaign contributions should be returned.

"It gives people the impression that something's not right," said Ellmore on live television. "This is the kind of thing that leads to people having a lack of trust in Congress."

"I'm glad I did that earmark," responded Moran, who said he would not be returning any of Samueli's contributions. "I'm proud of what they're doing."

The Samueli Institute, an Alexandria-based nonprofit organization, is a scientific research organization that investigates post-traumatic stress syndrome, pain management and a wide array of alternative medical practices for military use. Last year, Moran helped secure a \$3 million earmark in the defense budget for the organization, which has an office on upper King Street. Then in May, the Securities and Exchange Commission found Samueli guilty of participating in a five-year systematic scheme to secretly backdate stock options granted to a Southern California tech firm's officers and employees. According to campaign-finance records from the Electoral Commission, Henry Samueli and his wife Susan have contributed more than \$17,000 to Moran since 2002. On the campaign trail, Ellmore has tried to tie Samueli's ethical problems to Moran's earmark by dismissing the institute as a pork project.

"The business he has here is for herbal medicine and acupuncture," said Ellmore during the televised debate. "I don't think that is the best use of our tax dollars."

"The congressman understands Mr. Samueli made an error in judgement and will face the resulting penalties," explained Moran spokesman **Austin Durrer** after the debate was over. "He continues to respect and admire Mr. Samueli's

tremendous philanthropic work and values his friendship."

AS A CAMPAIGN issue, supporting an end to earmarks comes with its own set of pitfalls. Although

SEE EARMARKS, PAGE 30



Republican Mark Ellmore



U.S. Rep. Jim Moran



Independent Green Ron Fisher

OBITUARY

The Builder

Racquetball-loving businessman served as a mentor to several generations.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexander Beiro was the kind of businessman who worked Saturdays, a man who valued the importance of arriving at the office early in the morning and staying until the job was done — perhaps even taking in a game of racquetball after that. Since founding the A.A. Beiro Construction Company in 1963, Beiro led a team that became a sum total that was more than a sum of its parts by mentoring countless employees and creating a family atmosphere within his company. He also served as the chairman of the Alexandria Board of Zoning Appeals for 13 years, quietly engaged in countless acts of philanthropy and created a foundation to help disadvantaged youth. Beiro died on Sept. 4 of bile duct cancer at his home in Alexandria.

“I learned everything I know about business from Mr. Beiro,” said Mayor Bill Euille, who worked as comptroller for Beiro from 1972 to 1987. “He knew the business was

his, but he also knew that the business wouldn't be successful unless he took care of his employees.”

Beiro designed the company's Colvin Street headquarters with a racquetball court, steam room and lockers for the company employees. He hired a racquetball instructor to provide lessons for all interested employees, and he always played at least one game of racquetball a day — often more if possible. He made a habit of picking up the tab when he was with a group at a restaurant, and he was known to quiz young people about their educational goals — sometimes following up by quietly providing tuition and other assistance to those in need.

“He was outgoing and yet reserved at times,” said daughter Sara Beiro Farabow. “He was very social, yet he was also a man



Alexander Beiro enjoys skiing in Spain.

of few words.”

A NATIVE OF New York City, Beiro moved with his family to Old Town at the age of 10. He attended St. John's College High School in the District of Columbia and graduated from Catholic University of America with a degree in civil engineering in 1952. After serving in the United States Army during the Korean War from 1952 to 1954, Beiro married Jean Ann O'Connell in 1955. He worked for construction companies in Pennsylvania, Illinois and Indiana for several years before founding A.A. Beiro Construction Company in 1963.

Beiro built his construction company into

a successful general contracting firm, employing 250 people and successfully completing award-winning projects in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Throughout his career, he served as a mentor to many employees and provided benefits such as housing for recent college graduates. His safety program earned the respect of the industry and numerous awards for no lost-time accidents. In turn, Beiro awarded his employees for their dedication and efforts at annual safety meetings in which safety bonus checks were distributed.

“He was very no nonsense, and people knew what he expected,” said Farabow. “He had little patience for mediocrity.”

He appreciated modern art and he was a world traveler, including recent trips last year to Iceland and Sweden. He enjoyed learning about various world cultures and languages, including Spanish, French, Italian and Mandarin. On the Board of Zoning Appeals, Beiro had a reputation for carefully studying the facts, frequently taking his children along during Saturday site visits to observe first-hand the particular zoning complexities on the board's docket. Shortly after 9/11, Beiro began studying Arabic. When he turned 70, he became an avid yoga practitioner.

IN THE 1990s, Beiro and his wife founded the A.A. Beiro Family Foundation, dedicated to supporting the education of youth.

SEE BEIRO, PAGE 36

LOOKING FOR DIRECTION IN YOUR LIFE?



How to stay on course when life seems complicated and stressful

(A talk by Don Wallingford - Christian Science Board of Lectureship)

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Transportation And Mark Center — Problem or Not?

Where are they coming from and how are they getting there.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

A primary criticism unleashed against the Department of the U.S. Army's decision selecting the Mark Center as the future home of the 6,400 personnel of the Washington Headquarters Services group, the final contingent of the Base Realignment and Closure Report (BRAC) to be transferred to Fort Belvoir, was that it would greatly exacerbate area road congestion by ignoring sites more adjacent to rail mass transit. But, was that a legitimate criticism given existing residential and commuting data and analysis?

The other two sites competing for the WHS personnel, known as BRAC 133, were both accessible to rail mass transit facilities. The General Services Administration Warehouses in Springfield is accessible to both the Franconia Metro Station and a Virginia Rail Express station. Victory Center, located on Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria, is within two blocks of the Van Dorn Metro Station.

The Mark Center site, which borders I-395 at its intersection with Seminary Road, is not immediately accessible to either a Metro or a VRE station. However, it is served by several bus systems, has its own shuttle service to and from the Pentagon and that Metro station, and will be establishing an inter-modal transportation center to accommodate BRAC 133 personnel.

Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay found these latter considerations in the Army's decision making process unacceptable. "This decision is not only devastating to Fairfax County but also to all the workers who are going to have to commute to this site. This is a prime example of one dumb land use decision after another," McKay said after the site decision was announced.

"I don't care what kind of transportation center they say have or will be developing. It is not as convenient as simply having access to mass transit. It's a step backward on work commuting theory," McKay said.

There is little argument that the Mark Center site is not as convenient as having ready access to a rail mass transit station. And, it

may be in juxtaposition to work commuting theory. Although, it could be strongly argued that the ultimate solution there is telecommuting — either from home or satellite work locations positioned closer to dense residential areas served by neither Metro nor VRE.

DO THE FACTS actually support the argument that the Mark Center was the wrong decision? Or, do statistics and commuting/residential data say otherwise?

James Curren, senior program manager, PBS&J, transportation consultants to BRAC, maintains that the decision took into consideration all the pros and cons of all the sites. "The Mark Center is being underrated. It is readily accessible during peak travel hours and is well served by an arterial road network," Curren said.

"It is well served by a variety of bus routes and more will be added to accommodate BRAC 133 demands. Presently there are 12 bus routes serving Mark Center with direct routes to various rail transit sites," he said.

One of those routes is between Mark Center and Alexandria's King Street Metro Station, which offers an interconnection with VRE service to both Prince William County and Manassas. The ride between the King Street station and Mark Center is approximately 20 minutes, according to Curren. "Presently, 20 percent of BRAC 133 employees commute from the south," he said.

"In our analysis we also found that ride sharing is a bigger component used by BRAC 133 commuters than mass transit. The Mark Center site takes that into consideration," Curren said.

"It is worth noting that this distribution has not changed very much in the past 10 years. A survey of Pentagon parking passes showed a very similar pattern. The bottom line is that there is no reason to expect much of a change as a result of the Mark Center decision," said Donald Carr, director, Public Affairs, Fort Belvoir.

According to the Army's evaluation process in choosing the BRAC 133 site, Mark Center "offers several advantages and opportunities to address the transportation issues." These include:

❖ Mark Center's level of development for the area to be occupied by BRAC 133 has been included in local and regional plans

since the 1980's. Plans submitted to and approved by the City of Alexandria in 2003 allowed for development that would have generated up to 2,000 vehicle peak hour trips and called for 4,839 parking spaces. According to BRAC transportation planners BRAC 133 will generate between 1,100 and 1,600 vehicle trips in peak hours, depending on ride sharing and use of mass transit i.e. bus or bus/rail combination.

❖ The Mark Center selection minimizes changing travel patterns for existing employees who will follow basically the same route they do presently.

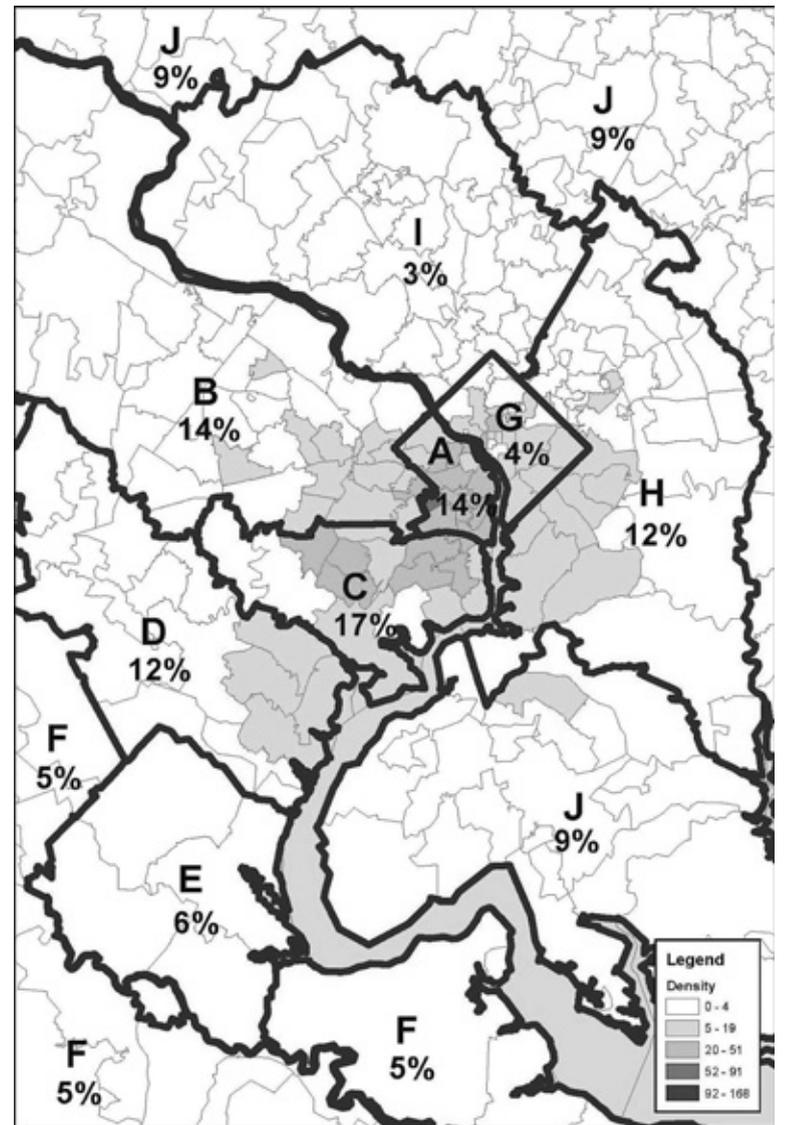
Surveys by the Department of Defense over the past 20 years show that the majority, 77 percent, of BRAC 133 employees' residences are spread in a radical pattern centered around the Pentagon/Crystal City area. The remaining 23 percent reside along the I-95 corridor south of the Occoquan River. This is in sharp contrast to the residential distribution of those commuting to Fort Belvoir's main post. There the vast majority reside south along the I-95 corridor.

THE ARTERIAL ROAD network around Mark Center offers a variety of commuting patterns that include Little River Turnpike/Duke Street, King Street/Rt. 7, Seminary and Braddock roads, and Beauregard and Van Dorn streets. All these can carry commuters to I-395, and eventually I-95, for north/south travel, onto the Beltway, or into other road/street networks for east/west travel. The later allows an estimated 45 percent of present BRAC 133 employees residing in Fairfax and Arlington counties, as well as Alexandria City, to continue their present commuting patterns.

Currently 15 to 20 percent of BRAC 133 employees commute either by carpool or "slug." A current shuttle service between Mark Center and the Pentagon uses the HOV lanes and connects with Metro rail at the Pentagon. That service will be increased through Mark Center's new Transportation Center.

An improved interchange at Seminary Road and I-395 was in Mark Center's 2003 expansion proposal to Alexandria City and remains a commitment under their BRAC 133 application.

The new HOT (High Occupancy Travel) lane project is also seen as a future alleviator of congestion. But, its future success will depend on a series of factors, not the least of which is the willingness of drivers to pay the daily toll.



The map indicates where current BRAC 133 employees live.

In the final analysis, the data and statistics do not seem to support the doom and gloom prophecies of ultimate gridlock associated with the Mark Center site. As Curren stated, "We reviewed their proposal and thought it was very well thought out and met all the criteria."

These commuting statistics buttressed former Lee District Supervisor Dana Kauffman's analysis that if the BRAC 133 contingent were to be based at the GSA warehouses in Springfield it could only accommodate approximately 3,600 of the 6,400 personnel without significant road improvements. That would have been in addition to clearing the site, relocating the Patent & Trademark Office documents and myriad other items stored there, and constructing the new office buildings.

As noted by Assistant Secretary of the Army Keith Eastin in addressing the GSA site, "We would have needed to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in highway improvements." That possibility was also viewed as practically non-existent by Virginia Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer, who just last week cited the ever bur-

Where They Live

This is where the 6,400 Washington Headquarters Services workers currently live by percentage.

- Arlington & Alexandria 14
- Southeastern Fairfax County 17
- Other Fairfax County locations & Loudoun County 14
- Prince William County 12
- Fredericksburg/Stafford County area 6
- Rest of Virginia 5
- District of Columbia 4
- Montgomery County 3
- Prince George's County 12
- Rest of Maryland 9

geoning shortfall in transportation funds, just to maintain the existing highway infrastructure.

McKay has suggested that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors consider the possibility of suing the Army to prevent them from moving ahead with the Mark Center decision. His basis for such a proposal is primarily focused on the commuter problems he envisions.

"We've got to find a way to start the race again," he said. Perhaps it should be a new race altogether, focused on other, and perhaps more revenue producing, uses for the GSA Warehouse site.

Back to the Drawing Board for Affordable Housing

FROM PAGE 1

bilitation cost was capped at \$25.3 million. This brought the total cost of the 265 units to \$40.3 million.

"I think this is now a much stronger affordable housing plan," said Mildrilyn Davis, director, Alexandria Office of Housing. But, Wagner and most of the other Commissioners weren't so sure.

THE PRIMARY REASONS the application was deferred at the Feb. 5 meeting were: IDI did not own the buildings or land at the Towers. Ownership remained with the Virginia

VDOT's price for the site and buildings is beyond what IDI is willing to pay they are not committed to go through with the purchase.

"IDI is agreeing to pay a certain price for the Towers. If VDOT's price is above that there is no sale. There is no guarantee we will ever get the affordable housing units," Wagner said.

Davis's Oct. 6 memorandum to the Commission acknowledged that "IDI commits to acquire Hunting Towers from VDOT as soon as it is offered at a price" that does not exceed IDI's maximum price. The property has been appraised at \$48 million plus.

The original \$20 million proffer to the city's Housing Trust Fund by IDI was predicated on the approval of a 14 story condominium tower at their Hunting Terrace property on the west side of South Washington Street. According to their application, "The top five floors of the Hunting Creek Plaza proposal generate the majority of the revenue necessary to acquire Hunting Towers."

SINCE THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL there has been opposition to the 14 story tower at Hunting Plaza based on an argument of non-compliance with the Washington Street Standards and Guidelines dealing with height and architectural design. As noted by staff in the Oct. 7 application, "While the applicant's architect met with staff to discuss revisions necessary to achieve compliance, the architecture and site design have not been revised to date."

Staff also pointed out, "The revisions required to achieve compliance with the Washington Street Standards and Guidelines results in the significant reduction in height, a consequence the applicant is unwilling to entertain."

Referring to his original February motion to defer, Commissioner H. Stewart Dunn, Jr., said, "I believe the Planning Commission did the right thing in February to defer this matter until there is a firm agreement to acquire this property. If it didn't make sense in February it certainly doesn't make sense now."

Dunn acknowledge that the proposal, and its revisions, as presented by Davis "seems to deserve consideration because the applicant is prepared to put \$20 million into affordable housing." But, the fact that IDI does not yet own the property proved to remain the primary deterrent to the Commission approving the map amend-

ment.

Dunn moved the Commission recommend denial of the map amendment and defer the remainder of the application dealing with the text amendment. It was approved on a 6-0-1 vote. Commissioner Jesse Jennings abstained.

As noted by staff in the application, "In the event that the Plan-

ning Commission recommends disapproval of the map amendment or the text amendment, the City Council cannot approve these applications except by a supermajority vote."

That would require six members of Council, including the Mayor, to vote in favor of overriding the motion to deny, according to the

City Attorney's office. A "supermajority" is defined as 75 percent.

There was no indication from Cecchi or Middleton what actions they would now take pertaining to either Hunting Towers or Hunting Creek Plaza. Previously, they had indicated a desire for an up or down vote on the map amendment at this meeting.

If it didn't make sense in February it certainly doesn't make sense now."

— **Commissioner H. Stewart Dunn, Jr.**

Department of Transportation who purchased the Towers from Jack Kay as part of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project. Under that purchase agreement Kay had the right of first refusal on the repurchase from VDOT. The February motion to defer the zoning map amendment called for IDI to actually enter "into a written contract of purchase."

IDI was to "provide additional data and justification to determine whether the affordable housing proposal accomplished the goal of preserving affordable housing."

IDI still does not have ownership of the Hunting Towers site and buildings. However, as their attorney, Howard Middleton, informed the Commission Tuesday night, "IDI is joining forces with Jack Kay when the property is offered back to him as the original sales agreement provided. When that happens the joint venture (IDI/Kay) will come into existence."

But, as Wagner pointed out several times, IDI's financial commitment to the City for affordable housing remains capped at \$20 million. He also noted that if



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Saturday, October 25th

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Event Schedule:

October 25th

9:30 a.m. to noon

- 9:30 – 10 a.m.
Registration, meet and greet, and refreshments

- 10 a.m. – noon
Program (includes tour of plant and aquaculture center)

- *Children under 8 years of age are not permitted on the plant tour*

Required Attire

- Closed-toe shoes (no sandals)

- Long pants

- Short sleeve shirt

- Hard hats, goggles, earplugs (provided)

OPINION

Signs of Life

Time to count our blessings in Northern Virginia; real estate market alive at both ends of the spectrum.

While the economic news is enough to ruin your breakfast (and lunch, and dinner), there are signs of life and resilience here in Northern Virginia.

While unemployment climbs in other parts of the country, employment is stronger here than almost anywhere. Proximity to the federal government in general, and to the Pentagon in particular, continues to boost our economy and employment.

We can look forward to new federal jobs created to support oversight of \$700 billion in federal investment in mortgage-related debt.

EDITORIAL

The Treasury, along with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, should waste no time in fixing some of the problems at the root of the current housing and mortgage crisis. Adjustable rate mortgages should be rewritten or refinanced for a fixed rate of 6 percent for 30 years. Prepayment penalties should be abolished and banned. Every effort should be made to keep current homeowners in their current homes, and rescue them from the threat of foreclosure if they are able to make payments on the actual value of their homes at a reasonable and fixed interest rate. These steps will go a long way towards restoring a sense of confidence in the value of most families' primary invest-

ment. It's critical to let would-be homebuyers know that the end is in sight for prices dropping due to foreclosures.

On the home front, August home sales showed signs of life here, even during a month notorious even in good times for low sales activity.

In communities that are served by the Connection Newspapers, in the month of August, more than 120 homes sold for more than \$1 million.

To give a sense of the variety of sales, the home that sold for the most money in the area in August was a four-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath condo in Arlington, which sold for \$5.3 million.

A three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath home on an acre in Alexandria sold for \$3.875 million. Two homes in McLean and one in Great Falls each sold for more than \$3 million.

A dozen more condos and townhouses in Arlington and Alexandria sold for between \$1.09 million and \$2.325 million.

A four-bedroom home in Vienna sold for \$1.6 million on Aug. 27. A four-bedroom home in Oakton sold for \$1.45 million on Aug. 29. Ten more homes in Vienna and Oakton sold in August for more than \$1 million each.

A five-bedroom, six-bath home on more than five acres in Clifton sold on Aug. 1 for \$2.388 million. A seven-bedroom home on five acres

in Fairfax Station sold on Aug. 25.

Several homes with Lorton addresses topped \$1 million, along with at least one in Springfield and one in Centreville.

A home on a little less than an acre on Broad Creek Place in Herndon sold for \$1.275 million on Aug. 21.

A six-bedroom home on half an acre in Ashburn sold for \$1.845 million on Aug. 6.

At the other end of the spectrum is a glimpse of affordability that we haven't dreamed of in this area in nearly a decade.

Some examples:

In Arlington, 10 condos sold in August for less than \$200,000, six of those for under \$150,000.

In Reston, 14 homes — condos and townhouses — sold for under \$200,000, with another 16 selling between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

In Herndon, more than 40 homes, mostly townhouses, sold in August for less than \$200,000, 15 of those under \$150,000. More than 20 more sold for between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

Even in McLean, more than a dozen condos sold for less than \$300,000.

With homes at the top of the market selling, and new opportunities opening up at the affordable end of the market, our area's real estate market and home values should be reassuring.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City Staff Competent

To the Editor:

After reading Joe Schramm's letter in the Alexandria Gazette, I felt a need to respond. I don't work in a government organization and have not for many, many years. However, Alexandria is fortunate to have a professional, competent staff. Monday morning quarterbacking and hindsight is very easy. Mr. Schramm is not in the manager's office on a day-to-day basis (fortunately), dealing with the hundreds of issues going on in a City our size. Let's leave running the City to the professionals hired to do that job. Let's support those who work for the City day in and day out. Mr. Schramm could have started and stopped with his second paragraph... "the Feds have control of this site. We don't."

Ann M. Dorman, CMP
Alexandria

Healthy Families Alexandria

To the Editor:

I had the pleasure of attending the Alexandria City Council meeting on Sept. 23 and was delighted

to witness the overwhelming recognition and support by many components of our generous community (including school board members, City government and its agencies, members of the Women's Giving Circle of Alexandria, and citizens) for a program that is extremely important for our City's future. The focus of the recognition was for our own Healthy Families Alexandria which has been selected as one of two sites in Virginia to be designated for major expansion by Healthy Families Virginia.

Healthy Families Alexandria, a program of Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS), works with first time parents in Alexandria who have significant stressors in their lives that could adversely impact the health and development of their child. Currently the program serves 219 families; after expansion it would serve nearly 475.

According to past studies of existing programs, families who have been served by this program have shown lower infant mortality, reduced child abuse and neglect, increased readiness for children entering kindergarten, and significant savings under the Virginia Comprehensive Services Act, which provides services to high-risk children and their families.

Funding for the expansion

project must be targeted in the upcoming budget by Governor Tim Kaine and approved by the Virginia General Assembly. Additional funding will be required to meet the program's goals.

I personally support the concept of funding a program that creates healthy families during a child's formative years (0-5) rather than funding escalated expenses later when rehabilitation is questionable at best. If you would like to join in this effort, please call Carol Freeman, Director of Healthy Families Alexandria, at 703-212-1702 or me at 703-548-5127. We are always looking for dedicated people for our Resource Development Committee and other volunteers.

Janet von Sternberg
Alexandria

We Deserve Better

To the Editor:

There are many military families in Virginia. They deserve to know the truth about John McCain. McCain paints himself as a war hero. The facts betray him. As a United States Senator, John McCain sponsored and pushed for the eventual passage of federal laws that prevent all of the

Pentagon's information on POWs left behind in Southeast Asia from being released to their families and to the public. Passage of the "McCain Bill" in 1991 prevents information about prisoners of war discovered alive in Vietnam after the end of the Vietnam war from being made public. All of this information, and more, is available online at the Nation Institute, at www.nationinstitute.org.

Further information, including Pentagon documents from that era, are available at <http://www.vietnamveteransagainstjohnmccain.com>.

In addition, McCain's voting record in the Senate speak volumes about McCain's commitment to the military. John McCain voted AGAINST 20 million dollars for veteran care facilities. John McCain voted AGAINST \$322 million for safety equipment for our troops in Iraq. John McCain voted AGAINST \$1 billion dollars in new equipment for the National Guard. John McCain voted AGAINST Jim Webb's G.I. Bill. John McCain voted AGAINST \$430 million for veterans outpatient care. Barack Obama voted FOR all of these troop support initiatives.

Our soldiers deserve better than McCain.

We deserve better than McCain.

Gail Gordon
Alexandria

Alexandria Gazette Packet

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-917-6431
Fax: 703-917-0991
e-mail:

gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Anne Weber

Editor, 703-917-6431

maweber@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope

Reporter, 703-615-0960

alexandriagazette@yahoo.com

Chuck Hagee

Reporter, 703-549-1216

cg.hagee@connectionnewspapers.com

Rebecca Halik

Editorial Asst., 703-917-6407

rhalik@connectionnewspapers.com

Mark Giannotto

Sports Editor, 703-917-6409

mgiannotto@connectionnewspapers.com

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Ralph Lee Smith

Employment Advertising

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rlsmith@connectionnewspapers.com

Publisher

Jerry Vernon

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm

Editor in Chief

Steven Mauren

Photography:

Louise Krafft, Robbie Hammer

Art/Design:

Zohra Aslami, Geovani Flores,

Laurence Foong, John Heinly,

John Smith, Stu Moll,

Tam Nguyen, Wayne Shipp

Production Manager:

Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-917-6481

Circulation Manager:

Ann Oliver

**CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,
L.L.C.**

Peter Labovitz

President/CEO

Mary Kimm

Publisher/Chief Operating Officer

703-917-6416

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon

Publisher/Executive Vice President

703-917-6404

jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse

Controller

Debbie Funk

National Sales, 703-518-4631

debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

John Lovaas

Special Assistant for Operations

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bail Out Those in Need

Letter to the Editor:

The government's promise to back mortgage giants Freddie Mac & Fannie Mae now seems to be just the tip of the iceberg. As I write this, Congress is debating a massive \$700 billion bailout for financial institutions. Many are blaming the "greed" of Wall Street, and many others are bemoaning the fact that there were inadequate regulations on mortgage and financial entities.

These are complicated and intricate problems that many of us do not understand well. Yet we cannot simply allow the "experts" to deal with these difficulties because they clearly did not prevent the current mess. Our first instinct is probably not to ask what our faith tells us about these issues which affect our lives so much.

And yet we know that Christians have long offered another perspective on financial matters. The early church pooled their financial resources to care for those who were unable to "make it" without help. For many centuries, the church taught that lending money at interest was morally wrong. In 1891,

Pope Leo XIII issued a major teaching document on the right of Christian workers to form and join labor unions. Perhaps the most profound Christian perspective was put forward by the U.S. bishops in their 1986 pastoral letter, Economic Justice For All. It applied Biblical teachings and the church tradition on areas such as employment, poverty, agriculture and international development. The basic moral principles set forth by the bishops still speak to us: "Every economic decision and institution must be judged in light of whether it protects or undermines the dignity of the human person;" and "All members of society have a special obligation to the poor and vulnerable." Their fundamental insight that the economy exists for the benefit of all people offers an important counterbalance to the belief that the economy is there to create wealth for investors only.

As our country struggles to stabilize our economy, let us be advocates—a voice—to be sure that those representing us do not just "bailout" corporations and banks, but also find ways to lift up those who are in foreclosure or in danger of losing their homes.

John Horejsi
SALT Coordinator



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Return of the Godspeed

Captain Eric Speth instructs Betsy Mathes of Mt. Vernon Travel, Ronnie Stevens of New World Travel and Barbara Faigen of Gerber Tours on the handling of the tiller of the Godspeed which visited the port of Alexandria recently. The reproduction was created for the 2006 Jamestown celebration.

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Donnan C Wintermute | 703 518-6156 Alexandria

New on Market - Open Sunday 1-4



5062 Donovan Drive | \$457,500

Pristine two level condo TH with garage, in prime Cameron Station location! 1,500+ square feet, two master bedrooms plus a den, 2.5 baths, warm hardwood floors, new carpet, neutral decor. Designer touches throughout. Close to community fitness center and pool, coffee shop, restaurant, easy access to free shuttle to Metro. Photos on www.paddockhomes.com.

Vaughn and Diane Paddock | 703-628-2828 Cameron Station

New Listing - Open Sunday 1-4



1737 Potomac Greens Drive | \$998,000

Finally one of Potomac Greens largest models is available and shows "just like new". This lovely 4 level town home offers gorgeous hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen with center island, granite counters and stainless steel appliances, two sided fireplace, fourth level loft and roof top deck - perfect for entertaining. 3 bedroom 2 full and 2 half baths and a 2 car garage. Dir: From DC and GW Pkwy south, Right on Slater Lane, Right Potomac Greens Drive to 1737.

Karen Leonard | 703-328-7041 Old Town

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Opportunity is knocking!! Here's your chance to purchase a 2 Bedroom unit for the price of a 1 Bedroom. Save on the sales price if you are willing to do a bit of finish work on this well cared for gem. Featuring an updated kitchen with Corian counters, a totally renovated A+ bath, separate DR, parquet floors, convenient first floor location, laundry and extra storage in building and ample off street parking. Loads of amenities in Belle View and only two blocks to the Potomac River and bike path! FX6884027

Teddy Marchant | 703-402-0501 Alex Belle View

New Listing



3324 webley Court | \$375,000

Interior Decorators Delight! Don't miss this absolutely stunning 3BR/2Full/2Half bath, all brick town home. Professionally renovated and decorated with no expense spared. Beautiful hardwoods, moldings & wall-to-wall sisal. Renovated baths with custom vanities, granite counters, tumbled stone tiles & bronze hardware. Updated kitchen with maple cabinets & Corian counters with French doors leading to rear fenced yard. New front loading steam washer/dryer, HVAC & HWH.

Realty Clan | 703 518-2808 Annandale

New Price—Open Sunday 1-4



5513 Old Mill Rd | \$ 499,500

Beautifully renovated 4 BD 2 1/2 BA split level tucked away near the Mt Vernon C.C. on a lovely landscaped lot, complete with 2 car, side-load garage. You will be impressed by the attention to detail: the kitchen is equipped with all SS appliances, slate tile floor, granite counter tops and custom back splash--the bathrooms feature unique vanities & designer tile, including a soaking tub. The lower level is flooded with light. Two fireplaces, substantial crown molding, plentiful recessed lighting throughout, interior shutters, handsome hardwood and tile floors. This is one to remember!

Jane Cole | 703-518-6187 Mount Vernon

Open Sunday 1-4



9000 Chickawane Court | \$620,000

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Cindie Fish | 703 201-4451 Mount Vernon

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Rachel Carter | 703-851-4207 Mount Vernon

Just Listed—Good Value



8000 Ashton Street | \$289,750

A Good Value. Nice size brick rambler on huge, level, corner lot. This four bedroom, three bath home features detached garage, fenced yard, hardwood floors, fireplace and finished basement.

Sherry York | 703 625-3377 Mount Vernon Woods



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COMMUNITY

Annual Art on the Avenue

Del Ray celebrated the arts, visual, musical and culinary Saturday along Mount Vernon Avenue

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE
By mid afternoon, the Avenue was overflowing with neighbors and visitors to the annual arts festival.



Team Samba a U-11 girls soccer team looks over the beaded jewelry.



Pie Judge and Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne gets a another piece of pie from one of the Pie Police, Tommy Knoernschild.



Jocarol Robb of Springwater Fibers quickly knits a scarf with large needles.



TC Williams Orchestra Department chair Suzanna Sitomer shows a young student how to hold a violin at the musical instrument petting zoo.



Students from George Washington Middle School Tech classes displayed a variety of crafts made in Mr. Reyns classes. Ray Boone offers frames for pictures that school mate Christopher Gerlach is taking of patrons at the fair.

SCHOOLS

TC Celebrates Homecoming



A group of T.C. Williams seniors gathered at the Mulberger home for a pre-homecoming dance dinner.



Class of 2009

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE
KRAFFT/
GAZETTE
PACKET



Class of 2012



Class of 2011



The homecoming court traveled in style from Minnie Howard ninth grade center to the high school for the football game.



Class of 2010

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NEIGHBORHOODS

North Ridge

In one of the biggest “green movements” since “Birnam Wood do come to Dunsinane,” a large forest moved out of the Trinity Methodist Church parking lot and into the neighborhood during the first North Ridge Citizens’ Association/City of Alexandria “Arbor Day” this past weekend. Virtually every one of the 250 trees that arrived courtesy of Denison Nursery early in the a.m. marched off

to new homes over the course of a beautiful fall morning. Many thanks to Boy Scout Troop Local 129 and the many NRCA volunteers who provided muscle, to Jerry Dieruf, the Assistant City Arborist, and Teddye Clayton and all the “tree stewards” who gave tree care advice, and to Meghan Rainey who coordinated the event. This looks like an annual event in the making.

The next NRCA meeting is this coming Monday, Oct. 13, at the

BHUMC. Marc Williams, the newest member of the School Board will share his thoughts about the challenges facing the Board, and Melisa Harrington will discuss the plans for the new playground at the Beverley Hills United Methodist Church (“BHUMC”). The meeting begins at 7:30. Hope to see you there.

— RUSS BAILEY

Del Ray

Hey There Del Ray,

What do you get when you have 21 homemade pies, 3 fun judges, 2 Pie Security Officers and tons of anxious spectators?! Why it’s the **Annual Del Ray Pie Contest**, of course! A special thank you to all twenty-one entrants! We had a great time this year with some beautiful and yummy pies! And the winners were: drum roll please....

In the Youth category: 3rd place and \$25 went to Catherine Luther who baked “Grandma’s

Pumpkin Pie,” 2nd place and \$50 went to Janet & Maggie Johnston who baked one called “Easy as Pi,” and 1st place and \$75 went to Maya Alcalá who baked the delicious “Almond Apple Pie with Shortbread Crust!” Thank you to all of our fabulous young bakers!!! Yum!

In the Adult category: 3rd place and \$25 went to Laura Dove who baked “Abby’s Apple Cream

SEE NEIGHBORHOODS, PAGE 16

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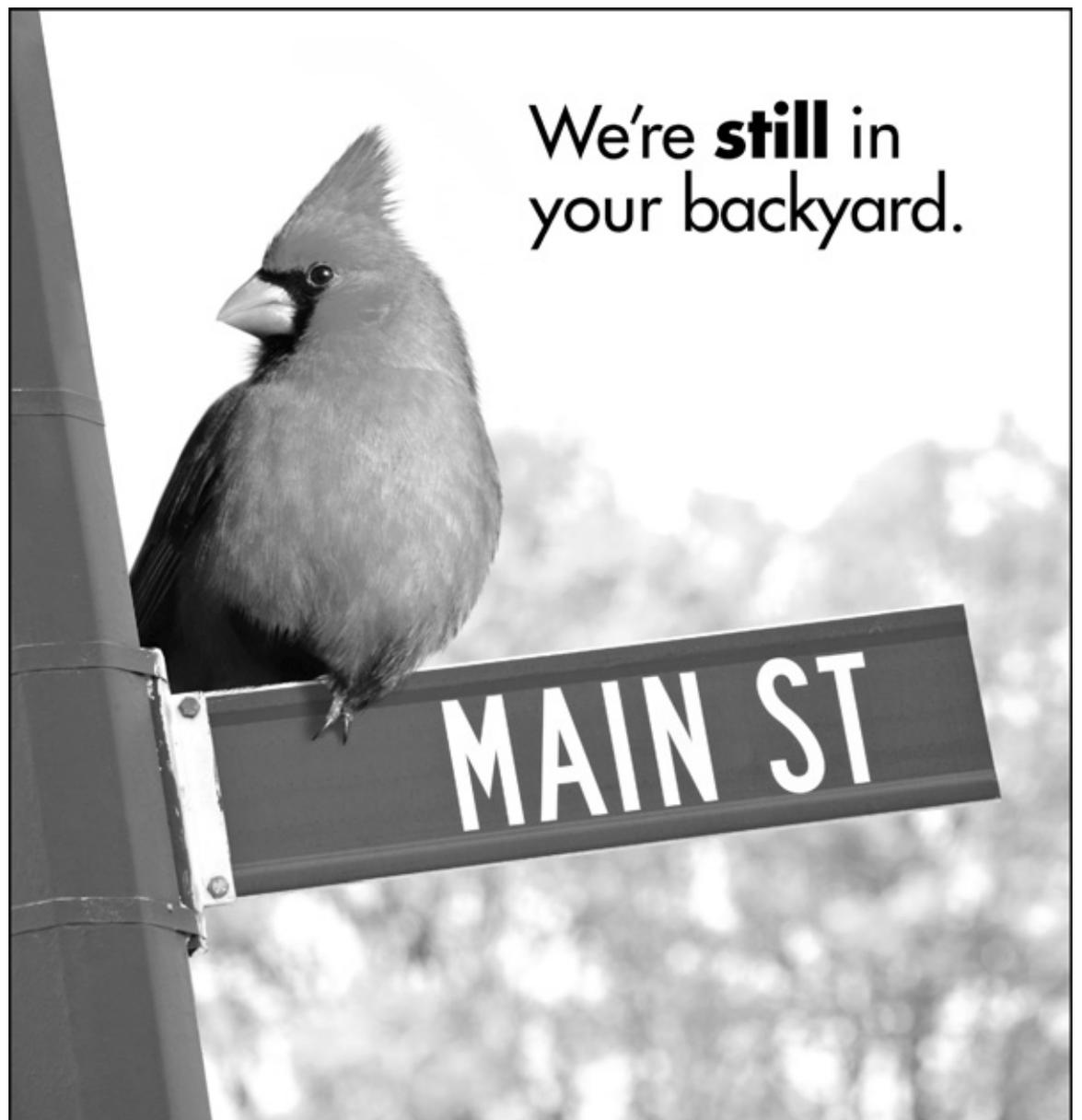
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Mark your calendars for the
2008 Business Awards



Join us as we honor this year's
**Business Leader of the Year, the
Mayor's Economic
Sustainability Work Group.**

Nigel Morris will be accepting the award on behalf of his fellow committee members James Butler, Lavern Chatman, Stephen Fuller, Dennis Garcia, Charlotte Hall, Mark Kington, Greg Leisch, John Meagher, Lonnie Rich, Mark Jinks, Kendel Taylor, and Stephanie Landrum.



*Charting a Successful
Course for Business*

We will also be honoring The Art League with a special
Champion of the Arts Award for more than 50 years of service.

In addition to honoring these community leaders for their hard work, this event is an opportunity for the Chamber to join with the community in recognizing area businesses that are making a difference. Additional categories include **Retail Business of the Year, New Business of the Year, Professional Service Business of the Year, Hospitality Business of the Year, and the overall Small Business of the Year.**

For more information, please contact Special Events Coordinator Ashby Williams at 703.739.3808 or register online at www.alexchamber.com

**Friday, November 7
6:30-9:30PM**

**Crowne Plaza
901 N Fairfax St., Alexandria**

DEL RAY

FROM PAGE 15

Pie," 2nd place and \$50 went to Hallie Wilfert who baked "Hallie's Ginger Cinnamon Sour Cream Apple Pie," (complete with Del Ray spelled out on top!) and 1st place and \$75 went to the very last entrant, Stephanie Mickelson who prepared a "Chocolate Raspberry Cream Pie!" Fun times were had by all. Thank you so much for all of our fabulous entries! Start brainstorming today what you'll bake for the First Saturday in October 2009! We can't wait to do it all over again!

The day would not have happened without the help, love and support of Lauren Smith & Clare Miller who worked long and hard with The Great Carol Bailey to make the Pie Contest magic happen. We couldn't have done it the day of without the Pie Security Officers, Tommy K & Stu Ellis, Jr. Thanks guys! Last but not least after we thank the judges, Barbara Mancini, Jill Erber & Sheriff Lawhorne, we must thank all of



you who were there to watch and buy slices after the contest concluded. At \$2 per slice, we made a whopping \$280 that day for Community Partners for Children! Thank you thank you thank you to each and every one!

The weather was splendid, the artists terrific, the music wonderful, a good day was had by all! Thank you to all of you who did a little bit of everything to make the day a success. I want to mention just a few rock stars of the day: Lindsay & Terry, Amy & David, Gayle & Ryan, Carol & Lori, Lauren & Clare, Tommy K, Sgt. Joe Seskey and all of the Alexandria Police Department help, the CERT Volun

SEE DEL RAY, PAGE 26

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602 FORDS LANDING WAY	4	3	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$1,975,000	Townhouse	0.03		FORDS LANDING
15 KEITHS LN	2	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$1,870,000	Townhouse	0.03		FORDS LANDING
503 IVY CIR	4	2	3		ALEXANDRIA	\$1,400,000	Detached	0.24		IVY HILL
221 PITT ST S	3	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$1,400,000	Townhouse	0.05		OLD TOWN
35 LINDEN ST E	5	5	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$1,170,000	Detached	0.11		ROSEMONT
903 QUAKER LN N	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$1,085,000	Detached	0.74		CHAPEL HILL
335 CAMERON STATION BLVD	4	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$995,000	Detached	0.10		CAMERON STATION
335 FAYETTE ST S	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$915,000	Townhouse	0.03		OLD TOWN VILLAGE
3101 EDGEHILL DR	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$885,000	Detached	0.21		BEVERLY HILLS
111 LURAY AVE	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$840,000	Detached	0.11		BRENTON
400 MADISON ST #1602	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$825,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			ALEXANDRIA HOUSE
326 HELMUTH LN	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Townhouse	0.04		CAMERON STATION
3543 GODDARD WAY	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$746,986	Townhouse	0.04		QUAKER RIDGE
719 FAYETTE ST N	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$745,000	Townhouse	0.02		BRADDOCK LOFTS
419 COMMONWEALTH AVE	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$725,000	Townhouse	0.05		ROSEMONT
15 WILKES ST #47	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$725,000	Townhouse			HARBORSIDE
1406 CRESTWOOD DR	4	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$720,500	Detached	0.14		DYES OAKCREST
284 MURTHA ST	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$715,000	Townhouse	0.03		CAMERON STATION
1142 PITT ST N	3	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$672,000	Townhouse	0.02		CANAL WAY
549 TRIADPHILIA WAY	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$623,990	Townhouse			BEAUREGARD STATION
154 CAMERON STATION BLVD	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$606,000	Townhouse	0.03		CAMERON STATION
915 JUNIPER PL	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$605,000	Detached	0.24		BELLE WOOD
706 PRINCE ST #10	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$588,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			SWANN DAINGERFIELD
412 LURAY AVE E	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$570,000	Detached	0.11		DEL RAY
1304 ROUNDHOUSE LN #311	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$570,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			OLD TOWN VILLAGE
269 MEDLOCK LN	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$559,000	Townhouse	0.02		CAMERON STATION
103 CAMERON STATION BLVD	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$549,900	Townhouse	0.04		CAMERON STATION
2 OXFORD AVE E	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$545,000	Duplex	0.13		DEL RAY
2061/2 ADAMS AVE	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$530,000	Duplex	0.06		ROSEMONT
3811 WHITE POST CT	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$524,000	Townhouse	0.06		EARLY ST VILLAGE
700 MT. VERNON AVE	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.04		NONE
2422 GARNETT DR	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.04		MEWS STONEGATE
5101 GARDNER DR	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$500,000	Townhouse	0.03		CAMERON STATION
5123 GARDNER DR	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$499,900	Townhouse	0.02		CAMERON STATION
520 JOHN CARLYLE ST #106	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$499,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			OLD TOWN
496 LATHAM ST N	4	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$480,000	Detached	0.19		SEMINARY VALLEY
928 ALFRED ST	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$473,000	Townhouse	0.06		HUNTING CREEK
5094 ENGLISH TER	2	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$470,000	Townhouse			CAMERON STATION
3800 DOMINION MILL DR	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$466,500	Townhouse	0.04		TOWNES AT CAMERON PARKE
1503 HANCOCK AVE	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$457,000	Semi-Detached	0.06		DEL RAY
257 CAMERON STN BLVD #527	2	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$455,000	Townhouse			CAMERON STATION
161/2 MYRTLE ST E	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$454,900	Townhouse	0.06		TEMPLE PARK
1024 HARRISON CIR	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$450,000	Townhouse	0.03		SUMMERS GROVE
108 CAMERON PARKE CT	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$435,900	Townhouse	0.04		TOWNES AT CAMERON PARKE
309 HOLLAND LN #114	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$435,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			ROYALTON
905 BASHFORD LN	3	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$430,000	Townhouse	0.03		WESTOVER
618 ARMISTEAD ST #10	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$410,000	Townhouse			BEAUREGARD HEIGHTS
37 TAYLOR RUN PKWY	3	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$400,000	Duplex	0.07		TAYLOR RUN PKWY
1142 VALLEY DR #608	3	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$395,000	Attach/Row Hse			PARKFAIRFAX
224 MONROE AVE E	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$391,500	Detached	0.13		COTTAGE PARK
1216 POWHATAN ST	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$390,000	Townhouse	0.03		WESTOVER
138 SANBORN PL	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$380,005	Townhouse	0.05		MT VERNON COURT
800 ST ASAPH ST S #206	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$375,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			ST ASAPH SQUARE
545 BRADDOCK RD E #105	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$372,500	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			COLECROFT
3838 BRIGHTON CT	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$370,000	Townhouse	0.02		BRIGHTON SQUARE
3114 RAVENSWORTH PL #214	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$366,500	Townhouse			PARKFAIRFAX
112A HUME AVE E	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$365,000	Duplex	0.06		DEL RAY
1521 MOUNT EAGLE PL #949	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$345,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARKFAIRFAX
245 PICKETT ST S #301	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$345,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			HILLWOOD
1024 PELHAM ST	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$340,000	Townhouse	0.07		KMS TOWNHOUSES
132 JASPER PL	4	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$340,000	Duplex	0.09		TARLETON
1005 COLONIAL AVE	3	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$338,000	Townhouse	0.04		WESTOVER
245 PICKETT ST S #202	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$336,500	Garden 1-4 Floors			HILLWOOD
4950 BRENNAN PARK DR #210	1	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$320,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			CAMERON STATION
3227 RAVENSWORTH PL #838	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$316,000	Townhouse			PARKFAIRFAX
1600 PRINCE ST #410	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$310,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			1600 PRINCE STREET
90 IRIS ST S	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$307,000	Detached	0.02		TARLETON
1925 QUAKER LN #203	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$299,000	Townhouse			PARKFAIRFAX
1728 ABINGDON DR W #301	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$292,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			POTOWMACK CROSSING
1032 VALLEY DR #604	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$281,500	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARKFAIRFAX
3618 VALLEY DR #3618	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$279,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARKFAIRFAX
1110 VALLEY DR #605	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$277,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARKFAIRFAX
1100 QUAKER HILL DR #323	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$276,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			QUAKER HILL
1273 VAN DORN ST N #1273	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$275,450	Townhouse			PARKSIDE AT ALEXANDRIA
4328 VERMONT AVE	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$275,000	Semi-Detached	0.07		WAKEFIELD
2800 DARTMOUTH RD #3	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$275,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			SEMINARY WALK
612 BASHFORD LN #1202	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$269,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			RIVERTON
805 HOWARD ST N #342	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$265,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			THE PLAZA
6101 EDSALL RD #802	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$263,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			ALEXANDRIA KNOLLS
120 CLIFFORD AVE	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$261,780	Townhouse	0.05		WAVERLY GREEN
5300 HOLMES RUN PKWY #4072	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$260,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			GREENHOUSE
203 YOAKUM PKWY #524	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$246,750	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
3307 WYNDHAM CL #2165	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			POINTE AT PARK C
11 INGRAM ST	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$225,000	Townhouse	0.07		WAKEFIELD
3808 EDISON ST	3	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$220,000	Townhouse	0.03		HUME SPRINGS
307 YOAKUM PKWY #1217	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$218,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
132 DALE ST	3	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$216,900	Attach/Row Hse	0.03		HUME SPRINGS
3739 MARK DR	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$215,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.03		HUME SPRINGS
3726 EDISON ST	3	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$214,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.03		HUME SPRINGS
3306 WYNDHAM CL #232	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$205,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			POINTE AT PARK C
20 AUBURN CT #20B	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$190,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			AUBURN VILLAGE
4600 DUKE ST #1410	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$187,900	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			FORTY SIX HUNDRED
6300 STEVENSON AVE #514	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$187,077	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			SENTINEL OF LANDMARK
722 FAYETTE ST S #12	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$179,250	Garden 1-4 Floors			FAYETTE COURT
203 YOAKUM PKWY #604	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$175,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
16 ASHBY ST #16C	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$174,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			AUBURN VILLAGE
5500 HOLMES RUN PKWY #4131	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$170,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			PLACE ONE
6300 STEVENSON #LL02	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$150,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			SENTINEL OF LANDMARK
401 ARMISTEAD ST N #512	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$130,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			SEASONS
525 ARMISTEAD ST N #202	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$115,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			SAXONY SQUARE
519 ARMISTEAD ST N #102	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$105,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			SAXONY SQUARE

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Maria Matthews 202-258-0391



403 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #106

Old Town Alexandria - \$399,900

4 blocks from King St Metro, tucked into the tranquil tree-lined community of Rosemont, this Condo has the best of both worlds! 2BR/1BA, renovated 2005, hardwoods thru-out, and new King St Trolley to Riverfront. View at:



www.BobSkinnerHomes.org
Bob Skinner 703 - 585 - 6683



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\$20K PRICE DROP!

12 ARELL COURT - \$529,900

Alexandria / 1.5 mi to KING ST METRO

Amazing 2000sf 3BR/3.5BA end unit TH, min from DC. Upgrades, 9' ceilings, chef's kit has silestone, hardwoods, 12" molding, tray ceiling. Huge Family Room w/gas Fireplace walk-out slate patio. MBA w/vaulted ceiling, WIC, soaking tub/separate shower. Custom colors. See interior shots at:



www.salesbysharon.com
Sharon Edwards 703 - 408 - 8144



45 GARDEN DRIVE

Alexandria - \$440,000

This is a must see! Extremely convenient 3BR / 1.5BA Duke Gardens location w/ access to METRO bus line & METRO. Old Town & I 495. Additional 1BR au pair/in-law suite LL w/ separate entrance. New appliances, refreshed kitchen and bathrooms. Many upgrades including windows/roof, furnace, water heater and deck. Don't miss the Virtual Tour.



www.susanmovesyou.com
Susan Haughton 703 - 470 - 4545



\$10K PRICE DROP!

6327 DORSET DRIVE

Alexandria - \$382,000

An ideal neighborhood in a desirable school district, this 3BR/2BA home has fin. basement, KitchenAid appliances — New refinished hwd floors, cabinets, Carrier furnace, shingled roof, HEW & entry doors — Shed conveys.



Heidi Kohler 703 - 609 - 7367



Falls Church - \$834,000

Beautiful colonial on 1.15 acre in Lake Barcroft. Updated throughout. Dream Master suite. Morning coffee deck in the treetops. Chef's kitchen w/granite, double oven, 120 bottle wine storage. Stone patio w/hot tub. Lot worthy of Arboretum. Private lake community inside Beltway.



Patrick Garrity 703 - 298 - 2287



2596 NICKY LANE W #96

Alexandria - \$474,000

Brick end unit town home w/a private garden, gated setting in Old Town. 2 MSTR BR suites w/ private bath. Formal dining room & double French doors. LL 3rd BR/den/office, FBA, family room, wet bar, brick FP. Many upgrades, including new hardwoods & wall-wall carpeting.



Lorraine Self 571 - 276 - 8960



3309 WASHINGTON BLVD

Arlington - \$875,000

Contemporary / Colonial town home in the heart of Arlington's Clarendon neighborhood; only 3 blocks to METRO! Gourmet kitchen, 9' ceilings, huge Master bedroom suite w/ Jacuzzi bath and tile surround, great contemporary details throughout. Enjoy a cosmopolitan lifestyle amid restaurants and coffee shops . . . "this is a walker's paradise".



Jim Crowe 703 - 856 - 8244



CHRIS WHITE

#1 Individual Long & Foster Agent in VA & WV for 2007!



NEW HOME

1210 North Pegram Street
\$1,351,500
New Home!

Alexandria's most exciting new construction opportunity! Although the home nearing completion is sold, work is underway on the property next door. Top quality construction, open floor plans and magnificent site in the heart of Alexandria's Seminary area. Pre-construction sale



provides the maximum opportunity to customize. Turn this foundation into your dream home at a price that makes this a truly spectacular value!



2505
Crest Street
\$469,725
Rare Bargain!

Very attractive Braddock Heights rambler with all brick exterior, spacious updated kitchen, replacement thermal pane windows and large attic for great storage. Gorgeous setting on beautiful fenced lot convenient to everything! Live in Alexandria's premier single family neighborhood for less than the cost of a townhouse!



WATERFRONT

4003 Belle Rive Terrace
\$4,800,000
Riverfront Estate!

Prime Mount Vernon location with the most breathtaking river views you have ever seen! Over 11,000 sq ft of living space with five bedrooms including river view master bedroom suite on the main level with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Dramatic river views from



every corner of the home! Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River!



4212
Dandridge Terr
\$619,000

Classic Center Hall Colonial!

Great New Price! Spacious 4BR home has master suite with private bath, open kitchen/family room, granite counters in kitchen, updated baths, replacement thermal pane windows, hardwood floors, walk-out lower level and oversized 2 car garage. Prime location on large fenced lot on quiet Southwood cul-de-sac.

BANK OWNED PROPERTIES! - LIQUIDATION PRICES! - SINGLE FAMILY HOMES!



OPEN SUN

2205 Belle View Blvd
\$275,900

Minutes from Old Town! Stunning value! \$150,000 below Fairfax Co tax assessment! 4BR, 3BA (rough-in for 3rd), full basement with outside entrance and fenced lot. Prime location convenient to everything! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Belle View Blvd.



4816 Welford Street
\$272,900

Backs to Parkland! Fairfax Co tax assessor values this property at \$429,270 - previously listed at \$479,900. Stunning updated kitchen with granite counters, 4BR, 2BA, family room with brick fireplace and huge rear deck overlooks acres of gorgeous parkland.



8341 Orange Court
\$398,500

Riverside Estates! One of this popular neighborhood's largest and most sought after models! 5BR, 3BA, two car garage and gorgeous setting across from water. Bring your contractor - a little work will create thousands of instant equity!

Once in a lifetime opportunity for investors - huge rental potential! Special financing available!
In a few years, the influx of thousands of new jobs into immediate area through B.R.A.C. will make these prices a distant memory!



Mount Vernon
Grove
\$998,900

New Home!

Wakefield Homes provides potential opportunity to build a truly astounding

amount of instant equity! Build this spectacular home at a fraction of its originally intended price! Bright & open floor plan, high ceilings, large rooms, granite counters and all the other bells & whistles you'd expect in \$1,000,000+ luxury homes! Limited pre-construction opportunity - call today! (Picture of similar house in different location).



JUST LISTED

8826
Camden Street
\$898,000

New Home - Gorgeous Setting!

There's nothing like it on the market today -

fabulous new Wakefield Home custom designed for this half acre lot overlooking acres of natural conservation land. Bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, granite countertops and two car garage. Pre-construction sale allows for maximum customization.



OPEN SUN

6421
Olmi Landrith
Drive
\$395,000

Major Updates! Fabulous property in prime location just a few houses away from Belle

Haven's multi-million dollar mansions! Recent major updates include: new roof, thermal windows, special insulated siding, refinished hardwood floor & more! Large screened porch & fenced yard. Nothing like it for under \$400K this close to Belle Haven! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Belle Haven Rd, L Windsor, L Olmi Landrith.

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Old Town
\$319,900

SLEEK URBAN CHIC

A great find in Old Town! Harbor Terrace sunny 2 level condo with 2BRs, updated bath, new open kitchen with SS appliances, new maple cabinets, black counters, wood floors, large deck for grilling and gardening. Close to DC and river.

1411 Abingdon Drive #1

RENEE REYMOND
703.507.5330



OPEN SUN. 1-4

Old Town
\$319,000

ST. ASAPH SQ

Unbelievable price for a darling 1BR located in SE Quadrant of Old Town with balcony overlooking pool & courtyard. Features include: hdwd flrs, upgraded kit, with granite, spacious living room & fireplace framed by mantle & bookshelves, underground parking PLUS a storage unit on the lower level.

801 S. Pitt Street

MARY BOURKE 703.906.5825
SHANE CANNY 703.346.2067



Old Town
\$699,000

WELCOME HOME!

Classic semi-detached plaqued historic home just listed in the desirable SE quadrant; steps to the river, the park and all that Old Town has to offer. Beautifully renovated kitchen, charming bricked walkway & courtyard, separate living and dining area, plus 2 large BRs/1.5BAs. Tons of storage and closet space, Many updates.

709 South Lee Street

KIM MUFFLER 703.282.7739



Alexandria
\$449,900

EVERYTHING'S DONE!!

End unit, 3 levels, 3 BRs, 3.5 baths, den, recreation room, stainless appliances— newer neutral paint and carpet throughout— deck—walkout basement—2 assigned parking spaces—wonderful Kingstowne amenities.

7420 Gadsby Square

LOUISE DEVERS 703.795.9944



Alexandria
\$650,000

ONE LEVEL LIVING AT ITS BEST

Beautifully expanded and remodeled 2BR/2BA contemporary in popular HOLLIN HILLS—woodland community. All newer quality appliances, lighting, fixtures, systems, thermopane windows throughout— Fabulous deluxe kitchen with island, SS appliances, fireplace, patio and more!

2410 Brentwood Place

FRANKI ROBERTS 703.898.0840



OPEN SUN. 1-4

Old Town
\$599,000

RIVER VIEWS AT ALEXANDRIA HOUSE

Move into this great 2BR/2BA unit w/vista of the Potomac River, Nt'l Harbor & Old Town. Located in SE corner of the bldg. Enjoy sunrises/sunsets. Large glass windows/doors allows natural light. Loads of storage & 1 garage space conveys. Also, Open: #707 & #907. Come see all three!

400 Madison Street #1009

ANN KAVALJIAN 703.626.9171



Alexandria
\$2,990,000

HISTORIC & ELEGANT

Unique 1815 Old Town residence has nearly all of the original woodwork, hardware & fixtures. High ceilings, hdwd flrs, 6BRs (3 with private sitting rms), 7.5 BAs, 9FPLs (2 working) & charming patio. 5 OFF STREET PRKG SPACES! Located in the heart of Old Town just steps to City Hall, boutiques, restaurants, as well as the Metro.

506 Cameron Street

MARTINE IRMER 703.346.7283
EMILY CAPELLI 703.472.1282



North Arlington
\$899,900

JUST LISTED

2 outstanding additions make this brick Colonial stand out. Hardwood! Vaulted ceiling! Palladian windows! Skylights! Deck! Garage! 4 full baths, one with jetted tub. 3-4 BRs. Main level family room, morning room, formal LR & DR. PLUS rec. room on the lower level. Yorktown HS!

3362 Dickerson Street

RUTH GUIRARD 703.518.8758



OPEN SUN. 1-4

Alexandria
\$735,000

WAYNEWOOD

A huge country kitchen w/FP anchors this home. Off the kit, is a beautiful sunroom nestled in the trees. Crown molding, chair rail, 2 more FPs & beautiful hdwd flrs define the major rooms of this spacious 5BR/3BA home. Side entry garage & walk-out lower level through another porch further enhance this property.

1101 Potomac Lane

CATHERINE WARD 703.626.6914



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Alex./Old Town \$775,000
One of Old Town's most charming blocks! 3 bedrooms/2.5 baths with parking. In perfect condition.
206 Jefferson Street
Diann Hicks 703-628-2440



Alexandria \$549,900
Well-cared-for Swarthmore model in Belle View! All brick w/4 bedrms & 2 baths. Bright & welcoming w/fireplace in living rm, updated kitchen & huge fenced landscaped yard.
1603 Rollins Drive
Hal Sadler 703-677-7515



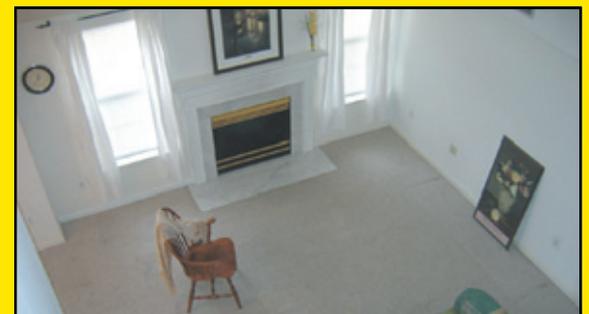
Alexandria \$449,999
Great renovated 3-level end unit TH just off "The Avenue" in Del Ray. 2 bedrms, 2 baths, welcoming front porch, deck & fenced back yard. Plenty of street parking.
513 Duncan Avenue
Beverly Tatum 703-585-9673



Alexandria Mid \$500's
Change your life with a front porch swing & a classic 90-year-old farmhouse full of charm plus updates! A walk to Mount Vernon for ice cream will slow your pace of life. Entertain in your new addition or on the wrap-around deck.
125 Clifford Avenue
Joni Koons 703-209-7277 • Greg Koons 703-209-7678



Alex./Rosemont \$1,275,000
Extreme makeover! Beautiful 3-level 4/5 bedroom, 5 bath Arts & Crafts home. Open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, professional landscaped yard & off-street parking. Blocks to METRO!
106 Summers Drive
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Alexandria \$340,000
So much space and so close to Metro. High 20+ foot vaulted ceilings, 3 bedrms, 3 baths & balcony. Open, bright floor plan. Luxury master suite w/whirlpool jet tub, separate shower. Tons of storage!
5908 Founders Hill Drive #304
Julie Hall 703-786-3634



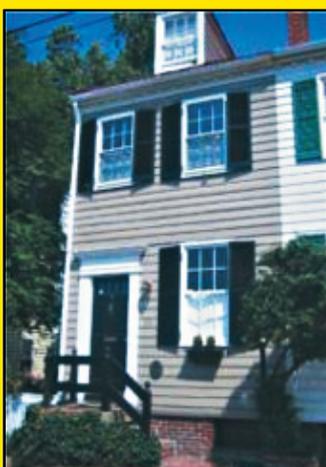
Alexandria \$525,000
Affordable 3 bedrm, 2 bath allbrick Rambler ripe for updating. Located on private cul-de-sac in sought after Park Ridge. Features include walk-out LL, spacious rms, separate dining rm & Walk-up attic.
812 Albany Avenue
Jennifer Bobsein 703-835-1256



Alex./Old Town \$695,000
Renovated 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath rowhouse w/1-car garage. Eat-in kitchen w/granite. Originally built in 1900. Just blocks from Metro!
429 Patrick Street, N.
Ace Werner 703-625-0678



Fairfax \$765,000
Stunning Stanley Martin home in Penderbrooke Community w/4 bedrms, 4.5 baths, chef's kitchen w/center island cooktop & easy deck access. LL entertainment room.
3909 Pender Spring Drive
Jenny Ko 703-380-8825



Alex./Old Town \$695,000
Delightful historic home in heart of Old town. Lovely light-infused interior, updated kitchen & baths. Gorgeous random-width floor planks, 3 bedrms, 2 baths, ample storage w/built-ins.
311 Wilkes Street
Diann Hicks 703-628-2440



Alexandria \$350,000
Sunlit 3-level end unit Town House w/3 bedrms, 2.5 baths. Completely updated. Wood flors main level. Huge fenced yard w/slate patio. In Pristine Condition. Near Metro & shopping.
6601 High Valley Lane
Marianane Welds 703-869-1320

Visit Us at Weichert.com for a full Listing of New Properties

HEALTH & FITNESS

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

Yoga in Daily Life offers classes for people of all ages and physical ability, at 2402 Mt. Vernon Ave. Meditation classes also offered. Free trial class the first week of each session for newcomers - next session begins Nov. 3. Drop-ins welcome. Lunchtime Yoga classes held on Wednesdays 12:15-12:50 p.m. Visit <http://www.yogaindailylife.org/> or call 703-299-8946 for more information.

The **benefits of therapy and exercise** for those with lymphedema will be discussed Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 7:15 p.m., Inova Alexandria Hospital Cancer Center, 4320 Seminary Road. To attend, visit to www.lifewithcancer.org.

Current research and nutrition suggestions about **breast cancer** will be presented Wednesday, Oct. 22, Inova Alexandria Hospital Cancer Center, 4320 Seminary Road. To attend, contact Life with Cancer at 703-776-2841.

Survivorship issues with sexuality will be discussed Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 7:15 p.m., Inova Alexandria Hospital Cancer Center, 4320 Seminary Road. To

attend, contact Life with Cancer at 703-776-2841 or visit www.lifewithcancer.org

Dream Group: Monthly, 3rd Saturday, at the Inner Arts Center at Mindful Hands, 211 King St. from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Bring your dreams. Free instruction on dreamwork techniques provided. E-mail St.gegood@yahoo.com or www.TheInnerArts.com

Guided Imagery Group: Monthly, 3rd Saturday, 9:15- 10:50 a.m. Listen to a wide assortment of imagery CDs. Free instruction on best techniques. The Inner Arts Center at Mindful Hands, 211 King St www.TheInnerArts.com or

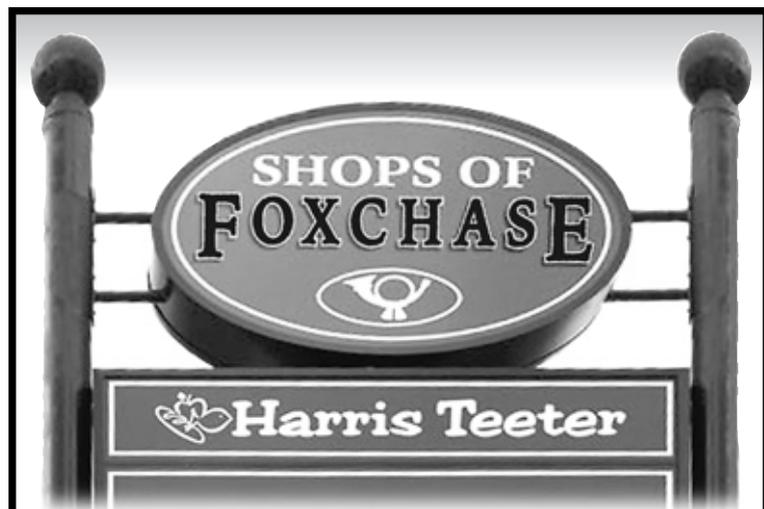
gegood@yahoo.com

Happiness Psychology Discussion Group: Monthly. Discuss latest research and books on the science and art of happiness. 3rd Saturday of each month, 1:30 - 3 p.m. The Inner Arts Center at Mindful Hands, 211 King St. Visit www.TheInnerArts.com or gegood@yahoo.com

The **Alexandria Mental Health Family Support Group** of NAMI/ FOCUS is open to all dealing with mentally ill family members suffering from depression, bipolar or schizophrenia. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

at the Alexandria Mental Health Office, Community Service Board Clubhouse, 4480 King St. Contact J. Gulka, Facilitator, 571-451-0773.

The Alexandria Health Department announces new hours for its HIV Testing Clinic, effective immediately. The HIV Testing Clinic is available every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The clinic, located at the main Health Department Building, 4480 King St., offers free, anonymous and confidential testing. For more information, contact Nechelle Terrell, HIV/AIDS Coordinator, at 703-838-4400, ext. 305.



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- MY EYE DOCTOR..... 703-370-7111
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- NEW LOOK SALON.....703-823-3422
- PAUL GIBBERMAN, DDS.....703-823-6616
- PAUL STASIEWICZ, DDS..... 703-751-5052
- PNC BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.....703-504-6234
- RITE AID #3662..... 703-751-4901
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Approximately 20 to 40 percent of women over 35 have uterine fibroids. Now, nonsurgical Uterine Fibroid Embolization is here. This minimally invasive procedure removes blood supply to fibroids, causing them to shrink and preserves the uterus. This is part of Inova's commitment to you: offering the most advanced medical treatments and techniques available to improve your health.

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Inova Alexandria Hospital
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Call 703-750-8800 or
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Steve Tees

joins Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Co. as
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We're proud and excited to welcome Steve Tees to Burke & Herbert Bank! Steve brings over 20 years of highly successful experience in banking and finance to Burke & Herbert along with a dedication to the highest standard of customer service. He will work to develop new business and provide outstanding personal service to our commercial customers in Fairfax and Manassas. A dedicated banker, Steve will assist businesses with a variety of services including deposit products, cash management solutions and showing how Burke & Herbert's modern technology can save time and money.

Steve is a native of Pennsylvania and graduate of Messiah College, Grantham, PA with a degree in Business Administration. He has also successfully completed the Graduate School of Banking, University of Colorado, Boulder. Steve gives back to his community through involvement with a variety of organizations including The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and as past Director of the Virginia Association of Community Banks. He and his wife, Karen, have four children and reside in Fairfax County.



Welcome, Steve!

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To have a notice listed in the Bulletin, e-mail connectionnewspapers.com. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

<1st> **The Alexandria Rotary Foundation** is presenting an evening of fine food to benefit over 35 Alexandria charities on Friday, Oct. 24, from 7-10 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union St. 'Taste for Giving' will feature local food, wine, micro brewed beer, and entertainment. Local restaurants include: Landini Bros., Tempo, Tasteful Affairs, Finn & Porter, Hard Times Café, Bittersweet, Clipper City, Fish Market, Red Hot & Blue, Jackson 20, Café Pizzaiolo, and many others. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is partnering in this event to present the ALEX Awards which recognizes Alexandrians, organizations, schools, and businesses that have made exceptional contributions to cultural life in the City. Tickets are \$75. Purchase online at AlexandriaRotary.org or call 703-535-1200.

The City of Alexandria invites residents to take advantage of the second annual ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday, scheduled for Oct. 10-13. During the four-day sales tax holiday, Virginians will be exempt from paying the state and local sales tax on qualified products costing \$2,500 or less. For more information about the sales tax holiday or the Eco-City Alexandria Initiative, call 703-838-4334.

Join the Alexandria PTA Council (PTAC) at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, for a special program on the Whole Child Initiative. The guest

speaker will be Molly McCloskey, Director of Constituent Services at ASCD (an education association) in the Rotunda Room at T. C. Williams High School, 3330 King St., Alexandria, and is open to the general public. Contact Tina Games-Evans, PTAC director of communications, at TGEvans8@aol.com or 703-402-2226.

There will be a community assessment meeting about the **Alexandria Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition** on Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. at Minnie Howard, 3801 W. Braddock Road. Free.

The Alexandria Rotary Foundation is presenting an evening of fine food to benefit over 35 Alexandria charities on Friday, October 24, from 7-10pm at the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union Street 'Taste for Giving' will feature local food, wine, micro brewed beer, and entertainment. Local restaurants include: Landini Bros., Tempo, Tasteful Affairs, Finn & Porter, Hard Times Café, Bittersweet, Clipper City, Fish Market, Red Hot & Blue, Jackson 20, Café Pizzaiolo, and many others. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is partnering in this event to present the ALEX Awards which recognizes Alexandrians, organizations, schools, and businesses that have made exceptional contributions to cultural life in the City. Tickets are \$75. Purchase online at AlexandriaRotary.org or call 703535.1200.

The Northern Virginia Conference for Women in Ministry will be held Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at the Hilton Hotel, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Hosted by Mount Pleasant Baptist Church of Alexandria. \$40/person. Contact Minister Oliver S. Pilson at 703-912-5053 or visit www.godswomeninministry.org.

The Department of Planning and Zoning is accepting nominations for membership on the Potomac Yard Advisory Group for the amendment process of the Potomac Yard Small Area Plan. At a minimum, we are looking for: residents of adjoining neighborhoods; parents with school-aged children; area businesses; property owners; individuals with environmental, housing transit, open space and/or planning interests; and age, race and ethnic diversity. The nomination forms are available from the Planning and Zoning department or www.alexandriava.gov/potomacyardplan. Forms should be returned no later than Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 9 a.m.

The **City of Alexandria** is once again in search of a Colorado Blue Spruce, Leyland Cypress or other well-formed evergreen tree, approximately 25 to 35 feet tall, to serve as the City's official 2008 Holiday Tree. The City will remove the tree from the donor's property in mid-November and grind the stump at no cost. The tree will be decorated and displayed at Market Square (301 King Street) throughout the holiday season. Persons in the Washington metropolitan area who are interested in donating a tree should contact John Noelle, City Arborist, at 703-838-4999 or john.noelle@alexandriava.gov.

The **Westminster-George Mason Tutoring Program** seeks tutors to assist students with homework and other assignments at George Mason Elementary School at 2601 Cameron Mills Road on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:35-3:35 p.m. from October through May. Contact Kathy Hart at 703-706-4476 or khart@acps.k12.va.us to learn more.

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Inter-generational Sunday School - after service
Vicar, The Rev. Huey J Sevier

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Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening

5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

Sunday

7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon
2:00 pm (en Español)
6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 7)

Weekdays

(Mass or Communion Service)

9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am

Mass (English)

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Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

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SCHOOLS

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

Campagna Center introduces Afternoon Adventures for children in half-day preschool to receive childcare at John Adams Elementary, 5652 Rayburn Ave. or Jefferson Houston Elementary, 1501 Cameron St., from 3-6 p.m. \$14/day. To register, visit www.campagnacenter.org or 703-549-0111 ext. 112.

William Ramsay Elementary School PTA meeting on Friday, Oct. 10 at 6 p.m. at the library, 5700 Sanger Ave. Free. 703-824-6950.

T.C. Williams High School students **Makda Aman** and **Alexander Amani** are Semifinalists in the 45th annual Achievement Scholarship Competition.

Two Alexandria students have been promoted to the top leadership ranks of the Air Force Junior ROTC detachment at Randolph-Macon Academy. Junior **Margaret Strain**, 16, the daughter of David and Charlotte Strain, was awarded the position of Alpha Flight Sergeant, with the rank of cadet technical sergeant. Senior **Victor McKoy**, 18, the son of Yvonne McKoy, was awarded the position of Second Squadron Executive Officer, with the rank of cadet first lieutenant.

Messiah Lutheran Church is offering pre-school for children ages 2-4. Call 703-765-5003 or visit messiahelca.org for more.

T.C. Williams High School senior **Sarah E. Noll** is one of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists nationwide in the 54th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

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

DADS ("Dads And Daughters & Sons") Project encourages and supports father (figures) in their quest to become actively involved in the education of their children, primarily through literacy and educational trips. Using a library of children's books provided by the D.A.D.S. Project, father (figures) are invited to read several books each month to their child and to post entries in a monthly journal about their experiences. Father (figures) who complete their books and journals then participate in educational weekend trips with other fathers and their children. Free. Located at 1224 Princess St. Contact J.D. Walker at 703-549-4232 x 4095.

Parent Leadership Training Project equips participants with the confidence, skills and working knowledge to advocate for their child in and out of the educational arena. Public figures, PTA members, fellow parent and teacher volunteers facilitate these workshops to educate our parents and guardians in these vital areas. Free. Contact J.D. Walker at 703-549-4232 x 4095.



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DEL RAY

FROM PAGE 16

teers, and last but not never least, and the one who did the very most – PAT MILLER!!!! She's forever amazing! Everyone did amazing work! Thank you!!!!

There's more fun on the horizon this month folks – **next up is the annual Halloween Parade!** Mark your calendars, Sunday, Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. the great day starts at Howell & Mt Vernon Avenue and comes straight to the Rec Center fields. You never had so much fun in costume, so come on out!

Are you busy decorating your house &/or business? You should be! There's a contest for best decorated home and best decorated business again this year. Yours must be thoroughly decked out by Oct. 19 to be in the running and win a prize at the end of the parade! Get freaky with your front porches, folks, you never know who's judging?!?! (Hint Hint!)

Got gossip? Send it to jen@jenwalker.com today! See you on the Avenue – sans crutches!

—JEN WALKER

FAITH NOTES

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

First Church of Christ, Scientist of Alexandria will present an important talk by nationally-known speaker and prayer-based healer Don Wallingford on Friday, Oct. 10 at noon and again on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 2 p.m. Both events will take place at Market Square, 301 King St. Free. Call the Alexandria Christian Science Reading Room at 703-683-0129.

The **Diocese of Arlington** runs a series of Masses and Prayer Services for healing for victims/survivors of sexual abuse. The Prayer Services include a survivor's sharing of their abuse and efforts to heal. Both the Masses and Prayer Services are followed by a reception. *Tuesday, Nov. 18. Mass at 7:30 p.m., St. Mary, 310 South Royal St. Alexandria

Take part in an **Ecumenical Bible Study** on Thursday mornings Oct. 9 through Nov. 13 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, 6510 Fort Hunt Road. Free.

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road has a group of moms and pre-school kids that meets every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. for coffee, muffins, and fellowship and moves into the church at 9:30 a.m. to take part in the Day School's chapel service. 703-360-4220.

Convergence: A Creative Community of Faith at 1801 N. Quaker Lane, gathers each Sunday at 5 p.m. for a worship gathering. All are welcome. Visit www.convergenceccf.net, or call 703-998-6260.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1509 Collingwood Road, Mount Vernon, is now holding Wednesday evening meetings at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 703-768-2494.

The Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers classes in Buddhist Meditation at the Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 North Alfred St. in Alexandria. Classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. Buddhist Nun Kelsang Varahi will be teaching. \$10/class. For more information visit www.meditation-dc.org or call 202-331-2122.

Beth El Hebrew Congregation holds services at 8:15 p.m. on Fridays and 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays. Religious school is on Wednesdays evening and Sunday mornings. Tot Shabbat on first and third Saturdays. Kolot Shabbat (musical service) the first Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Beth El is located at 3830 Seminary Road. 703-370-9400 or visit www.bethelhebrew.org.

The Christian Women In The Marketplace meets to study God's word at the Royal Restaurant in Old Town Alexandria. The CBWC meets **every Wednesday at 7 a.m.** for breakfast. 703-660-6759.

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Some 36,000 people still die from the flu every year. And more than 200,000 people end up in the hospital from the virus or its complications. **That's nothing to sneeze at.**

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Change is in the Air!



WE'RE CHANGING OUR PREFIX...

The City of Alexandria is modernizing its telephone systems over the next two years. Most City telephone numbers will change to a new prefix, 746, and retain the last four digits of their original telephone numbers. Some numbers will change entirely, incorporating the 746 prefix, but all numbers will retain the 703 area code. Most hotline numbers will not change.

Stay tuned to these advertisements in your local paper, the City web site, www.alexandriava.gov, and Channel 70 on Comcast Cable for the latest information about new City telephone number changes. For more information, please call Jacqueline Levy at 703.838.4227.



ANNIVERSARY

50th Anniversary Celebrated

Oldrich and Margarete Holubar celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married Sept. 27, 1958. Leaving family and friends in Czechoslovakia in 1948, Oldrich settled in New York. They met at a Czech dance in 1957; Oldrich a commercial artist and Margarete a student at Lenox Hill Hospital School of Nursing. Married in Astoria, New York, together for 45 years in New York – 35 in their wonderful home in Glen Cove, Long Island – they now enjoy their new home in Old Town Alexandria with their rescued chihuahua, Nellie. Margarete is active in her community, serving on the board of di-

rectors of Friends of Alexandria Archeology and Oldrich, pursuing his passion of painting and art. Always giving of themselves to their children: Barbara and James Berry of Clinton, North Carolina; Martin and Joni Holubar of Atlanta, Georgia; Robert and Tara Holubar of Alexandria; and sons Matthew in New York and John Holubar of Alexandria; and grandchildren Margarete, Nicole, Leyna, Celia, Bobby and Martin. They will celebrate their anniversary doing what they love most, traveling in Europe on a cruise up the Danube River, followed by a family party hosted by Barbara and James Berry at their “Funny Farm” in Clinton, North Carolina.

VOLUNTEERS

Send volunteer notices to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or call *Rebecca Halik* with any questions 703-917-6407.

King Street Cats needs volunteers to care for abandoned and rescued cats and kittens in its orphanage in Old Town. Help needed with morning and evening feeding/cleaning. If you love cats and want to care for them while a permanent home is being found, contact us at 703-231-7199 or visit <http://kingstreetcats.org> for more.

Doorways for Women and Families is seeking volunteers for its Safehouse domestic violence shelter program. Volunteers are needed for weekend and evening shifts and to answer our 24/7 hotline. Some weekday opportunities are also available. Train-

ing begins August-September. Call 703-522-8858 x13 or e-mail volunteer@doorwaysva.org. For more information visit www.doorwaysva.org/volunteer.

CrisisLink's 24/7/365 hotline for the Washington Metro Region is currently recruiting volunteers for their October 2008 training. Visit www.crisislink.org, e-mail volunteer@crisislink.org, or call 703-527-6016 to learn more. Come help CrisisLink continue to save lives and prevent tragedies in our community. Volunteer for three hours a week.

Volunteer Emergency Families For Children (VEFC) needs volunteers willing to open their homes and provide short term (1-21 days) emergency shelter to local children who are victims of

abuse, neglect, etc. Volunteers can choose the age, gender, and length of stay for each placement. Local leaders are also needed to serve children in crisis by sharing VEFC's mission within their community. Call 703-200-3700 or email seckhardt@vefc.org for details. Visit www.vefc.org.

Meals on Wheels need drivers to pick up meals at Mt. Vernon Hospital at 11 a.m. and delivering them by 1 p.m. Volunteer drivers can deliver on a weekly, biweekly, monthly, or substitute basis. Other volunteer opportunities for Meals on Wheels include back-up Group Coordinator, Group Treasurer, and a volunteer to make monthly delivery of nutritional supplements to a Mt. Vernon resident. For more, call 703-324-5406, TTY: 703-449-1186 or e-mail DFSAAAvolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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COMMUNITY

Celebrate The Scots



The Engrailed Cross of the Sinclair Clan flies outside the Clan tent at the festival on Sunday afternoon.



In between swordplay, the Swords of Chivalry tent was open for questions. Gregor Chisholm takes the opportunity to try on a suit of chainmail armor. After being fully suited, young Gregor laughs as he realizes the suit has more than doubled his normal weight!



Pipes and Drums from the St. Andrew's Society of Washington entertain a few of the visitors to the annual fair at Ft. Ward Park.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

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REAL ESTATE

Are Workers Homes Historic?

Questions still linger following a neighborhood dispute a year ago over what makes a house worth preserving.

BY GINA TORO-LUGO
GAZETTE PACKET

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, Billie Schaeffer steps out of her home in the 300 block of North St. Asaph Street and walks down into a meticulously kept narrow alley. The alley is listed by the city as private property but belonging to no one. It leads into a small lot where a row of three century-old homes and their placid gardens can be seen.

Listed on the 1885 Sanborn Maps as occupied by “negro tenants,” each of the three row houses was awarded an oval bronze plaque by the Historic Alexandria Foundation. The plaque recognizes buildings that are more than 100 years old and maintain their original structure.

“When you walk into our homes and step into our backyards, it is, as silly as it sounds, a paradise” Schaeffer says.

But not everyone agrees.

One of the townhome’s owners submitted a petition to allow partial demolition on one of those homes in the summer of 2007. The Board of Architectural Review denied the petition and the owners appealed the decision to the city council of Alexandria

Stephen Milone, Division Chief of Zoning and Land Use Services, defended the decision of the

“It is very important that the historic fabric be retained.”

**Stephen Milone,
Division Chief of Zoning
and Land Use Services**

In an attempt to clarify BAR’s classification of the home as a possible historical site, councilman Paul C. Smedberg defined it as “welcoming to writers, poets and tourists.” But Duncan Blair, the attorney, did not share the same opinion.

“The house went from a simple vernacular house that regrettably, given the period of time, was probably on the wrong side of the tracks,” said Blair, referring to the physical location of the home in the lower class section of the city prior to the improvements done to it in 1965.

The opponents and supporters of the appeal presented their arguments before the members of the council. Both sides agreed that the integrity of the structure —the bricks and mortar — was no longer there. The roof and siding had been redone and a bay window, though without authorization, had been installed. They also agreed that previous improvements had not altered the original plans or “footprint” of



One of three row houses designated as historic.
the structure.

SUPPORTERS OF THE petition argued that nobody of importance had lived there but former slaves and small-trades people. They also asserted that the BAR’s denial to allow any alteration was a violation of the Fifth Amendment pertaining to rights of property owners.

The opponents, however, defended their stand on the case by reminding the council that there was more to history than bricks and mortars. The original form was still there and the social status of the original tenants did alter its historical value.

“Many big, affluent homes have been preserved, but lower class and middle class homes, there is not a lot of that. People tend to think that is not important,” said Laura Teresinski, an opponent of the petition and a concerned neighbor “African American history is deserving of attention.”

“African American History is part of Alexandria, is part of our country. Period. If anything can be done to save it, it should be done,” says Joe Dickson, an Alexandria resident.

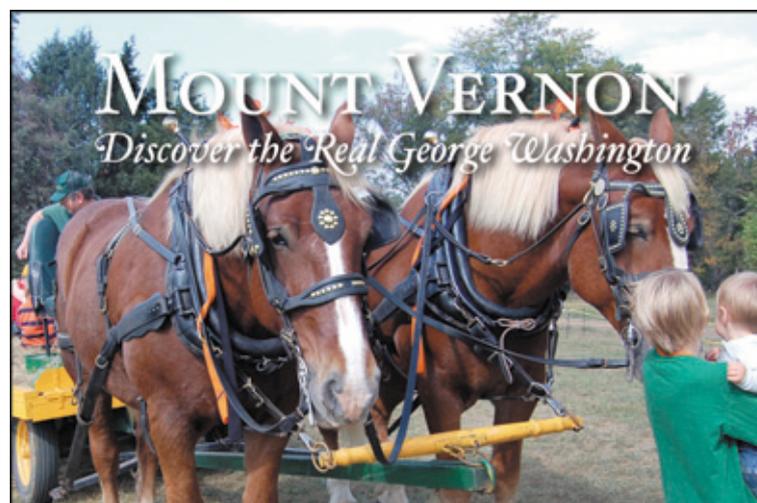
Blair argued before the council that while it is not known why there have been no alterations to the homes in the past 150 years, to allow changes in a historical construction was representative of the passage of time. Schaeffer’s rebuttal “For 150 years, every single person who has lived in those homes appreciated them, loved them and respected them.”

Gilberto Torres-Gonzalez, a recent resident of the City of Alexandria and former history professor at the University of Puerto Rico, points out that “the unique architecture has a cultural and social value. The value of these homes is in their representation of the cultural and social development of the City of Alexandria. To destroy them, is to destroy a piece of art.”

Oscar Fitzgerald, a member of the BAR, explained that the proposal not only alters the footprint of the house, it also affects the historical essence of the community.

The city council voted unanimously to uphold BAR’s decision.

“If we cannot save this very significant block, very significant site, what does that say for the rest of the historical homes?” Vice Mayor Redella Pepper asked.



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ELECTION 2008

Battle Over Earmarks

FROM PAGE 4
the issue of budgetary reform carries a perceived ring of good-government reform, it also carries the pitfall of alienating a wide swath of voters — especially in an area like Virginia's eighth congressional district where local infrastructure projects are a major concern. Government contractors and nonprofit agencies that have increasingly

become the backbone of business in Northern Virginia rely on the local delegation to bring home the pork. As a result, congressional candidates who oppose earmarks face a tailor-made dilemma: promote ideological consistency or yield to pragmatic necessity.

"An incumbent congressman can point to a bridge or a floodwall and say 'I brought you this,'" said

Cordel Faulk, Director of Communications for the Virginia Center for Politics. "It's hard for an opponent to say, 'Well I would have made sure that floodwall didn't come here.'"

For many years, government watchdog groups have decried the earmarking system as clothed in

excessive secrecy and backroom dealing. Because of their efforts to increase public scrutiny, the names of congressional members are now attached to individual earmarks for public inspection. Yet many advocates say more transparency is needed, including public disclosure of earmark requests. Moran

has consistently refused to release his earmark requests, arguing that disclosing such information would open the floodgates for more requests.

"To reveal what people have asked us to do, it seems to me that's private information that is

SEE EARMARKS, PAGE 31

"An incumbent congressman can point to a bridge or a floodwall and say 'I brought you this, It's hard for an opponent to say, 'Well I would have made sure that floodwall didn't come here.'"

— Cordel Faulk, director of communications for the Virginia Center for Politics

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Saturday, November 1, 2008

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It's time to eliminate drunk driving!

Who: Everyone—children, teens, adults, families, pets!

What: 5k non-competitive walk

When: Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Where: Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA

How: Register online at www.WalkLikeMadd.org (select "Fairfax, VA")

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For more information, contact: Karen Horowitz
Karen.horowitz@madd.org • Phone: 703-379-1135

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ELECTION 2008

Battle Over Earmarks

FROM PAGE 30

their information,” said Moran. “I’ve got a selfish reason I don’t want to generate even more earmarks by doing do.”

BECAUSE BOTH of Moran’s challengers oppose earmark spending, the topic has become a major point of distinction between the three candidates on the ballot in November. Independent Green candidate Ron Fisher agrees with Ellmore that earmark spending should be eliminated. When asked about his opposition to earmark spending, Fisher cited an earmark for Boeing C-17 aircraft that he considered ill-advised.

“We don’t need those. The Air Force doesn’t need those,” said Fisher. “We need firefighting aircraft.”

Government watchdog groups that carefully monitor earmark spending say that the process lacks transparency because members of Congress are not required to release the list of earmark requests. Because earmarking short-circuits the way federal grants are issued, critics say the practice counteracts merit-based decision-making. Al-

though some recent gains have created more transparency in the process, groups like Citizens Against Government Waste argue that more information should be released to the public about how the earmarking process works.

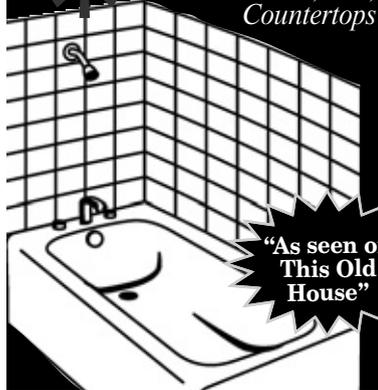
“We want to see what’s in these appropriations bills, and we want to see it in advance, and we want to see who’s responsible for it,” said Leslie Paige, media director of Citizens Against Government Waste. “Trust in Congress is at about an all-time low, and there’s a good reason for that. For them to say ‘Trust us, these are all worthwhile projects’ basically asks taxpayers to disregard what’s in front of their faces everyday, which is corruption.”

“I’ve got a selfish reason I don’t want to generate even more earmarks by doing do.”

— Jim Moran (D-8)

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Alexandria Agencies Emphasize Tolerance, Respect

FROM PAGE 1

at the same rate amongst gay couples as among straight couples, it is greatly underreported.

"We must acknowledge that the reasons for not reporting instances of domestic violence are greatly compounded for members of the LGBTQ community," said Gautney.

Gautney explained that for many LGBTQ individuals, the threat of being "outed" by an abusive partner and the fear of being judged or of not being taken seriously by police and service providers keep many "suffering alone, in silence."

Alexandria Police Chief David Baker addressed these issues when he spoke to the crowd of about 300.

"Police officers are often the first to arrive on the scene when there's an instance of domestic violence," said Baker. "But we are not alone. We are part of a multi-agency response team committed to making a difference."

Baker recalled a time when "the public safety response to domestic violence was minimal and to LGBTQ domestic violence, non-existent."

He went on to reassure the group assembled that all Alexandrians, regardless of sexual orientation, can "count on us," for protection.

DIVER GREG LOUGANIS' STORY of physical and psychological abuse recalls a time when the tolerance that Gautney and Baker spoke of did not exist.

Louganis won five diving Olympic medals (four of them gold) in the 1976, 1984 and 1988 games. He also won five world championships in the 1980s. What no one knew while he was training for and winning all of these medals, is that he was trapped in an abusive relationship that controlled every aspect of his life.

"I was raped at knifepoint within the first year of the relationship," said Louganis. "I stayed for another six."

Louganis described the fear of being outed by his partner Tom (not his real name) and the persistent thoughts that he "deserved it" that prevented him from leaving the relationship.

"It was the world according to Tom," said Louganis. "He controlled everything."

This included Louganis' finances (all but \$2000 of which were under Tom's name by the time the relationship ended in 1989), and who Louganis could talk to and visit. Even certain family members were off limits.

What allowed Louganis to finally leave the relationship was diving. As Louganis described, Tom saw diving as "his meal ticket," so it was the one activity he was allowed to pursue without restrictions. Not only did the hours of training give Louganis



PHOTO BY AUISSA FIGUEROA

Greg Louganis and his dog Snipper onstage

time away from Tom, it also granted him some distance, as he had to fly to Florida to train during the last three years of his and Tom's relationship.

During those years Louganis built relationships with his coach and teammates and eventually grew more confident in himself. He also discovered that he'd become infected with HIV.

Louganis competed, and earned two gold medals in the 1988 Olympics while taking

AZT pills – which are highly toxic and often debilitating – four times a day. After the Olympics he went back home to California, and to Tom.

"I finally came to the conclusion that I was not going to survive this relationship," said Louganis. So in 1989, with the support of friends and accompanied by a police officer, he took his belongings and left.

For Louganis, writing his autobiography in 1995 and the public speaking he has done since, have served as a kind of therapy – allowing him to "let go of a lot of secrets," and empowering him to make a difference in others' lives. He lists the publication of "Breaking the Surface" above all of the medals he's won as his proudest accomplishment.

"Diving gives me a platform," said Louganis. "If I don't use that to speak out, it goes to waste."

THE SILENT AUCTION held before the speaking presentation raised \$400,000, which will go towards domestic violence prevention and treatment efforts.

Friday's event also drew prominent members from all parts of Alexandria's government, including Mayor William Euille, Vice Mayor Rodella "Del" Pepper, Councilmembers Rob Krupicka, Timothy Lovain, Ludwig Gaines, Paul Smedberg and Justin Wilson, as well as heads of the city's police and fire departments.

Legal Notices



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review
Parker-Gray District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2008 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2008-0174
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at **634 N. Patrick St.**, zoned RB
APPLICANT: Church of God and Saints of Christ, Sixteenth Tabernacle

CASE BAR2008-0175
Request for approval of addition/alterations at **634 N. Patrick St.**, zoned RB
APPLICANT: Church of God and Saints of Christ, Sixteenth Tabernacle

CASE BAR2008-0177
Request for approval of alterations at **917 Oronoco St.**, zoned RB
APPLICANT: Robert Bentley Adams & Associates

CASE BAR2008-0178
Request for approval of demolition at **1124 Princess St.**, zoned RB
APPLICANT: Peter Finn Erickson

CASE BAR2008-0179
Request for approval of alterations at **1124 Princess St.**, zoned RB
APPLICANT: Peter Finn Erickson

Information about the above item(s) may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 838-4666

Legal Notices

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Virginia American Water – Alexandria District

In September 2007, our system failed to collect the correct number of drinking water samples. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis including bacteriological tests. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During September 2007, we inadvertently missed two of our 120 required sample sites for bacteriological tests resulting in 118 samples being analyzed. Disinfectant residual measurements, required at the same time as the collection of the bacteriological samples, were also not analyzed for those two sites. Because we did not complete monitoring or testing for total coliform bacteria, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water in the immediate vicinity of those two sites during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours. We will announce any emergencies on TV and/or radio stations, when necessary. We will also post this information on our web site at www.vawc.com

What is being done?

The results of the 118 routine samples that were collected in September 2007 for bacteriological tests and chlorine residuals indicated no issues with the water quality in the rest of the Virginia American Water – Alexandria District distribution system. This includes samples taken in the surrounding areas of the two sample sites missed. We have since collected the samples at these two missed locations in October 2007 and the chlorine and bacteriological test results indicate that the water quality meets health standards.

For more information, please contact David Barney at 703.706.3885 or david.barney@amwater.com

Legal Notices

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Virginia American Water – Alexandria District State Water System ID#: VA6510010. Date distributed: October 15, 2008.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Cricket Communications, Inc. is proposing to install new telecommunications antennas on an existing building at 4901 Seminary Rd., Alexandria, VA. The new facility will consist of facade mounting 4 antennas at a centerline height of 158 feet on the rooftop penthouse. Support equipment will be placed within a 4 by 6-foot steel platform on the rooftop. Any party wishing to submit comments regarding potential effects by the proposed facility on any historic resources should send comments to: Project 61085755-RL c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail S., York, PA 17403, or call (717) 428-0401.

ABC LICENSE

Au Domaine, LLC trading as Au Domaine, 802 North Fairfax St, Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a retail wine & beer, off premises; shipping & delivery license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages
Rick Raunswinder, Director

Legal Notices

OBITUARY

Carl Joseph Alizio, 88, of Alexandria, died October 1 at Mount Vernon Inova Hospital.

Mr. Alizio was born August 13, 1920, in Boston MA to the late Peter and Anna Alizio.

Mr. Alizio served in the Army during WWII and worked as a civilian in the United States Air Force for almost 40 years. He loved gardening and music and was a member of the Harmony Heritage Singers, Mount Vernon VA Chapter.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie Alizio, two sisters and one brother.

Survivors include one son, Joe Alizio and his wife Sharon, one grandson Matt of Round Hill, VA; a sister Mary Alizeo of Medford, MA; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service and burial were held at Parsons WV.

Memorial donations may be made to the Harmony Heritage Singers, c/o Bob Wachter, 7802 Davenport St., Alexandria, VA, 22306.

Arrangements were by Loudoun Funeral Chapel of Leesburg.

ABC LICENSE

Mac Acquisition, LLC trading as Romano's Macaroni Grill, 5925 Kingstowne Towne Center Alexandria, VA 22315-5877. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises & Mixed Beverage Restaurant (over 150 seats) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Joshua Olshansky, President/CEO/Vice President/Secretary

ABC LICENSE

SNSA, Inc trading as Fast Eddie's, 6220 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22303. The above establishment is applying to the DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer & Mixed Beverage on Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Maria D. Aguilar, owner

Middle School Accreditation Desired

FROM PAGE 3

they'll have to wait another year while the adults try to figure out how to make it happen," said School Board member Scott Newsham at the time.

Now a new challenge is emerging at the two middle schools: achieving accreditation from the Virginia Department of Education. Although 95 percent of schools in the commonwealth are fully accredited, neither of Alexandria's middle schools met the criteria this year. Math scores are particularly low at both middle schools, with 69 percent of Hammond students passing the test and 67 percent

of students at George Washington Middle School making the grade. A minimum of 70 percent is needed to qualify for accreditation.

"Increasing rigor is a great idea, but I'm more concerned about the basics," said Pam Smith, co-president of the George Washington parent-teacher association. "The reason we're not accredited is not because we're not rigorous enough."

ADMINISTRATORS HAVE created several new strategies for achieving accreditation that are now unfolding at Hammond and G.W. The effort is data intensive, with each student's test scores aggregated in a way that helps educators focus their efforts with laser-like intensity toward where needs exist. Both middle schools have created a specialized part of the day

in which deficiencies could be counteracted. At G.W., the period is known as "Excel." Hammond calls it "Tighten Up."

"I'm confident we'll be able to make accreditation this year," said Hammond Principal Randolph Mitchell. "We only missed it by one percentage point last year."

Testing data shows that Alexandria middle school students perform at levels that are significantly lower than state averages. For example, although 65 percent of Virginia students with disabilities were able to pass the math test, only 26 percent of Hammond students with disabilities were able to pass the same test. And although 75 percent of Virginia students with limited English proficiency were able to make the grade in math, only 29 percent demonstrated a grasp of minimum competency. "We look at the testing results very closely to build targeted interventions," said Margee Walsh, executive director of elementary programs. "We look at all the data available and then create individual plans for each student."

At George Washington Middle School, Principal Keisha Boggan is also focused on math scores, which have fallen below levels that would allow the school to achieve accreditation. Part of the effort involves staff development for teachers, who are currently reading a book titled "What is it About Me You Can't Teach: An Instructional Guide for the Urban Educator." During the summer, students from George Mason University will help run a "math camp." Before the standardized tests are administered, the school will organize a series of game-show themed



Students at Hammond Middle School are engaged in a number of strategies to improve their standardized test scores, especially in math.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

"We look at all the data available and then create individual plans for each student."

— Margee Walsh, executive director of elementary programs

competitions pattered on "Survivor," "Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune."

"It's a friendly competition, and it gets the kids excited about taking the test," said Boggan. "The effort culminates in a pep rally before the SOLs."

FOR HIS FIRST year, Sherman has laid out a number of outcome measures that will be used to evaluate his performance next year. Other than achieving accreditation at the two middle schools, Sherman has agreed to work toward improving literacy scores in elementary schools and increasing enrollment in 8th-grade algebra. Sherman said that the list of goals is a way to focus attention instead of scattering it.

"We need to move ahead, but we can't move ahead in all areas," said Sherman. "We need to have focus rather than making an

ad hoc decisions."

The superintendent said that many middle school students are under a "glass ceiling" of achievement, with certain groups demonstrating lingering problems. Specifically he cited students with disabilities, African-American students and Hispanic students as groups where scores could improve. Sherman said the system has "moral responsibility" to these students, and he intends to follow through next year by creating an educational environment where a higher percentage of students meet the minimum standards.

"Both of our middle schools have done well for around 70 percent of the students," said Sherman. "But there's about 30 percent of the kids who just aren't doing well despite our best intentions, so we need to shatter the glass ceiling for those students."

Black Chamber Of Commerce Forms In N. Va.

FROM PAGE 3

been based out of Alexandria since 2000. He said that the purpose of a chamber of commerce or any other business association is to aid the small businesses that may not know where to turn for advice. "When you work at IBM you have a cooler and you can sit around and exchange ideas," he said. "When you're the sole proprietor or a small business owner, you really don't have anyone who you can ask 'Hey, what do I do?'"

Philip said that, while there have been smaller regional groups in Alexandria and Fairfax County for African American businesspeople, his group is the first region-wide chamber of commerce specifically devoted to African Americans. "I looked around and ... I saw other groups that had

chambers of commerce," he said. "I thought it might be appropriate because there's nothing here in Northern Virginia."

"If you're a black entrepreneur or a business owner," said Gaea Honeycutt, another of the group's founders, "A lot of times if you want to go to an event that focuses on minority businesses you're heading out to Maryland and D.C. There's nothing here that's a focal point for building relationships with one another and with the community."

THIS DISPARITY between Northern Virginia and the rest of the Washington area when it comes to black-owned businesses was something that was brought up by several people who attended the event.

Isaac Lewis, a financial planner from Springfield, said that the Northern Virginia

black community is "not as present as it needs to be ... There's a huge growth opportunity there."

Despite the negative perception some black people have of Northern Virginia, Alexandria City Council Member Ludwig Gaines (D) said that, "There are a number of great minority-owned businesses [here]. The problem is other jurisdictions are more organized."

Gaines said that the creation of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce was a great opportunity to increase diversity in the region and told the assembled African American businesspeople at the kickoff party that "When it comes to city contracts in Alexandria, you have an advocate in me." **HONEYCUTT**, a media consultant based

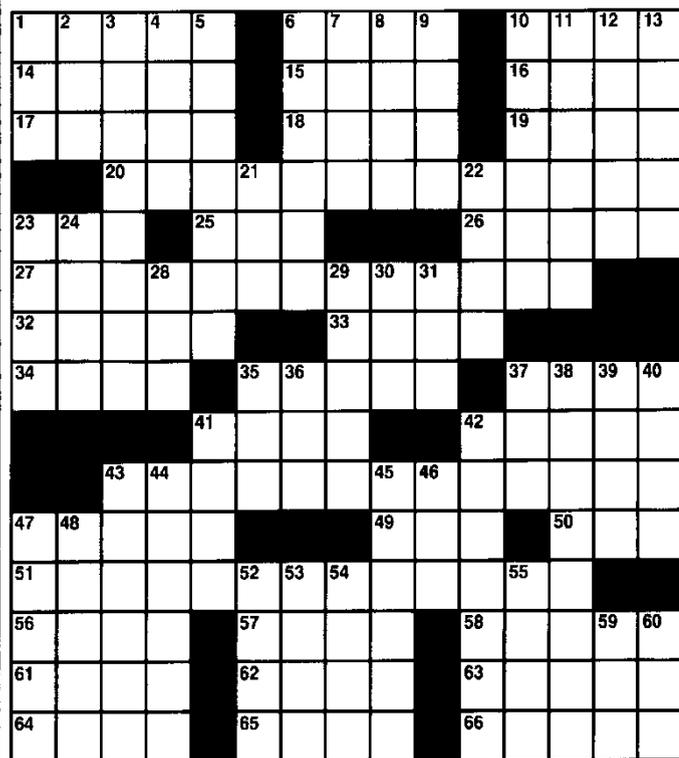
out of Mount Vernon, said that her group will be holding breakfasts, lunches and happy hours that will allow local black professionals and entrepreneurs to network. They also are planning on hosting a gala featuring the CEO of a prominent area corporation. "We're not really trying to reinvent the wheel," Honeycutt said.

With the country's economy quite possibly headed for a recession, business owners can't afford to operate on an island, Philip said. "If you're the only guy out there that you see, you deal with the problems you have and you might think 'Gosh I'm the only guy that's having these problems.' Then you come into a room like this," he said. "In an economy like this, you need some help."

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0401-3



Puzzle by Kelly Clark

ACROSS

- 1 Cutoffs, maybe, before they were cutoffs
- 6 Sound of breaking up?
- 10 Masterpieces
- 14 Sylvia Plath book
- 15 Religious image
- 16 Baker's need
- 17 Oft-quoted Yogi
- 18 Old Spanish kingdom
- 19 Coin no longer being minted
- 20 What happens when Kansas City wins a World Series?
- 23 Sea's partner
- 25 Draw
- 26 Boston team, in brief
- 27 Why is the milk production survey so screwy?
- 32 Kind of wrench
- 33 Like a Burns acquaintance
- 34 Sharp
- 35 Detroit's county
- 37 Item in which to do a plié
- 41 Resistance units
- 42 Not just a franchisee

- 43 Why is the drought-plagued swim club bankrupt?
- 47 Film maker Frank
- 49 Playboy head, to friends
- 50 Lake Okeechobee's state: Abbr.
- 51 What's the anagrammatic reason for these odd questions?
- 56 Kind of gin
- 57 Food for Fido
- 58 Songs "di sentimento"
- 61 High scores
- 62 1963 Liz Taylor role
- 63 Busybody
- 64 New England's locale
- 65 Fish locale
- 66 "Broca's Brain" author

DOWN

- 1 Elbows do it
- 2 Before
- 3 BB gun, e.g.
- 4 Peter Lorre's role in "The Story of Mankind"

- 28 Compose
- 29 Authority
- 30 Press for payment
- 31 Ginger —
- 35 "— me?"
- 36 Band aid?
- 37 Air letters?
- 38 Making whole
- 39 Make known
- 40 Bear with us at night

- 5 Mercury astronaut Deke
- 6 Noted Talmudic sage
- 7 Ones that may be high?
- 8 Tough
- 9 — Domini
- 10 Green party?
- 11 In a bad way
- 12 Excellence
- 13 Says quickly
- 21 Be in a bad way
- 22 Kind of wit or test
- 23 Saturate
- 24 Curly cabbage
- 41 Voiced
- 42 Times when you're not at your peak
- 43 Pinafores
- 44 Thirstiest
- 45 "Hey, check that out!"
- 46 Guitarist Paul
- 47 Class
- 48 Cop —
- 52 It's the truth
- 53 Spanish pot
- 54 Available
- 55 Vicinity
- 59 — standstill
- 60 Mateo or Miguel, e.g.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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Note: Due to space limitations, the crossword may not appear from time to time. In that case, you may look on our Web site: www.connectionnewspapers.com and click on the "Print Editions" button. It should appear in a newspaper from a different Classifieds zone.

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Alexandria Child Development Center seeks assistant teacher. Must be nurturing, dependable, and experienced in developmentally appropriate practices. CDA or equivalent required. Eng/Spanish preferred. Fax resume to 703-548-0082

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-William Van Horne

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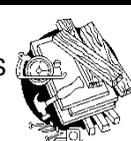
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THE CONNECTION to your community

Racquetball Loving Builder

FROM PAGE 5

Among other charities, his family foundation will continue his 30-year sponsorship of baseball teams participating in the Alexandria Little League. Beiro also planned a scholarship fund at Bishop Ireton High School for disadvantaged elementary school graduates. He was an active member of St. Rita Catholic Church, and he also served as a volunteer, tutor and financial supporter of St. Rita's Catholic Elementary School.

"I learned everything I know about business from Mr. Beiro."

— Mayor Bill Euille

Beiro was married to Jean Beiro for 42 years until her death in 1997. Survivors include their nine children, Ruth Dale and Daniel Beiro of Woodbridge, Noreen Beiro of San Francisco, Gregory Beiro of McLean, Alexander Beiro Jr., Christopher Beiro, Jennifer Beiro-Réveillé, Sara Beiro Farabow, and Mary Beiro, all of Alexandria; his sisters, Sister Mary Bruno, CSC (Anne Beiro), of India, Joan Neuses of Alexandria and Mary Simpson Williams of Manassas; and 13 grandchildren.

WEDDING

McCarthy, Laxis Wed

Ms. Ona L. McCarthy and Mr. Karl A. Laxis were married on May 27 at the San Francisco Calif., City Hall. The bride is the daughter of Bruce and Mariette McCarthy of Alexandria and is a 1997 graduate of Bishop Ireton High School. She graduated in 2001 from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, majoring in sociology. In 2005, she earned a masters degree in epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and has since worked in epidemiological research in London.

Mr. Laxis graduated from the Brisbane, Australia, Grammar School in 1995 and from the Queensland University of Technology in 2002 with a bachelors degree in social sciences (with distinction). He was a member of the 1995 Australian water polo team that toured South Africa and was a state representative in swimming and life-saving as well as a rugby player. He is currently a manager for "Create," a young people's substance abuse service in East London.

The couple will reside in London.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

SPORTS

Offense For Sale

Three area public schools have joined a growing number of prep football teams around the country that are paying thousands to learn a successful offensive system.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
GAZETTE PACKET

It wasn't until he stepped foot in side an Atlantic City showroom that T.C. Williams football coach Dennis Randolph realized he was in the middle of a revolution.

With wins and losses becoming more important than ever amidst the growing commercialization of high school football and his Titans coming off a 4-6 season, Randolph had decided to switch from the offense he had been running during his 18 years as a coach in the Northern Region.

He had heard the growing buzz surrounding an offense known simply as "The System Seminars", a scheme created and marketed for profit by current Auburn offensive coordinator Tony Franklin, and Randolph decided to become one of the converts. Thus the trip to Atlantic City for the coaching seminar.

It turned out he wasn't alone.

When Randolph arrived, he was surprised to see the coaching staffs of neighboring schools, Bishop Ireton and West Potomac, in addition to countless other staffs there as well, ready to soak in whatever they could.

That Randolph and two other area coaches were even there is a stark reminder of how the high school football landscape is changing.

There is much debate about the "The System Seminars." Some call it a prime example of what's wrong with high school sports these days. Others characterize it as simply a better and more uniform way of communicating within an offensive set. But everyone agrees on one thing: "The System" is unlike anything seen in high school football before.

"People have been going to clinics

chase women all weekend." Instead for approximately \$3,000 dollars, coaches can become clients of Tony Franklin, a package that includes instructional DVDs, playbooks, power point capabilities, and wristbands.

Membership in the Tony Franklin system also entitles coaches to various clinics, which the coach holds in Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Nashville, and Atlantic City throughout the year, as well as weekly conference calls with Franklin and an 800 number if any kinks should arise during the season.

More than 350 high schools around the country now run a variation of Tony Franklin's system, which changed its name to "The System Seminars" from "The Tony Franklin System" because South Eastern Conference rules prohibit coaches from participating in football camps or clinics off campus.

A USA Today article about Franklin in 2006 estimated he made more than \$170,000 a year off the offensive system turned consulting business.

The offense, which is a variation of the spread and is predicated on keeping defenses off balance by raising tempo, has grown significantly in popularity because of the way it simplifies things for high school players. While in many traditional offenses, only the quarterback wears a wristband featuring various play calls, The System revolves around every player on the field having a wristband.

"You could put any offense in this guy's wristband system and it would work because now you can ratchet up tempo and you can get things going that you wouldn't ordinarily be able to do by just having kids memorize (plays)," said West Potomac coach Eric Henderson, whose Wol-

verines have lost just one game this season and have flourished on offense behind the play of quarterback Cole Walter and wide receiver Kristian Rodriguez. Through six games West Potomac has averaged more than 28 points per contest. Henderson estimated approximately 60 percent of his playbook is consistent with Franklin's scheme, but said that was the case even



GARLAND BLACK/THE GAZETTE

T.C. Williams coach Dennis Randolph is one of more than 350 coaches around the nation that uses a variation of Tony Franklin's offense. This summer, Randolph attended one of Franklin's clinics, which cost \$3,000.

before he attended the clinic this summer. "We think for our kids, it's perfect. They don't have to remember a darn thing and they just go out and execute."

FRANKLIN BEGAN MARKETING his system earlier this decade after a stint as the offensive coordinator at Kentucky, where his system transformed quarterback Tim Couch to a No. 1 pick in the 1999 NFL Draft after being an overlooked high school recruit four years earlier.

For six years after his Kentucky gig, Franklin served as a consultant for various high schools around the country, most notably the national football power Hoover High School of Alabama, which was featured on the MTV show, "Two-A-Days".

In 2006, Franklin was hired by Troy University and promptly helped the school to its first bowl win ever. Before Auburn faced off against Clemson in last year's Chick-Fil-A Bowl, coach Tommy Tuberville hired Franklin to be his offensive coordinator. According to reports, the offensive guru was able to implement his system with just eight days of practice, helping lead Auburn to a

23-20 win.

The easy implementation process and the resource of having a number to call should any problems arise was what made the clinic attractive to Randolph when he first started looking into his Atlantic City trip.

"The main reason I went to it was because of my coaches," said Randolph, whose team is off to a 1-5 start this season, struggling to find consistency in the new offense.

"If there's a question now, they come and ask me and I say 'Look, call Tony up and see what the deal is.' And we've done that on a number of occasions now, coaches arguing where you run here and where you run there, and I just say 'Hey, call the system to find out if you're right.' They have some ownership now in the program."

FOR ALL ITS SUCCESS ON THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL, there are plenty of coaches that see Tony Franklin and his cookie cutter offense as a negative for high school sports. Most of the time, high school booster clubs pay for their coaches to attend these clinics. Some have questioned whether this is fair, especially for public schools in less affluent areas that could never dream of using money to learn an offense.

"It's a legitimate question," Franklin told USA Today in 2006. "It's just a matter of how you want to spend your money. ... What I sell is an entire system, including middle school. I guarantee their money back if they're not satisfied."

It seems, though, the offense may have reached its plateau — at least on the college level. Auburn has struggled offensively during Franklin's first full season this year, averaging less than 13 points per contest in four SEC games thus far.

Many college coaches have criticized Franklin's offense as being just "football in a box" with no imagination or adjustments according to a team's personnel.

Combined with the fact that any coach can go on the Internet and, for a price, purchase all the nuances of an opposing offense, even proponents of this new wave scheme can't help but wonder if the system is worth it. "You feel like the purpose of a football coach is to go out and find the information and finding the information that works for your kids," Henderson said. "This is just, you buy it, it's a formula, here you go."

"It's just a matter of how you want to spend your money. ... What I sell is an entire system, including middle school. I guarantee their money back if they're not satisfied."

—Tony Franklin, Auburn offensive coordinator and creator of "The System Seminars"

for years," Randolph said. "But picking up an entire offense, that's new. It's revolutionary ... Everyone is running the system."

ON ITS WEB SITE, "The System Seminars" are described as "not a clinic for those coaches who want to pay \$75 to leave town, drink beer and

Repeat On Their Minds

Saints Coach thinks team may be better than last season's state title.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
GAZETTE PACKET

Judging from the smile on St. Stephen's/St. Agnes coach Marsha Way's face last Tuesday afternoon, it didn't much matter that commemorative t-shirts celebrating her team's historic season a year ago had just now arrived.

"Finally got the shirts," she said after her current team had just finished defeating Alexandria rival T.C. Williams, 3-0, to improve to 10-0-1 this year.

Who could blame her for still reveling in the accomplishments of a Saints squad that completed what she calls the "trifecta" — winning the ISL regular season title, ISL tournament, and the VISL state title?

That doesn't mean Way, now in her 31st season coaching field hockey at SSASA, is overlooking just how capable her current team is of pulling off the same feat.

"This team is without a doubt as good as last year," said Way of the 2007 Saints, who finished the year with a 23-0-1 record. Ten players return from that state championship team.

Way said this year's team has a better skill level and more depth to wear opponents down. It was certainly the case against the Titans, who hung tough in the first half, entering halftime in a scoreless tie.

The Saints, currently No. 2 in the state rankings, were up to the challenge, breaking the stalemate just more than five minutes after the intermission thanks to a goal by senior Kelly Austin. Seniors Emily Connor and Jessie Coffield added goals later in the half to seal the deal.

The win gave the Saints a little redemption for their 2007 counterparts. Last year, T.C. Williams tied SSASA in their annual matchup, the lone blemish for the

Saints trifecta team.

"It doesn't mean anything in our league, it doesn't mean anything for our state rankings," Way said of the matchup with the Titans, "But it means everything for the kids because it's their rival. ... They didn't like that blemish."

THE LOSS DROPPED T.C. Williams to 6-5 this season, but four of those losses have come to some of the best teams in the state, including narrow one-goal defeats to top public school teams Lake Braddock, South County, and West Springfield.

Titans coach Williams Heresniak said the team is not lacking in effort, it just has some "gelling" issues. T.C. Williams has three more regular season games to get things in order before the Patriot District Tournament begins on October 20.

LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE
Senior Chelsea Pasfield of St. Stephen's/St. Agnes and midfielder Leigh Rossi of T.C. Williams go head-to-head in Tuesday's game.



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MarketWatch

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That's how many homes have gone under contract* in the metro Washington area since the day the feds took over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. And that doesn't even include foreclosed homes bought at auction, which would bring the total to more than 4,000. Surprised?

The tumult in the financial markets is certainly concerning, and there is no denying that these are challenging times in the real estate market as well. Yet we also believe that some perspective is in order. Despite all of the bad news, despite the hand-wringing and fear over the coming of the next "Great Depression," more than 3,600 buyers had the confidence to buy a home here in just the past three weeks.

We're not sugar-coating the problems that exist, but we feel compelled to point out that there are some very good things going on.

- There is plenty of mortgage money available for qualified purchasers.
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This is the first in a series of commentaries about the real estate market. We are absolutely convinced that there is no better place in this country to own a home than right here. If you'd like to know more, please visit McEneaney.com and click on "MarketWatch."

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\$1,250,000



New in Beverly Hills

Expanded from the original 1939 Colonial, this newly completed home has an open floor plan on the main level with gourmet kitchen, breakfast room, family room, living room, dining room, hardwoods, two fireplaces and powder room. The upper level has four bedrooms, three baths and laundry. The lower level is finished with a full bath.

Carol, Tracy & Leslie Wilder
703.798.7226 www.3wilders.com
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