

Alexandria Gazette Packet



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Inside: Holiday Gift Guide

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VOL. CCXXIV, No. 47

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 20, 2008

Donley To Run for Council

Former mayor pursues Democratic nomination.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The City Council campaign took an unexpected turn this week, with former Mayor Kerry Donley throwing his hat into the ring to run for a seat he held in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The former mayor will pose a direct challenge to the current City Council incumbents, all of whom are Democrats expected to stand for re-election. Unseating an incumbent Democratic City Council member would be unprecedented — at least in recent memory. Yet Donley, who served as chairman of the Virginia Democratic Party after his term as mayor, could pose a serious threat to the

SEE SEVEN VYING, PAGE 14

Where Not To Drive a Stolen Car

Warning to drivers of stolen vehicles: Think twice about trying to enter the security gate at the Alexandria Detention Center. Just ask Jami Muhammad, an 18-year-old Washington, D.C. resident who tried to get a stolen four-door Toyota through Gate C of the city jail and police headquarters Monday night. After realizing that he had come to a dead end on Mill Road, a police spokeswoman said, Muhammad threw the sedan into reverse and slammed into a police cruiser waiting to make its way into the center. He then abandoned the stolen vehicle and ran into a construction zone, where he was apprehended.

"We didn't have to take him very far to be processed," said Ashley Hildebrandt, public information officer with the Alexandria Police Department. "But the case was handled the same way as if it happened at a grocery store. This one just happened to take place at the jail."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

And Then There Were None

The T.C. Williams High School Theater Department presents its fall play, Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None," at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 14, 15, 21 and 22, in the school's auditorium, 3330 King St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for Alexandria City Public Schools employees, students and senior citizens.

Open Homes, Open Hearts

Alexandria woman exemplifies the struggles and rewards of being a foster parent.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE GAZETTE

Amada Wells is a happy, healthy three year old. She likes to watch Dora the Explorer on television and has a poster above her play area of someone she calls "Rock Obama." Her shyness around strangers is betrayed by an infectious, cherubic smile that she can't hide when she's feeling playful.

Amada is too young to remember that her life wasn't always this idyllic. When she was five months old, a social worker took her away from her birth mother and placed her into foster care. Amada's mother suffered from mental illness and was no longer able to take care of her.

She was placed with Katina Wells, a 35-year-old special education teacher at Barcroft Elementary School in Arlington. The day the Arlington County Foster Care Program contacted Wells was the day before the one-year anniversary of her father's death. She had taken time off from work to be alone when she got the call about Amada.

"Should I do this?" Wells asked herself.

Even though Wells was still in mourning over her father, she decided to take Amada into her Alexandria apartment. When she went to pick Amada up, there was an instant connection. "Look, I'm here to take pretty good care of care of you," she told the five month old. "Please don't give me a hard time." Amada looked at her and nodded.

The next day, Wells contracted an intense stomach virus and was in and out of the bathroom all night. Despite being away from her mother in a new situation, Amada was peaceful throughout. "She'd be in her seat and she'd be wonderful," Wells recalled. "She slept all night. She really understood me."

"I idolize her in a lot of ways."

— N'Dorah Tarawally,
social worker

WELLS, With a wide smile and a thick New York accent from her formative years spent growing up in the Bronx, is an example of the dedication and compassion that it takes to be a foster parent.

As the economy worsens, county officials predict that more and more children will be placed into foster care as a result of financial stresses. "We're really worried about

SEE OPEN HOMES, PAGE 8

Honoring Bill Hurd

Friends, family attend memorial service.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE PACKET

The late William Bromley "Bill" Hurd was eulogized Monday afternoon during a memorial service in his honor that drew nearly 70 people to Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St., Alexandria.

"My father had a full life. The family would like you to remember him in that frame of reference," his son William B. Hurd, Jr. told those in attendance at the beginning of the half-hour service which was followed by a reception in the church social room.

Speaking for Alexandria Mayor William B. Euille and the Alexandria City Council, Vice Mayor Redella "Del" Pepper praised Hurd for his years of service and accomplishments for the city. She also read a proclamation that was presented to Hurd on May 25, 2005, which recognized his myriad roles both locally and at the federal government level.

Acknowledging that Hurd had been named one of Alexandria's Living Legends in 2007, Pepper said, "Bill Hurd's contributions to this city are legendary and without equal."

He and the many roles he played throughout his life was also recognized by state Sen. Patricia "Patsy" Ticer who gave the Epistle Reading. "I had the great pleasure of being a life long friend of Bill Hurd," Ticer said.

That privilege was echoed by Sandy Modell who told the assemblage, "I was so fortunate to have known Bill for those many years." Modell, DASH general manager, nominated Hurd for the Living Legend honor.

HURD DIED at the age of 93 on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008 at Arlington Hospital Center after suffering a fall at Goodwin House where he resided for the past two years after moving from his longtime home of South

SEE HURD HONORED, PAGE 30

"My father had a full life."
— William B. Hurd, Jr.



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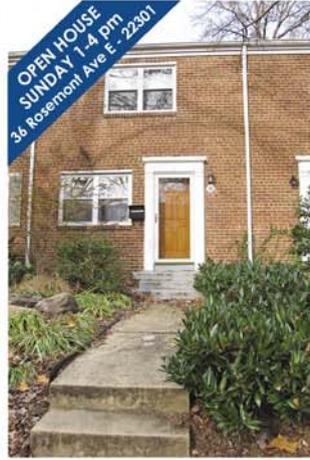
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Cozy studio condo in lovely courtyard setting at popular Harbor Terrace. Well maintained with new kitchen appliances, new carpeting, freshly painted, walk-in closet with organizers, HVAC new 2004, updated bath, off-street parking. Easy commute to DC with express bus at the door and Dash to Metro. Close to Pentagon, Old Town, & Reagan National Airport.

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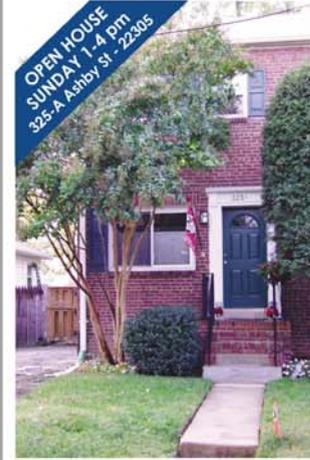
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Bright and sunny, three-level, updated row house with two bedrooms, lower level rec room/third bedroom, and two fully renovated baths. Hardwoods, new windows/doors, good closets and attic. Pretty landscaping and fenced yard. Charming!

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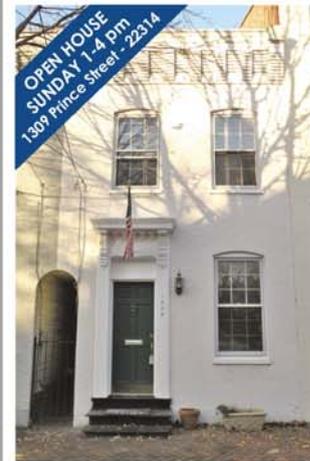


Fairlington – Updated Two-Bedroom

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Unpainted Lady

The off-white building at the southwest corner of Prince and Alfred streets has found itself in the middle of an increasingly nasty battle between city officials and a business owner who painted the historic structure in violation of the city's preservation code.

On one side of the dispute is Alexandria businessman **Rob Kaufman**, founder of PMA Properties and owner of a 1915 building originally constructed as the Mount Vernon Dairy. Last year, he ignored the city's preservation codes and began painting the previously unpainted brick structure, then ignored a stop-work order when code-enforcement officials noticed the violation.

On the other side of the dispute are members of the Old Town Civic Association, who filed an appeal of a decision by the Board of Architectural Review to grant an after-the-fact approval of the paintjob. They argue that Kaufman should be forced to remove the paint and pay a fine hefty enough to discourage future violators. Clearly, the preservationists have the ear of elected leaders.

"I want the paint removed," demanded Vice Mayor **Del Pepper** during a public hearing on the issue Saturday afternoon.

Council members overturned the Board of Architectural Review's after-the-fact approval of the paint and ordered staff members to find some resolution. But Pepper warned she was not interested in negotiating for a fine, although she said one was warranted. Rather, the vice mayor explained she wanted the paint removed and the historic character of the building restored. Now that Kaufman has replaced his land-use attorney with a trail lawyer and stopped cooperating with officials who are seeking to conduct test samples on the paint, the dispute could be on its way across the street to the city courthouse.

"I think it's likely that we are going to end up talking about this in executive session," said Councilman **Rob Krupicka**, indicating that a lawsuit was more likely than not.

Tree Shakedown

Poet **Joyce Kilmer** famously said that he had never seen a poem as lovely as a tree. But then again Kilmer never tried to get a special-use permit.

When City Council members were considering an application for a new diner on King Street, Councilman **Paul Smedberg** questioned one of the requirements listed in the staff report. Condition 21 demanded that "the applicant shall contribute \$250 for one street tree to be planted in the nearby vicinity of the subject property" — a requirement that struck Smedberg as arbitrary, especially considering all the other recent permits that had been approved with no tree mandate.

"I'm not objecting to this necessarily," said Smedberg, adding that the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities explain the new policy in writing. "But it has to be consistent across the board."

Developing the Onus

Do campaign contributions buy favor at City Hall? Cynics would point to donations made by developers seeking approval from elected leaders, although Virginia law does not forbid the practice. Yet following the money isn't easy, and some say transparency could be increased.

Enter a series of charter amendments City Council members will seek during next year's General Assembly session.

According to a drafts approved by council members last weekend, the city will seek approval from Richmond for permission to prohibit developers from making a campaign contribution to a City Council member within a year of seeking approval for a project. The proposed amendments would also require disclosure of any previous donations and force developers to identify investors and any contributions they have made.

"This is exactly what Fairfax County does by requiring the applicant to disclose campaign contributions," said Councilman **Justin Wilson**, one of the three members who drafted the original proposal last month. "So the onus is not on the members. The onus is on the applicant."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



SCAN founder **David Cleary** with his wife **Carol**.



Cassie McLaughlin, Charlie Collum, Shawn McLaughlin, Mayor Bill Euille and former Mayor Kerry Donley

A Toast to Hope

Celebrating 20 years of SCAN of Northern Virginia.

SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) of Northern Virginia held a birthday party Saturday, Nov. 15, at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, celebrating 20 years. The evening was filled with music from the Patrick Cooper Jazz Group, gourmet food tasting from area restaurants, wine tasting from vintner sponsors and tables of gifts and getaways donated for the silent auction. All proceeds from the event benefit the work of SCAN of Northern Virginia. More photos at www.gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.



Former City Manager Phil Sunderland and Elsie Mosqueda.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

Radiation Detected In Trash Truck

Alexandria Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team was summoned to Covanta Energy, 5301 Eisenhower Ave., on Saturday, Nov. 15, after a report that a trash truck was emitting radiation. Upon arrival the team confirmed that radiation was coming from the rear compartment of the privately owned trash truck.

Covanta Energy's radiation monitors went off as the truck entered the exterior inspection area. The truck was prevented from entering the building and placed in a Safe Zone until readings were gathered and confirmed, according to Capt. Luis Santano, public information officer, Alexandria Fire Department.

Low levels of radiation were confirmed by the team to be com-

ing from the truck's closed rear collection area, Santano reported. An isotope identifier was used to locate medical waste which was ultimately determined to be the source of the radiation.

Building staff was in the process of ceasing operations for the day when the event occurred. Radiation monitors were used to rule out any exposure to the truck driver. The low level of the radiation posed no threat to either Covanta employees or the surrounding area, according to Santano.

The private trash collection company will be responsible for clean up and disposal of the hazardous materials through the use of an approved hazardous waste contractor, Santano reported.

Police Launch 'Most Wanted' On Web site

Visitors to the Alexandria Police Department's Web site will see two new features. These features, an Alexandria Police Department Most Wanted and Cold Case pages, will assist detectives by providing the public with photos and information on open cases and wanted fugitives.

The Most Wanted page was created so residents can assist in locating serious offenders who have fled the area to avoid arrest and prosecution. This page will focus on violent offenders who may be a threat to others. The police will update this page as needed.

The Police Department hopes to use the Cold Case page to gather investigative leads on cases that continue to be unresolved. Detectives are actively investigating several of the cases listed on the page. As the page grows, more cold cases will be added to include other violent offenses.

Award-winning Editor Steps Down

After more than four decades in journalism, Mary Anne Weber retires.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE

Ever since she walked into a newsroom of the Meriden Record as a sixth-grade student, Mary Anne Weber has been a journalist at heart. She landed her first newspaper job at the age of 16, with the editor warning her to “look older” when the out-of-town owner was touring the facility. Since that time, she has worked for wire services, daily newspapers, weekly newspapers and a magazine she founded to cover Suffolk County, N.Y. Now — after more than four decades in the business — Weber is retiring from her position as editor of three community papers owned by Connection Newspapers, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet.

“Mary Anne brings a humanizing and empathetic eye to what we do in a community newspaper,” said Connection publisher Mary Kimm. “And she’s got a great sense of humor.”

Weber studied journalism and history at Marquette University, where she received a bachelor’s degree in 1963. When a neighbor went on maternity leave from the local newspaper, Weber took her place as a proofreader at the Southington News. As a senior in college, she was hired as a general assignment reporter for UPI — finding herself in the male-dominated world of journalism, where her feisty spirit and take-no-prisoners attitude led the way

A native of Yonkers, N.Y., Mary Anne Weber has been an editor at Connection Newspapers since 1995.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT
GAZETTE PACKET



for countless women who followed in her footsteps.

“I remember having many arguments with editors about how women were presented in the news,” said Weber, who has been with Connection Newspapers since 1995. “They wanted to refer to women by their husband’s name, and I thought that was idiotic.”

AS A REPORTER for the “women’s page” for the Suffolk Sun in the late 1960s, Weber tried to expand the coverage beyond society news and fashion reporting by writing about health issues and education trends. In the early 1970s she spent years researching a series of stories on the detrimental effects of Agent Orange, the herbicide and defoliant used by

the United States military during the Vietnam War. After spending a decade as a reporter, Weber became managing editor of the Village Herald and the Village Times before launching her own magazine, known as “Suffolk,” which published five issues in 1979.

“We were undercapitalized,” she said, adding that the magazine had about 30,000 subscribers. “We really had no idea how much money it would take to start a magazine.”

In 1989, she became press secretary to U.S. Rep. George Hochbrueckner (D-NY), a friend from church who had courted Weber for years before she finally took the job in the Long Island office. As a longtime journalist, Weber knew how to handle reporters on deadline and how to conduct research for the congressman. She stayed with the congressman until he was ousted by the “Contract with America” Republican sweep of 1994.

THE NEXT YEAR, Weber was hired at Connection Newspapers, where she has served as editor of several community newspapers.

“I think community newspapers are the future of journalism,” said Weber, a resident of Alexandria. “They are the only place where you can find out about what is going on in your own back yard in the local community, and there will always be a place for that.”

During her time at McLean-

Porter Wins Van Landingham Award

Few people are as well known in Alexandria as John Porter, the long-time principal of T.C. Williams High School who is now an assistant superintendent. His community service includes leadership positions in the United Way, Crime Solvers and the Alexandria Community Trust. He has also served on regional and state organizations focusing in education and athletics and is the recipient of numerous awards. For all of these reasons — and more — Porter received the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau’s Marian Van Landingham Lifetime Achievement Award.

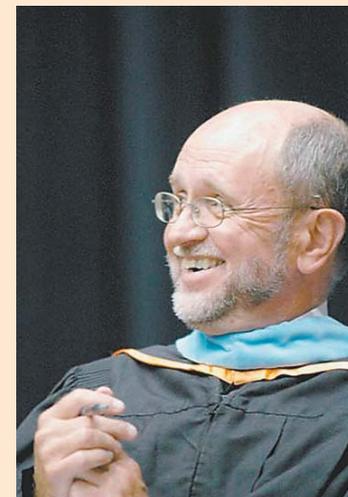


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET

John Porter.

Porter, who served 22 years as principal of T.C. Williams High School, received the award from Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, chair of AVB’s Evening in the Heart of Alexandria at Gadsby’s Tavern.

“John Porter typifies the spirit of the Marian Van Landingham Award,” said Lawhorne, who presented the award on Oct. 29. “He has dedicated not only his

professional life to the well-being of Alexandrians but has lived and breathed commitment to this community through volunteer service.” The award is named for former state Del. Marian Van Landingham (D-45), who was a longtime representative for Alexandria in the General Assembly and is an active supporter of the arts.

Renner Named ‘Super CPA’

John J. Renner, II, of Renner and Company, CPA, P.C., Alexandria, has been named “Super CPA” by the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants in the this year’s contest in Virginia Business magazine. Renner was selected by his peers as a winner in the corporate tax category.

Virginia Business sent an official ballot to more than 7,000 Virginia CPAs asking them to identify peers they considered the best in their field. After the voting, 320 winners were selected in 12 categories and were highlighted in a special “Super CPAs” Report in the magazine’s November issue.

“I am honored to receive this award from the Virginia Society. I appreciate being recognized by the

profession and I believe in the importance of giving back to your profession and your community,” said Renner, the founder and managing shareholder of Renner and Company, one of the largest CPA firms in Alexandria.

During his 35 years in public accounting, Renner has helped small businesses grow and flourish. He has served as president of the Northern Chapter of the Virginia Society of CPAs and as a board member of the Virginia Society of CPAs. Renner also serves on a number of nonprofit boards of business and charitable organizations as well as various city commissions. With a staff of 20, the firm is known for its community involvement and service.

Harrington, Robinson Wed

On Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008, Winifred Marlborough Harrington married Richard Alexander Robinson at Saint Mary’s Catholic Church in Alexandria. Winifred is the daughter of Mr. John Madison Harrington, Jr. and Mrs. Virginia O’Donnell Harrington of Alexandria. Alexander is the son of Mr. Thomas Lee Robinson and Mrs. Helen Muscat Robinson of Mobile, Ala.

The Rev. R. Scott Hurd of the Archdiocese of Washington celebrated the nuptial mass along

with concelebrants the Rev. John C. Cregan of the Diocese of Arlington, Dom Julian Steade, O.S.B. of Portsmouth, R.I., the Rev. Warren G. Wall of the Archdiocese of Mobile, and the Rev. Richard B. Williams, O.P. of Saint Catharine, Ky. in the presence of the bride’s and the groom’s families and friends.

The couple and their families received their guests at Woodlawn Plantation in Mount Vernon following the ceremony. After they wed, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson will reside in Beaufort, S.C.

SEE GAZETTE, PAGE 8

Journalistic Recognition

Some of Weber’s Virginia Press Association Awards:

- ❖ 2007: First Place, Excellence of Lifestyle or Entertainment pages for Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ 2007: Third Place, General Makeup, Overall Excellence for Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ 2006: Second Place, General Makeup, Overall Excellence for Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ 2005: Third Place, Page Design for McLean Connection
- ❖ 2004: First Place, Public Service for “Dying to Drive” in Potomac Almanac
- ❖ 2004: Second Place, Front Page Design for McLean Connection
- ❖ 2004: Second Place, Special Editions, Children’s Connection for McLean Connection
- ❖ 2003: First Place, Election Coverage for McLean Connection
- ❖ 2003: Second Place, Excellence of General Makeup for McLean Connection
- ❖ 2002: First place, Special Projects, “Secession: Welcome to the State of Northern Virginia”
- ❖ 2001: First Place, Special Edition, Newcomers and Community Guide for Vienna Connection
- ❖ 2000: Second Place, Specialty Sections, real estate for Great Falls Connection
- ❖ 1999: First Place, Special Projects, Local Election Coverage for Great Falls Connection

NEWS

Competing For Funds

State formula recognizing cost of living in NoVa is under threat.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

A beginning teacher in Alexandria makes \$42,671 a year — not bad for an entry-level position, although living on that salary in Northern Virginia is considerably more difficult than living in other parts of the commonwealth. By way of comparison, a beginning teacher in Newport News makes \$39,000 yet the cost of living there is 34 percent cheaper than in Alexandria. As a result of this disparity, the General Assembly has long recognized the cost-of-living differential as part of the funding formulas when considering how much funding is issued to localities.

But all that may change next year.

Del. Phil Hamilton (R-93) said he wants to “initiate a conversation” about the a budget formula known as the “cost of competing,” which adjusts allocations to local jurisdictions based on the cost of living in that area. If the factor was eliminated, Hamilton estimated, it would save the commonwealth about \$178 million over a two-year period.

“I think we need to have a serious conversation about why 18 localities get a cost-of-competing adjustment while the other 114 localities don’t get anything,” said Hamilton, the coordinator of professional development for Newport News Public Schools. “If the governor is true to his word that

SEE SCHOOL FUNDS, PAGE 11

Cost of Competing

- ❖ Beginning teachers in Alexandria make \$42,671, but the cost of living in Northern Virginia is much higher than other parts of the commonwealth.
- ❖ Beginning teachers in Newport News make \$39,000, but the cost of living in Newport News is 34 percent cheaper than living in Alexandria.
- ❖ Beginning teachers in Richmond make \$39,712, but the cost of living in Richmond is 37 percent cheaper than living in Alexandria.
- ❖ Beginning teachers in Roanoke make \$35,000, but the cost of living in Roanoke is 43 percent cheaper than living in Alexandria.

SOURCE: Alexandria City Public Schools

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Two Women Who Restored a Cemetery

Lillie Finklea and Louise Massoud worked to keep the memory and reality of Freedmen's Cemetery alive.

BY AMY BERTSCH
OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

This is the sixth of a series of 12 profiles that chronicle Alexandria's Living Legends, people who are today's history makers. Living Legends of Alexandria is a joint project of the Rotary Club of Alexandria and the Alexandria Gazette Packet. Conceived and directed by Nina Tisara, it is designed as an ongoing project to identify and honor those individuals whose vision and dedication make a tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria. For more information or to nominate a Legend for next year's program, visit www.tisaraphoto.com/legends.

Lillie Finklea and Louise Massoud were both born in Washington, D.C., within a year of each other, before the Civil Rights Movement and before the Wilson Bridge connected Virginia with Maryland, but while a small parcel of land in Alexandria was still marked as an African-American cemetery.

Lillie moved to Alexandria as a child and Louise moved to Arlington. The area boomed following the Second World War. Roads became busier, and the Eisenhower Interstate system created a grid across the country and a loop around the nation's capital. A new bridge spanning the Potomac was planned, and entrepreneurs explored building motels and service stations to accommodate the influx of residents and visitors.

The crossroads in Alexandria where the George Washington Memorial Parkway met Washington Street would now reach across the Beltway. After a proposal to build a hotel there was thwarted, the small parcel of land became the site of a Flying A gas station.

MORE THAN 40 years after the Wilson Bridge was finished, plans called for expansion. Without question it would greatly affect the south side of historic Old Town Alexandria. Neighbors were concerned about noise, pollution, traffic, and impact on natural and historic resources. Lillie and Louise, both now living on the south side, shared those concerns. Then in January 1997, they read a Washington Post article about the tragic history of the small parcel of land where the gas station and later an office building were standing.

The site had been Freedmen's Cemetery, a burial ground established by the military during the Civil War occupation of Alexandria. Housing, diet and sanitation during the war were poor, and thousands of African Americans flocking to Alexandria to seek freedom were faced with deteriorating conditions. Hundreds of them died, and



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

Lillie Finklea and Louise Massoud.

in 1864, the U.S. Army established a cemetery for them on the southern edge of town, directly across from St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.

Over the next four years, more than 1,800 freedmen, or contrabands as they were often termed by military officials, were buried there. The superintendent documented the names, ages and, when available, other details in a written record. In 1868, burials ceased and the federal government abandoned the cemetery. Confederate loyalists in Alexandria tried to put the defeat of the war behind them but memorialized the sacrifices of their brothers in gray. African American residents, many who had been born in slavery, made their homes, found work, built churches and schools, and struggled to find family members who had been sold away.

THE WOODEN MARKERS that had memorialized the dead at Freedmen's Cemetery decomposed. A brick company hauled away clay soil and compromised the graves. In the early 20th century, the George Washington Memorial Parkway was built over part of the graveyard. The Beltway construction destroyed the southern edge of the cemetery. And although a 1939 tax map clearly identified the "Negro Cemetery," that did not keep a gas station from shattering countless more graves. With time, the memory of the cemetery faded until it was indeed forgotten.

Alexandria historian Michael Miller had re-discovered the existence of the site, and Virginia historian Wesley Pippenger recov-

ered the cemetery superintendent's burial records and transcribed the names. Lillie and Louise wondered, how could this cemetery have been so violated while St. Mary's remained so well maintained?

Lillie appealed to the African-American churches in Alexandria but received a limited response. She contacted City staff who were supportive but couldn't do much since the gas station and office building were now private property. She pleaded with City officials who were facing many problems posed by the bridge, and she continued to tell the story of Freedmen's Cemetery to anyone who would listen.

In 1997, as plans for the new Wilson Bridge emerged, Lillie and Louise not only wanted to ensure that it would not further impact what remained of the cemetery, they wanted to see the site memorialized as the sacred ground it had once been. They both had grown up with an appreciation for their ancestors and as children, remembered visiting the cemeteries where their family members rested. On Memorial Day, they left flowers on the graves of their ancestors, so Louise suggested that they do the same thing at Freedmen's Cemetery.

In May of 1997, they hosted a special tribute on Memorial Day at the cemetery, a wreath-laying event that helped publicly identify the site as a cemetery. Two members of the Alexandria City Council joined them, and a proclamation was issued declaring the last week of May a "Week of Remembrance of the Freedmen's Cemetery." Interest from other Alexandria officials grew, and Lillie and Louise expanded their

efforts. They had nothing to lose and never hesitated to ask for support.

THEY FORMED the Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery, and each Memorial Day, they returned to the cemetery to place flowers at the site. More City Council members joined them, and soon some churches and civic associations made donations to the group. The local branch of the NAACP showed interest. The media started to take notice and public awareness increased through their news coverage.

Lillie, Louise and the rest of the Friends secured a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities to build a Web site and to produce a pamphlet. They put up a small sign, illustrated with a hopeful rainbow, on the chain link fence between the Beltway and the gas station. They raised money for a Virginia historical highway marker and continued to hold annual memorial tributes with an official proclamation for a week of remembrance.

The City of Alexandria had filed suit to stop the proposed Wilson Bridge expansion and when they settled, it was only after assurance that historic resources would be protected. Lillie and Louise wondered if that would include Freedmen's Cemetery. Archaeological investigations determined that graves still remained and many were likely intact. Federal funds could be used to protect the site, but how much could be done with a gas station on top of so much of the cemetery?

Bridge construction began and Lillie, Louise and their neighbors saw the steady parade of dump trucks and heard the deafening pile driving. Both women worked closely with City archaeologists and with staff at the Alexandria Black History Museum, which opened an exhibition about the cemetery. Stories in the Alexandria Gazette, the Washington Post and the Washington Times captured the hearts of people in Alexandria and beyond.

THE CITY determined that mitigation funds could be used to save Freedmen's Cemetery. In 2007, the City purchased the office building and the gas station and tore down both structures. In June, the site was officially rededicated as a cemetery and City archaeologists worked the rest of the year to document remaining grave shafts, discovering nearly 500. Lillie and Louise were appointed to serve on a steering committee to select a winning design from a public competition that yielded dozens of entries from across the country. This fall, the City of Alexandria announced the winning concept for the Alexandria Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial.

Lillie and Louise set out to protect, preserve and restore the cemetery, and their mission is nearly complete. For being the voice of approximately 1,800 once-forgotten African Americans, many who experienced only months or weeks of freedom before their deaths, Lillie Finklea and Louise Massoud are indeed Living Legends.

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Open Homes, Open Hearts for Foster Children

FROM PAGE 1

foster care,” county spokesperson Kurt Larrick said. “With the economy, there might be a lot more parents who throw up their hands and just can’t deal with it.”

Rosemary Hubbard, administrator of Arlington’s Foster Care Program, said that there are currently 160 minors in the county’s custody. “Our mandate is to try to help the biological families to improve the situation so [their children] can go home,” she said. “If we can’t do that, we look towards their relatives and then our third goal would be adoption.”

Ten of Arlington’s foster children were adopted last year and 10 more are currently in the adoption process, Hubbard said. In some cases, foster parents can become the adoptive parents of their foster children.

This is the course of action Wells took with Amada. After serving as her foster mother for nearly three years, Wells officially became Amada’s adoptive mother this weekend in a ceremony at the Arlington County Courthouse.

“[Amada] has blossomed because of the attention and unconditional love that Katina provides,” Arlington County social worker Jenna Duffy said at the ceremony.

BUT DESPITE the finalization of the adoption, Wells said that there would still be a place in Amada’s life for her biological mother. She took Amada to her biological mother’s family reunion picnic recently. “I still want you guys in her life because I want her to know her family,” she told Amada’s biological mother. “There are things that you could explain to her that I wouldn’t be able to.”

While she retains all legal rights over Amada, Wells has given Amada’s biological mother the option of seeing her once a month. “Sometimes she does and sometimes she doesn’t,” Wells said. “But I do want her to be in her life.”

Hubbard said that having some kind of contact with a foster child’s birth mother is “very important” in making the transition for foster



PHOTO BY DAVID SCHULTZ/THE GAZETTE

Three-year-old Amada Wells reads a book to her adoptive mother Katina.

children less traumatic.

But maintaining a good relationship with Amada’s birth mother hasn’t always been easy, Wells said. She can be very bitter towards Wells and often tries to tell her how Amada should be raised. But after taking a class in foster

and adoptive parenting through the county, Wells knows not to take any of this personally.

A parent who had her children taken away from her explained to Wells why biological parents are often resentful towards their foster counterparts. “[It’s] just because we can’t find anything wrong with what you’re doing,” she told Wells. “When the child is taken away from the parent, the parent feels very guilty. We don’t have anyone else to lash out at so we lash out at the person who’s taking care of our child.”

Wells tries to reach out to Amada’s biological mother, even though she has no obligation to do so, because she wants Amada to know her identity as she grows older and to have a sense of background. “I want her to know that her Mom loved her so much that she gave her to me because she couldn’t provide care at the time,” she said.

IT IS WELLS’ own background that spurred her to become a foster parent. When she was growing up in the Bronx, her cousin’s sister was killed in a foster home after being beaten to death. “That told me that when I grew up and I was stable I would provide care for someone’s child just to save their life so they wouldn’t have to go through what my cousin’s sister went through,” Wells said.

Eleven years ago, Wells moved from New York to Northern Virginia to live with her sister. But only two weeks after she had left

the Bronx, her sister kicked her out of her apartment after a disagreement. Knowing no one in the area and having no savings to fall back on, Wells moved into a homeless shelter. “At first I was scared because you hear about these shelters in New York,” she said. “But I was surprised. ... It was clean. It was really nice. You had to get out five hours a day to get a job. I was able to save money and not worry about having a roof over my head.”

Wells spent a few months in the shelter and then moved into transitional housing, eventually finding her own apartment in Alexandria. She started her own successful in-home day care business and now works at Barcroft where she recently got a promotion.

“I had to go through that experience to make me what I am now,” Wells said. “I didn’t have to go to the shelter. I could have gone back to New York. But I didn’t want to because ... I feel like I’d failed if I moved back.”

NOW WELLS is the proud parent of a bright and loving three-year-old girl. At the adoption ceremony this weekend at the County Courthouse, Amada hid behind her new mother’s leg as Judge Benjamin Kendrick recognized the two as a family in the eyes of the court.

“She’s a model foster parent,” Arlington County social worker N’Dorah Tarawally said. “I idolize her in a lot of ways.”

Becoming a foster parent and adopting a child has impacted Wells’ life just as much as it has Amada’s. Wells said that she is looking to adopt more children and that her home will continue to be open to foster children who have nowhere else to turn. “I feel blessed,” she said.

Gazette Editor Retires

FROM PAGE 4

based Connection Newspapers, Weber has won awards from the Virginia Press Association and the Maryland Press Association. She has mentored countless reporters and assistant editors with her quick wit, rigid adherence to deadline and sharp instincts. In retirement, she hopes to spend more time with her family and continue her work as a member of the Community Services Board. “She knows her stuff,” said Rebecca Halik, who worked as Weber’s assistant editor. “She always knew who to talk to, and she obviously knows the community very well.”

“Mary Anne brings a humanizing and empathetic eye to what we do in a community newspaper. And she’s got a great sense of humor.”

— Connection Newspapers Publisher Mary Kimm

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NEWS

Homer on Transportation

Virginia Transportation Secretary Pierce R. Homer, an Alexandria native, will return to his hometown Monday to headline a public policy forum on transportation issues.

"Alexandria Transportation: Running on Empty?" will feature Homer, who has served as the Commonwealth's secretary of transportation since he was appointed by Gov. Mark Warner and reappointed to the position by Gov. Timothy Kaine. The transportation discussion will be at the November meeting of Agenda: Alexandria, a non-partisan group that presents monthly dinner meetings to encourage dialogue about topics of current interest.

Appearing along with Homer will be Rich Baier, Alexandria director of Transportation and Environmental Service, and Stewart Schwartz, executive director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth.

Now in its 11th year, Agenda: Alexandria's monthly meetings, to which the public is invited, are held at the Holiday Inn Eisenhower Avenue, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. Cost for the dinner meeting is \$22 for members reserved in advance, or \$27 for guests. For more information, visit www.Agendaalexandria.com, contact Sherry Brown at Agendaalexandria@aol.com or call 703-549-4696.

CRIME

Incidents reported to the Alexandria Police Department between Oct. 28 and Nov. 3.

GRAND LARCENY AUTO

100 block of North Lee St. On Oct. 27, between 10:30 a.m. and 11:20 a.m. Stolen: 1997 Nissan pick-up, white.

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OPINION

Call for Student Gazette Entries

Looking for writing and artwork by local students.

Every year, over the winter holidays, the Gazette turns the pages of one entire issue over to the contributions of local students.

As with previous years' issues, we will feature artwork of many kinds, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories, reflections and more. Artwork can include paintings, drawings or any media; photos of sculpture, ceramics or other works too large to submit are also en-

couraged.

We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

Past contributions have come from children from nursery schools through those preparing to graduate from high school.

Sometimes an art or English teacher will assign a project and submit the work of an entire class, but individual submissions from any

young person in the community are also welcome. We prefer digital submissions.

Please be sure to include the name of the artist or author, and include age, school attended and name of the hometown, along with a phone number to be used for verification purposes only.

Mail, e-mail or deliver submissions to the Gazette by Dec. 5. Our address is 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102. E-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6431 with questions.

EDITORIALS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Generosity Appreciated

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Adoption Center of Washington's auction committee, I want to publicly thank the Alexandria businesses that donated items to our Oct. 24 auction. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$14,000. All of those funds are dedicated to providing care to orphans in China, Russia and Vietnam. Despite the economic challenges that we are all facing, numerous Alexandria businesses contributed to making life better for children who truly have nothing.

Enormous thanks go to: Decorium, Talbots (Washington St.), Hawthorne Suites, Pat Troy's Ireland's Own, Murphy's Irish Pub, Whole Foods (Old Town), Sugar House Day Spa and Salon, Las Tapas, Joe Theismann's, Ten Thousand Villages, Perfect Pita, Sheraton National, Dandy Dinner Boat, Paper Source, and King's Jewelry.

It truly takes a village to help a child. Each donor helped give orphans around the world warm beds, loving care-givers, clean water, clothing and over-the-counter medicines. These items are every-day to us. To the children, each are gifts beyond measure.

I am so proud to be an Alexandria resident.

With thanks to my "neighbors,"

Linda Brownlee
Executive Director
Adoption Center of Washington
100 Daingerfield Road
Alexandria

True Election Heroes

To the Editor:

On Nov. 4, we were privileged

to witness true Democracy in action — as history was being recorded and widely revealed before our very eyes in this unique country of ours, the United States of America. Regardless of what one's individual preferences were, we should all be proud of this historic election. This is one election that historians will write about for many decades. Now that the elections in Alexandria, Fairfax County, and nationwide are mostly resolved, I believe we can pause momentarily and ask ourselves who are some of the real, but too often overlooked, heroes and heroines.

In retrospect, on Friday Nov. 10, 1978, 30 years ago, the Alexandria Gazette newspaper ran the following editorial titled "The Unsung Heroes of Politics, Elections."

"Have you ever wondered who are the unsung heroes and heroines of our form of American and Virginian politics?"

"Many of us take for granted, for instance, the superior services rendered by election poll officials who help the Office of Registrar conduct the elections held in the City of Alexandria and elsewhere throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Their tasks are often performed under the most trying conditions.

"The City of Alexandria is generally first in the area to report accurate returns on the night of the election. This is largely due to the ability and cooperation of our many unappreciated poll workers. However, it is because of their efforts and thoroughness that the Electoral Board of Alexandria is able to convene on a Thursday morning after the Tuesday election to certify the official returns whereas some jurisdictions may require several weeks to ascertain their official results.

"Then there are those countless individuals who often give of themselves and their resources in

behalf of a candidate or candidates of their choice for political office.

"It is not the 'professionals' whose activities are usually assured either by retainer fees or by party office that we make reference to. We refer to those conscientious citizens whose loyalty and faith in a particular candidate urges them to move heaven and earth for his or her election.

"We all owe a debt of gratitude to these individuals who are a great part of the unsung heroes and heroines of our political climate."

Today, 30 years later, a debt of appreciation is certainly owed to these many individuals, who may be numbered among the heroes and heroines of our political atmosphere. The political system would pretty much collapse without their enthusiasm and their dedicated efforts.

Lewis A. Stearman
Alexandria

How To Handle Tour Buses?

To the Editor:

It seems that Alexandria's current Motor Coach Task Force is headed toward the same dead end direction as the previous one. The previous Task Force ended up recommending that the city find a central location to park all incoming tour buses and then shuttle the bus passengers into the Old and Historic District using smaller jitneys/trolleys. Unfortunately the city hierarchy did not buy those recommendations and the plan dropped dead. So now we are going exactly where we went before, however the resistance of the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association (ACVA) and a few others directly conflicts with the desires of the citizens who live in the historic district.

The City's Director of Transportation Rich Baier is chairing the new Task Force, which has as two of its members Mayor Bill Euille and Councilman Paul Smedberg. That group constantly attempts to pressure the entire Task Force membership so that they will agree to "pre-designated routes" in order that these monstrous 45-foot tour buses, most of which can't turn a corner without tying up traffic, can navigate the streets of the Old and Historic District. This is not a viable solution to the problem, however they are trying every street combination imaginable: King, Duke, Union, Fairfax, Royal, Franklin, Pendleton, and the Strand, all of which already have buses, cars, bicyclers, joggers, and skateboarders running wild throughout the historic district.

On the other hand, ACVA doesn't want these specified routes, but instead wants to allow the buses to pick any route they want. In other words, ACVA advocates bringing as many buses as possible into the Old and Historic District under the guise that a voluminous increase in tourism will increase the city's tax base. This is another non starter. You would think that an organization that operates yearly on \$2.5 million of taxpayer funds would have a better attitude toward the citizens and the historic area in which they live. The citizens have absolutely had it with these tour buses and prefer the tourists to ride smaller buses or do what comes naturally: Walk. The tour buses have and continue to play havoc with our historic fabric and once that's gone it can never be replaced.

Then there are the bus tours that come to town and marry up with guides who take them tours of the Old and Historic District. The basic route involves 25 turns as these overweight, pollution-bearing,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 35

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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A Connection Newspaper

School Funds Under Attack

FROM PAGE 5

everything is on the table, this is something we need to ask questions about. I don't understand why we have it."

ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC-SCHOOL officials estimate that a potential elimination of the cost of competition would slash about \$1 million from the school system's budget. Considering the dwindling resources from city government and state officials that is expected next year, administrators say the threat of losing \$1 million would pose a serious challenge to the system.

"I can almost guarantee we would have to reduce staffing levels if this were to go into effect," said Superintendent Morton Sherman. "We would have to cut about 15 teachers to make up for that kind of loss or find some other source of revenue to make up for the shortfall."

Alexandria School Board members adopted a plan earlier this week to lobby against a potential elimination of the formula, including an item in their legislative packet that would oppose changes to the calculations. Board members unanimously approved a preliminary version of the document this week that included a plank designating the school's lobbyist in Richmond to seek support for "fully funding the Cost of Competing factor, which was established to address the higher cost of living in the Northern Virginia area which results in higher personnel costs." The item was first on the list of several other issues, indicating a symbolic importance during the upcoming General Assembly session next year.

"This is one item that's going to be under siege this year," said Lilla Wise, the school division's legislative liaison. "Our legislators are very aware that we are concerned about this."

BUDGET OFFICIALS say that local governments in Northern Virginia already send more tax money to other parts of the state than is returned in funding formulas. As a result, they say, increasing changing cost of competition formula would increase the existing disparity in terms of how the wealth is shared in the commonwealth.

"It's a double whammy," said Margaret Byess, executive director of Financial Services for Alexandria City Public Schools. "Our allocations are already based on our ability to pay."

In determining how much money is sent to various jurisdictions, the Virginia Department of Education uses a formula known as the "local composite index." The index determines the cost of education and apportions those costs between the state and local governments. The index is expressed as a ratio, indicating the local percentage share of the cost of education programs. For example, if a given locality has a composite index of 0.5000, then it would pay 50 percent of the costs and the state would pay 50 percent of the costs for the applicable program. If a locality's index is 0.3000, then it must pay 30 percent of the cost of education and the state will pay 70 percent.

"We already don't get as much as we send," said Byess. "So getting rid of the cost of competition is not logical."

THE COST OF COMPETING was first proposed during the 1988 session of the General Assembly to give school divisions a way to address their regional labor market. The formula recognized that personnel costs were influenced in ways beyond the control of local jurisdictions by incorporating regional consumer price index measures and wage data from the Virginia Employment Commission. A recent study conducted by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, known in Richmond as "JLARC," concluded that the General Assembly "should recognize Northern Virginia school division regional costs of competing in a way that is consistent with its own practices regarding its own employees in Northern Virginia."

Because state officials already recognized that the Northern Virginia job market required higher salaries than other regions in the commonwealth, JLARC concluded that the General Assembly should also recognize that Northern Virginia school divisions face the same conditions as well.

Yet funding formulas that recognize a higher cost of living in Northern Virginia have been under attack in recent years. During the last session, held earlier this year, Hamilton

introduced a proposal that would have reduced state funding for teacher salaries in Northern Virginia by making changes to Virginia's educational Standard of Quality.

"I'm reminded of the old Three Stooges skit when there's dialogue between Larry and Curly," said Del. Brian Moran (D-46) said in a March floor speech opposing the proposal. "Larry asks 'What does apprehension mean?' Curly responds, 'It means scared with a college education.'"

Like Curly's explanation of apprehension, Moran argued at the time, the funding formula under the Standard of Quality could be understood in terms less sophisticated than complex arguments about funding methodology. Simply understood, the chairman of the House Democratic Caucus said, changes to the formula would mean that local governments would share an increased burden for funding public education. To underscore the point, Moran referenced a recent JLARC report that concluded the revised funding formula would leave \$227 million less in state aid to localities for teacher salaries for the next budget.

"If we abdicate our responsibility, we will be saddling our localities with the cost of educating our kids," said Moran. "If we do that they have to raise local property taxes — and I know my friends on the other side other of the aisle don't want to be accused of raising local property taxes."

HAMILTON'S EFFORT to change the Standard of Quality formula failed in the final weeks of budget negotiation. But next year's budget negotiations are expected to be even more delicate as a result of declining revenues. Hamilton said that he has introduced budget amendments in the past that have proposed eliminating the cost of competing, and he would consider making a similar move during the upcoming General Assembly session.

"It's called the cost of competing, not the cost of living," said Hamilton. "I have generally spoken out against this in the past, and I think we need to have a conversation about it this year."

"Our legislators are very aware that we are concerned about this."

— Lilla Wise, legislative liaison for Alexandria City Public Schools

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6817 Oregon Lane | \$495,000

Big and Beautiful Located in a perfect spot for commuting, two metros, shopping and entertainment this 3 BR, 3 1/2 Bath town home with a three level bayed bump out is like new. Very well cared for waiting for the next owner to love it, the home boasts over 2200 square feet of well planned living space. Filled with light and graced with an open floor plan, a two car garage and upper and lower decks for outside enjoyment.

Eileen Casamo | 703 855-7233 Alexandria

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Vaughn & Diane Paddock | 703 628-2828 Cameron Station

New Listing



3306 Miller Heights Road | \$776,900

Almost nothing left undone in this terrific Oakton colonial in highly desirable neighborhood! Lovingly cared for with a wonderful open floor plan. Renovated kitchen and baths. Spacious family room with fireplace that opens to the kitchen PLUS first floor children's playroom addition. Four bedrooms up and LL den/bedroom with full bath ideal for au pair or guest suite. Private wooded setting.

Liz Bucuvalas | 703 626-8400 Oakton

New Listing



6071 Piney Woods Court | \$825,000

Only 3 years young with all of today's architectural features! Chef's kitchen with stainless steel appliances, 5 burner gas stove, granite counters, breakfast bar with counter space and a sunroom for informal dining - all open to two story family room. Formal dining room. Huge master bedroom suite with sun filled sitting area surrounded by windows and master bath has separate tub and shower. Enormous finished lower level with guest suite, den and recreation room. Two fireplaces. Located on lovely private cul de sac!

Liz Bucuvalas | 703 626-8400 Alexandria

Price Reduction



6154 Old Telegraph Road | \$799,000

Enjoy private country living in this 5 BD colonial on a quiet street backing to trees. This classic home features HW floors, enhanced moldings, gourmet kitchen with beautiful cabinets, large master suite with spa bath plus a dramatic two story entrance flanked by a formal DR and LR room lined with windows. A finished lower level rec room with 5th BR and private bath offer a separate front entrance for the independent teenager or au-pair.

Cathy D'Antuono | 703 518-6176 Wilton Woods

New Listing



6909 Duke Drive | \$261,900

Single family value located in popular and sought after zip code 22307. Three levels, three bedrooms, two full baths, hardwood floors, partially finished basement, yard, close-in area conveniently located near the beltway and the George Washington Parkway. Close to shopping, restaurants, the Mount Vernon Recreation Center and the Mount Vernon bike trail. Bank Owned.

Sherry York | 703 625-3377 Alexandria S

Price Reduction



4849 Gainsborough Drive | \$530,000

Great opportunity to acquire a 2 car garage w/ room to spare in Kings Park West. Home w/ large family room addition off the eat-in kitchen & opens to a large private backyard. Enjoy fenced yard, large shed and plenty of firewood for 2 fireplaces. Hardwood floors at main and upper levels, new CT at LL rec. room and exercise/den. Close to community pool, GMU, shopping and so much more...

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Marie Louise Meyer | 703-836-2080 Old Town

Open Sunday 1-4

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



1203 Essex Manor Court
\$1,499,000



Remarkable five bedrooms, four full and one half bath home on a large private lot with custom wood deck and mature trees. Grand foyer, formal living room and dining room, two story family room that opens to chef's kitchen with breakfast room and sunroom with vaulted ceilings and floor to ceiling windows. Designer colors, hardwood flooring / plush carpets. Dir: S on George Washington Parkway, right on Morningside Ln, left on Admiral Lane, left on Essex Manor. www.phyllispatterson.com

Phyllis Patterson | 703 518-6158 Wellington

Just Listed

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



610 South Saint Asaph Street
\$739,000



Circa 1840, this warm and inviting clapboard townhome features a delightful living room with gas fireplace and built-in book cases, a separate dining room with gas fireplace, an updated kitchen plus a wonderful first floor family room. Additional special features include original pine floors, a roof deck, a deep garden with brick patio, pergola with wisteria, garden shed plus off-street parking. The third floor can serve as a playroom, home office or plentiful storage. This very special home is the epitome of Old Town charm!

Donnan C Wintermute | 703 518-6156 Alexandria

Model Home Condition

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



6406 Wood Haven Drive
\$850,000



A new price on this "Like New", four/five bedroom, two and a half bath, two car garage, three finished levels above grade plus storage level, high ceilings, hardwood floors, new kitchen with granite and center island opening to large family room overlooking private deck and yard, designer carpet, master retreat, wine cellar, study, formal living room and dining room. Perfect! www.phyllispatterson.com

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POLITICS

Seven Vying for Six Seats

FROM PAGE 1

incumbent members.

"Kerry Donley had the benefit of serving at a time when the tax base was increasing, and it was an easy time to lead," said Alexandria City Republican Committee Chairman Chris Marston, who said that his party has at least four potential candidates for the May election. "But this is a much more trying time we are in now, and I'm not sure his experience is suited to that."

In May, Donley resigned his position as athletic director with Alexandria City Public Schools in anticipation of launching a campaign for the House of Delegates to fill a seat vacated by Del. Brian Moran (D-46), who is seeking the Democratic nomination for governor. But Moran's path to victory became complicated last week when former Democratic National Committee chairman Terry McAuliffe filed a statement of candidacy for governor and launched a listening tour of the commonwealth. Last week, Donley decided to abandon his nascent campaign for the House and launched a new race for City Council.

"I think the potential for Kerry to be the Democratic nominee for the House seat became less of a sure thing, especially with the uncertainty about whether or not Brian is going to run for re-election to his current position," said Shayna Englin, Democratic political consultant with Englin Consulting. "I've always thought that Kerry's talents and abilities have been better suited to city government anyway, so I think this was the right choice for him to make."

Donley said he made the final decision to run for City Council on Friday, when he began calling incumbent Democratic council members to let him know about his new plans.

"I decided that I would be more effective as one of seven on City Council as opposed to one of 100 in Richmond," said Donley, who served as mayor from 1996 to 2003. "When I was mayor, we were able to establish some priorities that helped marshal the city out of a recession. I'd like to bring that kind of sensibility back to council."

ORIGINALLY ELECTED to the City Council in 1988, Donley quickly made a name for himself as a moderate Democrat who supported economic development initiatives. He eventually rose to the position of vice mayor and launched a campaign for mayor when Patsy Ticer was elected to the Virginia Senate. He received an 87 percent victory against independent candidate Charles Severance in a February 1996 special election, serving over two terms as mayor before stepping down in 2003 to become chairman of the Democratic Party of Virginia.



Kerry Donley

When asked about his legacy as mayor, Donley pointed to a number of accomplishments: Starting a gang-prevention initiative, expanding the school resource officer program and resolving a conflict with the federal government over the construction of a new Woodrow Wilson Bridge, to name a few.

"One of the things I helped accomplish as mayor was the relocation of the Patent and Trademark Office to Alexandria," said Donley. "If we hadn't done that, the financial situation of the city would be much worse than it is today."

Democratic nominees for City Council are the six individuals who receive the most votes in a caucus or primary, so incumbent members who might not receive as many votes as Donley might muster would be jeopardized by his candidacy. Because Councilman Ludwig Gaines has received the fewest number of votes in the last two elections, he could be the incumbent Democrat who stands the most to lose by a Donley candidacy.

"I'm ready and eager to defend my seat with everything I've got," said Gaines, who was first elected to the council in 2003. "The City Council needs to have a number of different voices, and I am someone who has taken a stand for the disenfranchised."

Gaines was a vocal opponent of a decision to increase the hours of operation at a West End asphalt plant, although he found himself on the losing end of that decision. When Norfolk Southern Railroad opened an ethanol loading station next to Tucker Elementary School, he compared the land use to a "crack house" and vowed to do everything in his power to shut the operation down. Gaines has been a vocal opponent of an effort to move the May election for City Council and School Board to November, a change that Donley said he would support.

"I am proud to have led the charge against moving the city elections to November," said Gaines. "And I look forward to debating the merits of that proposal during the campaign."

The Alexandria Democratic Committee has yet to determine how the slate of Democratic nominees will be selected. At its December meeting, committee members will decide whether to hold a January caucus or a March primary.

A primary would allow easier access to voters because all precincts would be open on Election Day, although party officials estimate the cost to taxpayers would be between \$50,000 to \$55,000. A "firehouse caucus," on the other hand, would be paid for by the committee, although it would restrict access by allowing voting at only one location instead of opening all city precincts.

"I think that the cost is worth it," said real-estate investor Boyd Walker, who is also considering a campaign to be part of the Democratic slate for City Council. "Considering we have an all-Democratic City Council, this is the election that is going to essentially determine the outcome. So, in my opinion, it's just too important to have a caucus."

Police To Host Child Safety Awareness Event

On Saturday, Nov. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Alexandria Police Department will host a Child Safety Awareness event at Wiygul Automotive, 6001 Lane Drive.

During this event, police staff will be available to conduct Child Safety seat checks.

In addition, a total of 70 Child Safety Identification kits will be distributed using the SafeAssured ID program.

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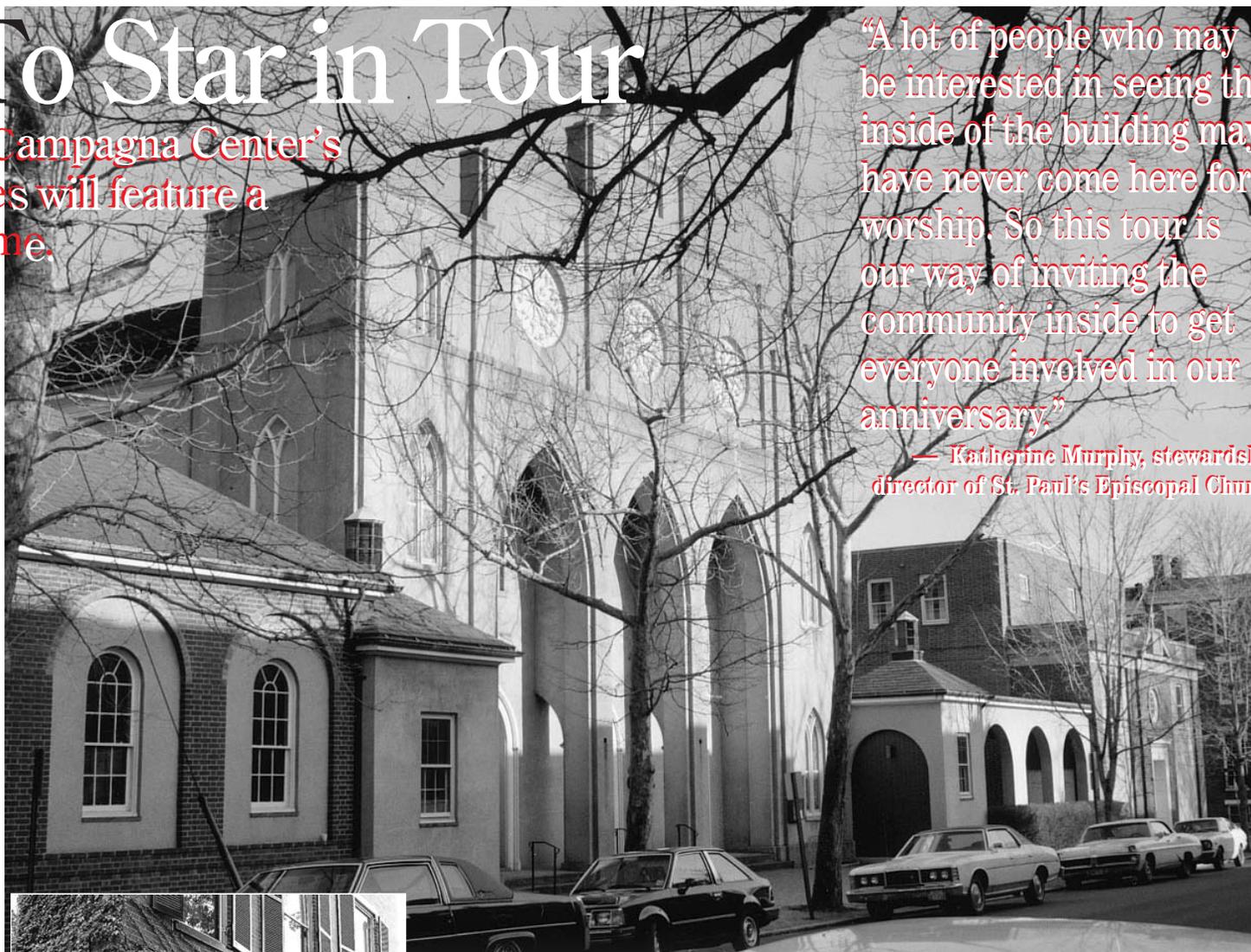
For the first time ever, Campagna Center's Designer Tour of Homes will feature a building that's not a home.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Style has always been at the heart of the mission of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, with its early origins rooted in an early 19th-century dispute between members of Christ Church about proper clerical garb. One faction of the church preferred the traditional black silk cassock. But when the Rev. William Gibson, a controversial pastor who arrived at Christ Church in 1807, began wearing a white surplice, several congregates considered the new duds popish. In the pulpit, Gibson adopted a high-church style that many longtime members at Christ Church found objectionable.

"A prominent member, Edmund J. Lee, allegedly walked out of the church in protest because of it," wrote church historian Ruth Lincoln Kaye in her 1984 history of St. Paul's Church. "When, in addition, word reached Mr. Gibson through the grapevine that his sermons were considered too abrasive and were delivered with too much frankness, his reportedly excitable nature caused him to mount the high pulpit and resign without prior advice to the vestry, an act which flouted church procedure and further aggravated the situation."

In 1809, Gibson led a renegade group out of Christ Church and into a small building on Fairfax Street, eventually forming a new organization that came to be known as St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Shortly after incorporation, members of the newly created vestry hired famed architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe to design a permanent home on South Pitt Street. Latrobe, known by some as "the father of American architecture," designed the White House porticoes, Statuary Hall and the old Supreme Court chamber in the basement of the United States Capitol.



"A lot of people who may be interested in seeing the inside of the building may have never come here for worship. So this tour is our way of inviting the community inside to get everyone involved in our anniversary."

— Katherine Murphy, stewardship director of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

St. Paul's is the featured stop on this year's Tour of Homes. From left, 801 Duke Street, 19 Franklin Street and 209 South St. Asaph Street. These houses will be decorated for the tour.



"His churches were meeting houses, not unlike in plan those built by the Congregationalists in Massachusetts in the 17th century," wrote architectural historian Thomas Waterman in 1939.

WITH THE CHURCH on the brink of celebrating its 200th anniversary, modern-day congregates are planning a series of events to celebrate the milestone. The kickoff to the year of celebration will be the first weekend in December, when the historic structure will be featured in the Campagna Center's Designer Tour of Homes. Organizers say this is the first time that a building other than a home has been featured on the tour, opening up the building to people who have never ventured inside the Episcopal church completed in 1818 at a cost of

\$29,000.

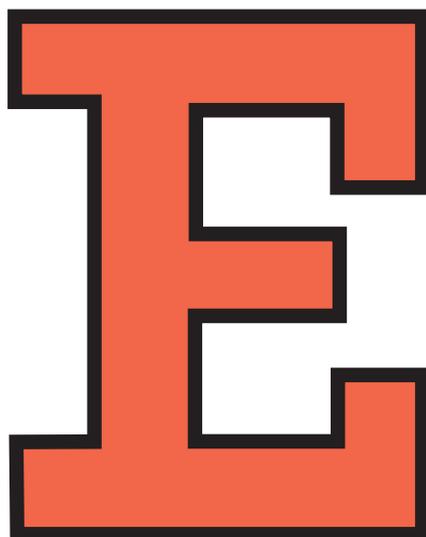
"Latrobe's design encourages you to look heavenward," said the Rev. Oran Warder, rector of St. Paul's. "It's a simple, elegant setting that lets you know you are in a sacred space."

The building that visitors will see during the Campagna Center's Designer Tour of Homes will be the result of compromise and development. Although Latrobe did not want galleries, the vestry forced the addition of three overhead seating areas. And

his design for the chancel was radically altered in 1906, when the east wall was pushed back about 40 feet. Earlier this year, the north wall of the building was encapsulated in a controversial atrium that was opposed by many in the historic preservation community. All of these features and more will be pointed out by members of the Altar Guild during the tour.

"A lot of people who may be interested in

SEE TOUR, PAGE 16



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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

'Tis the Season To Shop

By CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE PACKET

If ever there was a holiday season where spirits needed to be uplifted and smiles brought back to the faces of young and old alike this is it. And, there is no better place to find that certain something to accomplish that task than in small specialty shops. For that special package under the tree come Christmas morning visit these holiday treasure troves.

King's Jewelry, 609 King St., Alexandria, an Old Town landmark since 1955, offers a wide selection of fine jewelry, watches, Lladro figurines, and specialty ornaments from Waterford, Reed & Barton, Gorham and Wallace. A box of four colorful Waterford eye catchers are \$49. Other silver plated ornaments begin at \$20.

"We always pride our selves in our jewelry. In addition to our wide selection of sapphires, pearls and antique/estate pieces we are the only local shop offering 'Hearts On Fire' diamonds. They are the world's most perfectly cut diamonds," said Norman "Brad" Bradford, store owner.

Anyone searching for the perfect gift for that Irish friend or relative need go no further than The Irish Walk at 415 King St in Old Town. If it's Irish it's not only there, but also it's authentic — right from the old sod. Now under the new ownership of Patricia Theobald, the first thing that greets customers is a tree decorated with a myriad Irish ornaments. "I intend to keep all the wonderful things we have always offered. There won't be any major changes," said Theobald, a part-time employee of former owner Bernadette Troy, who decided to retire after 36 years.

Most of the products offered in The Irish Walk come directly from manufacturers and individual

craftspeople in Ireland. They have been personally selected by Pat and Bernadette Troy during their buying trips to Ireland each year.

Among the selections are authentic, hand woven, woolen in sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves and caps that range in price from a few dollars to \$290 for a cable knit sweater. On the fun side of the clothing merchandise are T-shirts with Irish sayings and a total Guinness selection, which includes their sweatshirts.

There is also a selection of children's clothing as well as a myriad of Irish ornaments, ranging in price from \$4 to \$15, and boxed Irish Christmas cards at \$8 to \$20 per box.

For china and crystal The Irish Walk is stocked with both Waterford crystal and Belleck china. In the jewelry line are gold and white gold Irish wedding bands from \$425 up.



This hand-made Lincoln Memorial bookend is the perfect gift for the history buff in every family. Found at Virginia Florist.

SEE SHOPPING, PAGE 18

Tour of Homes Includes Church

FROM PAGE 15

seeing the inside of the building may have never come here for worship," said Katherine Murphy, stewardship director for the church. "So this tour is our way of inviting the community inside to get everyone involved in our anniversary."

THE TOUR WILL also feature four homes in Old Town, stretching from the late 18th century to the late 20th century. Each home will feature its own distinctive interior design and floral arrangements from local businesses. Private homes that will be featured on the tour include the following:

❖ **209 South St. Asaph Street:** Owned by Julie Middleton and Barry West, this mid- to late-19th-century townhouse has Flemish bond brick with an exterior dentil cornice and decorative brackets with scrolls and patterns. During the Civil War, it was confiscated by Union troops and used by Gen. John Slough, who was responsible for the defense of Washington and Northern Virginia. The double parlor on the first floor has 10-foot ceilings, cornice moulding and ceiling medallions complemented by two Corinthian columns.

❖ **404 South Royal Street:** Owned by Kevin and Maura Dunn, this building is known as the "Seaton House" and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Once owned by free blacks, this two-story brick rowhouse was probably built between 1861 and 1866 in an African-American neighborhood then known as "Hayti." It was purchased by George Seaton in 1866, Alexandria's first African-

Designer Tour of Homes

The 38th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend will culminate on Dec. 6 with a Designer Tour of Homes from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The tour will feature historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church and four private residences. Advance-purchase tickets cost \$30, with day-or-purchase tickets available for \$35. For more information, call 703-548-0111.

American City Council member. He was a grocery store owner and master carpenter who built a number of homes and buildings in Old Town during the 1850s and 1860s.

❖ **19 Franklin Street:** Owned by Nancy Appleby and Andrew Palmieri, this property serves as a backdrop to the entrance into Ford's Landing along Alexandria's southern waterfront. Built in 1997, the exterior is in the tradition of classic Old Town architecture while the interior reflects the American Southwest. From the stain of the hardwood floors to the color transitions on the walls, many of the pieces in the home are from New Mexico.

❖ **801 Duke Street:** Owned by Sherry Schiller, this house reflects a classic Federal style. The distinctive "flounder" style section near the back was built in the 1790s, and many of the floors are believed to be original to the house. A walled garden surrounding the home has been developed into a series of outdoor rooms accessible from seven different doorways.

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CALENDAR

The Alexandria Gazette Packet's Holiday Gift Guide will be available online in its entirety at www.connectionnewspapers.com under Alexandria Gazette Packet entertainment. To have events be included in this section, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

Lights On

A few areas in Alexandria are celebrating a community-wide holiday kick-off with tree lightings. Area tree lightings include various activities such as photos with Santa, receptions, caroling and more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

Tree Lighting. City of Alexandria will hold a tree lighting from 7-9 p.m. The event includes musical entertainment with greetings from the Mayor and Santa Claus in Market Square, 301 King St. Free. 703-838-4844.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Begins at 3 p.m. with a holiday review featuring local school groups performing. Santa will arrive via boat dockside at the gazebo. Pets are welcome for photos as well. Boat parade starts at 5:30 p.m. Free. Visit www.funside.com for more.

Lights of Love. The Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary will present the 26th annual Lights of Love program at 5 p.m. in the

SEE LIGHTS, PAGE 23

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Jos. A. Bank ★ Mayorga Coffee Roasters
McCormick & Schmick's ★ Occasions to Remember
Olympic News ★ Potbelly Sandwich Works
Rosa Mexicano ★ Stonewall Kitchen ★ Swarovski

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Celebrate the Season

Experience our spectacular Tree Lighting and Holiday Light Show.
Every night beginning November 28th

Browse our wonderful Holiday Market.
Saturdays, Noon to 8PM and Sundays, Noon to 5PM - Nov. 29th through Dec. 21st

www.nationalharbor.com ★ 1-877-NATLHBR

Located along the Potomac River next to the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge,
easily accessed from the Capital Beltway and I-295 or by water taxi from Alexandria.



HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

A Little Shopping Guide for the Area

FROM PAGE 16

If the recipient is a child go to Why Not, 200 King St. If it's not there, it probably doesn't exist. Owner Kate Schlaback has everything from clothing to toys to educational games in her two-story wonderland at the corner of King and South Lee streets.

One of this year's most popular offerings is a full kitchen of wooden foods, place settings and even a cash register with play money for operating a restaurant. Some of the food items have velcro strips to make it sound like cutting when they are being "prepared for cooking."

And, don't miss upstairs at Why Not. There is a full wardrobe of girls clothing and casual outfits for both boys and girls as well a complete compliment of Playmobil toys ranging from \$2 to \$200.

On the opposite corner of South Lee and King streets is Old Town's most eclectic shop. Everyone has someone who supposedly has everything — but don't bet on it before a visit to Artcraft at 132 King St.

Does that "have everything" person have a wooden tree ornament or a wooden hand-carved puzzle ornament? Artcraft does for \$14 each as well as more intricate wooden ornaments at \$55 each.

For that perfect centerpiece, how about a glass Christmas tree for \$253. Artcraft also has a selection of glass Christmas tree balls

for \$30.

When it comes to Christmas, there is no place like The Christmas Attic, 125 S. Union St., Old Town. Beginning at the entrance, the shopper enters the world of Christmas that would make even old St. Nick envious.

For anyone wanting to show their family pride, there is the large personalized decorated platter. It depicts a fully decorated Christmas mantel with stockings bearing the names of individual family members that are designated by the buyer. The platter sells for \$169.95 and each name is an additional \$6.95. There is also an easel to display the platter for \$12. A personal message can be inscribed on the back for \$10. This will become a family keepsake.

For the second year the Christmas Attic has added ornaments made of German and Polish blown glass by David Strand. Strand, himself, will be at The Christmas Attic during Scottish Walk.

A must have every holiday season is the hand drawn and designed calendar of Todd Healy, owner of Gallery Lafayette in Gadsby's Arcade, 320 King St. This year is the 25th anniversary of his calendar depicting colonial properties throughout Old Town. This calendar is the gift that can truly keep on giving after 2009 has faded into 2010. The colorful drawings make excellent framed pictures to be enjoyed for years. Gallery Lafayette is also the perfect place



PHOTO BY CHUCK HAGEE/GAZETTE PACKET

"The Tiny Kitchen" and "The Bachelor's Tiny Kitchen" cookbooks make an unusual holiday gift idea at Lafayette Gallery.

to get that done.

This year's calendar has three new scenes of properties on South Fairfax Street, at the corner of Queen and North St. Asaph streets, and on South Lee Street. The calendar is priced at \$18.95. Healy also offers the largest selection of Christmas cards and gift tags depicting Old Town.

One of his most unusual offerings this year are two recipe books entitled "The Tiny

Kitchen" and "The Bachelor's Tiny Kitchen." Both are by Denise Sullivan Medved and sell for \$16.95. The latter contains entertaining tips for bachelors as well as specialized cocktail mixtures.

IN THE MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT area there's nothing like Hollin Hall Shop

SEE SHOPPING. PAGE 25

Join The
Royal Restaurant
SINCE 1904

734 North Saint Asaph Street
 Alexandria, Virginia 22314
 (703) 548-1616

FOR
BREAKFAST & THANKSGIVING DINNER
 Open 7:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

BREAKFAST BUFFET
 7:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
 Omelette Station • Eggs • Bacon • Virginia Ham
 Sausage Links • Belgian Waffles • Hot Cakes • Home
 Fires • Grits • Sausage Gravy Over Biscuits • Rolls •
 Muffins • Fresh Fruits
Adults: \$11.25 - Children 12 & Under: \$4.25

THANKSGIVING BUFFET DINNER
 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m.
 Carved Hot!!! Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing &
 Giblet Gravy • Roast Beef au jus • Baked Virginia Ham
 with Raisin Sauce • Baked Yams • Oven Browned
 Potatoes • Mashed Potatoes • Green Beans • Fresh
 Broccoli with Hollandaise Sauce • Rolls & Butter •
 Apple Pie • Pumpkin Pie • Hot Mince Pie & More!!!
Adults: \$17.95 - Children 12 & Under: \$7.95

AMPLE FREE
 PARKING

COCKTAIL
 AND WINE
 AVAILABLE

All Beverages Extra - Taxes & Gratuity Not Included - Completed Bar

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Presenting the inaugural...

MISTLETOE

Thursday, December 11
 6-10 PM
 The Carlyle Club
 411 John Carlyle Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Satin Doll Trio
 Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

Sample and Vote for the

Best in Alexandria!

Pre-registration required: \$75 for members, \$90 for non-members
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500 MONTGOMERY STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
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OPEN SUN 1-4



2630 SKIDMORE CIRCLE
 Vienna - \$499,900

3Br/2Ba/2lvl updated Brick rambler w/w-out fin Rec rm on quiet cul-de-sac. Kit = granite ctrtop, wall oven, gas cktop & ceramic tile. Hdwd fls, plantation shutters, deck, new furnace/windows/lighting, newer water heater



Sharon Edwards 703-408-8144

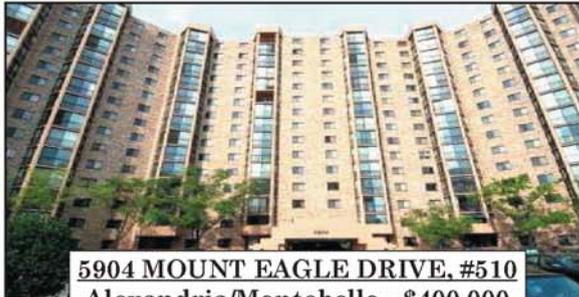
4129 FOUNTAINSIDE LANE #102
 FAIRFAX - \$305,000



Private, tucked away, landscaped enclave housing a 10 years young 2Br/2Ba, bright and sunny, ground floor Condo. Built-in book-cases, gas fireplace in Living room, carpeting, walk-out Patio. Walk to Pool, shops, and restaurants. Minutes to Fair Oaks Mall and Rte 66.



Connie McKeen 703-866-8118



5904 MOUNT EAGLE DRIVE, #510
 Alexandria/Montebello - \$400,000

Sought after "E" unit, tree-top view, dream kitchen, updates galore! Enjoy award winning amenities: in/outdoor pools, tennis, gyms, bowling, Café & METRO shuttle. Don't miss the virtual tour.

www.susanmovesyou.com



Susan Haughton 703-470-4545

OPEN SUN 1-4



12 ARELL COURT - \$509,000
 Alexandria / 1.5 mi to 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.



www.salesbysharon.com

Sharon Edwards 703-408-8144



6602 FARGO STREET
 Springfield - \$408,190

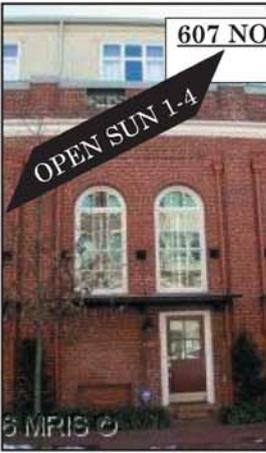
BRING ALL OFFERS! 3Br/2Fb, brand new carpet & fresh paint! Hdwd under carpet. Unfin basement. It's already sunny & bright so a little creativity will make it shine!



Laura Biederman 202-309-1350

607 NORTH ST ASAPH STREET
 Old Town - \$699,000

OPEN SUN 1-4



Unique "loft style" town-house built w/in façade of historic Portner Brewery in fantastic location. 12' ceilings, Palladian windows, Plantation shutters, hwd floors, FP w/marble surround, custom cabinetry, open chef's Kitchen, 2 terraces and garage pkg. Walk to King St, bike path, river and METRO.



Bette Gorman, CRS 703-585-2235
Betsy Gorman 703-861-4825

"The Giving Tree"



We would appreciate your help . . .

For 18 years the Long & Foster, Alexandria / Old Town Office has sponsored "The Giving Tree" as a Community Service Project for the Holiday Season. Here is how it works:

- * Social workers in the Alexandria City Elementary Schools identify families and kids who have "fallen through the cracks" and are in desperate need of clothes, toys and other necessities this Holiday Season.
- * Our agents "adopt" 50+ kids and purchase gifts to fulfill their "wish list" which has been provided by their families.

You can also help by:

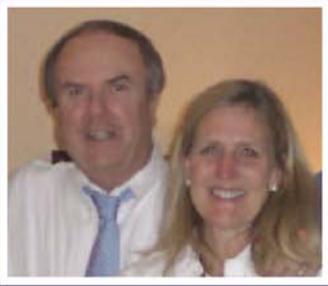
- * Providing toys, games and children's clothes. Please wrap your gifts and attach a note letting us know if the present should go to a boy or a girl and the corresponding age and/or size.
- * Making a monetary donation payable to Long & Foster's "The Giving Tree," which will be used to provide food certificates for families.
- * Gifts, and monetary donations can be dropped off or sent to:

Long & Foster, Alexandria / Old Town Office, 500 Montgomery Street, #140, Alexandria, VA 2231

Together we can make this Holiday Season special for many children and their families. Thanks very much for your help!

If you have any questions, please give our office a call at 703.548.3700 and ask for Charlene Schaper or Bill Jourdan.

Note . . . all administrative and advertising costs for this program are underwritten by the agents of the Long & Foster, Alexandria / Old Town Office. This means that all of the gift and monetary donations go to the people in need.



CHRIS WHITE

Over \$4,800,000 worth of area real estate SOLD last month!
Call today for a free market analysis of your home.



3601
 Riverwood Rd
 \$749,500

Prestigious Gem!
 Updated Colonial in premier location near the river and neighboring homes that are selling for

\$3,595,850 and \$5,500,000! Owner spent \$175,000 in recent upgrades. Spectacular custom kitchen with granite, stainless & light maple cabinets, 4BRs, hardwood floors, updated and reconfigured baths, large screened porch, oversized garage and fenced yard. **Open Sun 1-4pm.** S GW pkwy, L Old Mt Vernon Rd, L Riverwood Rd.



1600
 Noral Place
 \$1,090,000
New Home Ambiance!

The best of both worlds: the open spacious feel of a modern home

combined with a premier location in the heart of the highly desirable Fort Hunt area! Popular Fairfax model by Wakefield homes offers exceptionally bright open floor plan, 4BR, 3.5BA, high ceilings, dramatic two story family room, gourmet kitchen and large garage. Gorgeous corner lot on quiet cul-de-sac!



Brambly Ln
 \$969,900
Only 1 Available at This Price!

Pre-construction special makes this new luxury home available at a price that is simply

incomprehensible **Same model sold a few months ago for over \$1,600,000!** All the modern amenities: high ceilings, open floor plan, 4BR, 3.5BA, energy conserving features, oversize garage & more! Premier setting where neighboring homes sold for well over \$1,000,000! (Picture of similar home for illustration only.)



Seminary Overlook
 Alexandria's Best Luxury Home Value!
 \$1,351,500

House is now under roof and awaiting your finishing touches!

- Prime Alexandria Location
- Stunning custom homes
- Half acre lots
- High ceilings
- Bright, open floor plan
- 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths
- Full walk-out lower level
- Three car garage



Compare with any other Alexandria home in this price range!



2505
 Crest Street
 \$459,000

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!



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!



6421
 Olmi Landrith Drive
 \$385,000

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!



9003
 Patton Blvd
 \$479,000

Stunning Value!
 Previously listed for \$633,500! Rare large rambler overlooking scenic country club

grounds. Main level MBR suite, upgraded roof, gas heat & hot water, full walk-out LL and 2 car carport. Sold in as-is condition. Awaits your finishing touches! Unique opportunity for investors - just two miles from Fort Belvoir - huge rental potential!



8826
 Camden Street
 \$899,500
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.



8341 Orange Court
 \$398,500



2205 Belle View Blvd
 \$275,900

CHRIS WHITE (703) 283-9028

LONG & FOSTER OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT • 400 KING STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

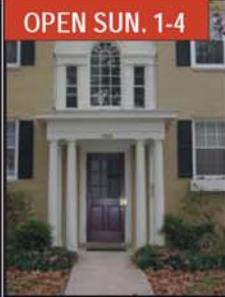
WWW.CHRISANDPEGGYWHITE.COM





OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

400 KING STREET · ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
703.683.0400 · WWW.LONGANDFOSTER.COM



OPEN SUN. 1-4

Alexandria
\$293,000

LOCATION PRICE, CONDITION

This roomy 3BR condo has it all—the perfect commuter location along the river & bike trail & it's only minutes to Old Town, DC & Metro. Plus it's a great low price for a beautifully remodeled unit. Come see it!

Dir: Alex/Old Town, GW
PkwY S, R Belle View Blvd.

1100 Belle View Blvd #C-1

MARGARET KEAGLE



Alex/Mt Vernon
\$1,495,000
CALIFORNIA
DREAMIN'

Fabulous custom built 1-level California style ranch on over 1/2 acre facing the bike trail & Pkwy. 4BR/3.5 updated Bas. Gleaming hdwd. Chef's kitchen w/custom maple cabinets, granite counters, JennAir top of the line SS appl., desk, 2 pantries, ceramic tile floor & backsplash. Dramatic solarium overlooks 50' gunite pool w/waterfalls, custom lighting & a 6-person spa. Private backyard is professionally landscaped. Oversized 2-car garage.

7910 West Boulevard Drive
RUTH GUIRARD 703.518.8758



OPEN SUN. 1-4

McLean
\$1,695,000
EXCEPTIONAL
MCLEAN
COLONIAL

JUST REDUCED—Don't miss out on this beautiful 3lvl classic colonial—Gorgeous setting backs to woods—cul-de-sac—Spacious rms—9' ceilings—Formal LR/DR—marble entry—deluxe kit w/island—Master Suite w/His & Her baths—Sitting rm w/FP, wonderful entertaining space, den—FF in walkout LL, lrg rec. rm—2-car garage & more! Just mins. from downtown McLean— it's a charmer—space for everything!

1025 Duchess Lane
FRANKI ROBERTS 703.898.0840



OPEN SUN. 2-4

Alexandria
\$895,000
PORTO VECCHIO
WATERFRONT

Spacious with high ceilings, 7th flr unit (2,245SF) with river views from all rooms! 3BR, 4 full tile baths, FP & open terrace. 24 hr. desk, limo service, pool, tennis, exercise and party rooms. A STEAL AT THIS PRICE! Priced below appraisal. Treat yourself to a rare opportunity! Make an offer!

1250 S. Washington St. #705

FRANCENA ALVAREZ
804.690.1618



Alexandria
\$224,500
MONTEBELLO
VACATION AT
HOME

Community pool, tennis courts, fitness center, café and salon. Every conceivable luxury included with this 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. This unit has an enclosed balcony, custom tile in kitchen and beautiful tiled foyer. Minutes to Metro.

5904 Mt Eagle Drive #509

KLANCI VANDERHYDE
703.919.4460



OPEN SUN. 1-4

Alexandria
\$735,000
CLASSIC
BUNGLOW

Updated & expanded 3BR, 3BA Bungalow with 2 story addition! Open floor plan, large eat-in kitchen, MBR suite with bath and generous closet, 2 main level BRs & recreation room with private bath. All new windows, HVAC, roof, appliances, plumbing, fixtures & refinished hardwood floors. Open front porch, deck, fenced yard & detached garage. Walk to shops, restaurants, & METRO!

107 E. Windsor Avenue
EMILY CAPELLI 703.472.1282



Alexandria

WATERFRONT PROPERTY

Newly listed 1BR/den has fabulous bridge & National Harbor view overlooking formal gardens, pool & Potomac River. 1100 SF, neutral décor & versatile floor plan allows conversion of den to formal dining room.

1250 S. Washington St.#507 \$525,000



2BR/library has prime, private location w/sunny exposure & stunning river & country club vistas. Gracious formal rooms, walls of windows & a huge solarium offer comfortable living on 1 level. Porto Vecchio amenities include 2 beautiful party rooms, Limo Svc, Kayak dock, Pool, tennis, 24-hr desk & excellent security.

1250 S. Washington St.#310 \$815,000

PAT TIERNEY 703.850.5630



Alexandria
\$1,229,000
NEW PRESIDENT
NEW PRICE!

Move-in ready, spacious brand new home in Waynewood school district! 5600+ SF, 6BR/5.5BA, hdwds, custom trim package, gourmet kit, w/Wolf, Sub Zero, SS appl., granite, cherry cabinets. MBR w/FP, bonus fin. 3rd flr w/full BA, 9' ceiling in finished basement w/custom gym. Walk to neighborhood pool, shopping. Other models available, call for info.

8061 Fairfax Road
JILL DIPASQUALE
571.436.8699



THIS THANKSGIVING...
RELAX AND ENJOY A BEAUTIFUL MEAL WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY AT **BISTROT LAFAYETTE**

Thanksgiving Holiday Dinner \$32.00
Thursday November 27th | 12:00 Noon - 7:00 PM

Choice of First Course	Choice of Second Course	Your Choice of Dessert
Homemade Pumpkin Soup	Traditional Turkey with Stuffing & Cranberry Sauce	Homemade Chocolate Mousse
Homemade Country Pate	Norwegian Salmon with Saffron Sauce	Pumpkin Pie
Fall Salad with Walnuts & Balsamic Vinaigrette	Beef Bourguignon with Pasta	Crepe Brulee
	Bouillabaisse Lafayette	

Call 703-548-2525 for reservations.
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

1118 King Street, Old Town Alexandria | www.bistrotlafayette.com

TAKE METROBUS OR METRORAIL TO THE FREE KING STREET TROLLEY...



SHOP, DINE & CELEBRATE ON ALEXANDRIA'S HISTORIC MAIN STREETS

Nationally known for its early-American architecture, chic boutiques, art & antique galleries, award-winning restaurants, and historic attractions, Alexandria is your holiday vacation from the ordinary. **Getting here is easy:**

- Metrobus or Metrorail to King Street Station
- Free King Street Trolley with Frequent Stops between the King Street Metro and the Waterfront, Every 15 Minutes, 10am-10pm Daily

12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY GIVEAWAYS!

Go to the new VisitAlexandriaVA.com and register for the Access Alexandria emails. You'll be registered for a chance to win!

ALEXANDRIA

VisitAlexandriaVA.com
703.838.5005

Metro-operated parking lots are free on weekends and federal holidays. SmartTrip® cards with full parking fee are the only accepted form of payment for parking (except metered parking). Visit the Trip Planner at MetroOpensDoors.com or call 202-637-7000 (TTY 202-638-3780).

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MOUNT VERNON
Discover the Real George Washington

Featuring 25 Galleries & Theaters!

OPEN EVERY DAY INCLUDING CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY
LOCATED 8 MILES SOUTH OF OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

Featured Special Event:

Christmas at Mount Vernon
NOVEMBER 28 - JANUARY 6, 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
A festive NEW daytime program with themed trees, a gingerbread Mansion, dancing, and a Christmas camel!

Mount Vernon by Candlelight
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 5-8 P.M.,
NOVEMBER 28-30; DECEMBER 5-7 & 12-14
A traditional candlelit evening with Mrs. Washington, live music, and fireside caroling. Tickets on sale now at the estate and on MountVernon.org. \$18 adults, \$12 youth.

FIND MORE SPECIAL EVENTS & VISITOR INFORMATION AT MOUNTVERNON.ORG OR 703-780-2000



WE'RE ALWAYS IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING.

Let us spoil you with the best Thanksgiving Dinner ever! We'll be serving an elaborate selection of all of your Thanksgiving favorites. Selections include Turkey Roulade, Sweet Potato Bisque, and Pumpkin Cheesecake.

Plated Holiday Meal
Four Courses to include: soup, salad, entree, and dessert
\$36/adults \$18/children

For reservations please call, 703-920-3230 ext.5005

CRYSTAL GATEWAY MARRIOTT
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202
Phone 703.920.3230
CrystalGatewayMarriott.com

Marriott.
CRYSTAL GATEWAY

Prices do not include taxes or gratuity. © 2008 Marriott International, Inc.

HOLIDAY

Ongoing

Martha Washington hosts an 18th-century Christmas with candlelit walks, fireside caroling, and early American décor during *Mount Vernon by Candlelight*. The Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings (Nov. 28, 29, & 30; Dec. 5, 6 & 7; and 12, 13 & 14) from 5-8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Ford Orientation Center or through www.MountVernon.org. Admission is \$18 for adults and \$12 for children under 12.

Gather the Family at Woodlawn runs Dec. 14, 21 and 28 at Woodlawn. Experience an 1820s Christmas with America's First Family before trees, Santa and stockings. Tours available from 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$15/person; \$5/grades K-12. Visit www.woodlawn1805.org or call 703-780-4000.

The Alexandria Jaycees will sell Christmas trees this season, with proceeds in part benefiting the chapter's holiday shopping tour for kids. Located in the parking lot at the Safeway on the corner of S. Royal and Gibbon Streets in Old Town Alexandria. **Tree sales run Nov. 29 until Dec. 20** or when trees sell out). Lot hours are: Monday-Friday 6 p.m.-9 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sundays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 703-866-7171 or visit www.alexjaycees.org.

The Alliance Dance Institute presents "**Nutcracker**" from **Nov. 29 through Dec. 28** in the Landmark Mall, 5801 Duke St. Performances are Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. \$20/person. After the show, stay for photo opportunities. Visit www.adidance.com or 703-354-6000.



CONNECTION Photo Galleries

Now! Thousands of pictures of sports, graduations, current events and more—never published, but posted on the Web. Free for evaluation, available for prints.



Connection Newspapers.com
Click on "Photo Gallery"

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Holiday Music

There are a multitude of music events to celebrate the holidays and being with loved ones. There are concerts by high schools, choirs and more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 30

Holiday Concert. 6:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Performance by the Dennis J and friends. \$15/person; \$25/couple. 202-438-5704.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

Celtic Concert. 8-9:30 p.m. at the Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Listen to fiddlers, pipers, Scottish dancers and more. \$30/person. For more information on the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5

Very Merry Musical. 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 2932 King St. Hear A cappella music and enjoy a family meal with Santa. \$25/adult; \$12/child. Visit www.harmonizers.org or 703-910-4600.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Massed Band Concert. 1-1:30 p.m. at King and Royal streets, in front of City Hall at Market Square, 301 King St. Free. Hear a variety of songs after the parade route.

Holiday Concert. 7-8:30 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive. Features music by Jody Marshall, Andrea Hoag and Paul Nahay. \$10/member or \$15/nonmember. Space is limited. Visit www.ahs.org or 703-768-5700 ext. 125.

Very Merry Musical. 12:30 p.m. or 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 2932 King St. Hear A cappella music and enjoy a family meal with Santa. \$25/adult; \$12/child. Visit www.harmonizers.org or 703-910-4600.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Holiday Performance. 2:30 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic (WMP) will present holiday music. General admission tickets are \$20. Students 18 and under are free. All concert tickets can be purchased at the door or online at www.wmpa.us.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

High School Christmas Concert. Bishop Ireton Christmas Concert

featuring students playing in the Concert Band, Choir, and Wind Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. in the Garwood Whaley Auditorium, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. \$5/adult; \$3/student/senior. 703-212-5183.

SUNDAY/DEC. 14

High School Christmas Performance. Bishop Ireton Christmas Concert featuring students performing at 2 p.m. in the Garwood Whaley Auditorium, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Features special guests. Free. 703-212-5183.

Holiday Performance. The Asaph Ensemble will be performing their Christmas performance at 4 p.m. at the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. in Alexandria. The Company will be premiering a new work, "Petite Suite," to music by Claude Debussy. The highlight of the evening will be the restaged and newly costumed "Clara's Christmas." Tickets \$15/adult; \$10/children and seniors. For more information call 703-368-1812.

Holiday Performance. The Alexandria Choral Society will perform at 4 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road. Features music by the adult and children's choir and more. \$20/adult; \$15/senior and children. Visit www.alexchorsociety.org or 703-548-4734 ext. 2.

Christmas Candlelight Service. 6 p.m. Alexandria Presbyterian Church, 2405 Russell Road, Alexandria, will hold its annual Christmas Candlelight Service with choirs and instrumentalists, the Belmont Brass, and carol singing by candlelight. A reception will follow. For information, call 703-683-3348 or visit www.alexandriapres.org.

Children's Holiday Concert. 3:30 p.m. at Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 S. Alfred St. \$25/person. Hear music by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. 703-548-0885.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

Holiday Music Performance. West Potomac High School Chorus and Orchestra will present "Messiah" at 6:30 p.m. in the Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. Other holiday favorites will be performed. \$5/person.

SUNDAY/DEC. 21

Holiday Music Performance. From 3-5 p.m. enjoy music by "The Colonial Ringers and the Canterbury Ringers" at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Free. Visitors will also be able to give a try with the music bells. Call Bob Schurk at 703-838-4994.

or 703-683-2570.

THURSDAY/DEC. 11

Holiday Tree Lighting. 5-7 p.m. at Hoffman Town Center. Free. The Alexandria Harmonizers will provide entertainment. Free. Gift card donations will be requested to help the wounded and their families at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. There will be raffles, food and more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 14

Tree Lighting. 6:15 p.m. at the King Street Garden Park, across from the King Street metro. Enjoy a tree lighting, caroling, hot cider, cookies and a special guest. Free.

ALEXANDRIA LIGHTS UP

FROM PAGE 17

hospital's main lobby. For a donation of \$5 dedicate a light in memory of a loved one or to honor a friend, neighbor, or relative who has added joy. For a donation of \$100, dedicate a light in the tree-top star. The hospital is located at 2501 Parker's Lane, Alexandria. For any questions contact the Volunteer Services Office at 703-664-7260.

Tree Lighting and Luminaria

Display. 5:30 p.m. on Mount Vernon Avenue, followed by a tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. near the Mount Vernon Rec Center, located at Commonwealth and Mount Vernon avenues. Free. Visit www.pwba.org.



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Envision the Future

Inova Alexandria Hospital Project 2010



Artist rendering of future Emergency Department entrance

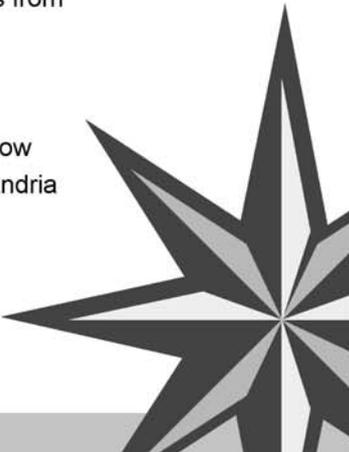
Inova Alexandria Hospital Project 2010 is an \$84 million expansion and renovation that demonstrates our commitment to enhancing our existing healthcare services and improving patient access.

Funding for Project 2010 represents the largest investment of capital into the hospital since 1972. Nearly one third of the total cost — \$25 million — will need to come from private donations from the Alexandria community.

Your support can help ensure that your community has a hospital on the cutting edge of medical care. To find out how you can help, call Mary Myers, director of the Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation, at 703-504-7770.



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January 14

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Family Events

Families can come together and enjoy a multitude of events geared towards families, from candlelight tours to a children's tea party.

THURSDAY/NOV. 27

Turkey Trot. 31st annual Turkey Trot from 8:30-11 a.m. at Cora Kelly School. Runners are encouraged to bring non-perishable foods. \$10 on-line or \$15 on race day. Visit www.pwba.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

Children's Tea Party. 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. This special event features Santa Claus and children can have their picture taken with Santa. \$40/adult and child and \$10/each additional ticket. Visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5

Holiday Dinner Theater. Alexandria Harmonizers Chorus presents "A Very Merry Musical" at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 2932 King St. \$15/adult; children ages 6-12 are \$7; age 5 and under free. Enjoy favorite songs and a family meal with Santa. Visit www.harmonizers.org or 240-206-9626 for tickets.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Scottish Preview. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Includes bagpipe performances, Celtic music, military living history demonstrations and

more. Free. Call 703-838-4994.

Santa Railway Express. Ride with Santa from King Street Station to Old Town Manassas and back on two Fridays before Christmas. The train departs King Street Train Station in Alexandria at 1:25 p.m. and travels to Old Town Manassas Train Station. Passengers will disembark for holiday stories and treats. The train returns to King Street at 3:30 p.m. Buy tickets only at Whistle Stop Hobbies in Old Town. Visit www.whistlestophobbies.com for more.

The Scottish Christmas Walk

Parade. 11 a.m. beginning at the corner of Wilkes and South Pitt Streets in Old Town and ending at the Campagna Center. Over 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dog groups, dignitaries and Santa Claus will march down the cobblestone streets of Old Town. For more information, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

Holiday Designer Tour of Homes.

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Stroll through buildings of historic importance dressed up for the holidays by acclaimed interior designers and local florists. Tickets required \$25/advance or \$30/day of purchase and can be purchased at homes. Call 703-549-0111 for tickets. For more, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

A Soldier's Christmas.

Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. The First Virginia Regiment will highlight the life of a soldier during the American Revolutionary War. Includes demonstrations, music, gaming and more. The Regimental surgeon will discuss medicine and show 18th century surgical

instruments. Admission is a suggested \$5 donation per person. Visit www.carlylehouse.org or 703-548-2997.

Holiday Dinner Theater. Alexandria Harmonizers Chorus presents "A Very Merry Musical" at 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 2932 King St. \$15/adult; children ages 6-12 are \$7; age 5 and under free. Enjoy favorite songs and a family meal with Santa. Reserved table seating. Visit www.harmonizers.org or 240-206-9626 for tickets.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Mount Vernon by Candlelight.

Learn about the Washington's Christmas traditions, meet historic characters and tour the home by candlelight, including the rarely seen third floor from 5-8 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. Visit www.mountvernon.org or call 703-780-2000 for cost information.

Holiday Tea at Woodlawn.

Enjoy a special blend of tea and period confections while learning about tea customs of the early 19th century and then take a tour of the house. Noon and 2 p.m. \$25/tea or \$30/including tour. Reservations required. Private teas available for groups. Visit www.woodlawn1805.org or call 703-780-4000 ext. 27.

FRIDAY/DEC. 12

Plantation Christmas.

6:30-9:30 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road. Take candlelight mansion tours, horse-drawn carriage rides, music and food samples. \$14/adult; \$7/children. 703-550-9220. Visit www.GunstonHall.org.

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Sunday
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

'Tis The Season For Abbreviated Shopping Guides

FROM PAGE 18

ping Center on Fort Hunt Road for one stop shopping with easy parking. And, one of the most complete stores in the small strip mall for just about every need, not just at the holidays, but throughout the year, is The Variety Store, 7902 Fort Hunt Road.

Well under way for its second 50-year run under the new ownership of Doug Bentley, The Variety Store, has it all from do-it-yourself decorating supplies to decorated gift boxes that need no wrapping.

Two of this year's "must have" offerings are musical and lighted gift bags. The musical bag sells for \$2.79 and the fiber optic lighted bag goes for \$4.69.

For those who like to wear their Christmas cheer there are holiday hats depicting Santa's elves, snowmen, and St. Nick. There is also a Christmas tree hat with a star on top that lights for the really venturesome. It sells for \$9.98. Other hats range from \$1.99 to \$4.29.

For home decorating there is everything from ready-made bows, to an array of ribbons, to garland, wreaths, baskets, strings of lights, and all the accessories needed to create an individualized holiday spectacular. The Variety Store is just that— something for every need whether during the holidays or in mid summer.

Next door at 7906 Fort Hunt Road is The

Blossom Shop, a floral shop with a wide range of specialty gifts and items for giving and decorating. Owner Dorothy Trimmer also does personalized home and business decorating by appointment.

One item that immediately catches the shopper's eye is the illuminated 10-inch lighted snowmen and penguins that are the perfect addition to any home decorating efforts. When lighted they also have swirly snow within that constantly changes color. They are \$54 each.

Enhancing any holiday table for parties or family is a group of ceramic food imitations that include a full scale gingerbread house, candy cane trees, decorated cup cakes, and a wooden chocolate wreath.

Finally, there is The Gift Store, 7910 Fort Hunt Road, owned and operated by Deborah Bentley. It is home to some of the most unusual and spectacular music boxes in the region. This year's most recent addition is a large winter scene with a model train priced at \$127.50.

Other selections include a Merry Go Round at \$110 and a Roller Coaster at \$127.50. For that special stocking stuffer there are miniature music boxes with different winter and holiday scenes that play when the see-through top is opened. They sell for \$16.50 each.

Instead of the usual greens on the mantel, how about a holiday or colonial lighted

streetscape. They can be found at The Gift Store for \$64.95 and \$24.95 depending on size.

The perfect addition to any holiday decorating collection are the wood carvings of Harwood Creek by Jim Shore. Among those selections are decorative wooden trees at \$20.95, reindeer at \$24.94 and Santa seated on the chimney, taking a break from his annual rounds, at \$25.75.

NOT TO BE OUTDONE there are the shops in the Bellehaven Shopping Center on Belleview Boulevard. At the eastern end of that center is Hodges Galleries that, in addition to custom framing, has a wide array of unusual potential gifts. Their framing can also be done up to within a couple of days before Christmas.

For anyone wanting to show off their "green" dedication during the holidays, Hodges Galleries has just the thing — recycled aluminum serving dishes that won't tarnish. Various pieces range from \$18 to \$85 and include such items as a large platter and an assortment of varying sized bowls.

For that Scottish Walk Weekend party there is a Westie Dog Band in full Scottish garb. The large Westie serves as a cookie jar and the two smaller dogs are banks. The jar is priced at \$40 and the banks at \$18.75 each.

The Gallery also has an array of ornaments and other potential gifts not readily found elsewhere. Their Pilgrim Ornaments, designed in Wisconsin and made by Thailand villagers go for \$10 each. Some are even on Christmas cards.

As with every holiday season, some of the most specialized, conversation stimulating gifts can be found at The Virginia Florist, 1632 Belleview Blvd. Again this year there is the five-foot Santa adorned in flowing robes and surrounded by various potential gift items.

For something more in line with the greenery symbols of the season there is a large evergreen reindeer with a colorful bow around his neck. And, in keeping with the present Wall Street bear market there is a five-foot bear chef with his holiday apron.

In honor of the Abraham Lincoln anniversary, The Virginia Florist owner, Kevin Green, has brought in hand carved models of the Lincoln Memorial to be used as book-ends.

The one on display is perched atop a stack of antique books that complement the memorial miniature.

As well as offering a variety of floral possibilities for individual purchases, the shop also provides floral decorations to both businesses and private homes throughout the year as well as during the holidays.

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—Douglas MacArthur

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Where: George Mason University - Fairfax Campus (Concert Hall) – 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030
Park in the Visitor Parking Deck by the pond. Check-in will be in front of the Concern Hall (Bldg. 60 on Mason Pond Drive). Further details will be posted at www.racepacket.com.
What: USATF certified 5k race – course is two clock-wise loops around the Patriot Center
Registration: \$20 on or before Wednesday, December 17th, 2008; \$25 after December 17th and on race day
Packet Pick-up: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 at Metro Run & Walk from 6:00-8:00 PM (7516 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA)
Race Day Registration: GMU Concert Hall, Wednesday, December 31st from 2:30 to 3:30 PM (& Packet Pick-up)

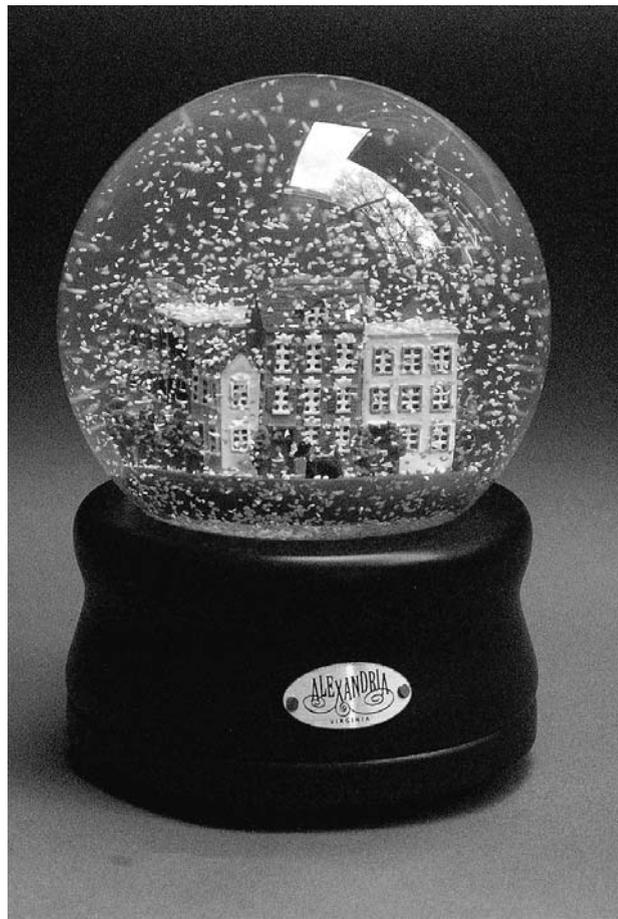
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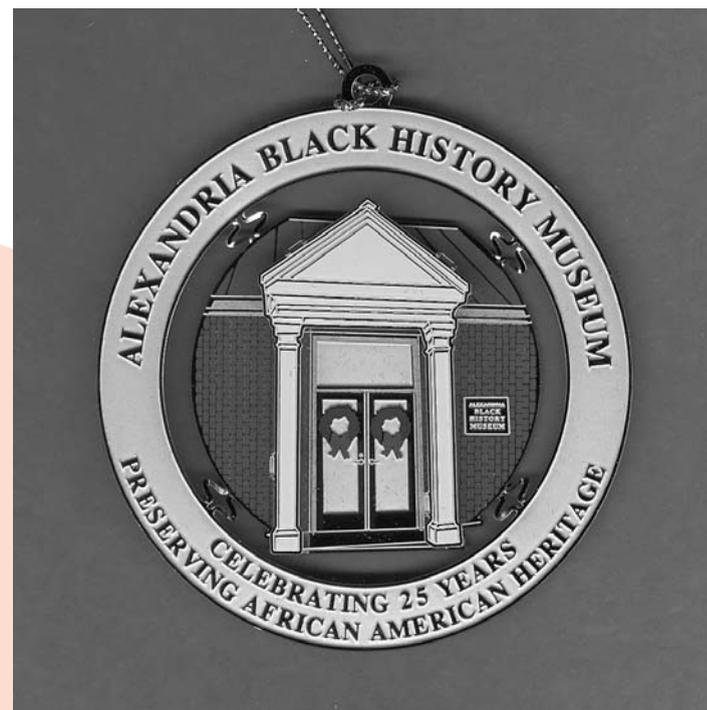
HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2008

More Holiday Spirit

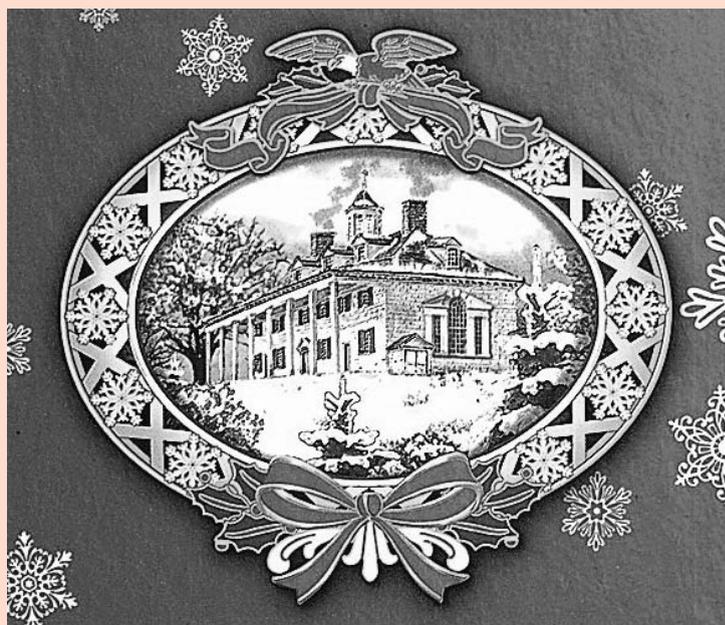


The Visitors Center located in the Ramsay House on the corner of N. Fairfax and King Streets has a number of local holiday ornaments available for purchase. A snow globe depicting Old Town is on sale for \$13.95.

Look around the area for ornaments and snow globes depicting local scenes and decorated homes.

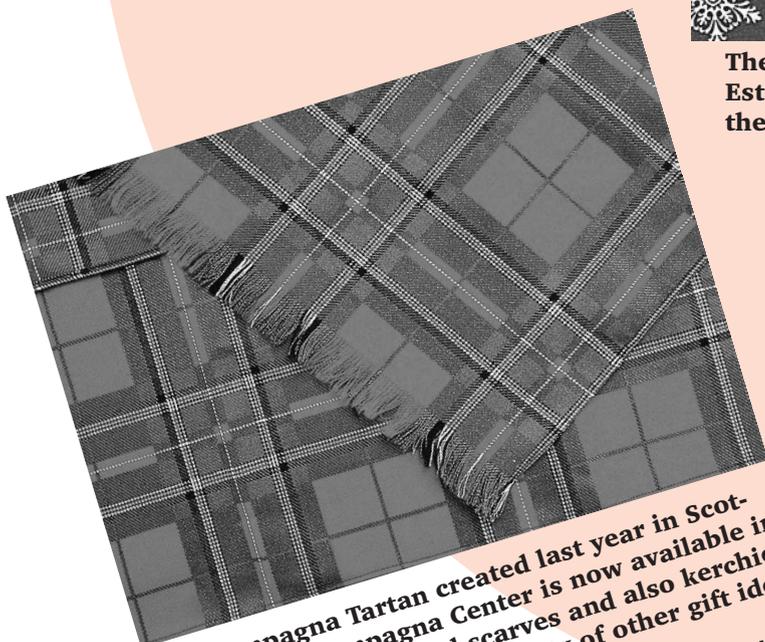


The 2008 ornament honors the 25th anniversary of the Alexandria Black History Museum which first opened its doors in 1983. Each ornament costs \$16 and comes in a stamped gift box with a card detailing the museum's history. For more information, call 703-838-4356 or visit www.historicalexandria.org.



The 2008 George Washington Mt. Vernon Estate Holiday Ornament is available in the Gift Shop at the Mt. Vernon Estate.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET



The Campagna Tartan created last year in Scotland for the Campagna Center is now available in kilts, capes, shawls and scarves and also kerchiefs for dogs in addition to a variety of other gift ideas. The tartan may be order online at www.campagnacenter.org or by calling 703-549-0111 or by visiting the Tartan Corner at the Marketplace held on the Scottish Walk Weekend in the Masonic Temple.

The Old Town Walled Garden Club will do the holiday decoration judging on Dec. 14. The only requirements of the contest are that the decorations must be made by the homeowners and that all materials excluding ribbons are natural.



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Molly Sebastian, MD



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HEALTH

Medspa Winner To Receive \$4,000 Makeover

Salon provides dermatology services to female and male clients.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Want to win a \$4,000 makeover? Or know someone deserving of such a treat for the holidays? Radiance Medspa at 917 King St. in Old Town Alexandria is in search of that certain someone.

"We hope to provide a real uplifting service to someone in the community who is deserving and really needs a lift. Hopefully, someone who has had some hard luck and would really benefit from this service," said Radiance Medspa co-owner Catherine Corcoran.

The winner of the "Harvest Your Beauty Makeover Contest" will be chosen from an essay of 500 words or less written by the recipient or someone recommending a deserving recipient. Deadline for submission of the essay is Wednesday, Nov. 26.

It can be submitted on line to cathy@radianceoldtown.com or by mail to

Radiance Medspa, 917 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. If mailed, it must be postmarked Nov. 26, Corcoran said.

Radiance Medspa is a licensed medical facility specializing in skin care, according to Corcoran and her partner Barbara Toliver. Between them they have close to 80 years medical experience, she noted.

Corcoran is a licensed nurse practitioner and Toliver is a physician's assistant. The practice is overseen by Corcoran's husband Timothy Corcoran, M.D.

Prior to opening Radiance MedSpa, Toliver worked at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital in the emergency room. Corcoran was in nursing care at the Fairfax County South County Government Center. "We also worked together for nine years at a family practice in the area," Corcoran said.

"That's where we saw a lot of dermatology patients. We also saw a lot of the insurance problems faced by physicians today — insurance companies denying claims or not authorizing needed procedures. Our health system is broken," Corcoran said.

Radiance Medspa opened in April 2006. Consultations are conducted with each cli-

ent prior to instituting any procedure. "We determine with each patient what treatment they want or need," Toliver said.

"We have sent notices of the contest to all our clients. But, so far we have received only one response," Corcoran said.

"Our staff will read each of the entries and rate each story. We will make every effort to be as objective as possible. Entries

can be submitted either by the person hoping to win or by someone recommending someone else," Toliver said.

They estimated the value of the prize at approximately \$4,000. It consists of make up application, non-surgical medical procedures, teeth whitening, a massage, and a skin tightening procedure. It is the latter procedure that is the most expensive element, according to Corcoran.

"This contest is all about helping someone who really needs it. We want to give back to the community," Corcoran said.

"We want to give back to the community."

— Catherine Corcoran,
co-owner, Radiance Medspa



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

Catherine Corcoran, licensed nurse practitioner, and Barbara Toliver, a physician's assistant, of Radiance Medspa in Alexandria.



“MADEIRA GIRLS have something to say**”**

*My freshman year I took two semesters of black-and-white photography. I learned **when you take a picture of something, it will never look exactly like that ever again.** It's interesting to capture that one moment. It's frozen forever, the defining moment. That was one of our assignments in photography last year. We had to capture that one moment in time before everything changes. Just going through that exercise makes me look at life differently.*

*For my Co-Curriculum placement this year, I am helping teach children at an art center in Washington. I love my Wednesdays. I get to work with preschoolers in the morning on ceramics and drama. Then in the afternoon, I work with fifth graders in drama. They are so expressive. It's a great opportunity for them. For me, too. At the end of the day, I go to Starbucks with my fabulous supervisor. We get to talk about everything. **It's amazing what you can learn about yourself through others.***

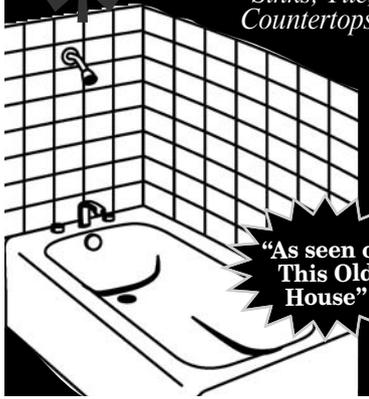
”
Alyssa

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COMMUNITY

Hurd Honored at Memorial Service

FROM PAGE 1

Royal Street that he shared with his late wife of 36 years, Mariette. He is survived by his son William B. Hurd, Jr., and his wife Nancy of Springfield, Va.; and a brother-in-law, Raymond Bowles of Portsmouth, N.H.

Bill Hurd served twice on the Alexandria Planning Commission. His original term was from 1958 to 1964 and the second covered the years 1981 to 2001. During the latter term he served as vice chair from 1987 to 1993 and as chair from 1993 to 2001.

The Planning Commission was only one example of his civic involvements which began as the Old Town Civic Association's representative on a local commission established to reorganize city government. Hurd became vice president and then president of OTCA.

A mass transportation authority, Hurd designed and founded the DASH Transit System. He then oversaw its operations as chairman of its board of directors for 23 years. The new DASH Transportation Center is named in his honor.

Among his many accomplish-

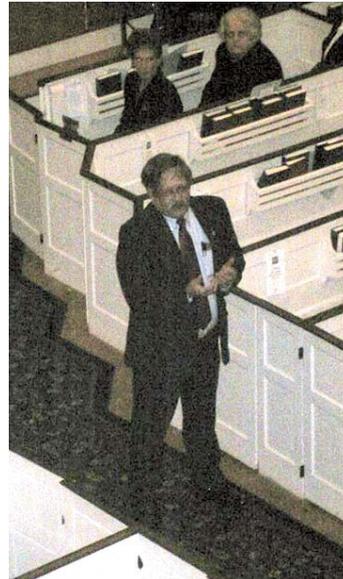


PHOTO BY CHUCK HAGEE/THE GAZETTE

William B. Hurd, Jr., thanks those attending the memorial service for his father at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church.

ments are: Member of the Alexandria School Board 1969-1974; chair of the Alexandria School Board 1972-1974; member of the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review 1981 to 1983; Community Development Committee 1957-58;

Transportation Planning Board 1974-75; and chairman of the Civil War Centennial Committee 1959-69.

But, transportation, and more specifically mass transportation, was his primary driving force. He served as associate administrator for program operations, Urban Mass Transportation Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and as a mass transportation planning consultant for a variety of city systems, including San Francisco's BART System.

IN ADDITION to serving in the U.S. Department of Transportation, Hurd also served in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Housing and Home Finance Agency, during a federal government career spanning 35 years.

His career was interrupted by World War II when he served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1942 to 1946. Entering as a 1st lieutenant he rose to the rank of major upon his discharge following the war.

A native of Lynn, Mass., born on Aug. 27, 1915, Hurd lived his youth in Swapscott and Wakefield, Mass., and Raymond, N.H. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science from the University of New Hampshire in 1937 and served as an intern at the National Institute of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C., 1937-1938. He did postgraduate work at American University 1938-1940 and again from 1946 to 1947, following his military service.

T.C. Williams Holds Telethon

T.C. Williams High School will hold its annual Scholarship Fund Fall Telethon on Sunday, Nov. 23 from 4-9 p.m. It will be broadcast live on channel 69 and through a webcast. The fund helps graduates of Alexandria Public Schools attend college, vocational or career schools.

T.C. Williams' video production students are working along side the professional COMCAST film crew to produce this five-hour live broadcast. The Telethon features on-air challenges led by Alexandria's business and community leaders and five hours of live entertainment including T.C. Williams' music performers and professionals who volunteer their time and talent. The Scholarship Fund Annual Report is available at www.AlexScholarshipFund.org.

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Kiskadee Finds Its Nest in Del Ray

Darby Rush and Neil Hall both grew up in the Tidewater area of Virginia — Darby in Virginia Beach and Neil in Norfolk. That's just a coincidence, however, as they met only five or six years ago here in Alexandria ... but they share their fondness for Tidewater and still call it "home." That bond was the start of their friendship.

After marriage, two babies and a stint with the home-based clothing business, Et Cetera, Darby took a job in sales with a large gifts and home accessories firm. Her experience there inspired her to start her own gifts and accessories trunk show business called Good Fun Stuff.

Neil was in finance and marketing in the corporate world, working for CSX in Richmond and Time-Life in Alexandria. After marriage and a baby, she continued to do some consulting work for Time Life and volunteered at her son's school. Itching to get back into business, she bought an invitation and stationery company about five years ago and moved it from Vienna to Alexandria as a home-based business.

Darby and Neil often worked side-by-side at trunk shows with their respective businesses, setting up at school benefits, community markets and private home-shopping parties. Together they organized a semi-annual trunk show at Belle Haven Country Club called East Coast Collections, which drew vendors selling clothing, jewelry, gifts, home, baby and paper accessories.

Why did you choose this business?

Kiskadee is a spin-off of their trunk-show businesses. It's the "best of both" plus more, offering women's apparel, jewelry and accessories, men's and boys' shirts, ties and belts, gifts for the home and garden, tabletop and gourmet, baby, holiday cards and paper accessories.

Darby had been pondering the idea of opening a retail store for quite some time. As a sales rep, she was in and out of small shops daily. Darby had the creative eye and a vision of a store that she, as a consum-



PHOTO BY NINA TISARRA

Darby Rush, Tracy Simpson and Neil Hall keeping shop at Kiskadee on Mount Vernon Avenue.

mate shopper herself, would love to have in this area. Neil, always up for a new business challenge, thought the idea a good one.

Both relished the thought of not hauling, setting up and taking down for trunk shows. Neil had been convinced for some time that Del Ray, and Mount Vernon Avenue in particular, was the perfect spot for a store — charming storefronts, parking, a friendly neighborhood and an easy-going business atmosphere.

Darby and Neil have made many new friends in the neighborhood that run in weekly to see "what's new." Their recent expansion to the second floor of the shop is indicative of this great local support.

Share an anecdote about your business:

It is safe to say that if their landlord, Scott Mitchell, had not walked up to them as they wandered along Mt Vernon Avenue one summer day, Kiskadee would probably not be in existence today. Darby and Neil were simply "in the right place at the right time" and hopped on the storefront that had been previously occupied by Royce Flowers. The

location and the building itself became the impetus to "go for it." The store opened just three months later.

Everyone asks about the name Kiskadee. A Kiskadee is a pretty yellow and black bird that is indigenous to marshy areas, like Tidewater, Virginia. Darby and Neil thought long and hard about a name that would have a special meaning to the two of them, but would be catchy and would definitely be unique. The idea was suggested by a family friend of Darby's, while sitting on the beach, of course.

Key Staff:

Currently, all employees are job-sharing so that there is fulltime help during the week and on the weekends. It works out perfectly for the weekday employees — one is a mom, Tracy Simpson, who works a few days a week while her son is in school. The other, Linda Hoekstra has recently retired from teaching in the Alexandria School System and, because of her shopping finesse, has fit right in.

Darby and Neil are also lucky to have friends that come in from time to time to help out ... Susan Cloud, Diane Hynes and Meghan Rainey.

Until recently, Kiskadee had its first full-time assistant manager, Jeanna Reidy, who just had a baby girl. Darby and Neil have fingers crossed that she'll be back soon.

The part-time weekend staff all have fulltime jobs, working in PR, in politics, on the Hill, and in interior design. Eliza Findley, Brittany Patterson, Emily Wheeler and Ashley deHart enjoy the camaraderie at the shop, making some extra cash, and, of

Kiskadee

Address: 2205 Mount Vernon Avenue in the heart of Del Ray
 Years in business: One-year anniversary Nov. 6.
 Telephone: 703-549-0813
 Email address: info@kiskadeeshop.com
 Web site: www.kiskadeeshop.com (under construction)
 Find out more about Kiskadee, and read other "Keeping Shop" features at www.AlexandriaGazette.com. Click on "Community."

course, the great discount.

Kiskadee is always looking for friendly, outgoing people who enjoy retail, and fashion in particular, to join the staff.

Description of products and services:

Darby and Neil think of Kiskadee as an "everyday living store," offering a variety of clothing, accessories and gifts for women, men, babies and kids, home and garden. They have a range of all price points and product mix.

They work diligently at market to find new designers and products not found in the area ... and the mix changes weekly. They order only three or four of any one style of woman's clothing, so that the same jacket or dress is not walking all over town. Kiskadee loves to support and offer designs from local Virginia businesses, including Meg Carter Designs, ADMK Jewelry, Belle et Bonne, Soraya tabletop accessories, Elquinique handbags, Peter Blair ties from Richmond and Robert Redd shirts from Charlottesville. Kiskadee has made numerous donations in their first year of business to local schools and benefits. They are happy to offer a Girls' Night Out shopping party for groups of 10-12, providing beverages and hors d'oeuvres and a 20 percent discount to all that attend.

Professional affiliations:

Del Ray Business Association.

Virginia Paving Comes to YMCA's Aid

One hundred and fifty families, who would have been without a Thanksgiving dinner, will now have a turkey thanks to the Virginia Paving Company.

The Alexandria YMCA each year gives 150 turkeys to needy families. Those turkeys have been supplied by an area restaurant.

This year, just three weeks before the holiday, that restaurant called the YMCA and said they could no longer afford to supply the turkeys. They cited economic conditions.

Hearing of the YMCA's plight, Virginia Paving stepped into the breach. "We

found it unacceptable for 150 families to not be able to enjoy a traditional turkey dinner," said John Irvine, spokesperson for Virginia Paving.

They will supply 105 of the needed turkeys. The YMCA has secured the other 45 from a variety of other donors.

"We were able to get a very good rate of 49 cents a pound from Giant Markets which means our total cost is only about \$800. It's the very least we could do. And, this falls in line with what we have been trying to do throughout the year, at every opportunity, to give back to the community," Irvine said.

Not only is Virginia Paving supplying the

turkeys, they are picking them up from Giant and delivering them to the YMCA. They will also help distribute them on Nov. 25 beginning at 5 p.m.

"All of these turkeys will be distributed to Alexandria families. That's what makes this so special," Irvine said.

— CHUCK HAGEE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left are John Irvine, David Horton, Linda Bolton and Yierou Mahoney.

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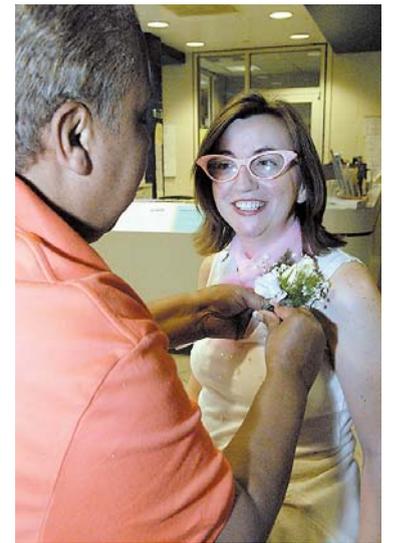
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Amanda and Boyd Walker



Carrie Myers and Jeff Stohl



Lauren Smith gets help with her corsage from Verdella Jennings.

The Town of Potomac's Centennial Prom

Concluding the events of the Town of Potomac Centennial celebration, a prom was held in the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center last Saturday evening. Residents turned out and danced the night away in the center's gym. More photos at www.gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.



Ryan Bailey and Gayle Reuter

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Change is in the Air!

The City of Alexandria is updating its telephone systems over the next two years. Most City government 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.



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- Housing703.746.4990
 (Incl.Landlord/Tenant Relations & Program Implementation)
- Office on Human Rights.....703.746.3140
- Office on Women703.746.5030
- Parking Adjudication703.746.3360
- Public Defender's Office.....703.746.4477

Please note most old numbers will connect through Oct 2009. For more information, please call Jacqueline Levy at 703.838.4227 or visit alexandriava.gov/communications.

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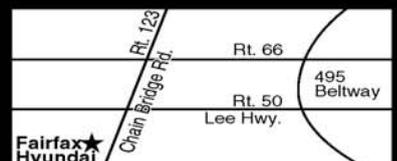
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Carolina in Her Mind

Always in spotlight, Ruffin-Pratt decides to shine at North Carolina next year.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE-PACKET

It's not everyday friends and family gather to witness a teenager sign one of life's most important contracts. That's why it made sense that everybody in the T.C. Williams High School cafeteria this past Tuesday night wanted to savor the moment Tierra Ruffin-Pratt signed her national letter of intent to play basketball at North Carolina next season.

Everyone, that is, except for the girl putting her signature on the dotted line.

"Let's cut the cake," Ruffin-Pratt said anxiously of the Carolina blue and white pastry that read "UNC 2009."

"Meeting her, you have no idea she's one of the top prospects in the country."

— T.C. Williams
coach Cavanaugh Haven

After years spent in the spotlight of the Alexandria hoops scene, Ruffin-Pratt thinks it's about time people start noticing the play of everyone else, rather than just focusing on, arguably, the most talented girl's basketball player to come out of this area.

"I really don't need the attention," said Ruffin-Pratt, who is rated by ESPN as the No. 9 girl's basketball player in the class of 2009. "That's how it is on the court. Other teams think it's all about me, talk just about me, but once they realize the team can

do other things and help me too, they have to focus on the team and not just me."

IT HAS BEEN TOUGH to ignore Ruffin-Pratt, especially coming off a season where she was named a Parade 1st-team All-American while averaging more than 25 points, 15 rebounds, and seven assists per game, leading the Titans to a 22-1 record.

Her year ended a bit prematurely due to a dislocated shoulder in the Patriot District Finals, and Ruffin-Pratt had to sit and watch her teammates lose their only game, a season-ending loss to Robinson.

It has been this way — with recruiters constantly swooning over her— since Ruffin-Pratt played for the T.C. Williams JV team as an eighth grader, according to her mother, Deneen Pratt. Once that season was over, the house started getting "boxes of letters" from various colleges.

It has created an interesting dynamic between the Ruffin-Pratt that walks the hallways of T.C. Williams and the girl that wows fans and opponents alike on the basketball court.

"She's just Tierra off the court, so she tries not to let the two collide so that she can be just a regular teenager off the court," said Deneen Pratt, who helped her daughter choose North Carolina over Duke, Virginia, and Rutgers among others.

Friends and family describe Ruffin-Pratt as a humble superstar, someone not infatuated with her own statistics. That doesn't mean others aren't, though.

The star of T.C. Williams boy's basketball team, point guard Edward Jenkins, said he sometimes jokes with Ruffin-Pratt in class about putting all her accolades on the back of a sweatshirt, something he did after starting for the Titans state championship team a year ago.

"But she doesn't do any of that," Jenkins said with a laugh. "She doesn't brag or boast about it, she just lets it show on the court."

IT'S A TRAIT that even her coach envies.

"Meeting her, you have no idea she's one of the top prospects in the country," said first-year T.C. Williams coach Cavanaugh Haven, who was an assistant the past two seasons. "It's neat because the underclass-

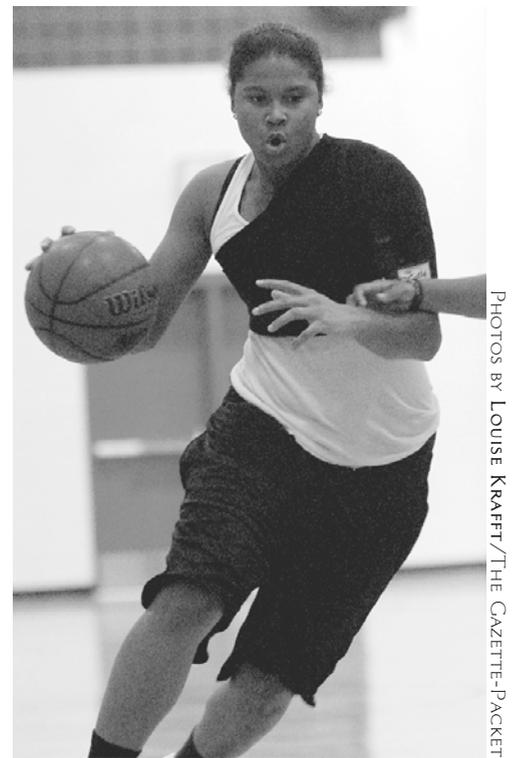
men look at her as a role model, she has natural ability but also puts a lot of time into something she loves."

Ruffin-Pratt, who stands 5-foot-10, doesn't have blinding speed or out of the gym jumping ability. Rather, it's her knack for finding a way to penetrate into the lane and lethal outside shot that make her next to impossible to stop. Her innate court sense and penchant for being in the right place serves her well, anticipating blocked shots and steals on the defensive end.

"It's exciting just to be able to play with someone on that level," said Titans point guard Monica Fikes.

Her shoulder completely healthy these days, Ruffin-Pratt hopes this year will be significantly calmer with her college choice made. Already T.C. Williams' all-time leading scorer, the Carolina-bound superstar wants others to steal her spotlight now.

"I know a lot of people are going to come at me hard," said Ruffin-Pratt. "But I just want to make my team better."



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE-PACKET

Senior Tierra Ruffin-Pratt will play basketball at North Carolina next season. Last season she averaged more than 25 points and 15 rebounds per game and was named a Parade 1st-team All-America. She wears a brace as a precaution after separating her shoulder at the end of last year.



Deneen Pratt turns to hug her daughter, Tierra Ruffin-Pratt, last Tuesday night after Ruffin-Pratt signed her national letter-of-intent to play at North Carolina next season.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Middle School Soccer All-Stars

Three Alexandria middle school students have been nominated for an all-star soccer team because of their performances on the field this season.

Paul Darmstadter, a 7th grade student at The Congressional Schools of Virginia in Falls Church, has been named as an All-Star Soccer Player by the Capital Athletic Conference. Darmstadter played on the Congressional Colts Varsity Soccer Team during the fall 2008 season.

Joining him on the all-star squad was Alexandria residents Isabella Brahm and Austin O'Brien, both of whom are also students at The Congressional Schools. All three

were teammates on the Congressional Colts varsity soccer team.

Annual Baseball Night

The Alexandria Sportman's Club will hold its annual baseball night at the Old Dominion Boat Club this Friday night. This year, Washington Nationals third baseman Ryan Zimmerman is scheduled to appear and speak with those in attendance.

Admission to the event is free and open to the public. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. with a social hour beforehand. The club will also name its athlete of the month at the event.

Umpires Needed

The Northern Virginia Softball Umpires Association is seeking new umpires for the 2009 season. The association is responsible for umpiring softball (fast-pitch and slow-pitch) recreation league games, VHSL/High School games and several tournaments in the Northern Virginia area. Umpires can earn \$23+ an hour. Flexible schedule based on the individual's ability and availability during the week and weekends. NVSUA uses a Web-based scheduling program. It provides in-depth training, which begins in January.

Contact Judy Cole at JudyUIC@cox.net or 571-236-5744.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

noisy, vibration-causing vehicles cause great harm to our historic homes built in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. At the last Task Force meeting, the individual in charge of these tours screamed that the citizens didn't own the streets and sidewalks and that the buses had every right to go where they want when they want. What a crass assessment! Guess who paid the taxes so that these streets and sidewalks could be built and maintained? Not the tour buses. They are in the destruction mode. The citizens as usual will end up

paying the price.

Hopefully without sounding flip-pant and in an honest attempt to make a point, why are we allowing tour buses to conduct business within our residential areas? These tour buses are making money off of us by using our residential roads, disturbing our peace, bringing odorous smells into our homes all the while operating without Special Use Permits (SUPs). Every other business in this city is regulated and has to have a SUP or Administrative Permit to operate a business. It appears that these tour bus compa-

nies are indeed violating the law and should be cited for doing so. This case may have to be taken to court for adjudication. Illegally conducting commerce in a residential area seems to be the final straw. There is no reason why the Police Department can't enforce this statute without having to go to Richmond for approval from the General Assembly.

The Old Town Civic Association dedicated its October Membership Meeting to this Tour Bus problem. The entire membership attending the meeting all agreed that a bus to trolley approach was the pana-

cea.

The membership of OTCA, who oversees the Old and Historic District, has been heard from, loud and clear, on this issue. Speaking for myself only, we are tired of being marginalized by the city government. It would very helpful if the residents of Old Town would voice their concerns to Mayor Bill Euille (alexvamayor@aol.com) or to Councilman Paul Smedberg (paulcsmedberg@aol.com).

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

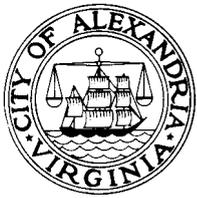
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Legal Notices



ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION

DECEMBER - 2008

The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the following dates. NOTICE: Some of the items listed below may be placed on a consent calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the consent calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the public hearing to a future date. For further information call the Department of Planning and Zoning on 838-4666.

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2008
7:30 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2008
9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2008-0044

251 WEST GLEBE ROAD (Parcel Address: 221 West Glebe Road)

CERRO VERDE RESTAURANT

Consideration of a request for the expansion of an existing restaurant and a request for amusement enterprise; zoned CDD-12/Coordinated Development District. Applicant: Latin Del Ray, LLC by Wayne Neale

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2008-0074

210 WESMOND DRIVE
FAMILY DAY CARE

Consideration of a request to operate a home child daycare; zoned RB/Residential.

Applicant: Darnella and James Shelby Sr.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2008-0079

320 KING STREET
SANDELLAS FLATBREAD CAFE

Consideration of a request to operate a restaurant; zoned CD/Commercial Downtown. Applicant: DC Sandella's Franchise, LLC by Duncan Blair

DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2007-0035

2903 MOUNT VERNON AVENUE
MIXED USE RETAIL/OFFICE BUILDING

Consideration of a request for a form-based development special use permit, with site plan, to construct a retail/office mixed use building, with site plan, modifications and a parking reduction, under the Mount Vernon Avenue Plan Design Guidelines; zoned CL/Commercial Low. Applicant: Julie Wadler by BMK Architects

DEVELOPMENT SITE PLAN #2008-0012(TO

Legal Notices

BE HEARD BY PLANNING COMMISSION ON- LY)

TEXT AMENDMENT #2008-0008

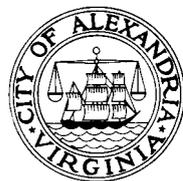
133 SOUTH QUAKER LANE and 3100 BUSINESS CENTER DRIVE MATERIALS/STORAGE YARD

Consideration of a request for a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow public re-cycling centers in the industrial zone as a permitted use and a development site plan for construction of a materials storage facility; zoned I/Industrial and POS/Public Open Space. Applicant: City of Alexandria Departments of Transportation and Environmental Services and Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2008-0016

315, 317 AND 321 FIRST STREET
SAINT ANTHONY'S DAY SCHOOL

Consideration of a request for a development special use permit, with site plan, for an expansion of a day care center, an increase in floor area ratio and a parking reduction; zoned CDX/Commercial Downtown. Applicant: Patricia Hall Choiniere by BMK Architects



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review
Old & Historic Alexandria District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2008-0181
Request for approval of signage at 821 S. Washington St, zoned CRMU/L.
APPLICANT: Tim Traywick for WRIT

CASE BAR2008-0186
Request for approval of signage at 124 S. West St, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: William Hatherill for King West LLC

CASE BAR2008-0192
Request for approval of alterations at 408 Duke St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Nels Nordquist

CASE BAR2008-0210
Request for approval of signage at 1104 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.
APPLICANT: The Potomac Bead Co.

CASE BAR2008-0212
Request for approval of alterations at 619 S. Fairfax St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Studio Camus LLC for Laura Smith Morton

CASE BAR2008-0213
Request for approval of alterations at 510 & 526 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.

Legal Notices

APPLICANT: Linda Jackson for WRIT

CASE BAR2008-0215
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 617/619 S. Lee St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Rust Orling Architecture for Andrew & Tamara Saltonstall

CASE BAR2008-0218
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 617/619 S. Lee St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Rust Orling Architecture for Andrew & Tamara Saltonstall

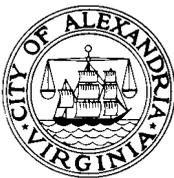
CASE BAR2008-0216
Request for approval of signage at 924 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.
APPLICANT: Bloomers

CASE BAR2008-0217
Request for approval of signage at 1222 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.
APPLICANT: La Fromagerie LLC

CASE BAR2008-0221
Request for approval of alterations at 610 Bashford Lane, zoned RCX Medium Density Apartment.
APPLICANT: Riverton Condominium

CASE BAR2008-0225
Request for approval of alterations to previously approved plans at 119 S. Washington St, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: TD Bank, NA

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 NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008 - 7:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia

Information about these items may be obtained from the: Department of Planning and Zoning, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 838-4688

BZA CASE #2008-0037
106 ADAMS AVENUE
R-2-5, RESIDENTIAL
Marsha and Tim Sullivan, owners: Special exception to enclose and extend an existing open side porch 5.60 feet from the east side property line. If the special exception is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a special exception from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure.

BZA CASE #2008-0038
607 NORTH OVERLOOK DRIVE
R-8, RESIDENTIAL
Meg Lundsager and John Baker, owners: Special exception to construct a second story addition 8.00 feet from the east side property line. If the special exception is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a special ex-

Legal Notices

ception from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure.

BZA CASE #2008-0032
630 NORTH COLUMBUS STREET
RB, RESIDENTIAL
James A. Merklinger, owner: Reapproval of a variance to construct a new single family dwelling reducing the required open space to 360 square feet.

BZA CASE #2008-0034
1200 DUKE STREET
OC, OFFICE COMMERCIAL
Thomas J. Fannon, owner: Appeal of the Director of Planning and Zoning's decision to revoke the November 3, 2003, Zoning Determination Letter to Thomas J. Fannon & Sons, Inc., at 1200 Duke Street

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No JJ020383-05-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
DAVION CORTEZ STEWART
The object of this suit is to:
Terminate the parental rights of Robert Bowie, putative father of Davion Stewart, DOB 10/31/03, born to Deidre Stewart; approve a foster care plan with goal of adoption; and enter any other appropriate orders without further notice to Robert Bowie.
It is ORDERED that the defendant Robert Bowie appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/28/2009 at 2:00pm

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No JJ020383-05-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
DAVION CORTEZ STEWART
The object of this suit is to:
Terminate the parental rights of Unknown father of Davion Stewart, DOB 10/31/03, born to Deidre Stewart; approve the foster care plan with the goal of adoption; and it is ORDERED that the defendant unknown father appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/28/2009 at 2:00pm

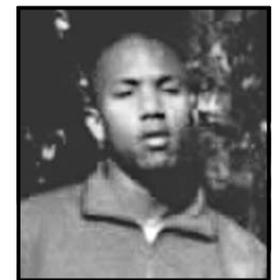
ABC LICENSE

Roger's Deli-Pizza LLC, trading as Roger's Deli-Pizza, 6631 Wakefield Dr, Alexandria, VA 22307. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Roger Smith, Owner

OBITUARY Theron Wayne Henry

Age 65, passed on November 13, 2008 in Falls Church, VA. Wayne was a longtime member of Westminster Presbyterian Church as well as a member of the American Legion, Moose & Elks Lodges. He was preceded in death by his brother Kenneth Henry. He is survived by his beloved wife of 39 years, Deanne M. Henry; loving children Donnie (Deana) and Matthew Henry; adored grandchildren Luke, Olivia and Julianna Henry. He also leaves his sister Norma Jean Brennan; cousins Diane Nicely and Teresa Yokum; many other family members and close friends. A memorial service will be on Friday, November 21, 2008 at 1 PM at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria VA 22302. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to United Cerebral Palsy, 1660 L. Street, NW, Ste. 700, Washington DC 20036

Legal Notices



Lonzell Rashad Adkins
November 12, 1977 - April 18, 1994
We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday and days before that too. Your memory is our keepsake with which we will never part. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts.
Happy 31st Birthday
Love Ya! Michael, Connie,
Danielle and Rashad

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No JJ019589-04-00/JJ019589-06-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
JEREMIAH ANDERSON
The object of this suit is to:
Approve the permanency plan submitted by DHS, to terminate the residual parental rights of the unknown father of Jeremiah Anderson, DOB 5/31/05, born to Tanaira Anderson, and to give the right to the Alexandria Department of Human Services to place the child for adoption. It is ORDERED that the defendant unknown father appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/30/2009 at 2:00pm

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No JJ019589-04-00/JJ019589-05-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
JEREMIAH ANDERSON
The object of this suit is to:
Approve the permanency plan submitted by DHS, to terminate the residual parental rights of the Tanaira Anderson (mother) to Jeremiah Anderson, DOB 5/31/05, and to give the right to the Alexandria Department of Human Services to place the child for adoption. It is ORDERED that the defendant Tanaira Anderson (mother) appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 1/30/2009 at 2:00pm

ABC LICENSE

Unwined, Inc trading as Unwined online, 113 N. Fayette Street #6, Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Internet Wine Retailer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Vanessa Moore, Corporate officer

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Del Ray

The 33rd Annual Turkey Trot! Yes, Del Ray, it's time for the **33rd Annual Turkey Trot!** This five-mile road race will be held on Thursday, Nov. 27 at 10 a.m. at the Cora Kelly Elementary School at the intersection of West Reed and Commonwealth Avenues. The entry fee — with two cans of food — is \$15 for individuals ages 13-21 years and \$20 for those age 22 and over. Children 12 and under can participate for \$10 at the door and two cans of food. The food will be donated to ALIVE, Inc., an ecumenical organization serving Alexandria families in need.

Register online before Monday, Nov. 24 and save \$5. Visit www.visitdelray.com/turkeytrot. Online registrants also pay a \$1 per registration processing fee. Alexandria Turkey Trot T-shirts can be purchased online for \$10 each, for all ages, until Nov. 24. Race-day t-shirt availability is limited, so order yours in advance to be sure you'll receive the desired size.

The race traditionally draws a number of local dignitaries, elected officials and lots of fun friends and neighbors. Bring the family out for the exercise before the big feast.

—JEN WALKER
JEN@JENWALKER.COM



Old Town

Old Town Alexandria has a very special new resident. We have a new resident who lives in Old Town Alexandria where he is very happy. His world revolves around his mother or at least who he thinks is his mother, a beautiful boy from Thailand who on a lovely day was walking along the Potomac River in Old Town Alexandria. What does he see, but a lovely creature following him and trying to get his attention with his "quack quack." Gently, the little boy picked him up and it was love at first sight. Pretty soon he was cuddled in his arm basking in the warmth of the sun. When he was taken to the boy's house he was treated to a nice meal of Quaker oats, corn, and guess what, spaghetti — he must have some Italian blood in him. Pretty soon he was ready to sleep after all he had been looking for his mother all afternoon. He was content and tired. After a few quacks he suddenly went silently to dreamland. The little boy and his grandfather went to the Potomac looking for his mother, but he was not interested in finding her and they took him back home. The next day he wandered in the garden and made friends with a squirrel, no dialogue he just sat by his side and enjoyed his silent company. The boy's name is Sarrin and he calls this creature Splinter. Sarrin lives with his mother Irrin in his grandfather's house, who is also from Thailand in Old Town. The grandfather is an artist who creates and repairs wonderful works of art in his shop. Sarrin is the proud "mother" of a little black duck.

— SUZANNE CLAIRE

Growth Properties, details the population mix of households near the planning zone. Read the report; are you "Young Digerati," "Bohemian Mix," "Money and Brains," "Urban Achievers" or "Movers and Shakers?" Find the report at www.alexandria.gov/planning/info/landmark-vandorn. The next advisory council meeting on the project, which is open to the public, is on Monday, Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mall.

— MIA JONES

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Can we reform?
"Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know," says our Senator Richard Saslaw, explaining why he does not favor redistricting reform by a non-partisan commission.

Speaking to the West End Business Association, the senator said that "he does not want to give up control of the ability to gerrymander when and if the chance arises, as he has no trust in others to do the right thing, but feels very comfortable with the control that he can exercise," according to Judy Miller, president of the Alexandria League of Women Voters, who attended the meeting.

I called Senator Saslaw to confirm the question. He said yes, he feels that elected officials should do the redistricting.

REDISTRICTING DUE

Every 10 years the General Assembly redraws the lines of electoral districts. It has, in the past, been very partisan; whichever party is in power has drawn districts, which can easily be won by the party strongest in the district.

WHO CHOOSES?

In a sense, politicians can choose their constituents. Of course, the party objects, and many such districts end up being redrawn in court.

COALITION TO MEET

The Virginia Redistricting Coalition plans a series of Town Hall meetings to discuss alternatives.

VIRGINIA INTERFAITH CENTER (VIC)

The VIC on public policy points out that a nonpartisan commission results in more efficient government. Practice has shown that maps drawn by nonpartisan commissions result in less litigation, freeing up court dockets and allowing legislators to do their proper work.

The Center also points out that partisan gerrymandering frequently results in gridlock, as representatives in "safe" seats may feel that they owe loyalty to a party as much as to constituents.

Senator Saslaw's office number is 703-978-0200.

Judy Miller's number is 703-548-5168.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

Seminary Valley

Many of your neighbors went well beyond the yard sign-level of involvement during the recent elections. Patty Chamberlain helped field calls about voter registration, and told me it was a "fascinating, an extremely well-run, conscientious office, great people, very detailed oriented, ethical, and gave me great faith in our (Alexandria's) voting office." Many of you, including Betsy Lohmann, Kevin Curtin, Nancy Leary and Ann Principato took on first-time and re-prising roles at West End polling places. Seminary Valley's own Ginny Franco is deputy registrar for the City of Alexandria and I am sure is happy to see the last few months come to an end.

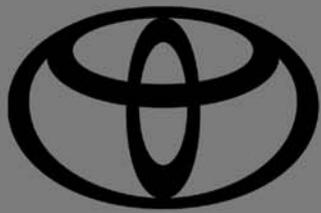
On a micro-local level, the results of November's Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association election are in. Congratulations go to: President: Geoff Goodale, 1st Vice President: Joe Grigg, 2nd Vice President: Jon Sargeant, Secretary: Judy Cooper, Membership Secretary: Christin Nolan, Treasurer: Kristin Stone, Parliamentarian: Marianne Hetzer, and Members-At-Large: Caitlin Engelberg, Adam Firestone, Randy Krause, and "Armi" Mack.

The family Holiday Party, sponsored by the Civic Association, is set for Friday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. at Polk Elementary School. This event, replete with music, crafts and a visit from a certain holiday superstar, is a great way to get your holiday mojo going. Contact Christin Nolan at christin.nolan@bsvca.net.

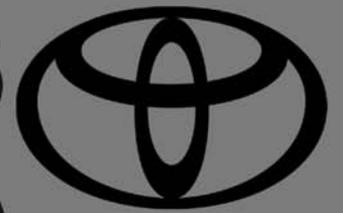
Ninth grade Girl Scouts Ayana Best and Rebecca Woods earned the Silver Award, the highest honor a Scout may receive at that grade level. Scout leader Linda Kelly reports that each girl completed several requirements as well as a 30-hour project. Ayana developed learning materials for Girl Scout adult training, and Rebecca wrote a book of soccer drills so coaches and players can improve their skills.

Come out to see some local TC thespians in Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None," running at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 21 and 22. Zachary Frank, Brielle Welch, Andrew Flack and Bianca Lipford (who student-directs) are part of a great cast in an old-fashioned, fast-paced murder mystery. Don't miss it!

If you have been following the Landmark/Van Dorn Development plans, the Department of Planning and Zoning's Oct. 18 presentation makes for some interesting reading. On page 9, the mall's owner, General



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MarketWatch

Metropolitan Washington, DC

18.45%

When our company opened its doors for business on July 1, 1980 in Alexandria, Virginia, the going rate for a 30-year mortgage was 12.2%. Just fourteen months later, the rate had soared to **18.45%**. At no time in the first eleven years of our existence did mortgage rates fall below 10% - yet people still bought and sold homes. Surprised?

Almost 32,000 people bought homes in 1981 in the Washington metropolitan area* when interest rates were shockingly high. Tell most people that fact today, when they are weighing whether to lock in an interest rate of 6.5% or wait until it drops, and they think you're nuts – or just plain wrong. Why in the world would that many people buy homes under those conditions? In our view, it says some very positive things about real estate, even when real estate is "bad."

- People have to live somewhere – and we're not being flippant. They may rent, they may share an apartment with a complete stranger, they may live with family longer than planned, they may own, or tragically may be in a shelter. There is no such imperative about stocks, bonds or banks.
- There is pride in owning a home that transcends the investment value of that home. There are tax benefits to owning a home as well.
- And yes, there are possible financial risks and rewards to homeownership. The average price of a home in Northern Virginia in the "dark days" of 1981 was \$100,000; in 1986, when mortgage rates averaged 10.2%, the average price was 20% higher. Sadly, right now we are experiencing the broad impact of declines in home prices in our area. But as with most investments, timing matters a great deal. Someone who purchased a home in 2000 is likely to have a very different financial picture than one who purchased an identical home in 2005 at the top of the market. Both will have lost value, but one has substantial equity while the other is likely to be "upside down."
- However, given the history of this area, if the one who is "upside down" today can hang in there, home values will climb again.

Today's economic conditions serve as strong reminders that there are no guarantees about any financial commitment. For those who took out loans they could not afford and/or bought at the top of the market, these are rough times. For those who rented in 2000 when they could have purchased, these may be rough times as well – because they lost the opportunity to build a lot of equity.

This is the third 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 our website www.mceneaney.com and click on "MarketWatch."

THE REAL ESTATE MARKET IS GOING TO BE OK – REALLY.

*Washington, DC, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland, the Cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax, and the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William in Virginia.

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