

# Alexandria Gazette Packet

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NOVEMBER 26, 2008



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

**Shouts of joy raise out among the children as Sr. Bernadette McManigal, B.V.M., superintendent of the Arlington Catholic Diocese schools announces that two nights without homework might be in order for receiving this award for the school. More photos at [www.alexandriagazette.com](http://www.alexandriagazette.com).**



## Blue Ribbon for Blessed Sacrament

**Abu Kumi, director of the No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School Program of the U.S. Department of Education, unveils the award of excellence with Blessed Sacrament School Principal Valerie A. Garcia.**

# Students Flocking To City Schools

**After years of decline in enrollment, public schools face increase.**

By MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Since the first day of school in September, the city's school system has been groaning under the weight of an unexpected spike in enrollment. Total membership is up 703 students since last October, which represents an increase of 7 percent increase over last year's enrollment. School officials say that's an increase higher than any other division in Virginia, a trend that's expected to add 12 percent to the total student population over the next five years.

"The high enrollment numbers affect more than just classroom teachers, they affect the whole system" said Melynda Wilcox, president of the Alexandria PTA Council. "It means that the school psychologists have a higher caseload and the music teachers will have to teach additional classes."

Central administration officials say they are worried about what they call a "perfect storm" of factors that could be working behind the trends. The troubled economy could be encouraging parents who would otherwise opt for private schools to enroll their children in public schools, and a rising number of foreclosures could be encouraging parents to move into Alexandria's rental properties. In addition to all of these factors, the Alexandria City Council passed a resolution last year announcing that the city government "will neither make inquiries about nor report on the citizenship of those who seek the protection of its laws or the use of its

**"Alexandria put out the welcome mat to illegal immigrants, so it shouldn't be surprising to anyone that this is happening."**

— Jim Boulet Jr., executive director, English First

services except as required by law."  
"People who don't read Spanish-

SEE CITY SCHOOLS, PAGE 4

# Economic Downturn Has Human Cost

**Government service providers, nonprofit agencies struggle.**

By MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Nowhere is the economic pinch felt more personally than the waiting room of the city's Department of Human Services, a brick building on Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. City officials have seen a dramatic rise in those who have walked into its doors over the last year — welfare applications are up 34 percent; applications for emergency services are up 30 percent; Medicaid applications are up 24 percent; and food stamp applications are up 24 percent.

Officials say middle-class residents who have never been part of the system before are now applying for public assistance, adding to the strain of an existing network of people who are already among the city's most vulnerable.

Meanwhile, the city government is facing unprecedented shortfalls and drastic budget cuts on the horizon, with city government workers fearing furloughs or layoffs in the coming months.

"Every time we have to lay someone off, that person becomes a client," said Debra Collins, assistant city manager for Human Services. "So this is interest compounding."

**"We need to be concerned about the survival of the mission. We don't need to be concerned about the survival of nonprofits."**

— Katherine Morrison, president, Morrison Nonprofit Transitions

Since the world financial markets began constricting in September, city officials and nonprofit leaders have been concerned about finding ways to maintain the social safety net in Alexandria. It's a topic that's been

on the agenda of a recent forum of nonprofit leaders conducted by the Giving Circle of Alexandria, and it's been foremost in the mind of budget officials who are piecing together preliminary draft of next year's operating budget. Meanwhile, the needs are growing at a time when the ability of government providers and nonprofit agencies

SEE DOWNTURN, PAGE 6

# Irish Walk Changes Owners

By CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Another Old Town Alexandria institution has changed ownership. But, different from many other recent acquisitions and reconfigurations, this institution, and its specialized merchandise, will remain constant.

Bernadette Troy, founder and owner of The Irish Walk, 415 King Street, recently sold the authentic Irish shop

SEE IRISH WALK, PAGE 4



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## Nightmare Scenario

Facing unprecedented cuts to the existing budget as a result of the world financial crisis, City Council members are facing many sleepless nights. Trying to strike a balance between prudence and wisdom won't be easy, and city officials are trying to spread the pain as evenly as possible. And the boogeyman is always lurking around the corner in fiscal year 2010.

"When we adopted last year's budget, I believe I said that last year's budget was not the budget that you run for council dreaming about adopting," said Councilman **Justin Wilson**. "And I think, frankly, this FY2010 budget is not even a budget you have a nightmare about."

## Rate Up, Bills Flat

With Alexandria residents feeling the pinch of the declining economy, homeowners are already beginning to worry about next year's tax bill. But early indications are that taxpayers might be able to glide through next year without much of a change. According to a budget guidance document drafted by City Council members last week, the elected leaders are urging City Manager **Jim Hartmann** to present a budget with "a proposed real estate tax rate that will provide for the average homeowner to pay the same amount of real estate tax paid in 2008."

Based on current projections from the city's budget officials, that would raise the tax rate from 84.5 cents to 89.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value. Because property values are expected to decline again this year, council members will be forced to raise the tax rate just to break even.

"We're all going into this with eyes wide open that we might have to increase the tax rate more," said Councilman **Rob Krupicka**. "There's no one I've talked to who thinks we shouldn't raise the tax rate to keep police officers on the street and maintain some semblance of a social safety net. The question is how much do you raise it?"

## No Guarantees

One of the items on the chopping block this year is the school resource officer at Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center, a cut that was opposed by a number of speakers during a public hearing to consider the emergency budget reductions to the current operating budget. Last week, Police Chief **David Baker** told council members he might be able to find a potential solution that would please both sides — moving one of the two resource officers from T.C. Williams High School to Minnie Howard. Last year, the department cut the officer assigned to the city's elementary schools.

"If we don't come to a resolution, I'm prepared to look at other reductions in the department that I might put forward that would allow me to keep an officer at Minnie Howard," Baker told council members. "I can't guarantee that because, as you know, I had some substantial reductions."

## Save the Date

With the Democratic nominating process for City Council members in full swing, calendar entries are already filling up quickly with election-related events. The first important event is the Dec. 1 meeting of the Alexandria Democratic Committee at Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center, where the committee will vote on whether to have a January caucus or a March primary.

Then there a host of campaign kickoff events: **Rob Krupicka** at the Majestic Cafe on Dec. 13 at 3 p.m.; **Justin Wilson** at Fireflies on Dec. 14 at 4:30 p.m.; **Tim Lovain** at Tempo on Jan. 10 at noon; **Ludwig Gaines** at Generous George's on Jan. 10 at 3 p.m.; **Paul Smedberg** at a location to be determined on Jan. 11 at 12:30 p.m.; **Boyd Walker** at 1307 King St. on Jan. 11 at 4 p.m.; and **Del Pepper** at the American Legion Hall on Jan. 25 at 3:30 p.m. Mayor **Bill Euille** is planning kickoff for Feb. 14, although a location has yet to be determined, and council candidate **Kerry Donley** said he might not have a formal kickoff, although he said he is still considering his options.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

**Descendent family of three people buried at the Freedmen's Cemetery gather at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum on Saturday, Nov. 22. More photos at [www.alexandriagazette.com](http://www.alexandriagazette.com).**

## Revisiting Family History

**M**ore than 40 members of the Knapper/Taylor family celebrated the lives of their ancestors by looking at historic photos, objects, kinship charts and an oral history interview of Virginia Thomas Knapper conducted by the City's Office of Historic Alexandria in 1982.

It was known that Knapper, who was born in the Alexandria "Cross Canal" neighborhood — 900 block North Fairfax Street — in 1897, was descended from enslaved people who came here during the Civil War. However, a new OHA genealogy project learned that she was the great granddaughter of Arthur W. and Lucy Loomax (Lomax) who were buried in the cemetery at age 60 in 1864 and 1865 and a cousin of 8 month-old Emma Harris, buried in 1866.

Research by Char Bah traced the family's ties back more than five generations to the Civil War. Pictured above is the head of the family, Dorothy Knapper Taylor, Virginia's daughter, and four younger generations. Taylor brought a family heirloom, a glass pig bottle made by her mother at the Old Dominion Glass Factory, now the site of the Crowne Plaza Old Town to share with the City archaeologists.

The interview and photos can be seen at [alexandriava.gov/oh-main/oralhistory](http://alexandriava.gov/oh-main/oralhistory). The planned Contrabands & Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial will include a wall of names to honor the more than 1,800 people. To date, 26 descendent families of those buried at the cemetery have been identified.

— PAM CRESSEY/ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY



**Yvette Lewis talks with her grandmother Charlene Taylor Napper during the visit on Saturday to the Alexandria Archaeology Museum in the Torpedo Factory.**

## The \$612 Fix

**City officials encourage shopping locally; consider new rules on signage.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**ith retailers facing a potentially dreadful holiday season, the city government is taking several steps to help Alexandria businesses cash in this year. Earlier this week, city officials launched a program called "Buy Alexandria, Our Dollars Count," an effort to encourage city residents to conduct their holiday shopping with local retailers. The City Council is also scheduled to take up an "emergency ordinance" that would allow retailers off of King Street to work together to create "sandwich board" A-frame signs that could be posed

SEE SHOP LOCALLY, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Enchanted Florist owner Phyllis Kennedy said that she would love a sandwich board sign advertising businesses on her block, but she doesn't have the time to help create one before the holiday season.**

**“It’s great for me to be able to hand it over to someone who will carry on our traditions.” — Bernadette Troy, founder, The Irish Walk**

# Irish Walk Changes Owners — Not Products

FROM PAGE 1

to long time employee Patricia Theobald. “After 36 years, I’m now enjoying my second Saturday in a row when I don’t have to go to the shop,” Troy said seated in her family room on Wolfe Street.

“When Pat and I first opened the store at 604 S. Washington St., it was not only our store but also sort of a second home. When, I went to work I took the kids with me. We couldn’t afford a full-time baby sitter in those days,” she said.

Pat Troy was selling insurance for Met Life and working in the shop on weekends. Bernadette Troy ran the shop throughout the week.

“But, I always wanted to own an Irish restaurant,” Pat Troy said. He fulfilled that dream in 1980 when he opened “Ireland’s Own Restaurant and Pub” at 111 N. Pitt St. The shop moved from South Washington Street to 415 King St. one year later in 1981. Both businesses open onto Tavern Square.

Their two children are now grown. Son Patrick is 36 and daughter Kathleen is 31. And, Pat and Bernadette have a new focus in their lives — Kathleen’s 16 month old daughter Mairead, which is Gaelic for Margaret.

“I decided to give up the store now to help take care of my grandchild while her mother works,” Bernadette Troy said. “But, I still plan to go in to the shop part-time when Patricia needs me.”

That need is a given as far as Theobald is concerned. “I’m not letting Bernadette go that easy,” she said. “I’m counting on her help over the Christmas season and they’ll be going on the regular shopping trip to Ire-



**Bernadette Troy with her granddaughter Mairead which is Gaelic for Margaret.**

land with me.”

**WHAT MAKES** The Irish Walk such a treasure is that it is stocked with authentic Irish merchandise that has been personally selected by the Troys on vacation/buying trips to Ireland every year. “It’s been an institution in our city. People come from all over to visit and shop The Irish Walk and visit the restaurant as well,” said Pat Troy.

“When we first started The Irish Walk there was very little to sell. We went over



**Pat and Bernadette Troy of Alexandria met with Pope Benedict XVI during their trip to the Vatican in September 2008. “We went to Italy specifically to see the Pope,” Pat Troy said. “It was very moving to receive a papal blessing.” The Troys, who reside in Old Town, are members of St. Mary’s Catholic Church. Pat Troy, owner of Ireland’s Own Restaurant and Pub, 111 N. Pitt St., is the founder of Alexandria’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade and the City’s Irish Festival. Bernadette Troy recently sold The Irish Walk shop, 415 King St., which she operated for 36 years.**

to Ireland ourselves and we had to walk from one individual supplier to another to pick out various items,” he said.

“We’d go over for a vacation and the whole time was spent shopping and buying merchandise for the store. Now, the products are available in centralized locations. But, everything in the store is pure Ireland,”

Pat Troy said.

That claim was buttressed by several longtime customers. “I have been shopping at The Irish Walk since it relocated to King Street. And, it’s not just a shop to me, Bernadette and I have become good

SEE CHANGE, PAGE 32

# City Schools Face Sudden Jump in Enrollment

FROM PAGE 1

language newspapers might not have a full appreciation for how closely this community follows immigration policy,” said Jim Boulet Jr., executive director of a Springfield-based lobbying group English First. “Alexandria put out the welcome mat to illegal immigrants, so it shouldn’t be surprising to anyone that this is happening.”

**DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS** show that 56 percent of the new students are Hispanic, a phenomenon that Boulet said was a direct result of the resolution City Council adopted last year. After the council unanimously adopted the resolution in October 2007, Boulet said that Alexandria had become what he called a “sanctuary city,” and he predicted a spike in school enrollment as a result of the council’s action. Yet others challenged the idea that a symbolic resolution would have had much impact on enrollment trends in a city that already has a reputation of being a welcoming community for immigrants.

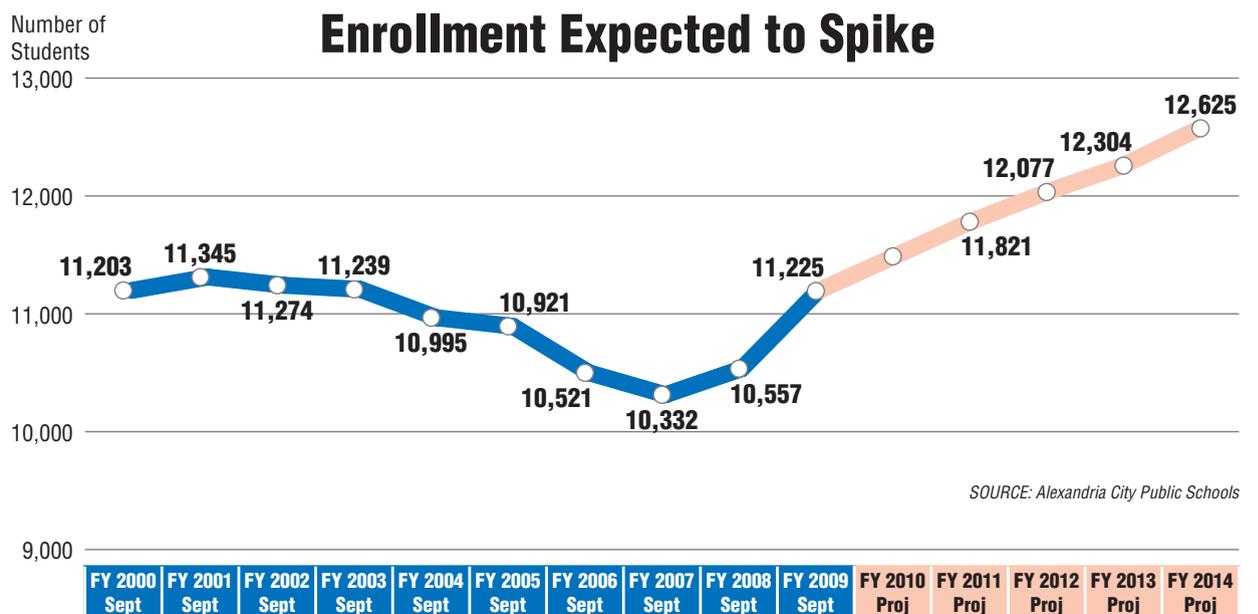
“I bet you polled the parents of these new students you would learn that none of them have even heard of this resolution,” said John Liss, executive director of Tenets and

Workers United. “But to the extent that Alexandria rejects racist and xenophobic policy of Prince William County, I think it’s true that more people are moving here.”

School officials are responding to the increase by hiring more teachers, especially at the Kindergarten level. Superintendent Morton Sherman said that the division has added 97 Kindergarten students since the first day of school in September, with most of the increase taking place at West End schools such as Tucker Elementary School, Ramsay Elementary School, Adams Elementary School and Polk Elementary School.

Some students at Tucker have already

## Enrollment Expected to Spike



SOURCE: Alexandria City Public Schools

GRAPH BY LAWRENCE FOONG/GAZETTE PACKET

been moved to other schools to account for the overcrowding there.

“We had a trough in enrollment over the past couple of years, and there’s all kinds of theories about why that occurred,” Sherman said during a recent School Board

meeting. “So when the enrollments when down a couple of years, it changed the projections for the future, and we might have underprojected because of that. But we are very similar to other school divisions in the area.”

NEWS

# In the Line of Duty

New signs honor the only unsolved murder of an Alexandria Police officer

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Elton Burdette Hummer may be gone, but he is not forgotten. The 30-year-old Alexandria police sergeant was killed while working his beat in 1928 — the only unsolved murder in the history of the department. The cold case was all but forgotten until researcher Amy Bertsch included information about the case in a book about the history of the Alexandria Police Department.

When Bertsch, who is the spokeswoman for the Office of Historic Alexandria, addressed the Alexandria Historical Society about Hummer's case, then-president Doug Thurman began wondering about finding a way to honor the fallen police officer. Bertsch and Thurman began collaborating with the Old Town Civic Association, which made a formal request to the city's Naming Com-

mittee. Last week, new street signs were installed designating the newly created "Hummer Alley."

"I'm so proud that these signs were able to go up for the 80th anniversary of his death," said Thurman, who lives in a Duke Street house next to where Hummer once lived. "This is someone who was kind of forgotten, so it's great to see these signs up honoring this man."

A native of Loudoun County, Hummer grew up on a farm near present-day Sterling. He moved to Alexandria in 1912, when his sister married a railroad worker. Although his professional background is unclear, Hummer likely worked for the railroad for a few years because some city records identify him as a "fireman," a job that involved shoveling coal into the firebox of a train engine. He joined the police force on Aug. 17, 1927 and was issued badge number 15. Hummer must have been a fine officer, because he was al-



PHOTO BY AMY BERTSCH

**Recently installed signs proclaim the newly named Hummer Alley, scene of an unsolved murder.**

most immediately promoted to the rank of sergeant on June 1, 1928. The Alexandria Gazette described him as "fearless" and "one of the most popular officers on the force."

"This is a compelling case in part because it was never solved," said Bertsch, a former spokeswoman for the Alexandria Police Department. "We always say that we never forget our fallen officers, so this is a way for the community to remember the sacrifice of Sergeant Hummer."

SEE SIGNS, PAGE 28

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## U.S. Department of Energy GNEP PEIS Public Hearing



The Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) is inviting comments related to the Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (GNEP PEIS). Comments will assist DOE in finalizing the PEIS. The PEIS assesses the potential environmental consequences of the reasonable alternatives to support expansion of domestic and international nuclear energy production while reducing the risks associated with nuclear proliferation and reducing the impacts associated with spent nuclear fuel requiring geologic disposal. No siting decisions will be made based on the PEIS. DOE will conduct public hearings to discuss issues and receive comments as follows:

**Tuesday, December 9**

Holiday Inn Capitol

550 C Street SW

Washington, DC 20024

**Open House:** 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

**Public Hearing:** 1:00 p.m.

The public hearings will include brief presentations about NEPA and the GNEP program, followed by an opportunity for oral public comments. Public comments on the Draft PEIS will be accepted through the end of the public comment period on December 16, 2008.

Comments on the Draft PEIS can be submitted by mail to Mr. Frank Schwartz at:

GNEP PEIS Document Manager, Office of Nuclear Energy

U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0119, by Fax: 866-489-1891, or at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

Please mark envelopes and e-mails as "Draft GNEP PEIS Comments".

If you have questions about the Draft PEIS, or require special assistance at the public meetings, please call

1-866-645-7803.

See [www.gnep.energy.gov](http://www.gnep.energy.gov) for additional information on GNEP.

## NEWS

# Downturn Has Human Cost

FROM PAGE 1

are least able to cope with current trends. "The folks who are coming to us for help are not your usual suspects," said Terri Freeman, executive director of the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region. "These are your neighbors, folks who have been gainfully employed as teachers and professionals."

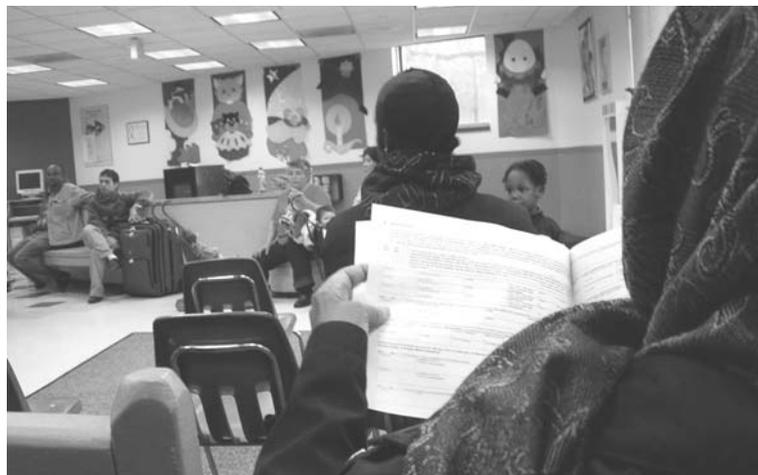
**THOSE WHO ARE** involved in the nonprofit community say that part of the problem is the number of nonprofit agencies in the city, many of which have overlapping missions. Although increasing communication among the agencies would help alleviate unnecessary duplication, many of the organizations could benefit by sharing "backroom services" such as accounting and personnel management. Meanwhile, nonprofit leaders say, the impulse to protect turf needs to be tempered in favor of accomplishing goals.

"We need to be concerned about the survival of the mission," said Katherine Morrison, president of Morrison Nonprofit Transitions. "We don't need to be concerned about the survival of nonprofits."

Recent economic trends indicate that the problems are growing worse with every monthly financial report. According to the Department of Real Estate Assessments, the number of foreclosures in Alexandria rose from 72 during the first eight months of 2007 to 227 in the first eight months of 2008. In a recent memorandum outlining the city's financial health, City Manager Jim Hartmann warned that that next year's real-estate assessments are expected to decline between 5 percent and 6 percent. This phenomenon will contribute to existing shortfalls during a time when the strain on Human Services is expected to expand.

"The U.S. financial system is in a period of turbulence more severe than any since the 1930s," wrote Hartmann. "The city's unemployment rate of 3.2 percent, while low by Virginia and national standards, is at its highest level in four years."

**STRADDLING THE DEMAND** for more services during a time of declining resources for government



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

**The waiting room at the city's Department of Human Services building on Mount Vernon Avenue has seen a steep increase in the number of people applying for help.**



**Councilman Rob Krupicka, left, said that Alexandria residents need to consider taking up the slack where government providers and nonprofit agencies are unable to meet the demand for human services.**

agencies and nonprofit organizations will be a difficult challenge. Yet some say the situation is an opportunity to restructure the city's social safety net in a way that might insulate it from future problems. Councilman Rob Krupicka said that individual citizens must be prepared to step in and help out when government providers or nonprofit agencies are no longer able to help.

"It's not just about writing checks," said Krupicka, adding that he expected the downturn to last anywhere from 18 to 24 months. "Maybe your neighbor needs a ride to the doctor because the Senior Taxi service doesn't have the funds to expand."

## Burke & Herbert Names New Vice President

Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Company has announced the appointment of Nicholas Greksouk as vice president. He brings 27 years of public accounting and financial experience to the Alexandria based bank.



**Nicholas Greksouk**

"We are extremely proud that someone with Nick's expertise has joined our bank. Nick is an outstanding professional with a great depth of experience as a CPA and in financial management. He will greatly enhance our financial team

and help us in our goal to operate in a more efficient and profitable manner," said E. Hunt Burke, president and COO, Burke & Herbert Bank.

A graduate of the University of Virginia, Greksouk has worked in the accounting field since 1980, most recently as the CFO and Treasurer at Robinson Export and

Import Corporation.

He was also a partner with McGladrey & Pullen and their pre-

decessor firms.

Greksouk served as chairperson of committees in the D.C. Institute of CPAs and the Virginia Society of CPAs. He has been an active member of Kiwanis and Senior Services of Alexandria as well as serving on the Board of Directors of Elder Crafters. He lives in Fairfax County with his wife, Patty, and their five children.

"I am thrilled to join the most outstanding financial institution I have ever known. I am especially proud to work for a bank that is so dedicated to the community it serves and one that is ranked so highly for safety and soundness," Greksouk said.

# City Advises: Shop Locally

FROM PAGE 3

at intersections along the main drag to let shoppers know what businesses lurk on the side streets.

"The timing is difficult," said Phyllis Kennedy, owner of the Enchanted Florist. "If I had known about this six weeks ago, I might have been able to do something about it. But at this point I'm going to have to hope that one of my neighbors will create a sign for our block."

The sandwich board signs are currently a code violation, with inspectors confiscating them when discovered. But during last week's City Council meeting, Councilman Rob Krupicka proposed an emergency ordinance allowing the signs although he made it clear that he did not want to see a proliferation of the signs along King Street. Instead, he said, the ordinance will allow retailers on each block to coordinate efforts and create a sign advertising all their businesses.

"This is not going to solve our economic challenges, and I'm not going to pretend it is," said Krupicka. "But it's one thing we can do."

**ANOTHER INITIATIVE** that city officials are promoting is "Buy Alexandria," which was formally launched by Mayor Bill Euille on Monday. A press release announcing the program described the effort as "an educational and marketing campaign encourag-

ing the Alexandria community to buy in Alexandria in an effort to strengthen the economic vitality of the city." If each household spent \$612 in Alexandria this holiday season, which is the national average for seasonal gifts, city officials estimate it would generate enough money to pay for five police officers or cover the average city snow plowing costs for one snowfall.

"Your purchases, from big-ticket items to everyday necessities, directly benefit the city's tax base," said Euille in a written statement launching the initiative. "Buying in Alexandria and spending our dollars here will strengthen our economy, and help sustain the excellent services Alexandrians are accustomed to receiving."

With Alexandria retailers facing competition from Arlington and Fairfax counties, the "Buy Alexandria" initiative is an attempt to prompt city residents from thinking twice before leaving the city limits to do their holiday shopping. The plan was hailed by a number of businesses Monday, although some West End retailers are concerned that "local businesses" might be narrowly interpreted as Old Town retailers.

"My concern in Landmark Mall," said Charniele Herring, president of the West End Business Association. "If we had the kind of revitalization that we so desperately need on the West End, our tax base would already be stronger without this effort."

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NEWS

# Tickets Going Digital

Say goodbye to handwritten traffic tickets and expect more citations for violators.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria public-safety officials are preparing to enter a bold new world of issuing digital summons, ditching the hard-to-read handwritten paperwork in favor of a new electronic format that is expected to save time and money. A pilot version of the new hardware, which is about twice the size of a Blackberry, will be issued to all 11 motorcycle police officers early next year. And special software is being installed on all patrol-cruiser laptops that will allow widespread use of the new technology. City officials say that the increased efficiency will expand the number of citations that are written and the amount of fines that will be collected.

"We anticipate that there will be more citations writ-

ten because it will take less time," said Lt. Jamie Bartlett, commander of the traffic section of the Alexandria Police Department. "And it will give us an increased ability to site for multiple violations — say speeding and a seat-belt violation — that maybe now would go uncited because of the time it would take to write that second citation."

City officials have already paid \$142,000 to a Florida-based company known as Advanced Public Safety for the hardware and software that will be used in the pilot project. The hand-held devices will come complete with miniature printers to issue

hard-copy citations to violators, and three different versions of the software will be installed on the police-issue laptop computers. Although there is an initial cost for implementing the pro-

**"Sometimes a U looks like a V or a N looks like an M, but I can't complain because my handwriting is not that great."**

— General Court Chief Judge **Becky Moore**

SEE EFFICIENCY, PAGE 9



Bank officers and staff from Burke & Herbert worked the phones in the cafeteria in the early part of the evening. Pictured are President of Burke & Herbert Hunt Burke, his daughter Jean and a friend of Jean's from school, Lilly.



The main office at T.C. Williams was opened up as an additional phone bank. Senior Stephanie Mani makes calls for the reception desk.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE



Alpha Delta Kappa member Ruth Brannigan stirs up Sloppy Joe's in the kitchen before bringing it in to the volunteers.

## Calling for Scholarship Dollars



Comcast executive Maria Schuyler and School Board member Blanche Maness during the Sunday evening annual telethon.

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# Increasing Efficiency

FROM PAGE 8

gram, officials say, it will save time and money in the long run while increasing revenues.

"The seamless electronic docketing will probably save about three minutes per case, and we have about 700 cases a week on the traffic docket," said JeAnne Rosson, clerk of the General District Court. "So this will cut down on the time it takes to enter data and the cost of the paper that's used in that process."

The technology that will be used in the program originated in Florida, and vendors have been attending judicial conferences across the county to promote their products. Augusta County was the first jurisdiction in Virginia to implement the technology, and Alexandria hopes to follow closely behind as an innovator in the field. Aside from saving time and money, the new system is expected to bring a greater sense of accuracy to the courthouse, where hun-

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE



**APD Officer Dan Schultz writes out a summons in his cruiser on Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray.**

dreds of handwritten documents must be deciphered on a daily basis.

"Sometimes a U looks like a V or a N looks like an M, but I can't complain because my handwriting is not that great," said General Court Chief Judge Becky Moore. "Apparently the parking-enforcement officers already have some sort of handheld device, but those don't translate by computer. So this will also save the labor costs of having to reenter that data as well."

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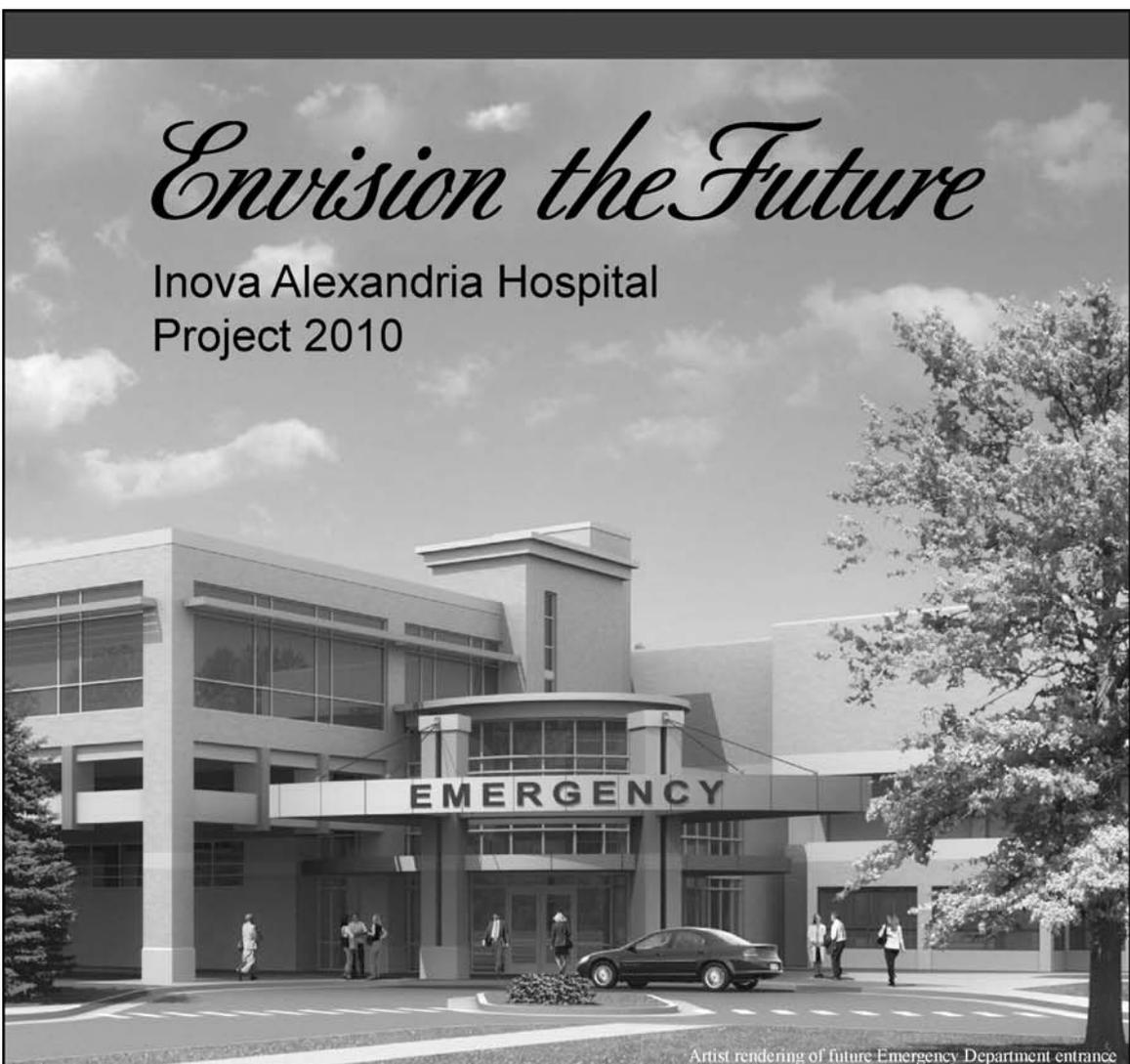
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# Envision the Future

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Artist rendering of future Emergency Department entrance

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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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# OPINION

## Shop Locally Local shops help define community, and this year, they need local support.

The economic situation is daunting, and it's probably true that most families, even families who feel financially secure, will be more frugal in this holiday season than in the past.

But we're pretty sure that almost all of us will be doing some significant holiday shopping in the next month. While you're at it, be sure to spend a portion of your shopping dollars close to home.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of the shopping in some of the area's locally

owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

Small retail shops are part of what defines any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fund raising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face some of the toughest challenges imaginable right now. The costs of being in business have grown tremendously while revenues are not.

Competition from Big Box stores, expanded shopping malls and the Internet make the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. In this area, almost everyone will do some shopping via the Internet.

But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores.

## Give Locally

### Local charities seeing unprecedented demand from struggling families for food and other help.

Putting food on the table for the family. It's such a basic activity and most of us are lucky enough to make choices of what we'll buy at the grocery store, whether this is a carry-out night or an eat-out night one or more days a week.

Meanwhile local charities and food banks are finding it hard to gather enough food to keep up with the demand from people who are suddenly unable to afford enough food to put on the table for their families.

Housing costs, the foreclosure crisis, spiking energy and food costs over the past year and other economic woes have put a tremendous strain on working poor families in Northern Virginia.

Included in The Gazette Packet over the past few weeks and in coming weeks are stories and listings of local organizations that help local families in need and especially nonprofit groups that provide help to families during the holiday season. These organizations report that while demand is up dramatically, contributions are down. They need your help to respond to increasingly needy families.

Here is a partial listing of local organizations that help the needy, every one is facing intense and increasing demand for services. Read more at [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com).

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

### EDITORIALS

#### To Help

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- ❖ **ALIVE (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically)**, [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org)
- ❖ **Child and Family Network Centers**, 3701A Mount Vernon Avenue Alexandria, 703-836-0214, [www.cfnc-online.org](http://www.cfnc-online.org)
- ❖ **Christ House, Catholic Charities**, urgently needs 19 turkeys and other items for its Christmas dinner for the hungry. 131 S. West Street, Alexandria, 703-548-4227 (monetary assistance); 703-549-8644 (shelter). [www.cdda.net/programs\\_christhouse.php](http://www.cdda.net/programs_christhouse.php)
- ❖ **Alexandria Holiday Sharing Program**, Contact Suzanne Kratzok at 703.838.0762, e-mail [holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov](mailto:holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov) or visit [www.ourkids-ourbusiness.org/thefundforalexchild](http://www.ourkids-ourbusiness.org/thefundforalexchild)
- ❖ **Bethany House of Northern Virginia** needs donations and volunteers for its Christmas Shop. Registry of needed items at Target or Wal-Mart under Bethany (first name) House (last name) or contact Jennifer Wassermann, 703-658-9500, [jwassermann@bhvnv.org](mailto:jwassermann@bhvnv.org).

## Thanksgiving in Challenging Times

BY MORTON SHERMAN  
ALEXANDRIA SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS

May we be grateful for the passing of dark days; for the new spirit of dependence one on another; for the closer unity of all parts of our wide land; for the greater friendship be-

tween employers and those who toil.

This sentiment seems especially meaningful as we gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving during these uncertain and challenging times. Yet, this relevant passage dates to 1933, when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke these words as part of his annual

Thanksgiving Proclamation during the Great Depression.

Despite the current economic crisis, those of us in Alexandria City Public Schools have much for which to be thankful. We are privileged to experience a "spirit of dependence one on another" in which the residents of this great city value children and education. Students have benefited from a strong economy for the past several years. As a result of new programs and initiatives, we have seen a steady rise in student achievement. ACPS students are enrolling in more advanced courses and increasing their achievement in those courses. Eighty-four percent of T.C. Williams High School graduates leave school with plans to continue into higher education, and they attend such prestigious universities as Harvard, Brown,



Stanford, Yale, Princeton, Cornell, University of Virginia and William and Mary.

Enrollment is up, close to 7 percent this year, the highest percent increase of any school division in the state. Ten elementary teachers have been added since August in an effort to maintain the small class sizes that we know help our students learn.

**THERE IS MUCH** for which to be thankful, and there is much work to be done. We must remain on a path of continuous improvement, striving to ensure that each and every student in Alexandria reaches his or her highest potential. Maintaining small class sizes is important, as well as enhancing science instruction, increasing authentic writing, ensuring more stu

SEE THANKSGIVING, PAGE 32

### Snapshot

"Bovine Ends an Epidemic" from the Cows in History contest by T.C. Williams graduate Songsera Wood. Main Office at T.C. Williams High School, Nov. 23, 7:28 p.m.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

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**Steven Mauren**  
Editor, 703-917-6431  
[smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Michael Lee Pope**  
Reporter, 703-615-0960  
[alexandriagazette@yahoo.com](mailto:alexandriagazette@yahoo.com)

**Chuck Hagee**  
Reporter, 703-549-1216  
[cg.hagee@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:cg.hagee@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Rebecca Halik**  
Editorial Asst., 703-917-6407  
[rhalik@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:rhalik@connectionnewspapers.com)

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**Photography:**  
Louise Krafft, Robbie Hammer

**Art/Design:**  
Zohra Aslami, Geovani Flores,  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
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**Production Manager:**  
Jean Card

**Editor Emeritus:**  
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**CIRCULATION: 703-917-6481**  
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**Peter Labovitz**  
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**Mary Kimm**  
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer  
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# LETTERS

## The Deadliest Cancer

To the Editor:

I applaud the City of Alexandria for proclaiming November 2008 as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. Less known than other cancers, pancreatic cancer is considered the deadliest; 75 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis and 95 percent die within five years. Sadly, my own father, Thomas Rief, became a casualty of this vicious disease on Sept. 2, 2008. He was diagnosed on July 24, 2007 — his 63rd birthday — just three months after the birth of his only grandchild. It has been difficult to accept that my daughter will now grow up without the presence of her grandfather in her life.

In 2008, over 37,680 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. At present there is no cure for this disease, and shockingly, there have been no significant improvements in early detection, treatment methods, or survival rates in the last 25 years. When symptoms of pancreatic cancer do appear — such as jaundice, pain in the abdomen, digestive prob-

lems and weight loss — it is usually too late for an optimistic prognosis. I believe that increased awareness and additional funding for research can change these grim statistics and save lives. To learn more, I encourage readers to visit [www.pancan.org](http://www.pancan.org).

**Michelle Rief**

Volunteer, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Alexandria

## Time for Reform

To the Editor:

On Monday, Dec. 1, the Alexandria Democratic Committee will choose between a caucus and a primary to nominate City Council candidates for the key election in May to select City Council members for the next three years. This will be an especially critical period for the Council because they will have to be careful stewards of taxpayer money in lean budget years. In a time of diminishing resources and a large increase in the number of people who voted Democratic in Alexandria this year, selecting City Council candidates is far too important to be left to a caucus. We owe it to all Democrats, both longtime and newly

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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**New Listing**



**8336 Hunter Murphy Circle | \$335,000**

Fantastic three-level brick front town home with three master suites! Featuring a spacious, open eat-in kitchen with 42" cabinets and center island, separate laundry and pantry storage, main level formal living room with crown molding, large family room, huge rear deck and fenced yard with paved patio. Excellent location minutes to Fort Belvoir, the George Washington Parkway and Old Town Alexandria. [www.joydeevy.com](http://www.joydeevy.com) for more photos.

Joy Deevy | 703 930-5198 Alexandria/Mt Vernon

**One Level Living**



**3609 Embassy Lane | \$365,000**

Centrally located, this home is minutes to everything with easy access to shopping, schools, parks, public transportation, community events, and all major commuter routes! A perfect sanctuary, this home is the ideal retreat after a long day's work. The wonderful large lot with mature trees offers the utmost in privacy and the fenced rear yard offers a deck and patio ideal for entertaining. This home offers an updated kitchen with 42" maple cabinets, newer appliances, HW floors, spacious room sizes, & wood burning fireplace. [www.joydeevy.com](http://www.joydeevy.com) for more photos.

Joy Deevy | 703 930-5198 Fairfax

**Elegant Living**



**2205 Sherwood Hall Lane | \$529,000**

Classic colonial home on a large lot with elegant features and charming atmosphere. Grand foyer, decorator paint colors, hardwood flooring and a flowing floor plan make this home an ideal choice. Beautifully maintained and lovingly updated, this home boasts an eat-in kitchen, formal dining space, oversized living room and cozy family room with sliding door to deck. Four bedrooms on the upper level, including a master suite with sitting room and updated ceramic bathroom. Great South Alexandria location!

Cathy D'Antuono | 703-819-3077 Alexandria S

**Just Listed**



**6481 Cheyenne Drive #203 | \$349,000**

Stylish and rare 3 bedroom, 2 bath condo in conveniently located Windy Hill. Open floor plan with Pergo flooring in kitchen, living room and dining room, 9-ft ceilings, one car detached garage, loads of light and terrific storage. Great space with 1322 sq ft, bright living room with large balcony over looking pool, three nice sized bedrooms, renovated baths, breakfast bar, full size washer/dryer, one detached garage, one reserved parking space and two guest spaces. Welcome home.

Yvonne S. Croft | 703 973-1540 Alexandria

**Land for Sale**



**4800 Old Mill Road | \$425,000**

**Rare find in Mount Vernon!** Spacious half acre lot, already cleared with sewer and water lines in place. If desired, plans for new home available. Application pending with Fairfax county. A rare opportunity to buy land and build the home of your dreams!! Seller is local custom builder and will finance purchase - make it an easy transaction! Take a look today! Take George Washington Parkway south to Mansion, take 235 south to second light. Take right on Old Mill Road, property on right.

Rachel Carter | 703 851-4207 Mount Vernon

**Classic Colonial**



**6154 Old Telegraph Road | \$799,000**

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

Cathy D'Antuono | 703-819-3077 Wilton Woods

**Price Reduction**



**4849 Gainsborough Drive | \$515,000**

Great opportunity to acquire a 2 car garage with room to spare in Kings Park West. Home with large family room addition off the eat-in kitchen and opens to a large private backyard. Enjoy fenced yard, large shed and plenty of firewood for two 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...

Mac Suggs | 703 226-9938 Fairfax

**Fairfax Bank Foreclosure**



**3720 Prosperity Avenue | \$825,000**

Attractive home, private location, set back off of the road. 3,209 sq ft of finished living space, side-load garage, fireplace, deck, two story foyer, family room off the kitchen, sun room and den or library. Master BR suite w/sitting room and huge his/her bathroom. Other two bedrooms have their own baths. Unfinished basement is walks out level to side yard. Shows well. Bank-owned.

Sherry York | 703 625-3377 Fairfax

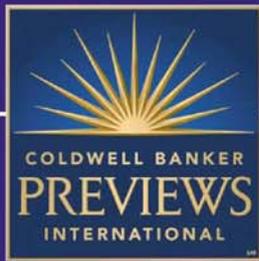
**Great Rental 15 minutes to DC**



**27 Abingdon Street S | \$2,500**

Spacious, three level town home (2600+ sq ft) close in location with only a 15 minute commute to DC. Three bedrooms, 2.55 baths, two fireplaces, hardwood floors, backyard patio, gas forced air heat, and central AC. Easy access to everything. This home is vacant and ready for new tenants. It wont last! Please call Will Roberts for additional information.

Wil Roberts | 703 477-6556 Alexandria



# Previews International

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## City Living At It's Best

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**227 North Lee Street**  
**\$1,250,000**

Beautiful 3 BR, 3 1/2 BA townhouse just steps from King Street and the scenic Old Town waterfront. This home effortlessly blends old and new to create the ideal living space! Handsome moldings, tray ceilings, hardwood floors, plentiful recessed lighting and many elegant details. The luxurious master bedroom suite features a bay window, gas log fireplace, and a shining marble bath with dual sinks, Jacuzzi and separate glass-enclosed shower. There are two additional "bedroom suites", an upper level family room, formal living and dining rooms and a sparkling eat-in chef's kitchen with granite. Two off-street parking places, and come Spring, look forward to enjoying the rooftop skyline from the sunny private patio!

Jane Cole | 703 682-5407

Old Town

## Old Town Classic

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**718 Queen Street**  
**\$859,000**

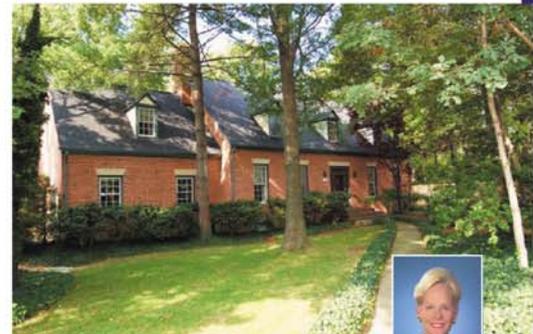
Impeccably maintained red brick Victorian backing to open parkland in the heart of Old Town. Classic hardwoods, high ceilings, large room sizes. Two large bedrooms upstairs with nice den that could be a third bedroom. Huge gourmet kitchen with 48" maple Shaker cabinets, Sub Zero, Asko, 36" Viking stove and hood. Custom granite. Loads of storage. Delightful brick garden that backs to historic park. Shows very well. **Motivated seller and a great value at \$859,000.**

Clay Schoeffel | 703 518-6166

Old Town

## Reduced

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**3750 Seminary Road**  
**\$1,495,000**

This lovely brick Williamsburg colonial is nestled on a corner lot overlooking the beautiful Seminary grounds. Perfect for gracious entertaining and comfortable family living, this 5 bedroom plus 4 1/2 + 1/2 bath residence features an elegant living room, gracious formal dining room, updated eat-in kitchen, first floor family room plus comfortable den. The finished lower level is a terrific retreat with its large recreation room and game room, plus an au pair or mother-in-law suite. The many special features of this fine home include thick detailed molding, hardwood floors, four fireplaces and a two car garage. Just reduced to \$1,495,000.

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](http://www.phyllispatterson.com)

Phyllis Patterson | 703 518-6158

New Alexandria

## Gorgeous Belle Haven

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**2003 Glen Drive**  
**\$1,775,000**

A stunning Belle Haven estate in a grand setting that exudes grace and charm with a sophisticated blend of today's comforts. With six bedrooms, including a private au-pair suite, five and a half baths, two fireplaces, welcoming sunroom, dramatic central staircase and a large finished basement leading to private terraces. These are just a few of the features that make this home extra special!

Karen Leonard | 703-328-7041

Alexandria S

## Custom Home

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**912 Clifton Drive**  
**\$2,795,425**

Gorgeous, new, custom home located just off East Blvd Drive along the GW Parkway, this home has the feel of yesterday with today's amenities. Wide planked floors, coffered ceilings, stone FP, back staircase, archways, multi-piece moldings and hand made paneling on 3/4 acre. Both main and upper level masters plus 4 BR suites, library, catering center, kids mud room, fitness and theater, hobby and reading rooms. Wired for home media/technology, three car garage.

Phyllis Patterson | 703 518-6158

Wellington

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# Diabetes Education: Take Control of Your Life

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO  
INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



The aroma of your favorite Thanksgiving meal wafts through the air to your dinner table, where you are patiently waiting to savor every bite. As the dishes are placed before you, the first thought that enters your mind is not how appetizing the meal looks, unfortunately, your thoughts are focused on your diabetes.

November is American Diabetes Awareness month.

The Inova Alexandria Hospital Diabetes Center has a class to meet every diabetes

educational need through group classes and one-on-one sessions. Our Center is accredited by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and is staffed by registered dietitians and nurses, many of whom are Certified Diabetes Educators.

Diabetes, a disease in which the body doesn't produce or properly use insulin, affects nearly 25 million Americans according to the ADA.

There are several types of diabetes: Type 1 diabetes results from the body's inability to produce insulin. Nearly 10 percent of all Americans with diabetes are diagnosed with this type. Type 2 diabetes is a condition in which the body fails to properly use insulin. Most Americans who are diagnosed with

diabetes have this form of the disease. Gestational diabetes which occurs during pregnancy can usually lead to type 2 diabetes. Pre-diabetes is a condition that occurs when a person's blood glucose levels are higher than normal but not high enough for a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes. Anyone with pre-diabetes should make the effort to educate themselves about taking preventative measures to avoid developing diabetes.

The cause of diabetes is still unknown but physicians and researchers believe genetics, family history, diet, environmental factors and a lack of exercise play important roles in its development.

Diabetes can be treated and managed throughout life but unfortunately it can not be cured. If diligent effort is not made to maintain good control of the disease, seri-

ous complications such as high blood pressure, increased risk for heart disease and stroke, blindness, kidney disease, amputations and even death can occur. The key to preventing these serious and sometimes fatal complications is being stringent about monitoring blood glucose levels, living an active lifestyle and eating a balanced diet.

Since 1991 the Inova Alexandria Hospital Diabetes Center has helped thousands of people appropriately manage blood glucose levels and live a lifestyle that is more likely to prevent serious complications.

If you or someone you love has diabetes make sure you take the necessary steps to manage the disease so you can live a long and healthy life. For more information about the Inova Alexandria Hospital Diabetes Center call 703-504-3678.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

registered, to have a primary instead. And we owe it to the future of the Democratic Party in Alexandria.

Just look at the numbers:

❖ In the February 2006 Democratic caucus, just 1,695 voters nominated the Democratic Council slate, barely two percent of those who voted in the November 2006 election.

❖ In November 2008, 70,364 votes were tallied in Alexandria, up 14.4 percent from 2006's 61,515.

❖ President-elect Obama won almost 72 percent of Alexandria's vote in Alexandria, which means he received roughly 51,000 Democratic votes.

We can't risk losing those Democratic votes. We need to encourage Democrats to vote in all elections, not just every four years in the Presidential election. A caucus is a relic from an era long past, intentionally designed to discourage voter participation and maintain control of City Council by a small group of party insiders.

While many voters do not understand what a "caucus" is, or know where it's held, Virginia voters do know about primaries. Alexandria holds a June primary almost every year — even years for federal offices, odd years for state offices. Precinct voting locations are the same in primaries, so voters know where to vote — especially this year. Caucus locations often vary, and few people understand how they work. Many mistakenly believe that they have to stay for the entire time period, like the Iowa presidential caucuses and the nominating caucuses many other states hold. These factors decrease voter turnout as well.

Caucus voters also have to sign a loyalty pledge to the Democratic Party. Yet just last year the Virginia Democratic Party chair vigorously criticized Virginia Republicans for proposing a loyalty pledge for voters in their presidential nominating election, calling it "a slap in the face to voters." Not surprisingly, Republicans quickly withdrew their pledge requirement. To ignore our state party chair and insist on using the old procedures that discourage voter turnout makes no sense for Alexandria Democrats,

who are among the most progressive in the U.S.

To sum it up, the caucus is an archaic relic of a bygone era when a political machine ruled Virginia, the party adopted measures intended to discourage voter turnout, and a small number of party insiders sought to ensure their control of local elective offices. It's time to scrap this remaining vestige of a tainted system, and adopt a progressive nominating system that encourages wider participation in the nominating process instead. In other words, it's time to open the clubhouse door to everyone.

The solution is simple: Use a primary to nominate City Council candidates. It costs the city about \$20,000 per year, a very small price to pay for an election procedure that encourages instead of discourages, people to vote. Primaries are more open and more understandable. They make voting easier and encourage voter turnout. Choosing Council members through a caucus no longer makes sense, morally or politically. Alexandria Democrats should use a primary to nominate candidates for City Council and Mayor, most of all because it is the right thing to do.

**Boyd Walker**  
Alexandria

## How About 'Give Alexandria?'

To the Editor:

'Tis the season for giving but, most of us are concerned about preserving. To be more precise - preserving our own wealth. This makes it difficult to give money away. That said, those of us who usually give, will most likely still give. We'll just reduce the amount of dollars and charities to which we give. I am witnessing this perplexing situation in my practice. Many of my clients are truly philanthropic in intent, yet this year's stock market turmoil has left them a little shell shocked. They are still giving but are reducing the amount they give. In counseling clients on giving, I have been stressing local charities. It is not because I think Na-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 23

## Eco-City Charter Is Changing Alexandria

BY ROB KRUPICKA  
ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCILMAN

Alexandria recently received third place in the Virginia Municipal League's "Green Government Challenge" for Cities and Counties (with population over 90,000) throughout the state of Virginia. The VML initiative recognizes communities that take innovative steps to reduce energy usage and promote environmental sustainability. While Alexandria's environmental efforts have come a long way in the last few years, we need your help to make a real difference.

At the end of the Eco-City summit held earlier this year, the Alexandria government pledged to start making environmental changes immediately. Some of the most visible changes so far are in the area of recycling and hazardous waste collection. You can do your part for a greener Alexandria by taking advantage of these new services.

The City has dramatically increased those items eligible for curbside recycling. In addition to what you normally put in your yellow bin, please add: Plastic tubs and jars with lids (i.e. yogurt and cream cheese tubs and peanut butter jars), empty prescription bottles, plastic flower pots, buckets and pails, plastic film (grocery bags, shrink wrap, dry-cleaner bags, bubble wrap and other flexible plastic packaging) all contained within one tied-closed grocery bag, gable-top milk and juice cartons, empty non-hazardous aerosol cans, clean aluminum foil and trays, all books and all plastic lids and caps.

We hear from people who live in condos and apartments that they can't recycle. We are working to change that. The City has been working to create commercial and multi-family recycling pro-

grams. Businesses are now required to recycle at least the two materials they generate in the largest quantities. Multi-family units are required to recycle mixed papers and commingled containers such as glass, aluminum and plastic bottles. If you would like more information on either commercial or residential recycling, please visit <http://alexrecycles.org/> or call 703-519-3486.

Between increasing the types of materials that are recyclable curbside and getting the business and multi-family home community engaged, Alexandria can move closer to its goal of a 35 percent recycling rate (our current rate is 22 percent). You have a critical role to play; please take a moment to learn what can now be recycled and encourage others to do the same. We can't meet our recycling goals without your help.

In direct response to citizen requests, I asked the City to open the Household Waste Facility at 3600 Wheeler Ave. two, instead of one, days a week: Mondays and Saturdays, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This is the place to bring computers, compact fluorescent lights and other hazardous waste. Residents must bring photo ID for proof of residency. More information on what can be brought can be found online at <http://alexandriava.gov/tes/default.aspx>.

If you are interested in issues affecting the environment, I encourage you to get involved. You can learn more about the City's other Eco-City efforts at [www.alexandriava.gov/eco-city](http://www.alexandriava.gov/eco-city) or by calling 703-838-4966. The Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) (the City Council appointed volunteer body tasked with advising City Council on environmental issues) is working to create a comprehensive action plan of projects and policies that will help Alexandria become a more environmentally sustainable city.

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

# Scottish Walk Weekend: Alexandria Tradition

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**lexandria's holiday season officially kicks off with the traditional 38th Annual Scottish Walk Weekend Dec. 4-6. The highlight of that event is the Scottish Walk Parade on Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Under the aegis of The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St., the weekend actually commences on Thursday, Dec. 4, with the opening of the Christmas Marketplace at the Center at 10 a.m. The heather and green sale runs until Saturday at 5 p.m.

The Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., partners with the Center and the City to sponsor the annual parade which features over 100 Scottish clans dressed in their individual colorful tartans. There are also a variety of pipe and drum bands and a variety of dogs in the parade each year.

The real festivities commence Friday evening, Dec. 5 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, with the "Taste of Scotland," where festive Scottish attire is encouraged. This year it is presented by The Westin Hotel.

This event features various Scottish distillers presenting their products and a private shopping experience at an expanded Christmas Marketplace. The latter is composed of vendors offering an array of products from holiday ornaments and decorative items to handmade clothing items and art. Greens and heather are also available for purchase from the Center.

An exclusive Patrons Tasting Hour is held 7-8 p.m. with the public event commencing at 8 p.m. and concluding at 10 p.m. Tickets for this event range from \$100 for a single regular admission; \$150 for a single Patrons ticket; and \$250 for a couples Patron ticket. Raffle tickets are also available at \$25 each or five for \$100.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Center at 703-549-0111 Ext. 107; by visiting the Center's Web site at [www.campagnacenter.com](http://www.campagnacenter.com); or in person at the Center. All advanced sale tickets will be held at the door except those purchased in person at the Center. Advanced ticket pur-

chase is advised due to limited space.

In addition to the parade on Saturday, there is the "Holiday Designer Tour of Homes" from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year there are five historic properties professionally decorated for the holidays by acclaimed interior designers and local florists.

Properties open this year are 209 S. St. Asaph St., 404 S. Royal St., 19 Franklin St., 801 Duke St., and St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 228 S. Pitt St. The latter will be open only until 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at any of the properties the day of the tour.

From 3-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, is the Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights on the Potomac River. It commences with entertainment and restaurant tastings on the City Docks behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 195 N. Union St. Santa and Mrs. Claus are scheduled to arrive by fireboat at 3:30 p.m.

More than 50 brightly lit and decorated sail and powerboats will cruise along the river beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information on the event contact the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association at 703-838-4200 or visit [www.visitalexandriava.com](http://www.visitalexandriava.com).

**BUT, ALL THE FESTIVITIES** are not limited to Scottish Walk Weekend. They actually get under way this Friday, Nov. 28, at Market Square, 301 King St., with the lighting of Alexandria's Christmas Tree at 7 p.m. The event will be held rain or shine.



FILE PHOTO

**The Scottish Weekend is full of music, animals, guests and more.**

Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille will present a holiday message followed by a visit from Santa, a performance by Santa's Frosty's Follies by the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, and caroling with a community sing along.

On Saturday, Nov. 29, The Lyceum Museum, 201 S. Washington St., will feature a living history event entitled "Scottish Heri-

tage Preview." Meet Scottish Tartan Day leaders and learn about Scottish breed dogs while enjoying bagpipes, highland dancing, historical re-enactors and more. It is free and runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Also this Saturday, and again on Sunday, Nov. 29 and 30, Market Square will be filled with sounds of music of the season. Beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Alexandria Klezmer will present traditional and innovative Jewish music. She will be followed at 2 p.m. by Michael Mulvaney offering holiday and blues selections. Sunday, Nov. 30, Doris Justis will present folk and acoustic holiday music at 2 p.m. At 3 p.m. Lisa Taylor will offer more acoustic holiday selections.

Alexandria is noted for its love of dogs and that is only accentuated during the holiday season. To honor that devotion, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria will host "Pet Photos With Santa" at the Old Town School For Dogs, 529 Oronoco St., from Friday, Dec. 5 through Sunday, Dec. 7.

Both pets and people are welcome to pose with Santa. All proceeds will benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter. To schedule an appointment call 703-836-7643.

Scottish Walk Weekend is also the trigger for individual home decorating. For the next month a trip through almost any section of Alexandria is a trip throughout the world holiday decor. That is particularly true in Old Town.

## Designer/Author Signs Book, China

**Book on Washington's life as seen through his objects.**

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**I**n addition to being Commanding General of the Revolutionary Army and the first President of the United States, George Washington was an accomplished host at his Mount Vernon Plantation. For his multitude of guests he required an array of fine china.

Beginning in the spring of 1757 he ordered "white stone" tableware from England, also known as English white stoneware. His first order arrived in December of that year. It consisted of six dozen dinner plates and an array of complimenting pieces.

In the American colonies during the mid 1700's, the relatively inexpensive yet fashionable white-fired English stoneware was the most widely used table setting. It could be molded into a variety of specialized forms, which suited the needs of the bachelor Washington quite well.

One of his favorite patterns was known appropriately, in line with his entrepreneurial talents, as "Prosperity." The pattern was a glossy hard porcelain. It was both elegant

and practical.

**A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO**, the reproduction of that stoneware was introduced at The Shops at Mount Vernon by Wendy Kvalheim, the president of Mottahedeh China, and Carol Borchert Cadou, Mount Vernon's director of collections. They also signed copies of the respective books "From Drawing Board to Dinner Table" and "The George Washington Collection: Fine and Decorative Art at Mount Vernon" as well as pieces of Mottahedeh china purchased at The Shops.

Kvalheim acquired the 85-year-old fine china company located in Cranberry, N.J., near Princeton, in 1992 from its founders Mildred and Rafi Mottahedeh. "We specialize in antique reproductions of porcelain, brass, silver and crystal and hold a variety of museum licenses," Kvalheim said.

Right now only four pieces of the Prosperity pattern are available — a service plate, an oval platter, and two serving bowls — according to Kvalheim. However, there is a wide array of Mottahedeh china in The Shops in different patterns featuring every-

thing from vases and figurines to full table settings.

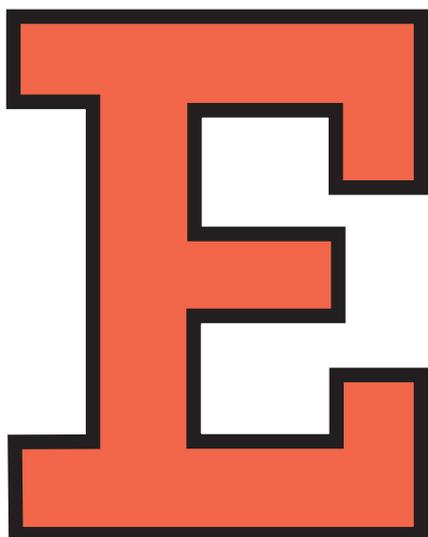
"I design our various products and my daughter Dana serves as the product coordinator. A given reproduction might consist of one plate or a variety of adaptations," she said.

Her book "From Drawing Board to Dinner Table" explains in detail some of the various reproductions produced by her company and the process of successfully achieving an authentic reproduction. The Mount Vernon Prosperity pattern is a glossy hard porcelain reproduction of the Staffordshire English Salt glaze ware.

It is stain proof, dishwasher safe and microwaveable. The unusual contrasting matte finished rim, although unglazed, is non-porous. The pattern was discovered during an archeological dig at the Estate, according to Cardou, who gave a detailed account on the subject during a lecture preceding the signing event.

"A well-set table was the mark of a gentleman in colonial America," Cardou told her

SEE SIGNING, PAGE 22



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

**An Evening of Celtic and Christmas Music**

**Saturday, December 6, 7:30 PM**

**Featuring:**

- ◆ Maggie Sansone, Hammered Dulcimer
- ◆ Sue Richards, Celtic Harp
- ◆ Laura Byrne, Irish Flute
- ◆ Pat Egan, Vocals and Guitar

**Sponsored by St Luke's Friends of Music**

**Tickets and Information:**  
 Call 703.765.4342; E-mail: stlukesfriendsofmusic@yahoo.com  
 Adults: \$18 | Seniors and Students: \$10 | Under 13: \$5

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church | 8009 Fort Hunt Road | Alexandria**

# HOLIDAY SHOPPING

## Shop 'The Shops'

A no-hassle holiday shopping trip to check out.

By CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE

Once again The Shops at Mount Vernon are a one-stop bonanza for any serious shopper this holiday season. There are items for every taste and every pocketbook.

Located at the southern terminus of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, just outside the entrance to Mount Vernon Estate, with free ample parking, The Shops offer gifts that will be cherished by any recipient for years to come. Many items are not just gifts, they offer the opportunity to bring history home for the holidays.

For any history buff one of the most spectacular offerings this season is the illustrated edition of Pulitzer prize winning author David McCullough's book "1776." This hardcover, coffee-table, 256-page book in its own red slip cover contains 140 images and 37 removable replicas of source documents, including a penned letter from George to Martha.

Priced at \$65, it is a must have for anyone who owns McCullough's 400-page novel that relates Washington's trials and tribulations prior to crossing the Delaware River that Christmas night, which changed not only American but world history. For those that do not have the New York Times best seller, "1776," it is also available at \$32 hardcover and \$18 paperback.

Also among The Shops' book offerings are newswoman Cokie Roberts' "Founding Mothers" and "Ladies of Liberty." The former is an intimate look at the patriotic women who played a crucial role in forming this new nation. The latter is a colorful blend of biographical information coupled with behind-the-scenes vignettes about the women, including first ladies, who blended their private lives and public roles.

Roberts' most recent treatise, the 481 page "Ladies of Liberty," is available only in hardcover at \$26.95. The 359 page "Founding Mothers" is available in both hardcover at \$24.95 and paperback at \$14.94.

**DURING THE RECENT** election cycle one of the most contentious issues was that of religion and its place in not only American society but also in American government. Separation of church and state is an ongoing debate from all angles and all inclinations.

Author Peter A. Lillback addresses that debate and attempts to clarify the line between separation of church and state and separation of God and government in his work "Wall of Misconception." It is priced at \$19.95.

One of the most unusual gifts at The Shops this year is the Byer's Choice Wooden Advent Calendar. This 15-inch by 18 and one half inch by three and one half inch three dimensional calendar bearing an image of the Mount Vernon Mansion was made exclusively for Mount Vernon. It sells for \$85. Twenty-four numbered doors allow for inserting small surprises to mark each day of advent until Christmas morning.

For those who prefer to give something edible, this

year there is Mount Vernon's own private label peanuts. They come in their own Mount Vernon picturesque tins containing either roasted salted, honey roasted or peanut squares. Prices range from \$2.75 to \$6.95 per tin.

For that something special for that someone special there is an array of amber jewelry. Martha Washington's inaugural necklace was made of large pieces of amber which dates back to prehistoric times.

As usual The Shops have an assortment of antique jewelry from necklaces, to bracelets to broaches. Prices range from a few hundred to thousands of dollars. "However, this year we are not expecting large sales in this area given the economic situation," said Julie Mosley, director of retail, Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens.

New to the jewelry line this year is the line of pewter jewelry made in Maryland. Individualized bracelets in this line begin at \$19.95. "People are asking for more American made items this year," Mosley said.

In the area of fine china, there is an entire array of Mottahedeh china from the recently introduced "Prosperity" line, which was a favorite of George Washington during his bachelor days, to "The Society of Cincinnati" settings.

Prices range from \$60 to \$385 depending on the design and number of pieces.

There are also porcelain creamware boxes that are designed to resemble the ceiling ornamentations within the various rooms of Mount Vernon Mansion. To complement this offering is the creamware ball designed specifically to hold a special packet of colonial potpourri from Maine. The ball sells for \$9.95 and the potpourri for \$16.50.

**ONE ITEM** that is only available at Mount Vernon and would make the perfect keepsake gift is the recently released bottle of Mount Vernon Whiskey from the newly reconstructed distillery adjacent to The Grist Mill. Selling for \$25, this limited edition boxed Vatted American Whiskey contains a 50 ML bottle of whiskey as well as a square, engraved shot glass.

On the fun side of the list is a stuffed camel for children known as George Washington Christmas Camel. A real live version will be at the Estate for the holidays. It seems that the father of our country had an attraction to exotic animals and plants. In 1787 he paid 18 shillings for a camel to spend the holidays at Mount Vernon to entertain the Washingtons and their guests.

For adults there is the George Washington bottle stopper that is also a snowball. It sells for \$7.50. And to get that bottle opened there is the George Washington cast iron bottle opener for \$10.95. Both of these items make perfect stocking stuffers.

And, last but far from least is the annual must gift for all Mount Vernon enthusiasts — the 2008 official Mount Vernon ornament which is priced at \$18.95. This year's offering is double sided and celebrates the 150th anniversary of the saving of George Washington's home by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

It comes in a decorated gift box with an educational enclosure. For a more complete list of what's available visit [MountVernon.org](http://MountVernon.org).

**Alexandria Country Day School**  
An Independent School Community

- 240 Students – Grades K-8
- Small Classes of 10-15 Students
- Award-Winning Faculty
- AM/PM Care Offered
- Transportation Available
- Acceptance in Top High Schools

Join Us for Our 2008-2009 Open House Events

**COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL**

9:00 - 10:30 am  
December 11  
January 14

2400 Russell Road • Alexandria, VA 22301  
Tel: 703-548-4804 • Fax: 703-549-9022  
[admissions@acdsnet.org](mailto:admissions@acdsnet.org) • [www.acdsnet.org](http://www.acdsnet.org)

**OLD TOWN'S FAVORITE**  
**COUNTRY FRENCH RESTAURANT**

**Le Refuge**

Old Town's most authentic country French restaurant since 1983

**Open Thanksgiving Day from Noon until 5 pm**

**3-Course Menu including the traditional turkey and gravy**

**Please make holiday reservations early**

127 N. Washington St., Old Town • 703-548-4661

**Smoke Free Restaurant**  
[www.lerefugealexandria.com](http://www.lerefugealexandria.com)



# LONG & FOSTER • ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN

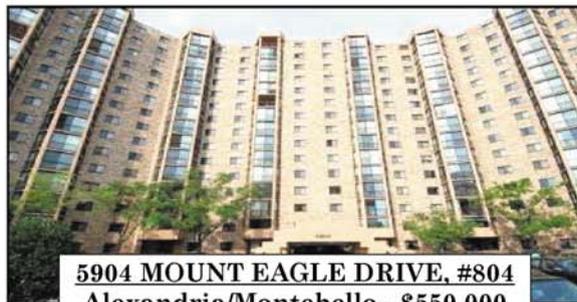
500 MONTGOMERY STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314  
WWW.OLDTOWNALEXANDRIA.COM • 703.548.3700



**403 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE #106**  
SALE \$399,900 or RENT \$1,995

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

[www.BobSkinnerHomes.org](http://www.BobSkinnerHomes.org)  
**Bob Skinner 703 - 585 - 6683**



**5904 MOUNT EAGLE DRIVE, #804**  
Alexandria/Montebello - \$550,000

Immaculate, move-in ready w/new carpet, fresh paint. Spacious room sizes; 2Br, 2Ba & Den w/ closet. Fabulous river & National Harbor views from practically every room. *See Virtual Tour.*

[www.susanmovesyou.com](http://www.susanmovesyou.com)  
**Susan Haughton 703-470-4545**



**1950 EMERSON DRIVE**  
Arlington - \$674,900

10,000 sq.ft lot with a quaint little Bungalow. Very motivated Seller. Great opportunity for Buyer looking for a fixer-upper on a large block. 2 blocks from Arlington Hospital and 2 miles from Ballston Common Mall.

**Anthony Saunders 571-214-2218**



**5218 MARIS AVENUE #5218**  
Alexandria - \$299,000

Spacious 2Br / 2Ba, 1,347 sq ft condo. Gour kit, open fl pl, MSTRBr w/own Bath/walk-in closet, full size W/D, Private Patio. Off N Van Dorn near Seminary - METRO shuttle to Pentagon. Located on quiet street, no traffic noise!

**Susan Batchelder 703-919-8359**



**126 ROBERTS LANE #300**  
Alexandria - \$365,000  
[www.126RobertsLane.com](http://www.126RobertsLane.com)

EXCEPTIONAL 3Br/ 3Ba END UNIT! 9' ceilings, windows galore, 2 level floor plan plus large balcony. Parking / Tennis / Pool /Pets. Less than 1/2 mile to King St METRO.

[www.DebVaRealtor.com](http://www.DebVaRealtor.com)  
**Deborah Alea 703-447-1315**



**2302 RANDOLPH AVENUE**  
Alexandria - \$519,900

Beautiful renovated Cape Cod in Del Ray. New Kit w/KitchenAid, SS appl, granite, slate fl. Original hwd main level, new Carpet/MSTR Br. In-law suite. Close to 2 METROs & Busline. Steps away from desirable Mt. Vernon Ave.

**Heidi Kohler 703-609-7367**



## "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  
*Gem!*

Updated Colonial in premier location near the river neighboring homes 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

- 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

*House is now  
 under roof and  
 awaiting your  
 finishing touches!*



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



**Old Town**  
**\$249,900**

### WHY RENT?

New at Potomac Crossing. This starter features 1 BR with ceiling fan and walk-in closet, white updated kitchen with ceramic floor, new bath with beige designer tiles and fixtures, pedestal sink, living room with built-in, fresh paint, perfect condition, 2nd floor location.

1704 Abingdon Drive #202

RENEE REYMOND  
703.507.5330



**Washington DC**  
**\$799,900**  
**DUPONT**

Stunning tree top views from this loft style 2-lvl condo. Hardwood floors, 2BRs/2BAs, gourmet kitchen w/BB, wood burning FP & wood stove in loft bedroom. Perfection in entertaining/stargazing from the 200 SF penthouse deck. Move-in ready. 1 parking space conveys.

1820 T Street NW #6

SEAN SATKUS  
KENDRA CAREY  
THE CAREY TEAM  
703.731.8086



**Alexandria**  
**\$869,000**

### VALUE PRICED!

Former model home boasts over 5,000 SF of living space on 3 finished levels, in private neighborhood minutes from Fort Belvoir and Metros! 4-5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, gourmet kitchen, sunroom, media and billiards room and so much more. Be in for the holidays!

7032 Clifton Knoll Court

KIM MUFFLER 703.282.7739



**Alexandria**  
**\$769,000**  
**FABULOUS**  
**YARD & DECK**

Come see this airy & bright 4BR/3BA home in Monticello Park. Covered patio, deck & wonderfully landscaped yard for entertaining. Other features: hdwd flrs, generous size LR w/fireplace framed by pretty mantle, DR opening to patio/yard plus sunny updated kit. LL Rec. Rm w/FP & 9 Ft. ceilings, with kitchen- an au pair /in-law suite.

507 Monticello Boulevard

MARY BOURKE 703.609.5825



**Alexandria Parker Gray Historic District**  
**\$525,000**

1210 QUEEN STREET  
"TRUE LOFTS"

European Feel ~ Parking Now Available  
2BR/2BA, Last chance, Only 1 Left!!

Gold Leed Certified  
First Green Bldg in Alexandria

MARTINE IRMER  
703.346.7283



**Alexandria**  
**\$295,000**  
**BELLE VIEW**

Bright 3 bedroom, 1 bath rarely available in Belle View with new windows, almost new appliances, renovated bathroom and lots of kitchen cabinets. Don't worry about your king size bed. It fits beautifully! [www.catherinefoltz.lnfre.com](http://www.catherinefoltz.lnfre.com)

6726 W. Wakefield Drive #A2

CATHERINE FOLTZ 703.626.6914



**Maryland**  
**\$1,149,000**  
**BEAUTIFULLY**  
**RENOVATED**

3-lvl, brick home with heated, salt water swimming pool, bounded by a natural barrier fence of trees. 2008 renovations include: Updated kit w/granite & new appl. Renovated spa bath on LL, 2 updated 2nd flr BAs/powder rooms. Recessed & new lighting fixtures. Fresh paint, refinished oak flrs, library shelving in Fam. Rm. Patio walk-out & new fence with gated entry & driveway.

9601 Accord Drive

SEAN SATKUS/KENDRA CAREY~ THE CAREY TEAM  
703.731.8086



**Alexandria**  
**\$899,999**  
**OFF SEMINARY**  
**ROAD**

Large 3-4BRs/3.5 BAs, 3 level Colonial with fully finished walk-out basement, 2 car garage, 2 fireplaces, spacious room off large gourmet kitchen with granite and breakfast nook, den/study library on first floor, luxury bath with 2 person jetted tub and separate shower, 2 story foyer, central vacuum, dual zone heat/CAC and situated on treed cul-de-sac.

4105 Faith Court

GARY ANSLEY 202.288.7946



**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



DEL RAY ARTISANS  
**Holiday Market**  
Artistic & Handcrafted Gifts



**FESTIVE RECEPTION**  
Friday, December 5, 7 - 9:30 pm

**HOLIDAY MARKET**  
Saturday, December 6, 10 am - 6 pm  
Sunday, December 7, 12 noon - 4 pm

**DEL RAY ARTISANS GALLERY**  
2704 Mt. Vernon Avenue  
Alexandria • 703.838.4827  
www.TheDelRayArtisans.org



**A Show of Hands  
3rd Anniversary  
and Holiday Party!**

We're raffling off this beautiful hand-crafted glass plate to celebrate our anniversary. So bring your out-of-town guests and family for hot cider, cookies and holiday cheer!

2204 Mt Vernon Ave  
Alexandria VA 22301  
703.683.2905  
www.ashowofhands.biz

Friday after Thanksgiving,  
November 28th, 11 am to 6pm

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

## CALENDAR

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

### OTHER ITEMS

Gadsby's Tavern Museum is now accepting applications for its new **Junior Docent Program**. After training, Junior Docents will be able to give tours and assist with public programs including candlelight tours, 18<sup>th</sup>-century teas, open houses and other special events. Students in grades 2 through 5 are invited to join Gadsby's staff for a training series Sunday afternoons early next year. Classes will be held from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 18, Jan. 25, and Feb. 1. These free classes will cover basic history and presentation skills to prepare Junior Docents to help with museum special events. To receive an application, call 703-838-4242. Applications are due by Wednesday, Dec. 17.

This holiday season, River Farm will be a collection site for **Toys for Tots**, an organization that gives toys to needy children in the United States. To make a donation, drop off unwrapped, new toys in the collection box in the estate house by Dec. 16. 703-768-5700 ext. 114.

### ONGOING

**Mount Vernon Community bands** need members. All concert band musicians wanted. Most needed are: oboes, bassoons, French horns, saxophones, flutes, trombones, and

clarinets. Also needed and welcome are: percussionists, and players of tubas, euphoniums, trumpets. Visit [www.mvbands.com](http://www.mvbands.com), e-mail [MVSwingBand@Cox.net](mailto:MVSwingBand@Cox.net) or call 703-339-6534 for more information.

On Mondays, through Dec. 1 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., the Green Spring Gardens located at 4603 Green Spring Road, will be having **Yoga for Gardeners** for adults. The program will offer a series of classes featuring the Vinyasa method to increase your flexibility, strength, and endurance for gardening. \$ 66/six-class sessions. For more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

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

Children enter a world of fantasy and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during Mount Vernon's storytelling session, **"Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon"**, held every Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. through **December** at the Hands-On History room in the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. The storytelling program is recommended for children ages three to eight. Parental supervision is required. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$13.00; youth ages 6-11, \$6.00; and children under 5 are admitted free.

Historic Mount Vernon has **commemorative whiskey sets** available for sale. The set includes a shot glass and a 50 mL bottle of whiskey consisting of 11 different whiskey brands blended and aged at Mount Vernon in 2005. The gift sets are \$25 and are available for purchase in person with a valid ID at the *Shops at Mount Vernon* or George Washington's Distillery. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) or 703-780-2000.

**Historic Mount Vernon** welcomes all Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Club members (in uniform or wearing an official pin) to free admission during its *Scouting Days* program beginning Nov. 1 through Feb. 15, 2009. For more information, visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

Women can **learn how to sing** with lessons in a group from 7-8 p.m. on **Nov. 19, Nov. 24, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10**. Free. Held at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. 703-764-3896 to RSVP.

**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](http://www.MountVernon.org). Admission is \$18 for adults and \$12 for children under 12.

Mount Vernon welcomes former White House pastry chef **Roland Mesnier**

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

 Presented by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority



**BULL RUN**  
**Festival of Lights**

A Festival of Lights from the comfort of your car!

**November 26 to January 4**

Admission per car:  
Monday to Thursday: \$15  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday: \$20

**\$3 off** weekday admission price. Coupon good Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Holidays include Dec. 24, 25, 31 & Jan. 1. Offer valid for 2008 season. Coupon good for one car only, cannot be combined with other offers.

Bull Run Regional Park  
7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville

[www.nvrpa.org](http://www.nvrpa.org)

**thewashingtonballet**

**SECURE YOUR SEATS FOR...**

SEPTIME WEBRE'S  
**THE NUTCRACKER**

Tickets start at \$29!  
Dec 11-28 • Warner Theatre  
202.397.SEAT, Ticketmaster.com  
or Warner Theatre Box Office

**Act fast for the best available seats! Groups of 10 or more save! Call 202.362.3606 x141.**



Also showing at THEARC!  
Call 202.889.8150 for details.  
Maki Onuki and Zachary Hackstock by Tony Powell

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 20

as he creates a gingerbread replica of George Washington's home from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **Nov. 12 through Nov. 25.** The five-foot-wide and two-foot-tall gingerbread Mansion replica will be on display as part of the new *Christmas at Mount Vernon* daytime event, which begins on Nov. 28. Visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org) for more information.

**Gallery West** presents "Small Works and Holiday Show and Silent Auction" **through Jan. 4** at 1213 King St. Features a variety of art work by members in every size. Silent auction ends Dec. 8. Visit [www.gallery-west.com](http://www.gallery-west.com) or call 703-549-6006.

**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](http://www.woodlawn1805.org) or call 703-780-4000.

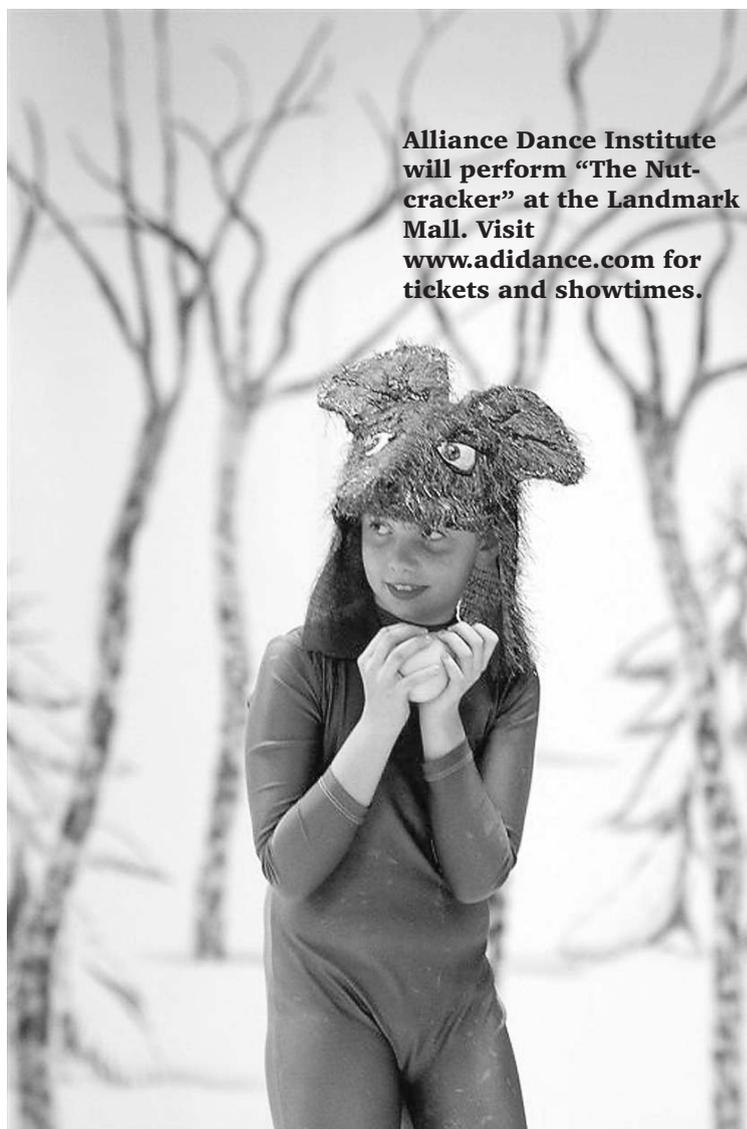
**The Alexandria Jaycees** will sell Christmas trees this season, with proceeds in part benefiting the chapter's holiday shopping tour for kids. The annual tree sales support the Holiday Shopping Tour for underprivileged kids and the chapter's general programming funds for community and leadership development. The **Holiday Shopping Tour** gives area kids a fun shopping day with funds provided and pizza party to follow, which allows them to purchase gifts for their families. This year's shopping event is set for **Dec. 13.** The Alexandria Jaycees tree lot is 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. For more details or for membership information, call the Jaycees' 24-hour recorded event line 703-866-7171 or visit [www.alexjaycees.org](http://www.alexjaycees.org).

**Tree Sale.** The Alexandria Police department Christmas tree sale begins on **Friday, Dec. 5** at the Alexandria Union Station parking lot (110 Callahan Drive). The official lot hours are: Monday-Thursday, 3-9 p.m.; Friday, 3-10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. This year's tree selection includes Scotch Pines, Douglas Firs, Fraser Firs, and Concolor Firs. They will range in size from 4 1/2 feet to 10 feet tall. Proceeds benefit the Alexandria Police Youth Camp.

**The Little Theater of Alexandria** will perform "Scrooge! The Musical" from Nov. 22-Dec. 14 at 600 Wolfe St., Old Town. Performances are **Wednesdays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.** Tickets are \$18-\$21 and can be purchased at [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

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](http://www.adidance.com) or 703-354-6000.

This Christmas, arrange for a **personalized letter from Santa Claus**, postmarked from the North Pole. The Alexandria Jaycees are



Alliance Dance Institute will perform "The Nutcracker" at the Landmark Mall. Visit [www.adidance.com](http://www.adidance.com) for tickets and showtimes.

offering customized letters sent directly to children from Santa for only \$5 each. The letter will also include a coupon to a child-friendly restaurant. Letter requests must be received by Dec. 8. Orders received after Dec. 8 will be postmarked from Virginia. For more information or to place an order, visit [www.alexjaycees.org](http://www.alexjaycees.org).

The American Horticultural Society hosts **holiday happenings** at its headquarters at River Farm. **From Dec. 1 to Jan. 16**, River Farm's grounds and estate house will feature lights, poinsettias, and other festive holiday decorations. All are welcome to visit and enjoy Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but note that the grounds will be closed from Dec. 25 through Jan. 4.

#### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. An evening with B.B. King. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for information and tickets.

**Pajama Party.** 7 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. For ages 3 to 6 with an adult.

**Storytime.** 11 a.m. at Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Ages 2 and up with adult. Free.

#### THURSDAY/NOV. 27

**Turkey Trot.** 10 a.m. at the Cora Kelly Elementary School at the intersection of West Reed and Commonwealth Avenues. With two cans of food: \$15/individuals ages 13-21 and \$20/ages 22 and over. Food benefits Alive. Visit [www.visitdelray.com/turkeytrot](http://www.visitdelray.com/turkeytrot) for tickets and t-shirt orders.

#### FRIDAY/NOV. 28

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Seldom Scene and Dry Branch Fire. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for information

and tickets.

**Wee Ones Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. Children up to age 2 can enjoy songs and stories. Free. Visit [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com) or 703-548-4092.

**Reception.** See the Springfield Art Guild's art show through Dec. 15 at the Goodwin House, 4800 Fillmore Ave. Free. All paintings for sale. 703-644-6677.

**Tree Lighting.** 7 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Features performances, guests and more. Free. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com](http://www.visitalexandriava.com) or 703-883-4686.

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 29

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Seldom Scene and Dry Branch Fire. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for information and tickets.

**Dinosaur Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Hear stories about dinosaurs. Free. Age 2 and up. Visit [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com) or 703-548-4092.

**Art Exhibit.** See artwork by Yuri Kokoyanin at The von Brahler Ltd./Gallery, 1437 Powhatan St., from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call for weekday hours, 703-798-8686. Free.

**Scottish Heritage Preview.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Enjoy music, performances, re-enactors and more. Free. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) or 703-838-4994.

**Holiday Concert.** 1 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Hear Alexandria Klezmer and then Michael Mulvaney at 2 p.m. Free. 703-838-4686.

#### SUNDAY/NOV. 30

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Aaron Neville and his Quintet, featuring Charles Neville. Visit

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

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Carved Hot!! Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing &  
Giblet Gravy • Roast Beef au jus • Baked Virginia Ham  
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# Holiday Open House



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Food Drive benefiting United Community Ministries

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Studio and Gallery Hours Vary  
105 N. Union St., Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-838-4565  
www.torpedofactory.org

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 21

www.birchmere.com for information and tickets.

**Bridge Club.** 4 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Beginners and advanced players age 12 and up. Free. 703-765-3645.

**Art Exhibit.** See artwork by Yuri Kokoyanin at The von Braehler Ltd./ Gallery, 1437 Powhatan St., from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call for weekday hours, 703-798-8686. Free.

**Holiday Music.** 2 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Hear Doris Justis and Lisa Taylor perform. 703-883-4686.

**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.

### MONDAY/DEC. 1

**Donations Wanted.** 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Drop off new toy and gift certificate donations (no bikes) for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program Children's Holiday Party at 421 King Street, Suite 400, Alexandria. Donations accepted Monday - Friday through Dec. 15. 703-838-4911 for information.

**Holiday Trip.** 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Green Spring Gardens sponsors a trip to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. See Holiday lights and floral displays and a holiday concert. Trip leaves from Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$85. Registration required - 703-642-5173.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3

**Noonday Noel.** 12:05 p.m. at The Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St. Hear A "Colonial Christmas." Free. Visit www.opmh.org or 703-549-6670. Followed by lunch for \$5.

**Dis for December.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Preschool age children can enjoy stories and fun. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

**Lunch Bunnies.** Noon at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Ages 1-5 can bring lunch and enjoy stories. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

**Girls Night Out.** 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Teens can enjoy a book discussion. Call for title. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 4

**Book Discussion.** Noon at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Adults can discuss "Ethan Frome" by Edith Wharton. Free. 703-339-4610.

**Scottish Christmas Walk Marketplace.** Noon-5 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Shop for a variety of holiday items, visit a café and buy heather and greens. Visit

www.scottishchristmaswalk.com or 703-549-0111.

**Heather and Greens Sales.** 7-9 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Try a touch of heather and greens to enhance holiday decorations with a Scottish flair. Purchase fresh heather bundles or a variety of wreaths, garlands, flatwoods and more. Free. For more information on the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

**Holiday Pottery Show and Sale.** Noon-6 p.m. at The Art League in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Purchase a variety of items by residents ranging from \$5-\$100. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-5358.

**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.

**Children's Tea Party.** 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. This special event features Santa Claus. \$40/adult and child and \$10/each additional ticket. For more information on the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

**Holiday Open House.** Torpedo Factory is holding an open house from 6-9 p.m. at 105 N. Union St. Features music, drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Meet artists and browse gifts. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or 703-838-4565.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 5

**ArtFest: Fiber & Form Celebration.** 6-9 p.m. at the Art League's Madison Annex. Join for the relaunch of Springwater Studios at the Art League. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

**Holiday Concert.** 8 p.m. at the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear music by the NOVA Community Chorus and the Alexandria Band. Donations requested, 703-845-6252.

**Pet Photos.** Pets can take photos with Santa at Olde Towne School for Dogs, 529 Oronoco St. Proceeds benefit Vola Lawson Animal Shelter. \$45/sitting. Visit www.alexandriaanimals.org or 703-838-4774 ext. 216.

**Lunch Bunch.** Noon at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

**Scottish Christmas Walk Marketplace.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Shop for a variety of holiday items, visit a café and buy heather and greens. Visit www.scottishchristmaswalk.com or 703-549-0111.

**Heather and Greens Sales.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Try a touch of heather and greens to enhance holiday decorations with a Scottish flair. Purchase fresh heather bundles or a variety of wreaths, garlands, flatwoods and more. Free. For more information on the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

**Tree Sale.** The Alexandria Police department Christmas tree sale begins on Friday, Dec. 5 at the Alexandria Union Station parking lot (110 Callahan Drive). Proceeds benefit the Alexandria Police Youth Camp.

**Art & Crafts Holiday Market.** 7 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Search through gifts created by more than 20 artist members and enjoy baked goods. Call 703-838-4827 for more.

**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.

**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.

**Artists Reception.** The Del Ray Artisans' Fine Art & Crafts Holiday Market will have a free reception from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4827.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 6

**Wreath Making.** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to create your own holiday wreath. Materials provided. \$48. Registration required - 703-642-5173.

**Art Exhibit.** See artwork by Yuri Kokoyanin at The von Braehler Ltd./ Gallery, 1437 Powhatan St., from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call for weekday hours, 703-798-8686. Free.

**Wild for Winter Waterfowl.** 11:30 a.m. at Mason Neck, 7301 High Point Road. Observe swans, ducks and more. Free. 703-339-2385.

**Majestic Eagles.** 5 p.m. at Mason Neck, 7301 High Point Road. Look for bald eagles while learning about them. Free. 703-339-2385.

**Pet Photos.** Pets can take photos with Santa at Olde Towne School for Dogs, 529 Oronoco St. Proceeds benefit Vola Lawson Animal Shelter. \$45/sitting. Visit www.alexandriaanimals.org or 703-838-4774 ext. 216.

**A Christmas Marketplace.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Vendors sell holiday gift wares in a boutique setting. Free. Visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

## Signing at Mount Vernon

FROM PAGE 15

audience. "This also applied to tea service. Serving Chinese tea was a note of status."

**ARDOU'S BOOK,** "The George Washington Collection," was an outgrowth of her work on the new museum. "It is a chronology of Washington's life. It goes from his bachelor years at Mount Vernon to his marriage to Martha, to the Revolutionary War, and

his two retirements as told through various objects on the Estate," Cardou said.

"One of the constant themes throughout the book is porcelain. It defined for those new Americans their standing and their wealth," she said.

Visitors to The Shops at Mount Vernon are able to purchase an array of Mottahedeh china from entire place settings to individual decorative pieces. Copies of both books are also available in the book section of The Shops.

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

tional charities are flush with money, quite the contrary, I have always believed in giving to the community in which I live. Furthermore, there are many reasons to give locally however, my primary reasons are;

- ❖ They need the money.
- ❖ I know how they impact the community.

- ❖ I know a little about how they function so I know my money will be used efficiently.

- ❖ Many of the local charities supplement city services. The more they help the city the more dollars the city saves which may translate to less budgetary stress.

- ❖ Did I mention “they need the money?”

I am proposing an enhancement to Mayor Euille’s timely “Buy Alexandria” campaign. “Give Alexandria.”

I feel certain many local entities mirror or support most national charities. These local organizations will give you the opportunity to fulfill your desire to give to a specific cause. There are resources like the Alexandria Community Trust (ACT), which can help you locate the appropriate recipient. This might even be the right time to set up a donor-advised fund with ACT. If money is too short and you can’t see your way to giving dollars, I suggest you volunteer. Make a commitment for more than a few hours or a day during this holiday season. Give a significant amount of time to help the community while fulfilling your charitable inclinations. We will all thank you

and appreciate your efforts. Go out and Give Alexandria!

**Adron Krekeler**

*The writer is a chartered financial consultant with Krekeler Brower Wealth Advisors and MICG Investment Management in Alexandria.*

## Words of Gratitude

To the Editor:

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) held its Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, Oct. 25 and we wish to thank everyone involved for making the event another success for the homeless and unwanted animals that we strive to care for within the City of Alexandria. To the numerous businesses and individuals who generously donated silent auction items, purchased sponsorships or ads in the printed program, or assisted in any way in the myriad efforts undertaken to make the event happen, you have our most sincere gratitude. With your strong support, the AWLA can continue its missions, in operating the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter at 4101 Eisenhower Avenue, providing animal care and adoptions, outreach to community groups, schools, scout troops, etc., and responsiveness to animal emergencies. You may learn more about the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria by visiting our Web site at [www.alexandriaanimals.org](http://www.alexandriaanimals.org). Thank you once again on behalf of the animals.

**Tara Blot**

Executive Director

# Shop, Dine, Stroll...

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Find us at Mt Vernon Ave off Route 1, between Glebe Rd to the north and Braddock Rd to the south. Braddock Road Metro.

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Sunday 12-5 p.m.

**OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY**  
For any last minute shopping needs, UNWINED will be open to serve you 10am-2pm

**Mark your calendars for our next tasting event!!**  
Sunday December 14th, 3-7pm  
**SPARKLING WINES OF THE WORLD**



**38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND**  
Thursday, Dec. 4 – Saturday, Dec. 6

*A Christmas Marketplace*  
Thursday, Dec. 4-Saturday, Dec. 6

*Taste of Scotland*  
Friday, Dec. 5th at 8:00 pm-10:30 pm

*Scottish Walk Parade*  
Saturday, Dec. 6th at 11:00 a.m.

*Designer Tour of Homes*  
Saturday, Dec. 6th 11:00 am-4:00 pm

*More Activities*  
Heather and Greens Sale • Children’s Tea • Celtic Concert

Presented by The Junior Friends of The Campagna Center, The Saint Andrew’s Society of Washington, D.C., and the City of Alexandria.

Join Us Again at  
The George Washington Masonic Memorial!

The entire Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend—including the Scottish Walk Parade—is hosted by The Campagna Center. All of the weekend proceeds benefit The Campagna Center’s programs, helping children in Alexandria arrive at school ready to learn and ensuring their academic success. We rely on gifts from individuals and businesses to continue providing these outstanding services. For more information on how you can contribute to The Campagna Center’s efforts, please visit [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org) or call (703) 549-0111.

**For more information visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com) or phone (703) 548-0111. Weekend events are Metro-accessible.**

## SCHOOLS

# A Gripping 'To Kill a Mockingbird'

By STEVE WHITE  
ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

**O**n Saturday, Nov. 1, the Stage One Players of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School created a realistic and engaging world of racial turmoil during the Great Depression in their production of "To Kill a Mockingbird."

The play, adapted from Harper Lee's 1960 novel by Christopher Sergel, explores the effects of racism during the Great Depression in the small southern town of Maycomb, Ala. The town's preeminent lawyer, Atticus Finch, who abhors racism, is called on to defend a clearly innocent black man from the prosecution of the crazed Bob Ewell, and the resulting turmoil has profound effects upon the entire town. Simultaneously, the story examines the moral growth of Atticus's daughter, Jean Louise Finch, through these troubled times.

The production was both engaging and true to the original book, supported by the cast's high energy and focus throughout. The entire cast very effectively created the proper mood for the production, and effectively interspersed humor within the serious tone of the show. The actors also did an excellent job of acting the age of their characters.

Greg Neithamer gave an entirely human performance of the moralistic Atticus Finch, while Margaret Edmonds gave a skillful performance as his daughter, Jean Louise or "Scout," displaying both childlike fun and deep understanding by the end of

the performance.

Emma Oxford portrayed an authentic and believable performance as Miss Maudie Atkinson, a kind-hearted neighbor and narrator of the story. The performance of Chris Luggiero, playing the maddened Bob Ewell, brought his character to terrifying life, instilling fear in the audience during virtually the entire time he was onstage.

The play's set, sporting facades of several houses, perfectly captured the essence of a small town in the 1930s. Lighting, by Chris Devine, Elizabeth Movius, Austin Alder, and Andrew Groody, was spectacularly executed, with effects ranging from spotlights to an eerie thunderstorm. Although the play's use of sound was imperfect, its sound effects, such as thunder, were quite effective. The performance's music, composed and performed by student Natalie Richards, gave the play a distinctively quaint feel, and added a sense of continuity between scenes.

The performance also took impressive advantage of space, utilizing both a jutting stage and several scenes within the audience. By forcing the audience to react to certain scenes due to location, many of those scenes seemed the most powerful.

The Stage One Players took on a great task when attempting to perform "To Kill a Mockingbird," and managed to successfully create a believable and gripping story as well as a statement against the cruelties of white dominance.

*Cappies is a high school critics and awards program involving more than 50 schools in the Virginia, Maryland and D.C. areas.*

**CAPPIES  
REVIEW**

# 'Romeo and Juliet' At Bishop Ireton

By KELLY DANVER  
T.C. WILLIAMS

**"F**or never was a tale more full of woe, then this of Juliet and her Romeo." The classic story of teenage heartache was embodied in Bishop Ireton's recent production of "Romeo and Juliet."

Written between 1591 and 1595 by William Shakespeare, "Romeo and Juliet" is considered one of Shakespeare's best plays. It has since been transformed into numerous operas and films and is still being performed on

stage. The story begins when Romeo of the Montague family and Juliet of the Capulet family fall in love despite being from opposing houses with an ancient feud. As their inevitable hardships unfold, Romeo and Juliet are forced to make the ultimate sacrifice.

The play was set in modern day Verona, Italy, but was flooded with Elizabethan twists

like the use of the original language, sets that represented a 1500-style town square, and traditional dancing during one scene.

Romeo and Juliet, played by James Robertson and Celine Daubresse respectively, brought to life the intense love and obsession that the two feel for one another. Marcutio and Benvolio, who are Romeo's friends, played by Andrew Ferguson and Jake Gaudet, were hilariously crude and their antics ultimately stole the show. The Nurse, performed by Emilia Lynch, was also very funny and had the perfect persona of a gossipy old woman.

Both acts included unique fight choreography that kept the audience on their toes. Though no blood was spilled, the scenes were filled with intensity and realism.

Bishop Ireton's production of William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" gave us a perpetual love story with a modern twist that left no audience member unsatisfied.

**CAPPIES  
REVIEW**



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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.



**WE'RE CHANGING OUR PREFIX...**

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Housing .....	703.746.4990
(Incl. Landlord/Tenant Relations & Program Implementation)	
Office on Human Rights.....	703.746.3140
Office on Women.....	703.746.5030
Parking Adjudication .....	703.746.3360
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.

**Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') GAZETTE**

Seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections from local students.

E-mail to: PhotoAX@connectionnews.com, or mail or deliver contributions by Dec. 5, to 7913 Westpark Dr., McLean, VA 22102. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-917-6444.

Alexandria  
**Gazette Packet**

# Pentagon Row

## Holiday Open House

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

6:30-8:30 PM

PENTAGON ROW PLAZA

### Enjoy:

- Free horse and carriage rides  
(Donations benefit the Last Chance Animal Rescue League)
- Pet photos with Santa  
(Donations benefit the Last Chance Animal Rescue League)
- In-store specials and food sampling
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- Delightful entertainment

For more information, visit  
[pentagonrow.com](http://pentagonrow.com).

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**Jack says:**

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## PEOPLE



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

### Celebrating 90

Saturday morning, Vincent Santoro, Patty (Santoro) Diulus-Myers and Jackie Santoro surprised their mother, Vicky, with a surprise birthday party at Blessed Sacrament Church. Alexandria resident, Vicky Santoro turned 90 on Wednesday, Nov. 19. Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren arrived in Alexandria, called neighbors and old friends to gather for a celebration on Saturday morning after 8:30 mass. Vicky Santoro's oldest son Fred, who lives with his family in Hawaii, was unable to attend.

### Pre-Thanksgiving

Members of Alexandria Lodge #48 & Israel Temple #138, Brothers and Daughters of Elks of the Improved Benevolent Order of Elks of the World hosted their annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner again. The members served more than 180 seniors on Saturday Nov. 8 at the 26th annual city-wide dinner. The Lodge and Temple members look forward annually to revisit with those seniors who have been coming for more than 10 years and to meet new persons for the first time. Bro. John L. Taylor, Chr., and Dgt. Doris Hughes, co-chair, said, "It is such a rewarding and heartfelt experience to share with others and we look forward with much enthusiasm to extend the same invitation in November 2009."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Warmer Beach Waters Worth the Drive

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Whether looking for an investment property with excellent rental history, a vacation home on an unique island, or a little bit of both, this is the house for you.

**Call Carly or David, 336-282-1870**

### NEIGHBORHOODS

#### Del Ray

##### Happy Thanksgiving!

We must give thanks to all of those great people who helped to make the **Del Ray Centennial Prom** so much fun! The Prom was sponsored by the Del Ray Civic Association's Centennial Committee and friends and neighbors gathered in their retro Prom finest to dance the night away at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center.

Thanks for everyone who made it both fun and successful and you include: Lonnie Rich & Marcia Call, Laura & Dan, Pat Miller, Carol & Ryan, Gayle and Patti Moran. We had so much fun and proceeds from the Prom tickets went to support public art in Del Ray.

Tomorrow in true Del Ray tradition, we will host the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Turkey Trot! This five-mile road race is run tomorrow morning, Thursday, Nov. 27 at 10 a.m. and starts at Cora Kelly, 25 W. Reed Ave., where runners and neighbors alike will donate canned goods to ALIVE! and run their hearts out before the big feast. Come on out, it's always so much fun.

Next up, next Saturday is the lighting of the luminaries around Del Ray and the annual Tree Lighting with special guest, Santa. More

next week, but make plans to volunteer and have fun warming up the Avenue for the Holidays.

Contact me at [jen@jenwalker.com](mailto:jen@jenwalker.com) if you want to help out. We appreciate it.

Stay warm & Gobble Gobble,  
 — JEN WALKER  
[JEN@JENWALKER.COM](mailto:JEN@JENWALKER.COM)

#### Taylor Run

##### A Special Thanksgiving

"It was on Thanksgiving Day that we came home with daughters, Dorrie and Kate, so we are doubly thankful every Thanksgiving," says Ginny Hines, who, with husband Will Parry, will celebrate the holiday with 12 around the table on Skyhill Road. Will's sister Margaret Mitchell, sister Anne with husband Arvind Rangaswamy and daughter Cara, cousin John Parry with Scottish wife Gina and children Justine and Ian will be there.

##### To Grandmother's House

Amy and Richard Swindell of Park Road will bring the pies to their family feast in McLean at the home of Amy's parents, Evanne and Michael Hoyt. Daughter Emma and twins Nathaniel and Holden will help eat the pies.

##### Saunders Reunion

Our multi-talented neighbor, Vi Saunders of Vassar Road, will travel with husband Julian to Batesville, Va., for a Saunders family reunion Thanksgiving; 40 are expected. Vi, a staunch supporter of the Board of Lady Managers of the hospital, has a special table of her hand-made gifts in the hospital's gift shop.

##### Typhoid Scare

Vi told me a great deal that I had not known about the Board. Miss Julia Johns, daughter of the Episcopal bishop, worried by the arrival in Alexandria of a sailor suffering from typhoid, summoned a group of 6 women and two men to a meeting at St. Paul's Church in 1872.

That small group obtained a charter, started an infirmary, and became the Board of Lady Managers, which ran the hospital for 68 years.

##### Community Rescue

When receipts failed, Miss Johns saved the infirmary by begging contributions of supplies. A Thanksgiving offering to support the infirmary became a tradition in many of Alexandria's churches.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

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# 'Bibliocat' Works at Already Read Used Books

**Nominate a Business** Keeping Shop is a regular feature of the Gazette Packet. To qualify, retail shops should be locally owned or operated, new, expanding, celebrating a significant anniversary or doing something otherwise newsworthy. To nominate a business, contact Nina Tisara, [ninat@tisaraphoto.com](mailto:ninat@tisaraphoto.com).

Ken and Diane Mahnken are the owners of Already Read Used Books at 2501 Duke Street, Alexandria.

## Short bio:

**Ken:** Grew up in Northfield, N.J., a short distance from Atlantic City. I started a small consulting company right after college, and I found out that there was a lot to contend with, with experience being the main hurdle. I started with my first real job, working as a contractor for the FAA. After being laid off, I moved to the Washington Area (Gaithersburg, Md.) for a job with IBM. The position I accepted was on the same FAA contract that I was laid off from, but on a different project. Ironic, isn't it?

After living in Gaithersburg for a time, I moved to Chevy Chase since I ended up working in Virginia. I decided to move below the split to make the commute a little bit easier. I finally moved to Alexandria, Fairfax County in 2001.

**Education:** I graduated from Atlantic Community College with an AAS in Business and a AS in computers. I then attended Stockton State College where I graduated with a BS in Computer Information Sciences.

**Diane:** Originally from southern Michigan. Since 1987, I have lived in Alexandria. Before coming to Virginia, I owned a pizza restaurant and an art studio. After arriving here, I worked in the education/training field for a time, and I managed a computer bookstore. For the past seven years, I have worked for Northern Virginia Community College as an adjunct instructor teaching developmental reading/writing and freshman English.

**Education:** BS from Michigan State University, MSED in Reading, a second MSED in Adult Education from Elmira College, Elmira, NY, and further graduate study at George Mason University.

## Why did you choose this particular business?

**Ken:** My wife, Diane, has her master's in reading, and both of us enjoy reading a lot. The reason we decided on choosing this business was we noticed that this area only had a couple of used bookstores. I thought that it would be a fun business to get into because of the interaction between books and people.

**Diane:** I have always had a love of books and reading, plus I am a reading teacher. In my free time, I would always go to the local bookstore to spend time and to buy even more books. My first job after high school was as a bookstore stock clerk, and over the years I have worked at various jobs in bookstores including working as a manager of a computer bookstore. So, opening a used bookstore seemed to be a natural extension of my interests in books and reading.

Before we opened our bookstore, my hus-

band and I noticed that there were not very many used bookstores in Northern Virginia, and we thought that it would be an interesting business to own. We had thought about buying another used bookstore in the area, but decided on starting and designing our own from the ground up was the best choice.

## Why did you choose to work for yourself rather than as an employee for someone else?

**Ken:** In my last job, I was not happy the last couple of years, and I realized that I needed to take a break from working in the corporate world. So, I decided to start looking around for another job, and after some lengthy discussions with Diane, we decided to open a used bookstore. I finally quit my job in April, 2006. I knew this was risky since I no longer had any income to help support the store or us in its early months since I would be financing the entire enterprise myself.

The bookstore is a good idea but with plenty of risk. One of our concerns was the number books being sold on the Internet; however, we have found that people prefer to buy a book that they can actually see and touch before buying. Another concern was the "big box" stores and getting people to change their book buying habit; however, we found that opening our bookstore at this point in time was a good decision. With the "green" movement, our used bookstore is a natural way to recycle books, to save trees, and to save money.

**Diane:** I have always found it to be more interesting and challenging to start and develop a business. Plus, I have always had a love of books and reading, plus I am a reading teacher. In my free time, I would always go to the local bookstore to spend time and to buy even more books. My first job after high school was as a bookstore stock clerk, and over the years I have worked at various jobs in bookstores including working as a manager of a computer bookstore. So, opening a used bookstore seemed to be a natural extension of my interests in books and reading.

## What have you learned from being in business?

**Ken:** This is not the first time I have been in business, so the expenses, taxes, employees, etc. were no surprise. The surprise was all of the business codes and insurance regulations that I had to deal with since this is the first time I had a building, property, and signage to contend with.

The first thing I learned was to make sure that all of the startup costs are present even if I did not need them at first. Even though I had a working business plan, some of the startup costs were not fully considered since I did think I needed to worry about them at the beginning. However, as I began to get the business started, I realized that I needed



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

Ken and Diane Mahnken with Gwenevere, the bookstore cat, chief greeter, and "general manager."

## Already Read Used Books

**Address:** 2501 Duke Street, Alexandria  
**Years at this address:** Almost three years  
**Years in business:** Three years  
**Telephone:** 703-299-8406  
**E-mail address:** [info@alreadyreadusedbooks.com](mailto:info@alreadyreadusedbooks.com)  
**Web site:** [www.alreadyreadusedbooks.com](http://www.alreadyreadusedbooks.com) (due to be updated soon)

to worry about them, and this threw off all of the calculations, which made the first few of months very interesting.

**Ken & Diane:** We learned, as we went about setting up the business, that the book business was harder than it looked. This was probably true since this store was started from the ground up as compared to one that was already in existence. All of the operating procedures and policies needed to be created and put in place to see how things worked, and then modified as needed. Plus, even though we researched the used book business, there was a lot to learn that could not be found in a book. This is especially true when dealing with the operations of bookstore versus on-line operations. What might sell in a bookstore locally, may not sell on-line, and vice versa.

## What have been the advantages and/or disadvantages of operating a business in Alexandria?

**Ken & Diane:** Lots of readers and lots of educated people who love reading and books.

Also, we wanted to locate our business close to our home, so that we would only have a short commute. We looked around the Alexandria area for space to lease, and we decided the building we are in was a good choice — it has its own parking, good visibility, and large enough to house 15-20,000 books. Plus, the neighborhood has been very supportive of our bookstore.

## Key staff:

**Ken & Diane:** Gwenevere. The bookstore cat, chief greeter, and "general manager." Why do we consider the cat part of

the key staff? Gwenevere greets customers except when she is sleeping on the job, serves as a surrogate cat for the customers who cannot have a cat where they live, and on occasions she provides her "input" into our decision process. Almost all of our customers interact with her, and they have remarked that all good used bookstores have to have a resident bibliocat.

Occasionally, we have had sales people who stop by selling their various wares, and if Gwenevere does not "take" to them, we tend to take her reaction to the person into account. One time, she really put up a fit over a guy trying to sell us on black top coating. Something about the guy did not set well with her. The guy was pushing for us to make the decision at that moment, so we decided that Gwenevere's reaction was something to consider when we told the guy that we were not interested.

She guides customers through the bookcases and frequently makes recommendations. When she is not greeting customers, she likes nothing better than to curl up on top of one of her "boxes" or in her favorite corner with a warm blanket.

## Short bio:

**Gwenevere:** Born and raised in Alexandria. Part Manx, part Maine Coon, part Siamese, and part alley cat. Lived and fought with her sisters and brothers until moving to bookstore to take her present position.

## Description of services and/or products:

**Ken & Diane:** We have over 15,000 used, out-of-print, and vintage books with many of them difficult to find. In addition, a small selection of discounted new paperbacks are available. Also, we can special order books along with offering a book finding service. Our inventory includes most major categories with large selections of science fiction/fantasy, mysteries/suspense, cookbooks and military/general history.

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6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 7)

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(Mass or Communion Service)  
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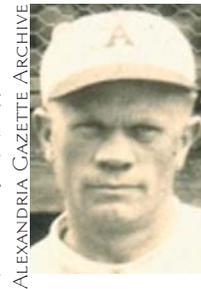
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## NEWS

# Signs Honor Hummer

FROM PAGE 5



ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE ARCHIVE

A native of Loudoun County, Elton Hummer joined the Alexandria Police Department in 1927. The next year he was killed in the line of duty. His murder was never solved.

THE MURDER happened on an August night in 1928, when voices began cutting through the summer air near an alley connecting Alfred and Columbus streets. According to one woman who was in her house reading at the time, the voices became progressively louder and louder. She tried to ignore them, but the voices grew increasingly heated.

"I've warned you the last time," she recalled hearing one of the men say to the other.

According to a contemporaneous account in the Gazette, three shots rang out in the night. When the woman who heard the voices ran to a window to see what had happened, she saw a man in a dark suit and cap running west on Duke Street. Investigators later determined that Hummer had been shot by a .45-caliber pistol, once in the left breast and once in the groin. The third shot apparently lodged in a fence across the street. The shooting took place around the

corner from Hummer's house on Duke Street.

"The department has absolutely no clues to work with in this case," the Gazette reported in a front-page article dated Aug. 18, 1928.

A manhunt was launched, and dozens of suspects were questioned. Ballistic experts were brought in, and the city manager offered a \$500 reward. But the killer was never identified. Although the city has lost 18 law enforcement officers in the line of duty — a constable, a night watchman, a deputy and 15 police officers — Hummer's murder is the only unsolved case.

"These signs are a kind of memorial," said Police Chief David Baker. "They are a way for us to remember the sacrifice made by this individual."



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Thursday, December 11  
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Two Open Houses in Clover - Sunday, Nov. 30, 1 to 4 p.m.



**Alexandria City \$950,000 Style and Grace**  
Thoughtfully-renovated 4 bedroom 3 bath home with garage on beautifully-landscaped private lot. Fireplaces in living room, family room and breakfast room, kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite countertops and wood-faced appliances, including Thermador gas cooktop; 2 newly renovated bathrooms; huge rec room, wood floors, moldings, details. From King St. Metro: west on King St. left on Janney's Lane, left on Cloverway and first left on Crown View to 500. Photos at [betsytwigg.LNFRE.com](http://betsytwigg.LNFRE.com)



**Alexandria City \$695,000 Potential and Space**  
Move into this large 4 bedroom 3 bath home with fresh paint, refinished wood floors and new appliances while planning your renovation or expansion. Located on Clover's only cul-de-sac, this home has fireplaces in the living room and rec room, fixed stairs to huge floored attic with high ceilings, charming patio and one car garage. From King St. Metro: west on King St. left on Janney's Lane, left on Cloverway, left on Dartmouth and right on Vassar Place to 206. Photos at [betsytwigg.LNFRE.com](http://betsytwigg.LNFRE.com)



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## New Year, New Roles

**T.C. Williams must adapt if it is to defend last season's state title.**

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE GAZETTE PACKET

**H**is role was much simpler last year. T.C. Williams guard Edward Jenkins had one mission as a member of the Titans' state championship squad a season ago. Put the ball in the basket.

Jenkins did that with alarming frequency considering the wealth of senior talent surrounding the then-junior, who finished as the Titans second-leading scorer. His work didn't go unnoticed, either, as Jenkins was named 1<sup>st</sup>-team Patriot district by the league's coaches.

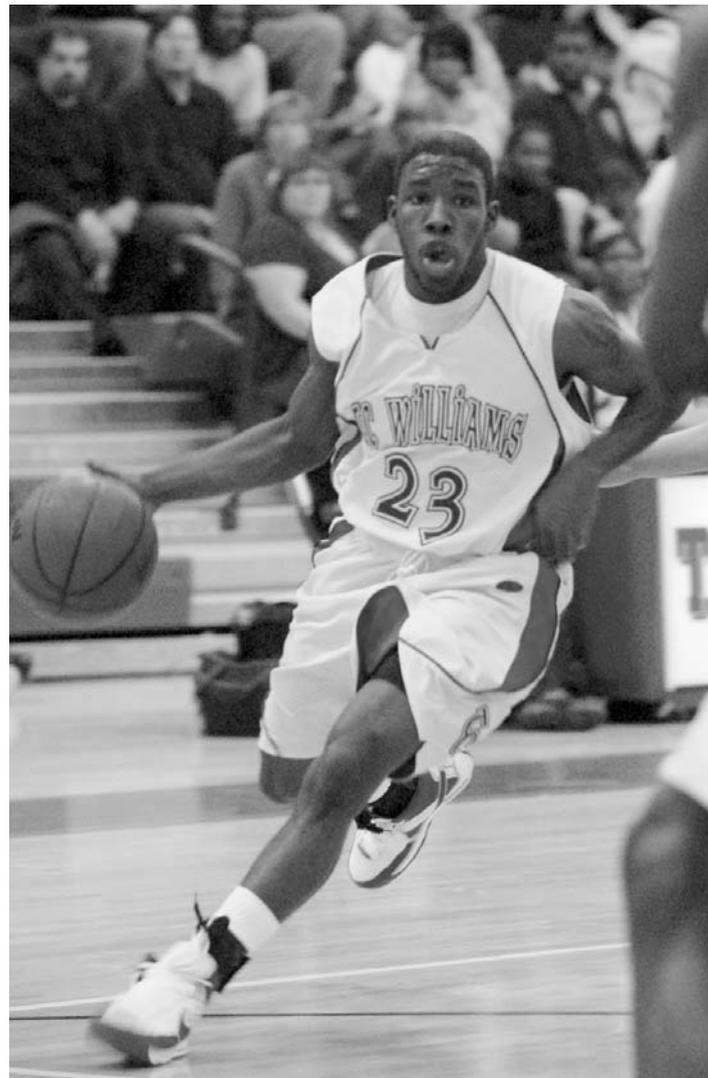
But gone are players like Anthony Winbush and Travis Berry, who could shoulder the scoring load alongside Jenkins on last season's remarkable team that compiled a 29-3 record. Now the onus is on one player to fill the void.

"He's one of those kids that accepted his role very well last year and there were times when we wanted him to score more, but he's really unselfish," said first-year T.C. Williams coach Julian King, who was an assistant on last year's state title team. "But this year, he's going to have a lot on his shoulders. He's our standout guy this year."

First and foremost for King, though, is helping his team emerge from beneath the shadows of last year's historic season.

Since taking over for his old boss Ivan Thomas, King has heard all the chatter around Alexandria about his team's chances to repeat, but he also understands those expectations are probably unreasonable. He just wants this team to develop its own identity before getting into how good they could be.

"I tell the kids don't worry about what they hear outside our team and don't worry about following in the footsteps of last year's team because if you do that you're going to put too much pressure on yourself," said King. "We don't need that because we already have to worry about teams getting up to play us."



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE GAZETTE PACKET

**T.C. Williams senior Edward Jenkins, a first-team all-Patriot District selection a year ago, will be expected to pick up much of the scoring burden with so many players graduated from last year's state championship squad.**

Don't think King is preparing his team for the worst, though. On the contrary, despite losing nine seniors from a year ago, T.C. Williams looks poised to make another run in the Patriot District utilizing its athleticism and high-octane offense.

"That state title we got, it's here, but now we've got to defend that state title so we can have more to talk about this year," said Jenkins. "We've got to put everything behind us, and just get back to work."

**THERE WERE NO** championship banners to celebrate at **St. Stephen's/St. Agnes** last season, not after the team stumbled to an uncharacteristically bad 7-20 record a year ago.

The mounting losses were a new feeling for a program that took home the IAC regular season crown in 2007 and the IAC tournament title in 2006. But with 11 returning players from last season, coach Kevin McClintock thinks the Saints are on the cusp



**T.C. Williams will need players like senior Gavin Peterson to help stem the tide as this year's squad develops its own identity, separate from last season's team that graduated nine seniors.**

of bringing the program back to its more familiar spot atop the standings.

"Last year was tough on all of us, but at the same time I think we got stronger as a team after what we went through," said McClintock. "I think they're ready to reclaim where we were prior to last season."

McClintock will rely on the play of 6-foot-4 junior Jack Hamilton, the team's leading returning scorer.

The coach is also expecting a big year from sophomore sharpshooter Dextor Lindsay. Seniors Reggie Newsome and Tyler Mann are also back from season-ending injuries a year ago.

**THE RETURN** of senior Given Kalipende, a Division-I level point guard, means **Episcopal** has as good a shot as any to take the IAC crown this year.

The Maroon finished in a tie for second in the IAC, good enough for a 16-8 record overall. But the presence of Kalipende,

alongside seniors Jordan Martinez and Yao Sithole, has coach Jim Fitzpatrick confident heading into a more competitive than usual IAC this season.

"Those two guys and Given give me a three-senior combo that is as good as any in our league," said Fitzpatrick.

**BISHOP IRETON** coach Marc Vincent knows the early going might be tough for his Cardinals since they will be relying on a starting lineup that is devoid of seniors. But in his third season at the helm, Vincent also considers this the hardest working and most dedicated team he has ever coached.

Led by 6-foot-5 guard Arturo Oberg, a player "not many people know about yet," according to Vincent, the Saints figure to get better as the season goes along.

"There's a high commitment and that's something we haven't had here," said Vincent. "I think we're going to win some games people don't think we should."

### T.C. Williams

**Coach:** Julian King

**Player to Watch:** Edward Jenkins, senior  
**Coach's Take:** "If we have speed we have to use it because we don't have too much size this year."

### St. Stephen's/St. Agnes

**Coach:** Kevin McClintock

**Player to Watch:** Jack Hamilton, junior  
**Coach's Take:** "A lot of new kids had to step up and play new roles last year and I think it helped us for this year."

### Episcopal

**Coach:** Jim Fitzpatrick

**Player to Watch:** Given Kalipende, senior  
**Coach's Take:** "I want this team to look back and say we did everything we could to compete ... That means trying to win an IAC championship and then trying to win our state championship."

### Bishop Ireton

**Coach:** Marc Vincent

**Player to Watch:** Arturo Oberg, junior  
**Coach's Take:** "What we need to do is keep getting better and master the small things. We've got some guys that are going to cause problems for teams."

## SPORTS

# Sports Bars: The Football Fan's Church

Every Sunday, Alexandria residents flock to sports bars to watch their favorite NFL team.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE GAZETTE-PACKET

It was a Sunday in early September and Jay Patel, who had just moved to the area late last spring, was in Bugsy's Pizza Restaurant in Old Town Alexandria watching his beloved New York Giants.

He happened to take a seat at a booth next to Dan and Mel Hampton, a young couple who had been coming to the upstairs sports bar portion of Bugsy's every Sunday for four years. Mel is an Indianapolis Colts fan, while her husband supports the Philadelphia Eagles jersey. The three didn't know each other then, but the pattern continued as the weeks

**"You can ... discuss the game more in detail than someone who is mad at you at a stadium,"**

**—Neil Lindenbaum, as he watched the Packers at Bugsy's Pizza Restaurant**

moved along.

Patel would show up in his Giants gear and the Hamptons, who bike to Bugsy's from their home in Belle Ha-



PHOTOS BY MARK GIANNOTTO/THE GAZETTE PACKET

**Ankur Shah and Colin Smith started going to Joe Theismann's Restaurant to watch Bears games at the beginning of the season and have met a loyal contingent of fans that they now watch games with every week.**

ven every week, came in their NFL garb.

Flash forward to this past Sunday, as Mel's Colts took on the Houston Texans, Dan's Eagles faced the Cincinnati Bengals, and Patel's Giants matched up with the Baltimore Ravens, and the three were still sitting together, having formed an unlikely bond.

"We try to help each other out," said Mel. "We root for each other's teams."

**THE SCENE** at Bugsy's every Sunday is

echoed throughout Alexandria, as many transplants from outside the area come together with local fans at various sports bars around the city to watch their respective hometown NFL teams.

"There are just a lot of people from all over the place," said Jordan Willis, manager of Joe Theismann's Restaurant in downtown Alexandria. This past Sunday, Theismann's was packed for the 1 p.m. NFL games, as fans from New Orleans, Miami, New York, and Chicago watched on the 13 televisions around the bar.

Something like this doesn't happen with other sports, which have games more frequently and fans less passionate. Ankur

Shah and Colin Smith, roommates who just moved to Alexandria in August and root for the Chicago Bears, said they heard about coming to Theismann's through word of mouth. After meeting several other Bears fans, they won't go anywhere else, even if they could watch the game from the comfort of their own apartment.

"We've all gotten to know each other here, so we kind of like coming now because we know each other now," said Shah.

Many fans echo the sentiment of Shah, saying the camaraderie of a sports bar is much more appealing than having to shell out money for exorbitant ticket prices or invest in the DirecTV NFL Sunday Ticket package that allows viewers to watch every single NFL game.

"You can root for your team and argue with other people and discuss the game more in detail than someone who is mad at you at a stadium," said Neil Lindenbaum, who watched his Packers defeat the Bears, 37-3, alongside his son and father at Bugsy's this past weekend.

**SOME ALEXANDRIA** residents take their out-of-town fandom to the extreme. At Murphy's Grand Irish Pub in Old Town, a group that calls itself the Murphy's Patriots show up in droves every time their New England Patriots play.

Back in 1994 when Murphy's bought its first satellite dish in an effort to show more sporting events, the pub's staff also decided to allow the bar regulars to vote on what team the place should support.

The Patriots won the vote and now every time a game is on, the entire upstairs portion of the restaurant is usually standing room only and completely taken over by mass chants and New England jerseys.

"If people are downstairs, they come up

SEE SUNDAY ROUTINE, PAGE 31



**Dan and Mel Hampton (left) and Jay Patel met each other at the beginning of the NFL season at Bugsy's Pizza Restaurant and have since started rooting for each other's teams after seeing one another every week.**



**There were Colts, Packers, Giants, and Eagles fans at Bugsy's Pizza Restaurant in Old Town Alexandria this past Sunday to watch their teams' game on television.**

# SPORTS

## Sunday Routine Includes Sports Bars

FROM PAGE 30

and ask 'What's going on up here,' because all you can hear is boards going and people screaming," said bartender Samantha Pallo, who has worked the Patriots games the past three seasons. "I can't tell if they scored or they just tackled somebody because no matter what it's just yelling."

In such a transient area like Alexandria, it makes sense that so many different fans flock to so many different sports bars. In doing so, though, these fans

become attached to not just a certain team, but also a certain place and a specific atmosphere.

Last Sunday, Patel watched his Giants squash the Ravens, 30-10, from the familiar confines of his booth at Buggy's even though he could have been watching the game on local television, since the Redskins didn't play until Sunday night.

"I just like talking with people who you normally wouldn't talk to or at least would talk to on a different basis," said Patel.

### ALEXANDRIA BULLETIN BOARD

To have a notice listed in the Bulletin, e-mail [gazette@connectionnews.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnews.com). Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

The second annual **World AIDS Day Service Excellence Awards program** will be from 7-8:30 p.m., **Monday, Dec. 1**, at First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St. To RSVP, 703-838-4400 ext. 305.

The application deadline for the **Winter Fuel Assistance Program** has been extended to **Monday, Dec. 1**. Because of the additional funding for the Winter Fuel Assistance Program, the City of Alexandria's Department of Human Services wants to make sure that all eligible households have an opportunity to apply. Applications for assistance may be obtained at the Department of Human Services, 2525 Mt. Vernon Ave., Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. To request an application by mail, contact Ward Pivec at 703-838-0971.

With the season of giving here, Kim Farina, branch manager of Weichert, Realtors' Alexandria/Old Town Office, announced The Alexandria/Old Town Office of Weichert, Realtors' is starting its **annual holiday toy drive** to benefit a local non-profit organization. The local community is invited to donate new, unwrapped toys from through Friday, Dec. 21, at Weichert's Alexandria/Old Town Office, located at 121 N. Pitt Street, during normal business hours. All toys will be donated to The Campagna Center.

Every year, the Alexandria Office on Women organizes a holiday party for mothers and children who have been recently served by the Domestic Violence Program. **Toy donations** for the children and gift cards for their mothers are needed. To make a donation, bring unwrapped toys and gift cards to the Office on Women, 421 King Street, Suite 400 **no later than Dec. 15**. For more information, call 703-838-4911.

The Alexandria Department of Human Services (DHS) invites the public to make the holiday season brighter by purchasing **gifts or certificates for low-income Alexandria families**, foster children or senior citizens. Donors may deliver gifts directly to recipients or bring them to the City's Human Services Center, 2525 Mount Vernon Ave., for distribution by staff. For more information, call Suzanne Kratzok at 703-838-0762 or e-mail [holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov](mailto:holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov).

Each year, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office provides **toys and gifts to children of inmates** housed in the Alexandria Detention Center. This year, the Sheriff's Office seeks gifts for children of all ages, to include older children, ages 12-18, who are often left out of traditional holiday toy drives. For more information, contact Gloria Hicks, Volunteer/Programs Coordinator, at 703-838-4111 ext. 4904 or e-mail [Gloria.Hicks@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Gloria.Hicks@alexandriava.gov).

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**Option #2 (Lower/Club Level for \$199):**

vs. Charlotte Bobcats	Jan 10th	@ 7pm
vs. New York Knicks	Jan 16th	@ 7pm
vs. Indiana Pacers	Feb 8th	@ 6pm

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# First Night ALEXANDRIA

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Want to ring in the New Year with a bang?  
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December 31, 2008  
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175 performers at 38 INDOOR venues – all easily accessible by Metro, the King Street Trolley or dedicated First Night Alexandria DASH buses.

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Admission badges are just \$12/adult online before December 25, and \$15 at retail locations throughout Alexandria (Prices increase to \$17 and \$20 after Christmas)

Children 12 and under, and active military are FREE

For a full list of performers, online badge sales and retail sales locations, visit [www.FirstNightAlexandria.org](http://www.FirstNightAlexandria.org)

# Thanksgiving during Challenging Times

FROM PAGE 10

dents take algebra by 8th grade, and exploring options for implementing exemplary programs such as the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program.

We must set our standards high: At a minimum all No Child Left Behind (NCLB) subgroups in Alexandria should exceed State averages. Currently, this is only true for white students. As an educational and moral imperative, we need to ensure success for all groups. Only 76 percent of T.C. students

graduate in four years. Twenty-four percent take longer than four years to graduate or do not graduate at all. Our children deserve better.

The challenge before us now is to prepare an ACPS budget for next year which meets the needs of our students yet recognizes that the current economic situation compels us to reduce spending.

With our strong foundation of dedicated staff, supportive community and appropriate financial resources, we not only will get

through these difficult times, but we will do better for each and every student by moving ahead wisely and with compassion, focusing on such areas as independent science research programs, additional high-level courses, support for our teachers, greater accountability and practices which reflect our beliefs that all means all students.

Our proposed budget reductions will champion instruction/student achievement by allowing us to move ahead on our divi-

sion goals while discarding programs that have not been as effective as we'd like. Central to our decision making is the fact that teaching and learning are at the core of all that we do, and that budget and program decisions will be made with that focus.

Things may look daunting, but keep in mind these hopeful words of American journalist and humorist Robert Quillen: If you count all your assets, you always show a profit.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

## ACVA New Web Site Unveiled Tourism report to be available on Web site.

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association (ACVA) got their first look at some of the content of the new tourism "Fact Book" as well as the reconfigured Web site during the organization's Forum Nov. 14 at the Westin Hotel.

"We were able to combine two years worth of data to assemble this statistical picture. This gives us the opportunity to compare ourselves with other destinations," said ACVA President and CEO Stephanie Brown.

"Surprisingly, we found that only about one half of the visitors to Alexandria are associated with a trip to Washington. For the others we are either their primary destination or part of a trip to Northern Virginia," she said.

Other facts brought forth as a result of the report prepared by the TNS Company and highlighted by Brown in her opening remarks to Forum attendees were:

- ❖ One-third of Alexandria's visitors were accompanied by children under the age of 18.
- ❖ The medium household income of Alexandria visitors is \$76,000. Twenty-six percent have household incomes of more than \$100,000 and 40 per-

cent have household incomes less than \$50,000.

❖ Visitor spending topped \$584 million in 2007, an increase of 3.8 percent over 2006. That generated \$19.5 million in 2007 local taxes.

❖ Average spending per Alexandria travel party totals \$634, compared to the national average of \$494. Leisure travel parties spend \$542 with business travelers coming in at \$950.

The report noted city visitors totaled 3.3 million per year. TNS's definition of a visitor is anyone traveling 50 miles or more from their home. Many Alexandria visitors also come here to visit friends and/or relatives, according to Brown. The full report can be found on ACVA's Web site [visitalexandriava.com/members](http://visitalexandriava.com/members) after Dec. 10.

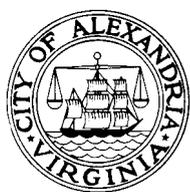
Anna Jones, director, ACVA Marketing, announced the launching of ACVA's new and improved Web site on Nov. 17. "This new site will offer more information at a glance," she said.

"This new structure enables the viewer to see a wider array of events," Jones said. The new Web site will have neighborhood pages, mapping and transportation guides, and a wide range of information on dining, shopping and sightseeing. See [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com).



**Stephanie Brown,**  
executive  
director  
and CEO,  
ACVA

### Legal Notices



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review  
Parker-Gray District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2008-0201  
Request for approval of new construction at 1123 Queen St, zoned CLCommercial  
APPLICANT: Harrison Holding, LTD

CASE BAR2008-0222  
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 310 N. Fayette St, zoned RB  
APPLICANT: Alabama Ave. LLC

CASE BAR2008-0223  
Request for approval of addition/alteration at 310 N. Fayette St, zoned RB  
APPLICANT: Alabama Ave. LLC

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

### 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

### 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

### Legal Notices

SHAWN DAVID MCCASLIN



Passed on November 23, 2008, beloved husband of Lisa Bourne McCaslin and loving father of McKechnie Caroline McCaslin, age 3. He was born in Lynchburg, VA on June 17, 1960 to the Rev. Robert O. McCaslin, Presbyterian minister, and Donna Lathrop. Shawn was a graduate of Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC (B.A., History) and University of Southampton (M.A., International Relations), England. Surviving are Wife Lisa and Child McKechnie, Mother Donna, Brothers Tom, Ian, John, and sister Barbara and their loving families; and dog Daisy and cat Hank. A Memorial Service will be held Friday, November 28, 2008 at 2:00 PM at Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church at 3512 Old Dominion Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22305. In lieu of flowers an Education Fund has been established for McKechnie. Contributions can be made to McKechnie McCaslin, c/o Ron Moriarty, Bank of America, 8300 Greensboro Drive, Suite 500, McLean, VA 22102. He was a light to all he met and that light will shine on in others

### 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;  
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

## Change of Ownership at Irish Walk

FROM PAGE 4

friends," said Old Town resident Ann McHugh.

"Bernadette has always been very accommodating. If she didn't have a certain thing I wanted she ordered it from Ireland. I'm very glad the shop is going to keep operating and will not be changing," McHugh said.

**THAT WAS ECHOED** by other Old Town residents, Art and Eleanor Grimley, who have been shopping at The Irish Walk since it was located on South Washington Street. "She goes to Ireland to get the very best products.

When I want something truly authentic from Ireland that's where I go," said Art Grimley.

And, that reputation for authenticity and customer service is not limited to Alexandria or even Northern Virginia. Mick Carroll of Silver Spring, Md., has been traveling to Old Town for the past 26 years to shop at The Irish Walk.

"Her selection of Irish products are perfect for all occasions. If you want the real thing in this area as a

gift for any holiday, birthday or whatever, The Irish Walk is the only place to go. To me the trip from Maryland to Old Town is well worth it. I can't find what I find there anywhere else," Carroll said.

"We have always carried merchandise that caters to everyone's needs and desires. We have items priced from one dollar to several thousand dollars. And, it's great for me to be able to hand it over to someone that will continue our traditions," Bernadette Troy said.

In addition to Theobald, Bernadette Troy had three other "permanent" part-time employees who were constants at the shop — Lee Reilly, Dorothy Christensen, and Dorothy Murphy. "They all would work during our peak times such as the Christmas holidays, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and The Irish Festival. But, I could call them up anytime and they would always help out," she said.

"The St. Patrick's Day Parade days were some of the most memorable. People lined the streets and wanted anything Irish. We sold a lot of our handknit Irish sweaters on those days," Bernadette Troy said.

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EOE

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EOE

**MAIL CLERK**  
Episcopal High School, located in Northern Virginia, is seeking a part-time post office clerk to provide backup support to the Post Office Supervisor. The post office clerk, under the direction of the post office supervisor, is responsible for assisting with sorting and distributing all incoming mail and packages to students and staff, assisting with the preparation of outgoing letters and/or packages, and maintaining the student bank accounts utilizing ODIN Software. This position is a Monday through Friday position, 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM, without benefits. We offer free meals when school is in session. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to mlm@episcopalhighschool.org or fax to 703-933-3019, attention Melissa Martinez. No phone inquiries or walk-ins. E.E.O.

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**NOTICE OF WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING**

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2008, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2009, include the following:

1. An increase in the availability charge from \$3,850 to \$3,950†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$6,400 to \$7,600.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$800 to \$850†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$28 to \$29.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$6.25 to \$7.05†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$1.70 to \$1.83 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$2.65 to \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off/Turn On Charge from \$40 to \$42.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and the Peak Use Charge.
10. An increase in the Sewer Use Meters Charge from \$36 to \$37
11. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$13 to \$14.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET**

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$150.0 million budget for calendar year 2009.

On Thursday, December 11, 2008, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2009 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Revenues are expected to be \$150.0 million in 2009. Water sales are expected to provide \$125.1 million. Approximately \$24.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources. The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2008	2009
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$40,719	\$42,788
Power and Utilities	11,015	13,191
Chemicals	9,288	10,625
Fuel	989	1,028
Postage	419	449
Insurance	1,254	1,289
Supplies and Materials	3,492	3,694
Contractual Services	6,109	6,797
Professional Services	1,321	1,364
Other	1,964	1,981
Sub-Total	76,570	83,206
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(8,574)	(8,667)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$67,996</b>	<b>\$74,539</b>

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$37,687,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$25,710,000

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Sunset Beach, a small barrier reef island 2 1/2 miles long and 1/3 mile wide, is quiet and family oriented and only 30 minutes from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Call Carly or David at 336-282-1870 for more details

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Nancy Dunning was my friend. Thirty years ago, she envisioned Del Ray as a community full of active citizens, thriving businesses and excellent schools. Not only did she work tirelessly over the years to help create this community, but she inspired many of us to join in her effort. For those of you who did not know Nancy, read this beautiful tribute written by her daughter, Elizabeth. For those of you who did, join me in remembering her contribution to Del Ray and Alexandria.

—Jack Taylor, Alexandria Toyota



*Nancy  
Dunning*

# The Best Mom In The World

*A Eulogy for Nancy Dunning written and read by her daughter, Liz*

A lot of people, I think, have moments when they imagine that they have the best mom in the world. I was lucky enough, however, to be absolutely certain – for a long time – that I actually did. My mom was my best friend. We talked just about every day. And, anyone who knows her, knows a couple of things about my mom, one of which was that she was more or less always right. When I was a teenager, that pissed me off sometimes. I mean, seriously, when you're sixteen and supposed to be going through that phase where you know everything, it puts a crimp in it to live with someone who actually does.

But, another thing that you must know if you met my mom was that she wasn't smug about her omnipotence. Like any good superhero, my mom used her powers for good, not evil. To make other people – not just herself – feel good and be better. She taught my brother and I how to do that, too. I hope we were paying attention. I'm pretty sure we were.

My mom also taught me just about everything I know about optimism and joy. Those were things at which she excelled. It started, when my brother and I were kids, with crazy names for things. I bet that you thought that playground on Old Dominion was just the Beverly Hills Co-op. Nope. It was the Super Deluxe Playground. And, back when the Mt. Vernon school playground was that log-thing which is probably now illegal in most states, a trip to the Super Deluxe Playground was an adventure indeed. Every day was an adventure. Whether we were sneaking food into movies when I was younger, or she was singing hilariously bad opera while she made breakfast, my mom made clear that every day had something good in it, something to be happy about. Even if it was just that they'd just started selling Christmas Blend at Starbucks. These small events and details weren't small – they were big. They warranted a phone call. So did a great song on the radio. So did anything that made her smile. These were great calls to receive. Random, sometimes, but great. I mean, who doesn't want to know that she busted the person next to her at the last traffic light picking their nose in the car? Who didn't want to hear her joyful voice, her laugh? She loved to laugh and there isn't a better feeling than making my mom laugh. Because, if you really got her going – and there are lots of ways to do this – she'd just get to that level where she's crying because she's laughing so hard. That's when you know that you've really won. Bonus points are given if you do that while one of you is driving.

Her gift with joy, with optimism, gave her part of her gift with people. She had, what I jokingly called, her secret decoder ring. That was our short-hand – and there is always short-hand – for her ability to listen, really listen, to people when they talk. And, more than that, to understand what they're really saying and, who they are and where they're coming from. That's why she wasn't just people's neighbor, or real estate agent, or neighborhood activist, or columnist, she was their friend. It didn't take much to be my mom's friend. She didn't make you jump a lot of hoops. Or wear overalls and a baseball cap with the same aplomb that she did. (And thank god, because really? Who can pull off overalls and a baseball cap like my Mom? Nobody.) She wanted to learn more about people and know more people. So she lit people up when she talked to them.

And, as a consequence, people mostly did what my Mom wanted them to do, or what she asked of them. Because her ideas were smart. They were filled with the energy and the joy that she carried with her all the time. And they reflected an understanding and awareness of the thoughts and values of everyone involved. So, if you did what she wanted you to do, you were also doing the right thing.

But, mostly, she wasn't a superhero – complete with secret decoder ring – to me. She was my Mom. She was better at that than anything else. She told my brother, and me, and my Dad that she loved us at the end of every phone conversation. That's what our family does. And so, individually, knowing that the last words we said to each other were, "I love you," helps.

There wasn't a day of my life – and there won't be one – when I wasn't sure that my mom loved me, that she believed in me, that she was proud of me. And with or without a secret decoder ring, a cape, or a phone booth to change in, it truly takes a superhero to, in this crazy messed up world, love people so well and so much. So perfectly. It takes all that to be what I have – the best mom in the world.

*On December 5, 2003, Nancy Dunning was murdered in her home in Alexandria, VA. Nancy's family, friends and co-workers have not forgotten her and celebrate her life daily. We will not give up and believe that the person who murdered her will be caught and prosecuted.*

*A \$100,000 reward available for the individual who comes forth with information leading to the arrest and conviction of this murderer.*

*If you have any information, we urge you to please call the Alexandria Criminal Investigations Section at 703-838-4711 or e-mail them at <http://alexandriava.gov/dunning>.*



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