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DECEMBER 4, 2008

Reform Isn't In the Bag

City's plan to ban plastic bags will face obstacles in Richmond.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

It's an age old question: Paper or plastic? But Councilman Tim Lovain says it's also an existential predicament, threatening the future of the planet. The first-term councilman has proposed that Alexandria ban plastic bags, following the lead of countries such as

Ireland, Bangladesh, South Africa, Thailand and Taiwan. He first proposed the idea in an Alexandria Gazette Packet op ed published in May, and now he has added an item to the city's legislative packet during the upcoming General Assembly session.

"We need to get people into a different mindset about the use of plastic bags."

— Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49)

week about the upcoming General Assembly session. "The time has come to do something."

At Lovain's request, council members added a plank to their legislative agenda that asks member of the local delegation to introduce legislation that would allow Alexandria to pass an ordinance prohibiting retail merchants from using plastic carryout bags. Under Virginia's "Dillon Rule," the General Assembly would be required to grant the city

SEE BAG BAN, PAGE 29



Brianna Parrott adds a jeweled snow flake to the window display at Artcraft in Old Town.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

'Black Friday' Not Black Enough

Sunday's bleak weather rained on merchants' holiday parade.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

For most of the smaller retail merchants in Alexandria, Belle View Shopping Center and Hollin Hall Shopping Center "Black Friday" was not nearly as bleak as many had expected. However, it was nothing to cheer about either based on their Monday assessments.

But the annually hyped sales day, the Friday after Thanksgiving, which many retailers depend on for a significant amount of their annual gross income does not have the same impact on smaller retailers as it does on the large retail chain stores. This was particularly true this year with the larger stores pushing myriad of sale items — well before Black Friday.

"We never consider Black Friday to be a big shopping day. At most, it can usually be compared to a good Saturday," said Adam Winer, owner and manager, Artcraft in Old Town Alexandria.

"We were very busy on both Friday and Saturday. But, Sunday was a bust due to the weather. In general people appear to be buying less expensive items this year," he said.

Todd Healy at Gallery Lafayette found this Black



Inside of Why Not? in Old Town.

Friday's sales to be much less than normal. "But, at this point, I attribute that to most people being at the malls hunting for bargains. We'll see as the

SEE NOT SO BLACK, PAGE 31

A Call To Serve

Mayor uses Unity Breakfast to advocate for service to community.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

When Mike Mackey first began mentoring, he told a capacity crowd huddled into the Mark Center Hilton for the fifth annual Unity Breakfast last week, he was not sure who was more nervous — the 7-year-old named Tommy or himself. Yet despite their reservations, both soldiered through their weekly afternoon reading sessions at Jefferson-Houston Elementary School. After a while, the sessions seemed less intimidating and increasingly familiar.

"His smile went from Capitol Hill to City Hall," said Mackey, the city's gang-prevention coordinator. "I was hooked."

SEE A CALL, PAGE 31

Death Deemed Suspicious

Shortly after 2 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 2, the Alexandria Police Department received a call from an individual who was concerned about a woman who lived in the EOS 21 Apartment complex on South Van Dorn Street. When officers arrived to check on the welfare of the woman, they discovered the body of a woman who was already dead. Police spokeswoman Ashley Hildebrandt declined to say if foul play was suspected, although the Police Department categorized the incident as a "suspicious death."

"Someone was concerned about her and called us," said

SEE DEATH, PAGE 29



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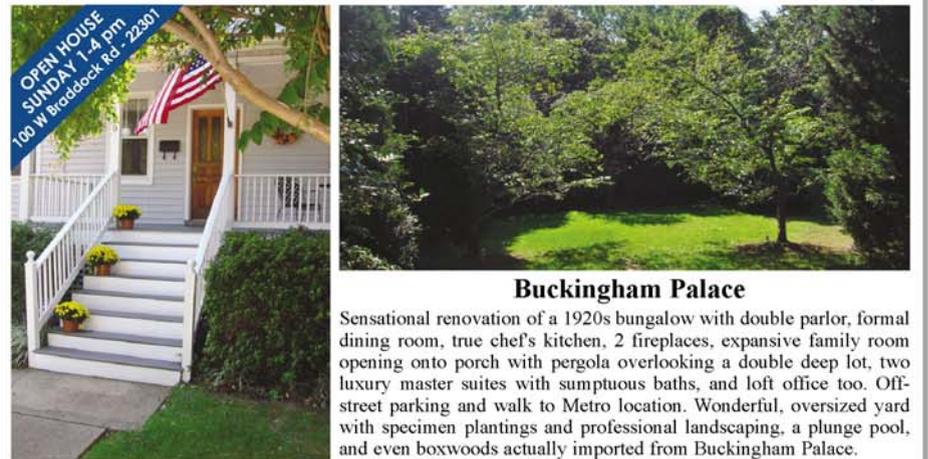
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Layoffs Expected

In these times of grim economic news, the City Council unanimously voted for a potential bit of good news for residential taxpayers last week. But it might come at the expense of city employees.

Council members approved a “guidance” resolution that directed City Manager **Jim Hartmann** to prepare a budget that would have the average homeowner paying the same amount as last year. Because property assessments have declined over the last year, that would require the city government cut its budget by 4.3 percent and the school system to reduce its budget by 2 percent. City officials say accomplishing that goal might require laying off some city employees.

“We fully expect there will be considerable service reductions in the proposed budget, and the proposed budget will likely include potential reductions in the city’s workforce,” said Mayor **Bill Euille**. “We must approach this effort with full clarity, aggressive communication, and, above all, compassion.”

The guidance resolution identified several areas where council members would like to see the city manager minimize reductions, such as public safety, human services, transportation spending and education funding. Council members also directed Hartmann to avoid harming programs or services that would harm property values or diminish Alexandria’s ability to recover from the current economic downturn. To accomplish this, they suggested, Hartmann should try to identify ways for residents to accomplish tasks that government can no longer afford.

“We have some extreme financial challenges as we face the most significant revenue shortfall in decades,” said Hartmann in a written statement released after the vote. “We will do our best to minimize the impact of reductions on city employees and work creatively and collaboratively to mitigate the impact of reductions on city employees and work creatively and collaboratively to mitigate the constraints in delivering city services.”

Tapping the Tills

City Hall is about to get tough on deadbeat taxpayers, employing a host of aggressive new collection methods to make sure that the city government will get every penny that’s coming to it. The enhanced measures come as the result of an inquiry by Councilman **Justin Wilson**, who suggested that the city could increase its revenues by going after delinquent taxes. Last week, the City Council gave the green light for bank liens, garnishing wages, credit agency reporting and even seizure of property. One of the more extreme methods approved last week is known as a “till tap,” which city officials describe as a “last-resort mechanism” used when all other collection methods have failed.

The till tap works like this: City officials would obtain a “seizure warrant” from a magistrate, which would be delivered by the Sheriff’s Office to the delinquent business, where money would be removed from the cash register. Officials note that such extreme measures would be rarely used, and that the threat of employing them might be enough to prompt the deadbeats into action.

“Just the fact that they exist might have a deterrent effect,” said Councilman **Tim Lovain**. “All we might have to do is have a few till taps of a few restaurants and have the sheriff distrain some assets a couple of times and word will spread.”

Squirrel Survives Attack

City Council members have a thing for plush human-sized mascots. They always have a chuckle when **Robby the Recycling Squirrel** pays a visit. And who doesn’t love T.C. Williams High School muscle-bound **Tony Titan**? Then there’s **Tom Turkey**, who makes an annual pilgrimage to City Hall to promote the Turkey Trot fund-raising race to benefit those in need.

“Earlier this month, we had Robby the Recycling Squirrel here,” Vice Mayor **Del Pepper** said as the turkey shrugged. “You ate him? Oh my goodness!”

Through a spokesman, the squirrel indicated that reports of his demise have been greatly exaggerated.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Participants in the Alexandria fire Department Coss Fit Program are, front row: **Craig Youngdale, Pat Evans, Fire Chief Adam Thiel, Chet Helms, Josh Weisman, Mike Perry, and Brian Meckes**. Second row: **Mike Lynn, Greg Cook, Warner Sherman, Thurston McClain, and Darryl Stanton**.

Finding ‘Cross Fit’ a Good Fit

Firefighters’ new exercise program is based on daily demands of profession.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE PACKET

Fire fighting is one of the most physically challenging professions anyone can undertake. And, while physical fitness and training have long been part of their daily routines, this year, Alexandria’s first responders are introducing a new program to not only keep in shape but also promote team work, an essential element to the success of their mission on every call — firefighters and EMS.

Known as “Cross Fit,” this program is being utilized by the U.S. military as well as police and fire departments nationwide. It emphasizes team-oriented functional fitness.

“This is an outstanding complement to our
SEE NEW EXERCISE, PAGE 42



Assistant Fire Chief Denise Pouget and Terri Meckes.

Pinkett’s Ponzi Scheme Detailed

Preston Pinkett III, 68 of Alexandria, defrauded more than 180 investors of more than \$40 million, according to statement of facts filed with his guilty plea in federal court in Alexandria on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008.

Pinkett, the president and CEO of International Fiduciary Corporation in Arlington, encouraged victims to invest in his business’s “Asset Growth Program.” Pinkett convinced investors they would benefit from the returns on “first tier medium term bank notes,” according to court records.

“In fact, IFC was a corporate front for an international Ponzi scheme that received over \$40 million in fraudulently obtained investments,” said Acting

U.S. Attorney Dana J. Boente.

Pinkett personally pocketed more than \$5.4 million in fraudulent proceeds, according to his statement of facts in his guilty plea.

U.S. District Court Judge James C. Cacheris is scheduled to sentence Pinkett in March for conspiracy to commit mail fraud.

He faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, and full restitution to the 180 investors he defrauded.

The FBI and U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigated the case, which is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney G. Derek Anderson.

— KEN MOORE

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NEWS

Champion for Cats

Founder of King Street Cats and Unique shop dies of cancer.



Ethel Beun holds granddaughter Eden Rohrbach.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

For almost four decades, Ethel Beun was a fixture on King Street. Her shop, known simply as “Unique,” has been in operation since 1969, and she helped found an animal-rescue organization known as King Street Cats in 2003. After a two-year struggle with pancreatic cancer, Beun died Monday, Dec. 1. She was 72.

“She was quiet in her way of giving,” said daughter Jennifer Rohrbach, adding that she helped homeless people as well as homeless animals. “There were things that she did that we wouldn’t even find out about until long afterward.”

A native of Singac, N.J., Beun studied elementary education at the University of Arizona before marrying a Foreign Service officer in the State Department and moving to Peru.

While in the South American country, she founded a school known as “Ethel’s Day Nursery,” which offered lessons on reading and writing as well as three meals a day.

“She saw the poverty there, and her background was in education so she knew she could do something about it,” said Rohrbach. “These kids had parents who worked on fields or in the chicken farms, and the school was a need that my mother knew she could fill.”

In the early 1960s, she moved to Alexandria and taught elemen-

tary schools for a few years in the District of Columbia before opening Unique in 1969. Originally located at 211 King, the store eventually moved into rented space at 213 King — a building she purchased for \$140,000 in 1976, according to city land records. Although the store initially specialized in imported items from Mexico and Peru, it has evolved into a quirky gift shop that sells everything from candles to greeting cards.

Next month, the store will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

“Ethel not only rescued animals, she rescued people,” said Cindy Collegeman, a Unique employee and a longtime friend of Beun. “When people walked through the door here, this was a place of healing. I’ve always thought of it as kind of like ‘Cheers,’ a place where people felt welcomed.”

In 2003, Beun founded a cat rescue known as “King Street Cats” and donated space on the second floor of the building. The nonprofit agency rescues about 250 cats a year, with more than 85 percent of contributions to the nonprofit organization go directly to the care, feeding and sheltering of homeless cats.

“She had space in her building
SEE RECALLING, PAGE 7

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February 2006 Democratic Caucus

Paul Smedberg	1,145
Rob Krupicka	1,138
Tim Lovain	1,067
Del Pepper	997
Andrew Macdonald	929
Ludwig Gaines	926
Scott Johnson	720
Jesse Jennings	507
Lillian White	405

Recent Democratic Caucus Returns

June 2007 Democratic Caucus

655	Justin Wilson
537	Jim Lay
466	Boyd Walker
208	Lenny Harris
145	Mark Feldheim

GRAPH BY LAWRENCE FOONG/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

A Call to Caucus

Eight candidates seek six party slots for the May City Council election.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

With the Democratic caucus less than two months away, candidates for the Alexandria City Council have embarked on a campaign for the hearts and minds of city voters in a race that will be unlike any other nominating process in recent memory. After considering a campaign for the House of Delegates, former Mayor Kerry Donley announced last month that he will instead challenge the current slate of incumbent Democrats, all of whom are running for reelection. Last week, real-estate investor Boyd Walker threw his hat into the ring, creating a field of eight candidates in a race where the six candidates with the most votes will appear on the May 5 ballot.

"The Democratic candidate selection is likely to be the selection of the people who are going to govern the city," said Phil Hocker, an architect and environmental consultant. "Recent history suggests that the Democrats will be the next City Council, so this is very important."

In a contentious Monday night meeting, Alexandria Democrats debated the merits of conducting a citywide primary at taxpayer expense or a single-location "firehouse caucus" that would be paid for by the committee. Hocker and several other committee members argued in favor of a primary that would allow voting in all precincts, a process that would cost taxpayers \$55,000. But the overwhelming majority of committee members voted in favor of a caucus, setting the Democratic candidate selection from noon to 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 31 at the Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center.

"I know a caucus might sound like a smoke-filled room, but we don't have smoking in public buildings anymore," joked Barbara Brenman, a fund-raiser for the Inova Alexandria Hospital. "I think it would be inappropriate to blow \$55,000 at a time when city agencies are being asked to make cuts."

The Alexandria City Republican City Committee will formally adopt its candidate-selection procedure later this week, although two potential G.O.P. standard-bearers have already expressed a desire to challenge the Democratic slate for City Council. Businessman Frank Fannon confirmed he was considering a Republican candidacy for City Council, as did Queen Street Clinic founder Anne Parish. Committee Chairman Chris Marston said that others are also an interested in running, although he does not expect the party to field a full slate of six candidates.

"It's certainly a tough climate for Republicans," Marston said. "But I think a consensus has been developing that the City Council is plagued by groupthink, and that it would benefit from a diversity of opinion."

DONLEY'S RETURN to city politics last month has reshuffled the political calculus for the Democratic caucus, with the former mayor posing a serious threat to the six incumbent Democrats. The six candidates with the most votes will earn a spot on the ticket, while the seventh and eighth runners-up will not be on the May ballot unless they decide to bolt the party and run as independents. The last City Council caucus, which was held in February 2006, put Paul Smedberg in first place and Ludwig Gaines in last place. Because

Gaines also finished last in the last two general election campaigns, some were speculating that he might stand the most to lose by Donley's announcement. Yet in a speech to committee members Monday night, Gaines challenged that perception by announcing endorsements from several prominent elected officials and community leaders.

"Reports of my demise have been greatly exaggerated," said Gaines, adding that his campaign would not take contributions from developers with business before council or their attorneys. "At times there are parts of the city that have felt outside the system, and I have worked very hard to elbow a place at the decision-making table for them."

Because Justin Wilson won his place on the City Council in a summertime special election with a participation rate significantly lower than a typical caucus, relative support for him against the other members of the council is difficult to gauge. Last year, he

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 29

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LIVING LEGENDS

Music: Janet Ring's Life Source

Her love of music led to her work with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra.

BY PAT DURKIN
FORMER EDITOR OF THE GAZETTE
PACKET

This is the seventh of a series of 12 profiles that chronicle Alexandria's Living Legends, people who are today's history makers. Living Legends of Alexandria is a joint project of the Rotary Club of Alexandria and the Alexandria Gazette Packet. Conceived and directed by Nina Tisara, it is designed as an ongoing project to identify and honor those individuals whose vision and dedication make a tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.

For more information or to nominate a Legend for next year's program, visit www.tisaraphoto.com/legends.

To understand what makes Jane Ring tick, put on a CD of Emanuel Ax or the young genius Alexander Gavrylyuk: Ring's favorite concert pianists.

"Gavrylyuk is the best I've heard. And I've heard a lot," Ring said. "Including Arthur Rubenstein."

Since childhood, music has been Ring's life force, shaping her extracurricular activities through childhood in Raleigh N.C., driving her master's studies at Duke University, even pointing her toward Carlyle "Connie" Ring, her husband of more than 50 years. They met during a summer waiting tables at Chautauqua in New York's Catskills, attracted there by the music.

"If it were possible to say 'no' to Jane, many of us would not be involved in all of the wonderful activities that make this city such a wonderful place to live."

**— Rose Fullerton,
co-president,
Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria**

"We courted in the hotel refrigerator," Ring laughed.

Her many friends and admirers would be hard pressed to name the one activity of so many that qualified her as an Alexandria Living Legend. Her service to the community is great



Jane Ring

and varied. But once again, music was the driver.

Her extraordinary work over the years raising funds for the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra has substantially helped assure the resources that made possible a professional orchestra in a city the size of Alexandria. ASO produces five regular season concerts, a Pops Concert, a Holiday Concert, and a Children's Festival, an unheard of achievement for a community orchestra.

"**JANE'S ENDLESS WORK** behind the scenes has been vital to the Symphony's success," said ASO Executive Director Adrian Findlay. Performances almost always sell out. ASO's charismatic music director Kim Kluge is popular with the city's music lovers. He leads the extraordinary group of musicians he has been able to attract with poetry and passion. But ticket sales cover only 30 percent of ASO's costs.

Enter Ring, who has been a mainstay in ASO's fund-raising efforts since she joined the Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria (SOLA) almost 20

years ago.

There's little in the orchestra's fund-raising arena in which she hasn't played a major role. For the past four years, she has chaired SOLA's annual holiday Virginia Diner Peanut sales, one of the Symphony's most successful fundraisers.

been the pianist for this much-anticipated break in the lectures since the sing-along's beginnings in 1973.

In the 1970s, she accompanied the George Mason Elementary Chorus. Today, she volunteers with George Mason's "Dragontones," led by music teacher Kathleen Baker — another star in Alexandria's musical constellation. Ring accompanies the chorus for their musical productions.

Part of her success is her ability to involve so many others. "If it were possible to say 'no' to Jane, many of us would not be involved in all of the wonderful activities that make this city such a wonderful place to live," said Rose Fullerton, co-president of SOLA and the person who nominated Ring as a Living Legend.

THE ALTERNATE THEME of Ring's life is support. Others star, she helps create their opportunity. And that holds true even when the subject goes beyond music.

She has been a member of THE TWIG, the Auxiliary of the Alexandria Hospital since 1968, serving as its president from 1973 to 1974. She remains a sustaining member and is its second-longest serving member — "oldest?" she joked. She and her husband support the Hospital Foundation through the 1872 Society.

And it doesn't stop there. She also provides a level of volunteer support for Westminster Presbyterian Church that most mortals would call a full-time job in itself: three terms as elder, co-superintendent of the church with her husband, a former president of the women's group, provider of meals for receptions, assistance to families during funeral and memorial services as a member of the Compassion Guild, and food every month for Carpenter's Shelter for the city's homeless families. She has also chaired numerous church activities and served for eight years as the church's business administrator.

And more: As a dedicated member of the city's GOP, she was long the backbone of Connie Ring's successful campaigns for City Council and in 1961 was a founding member of the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club. Back then, she recalled, "a Republican hadn't been elected on the local level since Reconstruction."

To help encourage voting in general, she became a notary in order to help place the required stamp on any voter's absentee ballot. "I believe in two-party democracy," she said.

Oh, yes, family life is very important to her. She and her husband have raised four very impressive children — "the cycle of the Rings," she called them. "Some of the most fun I have is 'jamming' with my banjo-picking son, Roddy."

How she fits it all in is a mystery. She is relaxed, bubbly, and every bit the gracious Raleigh-bred born lady she is.

Suddenly, without even being asked, one suddenly has ordered a case of those peanuts.

NEWS

Another Restaurant OK'd for Old Town

Former Wilfred-Rogers to become Sandella's Flatbread Café.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE PACKET

Another restaurant, in the core of Old Town's business district, was recommended for approval Tuesday, Dec. 2 by the Alexandria Planning Commission. It will be located at 320 King St., the space vacated by Wilfred-Rogers specialty shop in June.

The applicant, DC Sandella's Franchise, LLC, proposes to turn the former specialty retail shop into Sandella's Flatbread Cafe, "a fast casual restaurant primarily serving lunch and dinner" and offering both "eat-in and take-out service." The application calls for 42 indoor and eight outdoor seats.

As described in the application, "Sandella's is an upscale, fast casual cafe serving premium quality, health conscious, and great tasting menu items served on Sandella's proprietary flatbread." The chain has over 125 locations nationwide and 300 more currently in development.

"This store would be the flagship operation of the franchise in the Washington region," said Attorney Duncan Blair, representing the owners of DC Sandella's Franchise, Daniel A. Rowe and B. Thomas Reiser, Jr. They hold the rights to franchising Sandella's throughout the Metropolitan Area.

According to the application this site will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. It is anticipated to serve an estimated 2,700 patrons a week with a staff of eight "working in two overlapping shifts per day." There will be no alcohol or live entertainment on the premises, according to the application.

"The proposed restaurant will contribute to the increased vitality of King Street and will also add to the mix of restaurant opportunities in the area," staff stated in their analysis. The south side of the 300 block of King Street is presently occupied by a mix of re-

tail, office and restaurant uses. The north side is Market Square and Alexandria City Hall.

Staff also expressed the opinion that, "An active restaurant tenant in this space will be an improvement for lower King Street and will provide a convenience for area office workers and residents." Presently there are 12 eateries located along the three blocks of King Street from the river to the intersection of Royal and King streets. The new Sandella's would make 13.

The staff report also concluded, "Having an on-site franchise office will result in this location serving as a model location for other potential franchises." The proposed restaurant will serve as a Sandella marketing site.

IN OTHER ACTION, the commission unanimously recommended approval of the following applications:

- ❖ A text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow recycling centers in the industrial zone as a permitted use. It was triggered by a proposal to relocate an existing public recycling center from 3518 Wheeler Avenue to 3100 Business Center Drive.

- ❖ A request for a form-based development special use permit, with site plan, to construct a retail/office mixed use building at 2903 Mount Vernon Avenue under the Mount Vernon Avenue Plan Design Guidelines. The site is the former location of Anthony's Auto Center. The proposal is supported by the Del Ray Citizens Association.

- ❖ A proposal by Saint Anthony's Day School, 315,317 and 321 First Street, for a development special use permit, with site plan, for expansion of the existing day care center. The proposal calls for the construction of a 5,436-sq.-ft. addition to accommodate more children as well as provide smaller class sizes and other amenities such as an outdoor play terrace.

Recalling Ethel Beun

FROM PAGE 4

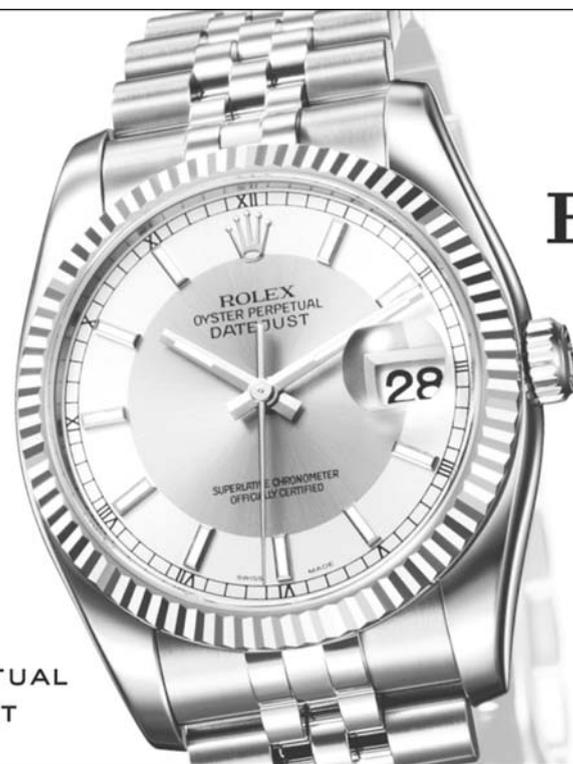
and space in her heart for the mission of this organization," said Allie Phillips, president of King Street Cats.

"Ethel was the kind of person who loved animals, especially cats

who had were homeless, abused or neglected."

She is survived by her husband, Jim Logan; a daughter, Jennifer Rohrbach; a son, Brian Beun; a sister, Sonya Hauser; and four grandchildren.

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Renee Reymond was the top producer and the top lister of the Alexandria/Old Town Historic District office of Long & Foster with a sales volume of \$4.6 million.



October was a very good month in spite of economic uncertainty. With newcomers heading to DC in coming months, there is a golden opportunity to buy & sell real estate in our area.

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renee.reymond@longandfoster.com

ReneeSellsAlexandria.com

KEEPING SHOP

Staying Focused On Service

Dora Adamopoulos, O.D., is the owner of Eye-2-Eye Optometry Corner.

Short bio:

I grew up near the Clearwater area of Florida. I attended the New England College of Optometry in Boston, Mass. My internships were at a laser center in Orlando, Fla., a Veterans Hospital in Manchester, N.H., a Community Clinic in Boston, Ma. and at the National Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md. and Navy Yard, Washington D.C. My husband and I relocated to D.C. in 1999 and have been in Alexandria ever since. I have two daughters, ages 6 and 3. I've been in practice for 10 years, nine of them in Alexandria and have seen roughly 11,000 patients in that time.

Why did you choose this particular business?

Eye care has always been fascinating to me. You can learn so much from the eye: the presence of diabetes, blood pressure, tumors—just to name a few. From a personal perspective, I always wore glasses as a child and became very interested in this field from a young age. My own eye doctor became my mentor as I entered this field.

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

Coming from a Greek family who owned diners in the past, being my own boss was the only way I knew how to work. I was always taught to be independent and I learned from a young age how to run a business.

What have you learned from being in business?

The bottom line is this: Customer Service. People deserve to be treated with respect and honesty goes a long way in developing life-long relationships.

Share an anecdote of a challenging or humorous experience or biggest surprise learned from working your business:

I learned never to judge a patient based on age. I had a determined 9 year old whose coach would not let him wear his glasses to play hockey and recommended he try contact lenses. This little boy never gave up and after many hours in my office, learned to insert and remove contact lenses by himself. Determination goes a long way. On the flip side, I had a 72-year-old widowed lady who was new on the dating scene and was interested in contacts to make her feel younger and more attractive. She had never tried before, but we both said, "why not?" She too was successful and now recommends contact lenses

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



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

Although new to Mt. Vernon Avenue, Dora Adamopoulos has been in practice for 10 years and has seen about 11,000 patients.

to all her friends.

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

The advantage of having a business in Alexandria, especially Del Ray, is the hometown feel you still have when visiting. Small business owners are what make up this town and without them, our property values would decline and the area would lose its charm. The residents truly support the local businesses as well.

Key staff:

Chris: She has been a licensed optician and expert frame stylist for 18 years. She truly understands the needs of the patient and can help accommodate all your eyewear needs.

Andrea: Lead receptionist and billing coordinator. She has been instrumental in keeping us up to date with all the insurance changes.

Description of services

and/or products:

Complete eye exams for ages 4 and older. We have an excellent selection of eyewear for kids, teens, and adults. In addition our diverse assortment of sunglasses will meet all your needs whether it is for fashion or for sports. We also carry glasses and sunglasses to reduce glare on the computer, when driving, and while outside.

Professional affiliations/associations:

Member of the Northern Virginia Optometric Society, Virginia Optometric Association, and American Optometric Association.

Eye-2-Eye Optometry Corner

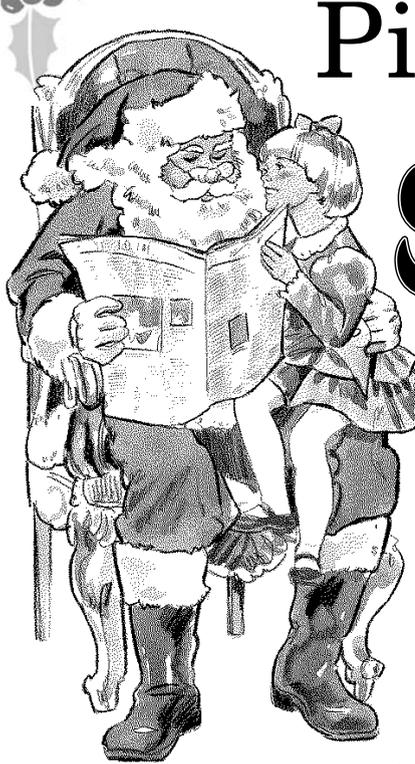
Address: 1502 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria

Years at this address: 1 month

Years in business: 10 years

Telephone: 703-48-0122

Web site www.myeye2eye.com



Pictures with Santa

**Saturday
December 13th
12:00 - 3:00 PM**

Celebrate Holiday Magic with the merchants at Bradlee Shopping Center

Bradlee Center
King Street, just west of Quaker Lane in Alexandria

ARHA Housing Director Arrested

By CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority Director of Housing Operations, Marye Ish, has been suspended without pay by ARHA Executive Director Roy Priest as a result of her arrest Nov. 6 in LaPlata, Md., on charges of alleged possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia.

According to a police report filed at the LaPlata Sheriff's Department, Ish was arrested by Maryland State Police Trooper First Class Wilson at approximately 10:22 p.m. at Hawthorne Road and Crain Highway. In addition to the drug charges, Ish was also charged with a traffic violation, according to Officer Davis of the LaPlata Sheriff's Department.

Ish, a resident of Fort Washington, Md., was re-

leased on her own recognizance after being processed at the LaPlata Jail, according to Davis. A trial date has been set for April 7, 2009, at the Charles County Court. She is being represented by Attorney Mark Chandlee of Bowie, Md.

Ish has served as ARHA's Director of Housing Operations for more than a decade. In that role she is responsible for supervising placement officers who determine the certification and eligibility of public housing residents. As a matter of law, public housing residents can be evicted if drugs are discovered in their residence. Such an eviction can also adversely impact their eligibility for future public housing certification.

Ish was unable to be contacted for comment. Although her attorney was contacted, he could not discuss any of the details of the pending case nor was he able to have Ish return a call for comment.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY, DEC. 7

Winter Yoga Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Yoga in Daily Life, 2402 Mount Vernon Ave. Enjoy different health techniques and lunch for \$50/person. Register at www.yogaindailylifeus.org or 703-299-8946.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

Health Group. 7:30 p.m. at The First Christian Church, 2723 King St. NAMI/FOCUS meeting with mentally ill family members. Free. 571-451-0773.

FRIDAY, DEC. 12

Application Deadline To Serve on Arts Panels. The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is seeking volunteers with expertise in music, theatre, and dance to serve on Resource Panels. Panel members are

expected to serve three-year terms and should be prepared to review grant applications by the first panel meeting to be scheduled in mid- to late- January. Individuals who are interested in serving should send a letter of interest and resume, or curriculum vita, to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or e-mail it aca@alexandriava.gov. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. Call 703-519-3494.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Women, Art & Shopping HOLIDAY SHOW!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
1:00 – 4:30 pm

Sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for Women and the Friends of the Commission - Our Eleventh Women Artists Show

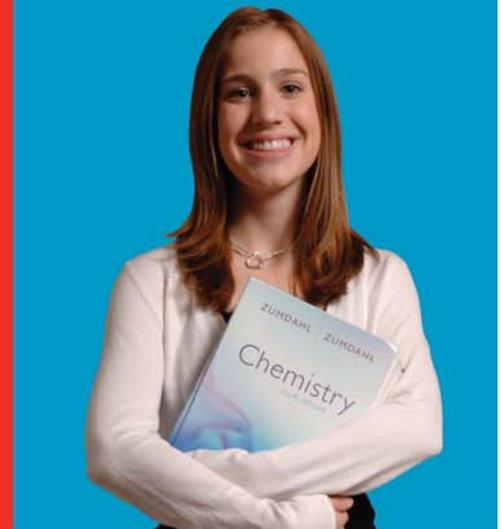
Just in time for holiday shopping...take a break from the dreaded malls and mobs and join creative women artists for a relaxing afternoon of fun, art, women and wine. Find just the right gifts for everyone on your list...and perhaps something wonderful for yourself!

This is a collection site for new toys/gifts for the Battered Women's Shelter Holiday Party

Complimentary refreshments served - NO COST TO ATTEND

*15% of the proceeds will be donated by the Friends of the Commission for Women to programs of the Office on Women.

Speak. Declare. Debate. Share.



“MADEIRA GIRLS have something to say”

If your daughter is looking for an academic environment where she can really develop her sense of self and her unique abilities, we encourage your family to attend one of the following Open Houses:

Sunday, December 7 • 1:00 p.m.

Please contact the Admissions Office at 703.556.8273 for program details or to arrange an alternate time to visit.

We look forward to seeing you.

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NEWS



Two shirvans with a Kazak on top

International Collection

Old Town resident and collector Leonardo Contardo is busy measuring and pricing 500-plus antique oriental carpets from his collection. The collection consists of Persian, Turkish, Chinese and rugs from the Caucasus area and includes many runners in various sizes. The show and sale will be held at the Athenaeum Gallery at 201 Prince Street on Friday, Dec. 12-15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.



Leonardo Contardo with two of his Heriz carpets. On the ground is a 100-year-old tribal Ersari carpet from Afghanistan.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE



A worn Afshar, serab, and Kurdish carpet.



Caucasian shirvan (leaf and wine cup border)



Rolled up carpets.

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We will be set up from December 1st-14th from 10am - 8pm

The Salvation Army would like to thank the Springfield Mall, Walmarts in Kingstowne and on Route 1 and BJ's Warehouse for their partnership in helping to meet human need without discrimination. Please feel free to donate at one of our local red kettles or online or by phone at www.salvationarmyusa.org, 1-800-SAL-ARMY.

Senior Services 2009 Calendar Now Available

Senior Services of Alexandria's 2009 calendar is now available for holiday gift-giving. It has been produced as a SSA fund-raiser since 1980.

At a cost of \$12, the calendar is composed of a dozen pen-and-ink

drawings depicting scenes throughout Old Town Alexandria. They have been produced by local artist Deron DeCesare.

The calendar is available at the SSA office, 700 Prince St.; The Virginia Shop, 104 S. Union St.; The

Lyceum Gift Shop, 201 S. Washington St.; and Elder Crafters, 405 Cameron St.

For more information on the calendar and purchases call SSA at 703-836-4414, Ext. 10, or Judy Drewry at 703-370-1948.

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 9

MONDAY, DEC. 15

Deadline for Toy Donations. 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. Bring unwrapped toys and gift cards to the Office on Women, 421 King Street, Suite 400 no later than Dec. 15. Call 703-838-4911.

Deadline for Holiday Donations to Domestic Violence Program.

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. To donate to the Children's Holiday Party this year, bring unwrapped toys and gift cards to the Office on Women, 421 King Street, Suite 400. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Shannon McGregor or Stephanie Romonchuk at 703-838-4911.

TUESDAY, DEC. 16

Holiday Sharing Program's Gift Delivery.

The Alexandria Department of Human Services invites the public to help make the holiday season brighter for low-income families, foster children, and seniors by participating in the City's Holiday Sharing Program. 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. The department is also seeking volunteers to help sort and deliver gifts at the Human Services Center on Dec. 16, 17, and 18 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call Suzanne Kratzok at 703-838-0762, e-mail holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov or visit www.ourkids-ourbusiness.org/thefundforalexchild for more information.

THURSDAY, DEC. 18

Toys for Inmates' Children. Each year, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office provides toys and gifts to children of inmates housed in the Alexandria Detention Center to be distributed on Dec. 18 at the Public Safety Center. Contact Gloria Hicks, volunteer/programs coordinator, at 703-838-4111 ext. 4904 or e-mail Gloria.Hicks@alexandriava.gov.

SUNDAY, DEC. 21

Deadline for Holiday Toy Drive.

The Alexandria/Old Town Office of Weichert, Realtors' is running its annual holiday toy drive. The community is invited to donate new, unwrapped toys from through Friday, Dec. 21, at its office, located at 121 N. Pitt Street, during normal business hours. All toys will be donated to The Campagna Center.

THURSDAY, JAN. 8

The Eighth Annual Conservation Breakfast.

The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust will host keynote speaker U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) from 8-9:30 a.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. Tickets are \$50. For reservations, call 703-354-5093.

SATURDAY, JAN. 10

Application Deadline for the Women's Opportunity Awards.

Program aids women seeking to improve their economic status by gaining additional skills, training and education. Applications are available by contacting Sylvia Winterling, sylvawint@aol.com.

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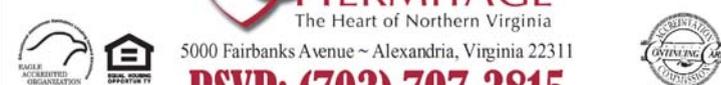
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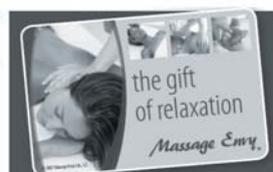
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New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4



4 West Rosemont Avenue | \$879,000

A classic Rosemont beauty on a great lot just blocks from the King St Metro. Comfortable, flowing floor plan with sunny living room leading to charming porch, large formal dining room, gourmet kitchen, powder room and family room that opens to private patio and yard. This three bedroom, two and a half bath home is an elegant renovation of a timeless classic. Dir: From King Street, turn north on Russell Rd, turn right on Rosemont Ave.

Karen Leonard | 703-328-7041 Alexandria

Just Listed—Open Sunday 1-4



5501 Seminary Rd. #1302S | \$259,900

LUXURY HIGH RISE LIVING!

Conveniently located, this spacious one bedroom and den, one and a half bath condo in Skyline Square has fresh paint throughout, plus brand new carpet and kitchen flooring. Den could be used as second bedroom. Building includes exercise room, party room, outdoor pool, etc. Ownership includes two garage spaces.

Carol Hooks | 703-509-4199 Falls Church

New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4



114 Hume Avenue | \$849,900

HEART OF DEL RAY

Historic plaqued, charming 1925 colonial with front porch that has been thoughtfully expanded with a rear two story addition. Center hall foyer, four fireplaces, four bedrooms, three and a half baths, pine floors and large rooms. Finished lower level with game room & storage. Screened porch with hot tub, deck, fenced yard and garage.

Sherry York | 703 625-3377 Del Ray

Just Listed



10313 Latney Road | \$335,775

MOVE IN CONDITION!
All new windows and wood floors in foyer, kitchen & breakfast room. New carpets in living room, dining room and three bedrooms. Updated kitchen cabinets, new counters and appliances. All bathrooms updated. Large family room with fireplace and built-ins. Newer HVAC. Fenced brick patio. Reserved parking. Low HOA (includes pool.) Close to Braddock Rd, RT 123, I-495, VRE station, Robinson HS. GREAT VALUE!

Bob Woods | 703 682-5443 Fairfax

Open Sunday 1-4



1821 Belmont Street, NW, #4 | \$499,000

MOVE IN BY INAUGURATION!

Fabulous two bedroom, one bath boutique condominium with low condo fees, granite, stainless, wood burning fireplace, hardwoods, glass block, great open floor plan, 11 foot ceilings, 1000 plus square feet; and the owner will pay for parking for one year! For additional photos go to www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com Call Bonnie Rivkin for more information 703.598.7788.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703 598-7788 Kalorama/Adams Morgan

New On Market



501 Slaters Lane #1007 | \$425,000

Lovely one bedroom, ON THE WATER! Large, private balcony with 180 degree view of the Potomac River, Maryland, DC and the bird sanctuary. Pool, exercise, parking, 5 minutes to National Airport—no traffic hassles! Modern kitchen, wood floors throughout. Access to balcony from kitchen and living room. Breakfast area and pantry in kitchen. Floor plan available. Contact Marie Meyer for more information MLM1606@aol.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703 836-2080 River Towers

New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4



2181 Jamieson Avenue #501 | \$480,000

VACATION AT HOME

Wonderful two bedroom, two bath condominium in the Fabulous Carlyle Towers. Beautifully appointed 1,228 square feet of living space plus a large glassed in terrace. A one owner home, it is in mint condition. Amenities galore and walking distance to two metros makes it a must see property.

Eileen Casamo | 703 855-7233 Carlyle Towers

New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4



801 Pitt Street South | \$335,000

Convenience, Charm and Affordability!

Beautifully finished one bedroom unit in St. Asaph Square. Lovely private patio on quiet side of community facing Green St. Convenient outside access through secure patio. Sunny unit with many upgrades, garage parking and community swimming pool. Convenient to restaurants, stores, bike path, DC and airport. Park on Green Street between South St Asaph and South Pitt and look for balloons! Call Linda Wolf for more information.

Linda Trinkle Wolf | 703 518-6165 Old Town

Open Sunday 1-4



523 North Alfred Street | \$575,000

JUST ABOUT PERFECT!

Including the Price! This totally renovated, 2-3 bedroom Victorian town home, 1 1/2 baths and located in Old Town is in move in condition. Nothing left to do! Kitchen, baths, floors, appliances, carpet, painting, partial roof, HVAC, most replaced in 2008. Even a beautiful patio and landscaping! A perfect Old Town location... close to Metro, shopping, restaurants, bike path, Starbucks, DC and airport. Call Linda Wolf for more information.

Linda Trinkle Wolf | 703 518-6165 Old Town



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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

Seller Financing

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



649 First Street
\$1,285,000



This large 3600+ sq ft brick townhouse at Liberty Row in Old Town is so close to DC, airport, Capitol Hill and the center of Old Town! High ceilings, brick, wood floors, enclosed garden, garage, 4.5 baths, 3 BR + guest room with bath, MBR with sitting room, large recreation room, front parlor, separate large dining room, and perfect family room with gas fireplace! Kitchen centered between the breakfast room and family room. Sweeping staircase - a bright and sunny house. Floor plan and brochure available... Call Marie Louise Meyer for details MLM1606@aol.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703 836-2080

Old Town

One of Arlington's Finest

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



1915 South Arlington Ridge Rd
\$2,400,000



Located high on the hill overlooking Washington, this lovely colonial boasts a grand 38' x 10' entrance hallway, a beautiful wide staircase and wonderfully spacious rooms. Rich in architectural detail, this gracious five bedroom plus five and a half bath residence features detailed moldings, extensive wainscoting, sparkling hardwood floors and five fireplaces. Garage parking for eight cars! Sited on a 37,000 square foot lot with towering oaks, this property also includes two charming guest or rental cottages. Reasonably priced at \$2,400,000.

Donnan C Wintermute | 703 518-6156

Alexandria

Country Lane Living

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



1500 Grassymeade Lane
\$949,000



A lovely, all brick spacious colonial featuring 5/6 bedrooms and three and half baths with a 2 car garage. Off a "Country Lane" just down the George Washington Parkway, this home sits far back on a large wooded lot. Open and spacious with cozy fireplaces, hardwoods, lovely eat in kitchen with large island and granite countertops, and an inviting family room perfect for gatherings. A short drive to shops, restaurants and entertainment, and provides an easy commute to Washington DC. Directions: South on the George Washington Parkway, right on Collingwood Rd, left on Fort Hunt Rd, right on Grassymeade Ln.

Karen Leonard | 703-328-7041

Alexandria S

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 sun-room, 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

Belle Haven

Charming Cape

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



6032 Fort Hunt Road
\$599,000



ABSOLUTELY CHARMING!
Three bedroom, two and one half bath Cape offering a gracious living room with a fireplace, elegant separate dining room, crown molding, chair rail, updated kitchen, first floor family room or master bedroom, main level den, main level office, lower level family room with a fireplace, private brick patio, garage.

Jeanne Warner | 703 980-9106

Belle Haven

CBRB is owned and operated by NRT, LLC. Information deemed reliable but is not guaranteed.

Planning for Holiday Party Season

Many ways to avoid drinking and driving.

The season for holiday parties is upon us, and with it the increased incidence of driving under the influence. The possible consequences of driving drunk and underage drinking are often hard to comprehend. But the stories and grief of local families who have lost loved ones to such accidents should provide enough of a cautionary tale.

Here's one example from earlier this fall, when a young Northern Virginia man was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter because of a drunk-driving accident that resulted in unspeakable tragedy for three families. One family lost a beloved daughter after she clung to life for five brutal days; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and "unresponsive" and living in a nursing home; the family of the defendant has also seen life as they knew it change.

Don't take a risk. Plan ahead, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a

designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home of your own, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with you when you head out, and be sure any young adults in your family are similarly armed.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area.

WRAP's 2008 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. each night from Dec. 12 to Jan. 1, 2009. To receive a free cab ride home up to a \$50 fare, call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service.

Parents are well advised to talk to their teens and let them know that if they find themselves without a safe ride home, that they can call their parents to be picked up. There are often consequences of binge drinking for teens that go beyond driving under the influence. But it is also important for parents to let their teens know that whatever happens, it is not OK to drink and drive or to get into a car driven by someone who has been drinking.

Get Involved

Join the Northern Virginia chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving for 14th Annual MADD Red Ribbon Run 5K on Wednesday, Dec. 31, at George Mason University in Fairfax. The run begins at 4 p.m., with many activities for families. See www.maddnova.org or call 703-379-1135.

Safe Ride Home

From Dec. 12 through New Year's Day, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., the Washington Regional Alcohol Program offers a free cab ride home (up to \$50) to local callers who are 21 or over. Call 800-200-8294.

If anyone needs any extra incentive, earlier this year during an enforcement effort in Alexandria, Chief of Police David P. Baker reminded drivers that the maximum penalty in Virginia for the first conviction for driving under the influence is 12 months in jail, a \$2,500 fine and a 12-month suspension of driving privileges. In addition, there are mandatory jail terms for these offenses, depending upon the blood alcohol content of the driver.

Since 1993, WRAP has provided over 41,010 safe rides home. Call 800-200-8294. For more information, see www.wrap.org

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thoughtful Analysis

To the Editor:

Why I am supporting the re-election of Tim Lovain to City Council, 2009?

I have known Tim Lovain from a variety of activities for many years. Although I have not been active in Alexandria party politics in recent years, I have had active civic involvements.

And like most of us, I am keenly interested in good government and proud of what our elected officials accomplish in this city.

So when he asked me to take an active role in his campaign, it was for me an unusual but an easy "yes." Here's why. First, as I have watched his accomplishments during the past years on City Council, I am struck by his abil-

ity to take on difficult issues, to provide thoughtful analysis and good research, and then to craft reasonable approaches that not only work, but bring together the different views that must be represented.

Second, he has been generous in the United Way campaigns in which he served as Alexandria chair. He was not a figurehead but worked hard to reach new donors to conduct a campaign. This came from his sincere and deep support for the agencies that are served by the United Way, and through them to the citizens that are less fortunate and in need.

And finally, I know him and his family as persons of conscience and active involvement in the neighborhood, as citizens of Alexandria, and in the world. He provides effective and profound leadership on many issues, including transportation, the environment, and education.

I look forward to helping him bring his track record and abilities to the renewed attention of his fellow citizens in Alexandria, and to continue his service on behalf of all us through the Alexandria City Council.

James S. Roberts
Alexandria citizen

Right Priorities

To the Editor:

This morning I attended Mayor Euille's unity breakfast in Alexandria, where I was asked what I was most thankful for: On a personal level, my family. I have been blessed with a supportive husband and four great children.

We've got a lot to be thankful for as a Com

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

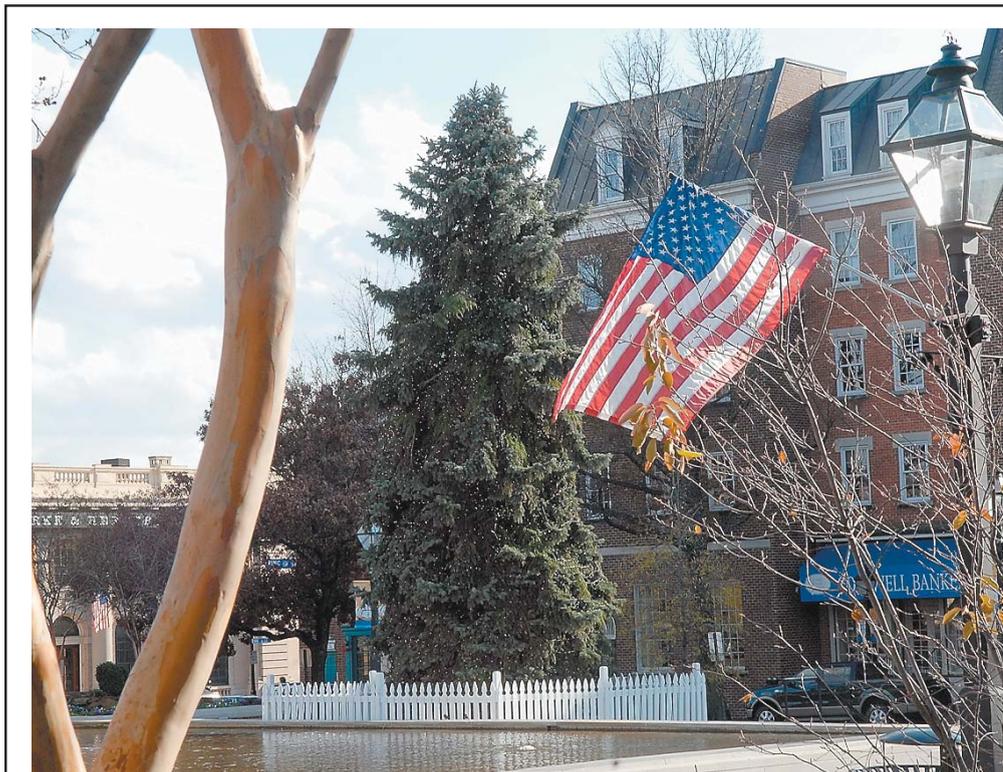


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Snapshot

2:58 p.m., Dec. 1, Market Square

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OPINION

Give to Alexandria Community Impact Fund

BY DEL. DAVID ENGLIN,
2008-2009 ALEXANDRIA
UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN CHAIR

Even when times are tough, the strong, vibrant, diverse community Alexandrians enjoy thrives because those of us blessed with a little more than we need tend to lend a hand to those of us who need a little more. With the national economy putting the squeeze on more of our neighbors, now is the time to come together and help those in our community struggling to make ends meet.

Despite our relatively affluent city, more than 1,600 families live below the poverty line, more than 5,600 Alexandrians rely on food stamps, and over half of the children in our public schools qualify for federally subsidized lunches. Many of our citizens cannot afford basic human necessities like food, clothing and shelter, let alone other needs like health care, child care, drug treatment, tutoring, and job training.

Through our tradition of caring and activism, we have risen to address these community challenges during good times and bad. While government safety-net programs are critical, we also depend on the extraordinary efforts of our community's non-profit human service providers, who work faithfully to serve those in need.

We know that supporting the work of these organizations is one way we can do our part to help. But who has the time to research which agencies work best and are meeting our community's most pressing needs?

Contributing to this year's Alexandria United Way Campaign is a great way to ensure that your charitable investment is being well spent. Through gifts and match-

ing employer donations to the United Way, you can support local Alexandria agencies in several ways:

❖ You can designate your donation to any of the 900 non-profit organizations that are certified by the United Way, including more than 60 nonprofits that are operating in Alexandria.

❖ You can choose a specific impact area you want to address, such as "promoting self-sufficiency" or "supporting vulnerable and aging populations."

❖ Or you can do what I do and give your money to the Alexandria Community Impact Fund (Code 9001).

Gifts to the Alexandria Community Impact Fund are distributed by a knowledgeable committee of Alexandria volunteers who work with nonprofit, government, and business leaders to identify gaps in services and make sure your money goes to specific local initiatives to that those Alexandria needs.

This year, the Alexandria Community Impact Fund distributed more than \$158,861 to 28 Alexandria nonprofits for programs such as: the ALIVE! Child Development Center, which provides special needs services to poor children; the David's Place day shelter program for the homeless at Carpenter's Shelter; Food and Friends, which delivers meals to homebound patients with HIV/AIDS; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, which provides a variety of human services in our community; and the Alexandria Seaport Foundation's Boatbuilding Apprenticeship Program, which provides job training to young adults.

As this year's chair of the Alex
SEE GIVE, PAGE 16

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—Nancy

OPINION

Give to Community Impact Fund

FROM PAGE 15

andria United Way Campaign, I urge all Alexandrians to be aware of the needy, the forgotten, and the unfortunate in our community during these difficult economic

times, and to support the vital work of our non-profit agencies. For more information about the United Way, visit the Web site at www.unitedwaynca.org, or call the Alexandria United Way office at 703-549-4447.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

monwealth, too — best-managed state, best state for business ... but my favorite is best state for a child's lifetime success. That's the one that tells me that being the best-managed and the best for business are achieving something for Virginians.

I'm thinking about this particularly at Thanksgiving, because the story of Thanksgiving is about coming together and sharing the bounty of the New World. It's about welcoming folks in need and expanding the definition of the family table. It's a reminder to me, and to all of us, that we need our great Virginia schools to do even better for all of Virginia's children.

The need to maintain our focus on education is as great now as it has ever been. We face tough economic times — times that are making this a particularly difficult Thanksgiving for many Virginians. The administration in Washington has proposed to move as many as 10,000 Hampton Roads jobs to Florida by home porting an aircraft carrier there. More than ever, Virginia needs

schools that prepare our kids to be resilient, resourceful and competitive with their peers not just in Florida, but in China and India, too.

Our Virginia education system has grown strong under the leadership of Mark Warner and Tim Kaine.

As Lieutenant Governor, I'll never stop fighting to make them stronger for all Virginia kids, from Pre-K on up through our world-class community colleges and four-year universities. To stand up for our students is to stand up for our future. And when it comes to preparing our children for lifetime success, I don't ever plan on letting Virginia slip to number two.

Even during difficult times, together we can maintain our focus on the right priorities and keep Virginia moving forward.

With many thanks and much determination,

Jody Wagner

Former Virginia Treasurer and Secretary of Finance Jody Wagner is a candidate for Lieutenant Governor in 2009.



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Please join us for a Remembrance Memorial Service on Thursday, December 11, at 6:30 p.m. We will present a special ornament to each family in attendance. Light refreshments will be served. If you wish, please bring a non-perishable food item, we are collecting for the ALIVE! Food bank.

For more information, contact the funeral home at 703-998-9200

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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Gunston Hall Celebrates 'Plantation Christmas'

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Anyone wishing to envision Christmases past need only to visit Gunston Hall Plantation Dec. 12 and 13.

That's when the home of the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, forerunner to the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights, will celebrate its annual "Plantation Christmas." These family evenings feature candle-light mansion tours, horse-drawn carriage rides, performances of seasonal music, and samples of festive foods prepared by hearth cooks from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each night.

Lanterns line the path as visitors make their way to George Mason's elegantly appointed home 20 miles south of Washington, D.C., just off Gunston Road, Virginia 242, where Gunston Cove flows into the Potomac River. Thomas Jefferson referred to Mason as "a man of the first order of wisdom among those who acted on the theater of the revolution."

Mason built Gunston Hall between 1755 and 1759, "engaging the services of William Buckland, a talented London-trained carpenter/joiner, who designed the mansion's magnificently carved interiors." Mason lived at his plantation from its completion until his death in 1792.

In the candle-lit interiors, costumed characters representing the Mason family and their guests prepare for daughter Mary's upcoming wedding. Mason fathered nine children.

A spectacular holiday feast will be set on the dining table, and guests will have the opportunity to sample a few of the displayed offerings being prepared by hearth cooks in the plantation kitchen yard. Those cooks

SEE GUNSTON HALL, PAGE 25



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET
A model of the Jones Point lighthouse and the southern marker for the District of Columbia, which was built in 1977 by Ernest Baynard and landscaped by Richard Muller.

Seeing the Light New exhibit features two enormous Fresnel lenses.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

What the new exhibit about Jones Point lighthouse at the Lyceum lacks in volume, it compensates with scale.

The museum is displaying two enormous Fresnel lenses — giving viewers an up-close-and-personal look at how the old lighthouse worked. The exhibit also features several interpretive panels and a model of the lighthouse grounds to give viewers some context about the famous lighthouse situated at the southern tip of the District of Columbia.

For those who love the romantic attraction of lighthouses, this exhibit is a rare chance to witness two different "orders" of the gigantic objects, and one of the lenses was actually used at the Jones Point lighthouse. The exhibit will remain at Alexandria's history museum on South Washington Street through February.

"People come in here and say they would love to use one of these as a chandelier, but that would never work because they are so heavy," said Pam Budde, visitor services coordinator at the Lyceum. "They would probably rip your ceiling off."

The barrel-shaped objects were not made for decoration. Invented by French physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel in the early 19th century, the lenses use a series of prisms to concentrate the light source and direct it into a narrow horizontal beam. The two

Fresnel lenses on display at the Lyceum recently underwent a 13-month restoration by the Chesapeake Lighthouse Society, which involved using cotton swabs, wooden chopsticks, bamboo skewers and Popsicle sticks.

"Sometimes we had to carve the Popsicle sticks into different shapes to get into the areas we needed to clean," said Marie Vincent, membership chairwoman of the Chesapeake Chapter of the United States Lighthouse Society.

"It was defiantly a labor of love, and one that required quite a great deal of creativity."

THE NARROW STRIP of land at the southern tip of Old Town has been used by local people for more than 5,000 years. The area has been used for hunting, fishing, farming, shipbuilding and recreation. But the most prominent structure in the area

is an 1856 lighthouse that was originally commissioned by the United States Department of the Treasury. For the better part of a century, the building was an important navigational tool for those traveling the

river and a home for the caretaker and his family. It was deactivated in 1926, when it was squired by the Mount Vernon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

"There are only five lighthouses left on the Potomac," said then-Councilman Andrew Macdonald during a 2006 ceremony marking the 150th anniversary of the lighthouse's construction. "I'm hopeful we will be able to turn it into a city museum."

Macdonald's vision of turning the building into a museum has not been realized, although federal funding has been secured to restore the exterior of the building. The National Park Service, which administers Jones Point as part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, plans to reopen the park with new facilities and a redesigned park in the spring of 2011. Until then, those who need to get their lighthouse fix can come to the Lyceum and see the Fresnel lens that greeted visitors many years ago.

"We wanted to put brighter lights in them," said Budde. "But we found out that the lights would end up blinding everybody because they would do what they are designed to do."

"People come in here and say they would love to use one of these as a chandelier, but that would never work because they are so heavy."

— Pam Budde, visitor services coordinator at the Lyceum

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THEATER

Know of something missing from our Local Theater listings? Send it to The Alexandria Gazette Packet at gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions.

Upcoming Events

“**Les Miserables**” is being performed at Signature’s Max Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave from **Dec. 2 through Jan. 25**. Tickets range between \$65-\$87. Showtimes are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays

at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Visit www.signature-theatre.org or 703-573-7328.

“**The Penguin Story**” performances, **through Jan. 25** at Classika Theater, 4041 Campbell Ave., are Saturdays and Sundays at 12:30 p.m. There will be extra performances. \$12/advance; \$15/door. Visit www.classika.org or 1-800-494-8497.

Ongoing Events

See “**All’s Well that Ends Well**” performed by the Washington Shakespeare Company through **Dec. 7** at the Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S.

Clark Street. Call 703-418-4808 or visit www.washingtonshakespeare.org.

See “**Scrooge: The Musical**” **through Dec. 14** at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Performances are Wednesdays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or 703-683-0496 for tickets.

See “**The Eight Reindeer Monologues**” **through Dec. 20** at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 p.m. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or 703-683-0496 for tickets.

FOOD LISTINGS

Da Rosario white and black truffle oils make ideal gifts for gourmet food lovers, and offer an affordable way to infuse luxury into dinners. Drizzled over a baked potato, salads, scrambled eggs, or grilled cheese, the earthy flavor dresses up holiday entertaining or everyday meals for the family.

Da Rosario uses truffles harvested from organic land in Italy’s Umbrian Valley, utilizing a patented method to extract the most saturated flavor. This new organic collection includes USDA 100% Organic Truffle Flavored Olive Oil, available with either black or white truffle.

Da Rosario’s truffle oils were just

introduced **at Balducci’s** on 600 Franklin Street. 1.76 oz. of the black truffle oil retails at \$12, and the white truffle oil at \$14.

Through December, buy a “**Cocktail for a Cure**” and \$1 will benefit local AIDS/HIV charities.

They can be purchased at Jackson 20 and the Grille at Morrison House among others. For more information about Kimpton and the Red Ribbon Campaign, visit www.kimptonhotels.com or call 1-800-KIMPTON.

Eleven D.C.-area restaurants better known for wrapping up

Southwestern flavors are banding together this holiday season with Operation Pinecone to send holiday care packages to deserving troops serving overseas.

The local **Moe’s Southwest Grill** restaurants located in Alexandria will be collecting care package items such as CDs, magazines, toiletries and individually wrapped snacks, along with cash donations to support the troops while they serve away from their families this holiday season.

They will be collecting until Dec. 13. A list of items most in need and what to look for when shopping for the troops can be found at www.welcome2moes.net.

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CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to the Alexandria Gazette Packet at 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, 18th-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, e-mail MVSwingBand@Cox.net or call 703-339-6534 for more information.

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

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 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.

Women can **learn how to sing** with lessons in a group from 7-8 p.m. on **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 (Dec. 5, 6 & 7; and 12, 13 and 14) from 5-8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Ford Orientation Center or through www.MountVernon.org. Admission is \$18 for adults and \$12 for children under 12.

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 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 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

SEE CALENDAR PAGE 25

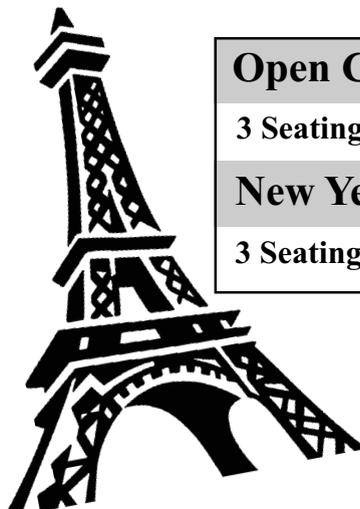


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THEATER

Scrooge Sings Songs of the Season

Dickens' classic is a musical at LTA.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
GAZETTE PACKET

This "Scrooge" is a massive undertaking for the Little Theatre of Alexandria. The program for their holiday show lists over a hundred people involved behind the scenes, from director Roland Branford Gomez to the trio that arranged the opening night party — and this doesn't even count the 34 people in the cast.

The full title of the show is "Scrooge: The Musical" and it is a full stage adaptation of the musical movie from 1970 which had songs by Britain's Leslie Bricusse, who also contributed the score for "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" and other well known musicals.

The singing Scrooge is Mike Baker, Jr. who is better when he's being the mean old skinflint than when he's simply watching others, and, of course, Scrooge has to spend a lot of time being shown the

scenes that the ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Yet To Come use to teach him the lesson of the season and introduce him to the wonderful taste of the milk of human kindness.

Baker is a delight when grouching "I Hate Christmas" ("I hate seeing paupers and peasants squandering pennies on presents ...") and makes the transition to philanthropist of note with a few high notes of his own in the process of learning to "Like Life."

Things get off to a lovely start with practically the entire cast on stage singing Christmas songs in their superb period costumes before the impressive set of a street in holiday London. Gomez and his lighting designer Justin Lang start off with the cast members in silhouette making an impressive stage picture that then springs to life.

As is often the case with Gomez-directed shows, careful attention

to the blocking of the cast and the creation of striking poses tends to slow things down a bit as the lights don't come up on a new



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Where and When

"Scrooge: The Musical" plays through Dec. 14 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street. Performances are Wednesday – Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$18 - \$21. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

Cast of "Scrooge: The Musical."

scene until everything is in readiness. With this production's reliance on special effects, including an elevator to allow ghosts to slide up through a fog of mist or descend through the floor, the pacing is steady if stately.

Frank Pasqualino is a friendly ghost of Scrooge's late partner, Jacob Marley, weighed down with the chain of his mis-

deeds, who foretells the arrival of the other ghosts. Jessica Vega starts the tour of Scrooge's life as the Ghost of Christmas Past with a sense of ethereal reserve. Kate Roehr, sporting golden curls so long it looks as if she's borrowed a wig from Rapunzel, is

SEE SCROOGE, PAGE 25

WIZARDS HOLIDAY PACK

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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...

NEW NUMBERS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

Alexandria Criminal Justice Services	703.746.4547
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.



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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.



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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.



2505 Crest Street
\$459,000

Rare Bargain!
Very attractive Braddock Heights rambler with all brick exterior, spacious updated

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1700 River Farm Dr
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New Estate Just off Pkwy!

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just minutes from Old Town near the GW Pkwy! Exquisite new home by leading builder to feature absolute luxury and virtually every modern amenity. Spectacular floor plan was designed to capitalize on the natural beauty of this gorgeous setting near the Potomac River. One of the last true estate opportunities in a prime close-in location!



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

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9003 Patton Blvd
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Stunning Value!
Previously listed for \$633,500! Rare large rambler overlooking scenic country club grounds. Main level

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

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Long & Foster's Alexandria Old Town Historic District office is an Official Sponsor and Drop-Off Point for New, Unwrapped Toys going to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves annual Toys for Tots program. Toys may be dropped off seven days a week at Long & Foster's Alexandria Old Town Historic District office located at 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 prior to December 15, 2008. **YOUR TOY WILL BRING JOY TO A NEEDY TOT!**

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club unit unlike any others. Soaring 20' ceilings in LR/DR, open floor plan ideal for entertaining. Large renovated kitchen w/patio, access to Royal St. Newly expanded MBR will wow you. Private lower level bedroom w/sunny greenhouse window. Only 1 of 4 units w/direct access to parking space. Premier Old Town location. Walk to everything.

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FINE ARTS

Other Items

In partnership with members of the local arts community, Del. David Englin announced his first annual **youth art contest**, which gives students the opportunity to display their creative talent and win prizes in elementary school, middle school, high school, and skateboard design categories. Contest entries are due by Dec. 12. Download entry forms at www.davidenglin.org/art, or contact art@davidenglin.org or 703-549-3203. Students must be 18 years old or younger to enter. There are no restrictions on media, but entries should be suitable for hanging on a wall. Drop off entries or mail to: A Show of Hands, 2204 Mt Vernon Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301. Art may be submitted by e-mail as an attachment to art@davidenglin.org. Digital submissions must be at least 300 dpi resolution JPG file.

New and Upcoming Exhibits

See sculptures by Travis Graves in **Target Gallery's** new exhibit "Finding Equilibrium" **through Nov. 23** at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

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.

See art by Margaret Fisher and Frank Barsalou, "Collaboration and Interpretation," **through Dec. 21** at Schlesinger Center Fisher Art Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Free. 703-845-6156.

See "Childhood Memories in Miniature: African American Dollhouses" **from Dec. 3 through Jan. 24** at the Black History Museum,

902 Wythe St. Free. 703-838-4356.

See "Virtue, Sin and the Balance Within" by Carlos Beltran Baldiviezo **through Jan. 5** at the Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Ongoing Exhibits

See "Portraits of Guatemala" by Nina Weinberg Doran, at AHM Gallery, 215 South Union St., 2nd Floor, **through Dec. 12**.

See "Places, Remembered of Dreamt," paintings by Jan E. Moffatt at the Gardens at Green Spring Gardens Park, historic Manor House, 4603 Green Spring Road **through Dec. 28**.

The **Botanical Art Society** will be showing in the Horticultural Center of Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. The show "Inspired by Nature" will show **through Dec. 28**. 703-642-5173.

An exhibit by Civil War soldier, artist and musician **William Lydston, Jr.**, will remain at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site **through Dec. 31**, to coincide with a statewide celebration of music in Virginia. William Lydston, Jr., (1813-1881) was a talented professional artist and musician from Boston. Fort Ward Museum is located at 4301 West Braddock Road, and is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call 703-838-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

"Protected Landscapes: Paintings of The Nature Conservancy Preserves," an exhibit of paintings by members of the Washington Society of Landscape Painters (www.wslp.org) will be held **through Jan. 4, 2009** at the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St.

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December 15, 2008
7:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve in Italia
WINE AND OLIVE OIL DINNER

Featuring an Italian Christmas Eve, Chef Stephen will prepare a six-course Italian Christmas Eve dinner, featuring wines and olive oils in each of the courses. Please make your reservations early~ Space will be limited.

New Year's Eve
Prepare for the new year with a great Italian dinner feast.

Chef Stephen will be preparing his daily menu and a special two-, three- or four-course Prix Fixe menu.

Seating will be at 5:30, 8:00 and 10:00 P.M. Please make your reservations early~ Space will be limited.

31st Annual Holiday Art & Craft Show

Audrey Moore RECenter at Wakefield Park
8100 Braddock Road • Annandale, VA 22003
703-321-7081

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Shop for quality art & crafts offered by over 130 juried artisans

Admission \$2 per person over 12 yrs

Door Prizes will be Awarded!

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please call 703-324-8563, TTY 703-803-3354

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 19

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.

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. 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.

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

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

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.

Mystique Fine Jewelry and Designs, 211 Strand Waterfront in Alexandria, will sell "December Love Stone," a 25-carat rose quartz cabochon ring. Visit www.mystiquejewelers.com or 703-836-1401.

La Muse, 108 N. Patrick St., collects and ships donations for www.AnySoldier.com every day of the year. Bring donations to La Muse and it will be packaged and shipped to soldiers. For ideas on what to donate go to: www.ShopLaMuse.net/Anysoldier.html or call 703-683-1696.

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.alexandriainimals.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). 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.

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. Reserved table seating. Visit www.harmonizers.org or 240-206-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 26

Scrooge Is At Little Theatre

FROM PAGE 24

sharp with her quick-witted replies to Scrooge's questions as the spirit that shows him the present. The Ghost of Christmas Future is completely covered by the costume and mask for the role so the audience can't tell if it is Mark Lee Adams or John Shakelford handling the role. They alternate at different performances and also handle other roles such as that of the employer of the young Scrooge, Mr. Fezziwig.

There are some fine performances in the roles of other people important in Scrooge's life such as Bob Maurer who is in good voice for his songs as Bob Cratchit, Jay R. Sigler and Caitlin Diana Doyle as

Scrooge as a young man and his young love Isabel, and Emma Kelly who makes the most of Tiny Tim's song "This Beautiful Day."

The production uses a good deal of stage fog, so much that the audience is often enveloped in a cloud of mist, which makes it difficult for some to breathe. The addition of some ventilation or simply the installation of fans along the side aisle might make the show more inviting for some patrons.

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway, and edits Potomac Stages, www.PotomacStages.com. He can be reached at Brad@PotomacStages.com.

Gunston Hall Celebrates Holiday

FROM PAGE 17

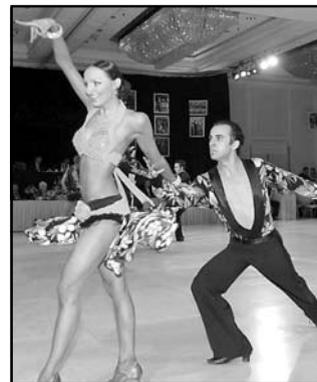
are graduates of Gunston Hall's Historic Foodways Program.

In conjunction with Plantation Christmas, Gunston is offering its annual Yuletide Dinner. This holiday meal, with all the trimmings, features a selection of traditional fare and includes admission to Plantation Christmas.

The Yuletide Dinner is \$39.95 for adults and children ages 11 and older, \$19.95 for children age six to 10. Those wishing to participate are urged to call 703-550-9220, as limited seating is available for Friday and Saturday evenings.

Admission to the Plantation Christmas is \$14 for adults, \$7 for ages six to 18, and free for children age six and under. For additional information call 703-550-9220 or visit www.GunstonHall.org.

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Performances take place the weekends of Dec. 5 and Dec. 12 at Lisner Auditorium (730 21 St., NW, Washington, D.C.). Ticket prices range from \$18 - \$45. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.revelsdc.org or call 301-587-3835.

A Bit of Quebec for Christmas

Area students take part in the Revels.

By ALISSA FIGUEROA
THE CONNECTION

Several Alexandria and Arlington residents are playing a part in the annual Washington Christmas Revels performance, celebrating the Winter Solstice — the shortest day of the year — a midwinter tradition that dates back to medieval Europe. This year, Christmas Revels will bring the songs, dances and theatrical traditions of early Quebec to area audiences.

The show tells the story of a group of revelers bringing in the New Year in Troi Rivieres, a historic town in Quebec. The action follows a group of men who leave the party by canoe, traveling along one of the three rivers that flows through the town in search of adventure. They find it in the way of the Devil, whom the men must defeat in a dance-off in order to return home.

The show has a cast of 80, including 60 adult chorus members, about a dozen children and a handful of specialty performers, including the “tradition bearers,” internationally known professional performers brought in from Quebec to play featured roles. About 10,000 people attend the event annually.

Local residents have been participating in weekly evening and bi-monthly weekend rehearsals since early September.

“It’s a lot of work, but it’s absolutely worth it,” said Arlingtonian Erin Schwartz, who is performing in the chorus for the second time this year.

Schwartz first joined the Revels in 2006,

auditioning just four days after moving to the area in an effort to meet people. Last year she worked backstage, serving as volunteer coordinator.

“It’s very different being onstage versus backstage,” she said. “Being able to see both sides gives you a really good idea how much goes into it. People work year round on the show.”

FOR SCHWARTZ, the most important part of the show is the community it brings together.

“It doesn’t feel like traditional theater,” said Schwartz, who has acted in community and summer stock theater for years. “There are no egos. Everyone is there as part of a family.”

Alexandria-based elementary school teacher Jill Kester is performing in the chorus for the first time this year.

“It’s remarkable how open [Revels] is to new people,” said Kester. As a newcomer, she was paired with a veteran “buddy” who helped her and served as a resource for any questions or problems that arose during rehearsals.

“What really blows me away is the size and scope of the show,” she added. Kester was particularly impressed by the commitment to historical accuracy and careful attention to detail demonstrated by the show’s organizers and creative directors.

Melissa Carter agrees. She’s participated with the Revels since 1989, first as a volun-

“It doesn’t feel like traditional theater. There are no egos.”

– Erin Schwartz, chorus member



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY DEBBIE GROSSMAN.

Revelers - back row (from left): Victoria Metz, Steve Miller. Front row (from left): Erin Schwartz, Caroline Birasa, Jill Kester

teer performer and now as assistant musical director. In that time she’s seen the chorus grow by 50

“Everyone should experience [Revels] at least once.”

– Melissa Carter, Assistant Musical Director

AT THE BEGINNING there was a lot less choral involvement. Now there is a story behind every person on stage. It’s much more intricate,” she said. “When the chorus has full knowledge of the story’s timeline and

per cent and a more narrative, complex story structure taking shape in the performances.

AT THE BE-

GINNING there was a lot less choral involvement. Now there is a story behind every person on stage. It’s much more intricate,” she said. “When the chorus has full knowledge of the story’s timeline and

storyline, they are more able to reach out to the audience and draw people in.”

This idea — of incorporating the audience into the action on stage — is a key component of the Revels. Carter contends that the Revels is also one of the few places where audiences can experience traditional folk music from all over the world. This year’s show is uniquely French-Canadian, she explained, in that it represents at all aspects of the culture, incorporating Native American and French influences and all of the nuances they bring to Québécois traditions.

“It’s really a wonderful experience,” said Carter. “Everyone should experience it at least once.”

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 25

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 for more.

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.alexandrianimals.org or 703-838-4774 ext. 216.

A Christmas Marketplace. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Vendors sell unique, holiday gift wares in a boutique setting. Free. For more information on the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

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.

Craft Sale. Heritage Presbyterian Church is holding a craft sale “Made by the Bell” from 9 a.m.-noon at the church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to support Heritage Presbyterian Women’s outreach programs for children and women. Call Jenny

Kennedy at 703-360-9546 or visit www.heritagechurchva.org for more information.

Art & Crafts Holiday Market. 10 a.m.-6 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.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church Holiday Bazaar. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1608 Russell Road. Free. There will be a silent auction, vendors, variety of items, children’s activities and more. 703-683-0798.

Holiday Pottery Event. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Schlesinger Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Free. Browse works by students of NOVA. Visit www2.nvcc.edu for more.

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

Lights of Love. The Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary will present the 26th annual Lights of Love program at 5 p.m. in the hospital’s main lobby. A reception in

the hospital cafeteria will follow the program. The hospital is located at 2501 Parker’s Lane, Alexandria. For any questions contact the Volunteer Services Office at 703-664-7260.

Tree Lighting and Luminaria Display. 5:30 p.m. on Mount Vernon Avenue, followed by a tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. near the Mount Vernon Rec Center, located at Commonwealth and Mount Vernon avenues. Free. Visit www.pwba.org, www.funside.com or 703-683-2570.

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

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

Scottish Preview. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Includes bagpipe performances, Celtic music, military living history demonstrations and more. Free. Call 703-838-4994 for more information.

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. Learn about the Washington’s

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

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

The Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. 11 a.m. beginning at the corner of Wilkes and South Pitt Streets in Old Town and ending at the Campagna Center. Over 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dog groups, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march down the

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 27

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 26

cobblestone streets of Old Town. For more information on the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, visit www.campagnacenter.org or www.scottishchristmaswalk.com.

Holiday Designer Tour of Homes.

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

A Soldier's Christmas.

Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Includes demonstrations, music, gaming and more. Admission is a suggested \$5 donation per person. Visit www.carlylehouse.org or 703-548-2997.

Holiday Dinner Theater.

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

Holiday Ornament Decorating Workshop.

1-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St., 3rd floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Decorate take-home ornaments using shapes, colors and patterns based on the Museum's collection of excavated artifacts. Free. Call Alexandria Archaeology for more information, 703-838-4399.

Holiday Reception.

6-9 p.m., Gallery West presents "Small Works and Holiday Show and Silent Auction" through Dec. 24 at 1213 King St. Features a variety of art work by members in every size. Silent auction ends Dec. 8. Visit www.gallerywest.com or call 703-549-6006.

Book Fair.

9 a.m.-11 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. Proceeds benefit Maury Elementary School. Visit www.mauryonline.org or 703-739-0983.

Cookies and Carols.

3 p.m. at Nativity Lutheran Church, 1300 Collingwood Road. Free.

Celtic and Christmas Music.

7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Features Maggie Sansone. \$18/adult; \$10/student, senior; \$5/child. E-mail tpyoder@yahoo.com or 703-765-4342.

Soldier's Christmas.

Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. See re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment, demonstrations, music, games and more. Free, but donations requested. Visit www.carlylehouse.org or 703-549-2997.

Craft Sale.

9 a.m.-noon at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Proceeds benefit the women's outreach programs. 703-360-9546.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Gardener's Open House.

Noon-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Enjoy live music, refreshments and view holiday decorations while you make your own holiday designs. Free.

Noel.

4 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Performance by the New Dominion Chorale and Orchestra. \$25/adult; \$20/senior; \$5/student, child. Visit www.newdominion.org or 703-442-9404.

Advent Carols and Lessons.

8:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. at The Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S.

Fairfax St. Free. Visit www.opmh.org or 703-549-6670.

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.

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.

Wintering Animals.

1 p.m. at Mason Neck, 7301 High Point Road. Visit some animals that live in the park. 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.alexandriainimals.org or 703-838-4774 ext. 216.

Toys for Tots Benefit Square Dance.

1-5 p.m. at Lee Center Exhibit Hall, 1108 Jefferson St. Features performance by the Capital Squares Demonstration Team and more. Donation is unopened toy or \$10 minimum/couple. 703-883-4686.

Holiday Music.

2 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Hear Shir Tze'ir and the Family Choir of Beth El Hebrew Congregation. Free. 703-883-4686.

Art & Crafts Holiday Market.

Noon-4 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.

Holiday Shopping Spectacular.

The Alexandria Commission for Women is holding a art and shopping spectacular from 3-6 p.m. at the Next Realty, 900 N. Fayette St. Purchase arts and crafts, jewelry, handbags and more from emerging women artists. Free. 703-838-5030.

Holiday Performance.

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

Holiday Tea at Woodlawn.

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

Holiday Music.

4 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. New Dominion



The Scottish Walk Weekend commences this weekend with a parade, scotch tasting, tea and more. Visit www.scottishchristmaswalk.com for more.

Chorale and Orchestra present "Noel." \$25/adult; \$20/senior; \$5/student, child. Visit www.newdominion.org or 703-442-9404.

Living Bethlehem.

6-8 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Includes live animals, people and more. Free. Visit www.aldersgate.net for more.

Annual Shopping Holiday Spectacular.

1-4:30 p.m. at Next Realty Building, 1100 N. Fayette St. Browse jewelry, cards, and more. Fifteen percent of the proceeds benefit the Commission for Women and Alexandria Office on Women projects. 703-402-2226.

Music Performance.

4 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear music by the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra's Brass of Peace. Free, but donations accepted. 703-549-1421.

MONDAY/DEC. 8

Meeting.

6-8 p.m. at The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. The Eisenhower Partnership will hold its annual meeting. 703-684-5124.

Books and Ideas.

7:30 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" by Anne Fadiman. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

Living Bethlehem.

6-8 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Includes live animals, people and more. Free. Visit www.aldersgate.net for more.

TUESDAY/DEC. 9

Music Performance.

7:30 p.m. at Episcopal High School, 1200 N. Quaker Lane. The National Chamber Players are performing. Free. Visit www.episcopalhighschool.org or 703-933-4135.

Music Performance.

7:30 p.m. at Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road. The National Chamber Players will perform selections of Bach. 703-933-4135.

Snowfest.

10:15 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

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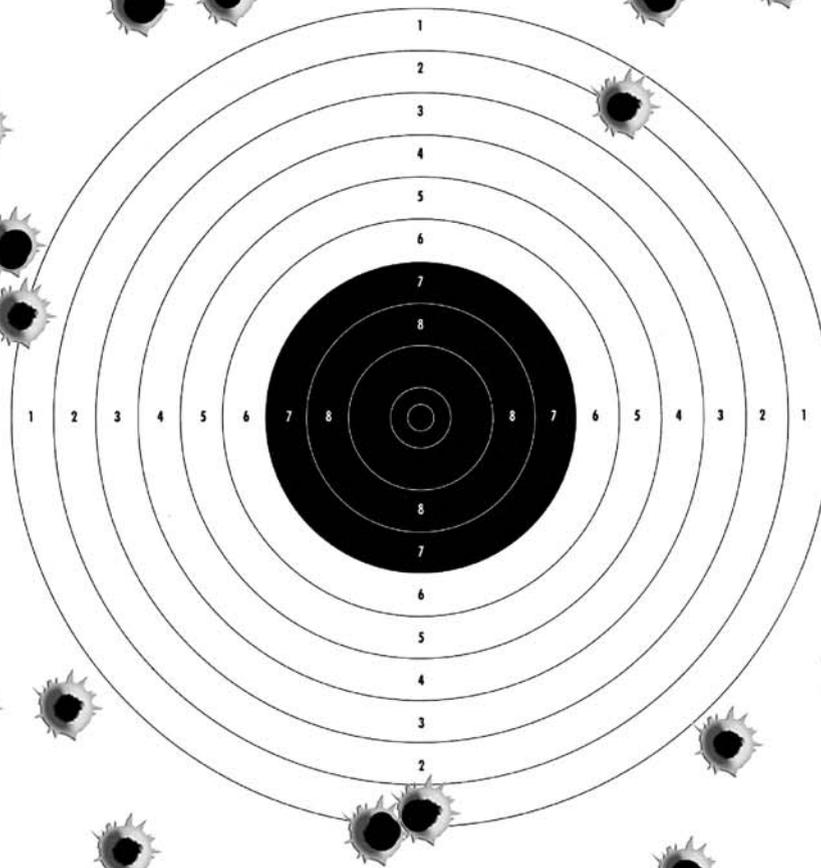
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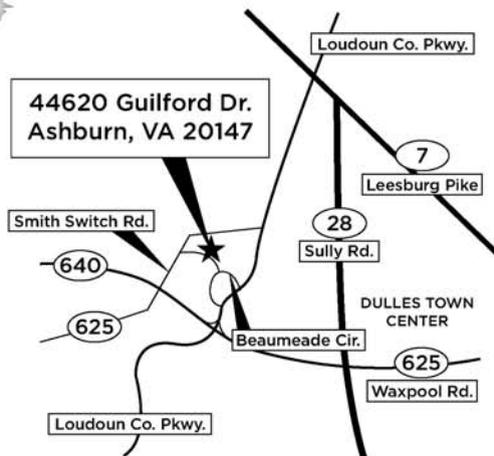
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Plastic Bags Ban To Face Obstacles in Richmond

FROM PAGE 1

permission for such a prohibition before the City Council could take action on the plan. But a similar effort in the Isle of Wight was rejected in Richmond earlier this year, and a similar attempt by Alexandria could meet the same fate.

"It'll be tough," admitted Bernie Caton, the city's legislative director. "There's a lot of resistance by certain members of the General Assembly to

give localities greater authority."

Under newly created Republican rules, members of the House of Delegates are limited to introducing 15 bills each this year, so Alexandria's three delegates are carefully weighting their own priorities against the needs of the local jurisdictions they serve. Del.

Adam Ebbin (D-49) said that he is considering introducing a bill that would add a fee of up to 5 cents per bag that could fund environmental causes such as the Chesapeake Bay Fund.

"The fee would give consumers the choice to pay a fee or bring their own reusable bags," said Ebbin. "We need to get people into a different mindset about the use of plastic bags."

EFFORTS TO BAN plastic bags or

"Studies consistently show that paper bags have a larger environmental footprint than plastic bags."

— Gregory Ten Eyck, lobbyist for Safeway.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

A spokesman for Safeway said the grocer will oppose efforts to ban plastic bags, which most customers prefer over paper bags.

give localities the authority to do so are certain to face stiff opposition from retailers and their allies in the General Assembly. According to the Virginia Retail Merchants Association, paper bags will last just as long as plastic bags in a modern landfill because of the lack of water, light and oxygen required for the degradation process. And association officials say that adding a per-bag fee for the Chesapeake Bay Fund or any other cause would create additional layers of bureaucracy for businesses that are already struggling with the current economic environment.

"It would be yet another record-keeping issue where we would have to track, segregate and collect the money," said Tom Zapf, chairman of the Virginia Retail Merchants Association. "If you have to drive back home because you forgot your reusable bag, what

will your carbon footprint be then?"

The plastic bags are most prevalent in grocery stores, where customers are now given a choice of using paper, plastic or a reusable bag purchased at the store or brought from home. Although some grocers such as Whole Foods have banned plastic bags, others such as Safeway say their customers overwhelmingly choose plastic bags over paper or reusable. Many grocers challenge the notion that paper bags are more environmentally friendly than plastic, citing research from the American Chemistry Council showing that plastic bags require less energy to produce, transport and recycle.

"Prohibiting these bags or adding a fee would increase the cost of doing business substantially and would end up being a hidden tax on consumers," said Gregory Ten

Eyck, director of government relations for Safeway. "Studies consistently show that paper bags have a larger environmental footprint than plastic bags."

PLASTIC BAGS are made from petroleum or natural gas with similar environmental impacts of harvesting fossil fuels, and they are one of the most ubiquitous consumer items on the planet. According to one recent study by a group known as "Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse," the inks and colorants used on some bags contain toxic levels of lead. Other groups, such as the California-based Earth Resource Foundation have created a "Campaign Against the Plastic Plague" to discourage their use.

"Less than 5 percent of plastic bags are recycled while 52 percent of paper products are recycled, so we really need to compare apples to apples," said Stephanie Barger, founder of Earth Resource Foundation. "We would prefer a stiff fee for the bags rather than an outright ban."

State Sen. Patsy Ticer (D-30) said she is considering introducing legislation similar to the language adopted by the City Council in its legislative packet that would grant jurisdictions the authority to create local bans — a move that some retailers say would add to the environmental footprint by needlessly complicating shipping routes of bags to various localities. Ticer said she agreed with Lovain that the use of plastic bags should be curtailed or eliminated, although she was skeptical about the potential for success with Republicans maintaining control over the House.

"They are bad for the environment, and that's just all there is to it," said Ticer, who is the chairwoman of the Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee. "Ireland banned them long ago, and I'd certainly like to see us minimize their use as much as we can."

Eight Democrats Seek Six Council Slots

FROM PAGE 5

beat out four other candidates for the Democratic nomination for council — including Walker, who placed third in that race. Now Wilson and Walker are both candidates again, reprising many of the themes from the previous campaign.

"I feel so strongly about historic preservation that I sued the city over a development on Upper King Street," said Walker, referencing a lawsuit that was settled in favor of a \$75,000 contribution to Gadsby's Tavern. "Considering the outcome, I think that was a successful fight."

"In the short time I've been on the council I've been a leader in helping to adopt the budget guidance, and that's an area where we are going to be focusing most of our efforts over the next few years," said Wilson, who was elected after former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald resigned last year. "Rob Krupicka and I played a role in reviving the

issue of creating a Metro station at Potomac Yard, and I'm enormously proud of that."

THE NEXT FEW weeks will see a flurry of campaign kickoff events across the city: 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 Rustico or Del Merei Grille (he hasn't decided which yet) 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. Council candidate Kerry Donley said he is planning an event at Food Matters, although a date and time has yet to be scheduled.

"Without even knowing the outcome of the caucus, I am extremely confident that the Democrats will win all the seats on the City Council this May," said Susan Kellom, chairwoman of the Alexandria Democratic Committee. "We have the talent, the leadership and know-how, especially in the face of the current budget crisis."

"It's certainly a tough climate for Republicans. But I think a consensus has been developing that the City Council is plagued by groupthink, and that it would benefit from a diversity of opinion."

— Chris Marston, chairman, Alexandria City Republican Committee

Suspicious Death

FROM PAGE 1

Hildebrandt. "She was already dead when the officers arrived."

Police described the woman as a 24-year-old female although they have not yet released her name pending notification of her family. An autopsy was expected to be conducted Wednesday to determine the cause of death.

"At this point, we are all waiting to see the results of the autopsy," said Commonwealth's Attorney S. Randolph Sengel Wednesday morning. "My understanding is that her relatives don't live in Alexandria, so notifying the next of kin might take some time."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEIGHBORHOODS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Turkey Bowl at Lee Street Park

The annual Lee Street Park Turkey Bowl got into play at 11 a.m. on Thanksgiving. Charlie Habilston, Caroline Habilston, Chazzo Habilston, Bennet Habilston, Skipper and David Calvert, Sam Garcia, David and Alex Cheek, Tyler Boyd, Alex Castellanos begin the game on the upper field.



Dennis and Motty Bradshaw, Mitch, Leah and Emily Willey.

North Ridge

North Ridge denizens who are getting ready for the holidays should mark their calendars now for two traditional neighborhood events: the North Ridge Citizens' Association Christmas tree sale and the caroling and tree lighting ceremony. In addition, the next meeting of the NRCA will be held this coming Monday (Dec. 8) at 7:30.

The Christmas tree sale will be held at the Beverley Hills Methodist Church ("BHUMC") on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 7 to 5 and Sunday, Dec. 7 from 9 to 4. Tree varieties will include Douglas and Fraser Fir and Colorado Blue Spruce. Most trees are grown and freshly cut by our supplier in West Virginia and are trucked in Friday night. The church is one block up the hill from the corner of Old Dominion and West Glebe Road.

The very best trees go fast, so be warned, many neighbors plan to show up early Saturday to get the best selection.

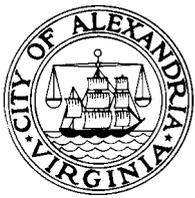
The Christmas caroling and tree lighting ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 at Beverley Park (better known as "The Pit") at the corner of North Overlook and South Overlook. The family event will feature carol singing, a visit by the "Man-in-Red," and a NRCA "citizen-of-the-year" honoree who will light the tree. Donuts and hot cider will be served. Remember to bring flashlights.

The NRCA monthly meeting will be held in the common room of the BHUMC. Our featured speaker will be our neighbor and Councilman, Tim Lovain. Hope to see you there.

— RUSS BAILEY

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Legal Notices



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review
Old & Historic Alexandria District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2008 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria,

Legal Notices

Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2008-0137
Request for approval of alterations and signage at 612 N. St. Asaph St, zoned CRMU-X.
APPLICANT: Jeffrey Taylor, AIA for Trader Joes.

CASE BAR2008-0168
Request for approval of alterations at 408 N. Union St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Elizabeth Reno & Roy Wuchitech

CASE BAR2008-0227
Request for approval of signage at 719 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.
APPLICANT: JT BIZ LLC for Tarek Moukalled

CASE BAR2008-0228
Request for approval of signage at 715 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.
APPLICANT: John Jarecki for Kyriacoli Properties LLC

Legal Notices

CASE BAR2008-0229
Request for approval of alterations at 610 S. Pitt St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Susan Kerr

CASE BAR2008-0230
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 505 Cameron St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Richard Kligen Maier

CASE BAR2008-0231
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 505 Cameron St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Richard Kligen Maier

CASE BAR2008-0232
Request for approval of signage at 109 S. Alfred St, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: Fitness On The Run

CASE BAR2008-0233
Request for approval of alterations at 411 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.
APPLICANT: The Pyne Company

CASE BAR2008-0234
Request for approval of alterations at 1314 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.
APPLICANT: Ray Lewis & Associates for Marie Potier

CASE BAR2008-0235
Request for approval of alterations & signage at 134 N. Royal St, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: City of Alexandria

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



NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW ALEXANDRIA PLANNING DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP AND/OR MINOR AMENDMENT

The applicants listed below have requested a special use permit for a change of ownership. The Director of Planning and Zoning may approve the permits unless a request that the application be forwarded to City Council is received by December 18, 2008.

For information about this application, call 703-838-4666 or write to the Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning, Room 2100, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

SPECIAL USE PERMIT # 2008-0087

ADDRESS: 211 N. Patrick Street

Request for change ownership of a medical office

Applicant: Patrick Street Associates, LLC



Cornelia Fugate

Age 88, on November 25, 2008 in Alexandria, VA. She was preceded in death by her husband Wilbur L. Fugate and brother Edward Alfriend. She is survived by her daughter Lynn Davies Holbein (Bruce); grandchildren Kate, Christopher and Andrew; great-granddaughter Lila; step-children William, Richard, Barbara and Elizabeth Fugate, step-grandchildren Jesse, Paul, and Ryan; sister Kate Alfriend; nieces Bliss Miga and Connie Peterson. She also leaves her dear friend Jane Boucher Braun and her family. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 3 p.m. at Goodwin House, 4800 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Capital Hospice.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY

A Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at 5:30 P. M., in the 2nd Floor Council WorkRoom of City Hall to address the City of Alexandria's 2009 spending reduction requirement.

The proposed change under consideration follows:

1. An increase in the DASH Off-Peak and Weekend fares from \$1.00 to \$1.25. The rail-to-bus transfer is proposed to increase to 0.75¢ and the price of the monthly DASH Pass is proposed to remain at \$30.00.

If approved, the change is effective January 4, 2009.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING VERIZON VIRGINIA INC.'S VIRGINIA UNIVERSAL SERVICE PLAN

Verizon Virginia Inc. offers discounted telephone service for Medicaid and food stamp recipients in Virginia.

The discounted plan is called the Virginia Universal Service Plan (VUSP) and offers customers 50 outgoing message units a month for \$3.00.

VUSP customers are also entitled to a service called VUSP Toll Restriction Service at no charge. VUSP Toll Restriction Service allows the completion of local calls, calls to the operator for the completion of collect and third number billed calls, calls to 911 and to other N11 codes, calls to 800/888 service telephone numbers, and local directory assistance calls.

VUSP Toll Restriction Service prohibits interstate and intrastate toll calls, 700/900 calls, audiotex calls, collect and third party calls billed to the VUSP customer's line, busy line verification and interrupt service, interstate and intrastate long distance directory assistance calls, as well as the use of a Verizon Virginia Calling Card and Connect ReQuest.

For more information about Verizon Virginia's VUSP service, please call the Verizon Virginia Customer Service Center at 954-6222. (In northern Virginia, dial 703 954-6222.)

VERIZON VIRGINIA INC.

Antenna on Your TV? You Need to Read Below

With the digital television (DTV) transition, the United States is moving from analog to digital service for full power over-the-air TV broadcasts. After February 17, 2009, analog-only TVs will require a converter box to receive full-power over-the-air TV broadcasts with an antenna.

TVs connected to FiOS TV will not be affected by the broadcast DTV transition.

Analog-only TVs should also continue to work as before to receive low power, Class A or translator television stations and with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products.

Information about obtaining subsidized coupons for the government's converter box program can be obtained at www.dtv2009.gov or by calling 1-888-DTV-2009, or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY). More information about the broadcast DTV transition in general is available at www.DTV.gov or by calling 1-888-CALL-FCC (voice) or 1-888-TELL-FCC (TTY). You may also contact the DTV Transition Coalition at www.dtvtransition.org, or Verizon at 1-888-558-3755 (voice) or 888-558-3770 (TTY).

BUSINESS

Not So Black Friday

FROM PAGE 1

season progresses," Healy said. One retailer that found the holiday shopping spirit alive and well was The Christmas Attic on South Union Street in Old Town. "We were very happy with our sales throughout the weekend. We had a steady flow of shoppers both Friday and Saturday," said Betsy Huser.

Kate Schlabach, owner, Why Not, the children's books, toys, and clothing store at 200 King St., gave the Black Friday weekend an "all right" rating. Again she blamed a poor Sunday showing on the weather.

Cathy Bradford at Kings Jewelry agreed with Winer that the Black Friday weekend is not a big sales period for them. "Our shoppers usually wait until about 10 days before Christmas to make their purchases. They seem to get their mall shopping done first," she said.

"We had a lot of traffic over the weekend. But, they come in and visit and see what's available before they buy. We have regular customers that shop with us every year close to Christmas," Bradford said.

THE SAME ASSESSMENTS applied to the shops in both Belle View and Hollin Hall shopping centers. "Sales were OK this past weekend but they seemed a bit lower than the same time last year," said Patty Cover, manager, The Gift Store in Hollin Hall Shopping Center.

Next door, Dorothy Trimber, owner, The Blossom Shop, a combination florist and gift shop, also gave the weekend an "OK" grade. "It was probably better than I expected. I was expecting very low numbers due to the economy," she said.

Trimber also has established a clientele for whom she does both in-home and business decorating which has been steadily growing over the past several years. "I didn't get any new clients this year for decorating. People are just not spending as much decorating their homes," Trimber said.

"People seem to be looking for nice gifts but not ones that are over the top in price. One interesting fact was that we sold all but three of our Nativity Scene sets. Maybe they're returning to more of the basics," Trimber speculated.

For Kevin Green, owner of the



Sheila Cianciolo trims a tree in the Blossom Shop at the Hollin Hall Shopping Center.

Virginia Florist, also a combination floral/gift shop in Belle View Shopping Center, Black Friday weekend was only worth an "OK." But, again most of his holiday business occurs closer to Christmas.

"This is particularly true of the floral part of the business. So far the decorating part of the business

has stayed solid," he said.

Green always offers a wide range of very unusual gift possibilities such as book-ends of the Lincoln Memorial

marking the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth in 2009 and a five-foot Santa for decorating. It is these types of items that shoppers did not claim this past weekend as they have in past years.

The Shops at Mount Vernon had a "great Friday and Saturday" but "Sunday was a disaster," according to Julia A. Mosley, director of retail, Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. The weather Sunday caused a double problem at Mount Vernon. It not only impacted sales at The Shops but also hurt the Estate's Candlelight Tour that brings visitors to The Shops.

"People are being careful this year. They seem to be buying more items for their homes. A big item for us was our three dimensional Advent Calendar. It is something they can keep and enjoy year after year," Mosley said.

Support



Official Drop-Off Point

**Tues., December 9, 3-5 PM
Santa Visits Kenwood**

Join Kenwood students in welcoming Santa and Mrs. Claus. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots and join the fun!

**Fri., December 12, 7-10 AM
Breakfast to Go Party**

Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate and enjoy hot coffee and doughnuts as a "thank you" for your support.

Our Toys for Tots drive continues through December 15th. Please drop any new, unwrapped toys at Kenwood or Grasshopper Green Schools. Bring the kids to visit Santa on the 9th and breakfast on the 12th.



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Michael Conner, right, receives his Recognition Award for his 17 years of service to the State Building Code Technical Review Board from Vernon Hodge, Secretary to the State Board.

Conner Recognized for State Board Service

Former Alexandria Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Chief Michael Conner was recently recognized by the Virginia State Board of Housing and Community Development for his 17 years of service on the State Building Code Technical Review Board.

He was first appointed to the Review Board by former Gov. Douglas Wilder in September 1991. Conner, who served on the board under five succes-

sive Virginia governors, has held the chairmanship since January 2000. His tenure is the longest in the board's history. The board is responsible for hearing all appeals under the Building Code, Fire Code, Property Maintenance Code, and Amusement Device Code throughout the Commonwealth. Conner acknowledged that he was "honored and proud" to have served as the representative of the Virginia Fire Chief's Association.

PEOPLE NOTES

The following Alexandria residents graduated from Central Michigan University in May of 2008: **Wilease Buggs, Adam Dimke and Joshua Mooya**. They all earned Masters of Science in Administration degrees.

Patricia Casey Clay, daughter of Frank and Ann Clay of Alexandria, was selected to participate in the Westover Honors program at Lynchburg College. Clay is a senior communications studies major at Lynchburg College.

Ashley E. Hoath, of Alexandria, was selected to be a peer assisted study sessions leader at Lynchburg College. Hoath is a junior exercise physiology major at the college.

Holiday Events December 6th:

Trunk Show
Tracey Navratil
Praha Jewelry Design
starting at 11am

Tree Lighting
2407 Mt. Vernon Avenue, 6pm

Luminarias on the Avenue
Drop by at A Show of Hands for hot cider and cookies until 9pm



A Show of Hands will be open until 9pm Thursdays and Fridays in December AND on Sat Dec 6th, Monday Dec 22, Tuesday Dec 23 and Wednesday Dec 24

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NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ALEXANDRIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Stuffed and Delivered

Chief Deputy Lenny George, left, Travis Barnhardt, center, and Lt. Brian Grenadier load 60 turkeys with all the trimmings for Alexandria's Hopkins House last week. The Thanksgiving dinners were acquired through a collective effort of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, Hopkins House, Alexandria Sheriff's Office, IBM and Giant as part of an annual community support program for underprivileged families. George and Grenadier spearheaded the collection of the Thanksgiving dinners from the distribution center and delivery to the Hopkins House, where Barnhardt is assistant principal of the Helen Day School.

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38th 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 or call (703) 549-0111.

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

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Alexandria \$734,437
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411 Skyhill Road
Phil Cefaratti 703-371-7601



Alex/Del Ray \$539,000
 Charming brick cape w/updated kit, cozy patio & landscaped lot w/view of river. Separate dining rm, fireplace & high ceiling unfinished LL.
2418 Sanford Street
Mary Hurlbut 703-548-4741



Alex/Old Town \$1,395,000
 Elegant brick home w/architectural detailing. Huge renovated kitchen. Arched entries, custom molding, 2 master suites, sun rm, private yard & slate patio.
615 Royal Street
Eva Damelin 703-625-2382



Alexandria \$499,500
 Updated 4 bedrm, 2 bath home in Brookville. Full LL w/family rm & screened porch. Large fenced lot on cul-de-sac. Close to everything.
4709 Richmarr Place
Bob Bazzle 703-599-8964



Alex/Old Town \$675,000
 Delightful historic home in heart of Old town. Lovely light infused interior, updated kitchen & baths. Gorgeous random-width floor planks, 3 bedrms, 2 baths, ample storage w/built-ins.

311 Wilkes Street
Diann Hicks 703-628-2440

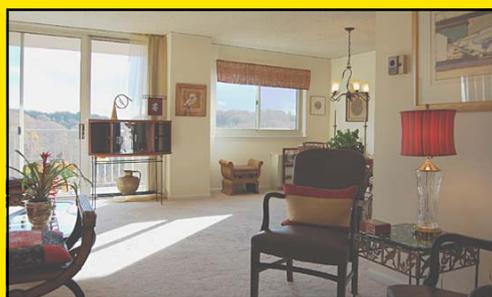


Alexandria \$700,000
 Tucked away in the woods! Stunning, light filled 3 level, 4 bedrm, 3.5 bath detached home in Kingstowne area. Over 3700 square feet of living space.
6851 Rolling Creek Way
Marianne Welds 703-869-1320



Alex/Fairlington \$375,000
 Convenient & affordable! Lovely 3 bedrm, 1.5 bath brick TH located around corner from Bradlee Center.

3717 Ingalls Avenue
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



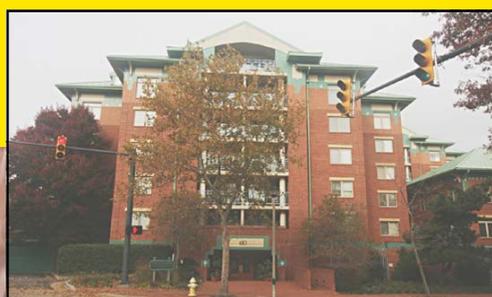
Alexandria \$197,000
 Sun filled 1 bedrm condo w/balcony & panoramic view! Freshly painted & garage parking.

1225 Martha Custis Drive #1414
Sandy H. McConville 703-402-1567



Alex/Del Ray \$639,000
 Beautiful 3 level, 3 bedrm, 2.5 bath home w/custom finishes & built-ins! Lots of storage & double driveway. Blocks to shops on "The Avenue" & Braddock Metro.

1717 Price Street
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Alexandria \$735,000
 Rarely available penthouse w/2 bedrms, 2.5 baths & 2 garage spaces. Vaulted ceilings, fireplace & balcony view of Washington Monument.

610 West Street
Eva Damelin 703-625-2EVA

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

Please bring a new unwrapped toy to the office between now and December 18th. All toys will be donated to LOCAL children c/o The Campagna Center.



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HOME SALES

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Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
632 KINGS CLOISTER CIR	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,625,000	Detached	0.20			KINGS CLOISTER
1220 PEGRAM ST N	5	5	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,310,000	Detached	0.48			SEMINARY HEIGHTS
411 ALEXANDRIA AVE	5	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,050,000	Detached	0.14			DEL RAY
1609 WALLESTON CT	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$925,000	Detached	0.23			WALLESTON
1738 POTOMAC GREENS	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$900,000	Townhouse	0.07			POTOMAC GREENS
702 ARCH HALL LN	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$860,000	Townhouse	0.04			OLD TOWN GREENS
418 PITT ST N	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$850,000	Townhouse	0.03			BULFINCH SQUARE
512 HILLTOP TER	4	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$815,000	Detached	0.13			GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK
302 SKYHILL RD	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$790,097	Detached	0.30			CLOVER
400 PENDLETON ST	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$775,000	Townhouse	0.02			CHATHAM SQUARE
211 UHLER AVE E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$774,500	Detached	0.14			DEL RAY
415 COOK ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$764,000	Townhouse	0.02			CHATHAM SQUARE
116 WEST ST N	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Townhouse	0.05			OLD TOWN
5160 CALIFORNIA LN	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Townhouse	0.05			CAMERON STATION
314 LEE ST S	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$739,000	Townhouse	0.04			OLD TOWN
1174 N PITT ST	3	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$738,000	Townhouse	0.02			CANAL WAY
418 FAYETTE ST S	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$730,000	Townhouse	0.02			OLD TOWN VILLAGE
917 BEVERLEY DR	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$725,000	Detached	0.18			BEVERLEY HILLS
2506 COMMONWEALTH AVE	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$710,000	Detached	0.12			MOUNT IDA
226 COLUMBUS ST N	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$695,000	Townhouse	0.03			OLD TOWN
731 PITT ST	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$650,000	Townhouse	0.04			YATES GARDENS
2 PHOENIX MILL PL	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$646,900	Townhouse	0.08			BATTERY HEIGHTS
412 SKYHILL RD	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$635,000	Detached	0.21			CLOVER
910 SLATERS LN NE #12	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$615,000	Townhouse	0.07			OLD TOWN COURT
5651 FILLMORE AVE	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$610,000	Detached	0.33			DOWDEN TERRACE
4639 KEARNEY CT	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$605,000	Townhouse	0.04			STONEGATE
635 FIRST ST #402	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$600,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				LIBERTY ROW
425 GIBBON ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$587,500	Semi-Detached	0.02			OLD TOWN
408 NELSON AVE E	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$570,000	Detached	0.18			DEL RAY
1110 PRINCE ST	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$550,000	Townhouse	0.03			OLD TOWN
541 SAINT ASAPH ST S	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$545,000	Townhouse	0.02			TANNERY YARD
532 TOBACCO QUAY	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$540,550	Townhouse	0.02			TOBACCO KEY
312 BELLEFONTE AVE E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Detached	0.20			DEL RAY
904 PEELE PL	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$535,000	Detached	0.25			BROOKVILLE/SEMINARY VALLEY
22 WEST WYATT	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$532,000	Other	0.17			ROSECREST
5128 HERITAGE LN	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$531,000	Townhouse	0.04			SEMINARY PARK
510 TRIADPHILIA WAY	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$530,000	Townhouse				BEAUREGARD STATION
328 ALFRED ST S	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$527,000	Townhouse	0.03			BURGESS SQUARE
520 JOHN CARLYLE ST #242	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$499,900	Garden 1-4 Floors				OLD TOWN
330 MASON AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$499,000	Townhouse	0.10			BRADDOCK
1117 POWHATAN ST	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$499,000	Townhouse	0.05			MT VERNON CONST CO
800 ST ASAPH ST S #204	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$495,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				ST ASAPH SQUARE
1228 MICHIGAN CT	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$460,000	Townhouse	0.02			NETHERGATE
309 CAMERON STATION BLVD	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$453,000	Townhouse				CAMERON STATION
300 PARK RD	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$445,000	Detached	0.06			GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK
444 STANTON PL	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$445,000	Townhouse	0.04			EDSALL RD T/H
800 ST ASAPH ST S #214	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				ST ASAPH SQUARE
209 YALE DR	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$435,000	Townhouse	0.03			QUAKER HILL
110 GLEBE RD E	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$435,000	Detached	0.16			WILMAR PARK
123 WALNUT ST	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$435,000	Detached	0.10			ROSEMONT PARK
421 PAYNE ST	3	1	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$430,000	Townhouse	0.05			ALEXANDRIA
301 PICKETT ST S #6	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$425,000	Townhouse				TOWNES OF HILLWOOD
322 LANGLEY ST	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$421,000	Detached	0.22			SEMINARY VALLEY
102 CAMERON PARKE CT	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$420,000	Townhouse	0.03			TOWNES AT CAMERON PARKE
914 FRANKLIN ST	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$419,900	Townhouse	0.03			OLD TOWN
60 ROSEMONT AVE	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$404,000	Townhouse	0.04			ROSEMONT
4 ALEXANDRIA AVE W	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$400,000	Semi-Detached	0.07			DEL RAY
2933 HICKORY ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$400,000	Townhouse	0.04			WARWICK VILLAGE
191 SOMERVELLE ST #105	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$395,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				CAMERON STATION
3805 USHER CT	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$382,000	Townhouse	0.03			SOCIETY HILL
1913 KENWOOD AVE #1913	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$380,000	Townhouse				KINGSGATE
422 EARL ST	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$379,000	Townhouse	0.03			BAGGETT TRACT
402 RAYMOND AVE E #A	2	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$357,000	Duplex	0.06			DEL RAY
1023 ROYAL ST N #204	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$350,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				ABINGDON ROW
249 PICKETT ST S #402	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$335,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				HILLWOOD
1556 MOUNT EAGLE PL #961	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$334,000	Townhouse				PARKFAIRFAX
4912 29TH RD S #3322	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$327,500	Townhouse				FAIRLINGTON VILLAGE
27 GARDEN DR	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$320,000	Duplex	0.09			DUKE GARDENS
125 WESMOND DR	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$320,000	Townhouse	0.03			LYNHAVEN/DEL RAY
820 WASHINGTON ST S #329	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$318,500	Garden 1-4 Floors				BEARINGS SOUTH
520 JOHN CARLYLE ST #420	0	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$309,900	Garden 1-4 Floors				OLD TOWN
1608 RAPON PL	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$305,000	Townhouse				PARKFAIRFAX
171 SOMERVELLE ST #101	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$290,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				CAMERON STATION
244 REYNOLDS ST S #301	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$288,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				REYNOLDS PROSPECT
3919 VERMONT AVE	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$285,000	Duplex	0.07			CAMERON
1100 QUAKER HILL DR #121	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$279,900	Garden 1-4 Floors				QUAKER HILL
3254 MARTHA CUSTIS DR #227	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$277,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				PARKFAIRFAX
3596 MARTHA CUSTIS DR #3596	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$269,900	Garden 1-4 Floors				PARKFAIRFAX
502 BASHFORD LN #3213	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$269,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				RIVERTON
25 EARLY ST	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$245,532	Detached	0.23			DELTA
205 YOAKUM PKWY #214	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$241,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
4850 EISENHOWER AVE #324	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$240,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				EXCHANGE AT VAN DORN
307 YOAKUM PKWY #819	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$239,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
75 SOUTH REYNOLDS ST S #G 209	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$235,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors				EOS TWENTY-ONE
6301 STEVENSON AVE #902	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$235,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				OLYMPUS
4113 USHER AVE	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$225,000	Duplex	0.09			DUKE GARDENS
4850 EISENHOWER AVE #319	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$220,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				EXCHANGE AT VAN DORN
205 YOAKUM PKWY #1418	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$210,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
16 VAN DORN ST #405	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$205,900	Garden 1-4 Floors				TWENTY-ONE
1417 ABINGDON DR E #E 1	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$205,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				HARBOR TERRACE
5500 HOLMES RUN PKWY #802	1	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$201,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				PLACE ONE
205 YOAKUM PKWY #718	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$200,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
4600 DUKE ST #1432	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$200,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				FORTY SIX HUNDRED
307 YOAKUM PKWY #1604	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$195,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
151 DALE ST	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$170,000	Townhouse	0.03			HUME SPRINGS
37 CANTERBURY SQ #101	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$162,900	Garden 1-4 Floors				CANTERBURY SQUARE
5911 EDSALL RD #1006	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$155,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				HIGHPOINTE
4600 DUKE ST #1321	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$150,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				FORTY SIX HUNDRED
6300 STEVENSON AVE #301	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$149,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				SENTINEL OF LANDMARK
3220 28TH ST S #203	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$133,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				BOLLING BROOK
6300 STEVENSON AVE #304	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$133,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				SENTINEL OF LANDMARK
420 ARMISTEAD ST N #304	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$125,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				MAYFLOWER SQUARE
4600 DUKE ST #800	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$120,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	0.00			FORTY SIX HUNDRED

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HOME SALES

10/28/08 ~ 10/31/08

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
1 WASHINGTON CIR	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$1,050,000	Detached	0.11		BEVERLY HILLS
4923 DONOVAN DR	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$829,000	Townhouse	0.05		CAMERON STATION
4347 LOYOLA AVE	5	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$825,000	Detached	0.22		KINGS HUNDRED
902 CHALFONTE DR	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$820,013	Detached	0.15		BEVERLY HILLS
3622 TUPELO PL	5	4	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Detached	0.28		FT WILLIAMS PARK
1609B POTOMAC GREENS DR#84	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Townhouse			OLD TOWN GREENS
115 LEE ST N #BH-302	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			TORPEDO FACTORY
2417 CENTRAL AVE	3	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$522,000	Detached	0.14		BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
812 ALBANY AVE	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$515,000	Detached	0.20		PARK RIDGE
136 CAMERON STATION BLVD	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.02		CAMERON STATION
1284 QUAKER HILL DR	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$504,065	Townhouse	0.04		QUAKER HILL
416 STANTON PL	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$480,000	Townhouse	0.04		EDSALL RD T/H
107 COMMONWEALTH AVE	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$455,000	Townhouse	0.05		ROSEMONT
401 HUME AVE	3	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$435,000	Duplex	0.06		ST ELMO
3310 LANDOVER ST	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$429,900	Townhouse	0.04		WARWICK VILLAGE
205 TENNESSEE AVE	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$410,000	Townhouse	0.04		WARWICK VILLAGE
707 PAXTON ST N	3	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$400,000	Detached	0.19		BROOKVILLE
6003 KELLEY CT	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$390,000	Detached	0.28		LINCOLNIA HILLS
1023 ROYAL ST N #212	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$369,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			OLD TOWN
1006 COLONIAL AVE	4	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$359,000	Townhouse	0.07		WESTOVER
275 PICKETT ST S #301	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$339,500	Garden 1-4 Floors			HILLWOOD
1522 MOUNT EAGLE PL#957-15	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$329,000	Townhouse			PARKFAIRFAX
1411 ABINGDON DR E #1	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$299,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			HARBOR TERRACE
5220 MARIS AVE #5220	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$298,000	Patio Home			PARKSIDE ALEXANDRIA
3918 VERMONT AVE	3	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$289,955	Semi-Detached	0.07		CAMERON
3020 MANNING ST	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$289,000	Ath/Row Hse	0.03		WAVERLY TAYLOR
1100 QUAKER HILL DR #129	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$286,500	Garden 1-4 Floors			QUAKER HILL
3700 VALLEY DR #3700	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$267,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARKFAIRFAX
307 YOAKUM PKWY #307	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$260,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
1603B VAN DORN ST N #1603B	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$253,000	Patio Home			PARKSIDE AT ALEXANDRIA
203 YOAKUM PKWY #1224	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$247,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
4852 EISENHOWER AVE #239	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$235,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			EXCHANGE AT VAN DORN
1720 ABINGDON DR W #301	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$235,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			POTOWMACK CROSSING
5140 MARIS AVE #101	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$235,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			ALEXANDRIA OVERLOOK
3101 HAMPTON DR N #1306	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$233,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			NORTHAMPTON PLACE
309 YOAKUM PKWY #1111	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$217,900	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
3738 MARK DR	3	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$208,000	Ath/Row Hse	0.14		HUME SPRINGS
5300 HOLMES RUN PKWY#1512	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$196,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			GREENHOUSE
1730 ABINGDON W #1730-T2	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$194,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			POTOWMACK CROSSING
3033 MANNING ST	3	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$190,000	Ath/Row Hse	0.03		WAVERLY TAYLOR
5 CANTERBURY SQ #402	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$185,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			CANTERBURY SQUARE
6147 EDSALL RD #6147I	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$180,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			EDSALL BLUFF
4862 EISENHOWER AVE #163	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$174,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			EXCHANGE AT VAN DORN
3030 MANNING ST	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$168,000	Townhouse	0.03		WAVERLY TAYLOR
18 CANTERBURY SQ #102	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$160,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			CANTERBURY SQUARE
3755 MARK DR	3	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$155,000	Townhouse	0.04		HUME SPRINGS
401 ARMISTEAD N #T-5	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$101,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			SEASONS

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December 31, 2008

Old Town Alexandria from the Masonic Memorial to the Waterfront

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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.

Festivities start running with the King Street Mile Race at 5 PM and end with spectacular fireworks at Midnight

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

A Call To Serve

FROM PAGE 1

One day Tommy got into trouble. By the time the next mentoring session rolled along, Tommy lied to Mackey about what had happened, not knowing that an assistant principal at Jefferson-Houston had already briefed him about the boy's behavior. Mackey kept asking about the situation until Tommy broke down in tears

and explained his motivation for lying.

"This means you are going to tutor another kid," Tommy said.

"It was at that point I knew what a difference I was making," Mackey told those in attendance at the Unity Breakfast.

"As a team, we all share in our successes and we all share in our failures."

— Mayor Bill Euille

THE THEME of this year's event,



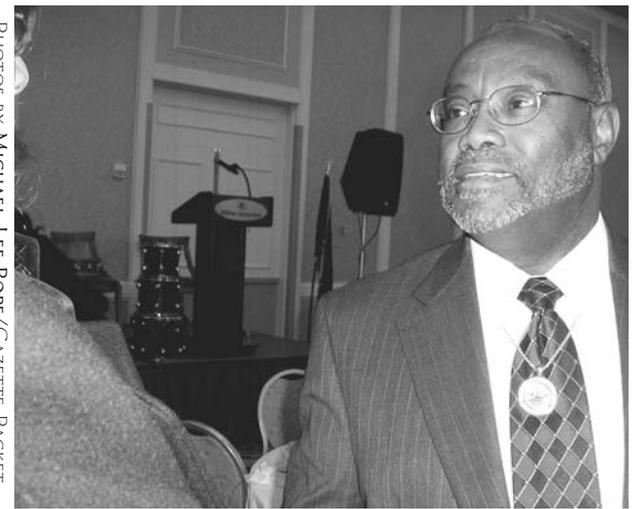
John Taylor Chapman and Charniele Herring.

which is always held the day before Thanksgiving, was "service." School Superintendent Morton Sherman delivered the keynote address, calling on those in attendance to dig deep within themselves toward the service of others. As he has done on a number of other occasions, the superintendent used a line from "Rocky 6" in which boxer Rocky Balboa explained his determination to continue fighting was because he had "something left in the basement." Like Rocky, Sherman said, the drive to serve others is a

value, a core value for many.

"It's the cornerstone of every major religion," said Sherman. "And, in fact, the heart of our democracy."

THE UNITY BREAKFAST was an opportunity for Alexandrians from various backgrounds to come together and share their own stories of service while enjoying artwork from second-grade students at Jefferson-Houston and the jazzy strains of the Al Williams Quartet.



Mayor Bill Euille donned his ceremonial gold medallion with the city's seal during the fifth annual Unity Breakfast.

Mayor Bill Euille called on ordinary citizens to take up the slack where government will be forced to cut back, calling upon the mutual aid of Alexandria residents to fill in gaps of the social safety net created by the world financial crisis. And he repeated the city's charge to "Buy Alexandria" this holiday season.

"As a team, we all share in our successes and we all share in our failures," said Euille. "If something goes wrong, don't blame me. Blame us."

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Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening
5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

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

Weekdays
(Mass or Communion Service)
9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

Children's Liturgy of the Word
Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English)

Sign Language Interpreter
Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

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Titan Redemption

T.C. Williams girls thinking state title after last season's run was cut short.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE PACKET

The brace she wears on her left shoulder serves as a not-so-subtle reminder to T.C. Williams star Tierra Ruffin-Pratt of just how much she missed at the end of last season.

After leading the Titans to a 19-0 regular season, Ruffin-Pratt dislocated her left shoulder in the third quarter of the Patriot District Championship game last February, the second-consecutive season a shoulder injury has derailed T.C. Williams' all-time leading scorer. The Titans ended up winning the Patriot District title, but without the North Carolina-bound Ruffin-Pratt, they fell prey to Robinson in the first round of the Northern Region tournament.

“What's different from last year is that we have girls that can help (Tierra) out offensively.”

—T.C. Williams coach Cavanaugh Hagen

That losing feeling has stuck all summer, ruining an otherwise successful 22-1 season that included T.C. Williams third-straight Patriot District championship.

“We got a lot to accomplish this season,” said Ruffin-Pratt, now a senior, who averaged a jaw-dropping 26 points, 15 rebounds, and seven assists per game last season on her way to being named Patriot District and All-Met Player of the Year.

Although the star power remains the same for the Titans, there are some notable changes that stand in the way of the T.C. Williams redemption tour. Coach Jim Lewis is gone, having taken an assistant coaching job with the WNBA's Indiana Fever. In his place is last year's lead assistant and former T.C. Williams girls' basketball standout Cavanaugh Hagen.

First and foremost in her mind is eliminating the notion that the Titans can't win without Ruffin-Pratt.

“What's different from last year is that we have girls that can help [Tierra] out offensively, so she doesn't feel like all the weight is on her to score her however many a game.”

Or as senior guard Monica Fikes

puts it, “Tierra won't be our only option.”

The coach plans on emphasizing the same up-tempo style that made the Titans so successful a year ago, which suggests points will be aplenty. But that will be easier said than done since Hagen and the Titans will have to make due without some significant contributors from a year ago. Last season's starting point guard, Brittany Burts, and co-captain Aida Gueye graduated, meaning Hagen must find an adequate replacement to play second fiddle to Ruffin-Pratt.

Just remember back to what happened last February to see how important a role that could be.

It's a double-edged sword for any coach when they have a plethora of young, inexperienced players. They can either be pleasantly surprising or youthfully bad going against older competition, and no matter what, inconsistency should be expected.

That's the conundrum facing **Bishop Ireton** girls' basketball coach Mike Hutton entering his fifth season at the helm. He's got a team with a good mix of height on the interior and quickness on the perimeter, but little experience to speak of from last year's squad that finished 8-14.

Hutton does know he has senior center Joelle Baguilh to lean on. She returns in a more expansive role this year after averaging five points and four rebounds as a junior. The coach describes freshman point guard Bryana Robinson as the team's wild card, someone who could be a “special player,” but also “take her lumps” in her first season playing varsity.

“I think we have the makings of a team that's going to surprise a lot of people,” said Hutton. The Cardinals will play in the St. Stephen's/St. Agnes Tip Off Tournament this weekend.

For first-year **Episcopal** girls' basketball coach Katie Scott, the beginning of the season is all about defining roles. The Maroon lost three seniors from last year and now must fill the void while transitioning to the habits of a new coach.

Scott expects senior Breanna Jones to lead the team in scoring and rebounding this season, with help from three-point sharpshooter Kelly Wallace on the perimeter. The Maroon lost to Collegiate on Nov. 21 to open the season and face Ireton on Dec. 3, after the Gazette Packet's press time.

After a 14-12 record last season, the **St. Stephen's/St. Agnes** girls' basketball team brings back three starters from a year ago. The notable returnees are senior Danielle Williams, junior Brianna Richardson, and sophomore Lauren Mizzell. The Saints opened their season with a 61-60 loss to Holton Arms on Nov. 20. They will participate in their own tournament beginning Friday at 5 p.m. at SSSAS.



PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
THE GAZETTE PACKET
New T.C. Williams girls' basketball coach Cavanaugh Hagen inherits a team that went 22-1 last season and returns arguably the area's best player in senior Tierra Ruffin-Pratt. Here she is talking with her team during a recent practice.



Senior Tierra Ruffin-Pratt returns after averaging about 26 points and 15 rebounds per game last season as a junior. A left shoulder injury in the Patriot District finals a year ago cut her season short.

Area Teams at a Glance

T.C. WILLIAMS

Coach: Cavanaugh Hagen, 1st year

Player to Watch: Tierra Ruffin-Pratt, senior

Coach's Take: “We're just going to run, that's our bread and butter.”

BISHOP IRETON

Coach: Mike Hutton, 5th year

Player to Watch: Joelle Baguilh, senior

Coach's Take: “We have a balanced team that can be very competitive this year. We'll be able to play a lot of different styles.”

EPISCOPAL

Coach: Katie Scott, 1st year

Player to Watch: Breanna Jones, senior

Coach's Take: “We're trying to figure out our roles, but if we play hard, we'll be in every game.”

SPORTS BRIEFS

Alexandria Athletes Honored

Victor McKoy, 18, of Alexandria, received the Most Valuable Player award for the Randolph-Macon Academy varsity football team after leading the Jackets in rushing this season. Victor is a senior at the Academy. ° ° ° °

Episcopal's **Mary Foran** (Junior, Outside Hitter) was selected as a member of the Virginia Independent School Volleyball Association (VISVA) All-State team.

Sophomore **Summer Baxter**, an Alexandria native who attends St. John's College High School in Washington, D.C. was named honorable mention all-WCAC for her play in field hockey this season.

Parker Gray Game

The T.C. Williams High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team home game on Dec. 9 will be the second annual Parker-Gray Memorial Game, a tribute to the high school that served Alexandria's African-American students from 1950 until 1965. T.C. Williams team members will be dressed in Parker-Gray uniforms as they face Mount Vernon High School.

The game will start at 7:45 p.m. in the school's gymnasium, 3330 King St., Alexandria. Admission is \$5. For more information, contact the T.C. Williams Athletic Department at 703-824-6860.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Members of the T.C. Williams Honor Club, and Key Elementary are working with Wheels To Africa volunteers to host a **collection site for bikes** at T.C. Williams High School. The drop-off date is Saturday, **Dec. 6** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Along with Alexandria, there are six other sites throughout the region: two in Arlington, one in McLean and two in Washington D.C. Bikes do not have to be fully operational, as volunteers will help fix them prior to being shipped to Africa. Tax-deductible donations are also encouraged. An estimated \$10 per bike is needed for the shipping costs. More information can be found at <http://WheelstoAfrica.wordpress.com>.

Students entering grades nine through 12 are invited to spend a day with a **student host** at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Upper School campus, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. Call for reservations: 703-212-2706. Visiting days are **Dec. 8, Jan. 12** and **Feb. 9**.

Kindergarten Tours at Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Lower School campus, 400 Fontaine Street, Alexandria. Call ahead to reserve a spot for **Dec. 11**. Tours run from 8-11 a.m. 703-212-2705.

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

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

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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 tomlm@episcopalhighschool.org or fax to 703-933-3019, attention Melissa Martinez. No phone inquiries or walk-ins. E.E.O.

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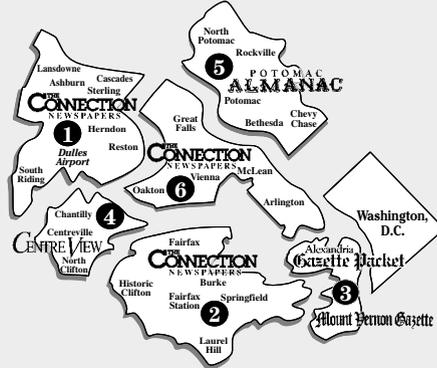
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As of October 13, 2008, Mr. Lenin (Butch) Lobaton is no longer a manager of ASIAN IMPORTS, LLC of 8249-K Backlick Road, Lorton, VA 22079. Mr Lobaton is not authorized to engage in any business transaction on behalf of Asian Imports, LLC

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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

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PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Noelle Whitehead and Michael Zuidema using exercise equipment.

New Exercise Program for Firefighters

FROM PAGE 3

department's focus on employee health, safety, and wellness. It is functional fitness for our crews. It is like a tailor-made program for us," said Alexandria Fire Chief Adam Thiel.

"When we are doing what we do, we have to operate as a team and this program operates the same way. Cross Fit is a team operation and when we work, we work as a team," he said.

On Nov. 11, at the Lee Center Fire Training Academy, the program was introduced not only to members of the Alexandria Fire Department but also to members of the Alexandria and District of Columbia police departments and firefighters from the District's Fire Department. "It is both team building and competitive," said Captain Luis Santano, spokesperson, Alexandria Fire Department.

"The chief wanted a fitness program instituted that would build fitness and team effort. We did a lot of research on the program and sent two of our members to Virginia Beach to train with the Navy Seals," said Battalion Chief Chet Helms, head of Fire Training and developer of the new local program.

"The equipment for the program was bought with federal grant money," Helms

said. Although, some of the equipment is actually created from existing materials such as the two or three person large tire drag. Various elements of the program are performed by two or more people working together.

"This program is not mandatory. But, more than 30 percent of our firefighters and EMS personnel have volunteered to do it. I'm expecting a lot more as we get going. This is only the initial day of the competition," Helms said.

TO SAFELY and effectively introduce Cross Fit, several fire department employees became certified Cross Fit trainers. They spend several hours each morning working with colleagues on exercises that emphasize the movements they will later utilize in the field, such as lifting victims on stretchers into ambulances and climbing ladders into building, according to Santano.

Cross Fit promotes varied workouts and can be adapted to fit anyone. The most experienced and strongest participants can exercise along with those that have never undertaken an exercise program, Santano said.

But, this program also pushes even the most physically fit to their limits, as several firefighters discovered on Nov. 11. A typical Cross Fit session might include throwing medicine balls, using a rowing machine, doing pull-ups, and running or walking while carrying one or two kettle-bells.

"Cross Fit emphasizes workouts that involve several muscle groups at once. A five-minute Cross Fit routine can have the same impact as 30 minutes of traditional weightlifting," Santano said.

"For members of the fire department, improving strength and fitness not only improves their own health, but also the well-being of Alexandria citizens and visitors whom they serve," Thiel said.



Fire Chief Adam Thiel, Mike Perry and Thurston McClain.

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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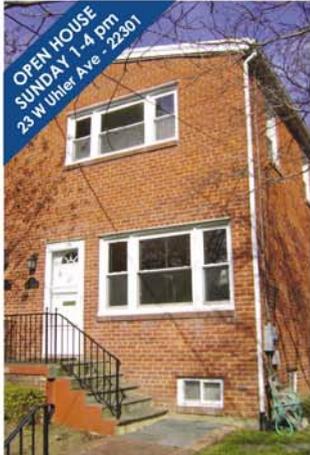
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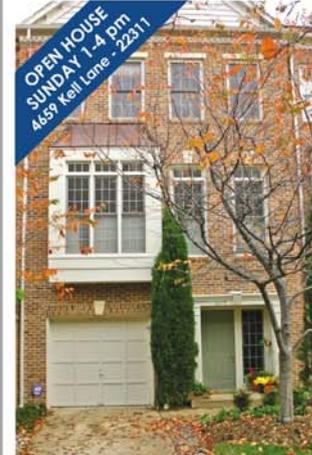
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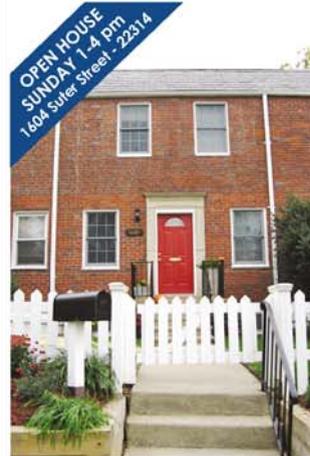
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