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SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 18, 2008

End of A Curse?

Historic building at 100 King is auctioned for \$2.4 million.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

For years the building at the southwest intersection of King and Union streets has been an abandoned shell with a historic façade. Every now and then a new restaurant has opened for a brief period only to close a few months later. The past two decades have seen a number come and go — Pelicano, Gaslight, Alamo and ultimately a restaurant known simply as 100 King. Each had its own distinct reason for closing, but the unmistakable trend is one of failure.

“The problems at this building go back many years, certainly since before I was

SEE HISTORIC, PAGE 11



Several oversized signs advertising the auction were criticized by City Councilman Paul Smedberg as being “obnoxious.”

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Pendulum Swings

It's a buyer's market, but fewer are opting to make the purchase.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Four years ago, a home could barely be listed before a potential buyer would appear ready to make an offer. Time on the market was frequently listed as a matter of hours rather than days during the height of the seller's market, when real-estate values were spiraling upward even though salaries remained relatively constant. But that seller's market has ended, and prices have plummeted to levels that would have been unheard of just a few years ago.

“Prices didn't go up because people could afford more,” said Susan Haughton, a Realtor with Long and Foster. “They went up because people could borrow more.”

But much of the increase turned out to be an illusion. A dramatic rise in mortgage delinquencies and foreclosures over the last few years triggered a subprime mortgage crisis that has now morphed into worldwide financial instability. Although city officials maintain

that the city is somewhat insulated from trends that have imperiled other local jurisdictions, Alexandria finds itself in a new era — one in which the rules have yet to be fully written.

“This is the best buyer's market we've seen in years,” said Haughton. “Prices are going to be a lot closer to list

“There's a lot of buyers and a lot of money sitting on the sidelines.”

— Sean McEneaney

than people think.”

Recent sales data shows that properties are being sold for prices that would be unthinkable just a few months ago: A condominium on Armistead Street sold on Oct. 31 for \$101,000. A garden apart

SEE BUYER, PAGE 33

Salvation Army ‘Angels’ Face Economic ‘Devils’

200 wishes still need to be fulfilled as deadline nears.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Last Thursday morning the Alexandria Citadel of The Salvation Army held its annual recognition breakfast for its Advisory Board and volunteers at the Royal Restaurant on North St. Asaph Street. Following that breakfast each year the group walks across the street to the building, donated each year by Theo Androus, where gifts are being assembled for distribution to children who have been “adopted” by generous citizens.

The preparation area is normally overflowing with toys, clothing and an array of items waiting to

be collected by needy families. That was not the case this year.

“As of Wednesday noon we were 200 ‘Angels’ short. So we are going to hold two distribution days this year in the hope that those 200 Angels will be adopted,” Captain Kenneth R. Argot, corps office, Alexandria Citadel, told those attending the breakfast.

Any child that is not “adopted” will get gifts on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 18 and 19, according to Argot. “Last year we were able to fulfill the wishes of 670 families. This year those seeking gifts from our Angel Trees has risen to 780 families. And, that does not count the 50 seniors we also serve, whose names were added to the Angel Trees last year. That brings this year's total to over 800,” he said.

To Help

Anyone wishing to adopt an Angel Tree family should call the Alexandria Salvation Army Headquarters at 703-836-2427.

SEE SALVATION ARMY,
PAGE 33



PHOTO BY CHUCK HAGEE/THE GAZETTE

Capt. Kenneth Argot (right), Corps Officer, Alexandria Citadel, Salvation Army, is joined by his wife Capt. Amy Argot (center), and Carla Daniel Turner, communications director, Salvation Army, National Capital Area Command, at the appreciation breakfast for Alexandria Citadel volunteers and board members.



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Charm: the quality of pleasing or delighting; attractiveness.

This lovely home is located eight miles from Washington, DC and features three bedrooms and two-and-one-half baths on three finished levels. Situated on a .28-acre lot this home has elegant formal rooms and a recently updated granite and stainless kitchen. There's loads of storage and the walk out lower level features great casual space, as well!

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OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA \$1,195,000



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are everywhere in this tony brick townhouse replete with tall ceilings, handsome woodwork, pretty wood floors and large windows. Two bedroom suites with sitting area, dressing area and baths offer the ultimate in privacy while gracious formal rooms allow metropolitan entertaining. Adjacent to the handsome kitchen is a wonderful family room opening through French doors to the flagstone patio. An in-home office caps this delightfully whimsical yet chic offering.

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Losing Gaines

Although he already paid the \$500 filing fee, launched a Facebook campaign page, scheduled a kickoff event at Generous George's and named Living Legend **Ferdinand Day** as his campaign chairman, Councilman **Ludwig Gaines** will not be standing for reelection in the Democratic caucus next month. The two-term councilman made the surprise announcement in a letter distributed by e-mail Monday afternoon, explaining "there are new opportunities beyond council for me to serve our city and nation on the horizon."

Although he did not spell out those options in the letter, Gaines later acknowledged that he was asked to submit his resume to the transition team for President-elect **Barack Obama** for a potential appointment in the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security. Moving forward with a time-consuming campaign while simultaneously navigating the federal transition process would have been difficult, Gaines said, and then he might have needed to step down next year shortly after being reelected. Gaines insisted that the decision of former Mayor **Kerry Donley** to enter the race had no bearing on the timing his decision.

"Recycled leadership is not the answer for Alexandria," said Gaines, who said he would like to see more candidates enter the race. "This city needs new and innovative leadership."

Ethics of Recession

City Hall is full of institutional memory, but nobody seems to remember the last time the government was forced to layoff massive amounts of employees. Declining revenues and dwindling money from Richmond will force more than 100 layoffs next year, and city agencies are bracing for massive reductions in service that will require difficult decisions and ethical quandaries. Enter ethicist **Michael Gillette**, who has been working with the Community Services Board for years to chart a course through thorny choices.

"Ethics isn't just touchy feely," said Councilman **Tim Lovain**, who observed Gillette in action during the summer of 2006. "It should be integral to what we do."

On several occasions over the last two years, Lovain has publicly mentioned how impressed he was with Gillette and how the model could be incorporated into agencies. Now that the economy is officially in recession and budget officials are prepared to make reductions unprecedented in living memory, City Manager **Jim Hartmann** has hired Gillette as a consultant for the upcoming budget season. Lovain praised the decision, adding that the city is facing an ocean of complex choices over the next few months.

"We have people in Alexandria who might die if they don't receive city services, and that's got to be our top priority," said Lovain. "That kind of brings it home about how important these decisions are going to be."

Smedberg Cans

Since first being elected to the City Council in 2003, **Paul Smedberg** has carved out a niche for himself as one of the most fastidious elected officials in Alexandria. He's been known to ask about the height of outdoor furniture, the source of funding for environmental initiatives, the logic behind who gets to take home city-owned vehicles, the size of motor coaches used in the city and the use of the word "stewardesses" in a symbolic resolution.

And then there are the trash cans.

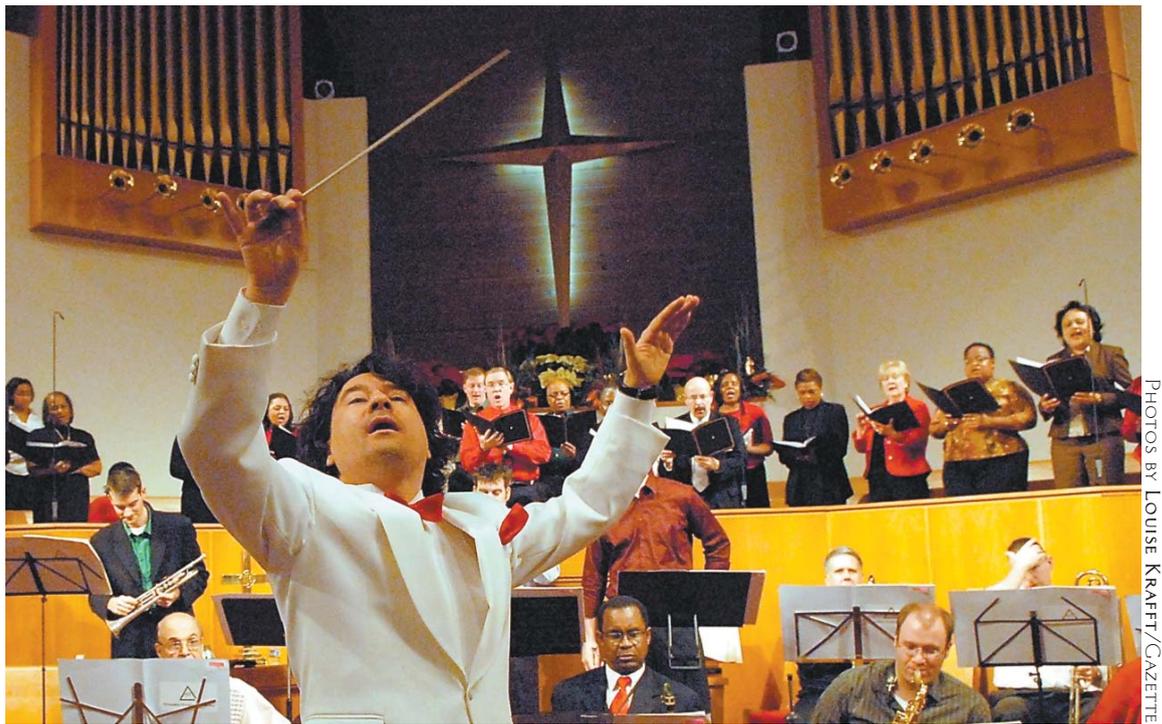
On several occasions, Smedberg has questioned the consistency of how applicants for special-use permits are required to purchase a city-owned trash cans. Sometimes one amount is used; other times the amount is higher. Some applicants are required to contribute to a fund; others are required to purchase a can. Above all, Smedberg has insisted on numerous occasions, he would like to see consistency. So when the Department of Planning and Zoning inadvertently omitted a trash-can requirement for a new restaurant on King Street last weekend, everybody knew what Smedberg would say before he even had a chance to open his mouth.

"I think staff wants to add another condition for the Councilman Smedberg trash-can fund," said land-use attorney **Duncan Blair** after the docket item was announced by the clerk.

"Maybe we should call them Smedberg cans," joked Councilman **Justin Wilson**.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra presented its annual Children's Holiday Concert last Sunday afternoon. The symphony was joined by members of the Alfred Street Baptist Choirs, the Westminster Presbyterian Church Choir and the Metropolitan Chorus. Kim Allen Kluge celebrating his 20th year in Alexandria directed the performance at the Alfred Street Baptist Church.



As a finale, the audience rose from their seats and sang carols and holiday songs.



Eleanor Hawkins rests in her grandmother Dottie's arms.



Children's Holiday Concert

Santa appeared as the concert concluded and speaks to Olivia McGuire, Maeve, Eleanor and Eve Hawkins and Patrick Dunn and Emma Bradley.

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NEWS



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

This Target, located in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County, was paying sales taxes to the City of Alexandria. The city will now have to pay \$1 million to the county for the misdirected revenue.

Targeting Revenue

Big-box retailer has been paying sales taxes to the wrong jurisdiction.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
 GAZETTE PACKET

When times are tight, local governments want to make sure they get every tax dollar that is rightfully theirs. In Alexandria, City Council members recently approved a plan that would empower the Sheriff's office to use "till taps" for restaurants that habitually refuse to pay meals taxes. In Fairfax County, officials have been engaged in a dragnet of retailers with Alexandria mailing addresses that are not in the city limits just to make sure the county was getting all the sales taxes that should be coming its way.

Last month, they caught a big one. Big-box retailer Target on Route One has a mailing address that says "Alexandria," but the store is actually located in Fairfax County.

For the last five years, unbeknownst to city and county officials, the store has been incorrectly sending sales-tax revenue to the city of Alexandria that actually rightfully belonged to Fairfax County. Now that county officials have discovered the error, Alexandria is bracing to cut a \$1 million check to pay arrears to the county for three years worth of sales taxes — the maximum amount of back-payment allowed under the Virginia Department of Taxation.

"I don't know that we would have had any way of knowing the taxpayer was reporting its location incorrectly," said Joel Davison, public relations manager with the department. "Most retailers know which jurisdiction they're located in."

Local add-on sales taxes are sent to Richmond and then distributed to localities. So the only way to catch a mistake like the one Target has been making for the last five years would be to match licensing information with tax reports state officials sent to local jurisdictions. Fairfax County initiated such a program a year ago after hearing about jurisdictional confusion between Henrico County and the city of Richmond, creating a system of audits that uncovered the mistake last month.

"When we started the program, we expected to find problems cropping up in the border areas," said Kevin Greenlief, director of the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration. "But we've found problems of retailers incorrectly reporting all over the county."

SEE TARGETING, PAGE 7

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COURTESY OF THE ALEXANDRIA CODE ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

Assistant Fire Marshal Russell Furr took this photo of the Norfolk Southern facility in February, about a month before the railroad's contractor began loading liquid ethanol from rail cars to tanker trucks less than 1,000 feet from Tucker Elementary School.

Missed Opportunities

City officials spent more than \$115,000 investigating actions preceding ethanol operation.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The story of how Alexandria government officials failed to notify City Council members that a controversial ethanol loading station would be opening on the West End earlier this year is a cautionary tale. It's a narrative of missed opportunities and blundered communication, one that has angered West End residents and en-

raged council members who were kept in the dark.

"There were so many balls dropped, you'd think we were at a juggling convention."

— Councilman Ludwig Gaines

According to an "independent review" of events leading up to official notification of council members released over the weekend, City Hall was paralyzed into inaction by conflicting legal opinions and a failure to communicate ongoing developments between departments.

A timeline presents five distinct opportunities when elected officials and community members could have been informed about the operation but were not. Meanwhile, as city officials were disagreeing with each other over legal strategy, Norfolk Southern was moving forward with plans to begin operations at the facility. Members of the City Council were not informed about what was happening until 36 days after

the ethanol loading facility began operations — 12 days after city official alerted a nearby commercial development about the ethanol-loading operation.

"There were so many balls dropped, you'd think we were at a juggling convention," said Councilman Ludwig Gaines. "I'm not sure if heads are going to roll for this, but at this point I'm waiting to see how the city manager responds to this."

Although officials in the Fire Department and Code Enforcement expressed concern that local regulatory powers were preempted by the federal government, City Attorney Ignacio Pessoa continued to insist that Alexandria's permitting process could be used to thwart the railroad's proposal. But that was a determination Pessoa said was overturned by a February ruling of the Surface Transportation Board, although no action was taken during this critical period. By the time Pessoa abandoned that interpretation — two months later — the facility was only hours away from loading the first shipment of liquid ethanol.

"Inaction during this timeframe is unexplained, but for the fact that (Pessoa) was reviewing legal arguments," concluded Steven Jansen and David LaBahn in a report released on Saturday. "We find this two-month period is excessive in light of the progress made by Norfolk Southern regarding their pending fully operational date of April 2008 and the reliance on the (city attorney's office) by other departments."

In September, Pessoa announced that he will be stepping down from his position at the end of the year. On Saturday, City Council appointed Assistant City Attorney Chris Spera to act as acting city attorney when Pessoa officially leaves on Dec. 31.

THE REVIEW, which was released over the weekend, cost city taxpayers \$29,520 and was conducted two former prosecutors with more than 32 combined years of legal experience. It was the second formal review of events preceding ethanol-loading operations at the West End facility, in which 26 individuals were interviewed and 2,500 pages were examined. The first formal investigation took place over the summer at the request of City Manager Jim

SEE FIVE MISSED, PAGE 6

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Christmas Day, December 25
12:00 NOON – Festival Eucharist

First Sunday of Christmas, December 28
7:30 AM – Holy Eucharist
10:00 AM – Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion
5:00 PM – Holy Eucharist

New Year's Day, January 1
12:00 NOON – Choral Eucharist

Five Missed Opportunities Detailed

FROM PAGE 5

Hartmann, who authorized a \$86,000 expenditure to hire a consultant who interviewed 36 individuals and concluded that “groupthink” and a “stovepipe culture” were to blame for the communication breakdown.

“I think what happened is that everybody offered their opinions but nobody took leadership,” said Vice Mayor Del Pepper this week. “There’s plenty of blame to go around because the report also points out that Norfolk Southern knew they didn’t have the necessary safety equipment so they don’t come to this with clean hands either.”

Norfolk Southern has operated in Alexandria for more than a century, but a growing number of residential construction on the West End has been changing the dynamics of land-use decisions in recent years. Corporate officials first approached Mayor Bill Euille about opening an ethanol loading facility in 2006, insisting from the outset that the company was immune from city oversight by federal regulations governing railroads. On Aug. 22, 2006, City Attorney Ignacio Pessoa issued a legal determination that the railroad would be required to obtain a special-use permit. Although he changed his opinion on April 4, 2008, Pessoa failed to share the new determination with members of the City Council.

“We find the (city attorney) should have provided notice to the City Council at this point,” the independent reviewers noted. “Since the city attorney has the opportunity to make a direct report to council during an executive session, this change in legal position should have been shared with council, which could have been convened at a regularly scheduled council session.”

THE REPORT identified several problems and suggested remedies for increased communication, adding that many measures have already been implemented at City Hall. One problem identified by the review was a lack of documentation and a hesitancy to share information. For example, the report notes that City Manager Hartmann was at a 2006 meeting in which the ethanol operation was discussed, yet little documentation exists about what was said at the meeting. Furthermore, the report explained, no information about what transpired at the meeting was shared with City Council members. Since May, Hartmann has scheduled monthly meetings with individual council members and the agenda of the mayor’s meeting with the city manager have been circulated to all members of the City Council.

“It’s not that we were hiding anything, it’s just that we never had a reason to share the agenda before,” said Euille. “I didn’t see any problem with sharing that information, so that’s something we started doing as a result of what happened with Norfolk Southern.”

Another key problem contributing to the lack of timely communication identified by the review was a mindset in the city manager’s office whereby complete information was given precedence over partial information. Hartmann was willing to wait until all his questions had been answered before reporting to City Council members, creating a delay. At one point, the review notes, city officials decided not to inform community members because they expected Norfolk Southern to set up a meeting.

“This review finds relying upon private industry to conduct community outreach was inappropriate in this situation,” the report noted. “After April 2, 2008, we find the delay in providing timely information and this memo to council during the next six weeks is excessive.”

Timeline

❖ **June 20, 2006:** Norfolk Southern Vice President David Lawson, who is the son of former City Manager Vola Lawson, meets with Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille about the railroad’s desire to transform the Van Dorn Yard into an ethanol “transloading” station. Lawson explains the railroad’s desire to transform the “intermodal facility” into an “ethanol transloading” operation in which the highly flammable liquid would be moved from rail cars to tanker trucks less than 300 feet from residents in Cameron Station.

❖ **June 23, 2006:** City Manager Jim Hartmann and Euille conduct a follow up meeting about the proposed ethanol loading operation. The independent review identifies this period as “the first opportunity to notify the council and community about the proposed transloading facility.”

❖ **Nov. 7, 2006:** Norfolk Southern officials send a letter to the city’s Department of Planning and Zoning announcing plans to begin operations by January 2007, outlining their legal opinion that the railroad has federal immunity from local regulatory oversight. The review identifies this moment as “the second opportunity by city staff to notify council and the community,” adding that the pending construction of the facility “should have created some urgency.”

❖ **Nov. 28 2007:** Fire Marshal Robert Rodriguez prepares a memorandum containing an opinion that the city has no code-enforcement authority. Despite wide distribution of the memo, including City Manager’s Office, Fire Operations, Code Enforcement, Planning and Zoning Department, Emergency Management and Transportation and Environmental Services, the information is not shared with the City Council.

❖ **Jan. 16, 2007:** City Manager Jim Hartmann calls a meeting with several department heads and plots a legal strategy to use the city’s permitting process to thwart the railroad’s ability to begin operations. Although the idea of drafting a memo to council members was broached during the meeting, no document was prepared.

❖ **April 4, 2008:** After reviewing a February ruling of the Surface Transportation Board, the federal body that regulates railroads, City Attorney Ignacio Pessoa changes his legal opinion about the city’s ability to use its regulatory powers to prevent the facility from opening. City officials are now left without a mechanism to oppose the facility. The review identifies Pessoa’s e-mail to senior staff as “the fifth failed opportunity to notify council and the community.”

❖ **April 9, 2008:** RSI Logistics began operating an ethanol loading operation for Norfolk Southern Railroad at the Van Dorn Yard even though railroad officials are aware that Code Enforcement officials and the Fire Department had not yet had a chance to inspect the facility. Members of the City Council will not be informed of the operation for another 36 days.

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Targeting Missing Revenue

FROM PAGE 4

The origins of confusion between Fairfax County and Alexandria go back many years. Until 1800, Alexandria was the county seat of Fairfax County. Then Alexandria and Arlington were incorporated into the District of Columbia, only to be returned to Virginia in the 1830s. But the people who lived south of town continued to have strong ties to Alexandria.

"For many years, the people who lived south of the city used the Alexandria post office because it was more convenient," said Semonian. "So they ended up with Alexandria mailing addresses even though they lived in Fairfax County."

Confusion over which jurisdictions are entitled to sales tax receipts is not limited to Alexandria and Fairfax County. Several other jurisdictions in Virginia have had similar problems for years, including Falls Church, Lynchburg, Fairfax City and Richmond. Sometimes the confusion is created by ZIP codes that overlap continuous jurisdictions. Other times confusion is created over similar names, as was the case in an area of Henrico County formerly known as "Richmond."

"We've seen this happen in several localities that are around independent cities," said Larry Durbin, assistant tax commissioner with the Virginia Department of Taxation. "This situation with the Target is very unusual, and we don't typically see something like this go on for years as was the case here."

Recent history may indicate a potential remedy for the longstanding problem. After years of frustration created by tax revenues that were incorrectly sent to the city of Richmond, Henrico County officials launched an effort to rename the area earlier this year. In May the United States Postal Service sent surveys to residents in 11 ZIP codes to find out if customers in Richmond would agree to living in an area known as "Henrico." The change was approved by 61 percent of those participating in the survey, and so the part of the county formerly known as "Richmond" became "Henrico" on Oct. 1.

"I'd like to see something like that happen here," said Alexandria City Councilman Justin Wilson, who first proposed the idea over the summer. "I think it would solve a lot of problems."

"Most retailers know which jurisdiction they're located in."

— Joel Davison, public relations manager, Virginia Department of Taxation

DURING A JUNE meeting of the Alexandria City Council, Wilson explained that a process similar to the one that took place in Henrico County could be replicated in Fairfax County. If county residents would agree to a name change in a survey conducted by the Postal Service, Wilson said, perhaps similar problems could be alleviated. But he said he wasn't holding his breath that Fairfax County residents would be willing to make the change.

"The big difference is that people in Henrico County didn't really want to be associated with Richmond whereas people in Fairfax County want to be associated with Alexandria," he said. "I would personally be in favor of it, but I doubt it would ever happen."

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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.

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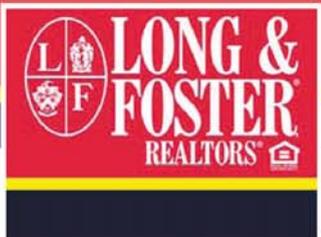
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Thank you!*

We would like to thank those of you who participated in the "Giving Tree" program this year including L&F's Alexandria Old Town & Old Town Historic agents and staff. With your help and their donations, time and organization, we were able to adopt children from the Alexandria city schools, provide presents, stockings/stocking stuffers and food gift certificates for their families. Please do not forget us next year!

"The Giving Tree"

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 gifts and monetary donations go to the people in need.

Historic Building Is Auctioned for \$2.4 million

FROM PAGE 1

mayor," said U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8). "It's kind of baffling why nothing has been able to make it there, but I think the new owner could end the plague by offering good food at a good price."

After purchasing the building in 2002 for \$2.1 million, a groups of investors known as "100 King LC" spent about \$4 million in renovations before reopening as an ultra-modern restaurant with concrete floors and chain-link curtains. The restaurant struggled though several managers and menus, ultimately ending up in foreclosure and ultimately a public auction last Friday. The minimalist interior created by the five-year renovation has long been a source of frustration for some in the historic-preservation community.

"They took a historic building and screwed it up," said Tom Hulfish, chairman of the Board of Architectural Review. "It's not a contemporary building but they created a contemporary interior, and it just didn't work."

ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED as the Alexandria Corn and Produce Exchange, the building was once the home of the Virginia Power and Supply Company. The public auction last week was advertised by several



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Jonathan Melnick, center, auctions a historic building known as the Corn Exchange.

oversized banners that City Councilman Paul Smedberg publicly criticized last week as "obnoxious," yet the publicity brought a crowd of about 40 people inside the dining room of the old 100 King restaurant.

"Who's going to start the bidding off at \$4 million?" asked auctioneer Jonathan Melnick, prompting nervous laughter as the

bidding began. "In my 40 years of doing this I've never had anybody say to me Jonathan, why did you let me bid so much." This is, in my opinion, a fabulous opportunity."

After a 20-minute auction, the building ultimately sold for \$2.4 million to a client of Alexandria attorney Michael Chamowitz,

who was listening to the action on a cell phone Friday.

News of the sale quickly spread in the neighborhood as nearby businesses were concerned about the growing number of empty storefronts in Old Town — a list that includes Champs Elysee, Timothy Williams furniture store, Olsson's Books and Records and the Discovery Store. At the Virginia Store, across the street from 100 King, owner Bob Lorenson said the current economic climate was a source of concern for many retailers in the neighborhood.

"Even if landlords were to reduce rents, I don't see how any business could come in and get started in this economy," he said. "My fear is that these empty storefronts are going to be filled by national chains. Who else could afford it?"

**"They took a historic building and screwed it up."
— Tom Hulfish, chairman, Board of Architectural Review**

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Karen Leonard | 703 328-7041 Alexandria

New Listing



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Elegantly appointed three bedroom town home in charming south Old Town. Main floor features an ample living room, open dining room and kitchen with granite counters, sparkling glass backsplash and room for a center island. Brazilian hardwood flooring, oversized brick hearth, stylishly renovated bathrooms. Glass doors lead to private brick patio and access to private walkway and convenient parking.

Karen Leonard | 703 328-7041 Old Town

Open Sunday 1-4



1209 Duke Street | \$575,000

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Circa 1846 brick TH gem, heart of Old Town with garage and driveway parking! Two levels, 2BRs, 1.5BAs. Warm hardwood floors, tasteful moldings, two fireplaces, updated kitchen with granite counters and SS appliances, neutral decor. Walk out to Georgetown patio and carriage house garage with bonus upstairs storage. Just blocks to King St Metro, Whole Foods, restaurants, et al. Photos on www.paddockhomes.com

Vaughn & Diane Paddock | 703 628-2828 Old Town

Big and Beautiful



6817 Oregon Lane | \$475,000

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

Eileen Casamo | 703 855-7233 Alexandria

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803 N. Howard Street # 254 | \$234,900

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Richard Kalnins | 202 550-3177 Alexandria

Welcome Home



5062 Donovan Drive | \$447,000

Pristine two level condo TH with garage, in prime Cameron Station location. 1500+ square feet, two master bedroom suites, 2.5 baths, warm hardwood floors, new carpet, neutral decor. Designer touches throughout. Close to community fitness center and pool, coffee shop, restaurant, easy access to free shuttle to Metro. Photos on www.paddockhomes.com

Vaughn & Diane Paddock | 703 628-2828 Cameron Station

Model Home Perfect



8204 Hensley Ct | \$715,000

Great family home on quiet cul-de-sac. Close to parks, playground, top schools. Shows like model. New kitchen, including stainless appliances, granite, tile, center island and table room. New bathrooms, hardwood floors in foyer, library and dining room. Family room with fireplace off kitchen. Master suite has separate sitting room, four closets, new master bath. Close to GW Parkway, 20 minutes to Pentagon and Washington, DC. See virtual tour online at <http://www.cbmove.com>

Bob Woods | 703 682-5443 Alexandria South

Great Opportunity



6286 D Rose Hill Court | \$199,000

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Yvonne S. Croft | 703 973-1540 Alexandria

New Listing



504 Bashford Ln #3103 | \$272,000

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Stunning Belle Haven estate! Perched on the top of an ivy covered hill in a grand setting, this classic beauty exudes the grace and charm of old with a sophisticated blend of today's comforts. With six bedrooms, including a private au-pair suite with separate above - garage staircase and kitchenette, plus five and a half baths, two fireplaces, welcoming sunroom, dramatic central staircase and large finished basement, this grand home offers plenty of space for comfortable living or gracious entertaining.

Karen Leonard | 703-328-7041 Alexandria

Shows Like New

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



1737 Potomac Greens Drive
\$998,000



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

Karen Leonard | 703-328-7041 Old Town

Nantucket Estate

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5116 Kenwood Drive
\$1,495,000



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Phyllis Patterson | 703 518-6158 Annandale

Great Location

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



1203 Essex Manor Court
\$1,499,000



Remarkable 5 bedrooms, four full and one half bath home on a large private lot with custom wood deck and mature trees. Grand foyer, formal living room and dining room, two story family room that opens to chef's kitchen with breakfast room and sunroom with vaulted ceilings and floor to ceiling windows. Designer colors, hardwood flooring / plush carpets. On a cul de sac in a small enclave of homes, just off the George Washington Parkway. www.phyllispatterson.com

Phyllis Patterson | 703 408-4232 Wellington

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201 North Columbus Street
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Located in the heart of Old Town and overlooking historic Christ Church, this classic brick Victorian boasts heart pine floors, period moldings, high ceilings, large windows and a delightful side porch. Circa 1870, this beautifully restored two bedroom plus two bath residence boasts a formal living room, separate dining room plus first floor den. This is the epitome of Old Town charm! Just reduced to \$895,000.

Donnan C Wintermute | 703 518-6156 Old Town

New Listing

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



5902 Chevell Court
\$429,000



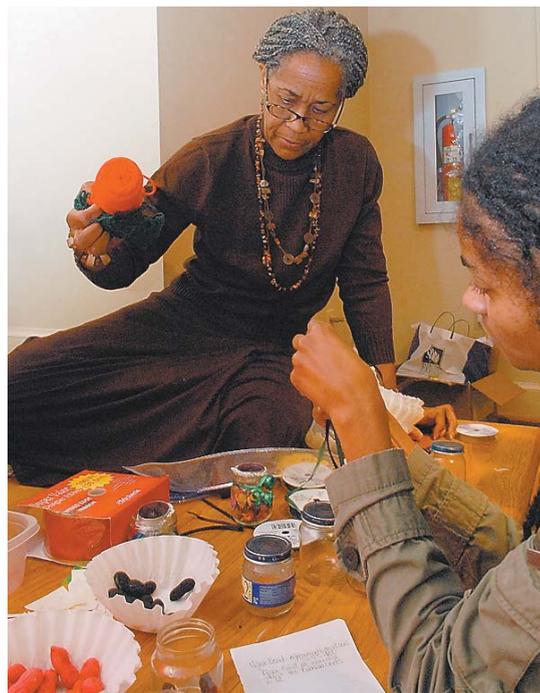
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Lillian Patterson of the Alexandria Black History Museum explains the tradition of making simple gifts for the celebration of Kwanzaa, Dec. 26 through Jan. 1.



Alexandria Black History Museum volunteer Melissa Hand-Leathers shows a few of the guests materials for making beaded necklaces.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Teaching About Kwanzaa

Black History interpreter Brian Sales talks about the history of Kwanzaa. "Kwanzaa was founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a Black Studies professor. The celebration is based on seven principles: Unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, purpose, creativity and faith."



LETTERS

Wonder Why Sales Are Down?

To the editor:

Last month my wife and I met in Old Town to shop. After spending more time and money than we initially thought we would, we left to get into our own cars, only to find a parking ticket on each car. Furious, I went right down to city hall and paid the parking tickets. A week later we went shopping in Annapolis, Md. to find every parking meter covered with a red bag saying Happy Holidays from the town of Annapolis. What a pleasant surprise compared to our shopping experience in Old Town. Last Saturday night we wanted to go out to dinner. We decided on going to a restaurant in Old Town and when we came out to our car we found a ticket for failure to obey a barrier sign. There was a

police man parked there and I asked if he was the one who gave me the ticket and he said that he did. I explained to him that there were no signs indicating no parking and that I obeyed the do not enter barrier sign and entered from the other direction. He told me that I could give him the ticket back and he would re-write one for being parked for more than two hours if I wanted to argue about it. I told him I would keep the ticket that I had and argue it in court.

This is not how you invite and keep shoppers and diners coming to Old Town Alexandria. With this economic downturn, you would think the City of Alexandria would go out of their way to help the local merchants and restaurants attract customers, not deter them from coming back. This type of action will certainly make me think twice before returning to Old

Town to shop or dine.

Brian Murphy
Alexandria

Proven Leadership

To the Editor:

We are fortunate to have some very talented and capable leaders on City Council to pilot us through the troubled economic waters we face now and in the months ahead. Among them, Tim Lovain stands out, having a blend of experience, skills and proven leadership that has earned my support in his bid for re-election.

Tim has lived in Alexandria for more than 20 years, and been a community leader throughout that time. Being a parent of two chil-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

LETTERS

Measuring Success

To the Editor:

As a T. C. Williams graduate and a long time supporter of the school and the athletic program, I can't wait to see how the 2008 Titans football season turns out. Yeah, I know the team finished at 3-7, but by my observation in high school sports generally, and with regard to this team in particular, forming opinions about a team's performance in the weeks following the season is way premature. Only after 10, 15, 20 years, once we have had the benefit of seeing what kind of husbands, fathers and responsible adult members of the community the players have become should we even attempt to judge the season "a success" or "failure." By that standard, I have a feeling that the 2008 season may be judged as one to remember.

I say this primarily because of my observations of the work of Coach Dennis Randolph and his staff. I do not know Coach Randolph personally and have only spoken to him a couple of times. I do, however, spend a lot of time at T. C. Williams and it seems that every time I am at the school I see Coach Randolph. During the summer he was there preparing for the season and advocating on behalf of his team and players to anyone who would listen.

I know that Coach Randolph saw to it that every player had the opportunity to participate in out of season conditioning, 7 on 7 competitions, showcases and camps. I know that Coach Randolph's completely revamped the program's offensive scheme and designed one to best utilize the abilities of his players. I know that Coach Randolph is committed not just to his players' performance on the field. He also made sure that players understood the importance of academics, took an interest in their personal lives even to the point of making sure that they had the benefit of wholesome diets and the gear they needed to participate with the team, whether they could afford it or not.

The team suffered a disappointing loss at Homecoming when the opposition scored the winning touchdown on a freak play as time expired.

The next day I went to the school to watch an all comer's track meet sponsored by the track team. Coach Randolph was there with at least a dozen of his players. He spent the better part of the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

day talking to his players and watching them compete in this little track meet. (Including persuading a 295 lb. lineman to run a leg of the 4x100 meter relay — it appears we can add superior motivator to Coach Randolph's list of gifts).

I was involved in a recent conversation with a parent of one of the players on the football team who matter of factly mentioned

that during the summer Coach Randolph, at his expense, had driven one of his players to a week-long camp in Alabama. When I mentioned how extraordinary I thought it was that a high school football coach would be willing to take that kind of interest in his players, the father simply shrugged and advised me that for Coach Randolph that was no big deal. He advised me that Coach Randolph operates with the realization that the athletic careers of

the overwhelming majority of his players will conclude when they leave T. C. Williams and that for some of them their academic career will also conclude with graduation. He advised me that Coach Randolph simply sees it as part of his job to see that each and every player gets the most that they possibly can out of their high school football experience.

From what I have seen, nobody

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26



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First Night ALEXANDRIA

Your First Stop for New Year's Eve

December 31, 2008

Old Town Alexandria from the Masonic Memorial to the Waterfront

Be part of the largest family-friendly,
budget-friendly, alcohol-free celebration in the region!

175 performances on 38 INDOOR stages – 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!

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

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

dren in the public schools and a former School Board member, I have been impressed by Tim's commitment to our City's schools and youth programs. Tim and his wife, Beth, have three daughters who attend their neighborhood public elementary school, and are active in the school and in their children's education. Among other things, during his tenure on Council, Tim was instrumental in preserving the School Resource Officer at Minnie Howard, bringing to fruition a much needed additional synthetic surface playing field, and improving the safety of students' walking access to school. Tim also supports, and understands the importance of, early childhood programs and initiatives — an area of particular interest and concern to me in recent years.

Of course, it's easier to support initiatives and programs like these

than it is to find the money to pay for them without overly burdening our taxpayers — particularly in a declining economy. This is where Tim brings a lot to the table. Prior to his election to City Council in 2006, Tim served for seven years on the City's Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, including a stint as chairman. As a result, Tim understands the City's budget and budget process as well as anyone on Council, and has the knowledge and skills to find innovative ways to make our thinning fiscal resources go farther.

Tim's professional experience in the government and public affairs arena also helps him stay attuned to grants and other resources available to the City from the state and federal government. He is currently scrutinizing President-elect Obama's proposed economic stimulus measures which will likely feature significant invest-

ments in roads, schools and other public infrastructure throughout the nation. Tim's work and experience on those matters will be invaluable to maximizing the chances that Alexandria can take full advantage of any new federal resources that might be available to assist with our City's aging schools, sewers, transportation and other infrastructure needs.

Please be sure to vote in the upcoming City Council caucus and general election. And make sure one of your votes is cast for Tim Lovain.

Arthur E. Schmalz

Arthur E. Schmalz served on the Alexandria School Board from 2003-2006, is a lifelong resident of the City, K-12 attendee of its public schools, and a parent of two children attending George Mason Elementary School. He is currently a member of the Alexandria/Arlington School Readiness Council, the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria Board of Trustees, and a Partner at Hunton & Williams LLP.

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:

Letters to the Editor
Gazette Packet
7913 Westpark Drive
McLean, VA 22102
Call: 703-917-6431.
By fax: 703-917-0991.
By e-mail:

gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

★ NATIONAL HARBOR ★



Celebrate the Season

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

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



COME CELEBRATE WITH US

America! ★ Aromi d'Italia ★ Art Whino
Ben & Jerry's ★ Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano Bar
CakeLove ★ Erwin Pearl ★ Fossil
Godiva Chocolatier ★ Govinda Gallery
Harley-Davidson Accessories & Apparel
Jake's at National Harbor:
a Life is good® Genuine Neighborhood Shoppe
Jos. A. Bank ★ Mayorga Coffee Roasters
McCormick & Schmick's ★ Occasions to Remember
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Rosa Mexicano ★ Stonewall Kitchen ★ Swarovski

★ NATIONAL HARBOR ★

www.nationalharbor.com ★ 1-877-NATLHBR

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

Local Performer Plays Dual Instruments

Kaleigh plays both the violin and viola.

Fairfax Station Violist Kaleigh Elizabeth Acord will perform with Russian pianist Irina Kats, Sunday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The program will include Bartok, Bach and Brahms. Free. 703-838-4994 or recitalprogramsandpromotions@verizon.net.

Introduce yourself:

I am a 17-year-old high school senior. A classical musician, I perform on both violin and viola.

How did you get your start in music and how long have you been performing?

I began piano lessons at age 7, and took up violin and viola at age 11. I have been performing almost as long as I have been playing music.

What is it that you love about performing?

I find my greatest satisfaction in knowing that I have crossed the bridge between technicality and musicality, conquered all my personal demons, and succeeded in communicating something truly meaningful to an audience.

What is your best memory when it comes to music?

I do not have a single best musical memory. But every time I play respectably at a performance I was nervous about, I am on cloud nine for the rest of the night—sometimes the rest of the week. It's also extremely rewarding to go back to a piece you struggled with a while ago, only to realize that all those passages that were so perplexing are much more manageable.

Where is your favorite place to play, either publicly or personally?

Retirement and nursing home audiences

are so appreciative; I adore them and love to play for them. As for venue and acoustics alone, I am quite fond of the Lyceum, which is fortunate since I perform there relatively frequently.

Best compliment about a performance?

All the compliments that I have appreciated most have been those regarding my ability to command the stage. As a performer, it's your goal to have everyone so wrapped up in your musical messages that they almost forget to blink.

What is your favorite piece of music and why?

There are many pieces of music near and dear to my heart. My current favorite, however, is Brahms' "Double Concerto for Violin and Cello." It's got everything: brilliantly voiced interplay between the two solo instruments, flashy virtuosity, shimmering nostalgia, unforgiving flirtatiousness, dark mysteriousness, utter ferocity... and beyond. The emotional color palette is astounding.

Describe your sound:

I like to think that I have not one sound, but many. I have recently become more aware of the fact that within any one piece or movement, there are separate characters represented by different motifs or harmonies. My job as a performer is to give each of these characters an individual voice. As a possible juxtaposition: a ghostly, mysterious character should have a chalky, quivering, uncertain voice; a sprightly character should have a bright, resilient voice.

Biggest musical influences:

While there are several composers I revere highly, I undoubtedly have the strongest connection with Brahms. My strengths lie in fiery brilliance and warm sentimentality, which are both integral parts of Brahms' musical vocabulary.



Kaleigh Acord will perform at the Lyceum on Sunday, Dec. 21.

Where have you toured?

I have not toured anywhere officially, but I do enjoy making the rounds of local retirement and nursing homes.

Anything special about the upcoming show?

There are few pieces written specifically and originally for the viola, and Bela Bartok's spectacular "Viola Concerto" is one of them. It is both technically and musically demanding, and is written extremely intricately. Bartok was very interested in European folk music, some of which he wove into the Concerto (as well as many other works). Bartok also made use of "continuing variation" — the concept of taking one musical theme or motif, dissecting it, and using isolated aspects to create what sound like new themes. However, if you go back to the score of the piece with a knowing eye, it's clear that it all relates.

Future plans:

I have applied for Fall 2009 conservatory admission.

What would you recommend to

someone starting out in the business?

Try out as many different types of music as possible, and find which one(s) suit you best. Knowing your strengths will help you to better recognize and deal with your weaknesses. Never try to squelch your personality in your music; the audience is interested in your unique temperament, not how many notes you make or miss, what note you didn't articulate quite correctly, or what bow stroke you wish you'd had more time to perfect.

Any parting thoughts?

When it comes to practice, it's quality, not quantity. Every musician has a maximum of concentration time in a day. Therefore, it's essential to make the time you spend with your instrument as densely productive as possible. Making an effort to practice more efficiently can get you more mileage than simply increasing your overall time. Ten minutes spent on a couple difficult measures is ultimately going to yield better results than 30 minutes spent "running through" a piece, neglecting spots that need extra attention.



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

This Father Doesn't Know Best

American Century revives 1930's smash hit.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
GAZETTE PACKET

In 1938, nostalgia hit Broadway in a big way. Now The American Century Theatre, which has as its mission the revival of the important American plays of the 20th century which are seldom seen today, takes up

REVIEW

the play "Life with Father" which ran longer than any other non-musical on Broadway.

The play was based on the short stories of Clarence Day, Jr. about living in the home of his father, an irritable, short-tempered but soft-hearted head of household in the New York City of the 1890s. Day's affection for his dad shined through his portrait of his peculiarities just as his father's affection

for his family shone through his bluster.

As popular as the short stories and the subsequent book-length collection was in the 1930s, it was the play that turned the story of the home life of Clarence Day, Sr. into a cultural phenomenon. Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse had been successful playwrights turning out hit musicals (their "Anything Goes" with its score by Cole Por

SEE THEATER, PAGE 23

"Of real value to anyone who cares about the direction and possibilities of the American musical!" – Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*.

next to normal

Music by Tom Kitt / Book & lyrics by Brian Yorkey
Now through January 18



Directed by Michael Greif
(Broadway's *Rent*)

Starring Broadway's

Alice Ripley J. Robert Spencer
(*Side Show*) (*Jersey Boys*)

Aaron Tveit Jennifer Damiano
(*Wicked*) (*Spring Awakening*)

This darkly funny and haunting new musical explores how far two parents will go to keep themselves sane and their families intact.

video preview at
www.arenastage.org

TICKETS:
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or (202) 488-3300

Groups of 15+ save—call (202) 488-4380 | (202) 484-0247 (TTY)
Arena Stage in Crystal City, 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington, VA 22202



Arena Stage Where American Theater Lives

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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.

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 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** 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 Alliance Dance Institute presents "**The Nutcracker**" from **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.

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.

Historic Mount Vernon welcomes **Inauguration visitors** in January with 20 percent off adult admission. Visitors must print the coupon from Mount Vernon's Web site: <http://visit.mountvernon.org>. January is also the 250th wedding anniversary of George and Martha Washington, and on display Jan. 12 – Feb. 23 are Mrs. Washington's wedding slippers, which have not been exhibited at Mount Vernon in over 30 years. \$15 for adults; \$7 for youth ages 6-11; and free for children five and younger. Visit <http://visit.mountvernon.org> or 703-780-2000.

Woodlawn's Needlework exhibition is **March 1-31** at 9000 Richmond Highway. There will be demonstrations, lunch by Nelly's Needlers and more. See needleworks from around the world. Visit www.woodlawn1805.org or 703-780-4000 for more.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

Noonday Noel. 12:05 p.m. at The Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St. Hear music sung by the Potomac River Chorale. Free. Visit www.opmh.org or 703-549-6670. Followed by lunch for \$5.

Small Wonders. 10:15 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 13-23 months can enjoy stories, fingerplays and more. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Book Discussion. 7:15 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Adults call for title. Free. 703-971-0010.

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

Sisters in Crime. 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Authors such as Donna Andrews, Meriah Crawford and others will read. Free. 703-838-4566.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The T.C. Williams Band performs a Winter concert. Free. 703-824-6800.

THURSDAY/DEC. 18

Stories and Science. 4 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 4-6 can enjoy experiments, stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Music Performance. Hear music by Douglas A. Beck at noon at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 S. Pitt St. Free.

Musical Soiree. 6 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Hear music by Emily Bentgen and more. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Books Discussion. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Discuss "The End and the Beginning," "Hatred," and "Reality Demands" in "Poems, New and Collected" by Wislawa Szymborska. Free. 703-931-3559.

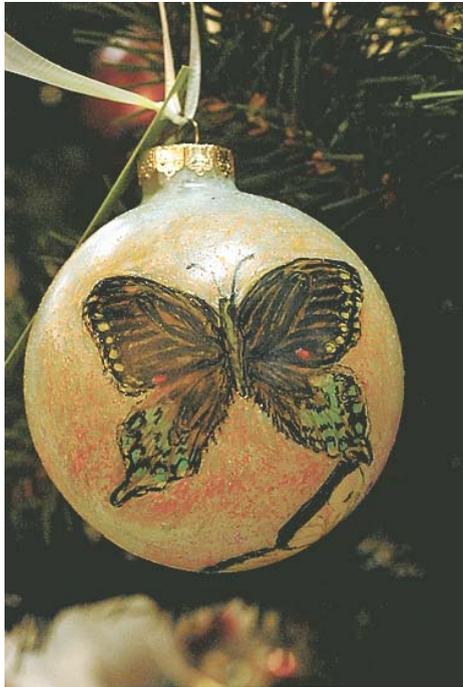
Art Exhibit. 5-10 p.m. at AHM Gallery, 215 S. Union St., 2nd floor. See works by Andrew Macdonald, "From the Fall Line to Fort Washington." Free. Visit www.ahmgallery.com or 571-970-1466.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon

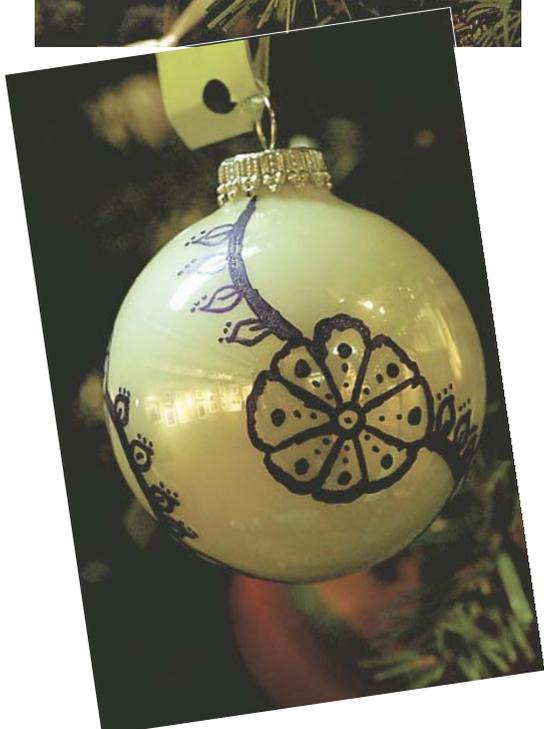
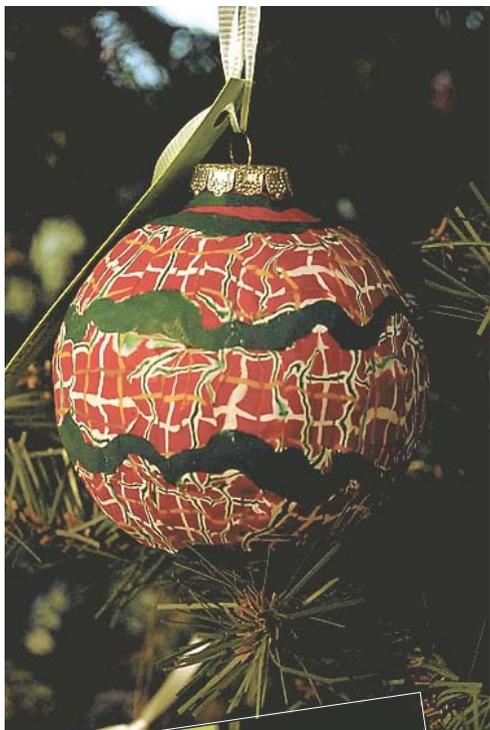
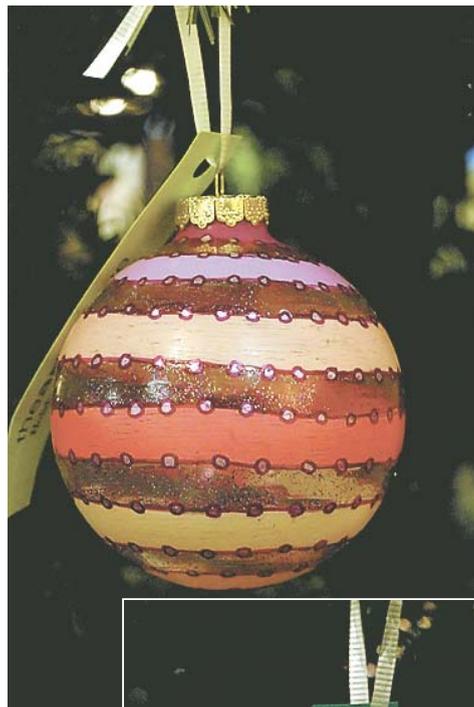
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

FINE ARTS

Holiday Shopping



Members of the Art League in Alexandria are offering hand painted and decorated holiday ornaments for sale at the Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory.



**This Christmas,
Enjoy a Taste of Paris...**

Join us for Christmas Eve Dinner at
BISTROT LAFAYETTE
Served 5:00 - 9:00PM

Please visit our web site to view our holiday menu!
Seating is limited for Holiday Dinners. Call early to make your reservation and inquire about our free parking.

BISTROT LAFAYETTE
GOOD FRENCH FUN!

www.bistrotlafayette.com
703.548.2525
1118 King Street Alexandria, VA

**Ladies Shopping Night
December 18th**

Free beverage or store discount if you shop and dine at participating businesses in Del Ray on Dec 18th between 6 and 9pm

More information at www.ashowofhands.biz



**a Show
of Hands**

Holiday Hours: open until 9pm Thursdays and Fridays in December AND on Monday Dec 22, Tuesday Dec 23 and Wednesday Dec 24
2204 Mt Vernon Ave - Alexandria VA 22301

unwined
gourmet wine · cigars

Come Taste the Difference
Bradlee Shopping Center
3690J King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
703.820.8600

Holiday Hours
Daily 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Christmas Eve until 6 p.m.

**Give the gift of a WINE CLUB
this holiday season!**

The Enthusiast, 6 bottles \$95
The Entertainer, 3 bottles \$75
The Connoisseur, 3 bottles \$145
Visit www.unwinedonline.com

All Virginia and D.C. orders processed by
Sunday, December 21st will arrive by Christmas.



CHRIS WHITE

#1 Individual Agent in Long & Foster's VA/WV Region in 2007!
Call today for a free market analysis of your home.



5304
Cedar Ct
\$398,500
Creekside Charmer!

Cozy 3BR, 1.5BA rambler on huge half acre lot bordering scenic

Dogue Creek. Home has been completely remodeled and updated by leading local craftsman. Stunning updated kitchen with maple cabinets, granite countertops & stainless appliances, LR with fireplace, bamboo floors, updated baths & more! Assessed by Ffx Co for \$439,500!



4300
Neptune Dr
\$559,000
Yacht Haven Opportunity!

Rare 3/4 acre corner lot in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates, one

of the Mt Vernon area's premier waterfront communities! Spacious home combined with exceptionally large building area provides limitless potential on this gorgeous level lot with access to Mt Vernon Yacht Club. **Open Sun 1-4pm.** S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Ferry Lndg Rd, L Neptune Dr.



1600
Noral Place
\$998,500

New Ambiance!
 The best of both worlds: the open spacious feel of a modern home combined with a

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



3601
Riverwood Rd
\$749,500
Riverwood Gem!

Updated Colonial in premier location near the Potomac River

neighboring homes selling for \$3,595,850 and \$5,500,000! Owner spent \$175,000 in recent upgrades. Special features include: spectacular custom kitchen with granite, stainless and light maple cabinets, four bedrooms, hardwood floors, updated and reconfigured baths, large screened porch, oversized garage and fenced yard.



Brambly Lane
\$969,900

FREE FINISHED BASEMENT FOR 1ST CONTRACT IN DECEMBER - \$50,000 VALUE!

Pre-construction special makes this new luxury home

available at a price that is simply incomprehensible! **Same model sold a few months ago for over \$1,600,000!** High ceilings, open floor plan, 4BR, 3.5BA, energy conserving features, oversized garage & more! (Picture of same model for illustration purposes only.)



1210
N Pegram St
\$1,351,500
Classic New England Colonial!

Come see Alexandria's most exciting new home

opportunity! Although the house nearing completion is sold, work is underway on the property next door. See our top quality construction, open floor plans and magnificent site in the heart of Alexandria's Seminary area. This home is now under roof and awaiting your finishing touches!



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

Prime Mount Vernon location with the most breathtaking river

views you have ever seen! Over 11,000 sq ft of living space with five bedrooms including river view master bedroom suite on the main level with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Dramatic river views from every corner of the home! Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River.



1700
River Farm Dr
\$1,975,000
New Estate Just off Pkwy!

Pre-construction opportunity on rare, exceptionally scenic 3/4 acre site

just minutes from Old Town! 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!



2505
Crest Street
\$459,000

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

kitchen, replacement thermal pane windows and large attic for great storage. Gorgeous setting on beautiful fenced lot convenient to everything! Live in Alexandria's premier single family neighborhood for less than the cost of a townhouse!



9003
Patton Blvd
\$479,000

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

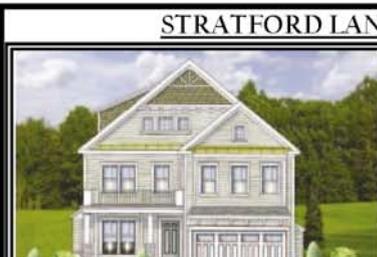
grounds. Main level MBR suite, upgraded roof, gas heat & hot water, full walk-out LL and 2 car carport. Sold in as-is condition. Awaits your finishing touches! Unique opportunity for investors - just two miles from Fort Belvoir - huge rental potential!



6421
Olmi Landrith Drive
\$385,000

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

Haven's multi-million dollar mansions! Recent major updates include: new roof, thermal windows, special insulated siding, refinished hardwood floor & more! Large screened porch & fenced yard. Nothing like it for under \$400K this close to Belle Haven!



8826
Camden Street
\$899,500

Gorgeous Setting!
 There's nothing like it on the market today - fabulous new

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

CHRIS WHITE (703) 283-9028

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

WWW.CHRISANDPEGGYWHITE.COM





OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

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



Alex/Clover
\$849,000
HOLIDAY LISTING

Expanded cape with white picket fence in Clover. You'll be amazed what lies behind the front door of this home, 4BR/2.5BA, library enveloped w/bookcases, bright & airy 20x20 family room with FP & French doors opening up to nicely landscaped yard. For an appt. to see this wonderful house, call Mary.

311 Cambridge Road
MARY BOURKE 703.906.5825



Old Town
\$2,100,000
NEW AT FORDS LANDING

Elegantly appointed waterfront TH at popular Fords Landing. Features 4 finished levels, formal LR/DR w/rich mouldings, 3BR, 3.55BA, white gourmet kitchen, family room w/granite island, built-in home office, family room w/gas FP, opening to private patio & 2-car garage. Capitol views. Close to DC. For private showing call Renee.

706 Fords Landing way
RENEE REYMOND 703.507.5330



Alexandria
\$775,000
LOCATED IN HEART OF OLD TOWN...

This former model is one of a kind-soaring 20' coffered ceilings in LR/DR, custom built-ins, Corinthian column detail. Huge eat-in kit. w/brkfst bar leads to patio & access to Royal St. Recently renovated/expanded MBR w/custom closet, original pine flrs, new maple vanity in bath w/dramatic granite in shower area. LL BR w atrium window offers privacy for guests. Direct access to prkg from unit. (Only 4 w/this feature).

318 Prince Street #7
SUZANNE BACKUS 703.338.3594



McLean
\$1,695,000
EXCEPTIONAL COLONIAL

Don't miss out on this beautiful 3lvl classic colonial—Gorgeous setting backs to woods, cul-de-sac—Spacious rooms, 9' ceilings, Formal LR/DR—marble entry—deluxe kit w/island—Master Suite w/His & Her baths—Sitting room w/FP, den—FF in walkout LL, lrg rec. room—2-car garage & more! Just minutes from downtown McLean— it's a charmer—space for everything! 4BR/4.5BA.

1025 Duchess Lane
FRANKI ROBERTS 703.898.0840



Alexandria South
\$595,000
FALL IN LOVE!

If you see it, you'll love it! A Colonial w/a contemporary feel! Vaulted ceilings! Skylights! Kitchen opens to family rm which leads to fabulous 21x16 deck. Finished walk-out bsmnt leads to 15x12 deck & beautifully landscaped yard w/pond, 3rd deck, picnic table & fire pit. 3BRs plus loft area sitting rm/ofc space. 3 full baths plus powder rm. 2-car garage. Tons of storage! Shop/hobby room!

4009 Cool Brooke Way
RUTH GUIRARD 703.609.3343



Alexandria
\$499,000
PORTO VECCHIO

Located in a small, premier residential building on the Potomac, this 1,122 SF 1BR/Den has stunning views of bridge, river & Nat'l Harbor! Recently reduced, the motivated seller wants a contract ASAP! Several choice larger residences also available from \$815,000. Now is an opportune time to make your move!

1250 S. Washington Street #507
PAT TIERNEY 703.850.5630



Alexandria
\$599,900
4 LEVEL BRICK SPLIT...

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

Ave. Free. 703-706-4500. Music by George Washington Middle School students.

FRIDAY/DEC. 19

Fashion Show and Luncheon. 11 a.m. at River Farm. See designs by students from Art Institute of Washington. Pieces will be auctioned off. Reservations required, 703-768-5700 ext. 114.

Holiday Performance. 7 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. The Thomas Jefferson High School Choral Department will present a choral holiday performance and then go caroling. Free.

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.

Music Performance. 9 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Hear music by Richie Fields. \$5/lady; \$7/gentleman. Visit www.nicksnightclub.com or 703-751-8900.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center. Hear music by the City Choir of Washington. Tickets start at \$15/person. Visit www.thecitychoirfowashington.org or 301-572-6865.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children 2 and under can enjoy stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear music by the City Choir of

Washington. Tickets range between \$15-\$45/person. 301-572-6865.

Holiday Concert. 7 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. and 8 p.m. at King Street Arcade, 100 block of King St. Hear Thomas Jefferson High School Choral Department. Free. Visit alexandriava.gov/recreation or 703-838-4686.

SATURDAY/DEC. 20

Family Gardening Workshop. 2-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Children and adults learn about growing flower bulbs indoors. \$15 per project. Materials included. Register at 703-642-5173.

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.

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.

Music Performance. 9 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Hear music by Richie Fields. \$5/lady; \$7/gentleman. Visit www.nicksnightclub.com or 703-751-8900.

Holiday Ice Show. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon RECenter,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 24

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CON

THEATER

"Life with Father" plays Jan. 8 - 24 at the Theatre Two of the Gunston Arts Center, 2700 South Lang Street. Performances are Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m., matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and special pay-what-you-can performances on Thursdays, Jan. 14 and 21 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 - \$32. Call 703-998-4555 or visit www.americancentury.org.

'Life' at Gunston Arts

FROM PAGE 17

ter is still considered a classic of its type) when they took up the challenge of turning Day's stories into a comedy.

The result of their efforts opened to glowing reviews and kept selling tickets for seven years, finally closing with an astonishing 3,224 performances under its belt. What's more, a movie version came out in 1947 and was a hit. Then, in 1953, an early television-era "sitcom" debuted and ran for three seasons.

So why is it that we don't see the play produced very often? The production on the stage at Theatre Two of the Gunston Arts Center answers that question. It is a very dated piece. Twice dated, really — for it was an exercise in nostalgia when it opened and now, looking back at a 1938 play which looked back at 1892 gives it two layers of reminiscence. To do it justice requires a very refined touch, and while this production hints at the charms that lurk under the bombastic surface, it doesn't quite make it as winning as it clearly should be.

Joe Cronin, who portrays Father Day with a nice touch of confusion and subsurface tenderness, and Deborah Critzer, who shows the affection that explains her willingness to put up with his bombast, deliver nice performances. The children are well portrayed as well, with both Karl Bittner as the eldest and Billy Puschel as the middle son being particularly pleasurable. Even the staff (every upper-middle class home in New York in the "gay nineties"



Joe Cronin and Deborah Critzer in "Life With Father."

had cooks and maids) do well, especially Lexi Haddad.

In the half century following the play's premiere, television gave us a parade of sitcoms trading on the now-tired formula of the head of the household being manipulated by a family that lets him think he's having his way while he fails to recognize that he isn't really in charge. But Bill Cosby changed that in 1984 with a father more deserving of respect who didn't have to hide his affection for his family or be fooled into doing what was clearly best.

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.

FOOD NOTES

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'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, Ashburn, Chantilly, College Park, Falls Church, Herndon, Leesburg, Manassas, South Riding, Silver

Spring, and Stafford 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.

Jackson 20 in Old Town will serve a family-style **Christmas Eve dinner**. Specialty holiday cocktails will be served including the Mistletoe and the Candy Cane. A seasonal Anchor Steam holiday

brew will also be available. Jackson 20 is located at 480 King St. For reservations, call 703-842-2790

Chef Dennis Marron from the Grille at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St., will prepare a **Feast of Seven Fishes** dinner on Christmas Eve. For \$90 guests can enjoy a six-course seafood dinner. A special a la carte menu is also available on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, a \$50 three-course brunch menu with complimentary champagne along with an a la carte menu option will be available at the restaurant. 703-838-8000.

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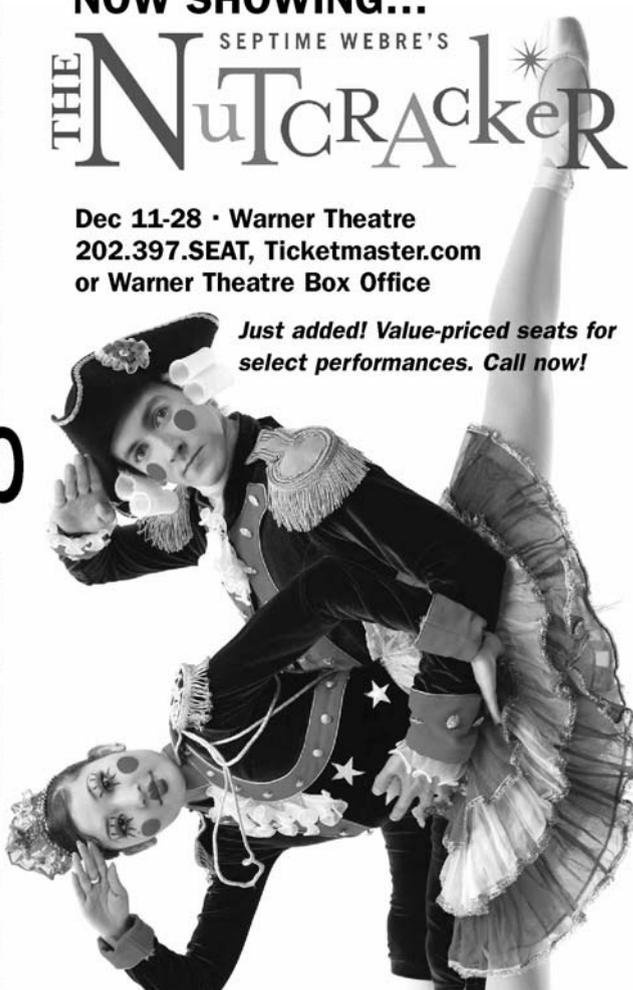
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Maki Onuki and Zachary Hackstock by Tony Powell

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 22

2017 Belle View Blvd. Free.

Holiday Tea. 2 p.m. at The Grille at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St. Children can hear a reading of "The Polar Express," make ornaments and more while enjoying tea. \$38/adult; \$28/child. Reservations encouraged, 703-838-8000.

Theater Performance. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Historic Alexandria History Center, 101 N. Union St. Shakespearean actors will perform scenes. Free. 703-706-5262.

Holiday Performance. 4-7 p.m. at Historic Alexandria History Center, 101 N. Union St. Charlotte, enslaved seamstress to Martha Washington will talk about her life. Free. 703-706-5262.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at the Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear music by the City Choir of Washington. Tickets range between \$15-\$45/person. 301-572-6865.

Carol Sing. 4 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Free. Sing along with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic and Youth Orchestra. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com or 703-360-4220.

Hooray for the Holidays

Storytime. 11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children ages 2 and up can enjoy holiday stories. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

Children's Christmas Party. Noon-2:30 p.m. at Hilton Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. More than 100 children will enjoy surprise guests, food, presents and more. Contact Captain Thurston McClain at 703-

838-4653.

Santa's Workshop. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Rec Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Visit with Santa and his elves, view model trains, create ornaments and more. Free, but cost for some activities. Donations of new, unwrapped toys accepted.

Music Performance. 9 p.m. at O'Shaughnessy's, 1324 King St. Hear music by Folkadelic. Visit www.myspace.com/folkadelic for more.

Caroling for Cats. 5 p.m. at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 4101 Eisenhower Ave. Families can enjoy caroling, crafts and more. Bring unopened pet food for the shelter's Community Pet Food Bank. Free. 703-838-4774.

SUNDAY/DEC. 21

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

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

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. Hear music by the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. Free, donations accepted.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Virginia violist Kaleigh Acord performs with Russian pianist Irina Kats. Free. 703-838-4994.

Winter Solstice. 2 p.m. at Potomac

Overlook Regional Park, off Marcey Road. Watch "The World in 70 Acres," about the park. Refreshments and music. Free. 703-528-5406.

Puppet Show. Noon-6 p.m. at Historic Alexandria History Center, 101 N. Union St. KD Puppets' perform. Free. 703-706-5262.

MONDAY/DEC. 22

Writer's Group. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Adults can read work for feedback. Free. 703-339-4610.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 24

Christmas Carols and Lessons. 11 p.m. at The Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St. Music with choir and brass quintet. Free. Visit www.opmh.org or 703-549-6670.

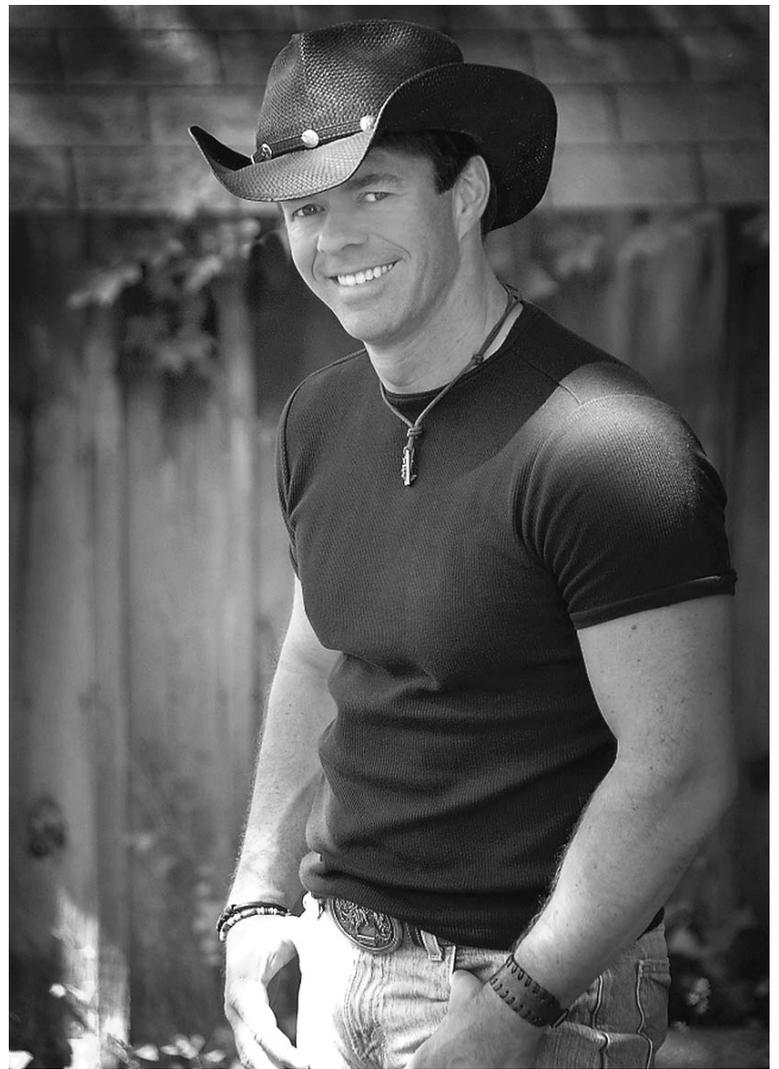
FRIDAY/DEC. 26

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children 2 and under can enjoy stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

SATURDAY/DEC. 27

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.

Get Fancy Storytime. 11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children ages 2 and up can don a tiara, bow tie or something festive for a fun storytime. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.



Country newcomer Richie Fields will perform at Nick's Nightclub on Friday, Dec. 19 and Saturday, Dec. 20 at 9 p.m. Visit www.nicksnightclub.com for more.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 15

wants to win more than Coach Randolph and nobody works harder to make that happen. The truth is that despite what we all may say about intangibles, the overwhelming majority of athletic contests at any level are decided by talent. A 3-7 result for the 2008 football team should not have been unexpected given that the 2007 team finished 4-6 and graduated 42 seniors.

However, when it comes to turning young men into responsible adults, the intangibles mean everything. It is rare indeed that young people have the benefit of exposure to a role model and mentor, especially outside their own family, like Coach Randolph. My guess is that, with the passage of time, Coach Randolph's influence on these young men will be reflected in aspects of their lives far more important than won/loss records.

Jim Clark
Alexandria

A New Chapter

To the Editor:

The following is an open letter, addressed to the constituents in

the 46th House of Delegates District.

Serving as a member of the House of Delegates and as Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. You have given me the opportunity to fight for a stronger economy, quality education, and a better future for our children. I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the great benefit of your trust.

For the past 12 years I have represented you to the best of my ability. Yet as the new year begins, I will be campaigning full time across Virginia, sharing my vision for our future.

You deserve the full attention of your representative in the legislative work this coming year.

That is why I wrote Governor Kaine to inform him of my decision to resign from the House of Delegates, effective today. I have come to this decision after long deliberation and discussions with my family.

While the decisions made in the coming 45-day General Assembly session are important, the leadership of Virginia for the next four years is even more critical.

Today's troubled times demand proven leadership. I believe that the best thing I can do for the people of Alexandria, Fairfax and the entire state, is to win this campaign for Governor.

From the day we began this campaign, Virginians have responded. In recent weeks I have been endorsed by leaders from across the Commonwealth, including the majority of my Party's executive committee. I value the support of some of Virginia's finest public servants and look forward to earning the votes of every Virginian.

This will be a long campaign against difficult opponents. Yet for nearly two decades, I have been fighting for Virginia. My career is an unfolding story of dedication to the people of our Commonwealth. I have fought for Virginia's needs, and I share Virginia's values. I have a vision for our future and the record, experience, and leadership to win this campaign and govern our great Commonwealth.

Thank you for your support, advice and friendship. I look forward to working with you as we write Virginia's next chapter.

Brian Moran

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DEL RAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH...703-549-2088
FAIRLINGTON UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH...703-671-8557
ROBERTS MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH...703-836-7332
ST. ANDREWS UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH...703-751-4666
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH...703-549-5500
WASHINGTON FARM UNITED
METHODIST...703-780-4696
WASHINGTON STREET UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH...703-836-4324

CHURCHES- UNITARIAN

MT. VERNON UNITARIAN...703-765-5950

CHURCHES- UNITY

UNITY IN ALEXANDRIA...703-931-8507

SYNAGOGUES

AGUDAS ACHIM
CONGREGATION...703-998-6460

SYNAGOGUES- ORTHODOX

CHABAD LUVAVITCH OF
ALEXANDRIA-ARLINGTON...703-370-2774

SYNAGOGUES- REFORM

BETH EL HEBREW
CONGREGATION...703-370-9400

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

ALEXANDRIA I WARD...703-683-7577
ALEXANDRIA II WARD...703-549-9891
COLONIAL II SINGLES WARD...703-313-6249
OLD TOWN SPANISH WARD...703-519-9545
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CITADEL...703-836-2427

NEIGHBORHOODS

Old Town

Old Towners simply call it the "Long Name Commission" and most folks, depending on how long they've lived here, know exactly what you mean.

It's birth-given name by our sometimes bloviating Commonwealth: The Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission. It's a small group — nine members (seven citizen members appointed by the City Council and two citizen members appointed by the Governor serving four-year terms.) And it has a lot

Taylor Run

VOTERS LEAGUE

A cherished tradition of the Alexandria League of Women Voters is the Legislative Reception, at which we sit like perfect ladies while our elected representatives tell us why we will not see the money for programs we want this year.

This year the job fell to Del. Adam Ebbin, who warned us to expect drastic cuts in all programs because of the budget short fall.

Adam intends to introduce a bill lengthening the hours of election days, and one requiring pedestrians to stop for railroad crossings. Apparently, some walkers want to step in front of oncoming trains.

He is considering bills to address the plastic bag problem, the incandescent bulb problem, and green buildings.

SENGEL SPEAKS

Randy Sengel, our commonwealth attorney, indicated that financial support is the real problem but "we will do more with less."

Both elected officials, responding to questions, said they favor a non-partisan approach to redistricting, as does the state League.

WHO WAS THERE

Among those enjoying the party, held in the Lyceum, were Dave Levy of Bike Walk Alexandria, Kay and Dick Youngflesh, Doug Thurman, Katy Cannady, Moina Ratliff, Nancy Berg, Dorris and Don Mela, Lillian White, Bob Miller, Elizabeth Wright, Pat Sullivan, and Sammie Collins.

BECKMANN SAFE

Back safe and sound from his trip to Mozambique is David Beckmann of Park Road. He was traveling in a light airplane, which failed to lift off and crashed at the end of the runway. David is head of Bread for the World.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

of clout, even though many 'Towners have never heard of it. (A disclosure: My wife, appointed by the Governor, is a member.)

AHSRPC was born in the Virginia General Assembly in 1962. Its mission as stated in its Web site seems quite simple: to preserve and acquire historic buildings and easements in the city. It is headquartered in the commanding and magnificent Lloyd House at N. Washington and Queen streets, also home base for the Office of Historic Alexandria. The commission's chair is longtime Old Towner Charles L. "Chuck" Trozzo, also a citizen member and preservation activist par excellence.

So why is your hardworking Old Town correspondent telling you all of this? Because all 'Towners, including you over there in the corner, should know more about this small but powerful civic body. It needs your support in any way you can give it — even simply showing up at one of its monthly sessions from time to time.

A look at the AHSRPC most recent meeting agenda, Dec. 10, offers an idea of its scope. The agenda (meetings start at 8 a.m.) includes 21 business items. A sampling: a report on the commission's involvement in the work of the

Environment Policy Commission; a report members sent to Council regarding a contentious preservation issue on Prince Street; action reports on commission involvement in similarly contentious issues dealing with buildings in the 100 block of King st. and 106 S. Lee; a report on the status of easements sought on at least four important Old Town properties and on and on. And this, I'm told, was a typical meeting. As I reported earlier, the primary activity of AHSRPC is its active program to acquire easements (open space as well as easements to protect the fabric of historic structures). Today there are 26 properties with easements in the Old and Historic District, most bearing the signature of the commission or its supporters.

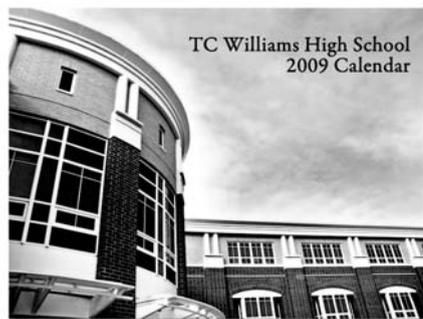
How about joining me in a holiday toast to the work of the Long Name Commission. I'll buy.

— BOB FELDKAMP

MILITARY NOTES

Marine Corps Pvt. Taytra T. Todd, daughter of Georgia T. Todd of Alexandria, recently completed the Marine Corps Basic Enlisted Supply Course. Todd is a 2006 graduate of The Potomac School of Mc Lean, and joined the Marine Corps in July 2007.

Tour the new T.C. Williams High School all year long with our student-produced 2009 calendar!



available online at www.wearthetitans.com or at select local retailers: St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, The Dairy Godmother, A Show of Hands, Presto Valet, Caboose Cafe, Bread and Chocolate Cafe, and others...

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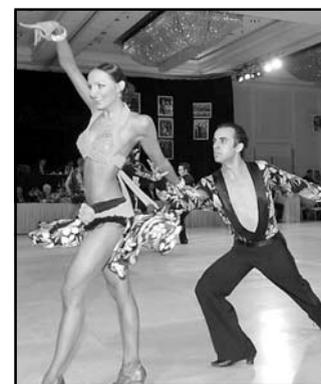
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COMMUNITY



Holiday Dressing

Recently members of Roberts Memorial Church decorated for the holiday. The church is celebrating its 176th year in Alexandria.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
GAZETTE



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Information Session for Eighth Graders
Sunday, January 11, 2009
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

BISHOP DENIS J. O'CONNELL HIGH SCHOOL

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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.

Patrick's Emphasizes Customer Service

Troy Englert is owner of Patrick's.

Short bio:

Alexandria has been home for 20 years. I grew up in a small town in Indiana and after college took a pilot job with World Airways at Dulles and decided to stay in Old Town.

Why did you choose this particular business?

Enjoy meeting people and bring the creative side out of our customers. Patrick and I have been doing Interior Design for the past 20 years in the metro D.C. area and enjoy working with corporations to redoing a single room working with all types of different budgets.

Why did you choose to work for yourself?

I decided to make customer service the most important thing in our business, saw the need for quality products with great customer service, knew I could do a better job than the big box stores and risk everything I owned to

Patrick's

Address: 106 N. St. Asaph Street
Years at this address: 1.5
Years in business: 1.5
Telephone: 571-970-6931
E-mail address: TroyCA1@aol.com
Web site: www.patrickdesigns.com

make Patrick's become a reality and so far, so good.

What have you learned?

Impossible to very difficult to get a loan to start a new business. Even with a solid business plan.

Share an anecdote of a challenging or humorous experience.

We see more men purchasing the bedding than the women. I think it has something to do with the feel and that we have six rooms with beds completely made coordinating with the color of the room.

Key staff:

Patrick Dempsey - designer/imagineer



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

Owner Troy Englert with 8-year-old Bedlington Terrier Bentley Mursfix posing on a bed whose quilt is coordinated with the color of the room.

Description of services and/or product:

Quality products for every budget including fabrics, linens and silks from Italy, along with complete decor items for the home with incredible tabletop from all over the world. In store products we carry include Hermes of Paris, Faberge's, Herend, Nicholas Moss, Bernardaud, Rosenthal, Versace, Moser, Staint Louis, Puiforcat, Sambonet, Royal Copenhagen,

Match, Lobjet, Lynn Chase, Mottahedeh, Jay Strongwater, Picard, Vietri, Niderviller, Ercuis, Juliska, Hickory Chair, Somerset Bay, Yorkshire House, Modern History, Kindel, Karges, Anichini, Scandia Down, DEA, Nancy Koltes, Ann Gish, Anali, Eyves Delorme, Signoria, Schlosberg, Bonjour, S*D*H Abyss Habidecor, KAS Rugs, Dempsey & Carroll DL & Company, Dayna Decker, Rigaud and many other great companies.

Give Your Christmas Tree a Second Chance... Recycle It!

The City of Alexandria will collect Christmas trees for recycling. This winter's trees will be recycled into next spring's mulch!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Remove all ornaments, tinsel and stands. Do not put the tree into a bag. (These items contaminate the mulch.)
2. Residents who receive City trash service must place their trees at the curb (no alleys) by 7:00 a.m. for collection on Saturday, January 10 or Saturday, January 17. Trees set out after January 17 will be collected as regular refuse.
3. In the spring, trees are recycled and chipped into mulch, which will be free for residents on a first-come, first-served basis. Mulch delivery is also available for an additional fee.

Curbside Pick-Up January 10 & 17

For more information, call Department of Transportation & Environmental Services Solid Waste Division 703.519.3486

Supported by the
Alexandria Gazette Packet

The Alexandria Chamber is the voice of business in Alexandria!

In recent months we have been active in promoting the development of a comprehensive Waterfront Vision Statement, worked to oppose the commercial add-on tax, and supported changes to the SUP process.

As one of the *largest Chambers in the Washington metropolitan area*, we offer a multitude of networking events and the opportunity to promote your business to over 20,000 residents and businesses through our website and annual publications.

We keep you apprised of upcoming training and educational programs and keep businesses current on community issues.

The Alexandria Chamber helps to promote a good quality of life for all Alexandrians!

For more information on this unique opportunity to make a difference in the economic climate and quality of life in Alexandria, contact our Membership director Joe Shumard at 703.549.7662 or membership@alexchamber.com. Also check out our website at www.alexchamber.com.

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OUT & ABOUT

'Martinis & Mistletoe'

The inaugural Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Martinis & Mistletoe at the Carlyle Club on Dec. 11 featured a competition for the title of Best Martini in Alexandria.

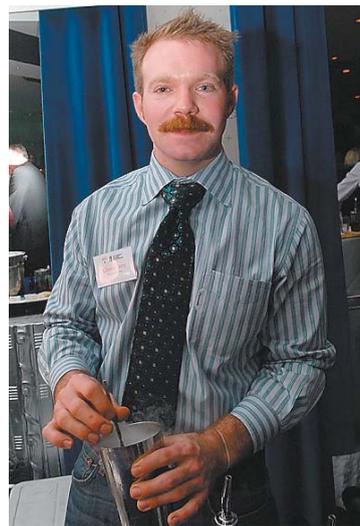
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET



Caroline Guelle of La Bergerie mixes up a "French Martini."



Landini Brother's "You Better Watch Out" martini.



Clinton Terry, Restaurant Eve/PX, created a "Kissing Santa" martini that won him first place.



Jonelle Schmidt of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce helps restock one the martini stands at the Christmas Party.



Chamber Chairman Elizabeth Moon and her husband Page Moon.



Charlie Cullum of Burke & Herbert and Peter Converse of Virginia Commerce Bank.



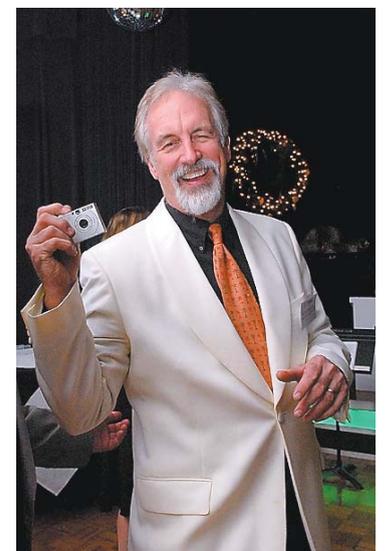
Clinton Terry of Restaurant Eve/PX gets a hug after being acknowledged as the first place winner, Diana Morgan of Las Tapas received the second place prize and Andres Lazo accepted the third place award for Mango Mike's.



Tom and Jane Hughes with neighbor and incoming Chairman Kathy Puskar and Jeff McQuilkin.



The Women of the Weston: Stephanie Smarsh, Anne Marie Donaghue, Kim Jones, Shannon Peters, Emily Zechman and Carie Yauch.



Mike Anderson of Mango Mike's took third place in the competition with his "Café O'Bama"

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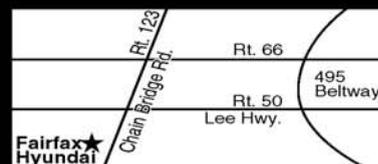
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PEOPLE

McCabe, Plyler Wed

Ms. Kelly Ann McCabe and Mr. William Earle Plyler were married at an evening wedding on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008, at the McLean Gardens Ballroom in Washington, D.C. Parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. McCabe of Solomons, Md. Parents of the groom are Mr. and Mrs. James D. Plyler of Greensboro, N.C. Grandfather of the bride is Mr. Thomas D. Read of Solomons, Md. Grandmother of the groom is Mrs. John Laney Plyler of Greenville, S.C.

The bride is a 1988 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, and a 1992 graduate of Washington & Lee University. The groom is a 1984 graduate of Grimsley High School in Greensboro and a 1989 graduate of the University of Southern California.

The bride was attended by co-matrons of honor Ms. Elizabeth O'Shaughnessy of Middletown, Mass., and Ms. Robbin Palmer of Charlotte, N.C. The groom's father was best man, and the groomsman was Mr. Dennis Plyler, brother of the groom, of Concord, N.C. Ushers were Mr. Randy Harris and Mr. Kevin von der Lippe of Greensboro and Mr. Harold McLeod III of Roanoke, Va. Readers were Mr. Thomas McCabe, brother of the bride, of Washington, D.C., and Ms. Charlotte Oleynik, sister of the groom, of Greensboro.

After a honeymoon trip to Maui, Hawaii, the couple resides in Los Angeles, Calif.



Kelly Ann McCabe and William Earle Plyler have wed.

PEOPLE NOTES

To have a People Note published in the Gazette-Packet, send an e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or call Rebecca Halik 703-917-6407. Pictures encouraged.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) elected officers and its board of directors at a special meeting on Nov. 18. The follow-

ing members, who will serve two-year terms, represent seven sectors of the Alexandria community. **Officers:** **Allen Lomax**, chair, independent consultant; **Shelly Morgan**, vice-chair, parent; **Monique Edwards**, treasurer, Alexandria Sheriff's Office, and **Chanel Smith**, secretary, student, TC Williams High School. **Board of Directors:**

Mary-Jane Atwater, Atwater Communications; **Tricia Bassing**, Alexandria Community Services Board; **Amy Beal**, parent; **Andrew T. Denison**, parent; **Priscilla Harp**, Alexandria Court Service Unit; **William Johnson**, captain, Alexandria Police Department, and **Gregory McIntosh**, student, TC Williams High School.

“

MADEIRA GIRLS
 have something
 to say

I want to thank my teachers who have taught me so much. I want to tell new students what a treat they are in for. I want to participate in the activities adults and students have worked so hard to plan. I want to be so involved so that I graduate without any regrets. I want to live my Madeira life to the fullest because I will only have it once, and I know that when it is gone, I will certainly miss it.

”

Chelsea

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'Angels' Face Economic 'Devils'

FROM PAGE 1

Each year the Salvation Army places trees in various locations throughout the area such as malls and retail stores. Each of those trees is decorated with paper cutouts of angels. And, each of those angels bears the name of a family and child or children in need. Thus, the name "Angel Trees."

"The one thing we have noticed this year is that people are asking for more basic items rather than high priced toys. There are more requests for clothing, school supplies and things like that," Argot said. "It's a sign of the times."

When a donor selects an "Angel" from one of the trees they are free to give as much as they want to that family. "One child has four bags of toys because that's what the donor wanted to do. And, we are not at liberty to take from one child's gifts to give to another," he said.

Most donors want to do their own shopping. But, that is optional. "They can give the money to us and we will do the shopping for those items the family has requested," Argot said.

Argot's wife Capt. Amy Argot was in charge of the gift organization and distribution this year. "This is where I feel dreams come true for Alexandria children. All of these items plus those yet to come will be totally distributed by Dec. 19," she told Advisory Board members touring the dis-



PHOTO BY CHUCK HAGER/THE GAZETTE

Refurbished bikes, waiting to be picked up by "Angel" families, line one complete hall of the Alexandria Salvation Army's holiday gift distribution center.

tribution center.

EACH ANGEL FAMILY that has been adopted received a letter from the local Salvation Army telling them when to pick up their gifts. Dec. 19 is "walk-in day." That is when anyone not adopted can come by

the distribution center and claim what ever they want, according to Amy Argot.

In juxtaposition to the shortage of tangible gifts, the Salvation Army Bell Ringers have been doing very well this year, according to Ken Argot. "So far we have raised just over \$81,000 which exceeds last year

"People are asking for more basic items than high-priced toys."

— Capt. Kenneth Argot, Alexandria Salvation Army

at this time by \$18,000," he said. Last year Kettle donation were lagging behind the Christmas gifts.

Money collected in the kettles is used to help those in need with the necessities of life throughout the year. "When summer comes kettle collections are still helping people with their rent, utilities, and other necessities," Argot said.

A major addition to this year's gift giving were the efforts of "The Bike Doctor." Charles Jones, a resident of Fairfax County's Mount Vernon District, repairs bikes that have been abandoned, lost or damaged.

He does all the repairs from his home as a gift to the Salvation Army, Argot told his volunteers and board members. "He makes them look like new. It's absolutely amazing," Argot said.

"He has refurbished 45 bikes this year which will be given as gifts to needy families," he said. Ranging from tricycles to two-wheelers they were lined up and waiting in the distribution center.

In addition to every thing else, Hallmark Cards has donated overstocked items to the Salvation Army nationwide, according to Argot.

Buyer's Market, But Fewer Opting To Make Purchases

FROM PAGE 1

ment on 28th Street sold on Oct. 15 for \$133,000. A townhouse on Mark Drive sold on Oct. 31 for \$155,000. A rowhouse on Manning Street sold on Oct. 30 for \$190,000.

"The market is about as bad as I've ever seen it," said Sean McEneaney, who joined McEneaney Realtors in 1997. "There's a lot of buyers and a lot of money sitting on the sidelines."

ACCORDING TO real-estate sales data, \$68.2 million in sales were made during October 2007. That compares with \$62.7 million in October 2008 — an 8 percent reduction over the last year. Although no single detached properties sold for under \$300,000 last year, sales data indicates that 137 single detached houses have been sold under that price point this year. McEneaney said that the value of properties that were sold over the last year has decreased about 9 percent, and that many buyers are waiting to see if prices will drop more before acting.

"The volume of our business has gone down over the last year, but we gained market share during that same time," said McEneaney. "That tells me that overall real-estate business in Alexandria is suffering considerably."

City records show that real-estate sales for the first nine months of 2008 showed a decline of 24 percent in sales from the first nine months of 2007. One manifestation of

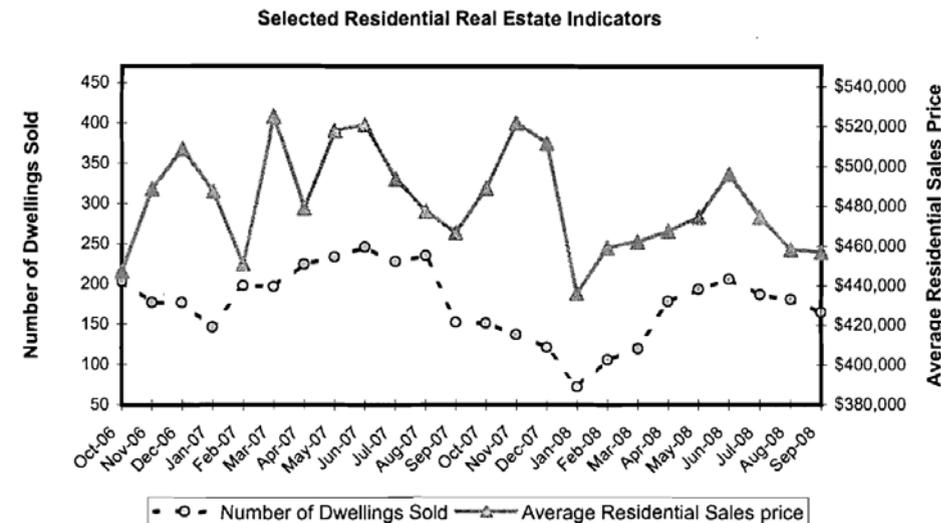
the weakness in the real-estate market is the increase in the foreclosure rate compared to previous years. According to the Department of Real Estate Assessments, the number of foreclosures in the city rose from 86 during the first nine months of 2007 to 271 during the first nine months of 2008.

"A few years ago you would go to foreclosure auctions and see bidding wars," said A.J. Heidmann, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker. "Now nobody shows up; the auctioneer is twiddling his thumbs."

In August, the city recorded 45 foreclosures — a number that has more than doubled since January. Realtors say they are also experiencing an increased number of "short sales," in which homeowners sell off mortgaged property for less than the outstanding balance of the loan and hands over the proceeds of the sale to the lender. Although much of the trouble is caused by economics, some of the problem in the local real-estate market is psychological.

"You have to be optimistic to go out and buy a house," said Heidmann. "There's just no sense of urgency right now because people feel like they'll get a better deal if they wait."

ALTHOUGH MUCH of the psychology that goes into real-estate is based on the national economy, housing prices tend to be closely tied to local trends. Assessing the price of a residential unit is often tied to recent sales on the block or in the neighborhood, which



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

has helped areas in Alexandria such as Old Town, Rosemont, Del Ray and Cameron Station.

"When you're in Herndon you can see five foreclosures on the same block, which has a profound influence on housing prices," said Eva Damelin, a Realtor with Weichert. "Prices in Alexandria may be down, but this is still a very strong area."

City budget officials expect next year's real-estate assessments to be down between 5 to 6 percent when properties are assessed as of Jan. 1, contributing to a shortfall of \$10 million to \$10.5 million for the city government. And preliminary projections for next year are that revenues could fall

by more than \$35 million, mostly as the result of falling real-estate values. Yet city officials are quick to point out, the slowdown appears to be less than in other jurisdictions.

"The consensus among many economists ... is that economic recovery may begin as early as the second quarter of 2009," wrote City Manager Jim Hartmann in a recent report on the state of the local economy. "Due to intense headwinds, the recovery could be delayed until well past that date, but because of the mix of safe education, health care, legal, and public administration jobs, the city is well positioned to ride out the recession."

A Work in Progress

With plenty of youth, Ireton boys weather ups and downs in area's best basketball conference.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE PACKET

There are two trains of thought when it comes to a young basketball team learning on the fly in a powerful conference. It can often be seen as a positive, a way for young players to quickly gain confidence and experience for better times in the future.

The WCAC "isn't forgiving, so it's just going to take some time."

— Bishop Ireton coach Mark Vincent

Six games into this season, Bishop Ireton coach Mark Vincent isn't quite sure which category his Cardinals, who returned just three players from a year ago, fit into as they try to maneuver their way through the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference, where five of the nation's top 50 high school teams reside.

"The fact of the matter is we have

some growing up to do," said Vincent after his team suffered a 65-29 shellacking at the hands of O'Connell (No. 49 in the country) last Sunday. "They're a really nice bunch of young men. We're going to take our lumps, but I don't think we need to take lumps like this."

THAT'S THE DOUBLE-EDGED sword when it comes to young teams. They'll tantalize with their talent and break hearts with their lack of experience in certain situations. The Cardinals are no different, having shown flashes of brilliance (scoring 87 points in their first game of the season) that are sometimes offset by stretches of poor play (getting outscored 29-9 in the second and third quarters combined against O'Connell). But Ireton still sits with a solid 3-3 record heading into holiday tournament time.

Aside from the defeat to O'Connell — a team that features North Carolina signee Kendall Marshall — Vincent's young squad has shown signs of becoming more than an afterthought in the highly competitive WCAC. Junior Arturo Oberg, sophomore Antonio Rouse, and freshman point guard Marcus Hayes are all key cogs for an outfit that rarely has even two seniors on the floor at one time.

Oberg, a transfer from San Diego, came to Ireton for the sole purpose of advancing his own game by playing in the WCAC. He's averaging 14.5 points per game thus far. Rouse, in his second year on the varsity squad, has proven a capable second option with the ability to get hot from the outside.

Hayes is a player Vincent says is just trying to "learn on the job," but that Ireton is "fortunate" to have on the floor, notwithstanding his youth.

SEE IRETON'S, PAGE 38



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Freshman point guard Marcus Hayes is one of several underclassmen learning on the fly as part of this year's Bishop Ireton basketball team.



PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

Senior Shannon Murphy is the only member of the T.C. Williams gymnastics team, a distinction she has had all four years competing. She practices alongside gymnasts from Jefferson, Edison, and West Potomac as a result.

The Lone Gymnast

Shannon Murphy has flourished despite being the only member of the T.C. Williams gymnastics team.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE PACKET

The only member of the T.C. Williams gymnastics team the past four seasons, senior Shannon Murphy has always wanted to get the word out about her sport so others would join her. It's too bad the school isn't doing her any favors.

After nearly every meet she competes in, the morning announcements include

some sort of congratulatory message meant to highlight her various achievements.

But they just say "Shannon has a meet today and people will be like, 'We have a team?'" according to Murphy. "A lot of people know I'm a gymnast, but a lot of people have no clue about the team."

The predicament has meant Murphy practices with gymnasts from West Potomac, Jefferson, and Edison during

SEE MURPHY, PAGE 38



Phil Cefaratti



Sasha Gong



Ariel Gonzalez

Blitzkrieg Campaign

Surprise resignation prompts West End caucuses with little advance notice.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Although he has been quietly campaigning for governor for more than a year, it wasn't until late last week that Del. Brian Moran (D-46) decided his constituents deserved better representation during the upcoming General Assembly session. With the deadline fast approaching for seating a replacement before the session starts, Moran contacted Gov. Tim Kaine on Thursday to let him know about his last-possible-minute decision to step down in time for a replacement to be seated before the session begins on Jan. 14.

Moran's decision was publicly announced on Friday, when Kaine issued a writ of election for a special election on Jan. 13 — a timeframe that will send election officials scrambling to conduct an

election within 30 days and leaving the winner to be sworn in on the first day of the session.

"This was a very difficult decision, and sometimes difficult decisions take a while to make," said Moran spokesman Jesse Ferguson when asked about the timing of the announcement. "Delegate Moran did not want to short-change his constituents, who deserve representation during the upcoming General Assembly session."

Because the announcement of the election is within 35 days, Virginia law specifies that parties must select their candidates within five days of the writ. That means that election officials have 30 days to prepare for the special election. As a result, the Alexandria Gazette Packet will be unable to announce the election in advance of the voting or publish the results of the party caucuses, which will not be available until after this week's production schedule.

"The timing stinks," said Del. David Englin (D-45). "I would suggest that whoever wins Moran's seat in the House of Delegates introduce a bill that would allow the parties to have seven days, which would allow weekly newspapers to publish information about the candidates and the election."

At press time, two Democrats and two Republicans have an-

forward operating base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Price, a cannon crewmember with two years of military service. He is the son of Andrea K. and Eugene R. Price of Alexandria and received an associate degree in 2006 from Norwich University, Northfield.

Army 2nd Lt. Gabriel L. LaMois has graduated from the Army Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. LaMois' parents, Loyd M.



Charniele Herring

nounced their intention to seek their respective party's nomination for the seat vacated by Moran. Democrats will be deciding between West End Business Association President Charniele Herring and Early Childhood Commission member Ariel González. Republicans will choose between small business owner Sasha Gong and Weichert Realtor Phil Cefaratti.

"I know this decision wasn't easy for Brian, but he deserves the respect of the people of Virginia for refusing to shortchange his constituents," said House Minority Leader Ward Armstrong (D-10) in a written statement. "We've had no better leader than Brian Moran. He led Democrats back from our lowest points and has been a tireless advocate for his district."

and Eve L. LaMois, live in Alexandria. In 2003, the lieutenant graduated from Bishop Ireton High School, Alexandria, and received a bachelor's degree in 2007 from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Navy Seaman Apprentice **Pattama M. Intavong**, a 1998 graduate of T. C. Williams High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

BUSINESS NOTES

Batteries PlusR, opened a new franchise location in Alexandria, 3690 King St., in the Bradlee Shopping Center. Visit www.batteriesplus.com.

A new colour concept salon, **g! for hair**, has opened at 1016 King Street in Alexandria. For more information, go to

<http://www.gforhair.com>. For appointments, call 703-549-0606; casual, drop-in clients are also welcome.

On Tuesday, Dec. 2, **Fontaine Caffé & Creperie**, 119 S. Royal St., held an event to support local charity Computer CORE and raised a total of \$3,300.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

AT&T intends to file an application to construct a fort worth structure within an existing transmission tower located along Morning Glen Court in Alexandria, Fairfax County, Virginia. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "VA1884 - Beulah" will consist of the construction of a 119.5-foot tall fort worth structure that will extend through the transmission tower. The RAD center of the antennas is 117 feet. The telecommunications equipment will be placed within a 17-foot by 20-foot fenced compound that is in a 24-foot by 24-foot lease area. An H-frame, equipment cabinets (located on an 11-foot by 11-foot concrete pad), CSC cabinet, and disconnect for CSC will be located within the fenced area. An 50-foot underground coaxial cable trench will extend east from the transmission tower to the proposed compound. An ice bridge will extend from the underground trench to the transmission tower. Electric and teleco trenching will extend south from the proposed compound to existing power poles with overhead power and telephone lines located adjacent to Beulah Street.

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

AT&T also intends to grub and remove all vegetation within the fenced area and install an approximate three-foot wide landscape buffer within the lease area. A 20-foot wide access easement will extend west from the equipment to the cul de sac. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Louis Deal, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or [c/o markos9@atcassociates.com](mailto:markos9@atcassociates.com)

ABC LICENSE

Mediterranea Restaurant Group, Inc. trading as Delia's Pizzeria and Mediterranean Grille, 211 Swamp Fox Rd.(Hoffman Town Center) Alexandria, VA 22336. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer & Wine On Premise/Mixed Beverage On Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Theodorou Theodoros, President

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

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In execution of a Deed of Trust from Luis Gonzalez and Veronica Guandique, dated August 3, 2006, and recorded August 9, 2006, in Deed Book 18674 at page 1957 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 21, Gillingham Subdivision

Tax Map No. 101-3-04-0021

Commonly known as 8425 Highland Lane, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$35,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.125 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY

Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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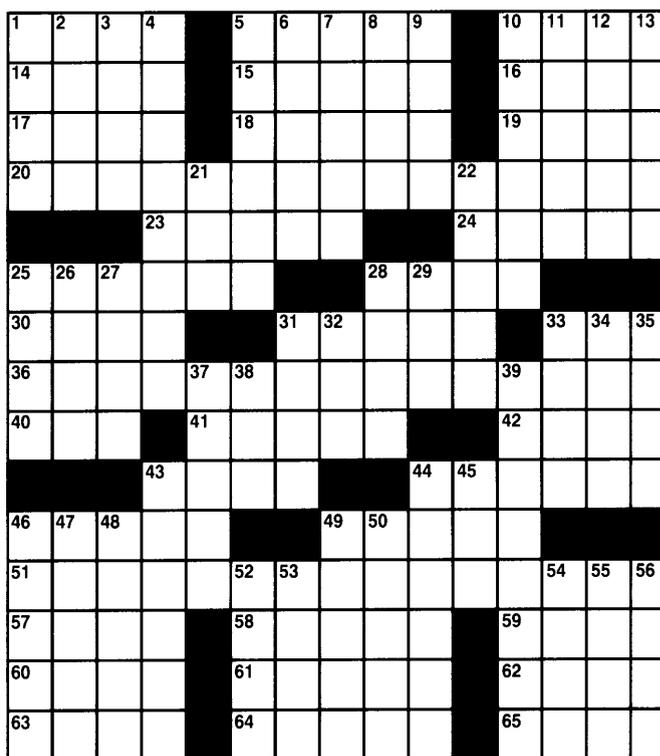
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NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0412-3



Puzzle by Diane C. Baldwin

ACROSS

- St. Bernard's bark
- Loud kiss
- Air pollution
- Victor who wrote "Les Misérables"
- California border lake
- TV drama length, usually
- Stocking shade
- Cell terminal
- Old-fashioned letter
- Saint-Exupéry lad
- Implore
- Done
- Moves furtively
- Gun's recoil
- Money in 31-Across
- Province in Tuscany
- Indignation
- Arachnid of song
- Vegetable that's hard to eat with a knife
- Rich soils
- Close
- Engagement token
- Olympic prizes
- Football Hall-of-Famer Merlin
- Unbroken
- Nursery rhyme fellow
- Etna output
- Grocery section
- Singer Turner
- In any way
- Look of disdain
- The "E" of B.P.O.E.
- Take care of
- Shorebirds
- Medicinal amount

DOWN

- Sharpen, as a knife
- "That hurts!"
- Grimm villain
- Dirty dealing
- What Senators represent
- Ray
- Get _____ of (reach by phone)
- Pig Latin, e.g.
- Withhold

- Authentic
- Goofs up
- Pancakes served with sour cream
- Charged particle
- Like most paragraphs
- First word on a "lost dog" sign
- Lawn tools
- Samuel's teacher
- Young hooter
- Sailor's time off
- Deadly sins number
- Not so dumb
- Actress Hunt
- Endure
- Unemployment office sight
- Metric weight
- Signs, as a contract
- Repose

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

E	T	T	A	P	L	A	C	E	P	O	P	P	A
C	H	A	G	R	I	N	E	D	A	T	L	A	S
L	A	R	R	Y	K	I	N	G	S	E	E	R	S
A	L	M	A	E	T	T	E	T	R	I	T	E	
T	I	A	D	R	E	S	S	O	N	E	S		
A	C	T	S	A	R	O	I	D	A	R	S		
I	T	S	S	U	R	E	F	I	R	E			
T	R	A	L	A	L	A	T	E	N	U	R	E	D
H	U	N	T	R	E	S	S	N	E	G			
E	M	S	R	E	L	A	P	B	U	T	T		
O	M	E	N	P	O	L	E	S	R	A	M		
D	A	R	I	N	N	E	S	T	S	I	R	E	
O	G	I	V	E	G	R	E	E	N	H	O	R	N
R	E	N	E	W	A	N	T	E	C	E	D	E	S
E	D	E	N	S	S	O	A	P	O	P	E	R	A

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Be the first person to fax in the correct crossword puzzle answers, and we'll put your name here! Fax the completed puzzle, with your name, the puzzle number, and the time and date of the fax, to the Crossword Puzzle Desk, fax #703-917-0998.

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

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-Abraham Lincoln

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Holiday Wrestling Tournament

The St. Stephen's/St. Agnes wrestling team will host its annual Holiday Classic Wrestling Tournament.

In this year's tournament the Saints will go head-to-head with wrestling teams from Bishop O'Connell, Gilman (Baltimore), Sidwell Friends, Park View, Dominion, Wakefield, and Madison. This 32-year sports tradition is one of the longest-running wrestling tournaments in the Washington, D.C. area.

The tournament will take place on Dec. 30 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Goodwin gymnasium.

T.C. Williams Game Re-Scheduled

The Dec. 17 Girls Basketball games have been rescheduled for Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009. The game start times will remain as scheduled: Freshman 4:30 p.m., JV 6 p.m., and Varsity 7:45 p.m.

Alexandria Swimming

Last Tuesday, the Alexandria city swim and dive meet was held at the Chinquapin Pool. The Bishop Ireton boy's and girls were impressive, defeating both T.C. Williams and St. Stephen's/St. Agnes. The Ireton girl's finished with a team score of 95, while the boy's weren't far behind with a score of 76. The T.C. Williams girl's came in second place, while on the boy's side, SSSAS attained runner up status.

Travel Softball Tryouts

The 10U Leesburg Revolution Girl's Fastpitch travel team has now completed a successful fall 2008 season and they will return to action in January to start preparing for the spring season. The Revolution are actively recruiting girls from all over Northern Virginia who are interested in playing travel softball. The Revs have two rosters spots that need to be filled, if interested in trying out for the spring team contact Dave Carver at 10Urevolution@leesburggirlssoftball.org.

10U Revs will be holding an open tryout in early March, check the Web site http://www.revolutionfastpich.org/ for dates and locations for the tryouts. The 12U Revolution is looking to fill out their spring roster. If interested in playing with the 12U Revolution contact Roger Turner at 12Urevolution@leesburggirlssoftball.org to arrange a tryout.

SCHOOL NOTES

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 **Jan. 12** and **Feb. 9**.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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SPORTS

Murphy: A Team of One

FROM PAGE 34

the high school season under coach Pete Novgrad. Because of Murphy's situation, Novgrad agreed to coach her without pay from the school system.

But Murphy and the three other teams have developed a bond over the past several seasons. So while she may be the lone Titan, she's never alone on the mat.

"It's a small gymnastics community," said Murphy. "They are definitely my teammates and the good thing is I go to practice and I'm technically the only one from T.C., but I know I'm going to see 30 different girls there from a variety of different teams, and I know them all now."

"A lot of people know I'm a gymnast, but a lot of people have no clue about the team."

—T.C. Williams senior Shannon Murphy

LAST SATURDAY'S

South Lakes Invitational provided a perfect example of the positives and negatives to Murphy's lone ranger status as far as T.C. Williams' gymnasts go.

She placed first in the all-around competition (vault, uneven bars, balance beam, and floor) with a score of 35.95, but that constituted the entire team score. It meant Murphy finished in first, but her team technically finished in last place in the eight-team meet.

Murphy had the highest score in the uneven bars and finished in second place in the vault, floor, and beam events.

"As far as how she competes [being alone] doesn't affect her at all," said Novgrad. "But it's in the team scores, I'm sure she'd like to have a full team to help that."

Ireton's Work in Progress

FROM PAGE 34

"We have to get our team more involved and the game will come to us more if we start doing that," said Rouse, who poured in 18 points in a thrilling one-point win over Alexandria rival St. Stephen's/St. Agnes two weeks ago. "It's tough because all the teams are really good, so you just have to work harder." Vincent concurs with his sophomore sharpshooter, saying the key to the

Added Murphy: "I kind of miss out on the team spirit thing, but other girls really help me a lot. They root for me, I root for them. We all work together. It's a tough sport, so it helps to have someone cheering for you."

MURPHY IS also a part of the Arlington Aerials club team, which means her winters revolve almost exclusively around gymnastics. She has either a club practice or high school practice with Novgrad every day of the week.

But now that she's in her final year at T.C. Williams, she can't help but wonder what might happen to the already slim pickings that constitute a gymnastics team at the school. Not only will there be no more gymnasts, the dynamic of having other teams adopting a supposed enemy as their own could become a thing of the past.

With a reported \$170 million budget shortfall, Fairfax County is proposing cutting gymnastics from the high school sports slate in order to save around \$221,000. If that had happened a year earlier, Murphy would have been left in the dust since all three schools she practices with could potentially no longer have gymnastics programs next season.

"I would hate to have all the girls coming into high school miss out on such a good opportunity," said Murphy. "If I had to compete without Edison or without TJ or without West Potomac, I'm not sure I would have done high school gymnastics without them."

Cardinals success in their three wins has been passing with double digit assists in the three victories and barely any ball movement in the three defeats.

It's all a part of that steep learning curve every young team must overcome.

"That's the thing I like about this team — the ability to grow and develop," said Vincent. "But this league isn't forgiving, so it's just going to take some time."

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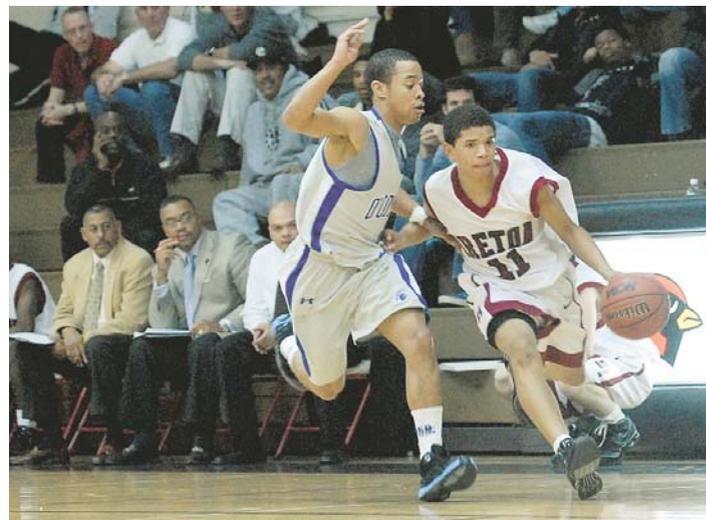
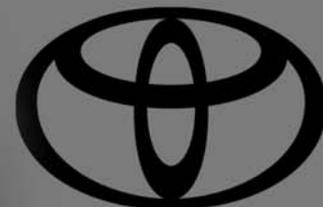


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LOUISE KRAFFT
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Freshman point guard Marcus Hayes has helped lead Bishop Ireton to a solid 3-3 start to the 2008-09 boy's basketball season.

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