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JANUARY 8, 2009

Profiled on Flight 175

Alexandria residents booted from AirTran flight after “alert passengers” suspected terrorism.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

For Inayet Sahin, AirTran Flight 175 from Washington to Orlando seemed to be shaping up to be a completely ordinary affair.

Sahin, who has lived in Cameron Station with her family since 2006, had just finished buckling herself into the seat outside Terminal A and given crayons to her three sons — ages 7, 4 and 2 — when it happened: One of

the passengers on the plane became suspicious about an offhand remark about how a passenger in traditional Arab clothing was near the jet engine.

The casual remark spurred AirTran officials to expel Sahin’s entire party from the plane and refused to book them on a later flight. Sahin, who is a native of Prince George’s County, was traveling with a group of seven

American citizens and one permanent legal resident. Yet AirTran refused to do anything for the group, which was on its way to a religious retreat with a group of friends at the Regal Sun Resort at DisneyWorld. The group eventually booked a flight with a different airline after being interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Meanwhile, the story became an international *cause celeb* for anti-Arab discrimination in a post 9/11 world.

SEE DISCRIMINATION, PAGE 3

“Hopefully, people will start questioning the climate of fear that has developed in this county after 9/11.”

— Inayet Sahin,
Cameron Station
resident



On First Night

A chilly First Night view of King Street and the George Washington Masonic Temple.



More than 300 runners braved the cold to run in the Second Annual King Street Mile race.

End of Pessoa’s Era

Council commences search for a new city attorney.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE PACKET

After 22 years of service to the City of Alexandria, City Attorney Ignacio Pessoa left his City Hall office for the last time on Dec. 31.

Commencing in 1986, Pessoa became assistant city attorney after teaching at George Mason University’s School of Law. He became city attorney 14 years later upon the resignation of then City Attorney Philip Sunderland and has fulfilled that role for the past eight years.

“It was an exciting time for the city when I came here. I had been teaching Land Use

SEE PESSOA, PAGE 6

Stimulating The Economy

Local delegation plans series of financial proposals.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

As economic projections continue to become increasingly grim, Alexandria’s legislative delegation is planning a series of measures to help Virginia grapple with the financial crisis. One would eliminate taxes that harm the poor by raising taxes on the rich. Another would use a surplus of welfare money to help pay rent for struggling families. And another would help raise money for ovarian cancer research at a time when revenues are dwindle.

SEE RICHMOND, PAGE 26

PHOTO BY BARBARA BRECHER

PHOTO BY MIKE GEISSINGER



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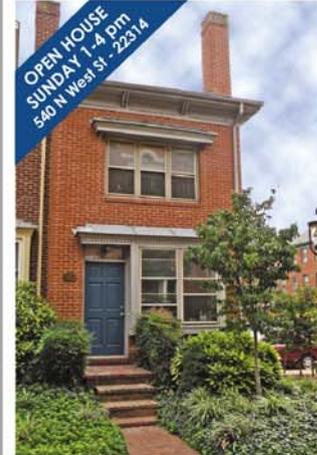
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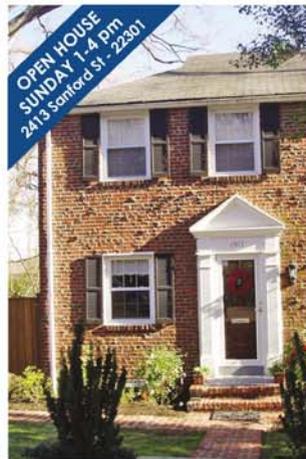
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Endorsement-Free Candidacy

Attention interest groups: Republican candidate **Joe Murray**, who is running to fill the seat vacated by former Del. **Brian Moran** (D-46), does not have time to fill out your questionnaires or sit for interviews. All the questions about gun control and abortion are important, of course, but Murray and his team have made a strategic decision to spend time with potential voters rather than sift through technical documents and endure countless sit-down interviews.

The special election will be conducted on Jan. 13, one day before the opening session of the General Assembly.

"It's just too short a time to respond to the thoughtful and important surveys," said Alexandria City Republican Party chairman **Chris Marston**. "He's adopted the position the best thing to do is get out and meet voters in the district."

Marston said that Murray turned down a number of groups, including the Virginia Citizens Defense League, National Rifle Association, Virginia Society for Human Life, Mount Vernon Chapter of Sierra Club and Police Benevolent Association. That leaves Murray's Democratic opponent, **Charniele Herring**, free rein among the groups seeking to make endorsements. This week, she picked up support from Virginia Police Association and the Sierra Club.

"The questionnaires take about 20 minutes to fill out, and the interviews take about 15 minutes," said **Jennifer Bissett**, who is managing Herring's campaign. "If you care about issues and policies, you should want to take the time to hear what their concerns are."

Two Republicans Announce

For the last two election cycles, Republicans have had a hard time in City Council elections. Back in 2003, **Claire Eberwein** lost her bid for reelection while then-Vice Mayor **Bill Cleveland** ran an unsuccessful campaign for mayor against then-Councilman **Bill Euille**. That left Alexandria an entirely Democratic mayor and City Council. In 2006 Republicans ran five candidates, but none of them were able to meet the threshold to win a seat on council.

This year, Republicans will have at least two contenders: businessman **Frank Fannon** and real-estate agent **Phil Cefaratti**.

"As a fifth-generation Alexandrian, I am committed to our city and I want to continue to make a difference," said Fannon in a written statement announcing his candidacy on Jan. 2. "With a challenging economic environment upon us, it is time for strong business management and a progressive approach to public programs."

"A government run by one party loses its ability to have checks and balances," said Cefaratti, a Navy veteran who is a Realtor for Weichert. "When people are thinking along the same lines, government tends to be more myopic than it needs to be."

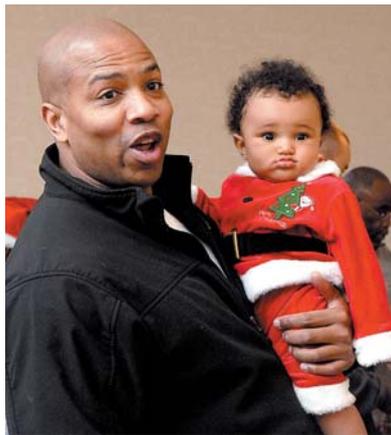
Republicans React

The news that Virginia's Democratic Gov. **Tim Kaine** will be the next chairman of the Democratic National Committee was greeted eagerly by Democrats this week. But Republicans have mixed feelings.

"I am hopeful that Tim Kaine will be as successful with the Democrat Party's finances as he has been with Virginia's," said state Sen. **Ken Cuccinelli** (R-37), who is a candidate for attorney general, in a written statement. "Three years into Governor Kaine's tenure, Virginia now has a deficit of \$3 billion and climbing."

"The governor must make certain that his decision to accept such a partisan political position does not compromise his ability to work with Republicans in the General Assembly to find bipartisan solutions to the challenges facing our state," added Republican Lt. Gov. **Bill Bolling**, who is running for reelection this year, in a written statement.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



The Black Fire Service Professionals of Alexandria, Inc. hosted its annual Children's Christmas party at the Hilton Mark Center on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008. AFD Battalion Commander Chet Helms arrives for the party with his son Marcos.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

Party for Children A special drawing was held for two new bikes, Cavadar Johnson won the first bike and Anthony Johnson won the second. The Christmas party is an annual event that serves the City's younger population. They were treated to a visit by Superman, Spiderman, Fonzie the Clown and Santa.

Family Booted from Air Tran Flight

FROM PAGE 1

"When people are constantly encouraged to report suspicious behavior things that would have otherwise been overlooked will be extrapolated," said Sahin, an environmental consultant, in a cell-phone interview after leaving Gatorland with her family. "Hopefully, people will start questioning the climate of fear that has developed in this county after 9/11."

THE DAY AFTER AirTran kicked the party off the jet and refused to rebook them on another flight, the airline issued a public apology by issuing a press release in which company officials said they "sincerely regret" that Sahin and her traveling companions did not have "a positive travel experience." Yet the airline stood by its behavior.

"While ultimately this issue proved to be a misunderstanding, the steps taken were necessary," said unnamed AirTran officials in the written statement. "Security is a shared responsibility and this incident highlights the multiple layers of security that are in place in today's aviation environment."

According to the airline, "alert passengers" reported "what they believed were inappropriate comments" to the flight crew, who then notified federal air marshals, who contacted law-enforcement officials. The nine passengers were then removed from the plane, AirTran explained, "to ensure they posed no threat to the flight." After deplaning and rescreening the remaining passengers, Flight 175 departed two hours late without Sahin and her group.

"We regret that the issue escalated to the heightened security level it did on New Year's Day, but we trust everyone understands that the security and the safety of our passengers is paramount and cannot be compromised," the statement continued. "Nobody on Flight 175 reached their destination on time on New Year's Day, and we regret it."

BUT THE REGRETS may be only beginning for AirTran. On Jan. 2, a national Islamic civil rights and

advocacy group filed a complaint with the United States Department of Transportation. The complaint, filed by the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations, accused the airline of violating the civil liberties of the nine Muslim passengers.

"There is a big difference between 'see something, say something,' which we all support, and reporting suspicions based solely on stereotyping and bias," said CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad in a written statement announcing the formal complaint.

Earlier this week, Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) said she would seek a hearing on airline practices as a result of the incident, describing the airline's behavior as "deliberate and clumsy discrimination." Norton, who is a member of the Homeland Security

Committee and the Aviation Subcommittee in the House, said that the airline apologized and agreed to a refund and return tickets only after the incident ballooned and received national and international attention. U.S. Rep Jim Moran, whose district includes the airport and Sahin's home in Cameron Station, said he supports the idea.

"The congressman feels the situation raises serious concerns and supports Rep. Norton's call to hold a hearing on the matter," said Austin Durrer, a spokesman for Moran.

THE GROUP of nine eventually made it to that religious retreat in Florida, which Sahin described as "a gathering of friends to discuss matters of the soul." Her family then embarked on a relaxing vacation, that included visiting DisneyWorld and the Kennedy Space Center before enjoying a rented villa with a heated pool. Even though they tried putting the AirTran incident behind them, the events of New Year's Day continue to weigh on their minds.

"Much of the world is fed up with treatment based on racial and religious profiling," said Kashif Irfan, Sahin's husband. "This is something that needs to be addressed."

"There is a big difference between 'see something, say something,' which we all support, and reporting suspicions based solely on stereotyping and bias."

— Nihad Awad, executive director, Council on American-Islamic Relations



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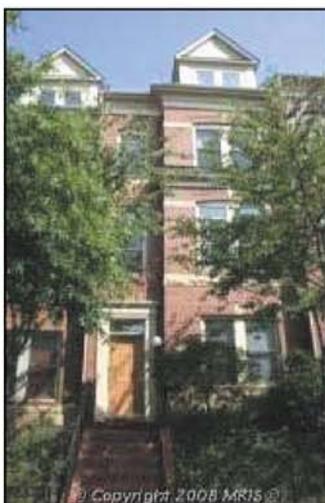


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PEOPLE

Beating the Drums of War

SNL cast member Casey Wilson prepares for this weekend's opening of 'Bride Wars.'

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

A native of Alexandria, Casey Wilson is a cast member of Saturday Night Live and one of the writers for "The Bride Wars," which opens this weekend. She's been working on the movie since 2004, when a movie executive approached her and her best friend June Raphael after seeing the two in performance of a sketch comedy show. The movie premiered in New York City Monday night, and the film opens nationwide on Friday.

How did you become involved in this project?

My best friend and I were in a two-woman sketch show called "Rode Hard and Put Away Wet," and when we went to the Aspen Comedy Festival we were approached by this movie executive who asked us if we wanted to rewrite this movie. We were kind of shocked because we barely

thought of ourselves as having written our sketch comedy show. And so we met with her and we worked on it for a while and got a pitch together before going over to Kate Hudson's house. She was the executive producer on the movie, and she hired us to rewrite it and she agreed to star in it.

What was the script like at that point?

It had been sitting around for about eight years, but she wasn't satisfied with the characters and the circumstances. But everybody loved the idea of two women getting married on the same day. So we basically updated it and did a whole rewrite.

What's the movie's premise?

It's about two best friends who, through a series of circumstances, have booked their wedding on the same day. And so it's kind of like "War of the Roses" a little bit because they have to battle it out over their wedding day. So it's about

friendship, but it's also about normal women turning into bridezillas.

How did you change the existing script?

We did what's called a "page-one rewrite" where you just rewrite everything. So June and I took the kernel of the idea and kind of based the characters on our friendship. We worked on it for about three years, and we did hundreds of drafts. At first we were working with Kate Hudson, and then Anne Hathaway signed on. So she had her notes, and so everybody just sort of weighed in and shaped it. And then we finally had a script when the writers' strike hit last year.

Were you working under a time crunch because of the writers' strike?

We were writing the script up until literally midnight of the deadline, when writers had to literally put their pens down and send in all their scripts to the studios. We were screaming at each



Casey Wilson

other and my hands were literally shaking when we sent it in right before midnight. It was frantic.

What was the premiere like?

It was at a movie theater in Lincoln Center, and then the after-party was at Tiffany's because we wrote that the girls get proposed to with Tiffany's rings. So we had a light-blue carpet instead of doing a traditional red carpet because it was the Tiffany's light-blue color. So it was really fun.

What's it like to watch people watch your movie?

It's terrifying because you're laughing along with them but you're also watching the audience and cringing in parts and maybe relieved at other parts. You're kind of just hoping and praying that everyone likes it. But you kind of have to let go because it ain't

changing, you know. It's locked in.

Do you have a cameo in the movie?

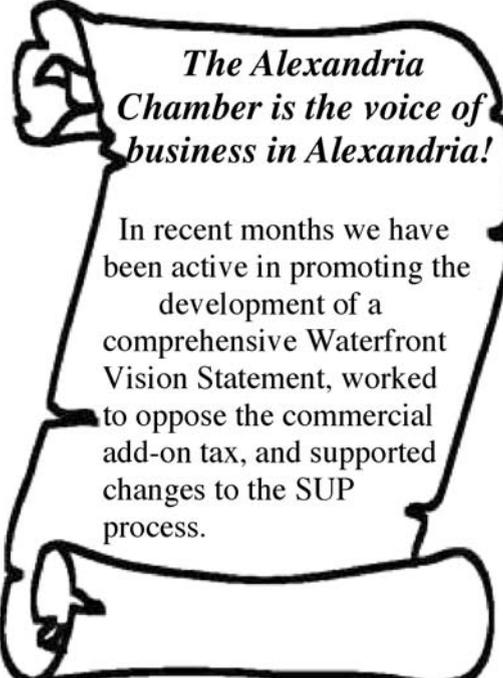
Yes. I play the third bride, and they are trying to get my wedding date. It's right at the beginning of the movie, but I refuse to change my wedding date. The Kate Hudson character basically chases me over beds in a Bloomingdale's. They almost sort of threaten me into changing my date.

Why should people see the movie?

It's a funny movie, and it's got two great females leads — and both of them are just out-of-this-world talented. It's really a movie about friendship because the weddings are just kind of a side story. So it's about what happens when you and your best friend get into a fight and ultimately how you rely on your best friend and how they can be one of the most important things in your life. So it's really fun and it's got a ton of heart.

How do you feel now that the movie is actually opening?

We are really proud that it actually got made into a movie. So many times scripts are written and they don't amount to anything. But to see "Bride Wars" on a marquee in New York City and attend the premiere with my friends and family — it's just beyond surreal.



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Taxing the Bags

Paper or plastic? According to Del. **Adam Ebbin** (D-49), it's neither.

Inspired in part by a request from Councilman **Tim Lovain** for an amendment to the city's charter allowing the government to ban plastic bags, Ebbin has decided to introduce legislation this year that would add a 5-cent tax on all shopping bags — paper and plastic. All the money that would be raised by the proposal would go to the Chesapeake Bay Fund.

"We need to be reducing man-made impact on our environment," said Ebbin. "The proposal is designed to raise money for the environment while simultaneously encouraging the use of reusable bags."

But groups such as the Virginia Retail Merchants Association have already come out against similar proposals, so Ebbin faces an uphill battle in the Republican-controlled House of Delegates. Meanwhile Ebbin has a host of other environmental initiatives on his radar this session, including banning incandescent light bulbs, requiring appliances to be more energy efficient and requiring new construction projects to meet strict environmental standards.

"We can't continue our wasteful way unfettered," said Ebbin.

Smoldering Issue

Ever since tobacco was first planted at Jamestown in 1612, Virginia has been the tobacco capital of America. Unlike most of the United States, Virginia has yet to ban smoking in bars and restaurants. Each year, the General Assembly rejects a proposal to ban cigarettes in restaurants, although margin of victory grows smaller each year. This year, with Gov. **Tim Kaine** including a smoke-free proposal as part of his 2009 agenda, Del. **David Englin** (D-45) has introduced a measure that would create a statewide ban of smoking in bars and restaurants in Virginia.

"Little by little, various smoke-free proposals have moved forward each year, only to be blocked by the General Laws Committee in the House," said Englin in a written statement announcing the legislation. "This year, the General Laws Committee has a new chairman and a new makeup, so I'm very hopeful that we'll see new progress."

A Platform of Experience

Alexandria to Richmond. Richmond to Alexandria. Back to Richmond again. Repeat indefinitely. It's a familiar drill for members of the General Assembly. But it becomes treacherous during inclement weather.

Such was the case one snowy day in 1996, shortly after **Brian Moran** was first elected to the House of Delegates. As the freshman member of the local delegation — and a native of Massachusetts — Moran was forced to pay dues to the members of the Alexandria delegation.

"They said 'you have some experience driving in the snow,'" Moran recalled of his first session. "They asked, 'can you get us to the General Assembly?'"

Leading Indicators

Democratic Senate Majority Leader **Dick Saslaw** (D-36), who represents the Alexandria's West End, likes to jokingly say "thank God for Alabama and Mississippi." It's a line that usually gets a laugh, but many share the frustration that Virginia consistently ranks low in education funding and equal pay for women. Yet according to state Sen. **Patsy Ticer** (D-30), the commonwealth can claim one significant superlative.

"The only thing we are a leader in is the amount of money we spend on prisons," said Ticer during a recent reception for the local delegation held by the Alexandria Democratic Committee.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

After 22 Years, Pessoa Leaves

FROM PAGE 1

Law and it was particularly exciting for me to put that academic knowledge to practical use," Pessoa said during a Dec. 30 interview.

"Vola Lawson had just become city manager and she rearranged city government. The city was expanding its management role and how we approached the entire land use process," he said.

"We greatly reduced by-right development by rearranging the zones and put in place the Special Use Permit process. We still had by-right zoning but at a much lower level," Pessoa said.

"In 1992 we took most land use planning cases from an administrative process to a legislative process. Before that, cases were very contentious and there were many legal battles. It was not unusual for City Council meetings to last well past midnight with very substantive policy discussions," he said.

"After '92 the process evolved and there was much more citizen input. Now we seem to be in a period of retrenchment. There is a tendency to pull back," Pessoa said.

"The city is going to face some very tough times in the foreseeable future. Things got tight in the 1990s but not like now or what seems to be coming down the road," he said.

PESSOA ALSO saw a direct corollary between the present economic climate and a change in the city's political atmosphere. Two of the most recent instances highlighting that change were the Virginia Paving and ethanol transloading controversies. Both were primarily driven by residents in the city's West End, particularly those residing in Cameron Station.

In the case of Virginia Paving it was primarily an issue of odor and noise. However, the ethanol transloading dispute centered on the perceived danger by nearby residents of the product's potential volatility. Pessoa, City Manager James Hartmann, Alexandria Fire Chief Adam Thiel and others became embroiled in the citizen-council tug-of-war with Norfolk Southern Railroad that remains under way.

"I can understand how people are uncomfortable with having something of potential volatility stored near their neighborhood but we took the appropriate legal steps in dealing with the situation given the railroad's history of not being subject to local laws," he said.

"And, if ultimately this is found to be a situation of transportation by a rail carrier, the City has no real case. That is a question of federal law," he said.

"If, on the other hand it is determined that the railroad turned the transloading over to the subcontractor then the situation changes. This is a unique relationship Norfolk Southern has at this site," Pessoa said.

In commenting on a report commissioned by City Council on the handling of the ethanol controversy, Pessoa stated in a memo to City Council, "I have to conclude that it (the report) somewhat misses the mark both as to the City's handling of this matter and especially as to the functioning of the City Attorney's office."

He further noted, "I believe that the critical failure in this case was the City's initial decision in June 2006 and thereafter to treat the introduction of ethanol transloading at this location as the entry of a new business into the City."

Pessoa pointed out that when the railroad became aware of the City's displeasure with the transloading facility it withdrew from further contact with the city for a year. They returned only after they had restructured their transloading facility agreement to meet federal preemp-

tion requirements, according to Pessoa.

He also took exception to the report's authors' criticism of "the flat or 'law office' management structure" of the City Attorney's office. "Contemporary management theory supports the conclusion that a flat or non-hierarchical structure results in employees who feel greater ownership of their work, and increased motivation, morale and productivity," he stated.

In total agreement is now Acting City Attorney Christopher Spera. "During my time here his [Pessoa's] concern for the city, both personally and professionally, is unmatched. We have a unique group of citizens in this city with unique interests. He empowered his staff to allow us to work as professionals and that was greatly valued by all of us," Spera said.

That was buttressed by Attorney John Britton, outside counsel to the City, who has worked with Pessoa on an array of cases, primarily the long battle over Mirant's Potomac River Generating Station. "Working with him was one of the best client experiences I have ever had," Britton said.

"I have really been impressed with the operations of his office. It's going to be very hard to fill that institutional memory both on a practical basis and in legal terms. His knowledge of the people, events and residents has been a well spring for the city," he said.

ONE OF THE GREATEST accomplishments in which Pessoa played a vital role during his tenure as city attorney was the ultimate settlement with Mirant when they agreed to provide \$34 million to improve the air quality of plant emissions by paying for pollution controls. That agreement, reached on June 30, 2008, was developed by City representatives headed by Pessoa, representatives of Mirant, and State Air Board member Bruce C. Buckheit.

"I think the Mirant agreement was a great success for the city. In this economic environment, to get \$34 million to control the plant's air quality was a real winner. We spent a great deal of time on this agreement," Pessoa said. That concentration of effort and focus by him and his staff also overlapped the festering ethanol transloading controversy.

Pessoa and the City Attorney's office efforts on the Mirant situation were praised by two of the city's most prominent Mirant adversaries, Elizabeth Chimento and Poul Hertel, during the December meeting of the Mirant Monitoring Group chaired by Vice Mayor Redella "Del" Pepper.

"Due to Ignacio's outstanding leadership throughout the Mirant power plant struggles, the City has won a \$34 million investment in pollution controls to the facility," Chimento said.

"Beginning in 2003 and concluding this past June, Ignacio's guidance, diligence and persistence have resulted in bringing northern Virginia's largest stationary pollution source into emission compliance. On behalf of the Mirant Community Monitoring Group, I thank and congratulate him on his extraordinary achievement and public service to all Alexandrians," she said.

That praise was echoed by Hertel. "If I could be presumptuous enough to speak on behalf of the civic world, we would make a motion to City Council to convey our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Pessoa," he said at that meeting.



Ignacio Pessoa

"During my time here ... his concern for the City is unmatched."

— Christopher Spera,
Acting City Attorney

For full text of story, see the Alexandria Gazette Packet at www.connectionnewspapers.com

Landmark/Van Dorn Plan Deferred

Once again a plan to redevelop Landmark Mall and a vast area of Alexandria's West End was put on hold Tuesday night, Jan. 6, by the Alexandria Planning Commission.

After three hours of staff presentations and testimony from 17 public speakers, the commission voted unanimously to defer action on the Landmark/Van Dorn Corridor Plan.

The prime stumbling block for the Commission and a majority of the public participants was the perception that the overall proposal lacked a well-defined transportation element. There were also concerns about building heights, the residential/commercial ratio, and the use of public

funds to finance private infrastructure.

As noted by Assistant City Manager Mark Jinks, "This would be the first time in Alexandria history that the City would undertake public financing of private infrastructure." Most members of the Commission seemed reluctant to open that Pandora's box.

"I can't agree more with deferral. We can benefit a lot by taking a month or two to clarify many points. We need to get as many people as possible on the same page," said Commissioner Donna Fossum. "But, I don't want this to get lost. We need to act on this. Therefore, I would proposed that the deferral be no longer than 60 days," she said.

— CHUCK HAGEE

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OPINION

Happy New Year

Let's have some fun.

The news as we begin 2009 can be daunting, even with the excitement brewing over the inauguration of President Barack Obama later this month.

While there are a lot of serious things to be concerned about, at the Connection, we'll start the year with a look at fun things to do.

From visiting Great Falls (if you haven't, you really should) to playing Frisbee golf in McLean's central park or Burke Lake park, favorite bars, fun local festivals to mark on your calendar, spots for laser tag, skeet shooting practice, dog parks, equestrian opportunities, sailing lessons, and many fun things to do for free, over the month of January, The Connection will compile hundreds of ways to have fun.

Be sure to share your tips for fun things to do in your orbit.

As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to bring the news you need about your community that you are not likely to get anywhere else — to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones in community and people's lives.

We begin 2009 by looking for more input from our readers. Let us know how we're do-

ing, and let us know what is going on in your part of the community.

We invite you to send letters to the editor, or just to send us an e-mail letting us know about something you especially liked or didn't like about our coverage.

We appreciate readers' ideas. If you see something that you think might be a story, or just something you wonder about, give us a call, or drop us a line.

We want to know if you have an idea for fixing traffic in your part of the world. We want to know if you've had a good or bad experience with local government. If you know of a person or an organization that is interesting, doing important work, and might make a good feature story, let us know.

If someone in your family or your commu-

nity published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show, these are all things that we want to know. E-mail or mail us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events in local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you in 2009.

— MARY KIMM.
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
703-917-6416

EDITORIAL

More Serious Stuff Ahead

The Virginia General Assembly begins its annual session with a budget train wreck next week. Go to the Virginia General Assembly Web site for more at <http://legis.state.va.us>.

The House of Delegates and Senate of Vir-

ginia operate a toll-free message center to accept calls from citizens who want to express an opinion on legislation. The messages are relayed to the members' offices as requested. Call the Constituent Viewpoint line at 800-889-0229.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Change Those 'Banner' Rules

To the Editor:

I hesitate to write this letter; Jack Taylor needs no defense from me, but the actions of the Alexandria School Board never cease to amaze me.

I retired in 1994 after teaching in the Alexandria Schools for 29 years — prior to any "banner" rules.

In 1974 my family bought a home in Old Town where we have

lived since. Jack Taylor whom we had known in Falls Church moved to Alexandria about the same time and operated his business here.

Jack's generous support of the schools speaks for itself; however, I may be one of those old enough to remember his "constant" support through good years and bad. In the early '80s I served as president of the Alexandria Education Association. Times were hard as they are now. We worked vigorously to get Realtors in the City to stop their criticism of our schools and diligently to develop a posi-

tive relationship with the Chamber of Commerce and the business community. They responded.

From the very beginning Jack Taylor supported us. If we needed a donation for the band boosters, the crew boosters, the football boosters or the basketball boosters etc. he always responded. He helped several of our athletes with money for college. After I retired a very good athlete/student friend of mine, Keith Burns, who played professional football for 13 years with the Denver Broncos (and is now a coach there) sponsored football camps for 10 years for the kids in recreation programs in the City. We asked Jack Taylor for donations. He always gave willingly but we had a hard time getting him to provide a banner to put up on the field with the other donors'. He didn't have one. With our urging he finally had one made and we used it.

My point is: Jack always has been helpful in many little and big ways never asking anything in return. We all know of his generosity in support of the Scholarship Fund. In fact the only other person I can think of through the years that has consistently and generously supported the School System in as many little and

big ways is our mayor, Bill Euille.

I'm sure there are many "rules" on the School Board's books which should be cleaned up and removed. This one should be swiftly replaced. With the Governor's proposed budget cuts to education we'll need all the help from the business sector we can get and we should offer our thanks any way we can. (Banners are not costly.) Mark my word, we'll be asking Jack for help in the future as we always have. And as soon as the Board apologizes for its rudeness and gross lack of appreciation I'll just bet he responds.

Board members should always be conscious that "every decision made about education in this country is a political decision." Positive help from private citizens is the "grassroots" that support our public schools.

Hazel Rigby
Alexandria

Another Cause For Optimism

To the Editor:

Thank you for your holiday wishes in last month's Gazette Packet, and for reminding your readers that there is cause for optimism in the coming year. You

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

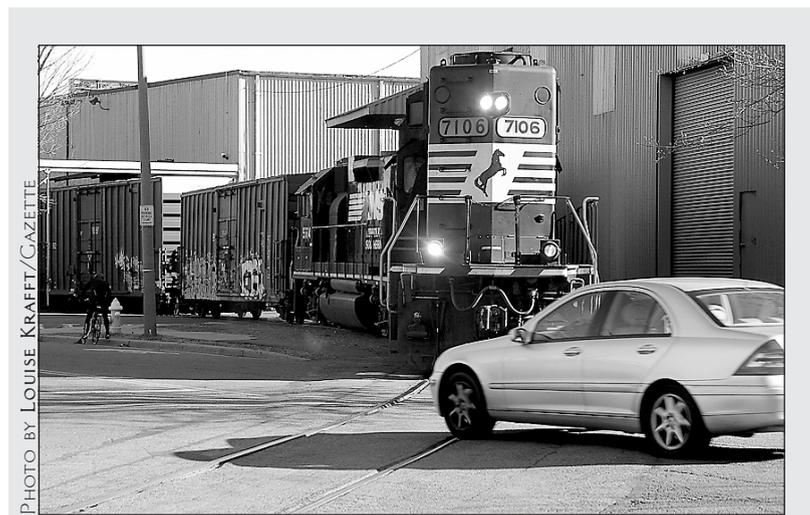


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Snapshot 3:19 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 3, Pendleton Street at N. Union

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

also urged folks to give to local charities since the demand these days is greater. I would like to add Senior Services of Alexandria to your list. We provide senior citizens, who may be frail or lonely, with meals, transportation and personal assistance. Each of the charities in your article is working hard to help Alexandria residents live with dignity and purpose. SSA is one more.

Janet Barnett

Executive Director

Senior Services of Alexandria

Fight Army Bureaucrats

To the Editor:

On Dec. 4, 2008, at the first and thus far only public meeting slated on the BRAC (Base Relocation and Closure) relocation proposed for the intersection of Beaugard Street and Seminary Road, a panel of Army bureaucrats made it clear that community input on this project was not essential.

It was a bit like the proverbial "Big Brother"-knows-best scenario as they told us construction would begin in a few weeks, in January 2009 (date not specified). Obvi-

ously, there would be little time for any revisions triggered by this last-minute "community input."

Mark Jinks, Alexandria's chief financial official, told the audience that the military contract does not allow for any oversight by the City Council or the Planning Commission on actual plans, and that military officials have shared very little information thus far.

While the crowded auditorium at the Ramsey School was filled with neighbors who had many questions, they were abruptly cut off at only 8:20 p.m. and the audience directed to fill in comment cards or send emails instead. There would be no additional details on environmental impact of the removal of many trees or the storm water retention and sewage impact or the monumental inflow of traffic to this site, from Fairfax County and Arlington as well as via the Beltway and off Duke Street, plus the Shirley Highway.

For weeks, the developer, Duke Realty Corp., has been postponing any public meetings since the initial announcement in September that it had won the contract, which was finally signed on Nov. 25, 2008. Neither the City officials, including the members of the city council and the city manager, nor the members of the Planning Com-

mission, were privy to much of the data on which the decision was made. The audience was told there was nothing they could do to question most aspects of this heretofore "secret" project since the Army knew what was best for us. While the BRAC officials admitted there was "some subjectivity" to their analysis of the data, the military officials noted that the Beaugard/Seminary site was "technically superior" and cost effective to the other candidate sites. But there was no cost analysis of the sites provided. We were told this would be "a good addition to the community" as the BRAC and Duke officials turned a deaf ear as questioners tried to express realistic concerns about the traffic, which is already made difficult by access to two schools and a junior college already located on Beaugard, as well as a nearby fire station and hospital on Seminary.

This intersection is considered one of the 10 worst in the Alexandria area, with significant gridlock on both streets. Built out on both sides, there is no room for expansion of Beaugard. Similarly, there is a presumption by military planners that all potential workers would come via the adjacent the 395 highway, but they have cut the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

NOTICE OF CALL FOR AN ALEXANDRIA REPUBLICAN PARTY CANVASS

A Republican Party Canvass has been called for the purposes of (a) nominating Republican candidates for Mayor and City Council, and (b) electing Delegates to the State Republican Convention, at which Republican candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General will be nominated.

The Party Canvass will be held on February 3 from 10 am EST to 2 pm EST at Minnie Howard School, 3801 W Braddock Rd.

The full call can be found at www.AlexGOP.org or www.RPV.org. There are no fees or pre-registration requirements for voting in the Party Canvass. To seek the Republican nomination for Mayor or City Council or to stand for election as a Delegate to the State Convention, a qualified voter must meet the following requirements by January 23--for Mayor, a declaration, a petition with at least 100 signatures, and a \$500 filing fee; for City Council, a declaration, a petition with at least 50 signatures, and a \$250 filing fee; for Delegate to the State Convention, a declaration, and a voluntary filing fee of \$50.

Declaration and petition forms can be obtained at www.AlexGOP.org. Questions may be directed to Chris Marston by e-mail at chair@AlexGOP.org, by phone at 703-823-1801, or at 110 Shooters Ct, Alexandria VA 22314.

Paid for by the Alexandria Republican City Committee.

New Year! New Numbers!



The City of Alexandria is updating its telephone systems over the next two years. Most City government and agency telephone numbers will change to a new prefix, 746, and retain the last four digits of their original telephone numbers.

Some numbers will change entirely, incorporating the 746 prefix, but all numbers will retain the 703 area code.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

required parking allotment by 40 percent. This is based on the presumption all those workers at Crystal City who now take Metro will continue to do so. That's a false assumption since those workers have a very short walk to public transit. Here, they will have to be bused, probably to the Van Dorn station or King Street stations, and then make one or two additional transfers.

There were six sites under consideration. Ironically, two of these had far superior connections to Metro (Eisenhower Avenue near Van Dorn Metro and the Springfield site). They also had significant chunks of vacant land and reusable office space — instead of Beauregard and Seminary where the government has decided to drop-kick this massive expansion of 6,400 workers and 1.8 million square feet of space into an established, land-locked residential neighborhood. There is also an established office complex, whose much-needed revenues will now be lost to the Alexandria tax rolls.

One of the great ironies of this BRAC decision is that the government supposedly needed to get workers out of the Pentagon and Crystal City because of "threat levels" and to "enhance security" — but now they are simply moving the complex a few exits down the highway to a densely populated urban community. We already have the Civil War site of Fort Ward nearby. We don't need either another fort or a fortress with this kind of devastating impact in our midst. I urge Alexandria residents to write to our four federally elected officials to revisit this decision, with its gaping lapses, and to also contact members of our City Council, who are up for re-election this spring.

Kathleen M. Burns
Alexandria

A Reason to Skip Old Town

To the Editor:

I commend the Alexandria Police Force for patrolling and checking on the sobriety of late night visitors to the Old Town pubs. And there is certainly cause for celebration that we have such a quiet and orderly community as was found during one of the early mornings following Christmas Day. Around 3 a.m. the police stopped a car with three young adult males, surrounding them with multiple police cars, and the driver was found to be sober and fulfilling his designated driver responsibility well.

The celebration and applause stop there, because what happened

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

next was quite unbelievable. Instead of allowing the young men on their way, the driver was given a ticket for his poorly lit back license plate. Not a warning, a ticket. So much for encouraging and rewarding good driving behavior on the part of this group. Next time they will be better off heading to National Harbor and skip Old Town Alexandria altogether, as will I.

Ann Vernon
Alexandria

Value of An Ethicist

To the Editor:

I am writing to clarify some apparent misunderstandings in Sam Mela's letter to the Editor ("Cure Is the Disease," Dec. 22-30). Alexandria's Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse (also referred to as the Alexandria Community Services Board or CSB) is the City agency that has contracted with Dr. Michael Gillette, an ethicist. Dr. Gillette's services are used for clinical consultations on individual client cases in the same manner that hospitals use ethicists. Dr. Gillette also provides expertise on Depart-

ment policies impacting client care and conducts extensive staff trainings on a variety of topics of importance to CSB clinicians and other mental health staff. Staff are required to attend such trainings in order to keep up their licenses to practice.

Alexandria CSB is just one of many CSBs throughout the State that contracts through the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services for these services. The CSB's use of Dr. Gillette for consultation on difficult budget decisions facing our Board (16 community volunteers) was a very small part of the services that he provides.

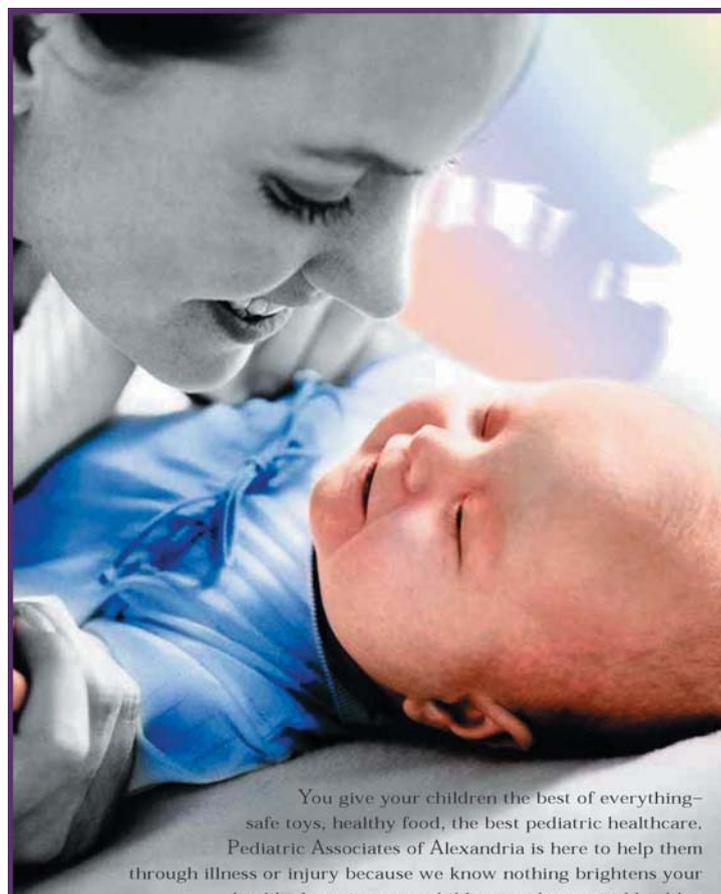
Mr. Mela states that "Gillette assisted policymakers in their decision to turn apartments that were being built for the mentally ill into housing for people with disabilities." In fact, the dilemma facing our Board was whether to delay the housing program for homeless persons with serious mental illness if that meant that services to current CSB clients would be compromised. At no point was there a consideration of replacing the housing program for homeless persons; rather, one option was to use the apartments on a temporary basis to serve current CSB clients with

mental retardation.

Mr. Mela may still insist that the city should not use an ethicist; however, I would argue that Dr. Gillette has brought focus and direction to very complex issues surrounding individual client treatment, as well as Department policies impacting client care. His annual fee is well worth it, saving staff an enormous amount of time and contributing to ethical, high-quality clinical practices within the CSB.

Mr. Mela states that the city could have spent the \$9,000 used for the contract with Dr. Gillette to provide more housing for the needy, noting that \$9,000 would house three people for a year. If that were true, the city's affordable housing crisis would be solved! The care that the CSB provides through its 24-7 residential facilities for persons with severe disabilities is similar to the cost of nursing home care and costs tens of thousands per year per client (depending upon client need). But if Mr. Mela knows how to house three people for a year for \$9,000, I invite him to come back to Alexandria and help us create the affordable housing that is so desperately needed by so many.

Mary Riley
Chair, Alexandria CSB
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 23



You give your children the best of everything—safe toys, healthy food, the best pediatric healthcare. Pediatric Associates of Alexandria is here to help them through illness or injury because we know nothing brightens your day like knowing your children are happy and healthy.

Monday–Thursday 7:30am–7:00pm • Friday 7:30am–5:00pm • Saturday 8:00am to 12 noon



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Alexandria

OPEN SUN. 1-4



- Original Owner Offering—Built in 1966
- Over One-Half Acre on Cul-de-Sac
- Screened Porch w/Beamed Cathedral Ceiling & Fans
- Expansive Decking w/Privacy Screening at Rear • 5 Bedrooms • 3 Full Baths
- Two Fireplaces
- Formal Living and Dining Rooms

Westgrove

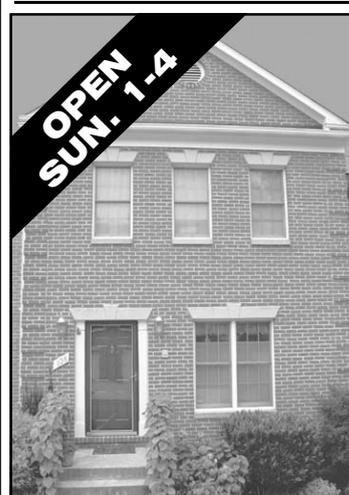
- Eat-in Kitchen opens to Generous Family Room • Recreation and Hobby Room on Lower Level
- Huge 2-Car Garage w/Additional Storage • Roof Replaced Jan 09

Directions: From Old Town, South on GW Parkway, Right on Tulane, Right on Clemson, Left on Middlebury to 1504.

Offered at.....\$639,000

Alexandria City

OPEN SUN. 1-4



- Charming Three level all-brick Townhome with Two Generous Master Suites, Three Full and One Half Baths
- Located in a small, lovely enclave of upscale residences inside the Beltway
- Beautiful Dining Room and Living Room with hardwood floors, crown moldings and full masonry wood-burning fireplace and french doors to custom Deck
- Updated Kitchen with Corian Counters, Cherry Cabinets, and Stainless Appliances
- Versatile Lower Level Features a Den/Office or 3rd Bedroom and huge Family Room with full masonry wood-burning fireplace, wet-bar, crown molding and French doors to private fenced Deck

Directions: 395 to Duke Street East, Right on S. Pickett St., Right on Valley Forge, Left on Gretna Green Court to 108

Offered at.....\$490,000

Brigadoon



unwined
gourmet wine • cigars

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Bradlee Shopping Center
3690J King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
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www.unwinedva.com
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SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, January 24, 1-4 P.M.
SOUTH AMERICAN WINE TASTING AND OPEN HOUSE
Taste Malbecs from Mendoza, Carmenere from Chile, Uruguayan Tannat, and more alongside a sampling of meats and cheeses from our gourmet selection.

Open Sunday 1-4



4 West Rosemont Avenue | \$879,000

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

Karen Leonard | 703 328-7041 Alexandria

Open Sunday 1-4



715 S Washington St #A33 | \$309,000

Don't miss this opportunity to live in a gorgeous, large, beautifully maintained, two bedroom corner unit in popular Old Town Gardens. Many windows overlooking the lush courtyard. Enjoy cookouts and look forward to sunning by the pool. Features hardwood floors, eat in kitchen, storage & parking. Just steps to shops, restaurants, bike path & express bus to DC. Also available for rent at \$1700 per month. You will love living here!

Lee Guerry | 703-969-3566 Old Town

Open Sunday 1-4



**2181 Jamieson Ave #604 | \$394,500
A Sunroom in your Bedroom!**

The largest one bedroom floor plan in Carlyle Towers. Great closet space, separate dining room, large bath with separate shower and tub. Enclosed glass balcony plus a curved sunroom in your master bedroom. Garage parking. One pet welcome at Carlyle Towers. Tennis, pool, dog walk, rose garden, party room and 24 hour desk service. Close to 2 metro stops and lots of movie theaters. Available Now! Contact Marie at MLM1606@aol.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703 836-2080 Old Town

Gorgeous Features



6071 Piney Woods Court | \$825,000

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

Liz Bucuvalas | 703 626-8400 Alexandria S

Old Town Classic



1209 Duke Street | \$575,000

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

Just Listed - Open Sunday 1-4



6903 Brisbane Street | \$439,500

Ready to Move In!

Perfect 5 bedroom home with screened in porch and HUGE recreation room on a quiet cul de sac in W Springfield. New kitchen cabs, new floors, updated baths and priced to sell fast! Floorplan and photos available. For more information contact Greg Doherty at 703-408-5068 or GDoherty@cbmove.com Directions: Old Keene Mill, left on Greely, left on Bellamy, to 6903 Brisbane Street.

Greg Doherty | 703 408-5068 West Springfield Village

Price Reduction



2500 North Van Dorn #1020 | \$139,900

Amazing new price for this sunny, one bedroom, one bath condominium with a balcony that overlooks Fort Ward Park. This freshly painted unit is on the 10th floor. Condominium fee includes all utilities plus pool, 24 hour concierge and so much more. This is in a great central location, close to 395. Call today for a private showing. See more pictures on www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703 598-7788 Alexandria City

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

Canterbury Square



5205 Duke Street #303 | \$139,900

Terrific top floor one bedroom in convenient Canterbury Square! Just minutes from Metro and I-395, this home features hardwood parquet floors, great closets, separate dining area, and a lovely courtyard view from the balcony. Summertime brings a refreshing swim in the neighborhood pool, and mature trees give a park-like setting year-round! Condominium fee includes everything except cable and phone.

Mark Souder | 703 518-2800 Alexandria



Previews International

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Fenwick Estates

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. Convenient to bike trail and parks. For more photos go to www.phyllispatterson.com

Phyllis Patterson | 703 518-6158 Alexandria S

Open Sunday 1-4

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



1500 Grassymeade Lane
\$949,000

A lovely, all brick spacious colonial featuring five/six bedrooms and 3.5 baths with a 2-car garage. Off a "country lane" just down the George Washington Parkway on a wooded lot. Open and spacious with cozy two fireplaces, hardwoods, lovely eat in kitchen with large island and granite countertops inviting family room perfect for gatherings. Directions: South on George Washington Parkway, right on Collingwood, Left on Fort. Hunt Road., Right on Grassymeade Lane.

Karen Leonard | 703-328-7041 Alexandria S

New Price

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



227 North Lee Street
\$1,199,000

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

Jane Cole | 703 682-5407 Old Town

Gorgeous 1940's Colonial

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



6124 Edgewood Terrace
\$1,595,000

Gorgeous and meticulously updated 1940's colonial overlooking wooded parkland. Offering five bedrooms, five and one half baths, elegant living room with a fireplace, gracious dining room, custom painting throughout, lovely moldings, chair rail, hardwood floors, state of the art gourmet chef's kitchen with a breakfast area, light filled family room, library/den, spacious lower level recreation room, beautiful master suite, lovely decks overlooking wooded vistas, play area and garage.

Jeanne Warner | 703-980-9106 Belle Haven

One of Arlington's Finest

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



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

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

Donnan C Wintermute | 703 518-6156 Arlington

The Charm of Rosemont

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL

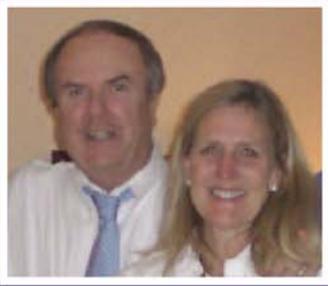


605 Johnston Place
\$825,000

This beautifully restored three bedroom plus three full bath bungalow exudes charm and character! Located in the heart of Rosemont, this impeccably maintained home features a delightful front porch, hardwood floors, fireplace, a fabulous recently updated chef's kitchen plus a walk-out lower level with fourth bedroom or family room. The professionally landscaped garden is perfect for outdoor entertaining. Only several blocks to King St. Metro! Reasonably priced at \$825,000.

Donnan C Wintermute | 703 518-6156 Alexandria

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



CHRIS WHITE

Great Home Values – Record Low Mortgage Rates!



5304
Cedar Ct
\$398,500
Creekside Charmer!

Cozy 3BR, 1.5BA rambler on huge 1/2 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! **Open Sun 1-4pm.** S GW Pkwy, R Old Mill Rd, R Dogue Dr, L Cedar Ct.



4203
Adrienne Dr
\$459,000

Updated Home!
Owner's job transfer creates a 'too good to be true' opportunity for this fabulous

updated home on 3/4 acre lot! High ceilings, thermal windows, updated kitchen & baths, gas fireplace, walk out lower level, new a/c unit, oversized 2 car garage, 5 zone sprinkler system, custom deck with gazebo and hot tub overlook park-like setting. There's nothing like it in the area close to this price!



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!



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

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

of the Mount 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 Mount Vernon Yacht Club.



3232
Woodland Ln
\$649,900

Water Access!
Truly special home on 1/2 acre lot just steps from community water access! Bright,

open floor plan, updated kitchen with eat-in area, 4BR, 3BA, replacement thermal windows, oversized two car carport and major updated items. Stunning sunroom built in 2006 overlooks landscaped grounds. Super value – prime location just off GW Pkwy. Priced \$40,000 below tax assessment!



2505
Crest Street
\$429,900
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!



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.



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 lower level and two 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!



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

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

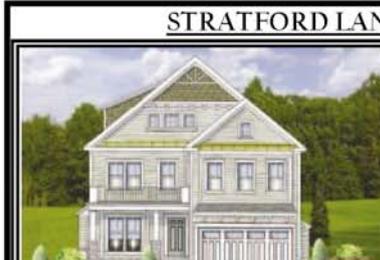
just minutes from Old Town! Exquisite new home by leading builder to feature absolute luxury and virtually every modern amenity. Spectacular floor plan was designed to capitalize on the natural beauty of this gorgeous setting near the Potomac River. One of the last true estate opportunities!



Brambly Lane
\$969,900

FREE FINISHED BASEMENT FOR 1ST CONTRACT IN JANUARY – \$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, oversize garage & more! (Picture of same model for illustration purposes only.)



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



OPEN SUN

Alex/Old Town
\$889,900
**1 LIGHT TO DC
AND AIRPORT**

4 gorgeous levels, 4BR/4.5BA. Elegantly appointed with beautiful moldings and hardwoods on the main level. Open floor plan and gourmet kitchen make entertaining a breeze. Large guest suite with full bath on private upper floor.

1675 Hunting Creek Drive

ANN LOGSDON 703.568.8433



OPEN SUN

Alex/Old Town
\$935,000
CIRCA 1820

A surprisingly spacious TH expanded on 2 different occasions in recent years. Generously proportioned rooms include a sumptuous 26' master bedroom. This well maintained home boasts heart of pine flooring and 3 fireplaces.

507 S. Fairfax Street

NORMA GANTS 703.408.2560



Alex/Mt Vernon
\$1,080,000
**WYCLIFFE ON
THE POTOMAC**

Bordering on the Mt. Vernon Estate, this fine home is minutes to boating facilities, swim & tennis clubs, golf clubs, county jogging trails & parks. Warm inviting interior boast 2 story foyer, update kitchen, sun room addition, 3FPs/3 fin. levels. See me on www.marylousage.com

3706 Washington Woods Drive

MARYLOU SAGE 703.851.5441



OPEN SUN

Historic Old Town
\$795,000

PITT MEWS GEM

Fabulous 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths, all-brick townhouse with garage in Heart Of Old Town. Master bedroom with loft, custom built-ins/wainscoting. Bright kitchen, L/R fireplace, hardwood floors including loft. 1 block to King Street, 4 blocks to River. Open Sunday.

421 Cameron Street

PHILIP G. MATYAS 703.518.



OPEN SUN

Alexandria
\$829,000

START '09 RIGHT!

Move right into this former model home, featuring over 5,000 SF of fin. living space on 3 levels in secluded community near Ft. Belvoir, OT & Metro. 4-5BR, 3.5BA, chefs kit, sunroom, luxurious master suite, media room, formal rooms for entertaining & more! Private qtr acre w/lovely deck & 2-car garage. Dir: Telegraph Rd S from beltway, 3 miles to R on Clifton Knoll to 7032 on left.

7032 Clifton Knoll Court

KIM MUFFLER 703.282.7739



Alexandria
\$2,990,000
**HISTORIC &
ELEGANT**

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

506 Cameron Street

EMILY CAPELLI 703.472.1282

MARTINE IRMER 703.346.7283



Alexandria
\$499,000

WATERFRONT PROPERTY

Take advantage of low interest rates & a \$26,000 Price Reduction! Located in a premier residential bldg on the Potomac, this 1,122 SF 1BR/Den has stunning views of the bridge, river & Nat'l Harbor! Larger units also available, both sale & rent.

1250 S. Washington Street #507

PAT TIERNEY 703.850.5630



Alexandria
\$610,000

ALEXANDRIA HOUSE

View this wonderful 2BR/2BA unit with ample closet space, newly painted walls in pristine condition & featuring views of the Capitol & river. Large kit. with table space. Add'l garage prkg & large balcony w/access from each room, situated near bus/metro stops, restaurants, grocery.

400 Madison Street #907

ANN KAVAJIAN 70.626.9171



Alexandria
\$669,900

JUST OFF THE PARKWAY

This all brick end TH is located just off the GW Pkwy, minutes from Old Town, Reagan Airport & DC. Completely updated with new kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, repainted & ready for quick occupancy. Large bonus room, deck & enclosed garden.

6317 Fort Hunt Road

BETTY QUIRK 703.851.3447



101 WAYS TO HAVE FUN: MAKING HISTORY

Fort Ward Park

Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site
4301 W. Braddock Road
703-838-4848

Fort Ward served as the fifth largest Union fort in the defense of Washington, D.C. during the Civil War. Now, visitors can take a self-guided tour of Fort Ward, which sits upon a 40-acre historical site. A Civil War Museum and reference library are also on the grounds, as well as an outdoor amphitheater, a playground and picnic areas. Guests can start the day by visiting the museum and learn of the history of Fort Ward through an orientation exhibit and a 12-minute video presentation. Fort Ward Museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. The rest is open from 9 a.m. to sunset.

Christmas in Camp

Learn how the holiday was observed during the Civil War with living history interpreters, period music and light refreshments.

Revolutionary War Encampment

Living history presentation with authentic skirmishes.

Memorial Day Jazz Festival

Performances will be scheduled for 2007. Food and drinks will be for sale, picnic baskets welcome. Free.

Civil War Camp Day

Living history program featuring Union

and Confederate re-enactors and civilian interpreters. This late-war event features camp scenes, children's games, vignettes, firing demos and tours of the fort. Annual event next held in June.

Gunston Hall Plantation

10709 Gunston Road
703-550-9220
www.gunstonhall.org

Tours of George Mason's plantation estate are year-round. Topics include slave life tours, the world of women, farmyard tours and hidden landscapes. Special activities include Plantation Sleuth for children on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the summer, Constitution Day in September, Nature Walk in October and Archaeology Day in October. Admission cost is \$8 for adults, \$7 for those 60 and over and \$4 for students.

Join the Colonial Cooking Demonstrations

Cooking demonstrations are one of the many events at Gunston Hall, a 550-acre National Historic Landmark that was originally the home of George Mason. Other events include military reenactments and children's events. Gunston Hall has special holiday events as well and its setting on the Potomac River is perfect for picnic, party or special event.

'Tis the Season for a Plantation Christmas

Step back in time during December from 6:30-9:30 p.m. into an 18th-century holiday season on the plantation. Follow the

path of lanterns to the mansion and tour rooms by candlelight. Ride in a horse-drawn carriage, sip steaming cider in front of a bonfire, and taste food prepared over an open hearth. Costumed characters greet visitors in the house and on the grounds as they take part in dancing, fiddle playing and other 18th-century activities. \$14 for adults, \$7 for ages 6-18, free for children under age 6.

Fly a Kite in the Fields at Gunston Hall

This annual event will be held, weather permitting on March 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mount Vernon Estate

George Washington Parkway
703-780-2000
www.mountvernon.org

View George Washington's historic home which resides on a 500-acre estate overlooking the Potomac River. Visit the dozen or so outbuildings that have been restored greenhouse, stables, slave quarters and kitchen. Visit the estate for special events, such as a biannual wine festival, colonial craft fair, Independence Day Celebration, throughout the year.

Celebrate the Holidays



Kite flying at Gunston Hall

The Washington's seasonal entertaining is interpreted daily, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day; the rarely seen third floor is open. Takes place during daytime hours.

Birthday Celebration

Admission is free to George Washington's home with a wreath-laying ceremony followed by musical performances and the littlest hometown parade celebrating the General's birthday. Held on Presidents' Day.

Red, White and Blue Concert

A day-long celebration at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens. 18th-century patriotic music, a wreath-laying ceremony, performance by the National Concert Band of America and birthday cake. To be held on July 4.

Slave Memorial Commemoration

In late September a special ceremony and wreath laying commemorating the lives of

SEE 101 WAYS, PAGE 17

THINGS TO SEE IN ALEXANDRIA

Guided Archaeology Tour

Saturday, Oct. 21
Schuter's Hill
703-838-4399

Take a guided tour of the dig at Schuter's Hill, near the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Free. Reservations required. Next tour at 1:30 p.m., Oct. 21.

Lantern Tours

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
www.gadsbystavern.org
703-838-4242

The seasonal return of these popular candlelight tours, offered Friday nights, focusing on tavern life in the 18th century. \$5, \$2 for ages 11-17, free for 10 and under. Call in advance to ask for times.

Architectural Adventure

Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House
9000 Richmond Highway
703-780-4000
www.popeleighey1940.org

Built in 1940 of cypress, brick and glass, the "Usonian" house exhibits many of the significant contributions that Wright made to contemporary architecture. Open Tuesday through Sunday March-December, closed January and February. Admission is free for those 5 and under, \$3 for those older but not beyond high school graduation and \$7.50 for adults.

Step Back in Time

Alexandria Tours
703-329-1122
hlday2@msn.com

Step back in time on a walking tour of historic Alexandria. Professional guides tailor a tour for one's special interests.

Visit George Washington's Church

Christ Church
118 N. Washington St.
703-549-6670
www.historicchristchurch.org

Construction on the church began in 1767, and visitors can sit in Washington's seat during services. Docents are on hand daily to welcome visitors and answer questions. It is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. unless there's a wedding or a funeral. Contributions suggested.

Visit a Historic Congregation

Old Presbyterian Meeting House
323 S. Fairfax St.
703-549-6670
www.opmh.org

Washington's funeral took place here. The cemetery includes the grave of John Carlyle and the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier.

Visit a Stone Mansion

Carlyle House
121 N. Fairfax St.
703-549-2997
www.carlylehouse.org

Operated by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, the Carlyle House is a window into the 18th-century life in Old Town. John Carlyle was a prominent Scottish merchant in the early days of Alexandria, and his house was the site of an important meeting of colonial governors during the French and Indian War.

George Washington Comes to Dinner

Feb. 7 from noon to 4 p.m., visit the Carlyle House and interact with re-enactors portraying George Washington's visit to the house in 1760 for dinner after church.

Death Comes to Carlyle

The historic house presents an exhibit on the mourning practices of 18th century Virginia, with the house itself draped in mourning. Will open in October. On Oct. 28, an 18th century funeral will be re-enacted, with a replica of a coffin and a deathbed scene. The exhibit included in regular admission of \$4, \$2 for children. There will be an extra charge for the re-enactment.



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

101 WAYS TO HAVE FUN

FROM PAGE 16

the slaves who lived and worked at the Mount Vernon Estate.

Fall Harvest Family Days
Oliver Evan's system for grinding corn into corn meal. George Washington owned the patent on this system. It will be shown at Gristmill in October. Apples will be roasted. Included with price of admission.

Mount Vernon by Candlelight
Learn about George and Martha Washington's Christmas traditions, meet historic characters and tour the home by candlelight, including the rarely seen third floor. Will be held 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays starting in late fall.

Mount Vernon Forest Trail
This nature walk through George Washington's wilderness leads past mature oak and hickory trees, past holly and laurel shrubs and features attractions such as Washington's cobble quarry and a wooden foot-bridge over a 100-foot wide ravine. Interpretive signs throughout the trail list facts about the woods and wildlife.

Enjoy a Glass of Virginia Chardonnay
Wine Festivals at Mount Vernon, held twice a year in May and October. The May event is more formal and business oriented, while the October event is more laid back. Both offer wine in one of America's most historical, most beautiful backyards and a visit to George Washington's wine cellar. There are also great views of the Potomac and a tour of the Mount Vernon Estate. Learning about Virginia's wineries is a bonus.

See an 18th-century Water-Powered Mill and Distillery

Visitors will tour an 18th-century water-powered mill and distillery in operation by a colonial-attired miller. They will discover how it works and learn about the character and accomplishments of George Washington — one of the nation's most innovative and successful farmers.

76th annual Historic Garden Tour

April 18 10a.m.-4p.m.
703-768-5741
www.VAGardenweek.org
This tour features privately-owned Old Town homes and gardens, historic churches and other historic properties. Part of the "America's Largest Open House," which highlights over 250 locations in Virginia during Historic Garden Week in April.

Alexandria's Heritage Trail

Alexandria Archaeology Museum
703-838-4399
www.alexandriaarchaeology.org
Take a 20-mile, guided bike tour and learn about the city's history along the way. Free. Reservations and helmets required. Next tour will be 10 a.m. on Oct. 14.

Check Up on History

John Q. Adams Center for the History of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery
One Prince St.
703-836-4444
www.entnet.org/museum
Dedicated to the history of treating the ear, nose &

SEE 101 WAYS, PAGE 19

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CALENDAR

E-mail calendar announcements to the Alexandria 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

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. \$15 for adults; \$7 for youth ages 6-11; and free for children five and younger. 703-780-2000.

The public can participate in the second annual "Alexandria Recreation Games for Healthy Living," Jan. 10 through March 6. An awards ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, at the Lee Center Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St. To register, pick up an information packet at the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center, or online at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation.

FRIDAY/JAN. 9

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.

Inaugural Ball. 6-8 p.m. at William Ramsay for students and their families. \$3/child. Mayor Euille will attend. Visit

www.williamramsaypta.wordpress.com or 571-839-1669.

Ballroom Dancing. 8:30 p.m. at a private club in Mount Vernon. Enjoy the waltz, rumba and more to live music. \$15/person. Reservations required, www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com for more.

Time for 2s. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Ages 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900.

Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Browse books, and more. Free. 703-838-4555.

SATURDAY/JAN. 10

Opening Reception. 5-8 p.m., see Gallery West's new exhibit "4X4 - New Year New Visions" is on display. See photographs, paintings, drawings and more. Located at 1213 King St. Free. Visit www.gallery-west.com or 703-549-6006.

Music Performance. T.C. Williams Musical Group will host the District X Orchestra Concert at 3 p.m. at the high school, 3330 King St. Free. 703-824-6800.

Magestic Eagles. 2:30 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Observe these birds and learn about their lives. Free. 703-339-2385.

Bay View Sunset Walk. 4 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Observe animals as they get ready for bed. Free. 703-339-2385.

Wild For Winter Waterfowl. 10:30 a.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Observe swans, ducks and other waterfowl. Free. 703-339-2385.

Gardening Lecture. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about how to start a garden, design one and more. \$160 includes all three lectures and afternoon workshop or \$15/lecture. Bring lunch. Registration required, 703-642-5173.

Hail to the Chief Storytime. 11 a.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. Children ages 2 and up enjoy songs and stories of presidential proportions. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

Saturday Stories. 10:30 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can enjoy stories. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900.

Saturday Stories. 2 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. All ages enjoy stories. Free. 703-519-6000.

Book Sale. 9 a.m. -5 p.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Browse books, and more. Free. 703-838-4555.

SUNDAY/JAN. 11

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Hear music by Hot Soup. \$15/general; \$12/member. Visit focusmusic.org or 703-501-6061.

Music Performance. 4 p.m. at West Potomac High School Springbank Auditorium. Hear the Capitol Steps. \$25/advance or \$30/door. E-mail westpotomacrecwcapitolsteps@gmail.com for tickets. Proceeds benefit WPHS crew team.

Reception and Meet the Artist. 3-4:30 p.m., The Art League presents "A Hosta Story," watercolor paintings by Yoshimi Matsukata from Jan. 8-Feb. 2. Located in the Torpedo

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

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Information Session for Eighth Graders
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1:00 pm

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www.bishopoconnell.org

101 WAYS

FROM PAGE 17

throat, this museum includes a display of hearing aids, surgical instruments and rare books.

Roots Remembered: African American Heritage

African American Heritage Park
Holland Lane and Duke Street
703-838-4356
oha.alexandriava.gov/bhrc/bh-heritage-park.html

"Truths that Rise from the Roots Remembered" is the name of the bronze tree sculpture by Jerome Meadows that honors the contributions of African Americans to the growth of Alexandria. The 8-acre park, near Hooff's Run, surrounds a 19th-century African American cemetery discovered by Alexandria Archaeology. The park is available to rent for some events.

History, Page By Page

Alexandria Black History Museum
902 Wythe St.
703-838-4356
oha.ci.alexandria.va.us/bhrc/
Originally the segregated library for Alexandria's African American residents, the center documents the local and national history, culture and contributions of Black America. The museum plays host to a variety of events throughout the year, including special exhibits, lecture series and holiday festivals.

Pay Respects to Soldiers of the Past

Alexandria National Cemetery
1450 Wilkes St.
703-221-2183
www.cem.va.gov/nchp/alexandriava.htm
One of the 14 sites established and dedicated by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862 to serve as military burial grounds. The cemetery contains some 3,500 graves of Civil War soldiers, including U.S. Colored Troops and four men who lost their lives chasing Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth.

Spend Time with Spooks and Spirits

Alexandria Colonial Tours
703-519-1749
www.alexcolonialtours.com
Alexandria's original ghost and graveyard tour. Entertaining, costumed guides lead by lantern-light a six-block walking tour filled with ghosts, spirits and legends of this historic city. Tours offered seasonally and leave from Ramsay House

Visitors Center, 221 King St. Company also offers other child-friendly tours.

Step into the Past

Alexandria's Footsteps to the Past
703-683-3451
www.footstepstothepast.com
Learn about early history of Alexandria, documented ghost sites and visit a cemetery where George Washington's friends sleep. Tours leave from Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St. Seven days a week the tour starts at 7 p.m. On Fridays and Saturdays it also starts at 8:30.

Walking with Washington

Bob Madison
703-683-2636
www.washingtonbirthday.net
Take this free, two-hour walking tour to learn about Alexandria's favorite son. Leaves at 1:30 p.m. from the fountain in Market Square, 301 King St. on Sundays throughout February.

Symposium on George Washington

George Washington National Masonic Memorial
101 Callahan Drive
703-991-4474
www.washingtonbirthday.net

This annual event looks at a specific time period in Washington's life. Tickets include lunch, with discounts for students. Event will take place on Feb. 28.

Gadsby's Tavern Birthday Celebration

George Washington Birthright Banquet and Ball
Gadsby's Tavern Museum
134 N. Royal St.
703-838-4242
www.gadsbystavern.org
Tavern fare, toasts to George Washington and 18th-century dancing, Feb. 14. Held since 1797. Tickets are \$100 for banquet and ball; \$50 for ball only; advance reservations required. Free open house at the museum the following Monday.

See Where Post-Slave Society Began

Gum Springs Historical Society
8100 Fordson Road
703-799-1198
www.gshsfva.org
Visit the first community for freed slaves at Gum Springs Historical Society. The Museum and Cultural Center in Alexandria features an exhibit of photographs

SEE 101 WAYS, PAGE 24

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit
www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Wintering Animals. 1 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Observe swans, ducks and other waterfowl. Free. 703-339-2385.

Majestic Eagles. 3 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Observe these birds and learn about their lives. Free. 703-339-2385.

Wild For Winter Waterfowl. 10:30 a.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Observe swans, ducks and other waterfowl. Free. 703-339-2385.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road. Hear music of Bach with organ, hymns and more. Free. Visit www.wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766.

MONDAY/JAN. 12

Little One-Ders. 10 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900.

Family Tale Night. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages. Free. 703-519-5900.

Baby Time. 10 a.m. at Duncan

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 24

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Real food, for real people at reasonable prices.

Monday - Kids Night

Burger Night (Kids eat 1/2 price) Each child must be accompanied by adult having entree.

Tuesday - Greek Night

Lamb Marinated and Roasted for 3 hours, Athenian Roast Chicken, Moussaka!

Wednesday - All American Night

Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham

Thursday - Italian Night

Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

Friday - Fish Night

Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce

Saturday - Steak and Chop Night

Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka

Sunday

Brunch served 7am - 2pm

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Holiday Hoops Bring Out the Best

With school out, most area basketball teams take to the court for tournaments.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Of all places for Alexandria rivals T.C. Williams and St. Stephen's/St. Agnes to meet for a basketball game, the cramped confines of Arlington's Wakefield High School would seem to be one of the last places people would think of.

But that's exactly what happened on Dec. 29 as the two schools met in the semi-final round of the Wakefield Holiday Tournament, an irony not lost on Saints coach Kevin McClinton after his team defeated Osbourn Park, 54-52, in a nail-biting first round game.

"I'm looking forward to this game," he said. "Any time you get the Alexandria schools together, it's a lot of fun."

Match-ups not necessarily foreseen when schedules are released are what makes the holidays so great for any basketball junkie around the area. The Saints and Titans faced off in front of a nearly packed gym at Wakefield, and the crowd was almost entirely made up of Alexandrians.

"It's exciting because people from all over Virginia and Maryland and D.C. can come watch us play, and all of our friends, who are normally playing, can come watch us play," said T.C. Williams senior Ryan Yates after his Titans defeated the Saints, 59-44.

COACHES AND PLAYERS alike agree that playing in some sort of tournament over break proves beneficial come playoff time. With games on consecutive days, and oftentimes against unfamiliar opponents, the break can serve as an early simulation of what it will be like once district or conference tournaments begin in February.

In T.C. Williams and the Saints' case, getting in as many games as possible early on has served both squads well in acclimating

new players that will be counted on down the stretch. While the Titans return stars Yates and Edward Jenkins from last year's state title team, there are impact players like junior Billy Rowland, a transfer from Bishop Ireton, who hadn't yet become fully acclimated to the squad.

"I've never really played in a real Christmas tournament. I wanted to take advantage of it."

— Wakefield Tournament MVP Billy Rowland of T.C. Williams

After averaging about 11 points per game in the Titans first five games of the season, Rowland seemed to reach a comfort zone of sorts, dominating the interior during the Wakefield tournament while averaging close to 16 points per contest. He was named tournament MVP as a result.

"I've never really played in a real Christmas tournament," said Rowland. "I wanted to take advantage of it."

Added teammate and guard Gavin Peterson: "You can tell this is bringing our team more together. I like the chemistry we get from tournaments."

improved its record to 4-2 with a win over Potomac School Tuesday night. Senior Given Kalipinde had a game-high 25 points.

The **Bishop Ireton** boy's and girl's basketball teams both dropped games to Carroll Tuesday night.

Avengers Start Season

The Alexandria Avengers semi-pro basketball team kicked off its second season on Jan. 3 with a wild 124-121 victory over the Hampton Roads Cardinals. Trailing for nearly the entire contest, the Avengers put together a furious fourth quarter comeback led by guard Tyree Harris (22 points) and



T.C. Williams coach Julian King (left) and St. Stephen's/St. Agnes coach Kevin McClinton talk before their two teams faced off in the semi finals of the Wakefield Holiday tournament on Dec. 29. The Titans were victorious, 59-44.

FOR THE SAINTS, going to Wakefield allowed McClinton to further test his duo of impressive sophomores, point guard Dexter Lindsay and Dante Allison, against some of the top competition in the area.

Lindsay responded with 14 points and some clutch plays down the stretch in the Saints' narrow victory over Osbourn Park in the opening round, while Allison added in 14 points of his own when SSSAS defeated Annandale to take third place over-

veteran Brian Polk (17 points).

The Avengers take the court again this Saturday at Mount Vernon High School at 7 p.m. to take on the Newark Rebels.

Titan Swimmers Break Record

Although the T.C. Williams swim and dive team is winless in its three dual meets this season, the slow start hasn't been without its highlights. Against Lake Braddock on Dec. 12, two team records were broken. Senior Larry Dow broke the boy's 100-yard freestyle record with a state qualifying time of 48.02, while freshman Abby broke the girl's 100-yard breast stroke record with a time of 1:11.

all. Junior Jack Hamilton paced the Saints throughout, averaging more than 13 points in the team's three games.

"The thing I like about (tournaments) is that you don't have a long layoff," said McClinton. "You've got two weeks off before you go back to school, so I like for our guys to be doing something. You get to enjoy time with your family over Christmas, but then you get to go back and do what you enjoy doing and that's basketball."

TITANS COACH Julian King likes the tournament format because playing so many games in so few days tends to illuminate a team's deficiencies. King felt his team coasted against the Saints, and despite the win, was looking forward to the next day's championship game against Wakefield in order to correct those mistakes. T.C. Williams responded with an impressive 67-51 victory over the formally one-loss Warriors. The game was attended by so many people, Wakefield officials had to shut the doors to the building five minutes before game time due to fire marshal rules.

The Titans girl's basketball team got the opportunity to travel to Myrtle Beach, S.C., where they finished with a 2-2 record. The Ireton boy's team traveled down to Tampa for a tournament as well. King said he hopes to travel somewhere outside the area next season. But whether near or far, T.C. Williams, like most schools in this area, will be at a tournament somewhere next season.

"We're the defending state champions and if you want to keep that up, you never rest," said King.



Senior Edward Jenkins and the T.C. Williams boy's basketball have jumped out to an 8-1 start to the season.

SPORTS BRIEFS

T.C. Basketball Update

The **T.C. Williams** boy's basketball team improved its record to 8-1 Tuesday night with a 67-49 win over Patriot District foe Lee. Senior Ryan Yates led the charge with 15 points. The Titans are now 3-0 in district. Their lone loss of the season was to Riverdale Baptist on Dec. 23.

Meanwhile the Titan girl's upped their record to 6-4 with a 61-37 win over Lee Tuesday night. Senior Tierra Ruffin-Pratt led the team with 12 points, while sophomore Sade Barber added in 11 points. Both the T.C. Williams boy's and girl's teams take on West Springfield Friday night.

The **Episcopal** boy's basketball team

NEIGHBORHOODS

Taylor Run

HAPPY SOLSTICE

Scores of happy people showed up at Kit Leider's house at Fords' Landing to hail the winter solstice, drink champagne, and say bon voyage to Kit, Anna, and Marilyn Sokstad as they took off for Vienna.

Council members Tim Lovain, Paul Smedberg, and Del Pepper were there, as were Commonwealth Attorney Randy Sengel and Clerk of the Court Ed Semonia with wife Pat.

GOOD TIDINGS

Congressman Jim Moran came, as did his brother Brian, elated by the latest Rasmussen poll, which showed him ahead of McDonnell in the gubernatorial race by 41 percent to 37 percent. No other Democrat outscored the Republican.

Del. Adam Ebbin showed up; so did Jack Sullivan (Paula was out counting birds, as she always is at this time of year). Betty Jo and Howard Middleton, Marian Van Landingham, Mary LaMois with daughter Ann Downs, Joann Miller, Lillian White, and Kim & David Kaplan were present.

Democratic Committee chair Susan Kellom with husband Bernie, Betty and Bill Livingston, Anne & Kevin Heanue, Lois Walker, Shelly and Dick Schwab, and Priscilla and Dick Hardiman greeted friends.

Pam & Kerry St. Clair, Audrey Fleming, Carol Hughes, Roger Digilio, Pat Butler, and Cheryl & David Colton (with small daughter Lexie) were there.

SANTA CLAUS

Linda and Mike Oliver, who is again making 18 appearances as Santa Claus at various functions, Libby Cooperman, Linda and Bruce Dwyer, Bill Dickinson, and Dr. FJ Pepper also attended the party.

A GOOD 30

Wilma and Chuck Linderman threw a party to celebrate the 30 years they have lived in Alexandria.

Son Will, wife Lisa, and Miss Lexie Linderman, 3 1/2, helped with the jollity, as did daughter Corinne, who is now working for GE in Greenville, S.C. She is vacationing in Columbia, South America, next week.

SHOOTER'S HILL PRESENT

Dozens of neighbors showed up to celebrate with the Lindermans, who have been wonderfully helpful in all activities up here.

"We have enjoyed every minute of our time in Alexandria. This is a wonderful neighborhood," said Wilma, who ran Gymboree Play and Music.

AN ADVENTURE

Chuck, who is with Edison Electric Institute, calls his time in Alexandria a grand adventure.

Wanda & John Street, Reba Axelson, Lill Lubsen, Betty Maag, Phil & Kyle Brinkman, and Abby Adams with parents Jill & Bob came to the party.

Ellyn & Ross Simon, Gudrun & Bob Callahan, Betty and Bill Livingston, Kathy and Paul Schmidt, the MacBrides — Betsy, Steve, Lillie and Quinn, and the Ingolds, Maryane & David, Lily, Matt, and Jordan Quinteros were there.

GRACIOUS CAT

Wildcat, a dainty gray and white feline 17 years old, strolled about allowing herself to be petted.

Barbara & Alan Anderson, Pat Davis with Alan Gehl, were among the many neighbors who came to honor the Lindermans.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

Seminary Valley

No, we haven't been traveling ... just busy with college applications and a substitute teaching job at Blessed Sacrament School. Now, on to business!

Those of you who regularly traverse Duke Street near Cameron Station may have noticed new and prominent signage for the overpass, now named the Richard Leibach Bridge. I am sorry to say that I did not know who Mr. Leibach was, so I used my Google skills to determine the following:

Richard Leibach was a former vice-chairman of the Alexandria Planning Commission Board. He served the City and the Planning Commission for nearly 20 years and was an important contributor to the development and implementation of Alexandria's open space plans. Once a chairman of Alexandria United Way, he also had a long-standing interest in and commitment to affordable housing. Mr. Leibach, who resided near the bridge, died in February 2007 and the Planning Commission requested that the bridge be named after him to recognize his outstanding service to the City.

In other news, Miss Colleen Cox of Latham Street, already an award-winning swimmer for the Dowden Terrace Dolphins, further amazed her fans two weekends ago by winning Best All-Around Gymnast at the Chantilly Winter Getaway meet. Colleen, a member of the Arlington Aerials Gymnastics Rec team took 1st place overall competing in the balance beam, vault, floor and uneven bars.

Two Seminary Valley swimmers have broken TC Williams records already this season. Freshman Abby Cox broke the TC Williams record in the 100-yard breaststroke by two seconds with a time of 1:11.08. Senior Larry Dow broke two records so far this fall. He broke the boys 100 yard Freestyle record with a state qualifying time of 48.02. Larry also broke the 200-yard Individual Medley record by five seconds with a time of 2:02.

Last but certainly not least, things were hopping up at Hammond Middle School's annual Winter Band Concert. In addition to the usual fine playing by the Commodores, Captains and Jazz Bands, the Admirals Band performed "Baby It's Cold Outside" with the vocal stylings of none other than Dr. Randolph Mitchell, principal. Dr. Mitchell was ably assisted by Ms. Nicole Shaw, an eighth grade teacher. The song also featured director Vaughan Ambrose and trombonist Maria Jones, a Hammond eighth grader who is the school's only District X participant. It was a great evening, with a sense of community spirit from days gone by.

My brother, Kevin Merrill, writes a similar biweekly column for the Santa Ynez Valley News, in our hometown in California. His column has a distinctly more rural flavor than mine; I thought I'd leave you with a few of his thoughts as we move in to a new year:

"Farmers and ranchers received an early Christmas present this week, as much-needed rainfall soaked into the valleys, rolling hills and farming fields up and down the Central Coast. A dusting of snow covered the San Rafael Mountains overlooking the Santa Ynez and Los Alamos valleys, helping to get us into the holiday spirit. Smoke coming from the chimneys of houses dotting the countryside added to the holiday mood. With little or no activity in the vineyard, I try to get out and do a little quail hunting. Quail season begins in October, and as the leaves on the vines begin to change colors, I always think I am going to have time to go out a day or two then."

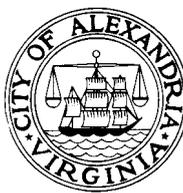
— MIA JONES
mamamiajones@gmail.com

Legal Notices

In Memorium:



On January 23, 2008, the world lost a wonderful man. **Farah S. Farah**, age 24 was born December 29, 1983, in New York, New York and raised in Alexandria, Virginia. Survived by his mother Fatoum Assowe, father Saleh Farah, five sibling Marian Farah, Obah Farah Walker, Ayan Farah Ismail, Saada Farah, and Ali Farah. Brother-in-laws Zachary Walker and Sherif Ismail, niece and nephew Laila and Aden Walker. Today we celebrate your life and the 24 years God allowed us to have with you. We remind ourselves that we are only separated by the time we have left here on earth. We can't begin to tell you how much we miss you. Happy birthday Farah. We love you more than words can express



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review
Old & Historic Alexandria District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2008-0248
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 702 S. Fairfax St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Robert Bentley Adams & Associates for Andrew Magount & Katie Poulin

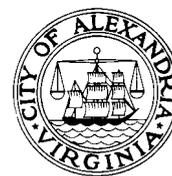
CASE BAR2008-0249
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 702 S. Fairfax St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Robert Bentley Adams & Associates for Andrew Magount & Katie Poulin

CASE BAR2008-0250
Request for approval of after-the-fact alterations at 329 N. Washington St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Leah Fried Sedwick

CASE BAR2008-0251
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 209 S. Fairfax St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Stephanie Dimond for Constance M. Locke & David Kiernan

CASE BAR2008-0252
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 209 S. Fairfax St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Stephanie Dimond for Constance M. Locke & David Kiernan

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



NOTICE OF HEARING

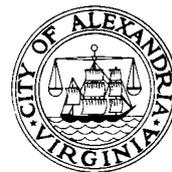
CARLYLE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

The Carlyle Design Review Board will meet THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009 at 7:00 PM in Room 2000 at 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. The following items are on the agenda for this month's meeting:

1. 2100 and 2203 Mill Rd. (EESAP Blocks 19&20) Residential and Office Building Design

The public is invited to attend this meeting. Individuals with questions concerning the meeting should call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 838-4666.

Legal Notices



The City of Alexandria, Virginia sells surplus, abandoned, and seized vehicles via internet auction. Visit <http://www.govdeals.com/> and search Alexandria.

TRUSTEE'S SALE

OF VALUABLE

IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as

2826 Preston Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Carlos A. Sorto and Jesus Sorto, dated September 14, 2005, and recorded September 19, 2005, in Deed Book 17757 at page 554 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

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Tax Map No. 093-1-18G-0232, 093-1-18G-0233 & 093-1-18G-0234

Commonly known as 2826 Preston Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22306.

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 5.125 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

Legal Notices

Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prenskey
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

TRUSTEE'S SALE

OF VALUABLE

IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as

7940 Sausalito Place #24E, Alexandria, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Robert C. Sholar, dated March 14, 2006, and recorded March 16, 2006, in Deed Book 18293 at page 1237 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

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Residence 24-E, Phase I, Sequoyah

Tax Map No. 101-2-10-0024E

Commonly known as 7940 Sausalito Place #24E, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$20,000.00 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 7.0 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.

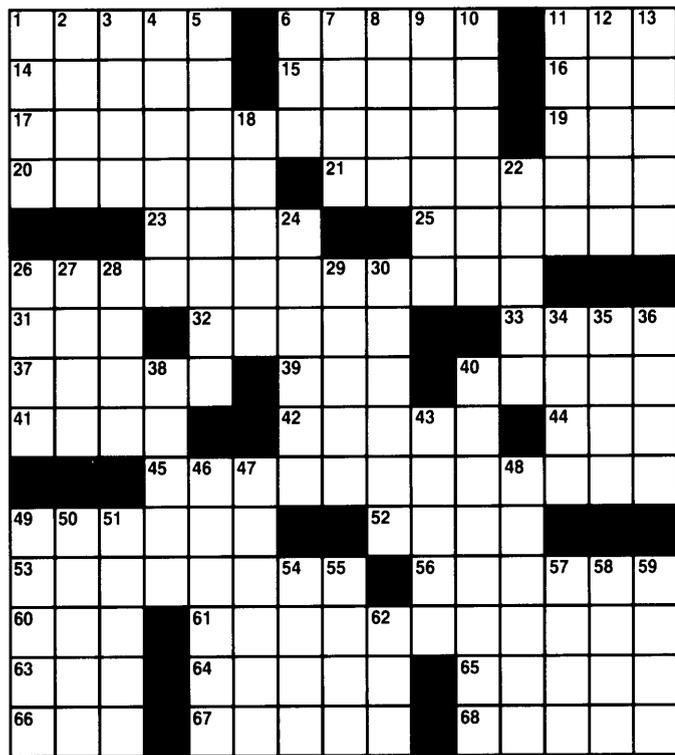
DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prenskey
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0415-3



Puzzle by Cathy Millhauser

ACROSS

- 1 They go into drives
- 6 Waste
- 11 Rapsallion
- 14 Outdo
- 15 Station
- 16 Postal creed word
- 17 Embarrassed person's nickname?
- 19 John —
- 20 Made some lace
- 21 Elusive
- 23 Monogram ltr.
- 25 High points
- 26 Well-fed baby in a multiple birth?
- 31 "Shell and Head" sculptor Hans
- 32 "Love — Around" (1968 Troggs hit)
- 33 Action after a default
- 37 Reprimand
- 39 Air show formation
- 40 Vetoed
- 41 French door part
- 42 Related on the mother's side
- 44 Skater Midori
- 45 One who dropped a pill on the floor?
- 49 Cigar
- 52 Word with work or Web
- 53 Procrastinator's refrain
- 56 "Peer Gynt" composer et al.
- 60 Actress Hagen
- 61 Shakespearean sunburn victim?
- 63 "Like, I get it"
- 64 Heart chambers
- 65 Cleo or Frankie
- 66 — City (Saratoga Springs nickname)
- 67 Adjusts
- 68 Scoffing look

DOWN

- 1 Old-style auxiliary verb
- 2 Ancient terrace farmer
- 3 Pants part
- 4 "Third Rock From the Sun" co-star
- 5 Magnificent

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 27 Cetacean killer
- 28 Atop
- 29 Actress Graff
- 30 Kilt features
- 34 Get away
- 35 Tennis's Sampras
- 36 Radon lacks it
- 38 "Unhand me!"
- 40 Muted tones
- 43 Chicken cut
- 46 Lifesaver, at times
- 47 Dress down
- 48 Marcus's retail partner
- 49 Lath perpendiculars
- 50 Tally
- 51 Brando's birthplace
- 54 Pod vegetable
- 55 Milldam
- 57 Composer Siegmeyer
- 58 Item in a pool
- 59 Song ending
- 62 German article

SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT!

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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ALEXANDRIA Gazette Packet CLASSIFIED

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Fax: 703-917-0992



E-mail: classified@connectionnewspapers.com

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• MOUNT VERNON

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TUESDAY NOON

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

Budget Experience Invaluable

To the Editor:

We had the pleasure of serving with Councilmember Tim Lovain on the City's Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (BFAAC). Tim's knowledge of the budget and the budget process and his dedication to Alexandria are why we support him for City Council.

Tim spent seven years on BFAAC, finishing as its Chair, so he has an understanding of the budget based on years of experience.

He has helped make many BFAAC recommendations City policy, including use of a current services budget baseline, expanded use of performance measurements and health care cost containment.

He has persuaded his colleagues to use the average residential property tax bill as the bottom line for the City's budget guidance. During the six years before he joined Council, that average residential tax bill doubled. In the two years Tim has been on Council, that average bill has remained flat. We believe Tim has played a major role in bringing more fiscal responsibility to the City budget.

Our City is facing a serious economic challenge. We need Tim on Council to help the City make tough but reasonable choices on both revenues and expenditures. We hope you will join with us in supporting Tim Lovain for re-election to City Council.

Russ Bailey
Jim Butler
Eileen Taylor

Fighting Pollution

To the Editor:

Virginia Paving has started not only polluting the West End of Alexandria but the East End. In fact, it is polluting all the way down to City Hall where it is sponsoring the 2nd Annual King St. Mile which starts at Market Square. It is true that Virginia Paving might seem to be an appropriate sponsor of a "road" race, but I think it would be wise to think twice about accepting their sponsorship for community events. They already have enough influence at city hall. Two of the council members who supported their SUP to continue and expand their operations next to residents in Cameron Station will be running in this race with them. Of the three council members who voted against this SUP, Andrew Macdonald is no longer on council, and Ludwig Gaines will be leaving council. I will run against Virginia Paving and will continue to be a thorn in their ability to keep running.

As one of the biggest polluters in Alexandria, it is an ironic sponsor of an event that promotes health and fitness. The deeper you breathe this grape juice, the less healthy Alexandria will be. We already have difficulty meeting regional air quality standards, because of our coal-fired power plant on the waterfront, but it is also because of our other polluters.

Pacers and First Night Alexandria, the two organizers of the event, put out a flier that

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 25

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TUESDAY NOON

101 WAYS

FROM PAGE 19

nearly 100 years old.

Return to Early Victorian Times

Lee-Fendall House
614 Oronoco St.
703-548-1789
www.leafendallhouse.org

Philip Richard Fendall built this wood frame house in 1785. From 1785 until 1903 the house served as the home to thirty-seven members of the Lee family. Currently, visitors can observe extensive restorations in progress.

Visit GW's Fire Station

Friendship Fire House Museum
107 S. Alfred St.
703-838-3891
www.friendshipfirehouse.org

A visit to Friendship Fire House Museum gives a historical perspective on firefighting in the colonial era. It encompasses not only antique fire apparatus but also an array of personal gear and interesting photographs, with information from a guide. Friendship Fire Company was founded in 1774. Open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and

Sundays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Free. 234th anniversary of the Friendship Firehouse will be celebrated on Aug. 1.

A Dose of Early Medicine

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop
105-107 S. Fairfax St.
703-836-3713
www.apothecarymuseum.org

Visit an authentic 18th- and 19th-century apothecary shop. Visitors can view samples of hand-blown glass and early medicines. After an extensive renovation, the Apothecary is expected to open this summer. There will be an admission charge.

Freedom House Museum

1315 Duke Street
703-836-2858
www.freedomhousemuseum.org

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and on weekends by appointment

The Freedom House is located in the headquarters of the Northern Virginia Urban League. The building was formerly the offices of Franklin & Armfield, one of the largest domestic slave traders in the South during the 1800s.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 19

Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children up to 11 months. Free. 703-838-4566.
Bingo. 2:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Elementary age students only. Free. 703-838-4566.

TUESDAY/JAN. 13

Movie and Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Discuss the book and movie of "The Remains of the Day." Free. 703-519-5900.
Time for 2s. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Ages 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900.
Stories and Songs. 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children up to age 4. Free. Registration required, 703-838-4566.
Mother Goose Time. 9:30 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. For children ages 12-24 months. Free. 703-838-4555.
Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. for children ages 2 and up. Free. 703-838-4555.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 14

Pajama Story Time. 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-6. Free. 703-838-4566.
Mother Goose Time. 9:30 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. For children ages 12-24 months. Free. 703-838-4555.
Stories to Grow On. 11 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. for children ages 2 and up. Free. 703-838-4555.

THURSDAY/JAN. 15

Flying "Dragons." 7 p.m. at Huntley Meadows. Learn about the dragonfly in honor of Chinese New Year. Appropriate for people ages 11 and up. Reservations required, 703-768-2525. \$6/person.
Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Discuss "The Body of the Condemned" from "Discipline and Punish" by Michel Foucault. Free. 703-931-3559.
Story Time. 10 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5. Free. 703-519-5900.
Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at Duncan Library,

2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 1-2 years. Free. 703-838-4566.
Thursday Story Time. 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Free. Ages 3-5. 703-838-4566.
Storytime. 4 p.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 3-5 years. Free. 703-838-4555.

FRIDAY/JAN. 16

Opening Reception. 7-10 p.m., see "Nocturne from Dusk to Dawn" at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., through Feb. 15. See the effects of light between dusk and dawn. Free. 703-838-4827.
Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. Children ages 2 and under enjoy songs and stories. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.
Time for 2s. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Ages 24-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900.

SATURDAY/JAN. 17

Medieval Madness. 7 p.m. at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St. Enjoy comedy, food, drinks, music, sword competition and more. \$49/person. Visit www.medievalmadness.org or 703-329-3075.
Rockin' for the Red Benefit Concert. 6:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. My Favorite Highway and Crash Boom Bang will perform. Proceeds benefit Alexandria Red Cross. \$15/advance; \$20/door. Visit www.alexandriaredcross.org/rockin.html or 703-299-2524.
Majestic Eagles. 2:30 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Observe these birds and learn about their lives. Free. 703-339-2385.
Bay View Sunset Walk. 4 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Observe animals as they get ready for bed. Free. 703-339-2385.
Wild For Winter Waterfowl. 10:30 a.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. Observe swans, ducks and other waterfowl. Free. 703-339-2385.
Gardening Lecture. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about how to start a garden, design one and more. \$160 includes all three lectures and afternoon workshop or \$15/lecture. Bring lunch. Registration required, 703-642-5173.

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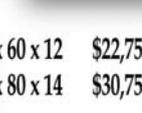
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The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 23

says that "you should fell-minimal-if any impact." Pollution does not affect only the immediate residents, but the whole city and region, and soft pedaling support through sponsorships will not change the tremendous impact Virginia Paving has. They were fined \$74,160, and their State operating permit is up for review by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

If Alexandrians want to transform the West End with the Redevelopment of Landmark Mall, and building transit to the new BRAC location on Beaurgard, and creating a transit corridor down Van Dorn Street, Virginia Paving will be standing in the way. The next Council will have to face this issue again, and address whether, if we want to enhance the residential west end of the city with shopping and amenities to make it more livable and improve the quality of life, we can do so without eliminating some of the industrial uses. The East End and every area of Alexandria should care as our tax base decreases because of this poor planning, and their tax rate goes up. If we can build a sound economic base in the West End we can achieve a balance of commer-

cial and residential taxes that will help the whole city.

The only good news for the environment is that the race will be eliminating parking for a short period and all traffic for an equally brief period. Perhaps the air will clear and we can see clearly for these car-free moments. Breathe deep for these few moments, and think when three current city council members run past how they will vote the next time the issue of Virginia Paving comes up? I know how I will vote.

Boyd Walker
Candidate for City Council

Protect Retiree Health Benefits

To the Editor:

With the national economy crumbling as result of Wall Street pyramid schemes, bankers giving loans to anyone with a pulse, and CEOs prioritizing their own bonuses over corporate fiscal integrity, how on earth have we gotten to the point where it's the working man that's to blame?

Despite what some in the media say, hard working Americans are not a "legacy cost" dragging our nation downhill.

I worked for Verizon for 39 years

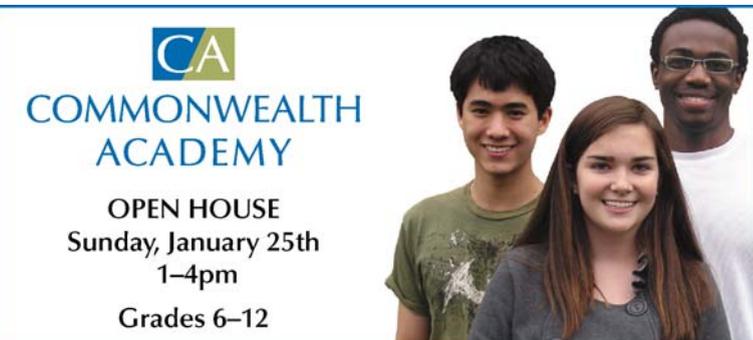
and earned health insurance coverage in retirement in exchange for accepting lower wages and/or fewer paid days off. It's a disgrace that corporations are using our nation's financial problems to walk away from their fiduciary obligations to me and millions of other retirees.

It should be illegal for employers to simply strip retirees of their earned health care benefits, and that is why the 111th Congress needs to pass the bipartisan Emergency Retiree Health Benefits Protection Act.

Over many years companies used the promise of post-employment health care coverage to induce employees to accept lower wages, not jump to another employer or even to take early retirement. Companies did not agree to retiree benefits out of the goodness of their hearts, there were significant financial benefits and tax breaks for them.

It's time retirees, our children and grandchildren, stand up together and demand corporations live up to their fiduciary responsibility to us. That is why we need the Emergency Retiree Health Benefits Protection Act passed and signed into law in 2009.

John M. Walsh
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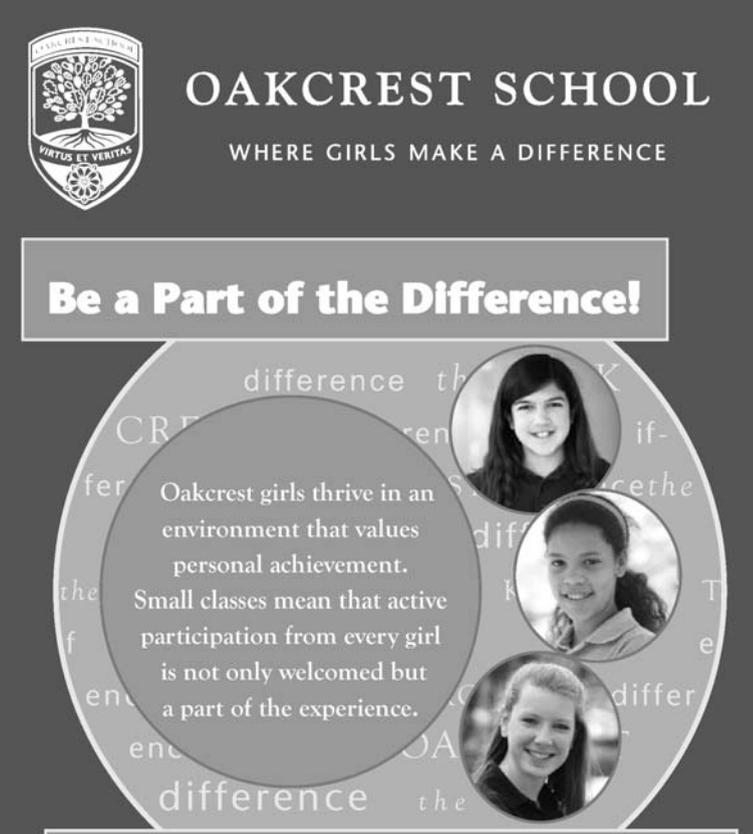
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FROM PAGE 1

ding. Yet finding support for any legislation this year will be closely tied to the bottom line.

"There's absolutely no climate for any kind of new funding right now because we have a \$3 billion shortfall," said Sen. Patsy Ticer (D-30). "The governor has already cut \$1 billion out, and we are going to cut \$2 billion more. So funding anything new is going to be totally impossible."

The most sweeping of the economic initiatives was conceived over the summer by Del. David Englin (D-45), who has been trying to build support over the last few months for a proposal that would eliminate the state food tax, eliminate corporate income taxes for business making under \$100,000 and reduce the income tax on those making under \$75,000 a year. To pay for these measures, Englin plans to introduce an income-tax increase on those making more than \$400,000.

"This is a plan that's tax-and-revenue neutral," said Englin. "It shifts revenue around to help the poor and the middle class while helping small businesses that are struggling."

Englin first started thinking about the food tax during his first campaign for the House of Delegates in the summer of 2005, when he and then-Del. Brian Moran (D-46) appeared at a number of grocery stores to bag groceries during campaign events. The campaign events were organized to draw attention to legislation passed earlier that year reducing food tax 3 percent to 1.5 percent. But Englin was troubled by the existence of any tax on food, which he wanted to find a way to eliminate.

"Those events put it on my radar back in 2005," said Englin. "Everybody eats, so taxing food is sort of like taxing air and water."

MOVING VARIOUS economic proposals through the General Assembly is certain to be difficult, especially Englin's stimulus package. Members of the House Republican leadership are known to be fiercely anti-tax, and 22 House members have taken signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge issued by the Washington-based Americans for Tax Reform. Englin has been assuring these members that his plan does not violate the pledge because it's revenue-neutral — a feature that might not be a decisive factor when the votes are tallied.

"I think it's a dumb idea, but it wouldn't violate the pledge," said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. "This is a stimulus package for the construction of condos in Florida because people who make more than \$400,000 will move."

Because wealthy people have the ability to be mobile, Norquist said, calculating the exact amount of estimated tax revenue from people who could easily move to a state with no income tax could be challenging. Nevertheless, he said, if the proposal could be demonstrated to raise as much as it spends, legislators could vote for it without fear of violating the pledge.

"People move out of cities where they get mugged and out of states where the tax collectors mug them," said Norquist, adding that eight Virginia senators and the Republican lieutenant governor have also taken the pledge. "Virginia would be left with only the really stupid people who make over \$400,000 a year."

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