

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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FEBRUARY 26, 2009



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Capt. Tammy Hooper speaks to Old Town residents about crime in their neighborhood.**

## State of the City

**Mayor celebrates new center yet remains cautious about the city's financial situation.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Not long ago, the city of Alexandria had two worlds — one for blacks and one for whites. The all-white George Washington High School had new textbooks and its own football field while the all-black Parker Gray High School had used textbooks and was forced to use a city-owned field miles away from the school. Now, decades after T.C. Williams High School integrated black and white students, the land where the old Parker Gray High School once stood now boasts the city's newest recreation center — a state-of-the-art 35,000-square-foot facility that cost the city \$15 million.

"We had great teachers, but the building

and books and the uniforms and everything else was second rate," said Catherine Ward, a 1949 graduate of Parker Gray and the current president of the school's alumni association. "To see that all that replaced by this new building is just amazing."

Back in 1977 the land where the old school once stood became the location of the original Charles Houston Recreation Center, named for the former dean of Howard Law School

**"Call me crazy, but I'm an optimist."**

— Mayor Bill Euille

SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 4

## Robbery Upsets Neighbors

**Couple robbed at gunpoint on South Pitt Street prompts meeting with police.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

For one Old Town couple, the walk home from having dinner at O'Connell's Restaurant one recent Saturday evening became a brush with death that has changed their lives. Shortly after entering the 200 block of South Pitt Street, the couple noticed three young black males emerge from behind a brick wall on the west side of the street. One of the men grabbed the woman around the waist and shoved the barrel of a revolver to the side of her neck. The other two men each pointed a pistol at the man.

"Kill the bitch," one of the attackers said, according to a report the woman made to the Alexandria Police Department.

The man threw his wallet on the ground, hoping to give the assailants what they wanted. The woman followed her husband's lead, throwing her purse on the ground. The attackers then grabbed the loot and ran into the dark streets of Old Town, leaving the

distraught husband and wife with disturbing memories that they now say they relive each time they walk to and from King Street. No arrests have been made in the case, although police officials say they have identified suspects from "across the river."

**"Suddenly something that once seemed safe no longer seems safe."**

— Susan Swain, concerned neighbor of the victim of an armed robbery

"I am concerned with what I feel is becoming a trend of people coming from other jurisdictions to commit crime in the city," said Police Chief David Baker. "Old Town is particularly susceptible to this because it's relatively affluent and it's really easy to get in and get out very quickly."

SEE ROBBERY, PAGE 5

## Feds Deny City's Role over Ethanol Site

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

In a blow to the city's ongoing efforts to shut down a hazardous material facility on the city's West End, a federal body regulating railroads issued a ruling last week denying an attempt by city offi-

cial to exert their zoning authority over the operation. Although the Feb. 17 ruling by the Surface Transportation Board closes the city's attempt to exert its regulatory authority, the city attorney's office is still seeking to limit the number of trucks that can use city streets on a daily basis. That effort, prompted

SEE CITY, PAGE 24



PHOTO BY MARK CIANNOTTO/THE GAZETTE PACKET

**Another Tournament Title** The T.C. Williams boy's basketball team celebrates its fourth-consecutive Patriot District Tournament title last Friday night after beating Annandale, 76-57. The Lady Titans also won the Patriot District Tournament, defeating West Springfield, 59-53.

SEE STORY, MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 25

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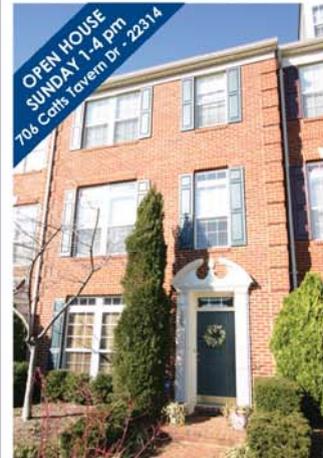
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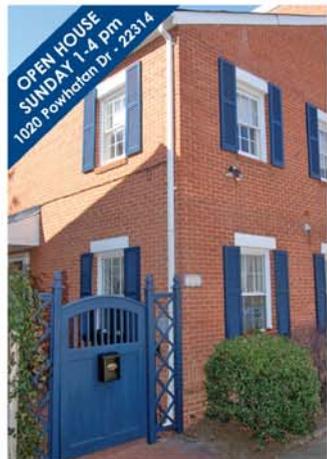
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## Redevelopment Imminent

When New York journalist and Republican leader **Horace Greeley** popularized the phrase “Go west young man” in the 19th century, people who lived in Alexandria thought of the West End as the area now known as the Carlyle neighborhood. As the city annexed more land from Fairfax County in the 1950s, the concept of the city’s West End migrated as well — eventually surrounding a 1965 building known as Landmark Mall, one of the area’s first regional shopping centers. Today the mall is a shadow of its former self.

“It’s like going to Death Valley,” said **Kathy Burns**, who lives near the mall.

That may be coming to an end if the City Council gets its way. On Saturday council members unanimously approved a small-area plan that would transform 240 acres of the city’s West End from a suburban development pattern to a “mixed-use urban community.” At the heart of the plan is a goal to replace the old-fashioned mall with a “West End Town Center.” Although the cash-strapped General Growth Properties originally presented a redevelopment plan back in 2004, city officials say they will seek to implement the new plan regardless of who redevelops the site.

“You could not ask for a better location than this for retail,” said **Greg Hamm**, a vice president of Chicago-based General Growth Properties, during last weekend’s public hearing on the plan. “I believe its redevelopment is imminent.”

## Dipping into Reserves

In many ways, Old Town is like the Wild West when it comes to motorcoaches. The 45-foot charter vehicles clatter their way through 18th-century streets that were originally designed for horses, knocking down tree limbs, ripping down telephone wires and upsetting many neighborhood residents. In response to these concerns, the city manager created a task force back in April. This week, the task force formally presented a plan that would create a registration system for motorcoaches operating in Alexandria.

“We really don’t regulate this industry in any meaningful way right now,” said **Rich Baier**, the city’s transportation director. “So we see these short-term recommendations as a first step.”

A 128-page report the task force submitted to City Council members this week recommends spending \$50,000 to create a new regulatory framework for the motorcoaches that will be considered at the March 14 public hearing. The first step would involve an expenditure of \$25,000 to conduct traffic counts. Following that, the plan calls for \$25,000 to be allocated from the city’s contingent reserves to create an online registration system. Considering the city’s current economic crunch, the plan met with immediate criticism Tuesday night.

“I can think of a better way to spend \$50,000,” said **Frank Fannon**, a Republican candidate for City Council, adding that he would oppose the plan if elected. “This is more red tape and bureaucracy that will harm businesses.”

## Taking the Challenge

Fans of the hit VH1 show “Celebrity Fit Club” are already familiar with Dr. **Ian Smith**, known on television as “Dr. Ian.” But they may not yet have heard of his “50 Million Pound Challenge,” which he presented to the nation’s mayors during a January meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors. That was when health-conscious Mayor **Bill Euille** decided to get in on the act, setting in place the pieces for a new citywide initiative that will be known as the Mayor’s Healthier Alexandria Initiative.

“The more healthy a community is physically, the more healthy we are fiscally,” the mayor said Tuesday night.

Participants can sign up online at 50millionpounds.com to track their progress and interact with others who are participating in the program. Euille said he is leading by example, making regular trips to the gym and watching what he eats. Back in 2005 he lost 55 pounds, weight that he has kept off — even losing an additional five pounds since then.

“I think I look pretty good,” Euille said during his official State of the City address Saturday, opening his jacket for the crowd. “Don’t you?”

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



PHOTO BY PHILIP YABUT

On Feb. 14, the male is eating leftovers from a squirrel the eagles caught the previous day.

## Park Police Protect Eagles

**Cars, birders and eagles:  
Something for everyone.**

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE

One of the favorite spots for U.S. Park Police to man their radar guns against potential speeding motorists on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, just south of Alexandria City limits, where the speed limit is only 35 mph, is now cordoned off with a jersey wall and snow fencing.

Thank the eagles.

Last week bird watchers from throughout the area were gathering in that pull-off to observe and photograph two bald eagles that had built a nest in a tree on the eastern edge of Belle Haven Country Club’s golf course. That raised concerns about their safety, not the eagles — the motorists, leaving and entering the parkway, especially during rush hours.

This concern was reported to the U.S. Park Service. Their response was to not only have the area temporarily blocked off but also to have any non-motorized birdwatcher/photographers ply their interest from the eastern side of the parkway along or just off the bike/walking path.

“We are required to have a 100 yard set-back for

eagle nesting areas. We put up the snow fence which was immediately torn down by a park visitor. Hence we have now put heavier barriers in place,” said GW Parkway Superintendent Dottie P. Marshall.

“Those barriers will remain in place until the nesting season is over. That is usually mid to late March,” she said.

It was also explained that bald eagles are fairly hardy souls and can fairly well tolerate human behavior — sometimes much better than other humans. That was brought to light when “George” and “Martha” decided to nest in the area of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge construction while work was ongoing.

In their case, it turned out that the greatest threat was from another, presumably younger, female eagle who took a fancy to George and decided to remove Martha from competition. There has been no indication of a repeat performance in the case of “Alex” and “Belle,” the present raptors, so named by the birdwatchers.

As noted by birder, Richard Gamble, “For anyone who has not yet seen the eagles, check out Paula Sullivan’s fabulous photographic record at [www.phase.com/paulasullivan](http://www.phase.com/paulasullivan).” It’s also a lot safer that playing dodge-traffic at rush hour.

Parkway motorists should also not get too complacent. Park Police have many other nooks and crannies to operate their candid cameras — regardless of “Alex” and “Belle.”

## Work on Washington Street Begins Monday

The City of Alexandria’s Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, Maintenance Division will begin the process of reconstructing and paving North and South Washington Street on Monday, March 2. The two-phase project includes:

❖ Phase I: Starting March 2, work on select concrete and brick work for curbs and gutter; ADA-approved access ramps; and designated driveway aprons will begin. Phase I will take place between

7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday over the next four months.

❖ Phase II: Starting July 6, the pavement and rehabilitation of North and South Washington Street, specifically from Green to First Streets, will be done at night from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. and continue through September 2009.

During the reconstruction and pavement period there will be times when all vehicles must be removed from the street. Temporary “No Parking” signs will be posted to notify residents.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Mayor Bill Euille presents his State of the City address, an annual speech outlining the accomplishments of the city government and laying out an agenda for the future.

## Celebrating New Rec Center

FROM PAGE 1

who helped dismantle the old Jim Crow laws that created the “separate but equal” education system. But over the years the facility became worn down and outmoded. In 2005 the City Council approved a design concept for the new facility, which includes a gymnasium, dance studio, fitness room, boxing ring, cyber cafe, computer lab, commercial kitchen, outdoor swimming pool, senior room, preschool activity room, crafts room, activity rooms and a meeting room.

“Over the next few years, you will see a number of new pieces of art enhance the building both on the outside and inside the facility,” said Kirk Kincannon, director of the city’s recreation centers. “Right now we’re in the process of working with the Arts Commission on tribute to Charles Houston and the Parker Gray community.”

**THE FIRST TRIBUTE** came in the form of Mayor Bill Euille’s annual State of the City address, which he delivered Saturday morning to a capacity crowd in the recreation center’s new gymnasium. It was an inaugural use for the facility in which Euille laid out the city’s economic challenges and presented a vi-



Bass player Liam Malakoff performs with the T.C. Williams High School Jazz Ensemble.

sion for the future of the city. Yet the occasion of a shiny new facility opening on the spot of the once-segregated school was not lost on Euille, who grew up a few blocks to the east in a public housing complex known as the Berg.

“In many ways the Parker Gray High School was a symbol of Charles Houston’s future vision,” said Euille during the half-hour speech. “Today this recreation center is a symbolic cornerstone laid for our city’s future, for the entire neighboring community and the city to use and enjoy.”

In the 1970s, nearly a third in Parker Gray lived in poverty. But by 2000, city records show, less than one fifth of the population in Parker Gray lived below the poverty level. And although the area is known as a historically black enclave in the city, the 2000 Census data indicated that whites had outnumbered blacks in Parker Gray just as the real-estate boom saw an explosion of assessments. Yet now that the new facility is ready to open its doors, the global financial crisis has created plummeting home values and a troubled economy.

“Alexandria is not insulated, and faces its most serious fiscal crisis in more than 30 years,” said Euille. “In many cases, city employee workloads will increase as we implement cost efficiencies.”

**ALTHOUGH THE DEDICATION** of the new center was a cause for celebration, much of Euille’s remarks during the annual State of the City address were devoted to how the city plans to weather the coming financial storm. The City Council has already cut \$10 million from the current budget, an unprecedented emergency measure to account for dramatically falling revenues tied to the slumping housing market. This comes at a time when home values have declined, credit markets are frozen, food banks are running empty and the city’s population of homeless students is at an all-time high.

“Call me crazy, but I’m an optimist,” said Euille. “In my short lifetime, we have experienced three prior recessions and we have recovered each and every time. This is by far the worst and the longest. But this too shall pass.”

SEE STATE, PAGE 7

## Returning to Home

Once an elementary student at Charles Houston, Shelia Whiting returns as director.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

A native of Alexandria, Shelia Whiting attended Charles Houston Elementary School before graduating from T.C. Williams High School in 1975. After receiving a bachelor’s degree from American University, Whiting was a substance-abuse counselor and a day-care provider before taking a position as the assistant director at the old Charles Houston Recreation Center in 1992. Now that the old 1977 center has been demolished and replaced with a \$15 million facility that opened this week, Houston has been named as the new director of the Charles Houston Recreation Center.



Shelia Whiting

looked at as a black center for poor people. It was supposed to be for the whole community, but it was largely attended by African-Americans. Over time the programming at the center became much more holistic and structured and diverse, but the building itself was deteriorating. Just walking into the building it was obvious that the center was falling apart from constant use.

**How does that compare that with the new Charles Houston Recreation Center?**

The new building can serve many more needs, and it can support fee-based programming as well as free programs for the community. The new center can provide a much wider range of services, and it serves as a bridge in terms of providing for a wider range of needs. We’re bringing back the old users, which is the network preschool, the substance-abuse program, the youth-mentoring program and the boxing club. Those are the former users. But we are also providing a new after-school program, a fitness center that will be open all day, meeting space for groups that request rooms as well as rentals for birthday parties and bridal receptions. The old Charles Houston provided services for this community, but the new Charles Houston will provide services for the whole city.

**You mentioned earlier that the surrounding neighborhood has a reputation for being the scene of drug activity. Does this new facility have the capacity for improving the surrounding community?**

The designers of the building and the city planners wanted to do just that. We are going to be an educational base for providing workshops to help people get jobs or purchasing homes. People who live in public housing may not have had an opportunity to be exposed to certain things. So this center will serve as a bridge between people who can afford better housing and people who cannot afford better housing.

**What’s your favorite part of**

SEE WHITING, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# Neighbors React to Armed Robbery on South Pitt

FROM PAGE 1

In the last two weeks, according to police data, Old Town has experienced an array of criminal activity: 22 incidents of theft, 11 incidents of theft from vehicle, 11 assaults, nine drug offenses, six arrests for people who were drunk in public, four arrests for people who were driving under the influence, three stolen vehicles, two robberies, two cases of disorderly conduct, two people arrested for walking around Old Town an open container of alcohol, one case breaking and entering case and one sexual assault.

But it was the Feb. 7 armed robbery that sparked the concerns of many people who live in Old Town. News of the incident traveled fast, over elliptical machines at the gym and in blast e-mail messages to friends and neighbors. When a neighbor of the victim began organizing a meeting with the Police Department, the event quickly swelled from a living room gathering to a standing-room-only crowd packed into the Old Presbyterian Meeting House's fellowship hall.

"Suddenly something that once seemed safe no longer seems safe," said Susan Swain, who organized the community meeting between Old Town residents and the Police Department. "Logic tells us that with the economy in trouble we could see an increase in crime this year."



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

**The 200 block of South Pitt Street was the scene of a Feb. 7 assault that has frightened many Old Town residents.**

Mindful of the potential for increased crime, city budget officials spared public-safety agencies from the reductions that were made in other areas. Although City

Manager Jim Hartmann suggested cutting more than 120 jobs earlier this month, none of those jobs are in the Police Department. City Council members are actually consid-

ering raising the budget for the police, one of the few city departments that could end up with more money next year. Officers who work in the domestic violence unit, special response unit and the court liaison unit will be moved to patrol.

"In difficult economic climate, crime tends to rise," said Councilman Justin Wilson. "That's why police and fire are the only two major departments that will have increased funding this year."

**GATHERING** at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House for the community meeting this week, Capt. Tammy Hooper assured Old Town residents that their neighborhood was not experiencing a crime spree. She presented a number of year-to-date statistics that showed crime is down compared to this time last year, although she said a number of items have been stolen from purses left in shopping carts at the Whole Foods Market. She assured neighborhood residents that the Police Department has increased patrols in Old Town, and she said one of the best things residents could do to make their neighborhood more safe was to increase lighting.

"You can help that situation by turning your porch light on," said Hooper, who oversees policing in Old Town.

"Amen," said a woman in the front row.

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# PEOPLE



**Executive director of Stratford Hall Paul C. Reber talks with Leslie Ariail at the party last Thursday evening.**



**Alexandria Symphony Board chairman Grady C. Frank talks with friends at the party.**

## Friends of Stratford Hall Gather

**J**ohn and Leslie Ariail opened up their home on Thursday, Feb. 19, for the Friends of Stratford Hall annual reception. Stratford Hall was built in 1738 by Thomas Lee on a bluff overlooking the Potomac River.

This year's event was co-chaired by Mary Elizabeth Duke, Whitney McDonough and Susan Hunt.



**Patricia Montague and Historic Alexandria Foundation president Morgan Delaney.**



**Party host John Ariail and Donnan Wintermute.**

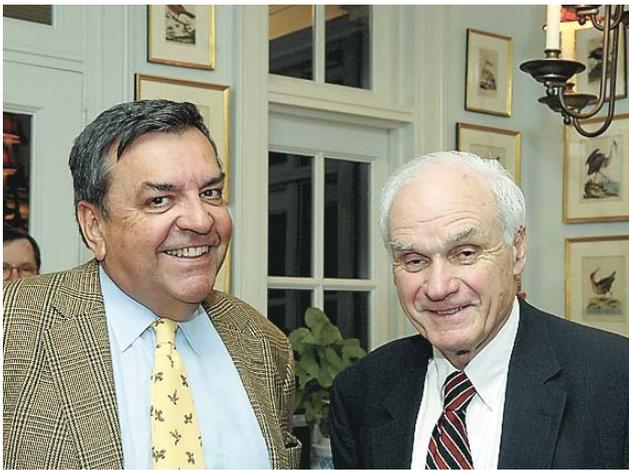


**Burgess Bradshaw, Maira Holden and Paul Reber of Stratford Hall.**

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE



**Anne Paul and Amy Heiden.**



**Chip Andrews and Dick Hobson.**



**Chris Andrews, Mary Elizabeth Duke and her mother Ann Paul.**



**Osborne Mackie and Susan Anthony.**



**Michael and Burgess Bradshaw and Maira Holden of Stratford Hall.**



**Catherine Stanish, Kay Hobson and her daughter Hartley Wensing.**

NEWS

# State of The City

FROM PAGE 4

City Council members are now considering a proposed budget that's \$18 million less than the one adopted the previous year, with about 30 city employees facing layoffs and many others facing an increased workload and pay freezes as the city sheds more than 120 positions. Although the city's unemployment rate of 3.6 percent is about a percentage and a half point higher than December 2007, it still compares favorably to the national unemployment rate of 7.6 percent. Yet city officials have become increasingly concerned about the sluggish real-estate market — the city's main source of revenue — which showed a decline of 22 percent in sales over the last year, with the average sales prices decreasing by 6.4 percent.

"While this current recession is expected to last well into 2009 and possibly longer, the fact that it is already a year old gives hope that we are closer to the end of the recession than we are to the beginning," wrote City Manager Jim Hartmann in a recent assessment of the city's financial condition. "However, the current events, severity and nature of the recession make historical comparisons less reliable than in the past."

## Whiting

FROM PAGE 4

the new center?

I love cyber café because that reaches a teen audience. It's a social place, a gathering place, where people talk or socialize or just have fun. More specifically it's a place where teens can say, "This is my space." Sometimes teenagers feel like they don't have their own space, but we planned for this to be their social gathering space.

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## KEEPING SHOP

# Notables: 'Opportunity of a Lifetime'

**F**rancesca Trigiani Noone, owner of Notables, Inc., describes her life's journey: "I grew up in a small town in southwest Virginia called Big Stone Gap. I left there to attend college at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind. and moved to Alexandria shortly after graduation. I worked in retail management for several years where I found my love for stationery and the written word. With a business plan in hand and a strategy for a business model that was unique, I searched for the perfect location, but was sidetracked by meeting the man that I would eventually marry. Life took us temporarily into a different place where my idea was put on the back burner.

"Several years later after marrying my husband Tom, and having three children, the opportunity of a lifetime arose. A friend who had a similar shop put her business up for sale ... I contacted her and sealed the deal within a couple of weeks. At the time I was pregnant with my fourth child, but was excited the day that I walked into the store and haven't felt any different since that moment. The move into Old Town was long awaited and comes after building a business that was ready for the next step.

"My husband Tom teaches 7th grade language arts at Saint Mary's School in Old Town, where he fortunately gets to live his passion every day. Our four children all at-

### Notables, Inc.

**Address:** 805 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
**Years at this address:** Notables has recently moved into Old Town and previously we were located just off Quaker Lane and King Street.

**Years in business:** Notables has been in business since 1991 and started as a home based business.

**Telephone:** 703-549-3555

**E-mail address:** sales@notablesinc.com

**Web site:** <http://www.notablesinc.com/>

**Owner:** Francesca Trigiani Noone

tend school there — Anna Christina is 8, Matthew is 7, Mary Alessandra is 6 and Anthony is 4 and attends the Pre-K program. We have lived just south of Old Town for close to 10 years."

### Why did you choose this particular business?

After spending time in retail, I knew that I loved it and was hooked. After working in management in a stationery/party store in Maryland for several years, I knew that it was time to move on. I remember very vividly sitting in the back of the store by myself very early one morning and saying to myself — "what is my favorite part of this job?" From that "ah ha" moment, came the concept for the store that I ultimately wanted to create .... I knew that I wanted to work for myself and I knew that I wanted to do something that made people happy. I

couldn't think of a better creative outlet than Notables ... for myself it is a great opportunity to celebrate life's most special occasions with others .... I have learned that nothing comes easily; that you can't ever please all of the people all of the time; and — most importantly, that just because you own your own business, you still have to take the garbage out!

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

The "ah ha" moment was a long time coming. Being the product of parents who always owned their own businesses, I knew that would be something that I would ultimately undertake. The "ah ha" moment was one in which the realization hit me quite suddenly. I wanted the opportunity to create a retail environment on my own — and be able to put my mark on it. I yearned for the ability to work with customers on my terms and bend the rules when necessary.

### What have you learned from being in business?

Notables is an exclusive stationery boutique specializing in fine stationery for life's occasions. We are unique in the level of ser-



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

### Francesca Checka Noone

vice that we offer. We strive to provide our customers with outstanding service and expertise on etiquette and the product that we carry. We are open for appointments daily and strive to accommodate our customer's schedules by requesting appointments for their privacy; and additionally it allows us to provide an environment where they have our complete attention.

### Professional affiliations/associations:

Currently, I am a member of the Board of Directors of The Campagna Center; am active at St. Mary's Catholic Church; serve as the president of the Washington DC Alumnae Association for Saint Mary's College; and am a member of Ladies Who Launch.

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For more information, please call Jacqueline Levy at 703.838.4227 or visit [alexandriava.gov/communications](http://alexandriava.gov/communications).



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Marty Mullen



Pat Grant



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## Three Steps on Health Care

**Smoking restrictions, SCHIP, Cobra subsidies should lead to a healthier Virginia.**

**F**or a minute, some would be forgiven for wondering if we were still in Virginia. A smoking ban for many bars and restaurants? In Virginia? Amazing.

Long overdue, the result will be a healthier environment for many employees of bars and restaurants who have toiled for years while breathing in a carcinogenic soup. It's never appropriate to say that wait staff, bartenders and others can "choose" to work in places that are smoke-free if they want to. In the current economy, the current job market, anyone who has a job knows they need to hang onto it if they can.

It's up to the state to ensure that employees work in a safe environment, and Virginia's new smoking restrictions are a good step in that direction.

The new rules will also benefit many busi-

nesses. In other areas, restaurant business has actually increased after smoking bans went into effect as more families and other people who were avoiding smoke-filled rooms come out to enjoy the newly cleared air.

**SCHIP:** All of Northern Virginia's members of Congress voted to reauthorize and expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a step for healthier children and families here. The SCHIP program helps states provide health insurance coverage to uninsured children, providing health insurance to children and some parents with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid, but who can't afford private health insurance. The SCHIP Reauthorization bill expands health coverage to 55,000 uninsured Virginia children who do not qualify for Medicaid, in addition to the 155,000 children statewide already covered by the SCHIP program.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) helps to extend health coverage to children in low-income working families with incomes above the cut-off for Medicaid coverage. Enacted in 1997, this program operates under the FAMIS (Family Access to Medical Insurance Security). Families are eli-

gible for this program with incomes up to twice (200 percent), of the federal poverty level. For example, in Virginia a family of four can make up to \$41,300 a year and still be eligible for FAMIS.

**COBRA:** As part of the economic stimulus bill recently passed in Congress, the Federal government will pay for 65 percent of the costs of continuing health insurance for people who lose their jobs. Going into effect March 1, the rule applies to people who lost their jobs or will lose their jobs involuntarily between last September 2008 and the end of 2009. (The subsidy is not retroactive; employees will be offered another chance to enroll in COBRA however.) Health insurance is available for terminated employees under COBRA, but without the subsidy, many unemployed people cannot afford the high premiums. The former employers will be required to pay the 65 percent, with the former employee paying 35 percent. Employers will be "reimbursed" by the Federal program by reducing their payroll taxes by that amount.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## A Time To Celebrate and Rededicate

BY MARY ANNE WEBER  
CHAIR, COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

**F**orty years ago in March of 1969, the city of Alexandria created the Community Services Board, a group of 16 volunteers whose job was to oversee the city's Mental Health, Intellectual Disabilities and Substance Abuse programs. It was one of 40 such boards to be created across the state and the wording was simple in the Virginia code.

"Every city or county or any combination of counties and cities, ... shall establish a community services board with no less than six and no more than 18 members. When any city or county singly establishes a community services board, the board shall be appointed by the governing body of the city or county establishing the board."

The job was not so simple. As time changed, those



**Mary Anne Weber**

with mental illnesses and those with intellectual disabilities were more and more remaining in their communities. As children they were now entitled to go to public school. As adults some would continue to need help in their care, their housing, their jobs and their schooling in order to remain in the community and part of the community. Those dealing with substance abuse problems also

needed help on the road to recovery, one that could be plagued with setbacks, just as any illness can. And then there were those trying to cope with both a mental illness and an intellectual disability. The population served by the CSB ranged from infants at risk

SEE CBS, PAGE 27

## Reaching That Six Month Milestone

BY DR. MORTON SHERMAN  
ALEXANDRIA SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**A**ccording to many helpful Internet sites, six months is an important milestone in a relationship. Six months often mark the end of the "honeymoon period" when partners are less demanding and more forgiving of each other. Six months is when things get to a new level of comfort and seriousness. Alexandria, we've been together six months now, and it's been amazing!

It feels like only yesterday when Alexandria City Public Schools removed the familiar blue banners declaring full accreditation and began important and courageous conversations about how we measure student achievement. The School Board started the process of creating a long-term strategic plan and established short-term goals for attaining higher



**Morton Sherman**

achievement for each and every student. Community members, parents and ACPS employees provided valuable feedback through my four-question survey. Through letters, e-mail, videos, personal conversations, town hall forums and many meetings, we have gotten to know each other well.

We have come to understand that the best decisions are made from the heart, using evidence, research and data. A new cyclical system for program assessment has been instituted to ensure that what we are doing is working, and to guide us in making adjustments if needed. The creation of a connected high school program for grades 9-12 is one example

SEE MUCH, PAGE 27

## LETTERS Bipartisan Effort Creates Forums

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, May 5, Alexandrians will go to the polls to elect our Mayor and the six members of the Alexandria City Council. Both the Democratic and Republican parties want to ensure that all Alexandrians have the opportunity to interact with the candidates, to ask questions and to express their concerns about City Government.

Together, we have established five Candidates' Forums which will be held throughout the City during March and April.

The dates and venues are:

- ❖ March 18: Social Issues/Non-Profit Organizations Forum, Minnie Howard TC Williams Campus, 7-9 p.m.

- ❖ March 26: Center City Forum, Minnie Howard TC Williams Campus, 7-9 p.m.

- ❖ April 2: Business Issues Form, The Westin Alexandria, Carlyle Center, 7-9 p.m.

- ❖ April 16: West End City Forum, Francis Hammond Middle School, 7-9 p.m.

- ❖ April 22: East End City Forum, George Washington Middle School, 7-9 p.m.

Our hope is that by announcing these Forums early and by giving them the widest publicity possible,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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A Connection Newspaper

# Two Superstars at Next Concert

BY KIM ALLEN KLUGE  
CONDUCTOR, ASO

**W**hat do Andrew Lloyd Webber and superstar saxophonist Branford Marsalis have in common? They are both legendary “cross-over” artists. Webber’s inimitable style is evident in such disparate genres as his rock opera, “Jesus Christ Superstar,” and his liturgically-inspired “Requiem.” You can hear Webber’s “Requiem” during the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra’s “O Lyric Voice” program on March 7 and 8.

**MAESTRO MUSINGS**

The ASO is excited to welcome back Branford Marsalis as the headliner for this special concert in our vocally inspired season. When you look at the program, you will see my name listed amongst the composers—I will be conducting, and the ASO will be performing, my original composition, “Vocalise” for Branford Marsalis. I have long been inspired by Marsalis’ extraordinary versatility as an artist, and with

**Where & When**

See ASO and Branford Marsalis, along with the Metropolitan Chorus & Heritage Signature Chorale on March 7 at 8 p.m. and March 8 at 3 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. \$40-\$70/adult; \$35-\$70/senior; \$20-\$70/student; \$5/youth on Sunday. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or 703-548-0885.

“Vocalise,” I wanted to embody Marsalis’ natural and seamless blending of classical and jazz styles. This piece also strives to express Branford’s sophistication that is always accessible through his intensely melodic style. I wrote “Vocalise” as a tribute to Marsalis’ highly-charged mastery, sensitivity and vocality. Upon receiving the score Branford commented that, “It really does sound like me! Way Cool.”

Mr. Marsalis will also be performing vocally inspired works by Bach, Ibert and others. Ibert began studying the dramatic arts before turning to music. He believed that music was closely linked to the other arts, and it was simply part of a larger emotional response to all aspects of experience. He was a true “cross-over”

**Hosanna  
Hey Sanna Sanna  
Sanna Hosanna  
Hey Sanna Hosanna  
Hey JC, JC won’t you smile at me?  
Sanna Hosanna  
Hey Superstar**

— “Rock Opera,  
Jesus Christ Superstar,”  
Andrew Lloyd Webber

artist long before the term was conceived!

The Metropolitan Chorus, the Heritage Signature Chorale and soloists will be joining the ASO at both performances and I will be sharing the podium with acclaimed conductors Barry Hemphill and Stanley Thurston.

With the talents of Branford Marsalis and the voices of our choral partners, “O Lyric Voice” is a true celebration of the power of lyricism — whether it be sax, symphony ... or the voice itself. See you at the concert!

FROM PAGE 10

we will be able to reach all Alexandrians who want to participate. Every citizen is invited to attend as many of the Forums as they can — the East, West and Center designations are only there to indicate where each Forum is being held. Civic Associations in those areas will be asked to take the lead in helping us to organize the Forums, but everyone should feel welcome to attend any of these events.

We recognize that this a departure from past election cycles when Forums were sponsored by individual groups or civic associations. We believe that this new approach will enable more Alexandrians to feel as if they are included in the election process.

Though we will not schedule any additional Forums, we will consider invitations for “Meet and Greet” events. Groups interested in having informal meetings with all of the candidates should contact both parties to check for available dates. We have agreed that only those events which have been cleared through both parties will be attended by any candidates.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if you wish to sponsor a “Meet and Greet.”

The Republican web site is [www.alexgop.org](http://www.alexgop.org) and the telephone number is 703-823-1801.

The Democratic web site is [www.alexdem.org](http://www.alexdem.org) and the telephone number is 703-549-3367.

**Susan Kellom**  
Chair, Alexandria  
Democratic Committee  
**Chris Marston**  
Chair, Alexandria  
Republican City Committee

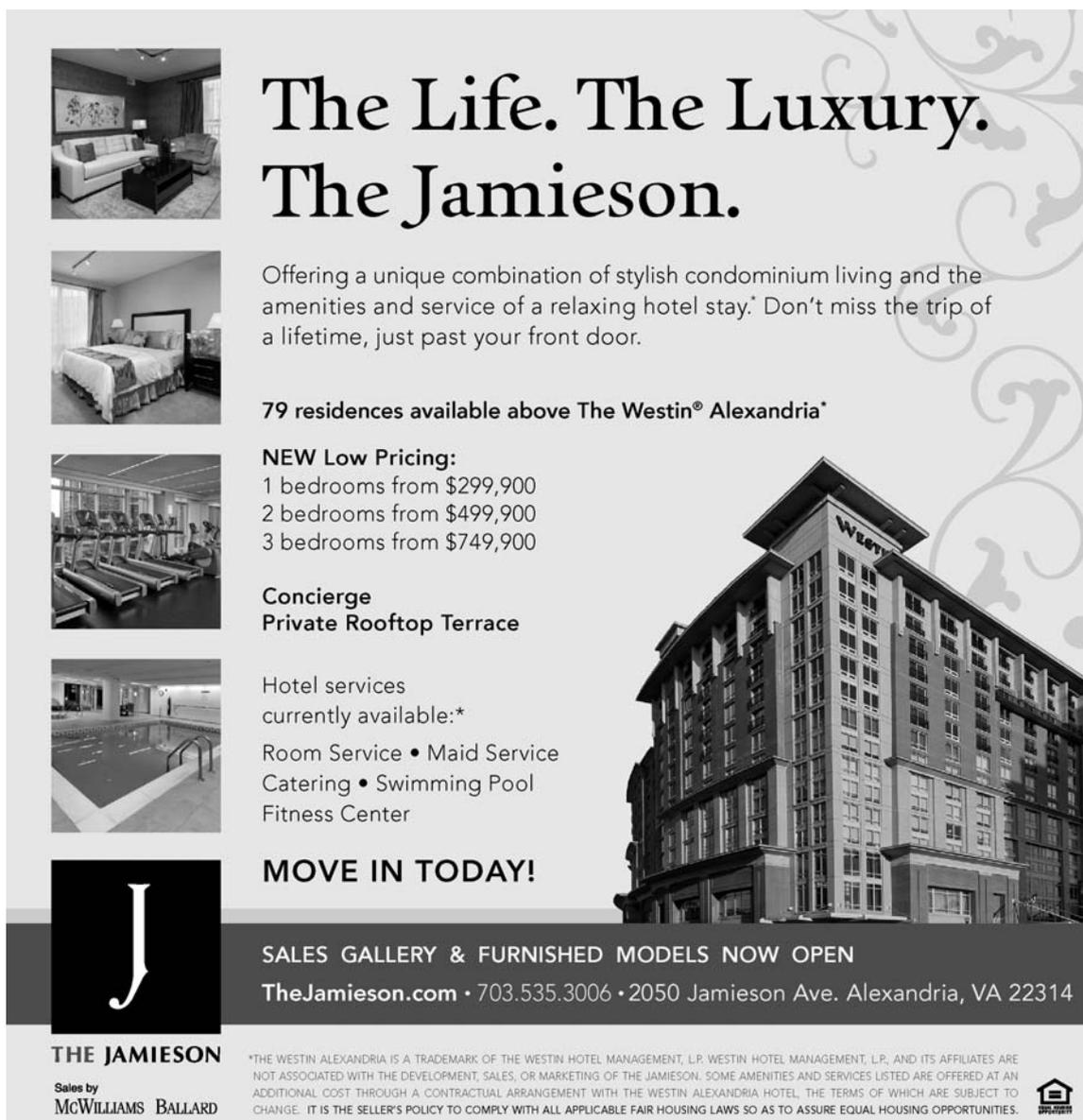
## Trapped in Highway Gridlock

To the Editor:

Brian Moran, Alexandria’s own leading candidate for Governor of the Commonwealth, was unduly criticized for not appearing at the annual breakfast of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association in the Feb. 19 issue of the Gazette Packet.

Yes, Mr. Moran did miss his appearance at the Feb. 16 event at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites. But, this was not on purpose. Quite frankly, he was caught up in one of Northern Virginia’s most

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 28



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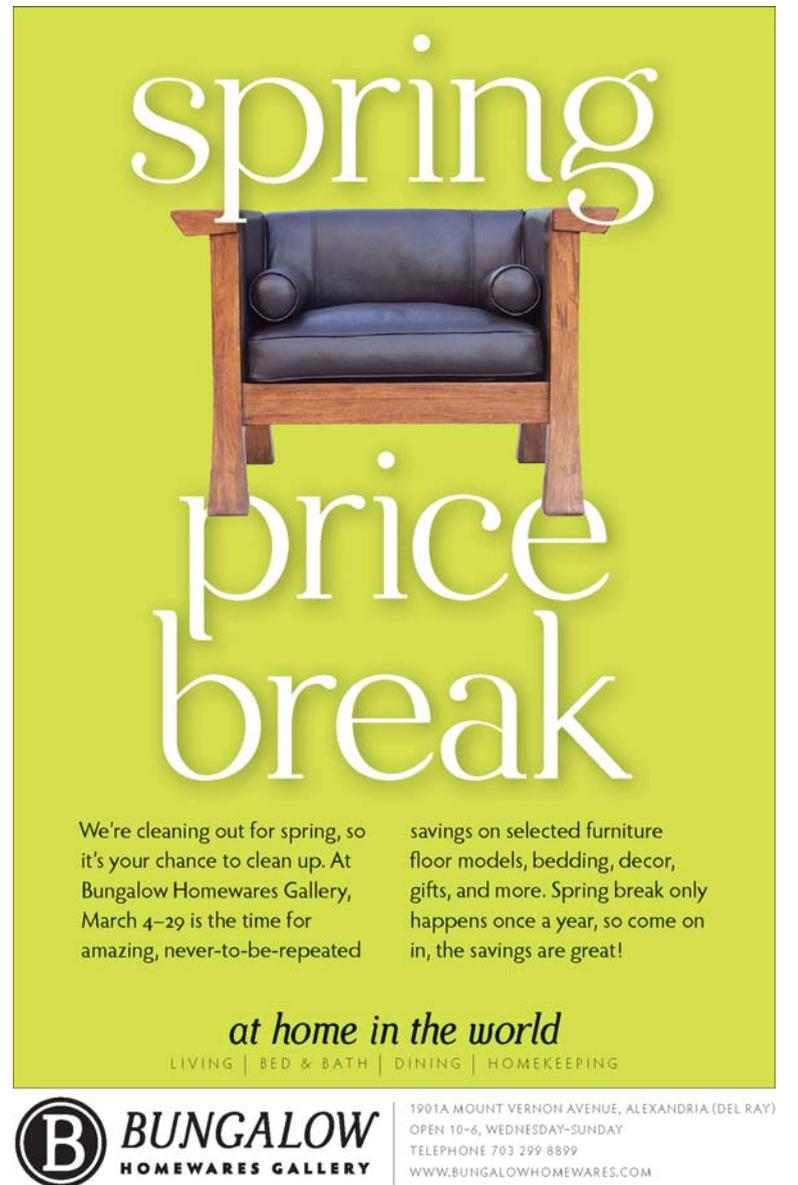
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# OBITUARIES

## Jack Saunders Owen

Jack Saunders Owen, Colonel AUS-Ret, 93, of Alexandria, died Feb. 10, 2009, surrounded by his wife and family members. He was the beloved husband of Dorothy R. Owen for 66 years, and the beloved father of three children, Robert Owen, John Owen, and Genie Safriet.

Born on Jan. 29, 1916, in Bedford County, Va., a son of the late Robert Quarles and Eugenia Saunders Owen, he was educated in the Bedford public schools, followed by graduation in 1938 from VPI in Blacksburg, Va. as a second lieutenant infantry officer with a bachelor of science in business. While at VPI, he was a member of Company B in the Corps of Cadets and was captain of the tennis team.

After graduation, he worked as a sales representative for Burroughs, and then entered active military service as a First Lieutenant in July 1941. Transferred to Fort Bragg, N.C., he met and married Dorothy Riley on May 15, 1942. During World War II, he served in London, England, and Paris, France in the Adjutant General Corps. While in Paris, he was the Head of Graves Registration; he received numerous awards for his World War II military service, including the VIC medal.

Upon his return from Europe, he became a military intelligence officer and studied Greek at the Presidio Army Language School in Monterey, Calif. prior to his position of Assistant to the Greek Military Attaché in Athens, Greece. He was awarded the Saint George Award for distinguished service in Greece. After the tour in Athens, he was stationed at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. during the 1956 Middle East crisis. He was in charge of the Army Middle East Intelligence Division where he often presented critical information to the Joint Chiefs of



Jack Saunders Owen

Staff. In 1958, he was assigned to Headquarters USEUCOM in Paris, France, where he served in military intelligence for the next three years.

Following a distinguished 20-year career in the Army, he retired on July 31, 1961 at the rank of colonel, and on September 15, 1961 became a financial advisor for Prudential Securities Incorporated, now Wachovia Securities. He worked 42 years for this company, retiring in September 2003. During this time he became vice president of investments in the Washington, D.C. office and was recognized as one of the top producers for many years.

Through his disciplined hard work, faithful church attendance, sense of humor, determination to do his best, commitment to family, and unbeatable game of tennis, he taught his family many lessons about how to live our lives. He was an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Alexandria and was a member of the George Washington Chapter of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution.

A man of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the family is comforted in knowing that he is in the loving arms of God.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Owen, his sons and their wives Robert Owen and Lyn, John Owen and Beth, his daughter and her husband, Genie Safriet and Philip, grandchildren Mark Owen, Nathan Owen, Stephen Owen, Annie Stinson, and Riley Edwards, and great grandchildren Owen Stinson and Alice Stinson.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, at Trinity United Methodist Church, Alexandria. Internment with Full Military Honors will be held on April 21, 2009, at 3 p.m. at the Arlington National Cemetery.

## Carl von Sternberg

Forty-year Alexandria resident, Carl von Sternberg, 80, died after suffering a heart attack on Feb. 18, 2009 at his corporate headquarters for Allen Corporation, in Fairfax, Va. A 1951 graduate of Yale University, majoring in Industrial Administration, Mr. von Sternberg began his career in management positions with the U.S. Rubber Company, Boeing and The Matrix Corporation.

In 1969 Mr. von Sternberg and Matrix Executive Vice President Frank Manning started a new company in Alexandria called The Essex Corporation, a behavioral science and training organization. Mr. von Sternberg, as chief operating officer, initiated a period of aggressive growth which continued well after he left Essex in 1975 to start a new company. Essex went public a short time thereafter.

An entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. von Sternberg launched his first company from Alexandria in 1975 with an investment of \$3,000. The company grew to 600 employees over the following decade, and was sold to the Singer Company, a prime rival for the Federal training program in which Mr. von Sternberg specialized at the time. His second company, Star Mountain, Inc. was launched from Alexandria in 1987, growing rapidly to a staff of over 500 and spanned 30 locations, coast to coast. The company was sold to Provant, a Boston company seeking expansion of its training organization.

His current company, Allen Corporation, Inc., was created in July of 2000, and he continued his acquisitions as CEO from his Fairfax headquarters until his death.

Mr. von Sternberg co-founded The Augmented Seven, an extant Yale singing group. His leisure time passions included fishing and hunting game at his farm in Mercersburg, Penn., where he spent most weekends.

Mr. von Sternberg was born in Keene, New York on Nov. 2, 1928. He leaves behind his wife of 15 years, Janet, of Alexan-



Carl von Sternberg

dria; his children Kurt in Omaha, Nebraska, Mark and his wife, Lisa, in Mercersburg, Penn., Leanna and Allena of Arlington; grandchildren Ashley, Paul JR., Riley and Tristan; and three great-grandchildren. Two of his children, Paul and Milly, preceded him in death. Also surviving is his sister, Fran DiSiervi and ex-wives Barbara Reves, Louise von Sternberg and Millicent von Sternberg.

Funeral services will be held at Demane Funeral Home in Old Town, Alexandria on Friday, Feb. 27, at 11 a.m. Visitation will be available from 10 – 11 a.m. Burial will be in Mercersburg, Penn.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in the name of Carl von Sternberg to either The American Heart Association, online at AmericanHeart.org or to The Campagna Center in Old Town, Alexandria, online at campagnacenter.org, 418 South Washington Street or via telephone at 703-549-0111.

## Patrick Schurman

Patrick Michael Schurman, 68, of Alexandria, died on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009 in Arlington. He was the owner of Patrick Schurman Painting and Decorating Company. He is survived by his sons, Keith Michael Schurman and Patrick Brian Schurman; his daughter, Sheryl Elizabeth Schurman; his brothers, Robert Keene Schurman and Michael Richard Schurman (Debbie).

A memorial service was held on Monday, Feb. 23 at Cunningham Funeral Home, 811 Cameron St. Internment will be held on Friday, Feb. 27 at 9 a.m. at Arlington National Cemetery.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### OTHER ITEMS

The City of Alexandria is offering **free tax preparation** assistance to qualified residents during the 2009 tax season. Tax preparation sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturdays, beginning Feb. 7, and from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, **beginning Feb. 11, through April 15**. The sessions will be held in the lobby of the Alexandria Department of Human Services, 2525 Mount Vernon Ave. Contact Suzanne Kratzok, coordinator of community resources, at 703-838-0762 (703-836-1493 TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the session residents wish to attend.

The Alexandria Historical Society is calling for nominations for the **2009 Alexandria History Award**, to be presented to a person or persons who have made noteworthy contributions

to the preservation of the historic, cultural, and artistic heritage of Alexandria. Nominations should be mailed by March 9 to the Office of Historic Alexandria, 220 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. For more information, contact Douglas Thurman of Alexandria Historical Society at 703-548-7052.

Participate in the **ALIVE! Online Auction through March 8**. The ALIVE! Online Auction will be part of a series of events marking ALIVE!'s 40 year history. The ALIVE! Auction site will be open and accessible from the menu at <http://ALIVE!.inc.org/>.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 28

**Campaign Kickoff.** The Dana Lawhorne for Sheriff Re-Election kickoff event will take place 2 - 4 p.m. at Atlantis Pizza, located at 3648 King St. in Bradlee Shopping Center.

**Workshop.** 10 a.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church, 2501 Beacon Hill Road. William Kovatch, Jr. presents

"When Elderly Parents Move In: What You Should Know From a Legal Perspective." Free. 703-765-8255.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 1

**Web Design for Children.** 1 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Students age 8-14 can learn about how to design their own Web sites. \$200/child for the 5-week course. Register by calling 703-548-0035.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11

**Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. at First Christian Church, 2723 King St. The Alexandria NAMI/FOCUS families meeting is for families of all those suffering with depression, bipolar or schizophrenia. Free. 571-451-0773.

### ONGOING

**Hopkins House** [www.hopkinshouse.org](http://www.hopkinshouse.org) provides preschool services for children and offers family education workshops for parents. 703-539-4232 ext. 4086.

## NEIGHBORHOOD

### Clover-College Park

Clover-College Park, the Alexandria neighborhood Gerald and Betty Ford called home for over 20 years, is buzzing with activity. This Saturday, Feb. 28, the Clover-College Park Civic Association (CCPCA) has arranged a "Crime Prevention Presentation" by the Alexandria Police Department. The event will begin at 10 a.m. and will be held in Bishop Ireton's Cafeteria (enter at the lower parking lot). Refreshments will be served. To attend, please RSVP to John Irvine, CCPCA President, by calling 703-820-4784 or e-mailing [ji@TugboatPR.com](mailto:ji@TugboatPR.com).

CCPCA will hold its second Board of Directors meeting of the year on March 11 at 7 p.m. in the MacArthur School Cafeteria. The meeting is open to Clover-College Park residents.

Activities: In 2009, CCPCA will be hosting a few new events including the 1st Annual Watermelon Eating & Seed Spitting Contest in July, as well as the Spring Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 11 at 11 a.m. in the MacArthur School Cafeteria. Hope to see you soon in the neighborhood!

— DOROTHY MULLIGAN

## HISTORY

# History and War in Human Terms

Getting to know those who bled for the birth of a nation as seen in the exhibit "George Washington and His Generals."

By CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE PACKET

In a letter to the president of Congress, dated Sept. 24, 1776, General George Washington said, "There is nothing that gives a man consequence, and renders him fit for command, like a support that renders him independent of everybody but the State he serves."

That statement could well serve as the guiding principle of the new exhibit which opened Feb. 21 in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum at Mount Vernon Estate. Entitled "George Washington & His Generals," it focuses on the conduct of the American Revolutionary War through the style and perceptive leadership of its commander-in-chief and the general officers who served with him.

Co-sponsored by The Society of the Cincinnati, it contains more than 120 painting, prints, personal artifacts, and manuscripts associated with 17 of the 81 generals of the Continental and French armies that fought their way from New England to Yorktown against the British, the greatest military force of the 18th century.

In addition to Mount Vernon and The Society, the exhibit draws from nearly 40 of the

nation's foremost fine arts museums, historical societies, and private collections. It offers an insight to the men and their personal strengths and weaknesses as much as to the conduct and battles of the war itself.

"This exhibit is very different for us at Mount Vernon. Our traditional focus has been on George Washington's home life and his plantation. This show concentrates on the action of the 18th century," said James C. Rees, executive director, Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, in kicking off a press pre-

**"This exhibit is very different for us at Mount Vernon."**

—James C. Rees, executive director, Mt. Vernon Estate & Gardens

view show Feb. 18. It will run through Jan. 10, 2010.

"That is why we have joined with The Society of the Cincinnati. We hope to expose many of the personalities of those generals and how Washington dealt with that mix through this exhibit," Rees said.

"We talk about our revolution more than any other people in the world talk about their revolution, if they have had one. But, we tend to focus on the philosophy and rationale behind it rather than the battles and the men who commanded those battles," said Jack Duane Warren, Jr., executive director, The Society of the Cincinnati, based in Washington, D.C.

"We tend to lose sight of the fact that the Revolutionary War was made up of people who were prepared to give their lives for the cause. And, many of them did," he said.

"No American war since has produced such a diverse group of general officers. Our Revolutionary War, in many ways, is a great romantic drama where the soldiers' lives are re-

flected through their deeds," Warren said.

"Many of Washington's generals had far more military experience than he did. And, in some cases, at the beginning, they resented him being commander-in-chief," he said.

"Washington's strength and brilliance was

that he learned from his mistakes and he built a hard core of leaders around him that he trusted. By the end of the war, in his farewell address, he referred to them as his Band of Brothers," Warren said.

**THE EXHIBIT** presents a comprehensive and realistic look into the trials and tribulations of the war as well as its ultimate success in the final major battle at Yorktown. It also highlights the so-called southern campaign which commenced in 1779—the battles of the south that are not well known.

It also portrays many of Washington's frustrations and exasperation with some of his generals and command officers, highlighted by the betrayal of Gen. Benedict Arnold, a Washington favorite until his treason, and the failure of Gen. Charles Lee at the Battle of Monmouth Court House, which led to the end of his military career. The latter is portrayed in the exhibit's largest and most striking painting done in 1857 by American artist Emanuel Leutze.

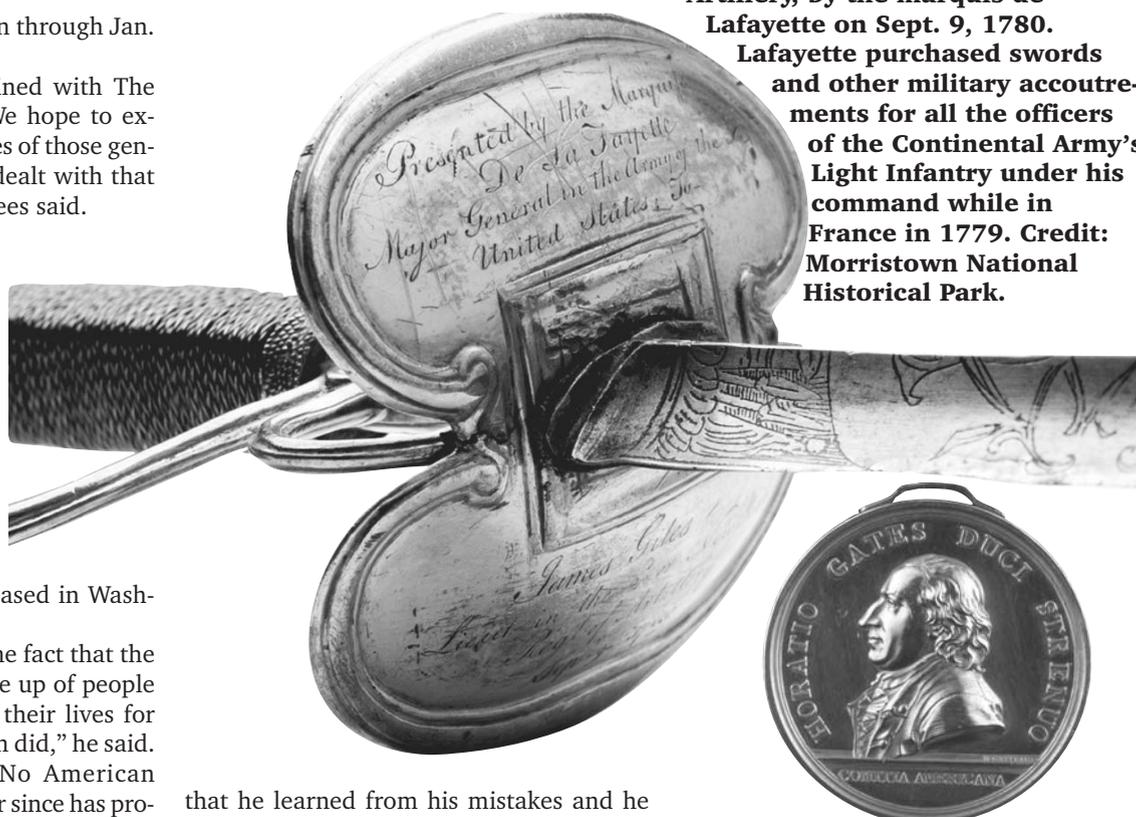
Those frustrations were often conveyed to others through Washington's letters,

REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF  
THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

**The Diamond Eagle, originally drawn by Pierre Charles L'Enfant and created by Duval and Francastel of Paris, bears the image of Cincinnatus, the Roman citizen soldier who refused to become a dictator after leading his armies to victory, on both sides and is suspended from a blue and white ribbon — representing France and America in the war against the British.**

**Detail of inscription on the hilt of a French sword, ca. 1750-1770, recording its presentation to Lt. James Giles, 2nd Continental Artillery, by the marquis de Lafayette on Sept. 9, 1780.**

**Lafayette purchased swords and other military accoutrements for all the officers of the Continental Army's Light Infantry under his command while in France in 1779. Credit: Morristown National Historical Park.**



**Comitia Americana medal, Horatio Gates at Saratoga, 1777, engraved by Nicolas-Marie Gatteaux, Paris, France, 1787. Gates was one of Washington's most controversial generals. His victory at Saratoga in October 1777 prompted some to suggest he should replace Washington as commander in chief. Credit: New York Historical Society.**

which he penned, on average, four a day throughout the eight years of battle. One statement, captured in the exhibit, illustrates his concern. "I am now embroiled on a tempestuous ocean from which perhaps no friendly harbor is to be found," Washington wrote in June 1775 as he attempted to create a citizen army and met many of his generals for the first time in Cambridge, Mass.

The exhibit is divided into nine categories emphasizing different phases of the war and the generals who played significant roles in each phase. As visitors enter the exhibit they are greeted by a large display highlighted by a portrait of Washington and explaining his leadership challenge upon receiving his commission as commander-in-chief on June 15, 1775.

Moving clockwise, visitors are introduced to exhibits under the headings of First Generals, Martyred Heroes, Trusted Lieutenants, Critics, Rivals and a Betrayer, Foreign Volunteers, Rising Leaders, The Grand Alliance, and, finally, Republican Heroes. In each case the theme is captured through artifacts, writings, paintings and the spirit of the moment.

SEE GEORGE, PAGE 20

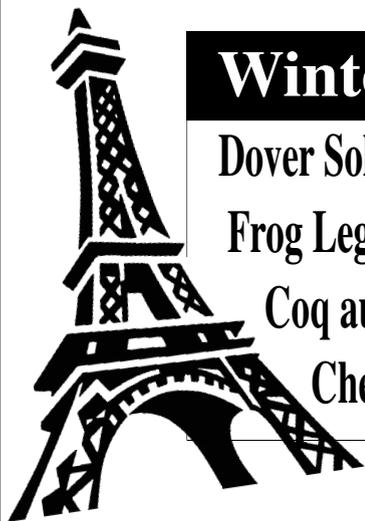


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## CALENDAR

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

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

The public can participate in the second annual "Alexandria Recreation Games for Healthy Living," 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](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation).

Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services present free **dance workshops** at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, from 3:30-5 p.m. on Feb. 27, March 13, 27, April 10, 24 and May 8. To register, 703-324-4386.

Beginning Feb. 25, the **T.C. Williams High School Planetarium** will welcome the Alexandria community one night each month during the school year for a free hour-long show. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for "A Night With the Stars," which will run from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Advance

registration, required, may be completed online at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/planetarium/> or by calling the planetarium at 703-824-6805, extension 6300.

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

Children enter a world of fantasy and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during Mount Vernon's storytelling session, "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon," held every Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. in March at the Hands-On History room in the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center. "Working Together" is the theme for March's storytelling sessions. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15; youth ages 6-11, \$7; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit [MountVernon.org](http://MountVernon.org) or 703-780-2000.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 27

**Opening Reception.** 7-9 p.m. The Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., presents "Object D'Art," a juried exhibition designed to challenge the artists' creative energy by reaching beyond comfort-zones and exploring new styles and new mediums. The exhibit runs Feb. 27 through March 22. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) or 703-838-4827.

**Time for 2s.** 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900.

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The United States Air Force Band plays music for the brass quintet. Free. Visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.

**Lunch Bunch.** Noon at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Birth to age 5 can bring lunch and enjoy stories. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 28

**Book Discussion.** 2 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Kay Karim will discuss crafting and publishing a family cookbook. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

**Dance Party.** 3-7:30 p.m. at MVUC, 1909 Windmill Lane. Families can enjoy dancing, stories and more. \$7.99/person. All ages. For tickets visit [www.rockandroll.joytroupe.com](http://www.rockandroll.joytroupe.com).

**Railroad Days.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. See miniature towns, Thomas the Tank Engine, Lego trains and more. Free. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) or 703-838-4994.

**Majestic Eagles.** 10:30 a.m. or 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.

**Symposium.** 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Enjoy the 2009 EcoSavvy Gardening Symposium. \$45/person optional \$12 for boxed lunch. 703-642-5173 to register.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

THE HISTORIC  
**Lincoln Theatre**  
1215 U Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009  
[www.lovetheLincoln.com](http://www.lovetheLincoln.com) • 202-328-6000

February 28, 2009  
JSK PRESENTS  
**Dance Fusion**  
Tickets: \$20 - \$25

**Dance-Fusion** is a unique South Asian dance competition that fuses various dance styles with developing genres of music. The spirit, the energy, and the moves that surround Dance-Fusion make the competition one-of-a-kind. Dance Fusion strives to bring together diverse cultures, one beat at a time.

March 5, 2009  
THE LINCOLN THEATRE PRESENTS  
**Emerging Voices**  
Playwright Competition  
Performances  
SPONSORED BY VERIZON

Competition winners present their original one-act plays for one night only.  
Doors: 6:15 PM Event: 7:00 PM  
Tickets: FREE - Limited Seating  
Please RSVP via email: [rsvp@thelincolntheatre.org](mailto:rsvp@thelincolntheatre.org)

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra  
Kim Allen Kluge, Music Director

\$5 youth tickets (8-18) for the Sunday matinee!

Saturday Evening March 7, 2009 8:00 P.M.  
Sunday Matinee March 8, 2009 3:00 P.M.

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... A Symphonic Season  
Inspired by the Voice!

With Heritage Signature Chorale and The Metropolitan Chorus:  
Schubert *Mass in Eb*, selections  
Webber *Requiem*

With Branford Marsalis, saxophone:  
Bach *Aria*  
Ibert *Concertino for Saxophone*  
Kluge *Vocalise for Branford*

Call 703-548-0885 or visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) to reserve your seats

Featuring the return of  
**Branford Marsalis**

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center  
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**9305**  
Mt Vernon Cir  
\$985,900

*Prestigious!*  
Stately Colonial boasts 5BRs (with rare main level suite), 4.5BA, stunning updated

kitchen, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail, oversized side-load garage and breathtaking sunroom overlooks gorgeous grounds. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in Mt Vernon on the Potomac – a premier waterfront community with private marina! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Ferry Lndg Rd, R Mt Vernon Cir.



**9405**  
Ferry Lndg Ct  
\$795,000  
*Magnificent Setting!*

Stately Colonial on highly desirable quiet cul-de-sac near

the river. Traditional exterior is complimented by bright, sunny interior opening to spectacular sun room. Large room sizes, updated baths, elegant trim detail, oversized garage and absolutely pristine condition on beautifully landscaped half acre grounds! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Ferry Lndg Rd, R Ferry Lndg Ct.



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

Prime Mt Vernon location with the most breathtaking river views you have ever seen!

Over 11,000 sq ft with five bedrooms including main level river view master suite with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Old Mt Vernon Rd, L Rive Dr, R Belle Rive Terr.



**4203**  
Adrienne Dr  
\$459,000

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

home on 3/4 acre lot! High ceilings, thermal windows, updated kitchen & baths, gas fireplace, walk out LL, new a/c unit, 2 car garage, 5 zone sprinkler sys, custom deck with gazebo & hot tub overlook park-like setting. Nothing like it in the area close to this price! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, R Old Mt Vernon, L Adrienne.



**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!



**8304**  
Riverton Ln  
\$845,000  
*Stunning!*

Victorian home combines farm house exterior with stunning open interior.

Three finished levels, 4BR, 3.5BA, hardwood floors and spectacular kitchen with custom wood cabinets, granite counters and center island. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac within walking distance to highly regarded Stratford Landing and Sandburg schools.



**3232**  
Woodland Ln  
\$649,900

*Water Access!*  
Truly special home on half acre lot just steps from community water access! Bright,

open floor plan, 5BR, 3.5BA, updated eat-in kitchen, replacement thermal windows, oversized two car carport and major updated items. Stunning sunroom built in 2006 overlooks landscaped grounds in prime location just off GW Pkwy. Priced \$40,000 below tax assessment!



**4212**  
Dandridge Terr  
\$575,000

*Prestigious Southwood!*  
Price slashed! A \$700,000 home for just \$575,000! Nothing like it on

the market today! Owner paid \$699,900 in 2005 and added \$30K in upgrades. Classic Center Hall Colonial in pristine condition has three finished levels including full walk-out lower level. Oversized two car garage, gorgeous lot on cul-de-sac – stunning value!



**4300**  
Neptune Dr  
\$497,000  
*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.



**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.



**Bramble Lane**  
\$969,900  
FREE FINISHED BASEMENT FOR FIRST 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.)



**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!

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**818 BASHFORD LANE**  
Old Town  
New at Nethergate - \$619,900

A SNOWDEN MODEL! The one you have been waiting for . . . brick end TH with parking at door, updated country kitchen with island, all new marble baths, private patio with fountain, 3 BR, 2.5BA, LR FP, FP wood stove, sunny house beautiful décor. Close to DC.



ReneeSellsAlexandria.com  
Renee Raymond 703.507.5330



**1250 S WASHINGTON ST. #608**  
Alex / Porto Vecchio - \$495,000

PENTHOUSE LIVING in this elegant & spacious 1Br w/sunny solarium & custom decorator touches. Panoramic vistas of the Potomac & country club can be enjoyed from every room! LR boasts a wood burning FP & formal DR can easily convert into a study. This small res bldg offers excellent security, convenient 1 lvl living & outstanding amenities!



Pat Tierney 703.850.5630



**1617 B HUNTING CREEK DRIVE**  
Old Town - \$549,000

Sun-splashed 3Br/2.5Ba condo will wow you. Excellent layout maximizes space and has good flow for entertaining and living. Very clean, featuring FP, charming deck off Kit, LOTS of storage space, attached 1-car garage. Community features pool, tot lot, tennis and plenty of parking. Minutes to OT, airport, Del Ray. PRICED TO MOVE!



OPEN SUN. 1-4  
Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



**1820 T STREET, NW #6**  
WDC, Dupont - \$749,000

Stunning tree top views from this loft style 2-lvl condo. Hdwd floors, 2Br, 2 renovated Ba, Gourmet Kit w/BB, wood burning FP & wood stove in loft Br. Perfect for entertaining or stargazing from the 200 sq ft penthouse deck. Move in ready. 1 reserved parking space conveys.



OPEN SUN. 1-4  
THE CAREY TEAM  
Sean Satkus/Kendra Carey  
703.731.8086



**1311 ORONOCO STREET**  
Alexandria / Parker Gray  
Historic District - \$459,900

GREAT LOCATION! 2 blocks to METRO. 2 Br / 2 Ba. Updated 3 level brick townhouse. 1 off street parking space / great lot.



**115 EAST NELSON AVENUE**  
Alexandria / Del Ray - \$559,000

SOOO . . . . . ADORABLE! Perfect bungalow for the price of a condo. 2 finished levels. 2Br / 2Ba.



**3 EAST CUSTIS AVENUE**  
Alexandria / Del Ray - \$399,000

GREAT STARTER HOME! Fabulous lot, 3 level / 2 bedroom townhouse. Great potential!



Martine Irmer 703.346.7283



**2400 GRANGE HALL LANE**  
Arlington - \$334,900

WELL MAINTAINED 4Br/3Ba home with 2 car garage in Apple Grove. 3 finished levels over 3,000 sq ft. Needs some touch up & appliances. REO property.

THE CAREY TEAM  
Sean Satkus/Kendra Carey  
703.731.8086



**8817 LINTON LANE**  
Alexandria So / Ft Hunt - \$625,000

PREMIER SHOWING . . . Of this lovely 5 bedroom home. The light, bright renovated kitchen is a delight & a 5th separate bedroom and bath is perfect for guests, in-laws or nanny. From Alex / OT: S GW Pkwy, R Vernon View, L Wakefield, R Linton to 8817



Leah Chapla 703.929.4875



**421 C CAMERON STREET**  
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



OPEN SUN. 1-4  
to King Street, 4 blocks to River. To view this rarely available model located 1/2 block from Gadsby's Tavern and City Hall, please call Philip G. Matyas .

Philip G. Matyas 703.518.8727



**1819 DUFFIELD LANE**  
Belle Haven - \$599,900

BELLE HAVEN ON THE GREEN. Turn key 3 lvl TH w/garage on prime lot backing to woods. 3 - 4 BR, 3.5 BA, open floor plan, new granite and SS, kitchen opens to DR & LR w/FP, rec room & spacious tiered patio. Updated throughout. \$40K in extras NOT INCLUDED in price. Only one light to Old Town & GW Parkway. Owner / Agent.



OPEN SUN. 1-4  
Francena Alvarez 804.690.1618



**6218 A OLD TELEGRAPH ROAD**  
Alexandria - \$639,000

YOUR OWN PRIVATE OASIS! Tucked away on a private drive & cited on .36 acres, this magnificent Wilton Forest Colonial boasts 3 lvls of completely updated living space! 4Br/2.5Ba, 2 car garage, gourmet kitchen, finished LL rec rm w/office, and much more! Move right in today. Enjoy proximity to METRO, Pentagon, Ft. Belvoir & Bway



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



**1123 PORTNER ROAD**  
North Old Town / Nethergate - \$610,000

JUST LISTED! Beautiful 4 level townhouse with completely remodeled kitchen, 2 master suites, updated bathrooms, & lower level family room. This home also has 3 FP, fenced patio & parking. Walk to the METRO, shops, restaurants, the river & more! Perfect for commuters!



Blumel Adams Group  
Dayna Blumel/Kerry Adams  
703.587.7841

www.CBMove.com/Alexandria

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**Open Sunday 1-4**



**5009 Mt Vernon Memorial Hwy | \$899,000**

Spectacular 5 bedroom 4.5 bath Colonial in historic Mount Vernon! Custom built home with all the modern amenities. Grand two story foyer and family room with stone fireplace. Gourmet kitchen with granite, stainless steel appliances, and solid cherry 42" cabinets, custom crown moldings throughout, custom paint, hardwoods, fully finished basement with bedroom, bonus room and full bathroom. On an ample half acre, flat lot that is fully fenced. Large 2 car garage. Water access too! Don't miss this one! [www.5009MtVernon.com](http://www.5009MtVernon.com)

Rachel Carter | 703 851-4207 Mount Vernon

**Open Sunday 1-4**



**6631 Wakefield Drive #708 | \$265,000**

New Price! Two Bedroom, 1.5 Bath condo at River Towers shows like a model. Everything has been done for you. Located on 26 acres backing to wetlands. Ample free parking, convenient location, close to shops, restaurants, George Washington Parkway and bus to Huntington Metro. Great new price, great views and great location. Don't miss this one!

Denise Davis | 571 332-8531 Alexandria S

**New Listing**



**7631 Essex Manor Court | \$1,239,000**

Owners have just completed a beautiful renovation top to bottom. Open and Sunny floor plan. New fiberglass windows, kitchen with granite and SS appliances, baths, hardwood floors throughout main level, designer carpet and closets, high ceilings, 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 2 car garage, study, 2 fireplaces, 2/3 acre in cul de sac with private deck and play set. A perfect home for entertaining. Model home condition.

Phyllis Patterson | 703 518-6158 Alexandria S

**New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4**



**4909 John Ticer Drive | \$940,000**

Spectacular detached cottage home in prime location. Sun-filled with 3,350+ square feet on 3 levels, 4BRs, 3.5BAs, chef's kitchen with granite, SS appliances opens to fabulous great room, high ceilings, custom moldings, gleaming hardwoods, plantation shutters throughout, 2-car garage, et al. Second fam rm on lower level can be 4<sup>th</sup> BR. One half block to beautiful Brenman park, free shuttle to Metro. Photos on [www.paddockhomes.com](http://www.paddockhomes.com).

Vaughn & Diane Paddock | 703 628-2828 Cameron Station

**New Listing—Open Sunday 1-4**



**9216 Presidential Drive | \$569,000**

Welcome home to this charming 5 bedroom/ 3 bath rambler on half-plus acre near historic Mount Vernon. Main level features eat-in kitchen, living room/ dining room with fireplace, a main level master bedroom with bath, and two additional bedrooms with bath. Lower level features family room with fireplace and French doors leading to patio. Two more bedrooms with bath perfect for au pair, guest or teenagers. Located just off GW Parkway, near Potomac River, Old Town and Fort Belvoir.

Cindie Fish | 703 201-4451 Mount Vernon

**New Listing**



**2151 Jamieson Avenue #1111 | \$389,900**

**BEST WASHINGTON DC VIEW at Carlyle!**  
One bedroom, 1.5 bath has separate dining room, breakfast area the 827 square feet). Upgrades include marble foyer & powder room, Berber carpet, larger washer dryer, custom blinds, etc. Enjoy pool, two gyms, tennis courts, putting green, 24-hr security. Just blocks to two metros, shops, movies, restaurants & Whole Foods.

Brenda Stone | 703 615-4862 Alexandria City

**New Listing**



**2121 Jamieson Avenue #1603 | \$739,000**

Absolutely Gorgeous! Beautifully updated & maintained. 2 BD with BD 3/Den end unit with lots of light, one garage space and extra storage. Special custom French doors to glass enclosed balcony, many built-ins! Whirlpool tub, glass enclosed shower, views of Masonic Temple. Condo fee includes swimming pool, two gyms, tennis, 24-hr management and security. Close to two metros, movies, restaurants, shops and Old Town.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703 836-2080 Alexandria City

**New Price Open Sunday 1-4**



**409 North Columbus Street | \$789,000**

Historic Home built in 1890 with 12 foot ceilings, 2 fireplaces, wood floors, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, updated kitchen and fenced-in patio; this brick end townhome had great room sizes and tons of sun! From Washington and King Streets, north on Washington Street, left on Princess Street and right on Columbus Street to 409. Please call Bonnie Rivkin for more information 703.598.7788 [www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com](http://www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com)

Bonnie Rivkin | 703 598-7788 Old Town

**New Listing**



**2151 Jamieson Avenue #1911 | \$387,750**

Fantastic 19th floor panoramic DC Skyline view from Carlyle Towers. One bedroom, 1.5 bath has many upgrades including wood floors, Brand new master bedroom carpet, larger washer/dryer, tiled balcony, custom blinds. 827 square footage does not include the enclosed glass balcony with stunning views, perfect as den or office. Enjoy pool, two gyms, tennis, putting green, 24-hr security. Just blocks to two metros, shops, movies, restaurants & Whole Foods.

Brenda Stone | 703 615-4862 Alexandria City



# Previews International

Marketing the world's premier properties

## New Listing

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**500 South Fairfax Street**  
**\$1,199,000**



Fabulous brick end townhome filled with light and space and a practical floor plan for everyday living. Four bona fide bedrooms and 3.5 baths, two master bedrooms, newly redone kitchen with stainless appliances and granite counters. Private patio with off-street parking— The list goes on. The attic has the capacity to be expanded into living space - the choice is yours. To see more photos, go to [www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com](http://www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com) or call 703.598.7788 for more information or a private showing.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703 598-7788 Old Town, SE

## Coming Soon

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**600 Upland Place**  
**\$1,549,000**

Gorgeous home completely renovated and expanded on a double corner level lot in one of the finest neighborhoods in Alexandria. 5 BR/4BA; gourmet kitchen with Wolf double oven, Sub-Zero refrigerator, granite countertops, and island; two fireplaces; hardwoods and plantation shutters throughout; master suite with balcony; two car garage; and huge backyard with charming playhouse and slate patio. Only blocks to King Street Metro, Starbucks, restaurants, and shops.

Jill Milliken | 703 338-6614 Alexandria  
Sherry York | 703 625-3377

## Open Sunday 1-4

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**1500 Grassymeade Lane**  
**\$899,000**



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 Road, left on Fort. Hunt Road, right on Grassymeade Lane.

Karen Leonard | 703 328-7041 Alexandria S

## Everything on Your Wish List

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**610 South Washington Street**  
**\$1,899,000**



Every once in a while a special property becomes available that will excite even the most discerning purchaser. This sun drenched brick end townhouse is only 2 years old and has extraordinary attention to detail, from the high ceilings, double crown molding, to the reclaimed pines floors on 3 levels to the media room with it's mini-kitchen and wine closet on the lower level. This home also includes a private gated entrance leading to its' detached 2 car garage. Perfect for entertaining, the gourmet kitchen flows into the family room and the back yard/patio area. Four gas fireplaces, including one on the rooftop deck. 3 BD and 4.5 BA completes the over 3300 finished sq ft. Call 703.598.7788 for more information. [www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com](http://www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com)

Bonnie Rivkin | 703 598-7788 Old Town

## Perfection

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**904 North Overlook Drive**  
**\$835,000**



Sited on a lovely level lot with towering oaks, this beautifully maintained three bedroom plus two and a half bath brick colonial awaits the most discriminating purchaser. Many special features including a formal living room with fireplace, separate dining room, cheerful sunroom and a recently updated kitchen with adjoining breakfast room and charming bay window. This fine home boasts hardwood floors, plaster walls, Pella windows, spacious family room, garage plus abundant storage. This is a gem! Reasonably priced at \$835,000.

Donnan C Wintermute | 703 518-6156 Beverley Hills

## New Listing

PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL



**502 Upland Place**  
**\$1,195,000**



Wonderful home just blocks from the metro. Six bedrooms, 3.5 baths, kitchen plus breakfast room, living room, dining room, family room, gorgeous master suite, four fireplaces and full basement! You won't believe the size of the rooms. Perfect house for relaxing or entertaining. Great, close in location. First floor bedroom and bath. Totally renovated/updated. For information call: Linda Trinkle Wolf 703-836-8259

Linda Trinkle Wolf | 703 518-6165 Alexandria

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# Dine Out!

## Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>



**25% to 100%** of your bill  
will be donated to



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## ART

# George Washington

FROM PAGE 13

By learning about the men as ordinary mortals and products of their time, both before, during and after the war, the visitor gains an insight to the American Revolution that takes it out of the text book and into the flesh, blood and emotions of battle weary citizen soldiers and professional military strategists. The ultimate humanization of their victory culminates in the formation of The Society of the Cincinnati — the “Band of Brothers” after the blood of battle.

At its conclusion, the exhibit comes down to two entities — one of tangible beauty and symbolic meaning and the other that captures the emotion of those that have faced common death for a cause and have exited that crucible forever linked in spirit and purpose. One is the Diamond Eagle of The Society and the other is the painting of Washington bidding farewell to his generals, which catches both their overwhelming emotions and their strengths.

The Diamond Eagle, originally drawn by Pierre Charles L'Enfant and created by Duval and Francastel of Paris, became the insignia of The Society. It bears the image of Cincinnatus, the Roman citizen soldier who refused to become a dictator after leading his armies to victory, on both sides and is suspended from a blue and white ribbon — the colors “descriptive of the union of France and America” in the war against the British.

The painting, “Washington’s Farewell to His Officers” by Alonzo Chappell in 1857, puts on canvas Benjamin Tallmadge’s account of that Dec. 4, 1783 event at Fraunces Tavern in New York City. It captures the emotion of Washington and his officers, especially that of Gen. Henry Knox, his artillery commander who had been with him before and throughout the war.

These men came from all 13 colonies and



**Pitcairn Pistols made by John Murdoch, Doune, Scotland, mid-18th century. British major John Pitcairn lost these ornately decorated, all-metal pistols at Lexington on April 19, 1775, the first engagement of the Revolutionary War.**

10 foreign nations. They represented over a dozen professions, ranging from Quaker ironmaster Nathaniel Greene, to New York patrician Philip Schuyler, to Polish military engineer Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

This exhibit puts into visual perspective and mental appreciation Washington’s statement after the Battle of Yorktown when he proclaimed of his generals: “There is no danger which they will not cheerfully encounter — no difficulty which they will not bravely overcome.”

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

**Frogs, Turtles and Snakes Oh My.** 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. All ages can meet some local critters. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

**Memory Cookbook Writing.** 2 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Adults can learn how to craft and publish a cookbook. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

**Tea with Martha Washington.** 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy tea with the first First Lady, cookies, and more. \$25/person. Reservations required, 703-838-4242.

**Forum.** 6 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Danny Glover will be part of the forum on “The Ancestral Healing.” \$50/person, \$20/senior \$10/student. Visit [www.ancestralhealing.net](http://www.ancestralhealing.net) or 703-371-1415 for tickets.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 1

**Railroad Days.** 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. See miniature towns, Thomas the Tank Engine, Lego trains and more. Free. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) or 703-838-4994.

**Magestic Eagles.** 1 p.m. or 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.

**Tea with Martha Washington.** 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy tea with the first First Lady, cookies, and more. \$25/person. Reservations required, 703-838-4242.

**Music Performance.** 3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Hear the Harmony Heritage Singers. Free. Free will offering benefit Bryant Early Learning Center. 703-765-5950.

**Healing Aspect of Nature.** 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about the healing aspect of nature. \$10/person. To register, 703-642-5173. Visit [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org) for more.

**Bridge Club.** 4 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults and teens of all levels can play. Free. 703-765-3645.

### MONDAY/MARCH 2

**Tavern Toddlers.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at Gadsby’s Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. Toddlers up to 36 months can enjoy games and more. \$7/group of three, one adult and 2 children; \$3/additional person. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) or 703-838-4242.

**Music Performance.** 6-9 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Hear jazz music by Will Smith and his trio, The W.E.S. Group. Registration and

SEE CALENDAR PAGE 21

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# CALENDAR



**The Harmony Heritage Singers are performing on Sunday, March 1 at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. A free will offering will benefit Bryant Early Learning Center.**

FROM PAGE 20

buffet at 6 p.m. \$50/person with sponsorship tickets available. Proceeds benefit the 20-week Parent Leadership Training program. Visit [www.plti-alex.org](http://www.plti-alex.org) or 703-739-0233.  
**Yoga for Gardeners.** 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Features the Vinyasa method. \$66/six-class session. To register, 703-642-5173.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 3

**Benefit Performance.** 8 p.m. at Little Theater of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Watch "Leading Ladies." Proceeds benefit the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Inova Alexandria Hospital. \$25, \$45, \$65. 703-548-9485.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

**Camp Fair.** 5:30-8 p.m. at Minnie Howard School, 3801 W. Braddock Road. Free. Learn about camp programs. Pizza and bake sale.  
**Music Performance.** 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School. Hear music by orchestras from the high school, Carl Sandburg Middle School and Hollin Meadows Elementary School. Free.  
**Lunch Bunnies.** Noon at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 1-5 bring lunch, enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610  
**Girls Night Out.** 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Teens can enjoy a book discussion. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 5

**Dining Out for Life.** A variety of restaurants in Old Town will contribute 25-100 percent from that day's proceeds to Food & Friends. Visit [www.foodandfriends.org/dol](http://www.foodandfriends.org/dol).  
**Book Discussion.** Noon at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Discuss "Jim the Boy" by Tony Earley. Adults. Free. 703-339-4610.  
**Poetry Read.** 7 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Share a favorite poem, original or by favorite poet. Free. 703-765-3645.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 6

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at

Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Hear music for the clarinet and saxophone. Free. Visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.

**Basic Gardening Series.** 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to create a backyard wildlife habitat. \$12/person. To register, 703-642-5173.  
**Lunch Bunch.** Noon at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children up to age 5 can bring lunch and enjoy stories. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 7

**Concert.** 7 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Empowered Women International presents 7Sopranos. \$12/person, reception follows. Visit [www.7Sopranos.com](http://www.7Sopranos.com) for more.  
**Miss Alexandria Pageant.** Ages 17-24 are eligible to compete. Visit [www.missalexandria.com](http://www.missalexandria.com) or e-mail [missalexandria09@yahoo.com](mailto:missalexandria09@yahoo.com). The winner goes on to compete in the Miss Virginia pageant.  
**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear music by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Heritage Signature Chorale and more. Tickets range between \$20-\$80. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or 703-548-0885.  
**Multiplying Plants.** 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Take starter plants home. \$22/person. To register, 703-642-5173.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 8

**Music Performance.** 3 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. The Metropolitan Chorus, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and Heritage Signature Chorale will perform. Tickets \$30-\$45/adult; \$25-\$40/senior; \$5/youth. Visit [www.metchorus.org](http://www.metchorus.org) or 703-933-2500.  
**Music Performance.** 7 p.m. at the Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Hear music by Holly Near with Emma's Revolution, a benefit concert for RPJ Housing. \$25/person; \$20/member or advance. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) or 703-501-6061.  
**Music Performance.** 4 p.m. at The

Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear pianist Jim Allison perform. Free. 703-505-0700.

**A Taste of Britain.** 1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Discover British cooking and sample foods. \$25/person. 703-941-7987 to register.

**Glorious Ornamental Vines.** 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about a variety of vines. \$10/person. To register, 703-642-5173.

## MONDAY/MARCH 9

**Tavern Toddlers.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. Toddlers up to 36 months can enjoy games and more. \$7/group of three; \$3/additional person. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) or 703-838-4242.  
**Yoga for Gardeners.** 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Features the Vinyasa method. \$66/six-class session. To register, 703-642-5173.  
**Rainbow Readers.** 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 2-3 years can enjoy colorful stories. Free. To register, 703-339-4610.  
**Books & Ideas.** 7:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults discuss "The Vanish Act of Esme Lennox." Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 10

**Think Green.** 10:15 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Ages 2-3 can celebrate St. Patrick's Day with stories and more. Free. To register, 703-971-0010.  
**K is for Kite.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Ages 2-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. To register, 703-765-3645.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11

**Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Discuss global warming and climate change with Dr. Chris Pyke. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) or 703-768-2525.  
**Rising Words, Rising Images.** 11 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Ages 9-12 can discuss "One More Valley, One More Hill" by Linda Lowery. Free. 703-765-3645.

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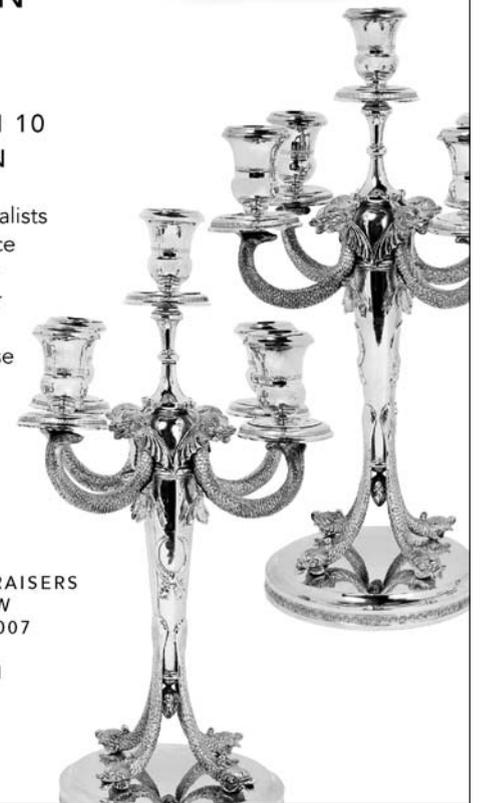


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In addition to our award winning menu, we have added some popular specials that add variety for everybody taste.  
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### Monday - Kids Night

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

Dine in or call ahead and your dinner will be ready for pick up.

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132 WATERFORD PL	4	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,100,000	Townhouse	0.03	...	WATERFORD
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618 TIVOLI PASSAGE WAY #2	3	3	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$770,000	Townhouse	...	...	PORTNER BREWERY
1250 WASHINGTON ST S #310	2	2	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$770,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	...	...	PORTO VECCHIO
3532 GODDARD WAY	3	2	2	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$649,900	Townhouse	0.05	...	QUAKER RIDGE
306 S. COLUMBUS ST	3	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$610,000	Townhouse	...	...	ST JOHNS SQUARE
400 MADISON ST #1009	2	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$599,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	ALEXANDRIA HOUSE
146 MARTIN LN	3	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$585,000	Townhouse	0.02	...	CAMERON STATION
265 MEDLOCK LN	3	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$585,000	Townhouse	0.02	...	CAMERON STATION
19 DEL RAY AVE E	3	1	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$576,000	Semi-Detached	0.13	...	DEL RAY
547 TRIADDELPHIA WAY	3	2	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$528,490	Townhouse	...	...	BEAUREGARD STATION
23 UHLER AVE W	3	1	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$495,000	Duplex	0.06	...	DEL RAY
400 CAMERON STATION BLVD#418	2	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$485,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	...	...	CAMERON STATION
2944 TORREY PL	5	1	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$475,000	Detached	0.25	...	ALBERT V BRYAN
1207 MADISON ST	2	2	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$471,000	Townhouse	0.02	...	BRADDOCK PLACE
2181 JAMIESON AVE #501	2	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$450,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	CARLYLE TOWERS
944 HARRISON CIR	3	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$431,000	Townhouse	0.03	...	SUMMERS GROVE
5438 COLFAX AVE	3	1	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$389,900	Detached	0.47	...	DOWDEN TERRACE
501 SLATERS LN #1007	1	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$385,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	MARINA TOWERS
1110 ARCHER CT	3	2	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$384,900	Detached	0.40	...	LINCOLNIA HILLS
1023 ROYAL ST N #304	1	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$350,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	...	...	OLD TOWN
4439 VENABLE AVE	3	3	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$320,000	Detached	0.12	...	TARLETON
2918 SYCAMORE ST	3	1	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$320,000	Duplex	0.04	...	WARWICK VILLAGE
3101 HAMPTON DR N #412	3	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$295,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	NORTHAMPTON PLACE
309 YOAKUM PKWY #215	3	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$275,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
5500 HOLMES RUN PKWY#1010	2	2	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$250,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	PLACE ONE
4551 STRUTFIELD LN #4215	2	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$236,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	...	...	PALAZZO AT PARK CENTER
5274 MARIS AVE #5274	2	1	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$233,000	Townhouse	...	...	PARKSIDE ALEXANDRIA
3101 HAMPTON DR #1109	1	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$215,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	NORTHAMPTON PLACE
3101 HAMPTON DR #1316	1	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$210,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	NORTHAMPTON PLACE
203 YOAKUM PKWY #905	2	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$206,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
4862 EISENHOWER AVE #271	1	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$200,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	...	...	EXCHANGE AT VAN DORN
1225 MARTHA CUSTIS DR#1414	1	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$195,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	PARKEAST
240 REYNOLDS ST S #303	1	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$190,900	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	REYNOLDS PROSPECT
5340 HOLMES RUN PKWY#1102	1	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$170,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	PAVILION ON THE PARK
5911 EDSALL RD #1011	2	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$168,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	HIGHPOINTE
3320 28TH ST #303	2	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$163,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	...	...	BOLLING BROOK
6301 STEVENSON AVE #116	3	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$155,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	...	OLYMPUS AT LANDMARK
5203 DUKE ST #302	1	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$130,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	...	...	CANTERBURY SQUARE
11 CANTERBURY SQ #101	3	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$125,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	...	...	CANTERBURY SQUARE
5 CANTERBURY SQ #202	2	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$115,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	...	...	CANTERBURY SQUARE
481 ARMISTEAD N #481-T	2	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$79,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	...	...	SAXONY SQUARE
515 ARMISTEAD N #515-T	2	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$68,900	Garden 1-4 Floors	...	...	SAXONY SQUARE

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## LITERATURE



This 19th-century photograph of the Alexandria National Cemetery shows the footpaths that once meandered through the graveyard.

# Everything for Everybody

Book of historic Virginia photographs features dozens of images from across the commonwealth.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The silvery crisp image from Fluvanna County in 1912 is an unlikely place to find the heart of “Historic Photos of Virginia,” issued recently by Turner Publishing. Yet there it is painted on the side of L.O. Hayden’s general store — an advertisement boasting “Everything for Everybody.”

“If the proprietor could not be all things to all people,” mused husband-and-wife authors Emily and John Salmon in the caption, “at least he had ‘Everything for Everybody.’”

Although the collection does not include an image from the interior of Hayden’s store, readers of the coffee-table book are taken on a tour through time and space with a collection of dozens of images featuring everything from square-dancing children in Roanoke to beach-going teenagers at Buckroe Beach.

Alexandria features prominently in the book, with images including the Jones Point lighthouse in disrepair, the Carlyle House as part of the old Mansion House Hotel and the now-demolished Alexandria Post Office and Custom House at the southwest corner of Prince and St. Aspah streets.

“With everything that’s going on with the economy right now, it’s really nice to look back and see how far we’ve come,” said Liz Chenery, marketing associate with Tennessee-based Turner Publishing Company. “Looking back on these old photos is a great reminder that our ancestors made it through some really hard times, which is encouraging considering everything that’s going on right now.”

**TURNER PUBLISHING COMPANY** specializes in producing coffee-table books of historic photos, with 130 titles including books specific to Alexandria, Arlington, Richmond and Hampton Roads. In March the publishing company plans to release a book of historic photos of Ernest Hemingway, and then another book of historic photos from North Virginia Beach in April. The Alexandria book of historic pho-

tographs was compiled by Rita Williams Holtz and Julie Ballin Patton, who dug into the Alexandria library’s archive of more than 38,000 historic photos.

“People think of Old Town, and they think of the seaport, shipping and the founding fathers,” said Holtz in an interview last year. “They tend to forget that Alexandria went through some hard times.”

Following on the success of several successful books focusing on specific cities such as Alexandria, “Historic Photos of Virginia” broadens the frame of reference to include every corner of the commonwealth — from modest frame houses in Virginia Beach to grand estates in Albemarle County. Some of the photos show the original context of buildings now surrounded by the rush of modern life, such as the haunting shot of Alexandria’s Episcopal Seminary during the clear-cut sparse landscape of the Civil War. Others show long-gone buildings, demolished in urban-renewal efforts or to make way for larger roads across the commonwealth. Together they show the sweep of history and hint at a world that is in many ways passing from view.

“We hope that ‘Historic Photos of Virginia’ will be a catalyst for preservation, that people will look at the images and captions, remember the places that are gone, and recognize the buildings that still stand and work to preserve them,” said author Emily Salmon in a written statement about the book.

“Looking back on these old photos is a great reminder that our ancestors made it through some really hard times”

— Liz Chenery

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# City Loses Over Ethanol Transloading Facility

FROM PAGE 1

by a “haul route permit,” is still under consideration by Judge James Cacheris.

“This is a bummer, but we’re still very hopeful on the federal lawsuit,” said Ingrid Sanden, president of the Cameron Station Civic Association. “We’re keeping our fingers crossed and looking toward the future.”

Last summer, former City Attorney Ignacio Pessoa filed a petition seeking a declaratory order making the transloading facility and its operation subject to the city’s special use permit process. The Norfolk Southern Railroad, which owns the land where RSI Logistics operates an ethanol “transloading station,” replied that the city’s zoning authority was not applicable under federal laws governing “transportation by rail carrier.” At issue in the case was the

question of whether the Surface Transportation Board had jurisdiction over the transloading operation at the Van Dorn Yard, consequentially preempting local zoning and regulatory authority.

“**UNDER EXISTING RULES**, state and local governments have the right to receive notice and to comment when a railroad proposes to abandon a railroad line in their community,” said Vice Mayor Del Pepper during a Surface Transportation Board hearing on the issue last summer. “Doesn’t it make sense that we should have an opportunity to comment when a new and potentially hazardous facility like this is going to be opened as well?”

Last week, the board answered that question — ruling that facility is part of Norfolk Southern’s rail operations and that RSI is

not conducting an independent business. Although board members encouraged “rail carriers” to contact local officials to inform them of planned transloading activities before commencing operations, the ruling was clear that the city had no authority over the operation. Because the railroad owns the facility and spent its own money to construct the transloading infrastructure, board members rejected the city’s argument that RSI’s operation was not part of Norfolk Southern’s rail transportation service.

“There is no evidence that RSI holds itself out as providing transloading service at the facility or that RSI has any contractual relationships relating to the facility with any of the ethanol shippers,” the ruling concluded. “Indeed, a provision of the NS-RSI operating agreement specifically provides that RSI does not have the right to market

the facility.”

The Surface Transportation Board’s seven-page ruling found that all of RSI’s activities were contractual services that were part of Norfolk Southern’s rail transportation business, which included ethanol transloading. Board members found that the city’s legal argument failed to show that the service RSI provides to the railroad company differ from any other type of contract service that a rail carrier might utilize to conduct business.

“We have found in this decision that the board has jurisdiction over the operations at the facility, and, thus, that federal preemption applies to those activities,” the board concluded. “Consequentially, local zoning and other requirements that could interfere with or prevent the transloading activities are preempted.”

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

pressing problems, highway gridlock, a matter he is attempting to help solve. He has worked hard to find a solution in his effective and detailed service as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

It is unfair to criticize him because he was unable to attend and to deliver the keynote address for the Friendship Veterans. Mr. Moran was at an early morning Richmond event and en route to Alexandria, to his chagrin was caught up in a traffic jam on Interstate 95. This is not a rare occasion for those who travel this roadway. When it became clear that he would not make it on time, his wife Karyn dropped what she was doing and hurried to the

event. She arrived just as the program had ended.

Mr. Moran has been committed to the people of Alexandria throughout his political career. During his campaign for the Governorship, he has tirelessly crisscrossed the Commonwealth from the far southwest to the Shenandoah and to Tidewater and the Eastern Shore. His commitment to the people cannot and should not be questioned.

I know he would never commit to appear at a function and then be a “no show.”

If any governor can find the solution to the transportation difficulties of Northern Virginia, a Governor Moran will be that person.

**Dana Lawhorne**  
Alexandria

## Drop the ‘Hamer’

To the Editor:

Regardless of which word is used — arbitrary, capricious, or simply unreasonable — it is clear that City Planning & Zoning Director Faroll Hamer crossed the line when she attempted to revoke TJ Fannon’s long-established property rights in knowing violation of Virginia law.

Hamer’s actions have damaged the City’s reputation; further destabilized the business community during very challenging times; needlessly enflamed negative passions (on both sides of the issue); wasted time and have made a reasonable solution more difficult to achieve.

In this one case, Hamer has cost Alexandria more than \$41,359 in attorney’s fees and the final bill isn’t in yet. How many of our neediest residents could have been fed with that wasted money? City Council should act now to protect our rights and remove this walking liability from the city payroll.

**Bud Miller**  
President  
Alexandria Taxpayers United

## Preserve Position of City Historian

To the Editor:

It will be hard for anyone to fill Michael Miller’s shoes in this city, but if history is any judge, it is not time to do away with the job of City Historian. As a citizen of Perth Amboy, N.J. said, “City Historians,” are important because, “history is serious business.”

Each time a member of our community looks at history, there is something new to discover; every generation deserves the opportunity to rediscover this history. Sometimes, as with Michael Miller’s rediscovery of Freedman’s Cemetery in an old article, such discoveries lead to the creation of a tangible asset. In Alexandria, history is a tangible asset.

Michael Miller has helped me personally. When I was working with the Upper King Street Preservation Group trying to save buildings on King Street where the new Lorien Hotel and Spa is now located, Michael was able to remember seeing an 1852 ad for a 30-by-30 brick slave jail for rent on the 1500 block of King St. Pretty remarkable, as the only structure that could possibly fit this description, after we researched old maps, Fairfax County court records, and Alexandria records was the small brick building that is now a wine bar in the middle of the hotel. This unassuming building was on the 100-year-old building list, and we used it to try to save the other 80- and 90-year-old buildings on that block. We could never definitively show that this building was the slave jail advertised in the Gazette, but we accomplished a lot thanks to Michael’s help including an archaeological search for any other foundations. No other foundations were found, but period walkways, wooden sluices and barrels were found and now we have a great addition to our local economy. With Michael’s help we were able to create a whole history of that block. Michael has also been able to answer questions about movie theaters, Art Deco buildings and ice wells.

But there are other areas of history with unanswered questions. I grew up by the Wilkes Street train tunnel. The tunnel has a historical plaque. It is barely readable, and it misstates the dates when the trains stopped running. Gretchen Bulova, the director of the Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, has reminded me that some of the plaques on Gadsby’s Tavern have incorrect dates or information. The photographs of Old Alexandria buildings in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall are another example of missing or incomplete history. Where were some of these buildings located? When were they torn down? The perfect person to update those displays and provide the missing information is the City Historian. There is so much history to tell that has not been told, like the industrial history of our waterfront or the history of Victorian and Art Deco commercial architecture.

There is also Alexandria’s more recent history. Zoning, the development of the West End, the influence of Charles Beatley, urban renewal, and events like the Bicentennial or the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Civil War are all more modern or current events that deserve the trained attention of a historian. How do we make sure the history happening today gets remembered?

There is also a great need for someone with an expertise in our built environment to be a resource for planning, the Boards of Architectural review and to provide the context needed to preserve our seven historic districts. One major project a city historian could take on is to begin the process of up

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 28

### Legal Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court Department

WORCESTER, DIVISION  
Docket No. 08D2347DV1

#### Divorce/Separate Support Summons By Publication

NORMA ELENA FUENTES, Plaintiff  
v.  
LORENZO MESA, Defendant

To the above named Defendant:

A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff, Norma Elena Fuentes, seeking a divorce.

An automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. Please refer to the Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411 for more information.

You are required to serve upon Njeri Gichohi, attorney for plaintiff, whose address is 405 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608 your answer on or before April 7, 2009. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of this Court at WORCESTER.

Witness, Joseph L. Hart, Jr., Esquire, First Jus-

### Legal Notices

tice of said Court at Worcester, this twenty second day of October, 2008.  
Stephen G Abraham  
Register of Probate Court

#### ABC LICENSE

Mamma’s Kitchen, Inc trading as Mamma’s Kitchen, 7601 Fordson Rd, Alexandria, VA 22306. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a beer and wine, on and off premises, delivery permit license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.  
Mary Ann Johnnides, Owner

#### ABC LICENSE

Mamma’s Kitchen, Inc trading as Mamma’s Kitchen, 7601 Fordson Rd, Alexandria, VA 22306. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a beer and wine, on and off premises, delivery permit license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.  
Mary Ann Johnnides, Owner

#### ABC License

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The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for Wine, Beer, and/or Mixed Beverages on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.  
Maribel Allaga, owner

# T.C. Williams Basketball Sweeps Districts

Boy's and girl's teams also advance past first round of regional tournament.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Perhaps the best way to look at the T.C. Williams boy's basketball team's fourth-straight Patriot District title, won last Friday in a 76-57 beat down

of Annandale, is through the eyes of senior Gavin Peterson.

**"Our kids, I just can't emphasize enough just how hard they played."**

— T.C. Williams girl's coach  
Cavanaugh Hagen

While some on the defending state champion Titans may take it for granted having emerged victorious in 69 straight district games, Peterson was a relative unknown buried on the bench for many of those

wins.

He began this season as the team's starting point guard, but around Christmas time coach Julian King



PHOTOS BY MARK GIANNOTTO/THE GAZETTE PACKET

**T.C. Williams senior Gavin Peterson cuts a piece of the net off at Lake Braddock High School, where the Titan captured their fourth-straight Patriot District Tournament title. In a reserve role, Peterson was named to the all-tournament team after scoring 13 points and dishing out seven assists in the district finals.**

made the decision to go with senior Dominique Copeland to begin games, bringing Peterson off the bench.

"I was shaky with it, but I thought it would work so I was like, 'All right, let's see,'" said Peterson. During the Wakefield Holiday Tournament that followed, the 5-foot-10 lefty averaged more than nine points per contest in his new role.

At the end of January, Peterson hit 13-of-16 free throws and scored 17 totals points during a nail-biting 72-68 win over Lee. He capped it all off in the district tournament last week, where the guard was named to the all-tournament team alongside teammates Ryan Yates and Edward Jenkins.

**THAT PETERSON** was able to swallow his



**Junior Ryan Yates was named to the Patriot District all-tournament team. He and the Titans will take on Stuart in the regional semifinals Wednesday night, after the Gazette Packet's press time.**

ego and some minutes for the good of the team — despite being a senior who played sparingly up until this season — provides a glimpse into the winning culture that has developed along King Street these days.

"Some people say it's just a district title because we won the states last year, but for this group, this is a heck of an accomplish

SEE TITANS, PAGE 26

## Butts, T.C. Williams Track Get Rewarded

Senior signs with East Carolina, while new stars help team excel at Northern Region meet.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE GAZETTE PACKET

It didn't take long for T.C. Williams track and field star Tynita Butts to decide East Carolina was the place she wanted to take her talents next season. Ultimately, it only took a little cheesecake.

When Butts, a senior, made her official visit to the school last summer, head coach Curt Kraft knew just how to get on the talented runner and jumper's good side. He threw her and the other visiting recruits a party with their favorite desserts.

The acknowledgement of her sweet tooth only further convinced Butts that East Carolina was her choice amongst a litany of scholarship offers from the likes of Virginia,

LSU, NC State, and Virginia Tech.

"When I visited, I pretty much decided right away this is the place for me," said Butts between bites of a purple-and-gold cake to commemorate signing her National Letter of Intent last Friday morning. "They made me feel as if I was already a part of the team."

**BUT NO DESSERT** could slow down Butts Saturday at the Northern Region Indoor Track and Field Championships as she was the main cog in the Lady Titans' third-place showing (49 points).

Two weeks after setting meet records in the long and high jumps at the Patriot District Championships, Butts won the regional title in both events, defeating the field with ease.

Butt's leap of 19-04 feet in the long jump was below her usual standards, but was still more than three feet further than her closest competitor. She also cleared 5-06 feet in the high jump, four inches higher than the second-place finisher.

The future college star closed her day blowing past the competition in the 55-meter dash (7.25 seconds) and placing

SEE BUTTS, PAGE 26



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

**Senior Tynita Butts (center) took first place in the 55-meter dash at last weekend's Northern Region Indoor Track and Field Championships.**

# Titans Advance to Regionals

FROM PAGE 25

ment," said coach Julian King. "To go undefeated during the regular season with a big bull's eye on your back, close games, and then to win the championship game this decisively, it's pretty good."

T.C. Williams (24-2 overall, 17-0 district) jumped all over Annandale, taking a 13-4 first-quarter lead it would never relinquish Friday night. The Atoms narrowly lost to the Titans earlier in the season, 67-66, and T.C. Williams wanted to prove that was a fluke. It was a welcome change of pace for the Titans, who went 7-1 in their fair share of games decided by six points or less this season.

Leading the way was the tournament's MVP, Jenkins (18 points), sophomore Tyrel Sitin (12 points), and Peterson (13 points, seven assists).

"Everybody thinks T.C. is down, they're just winning close games," warned Jenkins. "They don't understand how difficult it is to keep an undefeated streak in the district. We came out [against Annandale] and let it be known that we're the dominant team."

## Three Is Trend for Titan Girls

Even before T.C. Williams girl's basketball coach Cavanaugh Hagen watched shot after shot clank off the rim and an 11-point lead disappear during the second half of last Friday night's Patriot District title game between the Titans and West Springfield, she had a growing suspicion that her team's luck may soon run out.

In the teams' two regular-season meetings, T.C. Williams had eked out a 46-43 win at home after trailing by as many as 12 points in the second half. The Titans followed that up at West Springfield with a tense 58-54-overtime victory.

"West Springfield has given us a fight the three times we played them, so we knew it was going to be a dog fight," said Hagen of her team's 11-point lead turning into a five-point second-half deficit.

So what does a team whose shots aren't falling do with a title hanging in the balance? It turns to the one thing

On Monday night, the Titan boy's followed up their statement title game with a 67-41 blowout over McLean in the first round of the Northern Region basketball tournament. Junior Billy Rowland had a career-high 32 points and 11 rebounds, as T.C. Williams advanced to face Stuart Wednesday night in the quarterfinals, after the Gazette Packet's press time.

that is completely controllable: defense.

"I think we turned it up on defense, which was key," said Hagen after her Titans emerged with a grind-it-out 59-53 win — their third of the season over West Springfield. "Our kids, I just can't emphasize enough just how hard they played."

Senior Khalia Boston emerged from the shadow of star player Tierra Ruffin-Pratt, scoring 21 points in the victory and picking up tournament MVP honors.

Ruffin-Pratt was no slouch herself, with 15 points on the night.

The Titans were also victorious Monday night, defeating Woodson, 48-43, in the first round of the Northern Region Tournament. T.C. Williams takes on Robinson in the quarterfinals Wednesday night, after the Gazette Packet's press time.

T.C. Williams (22-4, 17-0) is currently riding an 18-game winning streak and hasn't lost a district contest in 41 games.

Should T.C. Williams win Wednesday night, it would play for a return visit to the state tournament this weekend in the regional semifinals, scheduled to take place beginning Saturday afternoon.

"We love the pressure, that's all we do," said Peterson. "But I didn't get much playing time last year, so I hope we go to the region and states and continue on what we did last season."

# Butts Signs with ECU

FROM PAGE 25

eighth in the 300-meter dash. Also on the girl's side, senior Latona Jackson placed fourth in the shot put, while senior Erika Weidman took second in the 1000-meter run.

But it is Butts's versatility and ability in both track and field events that had Division-I coaches salivating over getting her commitment. So it should come as no shock that she is one of the favorites in both the long and high jumps at this weekend's state championship meet, which will be held in Hampton, Va.

**THE T.C. WILLIAMS BOYS**, on the other hand, were all about surprises in finishing eighth overall (35 points) last Saturday. Among them was the continuing development of senior Reward Asonye. Originally from Port-Harcourt, Nigeria, Asonye moved to Alexandria this summer after living in Toledo, Ohio since the age of 10.

Asonye competed in track there, but when coach Marshall Edwards first saw him this fall, his message was simple: "You have terrible form, but boy can you run," recalled Edmonds. "As

a coach, it was so crazy because nobody really knew he was in school."

The smooth transfer culminated this weekend as Asonye ran the anchor leg of the Titans' first-place 4x200-meter relay, while also faring well in individual events, taking third place in the 300-meter dash (36.71 seconds) and fifth place in the 55-meter dash (6.64 seconds).

"I've had to meet new people and make new friends this year, so [running] has been the one stable thing in my life," said Asonye, who did not qualify for the state meet in Ohio last season, but will take part in Virginia's version this weekend.

Another welcome addition for Edmonds and the Titans has been senior shot putter Pierre Espinoza, who finished in fourth place with a throw of more than 47 feet.

A defensive lineman for the football team in the fall, Espinoza didn't come out for track and field until this season, a decision he's starting to regret after his strong showing last weekend. "I really kind of surprised myself," said Espinoza, who won districts in the shot put. "I wish I would have started earlier now."

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## OPINION

# CSB To Celebrate 40 Years

FROM PAGE 10

to older residents who were often silently trying to cope alone with symptoms of mental illness, alcoholism and other drug abuse.

For the most part, the overall history of the past 40 years has been an optimistic one, full of hope and recovery. The board's goal was to provide compassionate and effective services for Alexandria residents and by many measures the CSB has succeeded. Programs have been improved and expanded, staff has been trained in best practices and most of those served have been pleased with their care.

Until now. The housing crisis, the downward spiraling economy, the state's shortfall have hit the CSB clients the hardest. Their hold on financial stability is tenuous at best. They need the safety net the most. And that safety net is shrinking incredibly fast, even in Alexandria.

The average CSB client is poor. How poor? Forty-two percent of those served by the CSB make less than \$5,000 a year. The rest make marginal incomes, some collecting social security disability or SSI, some working part time or at very low-paying jobs. Only 11 percent of clients have incomes greater than \$25,000 a year. Employment rates for those with disabilities is not great in the best of times. In the worst of times, they are the first to have their hours cut back, the first to be laid off, which makes them even poorer.

Obviously there are those with means who face mental health issues but they can afford private care. The reality is many of those with serious mental illnesses or intellectual disabilities don't have means even if they started out middle class. Insurance is lost or used up, jobs are lost. The same holds true for those with substance abuse issues. Getting a job and keeping it can be a major obstacle.

## Much Accomplished, Much To Be Done

FROM PAGE 10

of a recent change. The data indicates that while the majority of T.C. graduates attend prestigious colleges and universities, an unacceptable number of students do not graduate at all. By merging Minnie Howard and T.C. Williams, we have provided continuity and consistency; creating a strengthened and more unified program that enhances teaching and learning for all students. Data is also being used to identify all students who are "at-promise," to develop individual math achievement plans for students in grades K-10, to complete a middle school academic review, to improve literacy and science instruction, to improve and further embed into the general curriculum special education and ELL services, and much more. I presented my first quarterly report to the School Board on our progress last month, with another update planned for April.

Good relationships are based on openness and trust. Alexandria, I have enjoyed our many honest conversations about where we are and where we want to be. Many of you recently participated in the PTA Council's first "Turn the Page" community reading event during which book groups discussed Daniel Pink's "A Whole New Mind." This was the first in a series of book discussions about the future of educa-

## Euille, Other Council Members Back Wagner

Mayor Bill Euille (D) and City Council members Del Pepper (D), Tim Lovain (D) and Paul Smedberg (D) have endorsed Jody Wagner, the former Virginia Sec-

retary of Finance, for lieutenant governor.

Wagner, currently a business owner in Virginia Beach, is running for the Democratic nomina-

tion. I have also enjoyed meaningful discussions about our children's future with student focus groups, nearly all of the PTAs, and the Superintendent's African American and Latino advisory groups. I look forward to joining members of Tenants and Workers United on a visit to the homes of several local families and I am scheduling my second round of walk-throughs of all the schools.

We've had some great times over the past six months, but it hasn't all been easy. The economic crisis has forced each of us to make tough decisions. I am especially proud of my colleagues and the School Board members for the way in which the FY 2010 operating budget was created. By creatively reallocating existing resources and having staff share the impact of reductions, we have developed a budget that continues to move us forward; maintains small classes and quality learning environments; and avoids large scale lay-offs. The budget champions student achievement and excellent instruction while being responsive to current economic challenges.

We've accomplished so much in six months that sometimes it feels like we've been together much longer; yet, there is still quite a bit of work to be done. I feel truly blessed to be here, and I look forward with optimism to the next six months, and to many, many more.

CSB staff and board members knew all of this even as they struggled to cut the CSB portion of the budget. The Department of Human Services which serves many of the same people, the poor, struggled as well. At this point the city manager has presented this shrunken budget to city council who will be holding public hearings, the first on March 11, the second on April 13. But the public needs to understand that these cuts to avoid a tax increase are impacting the very poor, the least able, the most vulnerable members of Alexandria's community.

It is not only that less people with mental health issues will be served. It is that they are often the same people who need help with their utilities, help with housing, with eviction, with dealing with layoffs — all services on the chopping block. Schools too are taking a hit and again it is the poor children who will feel the blow most keenly, including the children the CSB serves. Libraries and recreation programs who serve everybody, but are even more essential for the poor, are also facing cuts.

With all of this uncertainty and gloom, some have wondered should the CSB and the Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center celebrate at all. And the answer is a resounding yes. The city needs to recognize 40 years of recovery, saved lives and accomplishments. And the public needs to join the celebration to meet the staff who is so determined and dedicated, to meet the clients, their families and the volunteers who have made it all work.

Please come to the George Washington Middle School Cafeteria on Thursday, March 19 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at 1005 Mount Vernon Avenue. Recognize the accomplishments of the 60s and now, enjoy the food, music and prizes and learn how to have fun on a shoestring budget. To attend the festivities email rchamowitz@aol.com or call 703-683-2360.

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 24

dating the Old and Historic District national register nomination, and to publish an updated guide to the houses of Alexandria built upon the work of Ethelyn Cox's 1978 guide.

As we complete putting Parker Gray/Uptown on the National Register, we are creating a new resource of information about this important. We also have the opportunity to create an African-American trail from Freedman's Cemetery to the Black History Museum, passing Samuel Tucker's House, the site of the first sit-in, and African-American movie theaters in Uptown. Such a trail would create a new historic attraction and emphasize the rich and diverse history of our city.

One of the most important things about history is to not forget, to not lose cultural awareness, and to make history a living resource. One of the ways we can do this is by preserving the position of City Historian. As we look to the fertile and varied history of Alexandria as a foundation for a bright future, let's not set aside a priceless resource that we already have. We should build on and rely on the resource of city historian and use it to add to our strengths. We should discard it neither because we are in hard economic times nor because it is hard to imagine anyone better than Michael Miller to fill the position. We should have the foresight to see that history is our greatest asset, and is a key to our economic vitality.

**Boyd Walker**  
Alexandria

## Investment In Public Health

To the Editor:

In response to your paper's recent coverage of the economic stimulus bill, it's important that our community recognize the importance of the public health funding provisions it contains.

As the economy worsens and more people across the nation find themselves without jobs and health coverage, demand for the health services provided by our nation's public health infrastructure will continue to grow.

Retaining funding in the stimulus bill for public health will allow states and local communities to meet the health needs of their residents while also putting people to work through the creation of many important public health jobs.

The funds allow for expanding primary prevention programs, preventing disease, improving community health centers, and supporting critical safety net programs like Medicaid and the food stamp program. Along with other essential programs supported by the funding in the bill, these services are vital to ensuring access to quality health care and other important public health services during these difficult economic times.

It is critical that our community lets our elected leaders know that we support the stimulus bill and its public health funding

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 30

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-William Van Horne

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## OPINION

# Impact of Stimulus Money

BY PATSY TICER  
STATE SENATE (D-30)

The weekly meeting of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources went smoothly and we managed to complete our agenda for the year. Among the good House bills that passed were one to establish tidal creeks as no discharge zones for boats — a very good idea and one that most of us thought was already in place. Another good bill authorizes permit-issuing authorities to allow storm-water permit holders to comply with nonpoint nutrient offsets that have been certified under the Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Exchange Program. These offsets must be in the same tributary and the offered to those who have demonstrated a level of effort has been achieved by the applicant. The committee and staff worked hard this year and should be congratulated for a good job.

The House worked late into the night one day last week, but the Senate chose to postpone until Wednesday of this week consideration of the budget when revised estimates of revenue and available funds from the stimulus plan were known. The Senate budget reflects the revised revenue forecast presented by the Governor on Feb. 16, which reduced revenues by an additional \$821.5 million for the biennium. This reduction is in addition to the \$2.9 billion reduction assumed in the budget as introduced, bringing the total downward revenue revision to \$3.7 billion. It reflects other changes including an increase in federal Medicaid matching money yielding about a billion more in general funds to be freed up to help address the revenue shortfall. It reflects \$216 million in flexible spending from the stimulus plan to provide about \$64 million to be used for one-time capital outlay projects, and finally the amendments include an appropriation of non-general funds for further restoration of funding cuts in public and higher education, contingent upon availability of fiscal stimulus funds earmarked specifically for education. There are also funds for further restoration of funding cuts in public safety pending avail-

ability of stimulus funds earmarked specifically for such purposes.

By accepting stimulus money, and waiting to plan our budget around those figures, we were able to save thousands of jobs in Virginia. Those protected jobs will help stimulate our economy. We are now able to protect teaching and law enforcement jobs that were earlier scheduled for cuts. The Governor, the Senate Democrats, the Senate Republicans and the House Democrats have unified to support this budget proposal.

We hope that the House Republicans will come around and stand behind a budget that can save and create jobs. Our budget looks similar to the way it looked last year, and with the addition of stimulus funds on a one-time basis, local governments now have more time to prepare for the direction in which our economy seems to be heading. There is general understanding that these assistance funds will be available on a one-time basis, and although the stimulus package restores \$9 million for economic development, approximately \$17 million for public safety and \$40 million to help balance the budget at the end of the year, that we must be designing creative responses to the financial crisis in which we and the entire country find ourselves.

We passed a bare-bones bill to comply with federal requirements for real ID. Since this requirement is costly and intrusive, this is the minimum action necessary to provide our citizens with necessary documentation of identity so they can access airplanes and federal buildings. The DMV who was charged with the responsibility has worked hard to find ways to make it work for those who do not have traditional birth certificates and documentation from this country or others. The effect of the legislation is yet to be felt.

We have finally approved a bill banning text messaging while driving. The patron of the bill, John Cosgrove, described the practice as a “dangerous and irresponsible” practice saying that distracted driving accounts for 80 percent of traffic accidents in Virginia and that one-third of all Virginians admit to texting while driving. Possibly my hands-free cell phone bill will pass next year.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 28

provisions, which are critical to creating and retaining jobs in the public health sector and improving the health of all Americans. An investment in public health is required, as it will take a healthy, productive workforce to help usher our nation back to financial stability.

**Anne Gray Haynes**  
Healthy Living  
Kaiser Permanente-MAS

## Stimulus Failures

To the Editor:

History is set to repeat itself, again. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009 that is being debated in Washing-

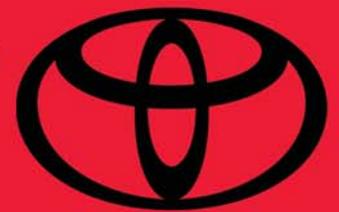
ton has all the hallmarks of a classic *deja vu*. Last year the federal government sent out rebate checks in an attempt to stimulate the economy. They also dumped huge sums of money into failing Wall Street banks and insurance firms.

Both had no effect. It's long passed time that central planners learned that throwing good money after bad will not stimulate the economy. We must instead cut taxes, reform burdensome regulation and eliminate government waste. It is not until we pay attention to our past history of stimulus failures that we can begin to move toward the future.

**Leslie Roberts**  
Alexandria

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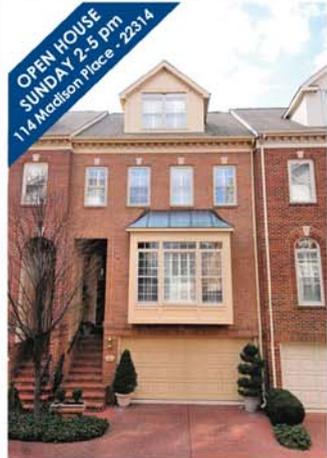


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