

Alexandria Gazette Packet

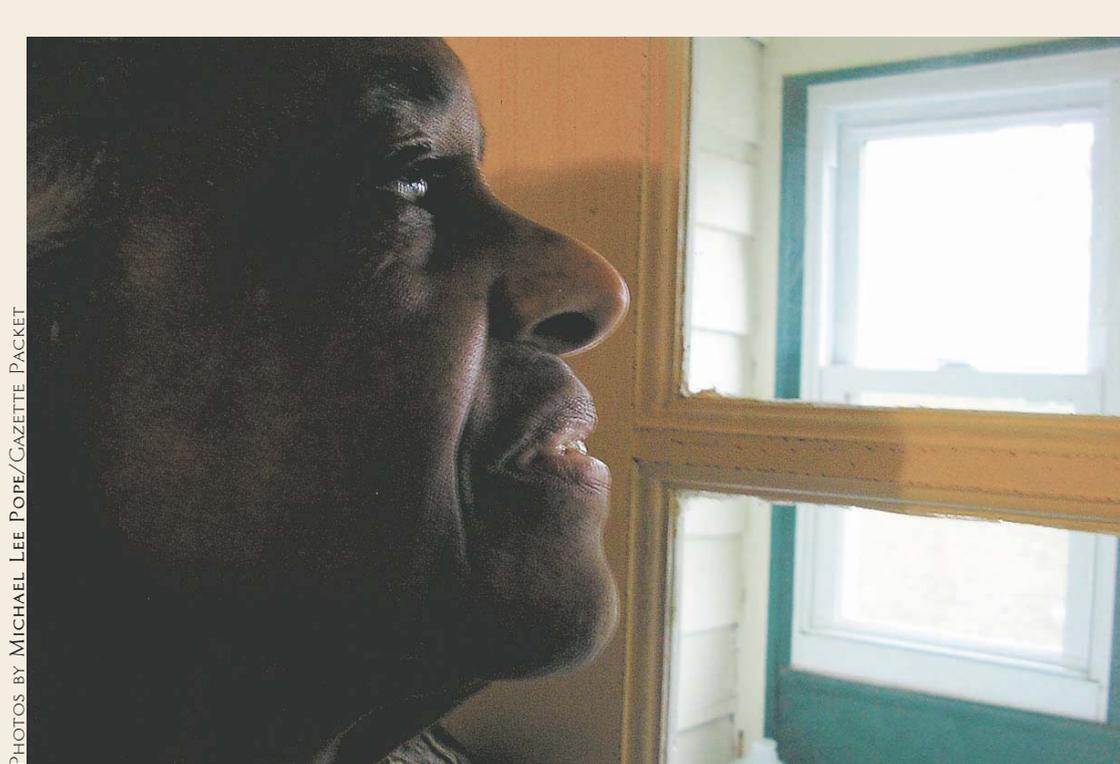


25 CENTS

Vol. CCXXV, No. 11

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 19, 2009



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Elizabeth Douglas looks out a window in the kitchen of the house where she grew up, where she still lives across the street from T.C. Williams High School.

History Behind the Gate

Long-neglected cemetery obscured by a city-owned maintenance yard.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Long before City Hall began purchasing plots of land that were later assembled to become Fort Ward Park, Elizabeth Douglas at-

tended a one-room schoolhouse that was located on what is now the eastern edge of the park. She has fond memories of visiting the family burial yard outside the school where members of a community that old-timers still refer to as “the fort.” There, outside of

the schoolhouse, Douglas says, 10 to 15 bodies are buried in red mud under homemade concrete markers. In the 1950s, a woman she called “Aunt Clara” was buried there — a beloved matron of the community whose grave she visited often.

But the next few years would bring rapid change that would distance her and Aunt Clara.

First the City of Alexandria moved its boundaries westward, then the city began buying plots of land in an effort to create a new park at the old Civil War fort where a Connecticut artillery brigade guarded against Confederate attack from a road then known as the Alexandria turnpike. So city officials bought land from Eagle Crest Development in the late 1950s to head off a proposed subdivision on the western end of the park. Although some of the African-American properties on the eastern edge of the land had clouded titles in the early 1960s, the city eventually got everything it wanted after



A padlock bars entry into the family burial yard where the city now operates a maintenance yard.

SEE CEMETERY, PAGE 5

More Taxes, Fewer Services

Council considers raising taxes, but warn of inevitable cuts to services.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The average residential property tax bill could go up by as much as \$85 if City Council members decide to move forward with a proposal to raise the tax rate a maximum of 6 cents. On average, that would mean residential property taxpayers would have to pay more than \$4,311 at a time when many families are struggling to make ends meet. Although Mayor Bill Euille signaled that he would be willing to increase the tax rate another penny — raising the average tax bill by \$4,395 —

only Councilman Ludwig Gaines was willing to go along with that proposal.

“I think the proposal the mayor has made goes too far, and I think sends the wrong message to taxpayers in the city,” said Councilman Tim Lovain, who introduced a motion to advertise the maximum tax rate at 90.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value. “I recognize that it’s just a maximum, but especially when we start saying out loud how that money could be spent it gives false hope to those who have advocated increased spending for particular programs.”

SEE MORE TAXES, PAGE 3

Better To Receive

Disclosure forms show City Council members receive a wide range of gifts.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The old adage says there’s no such thing as a free lunch. But members of the City Council regularly take free lunches, rounds of golf, movie tickets and skybox tickets to Redskins games. The disclosures are part of a statement of economic interest, which are filed each year with the city clerk.

According to a review of the last three years worth of disclosure forms, Mayor Bill Euille received

the most amount of gifts. The largest dollar amounts came from William D. Euille and Associates, his construction firm located in a low-slung brick building tucked behind Generous George’s Pizza on Colvin Street. Euille said he makes a habit of using his company’s credit card to buy gas for his company car while he’s driving around the city doing official business as mayor. He also asks his company secretary to type city letters and uses a company cell phone to conduct

SEE DISCLOSURE, PAGE 7

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Teetotaler Smile

For many businesses struggling to make ends meet as the local economy continues to sag, the thought of dealing with bureaucrats at City Hall is a source of endless anxiety. Take Smile Market, the Parker Gray grocery store located at the corner of Queen and Henry streets that was once occupied by Sykes Auto Parts. Owner **Asegedech Kelecha** wanted to open a restaurant in the market, but she found herself in the middle of a zoning firestorm when she applied for a permit to sell alcohol in November.

"The history of this neighborhood teaches us that when alcohol is served, we residents are subjected to public drunkenness, urination in our alley and on our properties, littering of alcohol containers, vandalism and threats to our pets," wrote neighbor **Claire Lison** in a letter opposing all alcohol sales at the location.

In late November, Kelecha signed a memorandum of understanding with Inner City Civic Association President **Leslie Zupan** agreeing that Smile Market would never request approval for off-premise alcohol sales, which are sometimes referred to as carryout sales. But then Kelecha tried to cancel the memorandum before giving in to the pressure and withdrawing her request to sell alcohol at all on Feb. 19. Last weekend, City Council members approved her special-use permit to open an alcohol-free restaurant in the market.

"I'm very frustrated with this process," said Kelecha. "I may apply for on-premise again at some point in the future if I can stay in business. For now it looks like I'm failing because business is very slow."

Soviet Bread

As Northern Virginia residents continue to slog through one of the worst daily traffic jams on the East Coast each day, the folks at the Virginia Department of Transportation are trying to come up with potential solutions to the problem. But City Council voted on Saturday to withhold support for a project on the Shirley Memorial Highway until solutions can be found for a number of problems West End residents have with the proposal.

Council members and West End residents noted a number of potential problems for the project, including narrow shoulders that may prove to be a problem for emergency responders, a Shirlington Circle interchange that could be difficult to navigate and a bus station positioned in the middle of an intersection. But it's not all bad news. Councilman **Tim Lovain** expressed support for the concept of "congestion pricing" that would allow drivers to be charged varying rates minute-to-minute depending on how clogged the roads were at that time.

"Our highways are free only in the sense that bread was cheap in the Soviet Union," said **Lovain**.

Live or Memorex?

Most people who appear before City Council do not bring their own sound effects. But Old Town resident **Andrea Stowers** wanted the elected leaders to know how noisy the motorcoaches are that regularly crisscross her neighborhood. So she brought a tape recorder that emitted recorded sounds as she explained her support of a new system to regulate the oversized buses that maul street corners and rip down telephone wires.

"This is my bedroom window," said Stowers as the sound of idling motorcoaches were broadcast through the council chamber's microphone. "I'm going to leave it on so you get a taste of how difficult it is to think."

Although City Council members had originally considered a plan to create a new regulatory regime using \$25,000 from the city's contingent reserve, the version that made the final cut Saturday used leftover money from last year's snow-removal fund. Council members also asked the Traffic and Parking Board to consider a proposal that would designate new 30-minute motorcoach parking spaces between in the 100 block of North Washington Street and 100 block of South Washington Street.

"I think I'll turn this off now," Stowers said after letting her recorder play for about 30 seconds.

"Thank you," said Vice Mayor **Del Pepper**. "We appreciate that."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



City Council chambers were packed last week with speakers who opposed several cuts to next year's budget.

More Taxes, Fewer Services

FROM PAGE 1

Last week, City Council members heard from 52 speakers who were advocating that programs slated for the chopping block by City Manager Jim Hartmann be restored. The vast majority of speakers were concerned about cuts to the city's social services, speaking out against everything from the elimination of substance-abuse prevention therapists to reduced levels of funding for early childhood education. Hartmann's proposal would reduce the budget by \$3.6 million by eliminating 24.8 health and welfare positions, creating longer wait times for psychiatric patients in need of medication and increased caseloads for social workers charged with determining eligibility for food stamps.

"Nonprofits don't need to be cut off at the knees," said Urban League President Laverne Chatman, who spoke out against \$83.4 million worth of cuts to social-service programs that her organization runs. "We need to be fully functioning now more than ever."

IN FEBRUARY, Hartmann proposed a \$524.3 million general fund budget, which was 3.3 percent lower than the budget approved by City Council last year because of dwindling revenues tied to the slumping housing market. Hartmann's budget proposal cut back many services and increased the job descriptions for those whose positions were not

eliminated. Many of the speakers who appeared at City Hall last week opposed Hartmann's suggestion to save \$171,300 by cutting back the Alexandria Library's Local History Special Collections branch to three days a week with one Saturday a month.

"A cutback of a day to the Special Collections is not the same as a cutback in a day to any other branch of the library," said Ted Pulliam, a frequent user of the local history collection. "Having only one Saturday a month is just totally inadequate."

Other cuts that received opposition included a \$324,800 reduction of funding to local nonprofits through the Fund for Human Services, \$56,641 reduction of funding for the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and \$30,000 reduction of funding to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts. Ten different speakers said they would not mind paying more taxes if it meant that service cuts wouldn't be so severe this year. Yet over the weekend, council members warned that even if they increase taxes continued declines in property values could create more problems in the years to come.

"We cannot sustain what we have today," said Councilman Justin Wilson, who predicted an 11-cent increase in the tax rate next year just to maintain Hartmann's reduced level of services next year. "I think we are looking at a train wreck coming over the next few years."

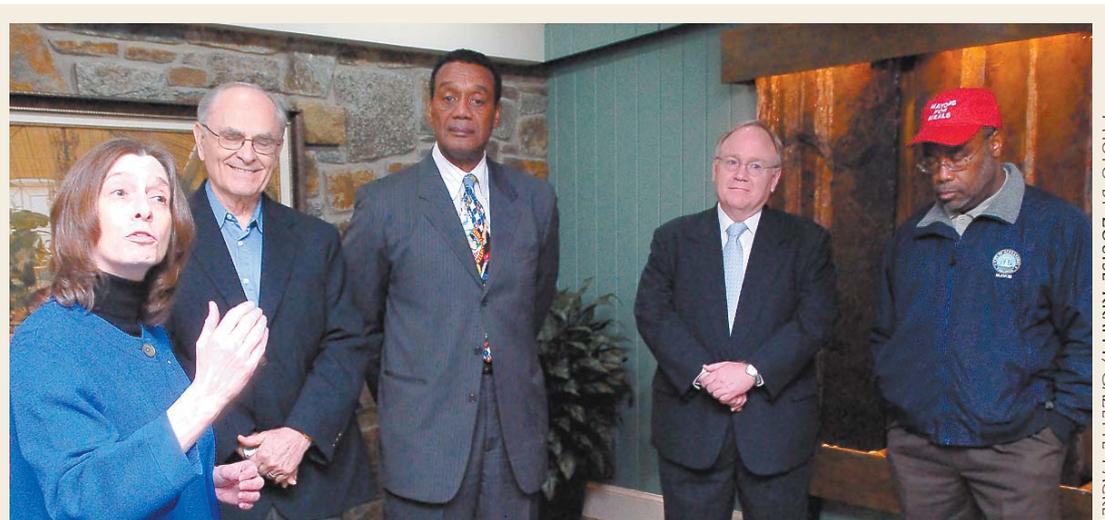


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

'Mayors for Meals'

On Wednesday, March 18, more than 1,000 mayors from around the U.S. were delivering meals as volunteers in the national Meals on Wheels program. In Alexandria, Mayor Bill Euille delivered meals with former Redskin and Pittsburgh Steeler, Roy Jefferson. Enid Borden, President and CEO of the Meals on Wheels Association of America thanked the mayor, Roy Jefferson, Senior Services of Alexandria staff, and Meals on Wheels volunteers for their continued effort to deliver meals to the city's homebound elderly. With Borden are former president and board member of Senior Services of Alexandria Bill Harris, Roy Jefferson, Ronald Bradley and Mayor Bill Euille.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ALEXANDRIA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
Amalia Quinones reads to children at Brent Place Apartments.

Keeping Children Off Drugs, for Now

Amalia Quinones is a city employee who could be laid off this summer.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
 GAZETTE PACKET

A native of Peru, Amalia Quinones came to America in 1986 and held a number of social service positions since then. In 2006, she became a substance-abuse therapist for Tucker Elementary School and Brent Place Apartments. Earlier this year, City Manager Jim Hartmann recommended eliminating her position.

What kinds of things does a substance-abuse prevention therapist do?

In the morning, I work at Tucker Elementary School where I run a program for students at the school and I also make home visits for students who have some problem with misbehavior or other kinds of problems. During the day I run a program that teaches kids to say no to drugs, and after that I work with tutors to help the children learn to read. For many of these students, English is their second language. I also work with a group of mothers to help teach how important it is for their children to do well in school.

What kind of work do you do at Brent Place Apartments?

I started a tutoring and mentoring program there, as well as programs for mothers and fathers to teach parenting skills. This works with participation from

the community. One of the goals of this program is to let people at Brent Place know how they can be involved in the community and what services are available to them from the city. We have a Mothers' Day program and a Fathers' Day program as well as a Children's Day program.

How do you persuade kids to stay away from drugs?

I run a program called "Too Good for Drugs" for children in the first grade because this is a time to teach these lessons. I explain to the kids what the consequences of taking drugs are and how it will make them feel in their brain. And then we have activities that show them how to make the right decisions that will help them say no to drugs. It's important that the school and the parents and the community work together to teach these messages.

Are children under much peer pressure to do drugs?

Yes, it is true. Children are under a lot of peer pressure to do drugs. That's why we teach the children how to say resist the drugs and help the parents know what warning signs to look for.

As you know, the city manager has recommended eliminating your position. How do you feel about the possibility of being laid off?

I am very concerned about the future of these students and this community where I am working because I think they are learning a lot about prevention. I feel very unhappy about this situation because I would like to continue working with this commu-

SEE HELPING YOUTH, PAGE 11

There She Is ...

Bethany Munt of Alexandria is crowned Miss Greater Springfield.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
 GAZETTE PACKET

Bethany Munt, 23, of Alexandria was crowned Miss Greater Springfield 2009, the first step in the Miss America Pageant, on Saturday, Feb. 28 at Greenspring. She won \$1,000 and the chance to compete in the Miss Virginia pageant in June in Roanoke.

"I entered Miss Springfield and things just clicked," said Munt. "I was very surprised and honored to have won.... This is the first time that I've even placed; I was absolutely speechless."

She competed against six other girls in talent, swimsuit, evening gown, onstage question and interview. Her platform was Strong American Schools, based in the District, which promotes education.

"She seems to be a sponge, seems to be absorbing everything," said Jerry Burks, executive director of the pageant. "She seems to want to be out in the community, talking about her platform and she wants to meet the young girls. It's part of being out in the public and being seen."

With an undergraduate degree in child development from Hobart and William Smith College in Geneva, N.Y., Munt taught school in New York and New Zealand, where she said, "I was blown away by their education system." Now she's working on her master's degree at GMU's School of Public Policy.

With Strong American Schools, she said, "Their ulti-



Bethany Munt

mate goal is to get people thinking about why education should be taken seriously."

She has also competed in the Miss New York pageant, the Apple Blossom pageant and Miss Arlington, but didn't place.

Munt calls her experience with the Greater Springfield pageant "fantastic," pointing out that they gave roses to contestants in the evening gown portion. "My favorite part was they had little historical parts to introduce each section," she said.

When she's not competing, she coaches gymnastics on the weekend for JW Tumble in Arlington. She also coaches at Barcroft Community Center.

In the future, she hopes to do something with education policy, whether it be working on the legislative side or working with interest groups. For now, she manages a local dog-walking company.

PEOPLE NOTES

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

Lafayette Frederick ('52) of Alexandria, received the Washington State University Alumni Association (WSUAA) Alumni Achievement Award. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the WSUAA and recognizes Frederick for his outstanding teaching, research, mentoring and contributions to the

fields of botany and mycology.

Century 21 Real Estate LLC, recently recognized sales associate **David S. Warner** with the Century 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Producer Award for 2008.

Air Force Airman **Andrew C. Desjardins** has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Desjardins is the son of Doreen and Alan Desjardins of Alexandria. He graduated from a home school program in 2006.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

This fence prevents access to the grave of Clara Adams and others buried on the eastern edge of Fort Ward Park.

City Yard Obscures Cemetery

FROM PAGE 1

condemning some of the properties and paying fair-market value to the families who had lived there since Reconstruction.

"Who would want someone to uproot you and buy your place out?" asked Douglas, 87, who still lives in the house she grew up in across from T.C. Williams High School. "That's what they did."

THE STORY of how a city-owned maintenance yard ended up over a family burial yard is a story that dates back to a time when Robert E. Lee's cousin owned a slave plantation nearby known as Menokin. When the Civil War erupted, the Union army seized land adjacent to that owned by the Hooff family and began building an earthen fort to serve as a supply base south of the Potomac River. After the war was over, the Union Army deserted the property and recently freed slaves began squatting on the land. By the time the city was trying to assemble lands to create Fort Ward Park in the 1960s, determining the titleholders to houses with no plumbing or sewer service created a problem.

"Who would want someone to uproot you and buy your place out? That's what they did."

— Elizabeth Douglas

"There may have been people who didn't want to sell but realized that their community was changing," said Wally Owen, curator at Fort Ward Park. "What's frustrating about this is that we don't have the full record of what went on back then."

The family burial yard where Clara Adams was buried in 1953 next to other family members eventually became a maintenance yard where city officials store horticultural equipment and park vehicles. On the occasions that Douglas has returned to an area she still calls

"the fort," she has become outraged that access to the cemetery is blocked by a gate to prevent people from entering the maintenance yard. Douglas said that seeing the padlocked gate is a painful reminder of how city officials treated black families when they were trying to create Fort Ward Park in the 1960s.

"I just think they were racial," she said one recent afternoon while sitting at her dinner table. "Those people were prejudiced, and that's all there is to it."

LATE LAST YEAR, the city's park planning staff issued a facility study at Fort Ward that concluded the facility was suffering from too much use. As a result, neighbors who live near the park began attending a series of community meetings to solicit ideas for recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Commission. During one of these community meetings, a discussion about the long-neglected family burial yard prompted concern among several neighbors.

"Our main goal is to improve operation and management of the park," said Dave Cavanaugh, a neighbor who has constructed a timeline of events at Fort Ward Park. "We'd like to see a more diverse interpretation of African-American history during and after the Civil War."

The community meetings led to an effort of several city officials to interview several individuals who remember what the area was like before the city started acquiring properties in the late 1950s. The interviews have led to a realization by modern-day city officials that more bodies had been buried near the Clara Adams grave than were previously known. Now that the archeology at the Freedman's Cemetery on South Washington Street has been completed, a similar undertaking is beginning to determine how city officials should proceed with the Adams family burial ground in the Fort Ward maintenance yard. This week, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities scheduled another public meeting to gather ideas about what should happen at the park.

"I think if everybody puts their heads together we'll all be able to come up with a good process," said City Archeologist Pam Cressey. "But we'll need to have plenty of discussion about this before we make a decision."

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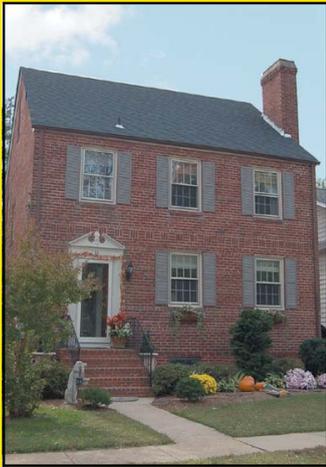
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Bobi Bomar 703-927-2213



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Bobi Bomar 703-927-2213



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Erika Carroll 703-568-7376



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Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Alexandria \$1,199,000
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Alexandria \$1,350,000
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Alexandria \$689,000
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Hal Sadler 703-677-7515



Alexandria \$499,000
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Gary Chute 703-371-9926



Alexandria \$525,000
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Kerrie Price 703-901-2778

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Disclosure Forms Reveal Range of Gifts

FROM PAGE 1

public business. Although the mayor has disclosed \$3,500 worth of gifts from his construction company over the last three years, Euille said that was a very conservative estimate.

"I probably should be showing \$10,000 worth of services," said Euille, who founded the company in 1987. "I could bill the city for gas, mileage and cell phone, but I've never done that."

Other gifts the forms show the mayor received over the last three years include \$1,000 from car dealer Jack Taylor for tickets to sports events, \$1,500 from Joe Theismann's Restaurant as part of a discounted rate for the mayor's annual Super Bowl party and \$800 worth of tickets for Chamber of Commerce events. Because the mayor is a well-known sports enthusiast with season tickets to Washington Wizards games at the Verizon Center, friends will often approach him for tickets. As a result, Euille said, he

will ask Jack Taylor for hockey or baseball tickets he can give to friends.

"Friends will ask me for tickets all the time," said Euille, declining to name the recipients of tickets he acquires from Taylor. "Sometimes I call Jack to see if he's got any tickets available."

BEING AN ELECTED official has its perks. Shortly after he was first elected in 2003, Councilman Ludwig Gaines began receiving offers of free passes to Consolidated movie theatres and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, which operates a golf course and water park. Disclosure forms show he received \$500 worth of gifts from the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and \$100 worth of movie tickets from Consolidated Theatres. Gaines said that he enjoyed a few rounds of golf, took his son to the water park a handful of times and took in a couple

SEE DISCLOSURE, PAGE 24

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

Happy Hour/Membership Night. 7 p.m. at Mango Mike's, 4580 Duke St. Learn about the Alexandria Jaycees and how to get involved. E-mail director4@alexjaycees.org or visit www.alexjaycees.org for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

Open House. 9 a.m.-noon at Alexandria Friends School, 3830 Seminary Road. Learn about the school. For more information, visit <http://www.afriends.org/> or call 703-461-7222.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Adoption Preparation Class. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at ACW, 100

Daingerfield Road. Learn about effects of orphanage life on a child and more. \$125/person. RSVP by calling 703-549-7774.

Lecture. 9 a.m. at Courtyard Marriott, 4641 Kenmore Ave. \$25-\$30. "What Next for REITs" will be discussed. Visit www.aaiidcmetro.com for reservations.

Meeting. 8:30 a.m.-noon at First Baptist Church, 2932 King St. Share a

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 24

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Fair Market Value?

Many concerns about assessing properties in Northern Virginia this year.

Less than a month ago, Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties, and the City of Alexandria, like other local governments, mailed each property owner a new assessment of the fair market value of the property.

What is your home's fair market value? Most homeowners probably believe that the fair market value of their home is what they could sell it for in a reasonable period of time right now — say putting it on the market this week and allowing 30-60 days. How much would that be?

It's a tough question this year, with values dropping by more than 12 percent on average in Fairfax, nearly 15 percent in Loudoun, less than 5 percent in Alexandria and about 2 percent in Arlington.

The tax assessors base their decisions on the sales of "comparable" properties that sold in 2008, sometimes earlier. But with the number of sales down dramatically, there are sometimes very few "comparable" sales. In Fairfax County, the majority of sales are foreclosures.

But the assessors have decided that foreclosures should not be taken into consideration as a comparable sale.

This is questionable, and the exclusion of

foreclosure sales likely inflates the value of many, if not most, properties.

If houses in your neighborhood have sold in foreclosure for dramatically reduced prices, does that affect the value of your house? You know it does.

The value on the piece of paper sent to your house will determine the amount of property tax you owe this year, based on the tax rate which in most places will not be precisely set until April.

EDITORIAL

Local governments' budgets, the amount of money they have to fund schools, public safety, libraries and many other services, depend directly on how much the homes in each jurisdiction are worth, based on the tax rate. This is more so in Virginia than in many other states where localities have more leeway in choosing sources of revenue. Localities in Virginia are more dependent on property taxes because the General Assembly has strictly limited their access to other taxes. In Virginia, because it is a "Dillon Rule" state, localities only have exactly the power that the General Assembly has bestowed on them.

YOU CAN APPEAL your assessment, but the

deadlines are fast approaching and the burden of proof is entirely on the homeowner. You will need to be prepared to cite comparable sales from 2008 that justify your view of your home's fair market value. There are two possible steps to appeal, first to the local department of tax administration, then to each locality's Board of Equalization. The Board of Equalization is independent of the tax assessors office; it is made up of citizens appointed by the governing board.

IN THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, the deadline to file an administrative appeal with the Department of Real Estate Assessments is April 1. The deadline for the Board of Equalization appeals is July 1. See <http://alexandriava.gov/realestate/info/default.aspx?id=1648>.

We want to hear from you; please share your opinion of your assessment, or any experiences you have in appealing your assessment.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Talking Trash

BY SUSAN HEPLER

It was not a good start to the Annual Four Mile Run Watershed Clean-up Day on March 14. Grey skies and temperatures forecasted to be in the 40s encouraged me to get a late start at the Shirlington site.

But already, some several dozen people from Arlington and Alexandria had gathered six bags of trash from the stream banks when I got there at 10, so I joined in.

A surprising amount of plastic binds together the sand, leaves, and sticks at the water's edge. There are bags, in various stages of decay, some parts of which will never break down, such as the long blue, yellow, or red plastic circles remaining from tie-attached garbage bags. There is plastic twine and plastic weed-whacker string. Food-related plastic, like red and blue cold drink or white Styrofoam hot drink cups, condiment cups, red straws, and white spoons dapple the ground. From another era, a 14-foot brown quarter-inch wide ribbon of plastic audio tape binds to-

gether a more plastic, branches, sand, and sticks.

EVIDENCE of human activities is everywhere. Dog poop is bagged, knotted neatly ...and tossed in the weeds. Candy wrappers, foil juice boxes, an ice cream bar wrapper — who tosses the wrapper into the stream? Who carefully picks up dog waste and leaves the plastic bag as another kind of waste?

In fact, picking up trash inspires imaginations. Two pairs of black pants under some sheets of cardboard? A bed for a homeless person? A sun-bather? "Hobos," cry some middle-school students as they come upon muddy sweat pants, sandy shirts, a single sock or shoe, the bill from a cap. There's a partly decomposed shirt wedged between rocks, but still on its blue plastic hanger. Maybe it was forgotten by a tired worker pausing to contemplate the river?

Just as I note I haven't found many beer containers, I come upon a dozen various bottles

SEE TRASH, PAGE 10

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chief Details Budget Allocations

To the Editor:

I wanted to take the opportunity to clarify statements made by Michael Pope in his "Prevention and Prosecution" article in the Thursday, March 12 edition of the Gazette. He wrote that the Police Department has received increased funding for the next fiscal year to expand staffing in its Vice Narcotics Section. In fact, the Police Department has not received an increase in funding or staffing; on the contrary, the department reduced its budget by more than \$600,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010. This reduction follows similar and, in some cases, more substantial budget reductions within the Police Department in each of the three previous budget years. We are not alone. Every department in the City has been asked to make significant budget reductions to offset real or projected deficits.

Here are the facts regarding the funding for the Vice/Narcotics Section of the Alexandria Police Department:

❖ The Alexandria Police Department reallocated existing resources from external task forces back to our department's Vice/Narcotics Section. Three officers

were transferred back to the Vice/Narcotics Section from regional task forces in 2008. The reallocation of staff and funds is the sole reason why an increase is shown in the proposed Vice Narcotics section of the FY 2010 proposed budget.

❖ The costs associated with this reallocation were identified and accounted for in the appropriate performance measures section of the department's budget report. Leased space costs also increased and the cost of supplying vehicles and equipment to the three officers increased the allocation of funding within the section to the level indicated.

❖ The Police Department received a small net increase in its budget this year for fuel, due to the City-mandated decentralization of such costs. For FY 2010, the City will begin to attribute fuel costs to departments rather than centralize the fuel budget. This affects funding for all City departments with assigned vehicles. Without the fuel allocation, the Police Department's budget did not increase. In fact, without this allocation and other mandatory increases in lease costs and essential technology maintenance contracts, the department's operating budget for FY 2010 actually de-

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

creased by at least \$200,000. The strained fiscal climate and the sacrifices many are making to maintain current services during this difficult time require consistent clarity in reporting budget facts and the impact reductions have on City departments. The Alexandria Police Department continues to provide important public safety services to the community while closely monitoring its expenditures. I can assure all Alexandrians that members of the department, sworn and civilian alike, are committed to deliver the best "bang for the buck."

David P. Baker
Chief of Police
Alexandria Police Department

(Editor's Note: The source for the information in the story was page 14-47 of the city manager's proposed budget for FY2010, which showed expenditures for the Vice/Narcotics section increasing from \$1.7 million in FY2009 to \$2.4 million in FY2010. The article made no mention of staffing other than to quote the chief explaining that staffing in the Vice/Narcotics section had not increased.)

Small Business Owners Unite

To the Editor:

Please allow me to address this letter to all small business owners in Alexandria:

As if small business owners in Alexandria weren't having enough difficulties, imagine if we were to wake up after City Council Election Day and read the headline: "Business Owners Big Losers."

I know that's not a headline I want to see.

Yet if the Democrat slate for City Council is elected, every small business owner in Alexandria will once again be without a voice.

To help remedy this, I urge all to vote for Frank Fannon for City Council.

The unfettered reign of a city council without a pro-business voice must come to an end.

Throughout the entire tenure of the current council, they have proven over and over again they are no friends of small business.

When it comes to voting for valuable small business tax cuts, relief from nonsensical regulations and other critical small business related measures that can boost our bottom lines, the current council has not been on our side.

The reality is that "one-party" rule equals "no-party" rule, and for too many years there has been no voice of accountability on the Council to speak for those that actually pull the wagon of commerce in our city.

I speak as the owner of a small business. I know first-hand of the rigmarole that we go through just to get the blessing of those who really don't appreciate us in the first place.

With each passing year, this council has from a group of political idealists to rank-and-file tax-and-spend politicians.

Witness the controversial ethanol off-loading facility, whereas the council members did not even take the time to inform themselves on the issue.

Witness the city's duplicity involved in running a tax-paying outdoor outfitter out of business, all because it didn't fit within some ambiguous ideal of "political correctness."

And witness the numerous examples of the interests of small business being pushed aside in favor of mega-corporations and developers. If you are Comcast, you

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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Early Detection Can Fight Colon Cancer

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO
INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Christine Candio

Several years ago, Sheila Brooks, an avid jogger and healthy eater, began experiencing abdominal pain while she was out shopping. When she returned home to rest, her pain became increasingly worse. She came to Inova Alexandria Hospital for treatment. After a thorough examination, polyps in her colon and stomach ulcers were discovered. The polyps were removed but pre-cancerous cells were found within the polyps. Fortu-

nately, these cells were detected and removed before they became cancerous and Sheila returned home the same day. However, she remembers that this experience not only surprised but frightened her.

Sheila's story highlights the importance of early detection in tackling any disease. At Inova Alexandria Hospital, we believe that knowledge about your health empowers you to be an advocate for your health. This month we would like to empower you with knowledge about colon cancer.

Colon cancer is caused by polyps, or growths forming in the colon and turning

cancerous. A colonoscopy is the most widely used test for detecting polyps and the only test that removes them, thereby reducing the risk of developing colorectal cancer. The procedure is painless, has few complications, and requires very little time and no overnight stay.

Nearly 150,000 people are diagnosed with colon cancer each year, according to the American Cancer Society, making it the third most common cancer in the nation. Almost 50,000 people die annually from this disease, but you can help reduce this number by educating yourself and others about the disease and getting a colon cancer screening or colonoscopy.

Some risk factors that can increase your chances of developing the disease are diets

high in lamb, beef or other red meats, little or no exercise, smoking, alcohol abuse, and being overweight. All of these factors, including being 50 or older, are reasons to consider having a colonoscopy regularly.

If the results of the colonoscopy are negative for cancer or other colon diseases, physicians recommend repeating a colon screening every two or three years.

Fortunately, Sheila, who was mentioned earlier, was never diagnosed with colon cancer and as she continues to be diligent about getting her colonoscopies regularly, she hopes to never be diagnosed with colon cancer.

If you would like to learn more about colon screenings, contact our Endoscopy Department at 703-504-7801.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 9

get a monopoly. If you build office buildings, heck, we'll abate your taxes for a period of time (and we might even try to build you a Metro stop!). But if you are Joe the Dry Cleaner — put your head down, the city is gunning for you!

These are just a few illustrative examples, but believe me, there are hundreds of raw-deal stories similar to these, and the current council is profoundly uninterested in them.

That's why I again urge all voters, but especially business owners in Alexandria to vote for Frank Fannon for City Council this May 5.

I know Frank, what he and his family have done for this city, and I know that he respects the huge investment you have in your business. He understands the countless hours you put in to turn a profit and meet a payroll. And, he knows how determined you are to be successful and share in the American Dream.

Once elected, Frank will vigorously champion a small business agenda. He understands that without a robust small business tax base, the homeowner will continue to be used as an ATM for the Gang of Nine.

A city without a vibrant small business community is merely a shell; a suitcase town that is dormant save for business hours. Given their druthers, this is exactly where the Gang of Nine are leading us.

The bottom line is that as a small business owner you cannot afford to elect another Democrat slate that is anti-small business. That is why I urge you to vote for Frank Fannon on May 5.

William O. Black
Alexandria

Give Power To Neighborhoods

To the Editor:

Is a city a set of legal boundaries, a collection of buildings and roads, or govern-

ment services? No. The people are the city. Without the people there are no taxes to collect, no services to provide, and no culture or vibrancy. How do the people organize in order to express their needs, preferences, and views?

Well, in the 21st century, a single person "going down to city hall" is not going to do any good. Citizens have learned that to protect the quality of life for themselves, they need to band together into neighborhood civic groups.

Having been a neighborhood president, I understand that it is truly these groups where the city grows, has identity and the greatness of the city is protected from exploitation and expropriation. It is my belief then, that city decisions, ordinances, and spending priorities should come from the neighborhoods. In Alexandria, however, all seats are elected at-large, which means that when no candidates are elected from a specific neighborhood, the viewpoint of that neighborhood is silenced. How can we reconcile this? Well, I propose two methods to repair this: one in the short term and one as the long term solution. Short term: When the city is going to take action on zoning, spending or services, an impact assessment needs to take into account those neighborhoods which will be affected by such things as traffic, construction, or land use. Those affected neighborhoods need to be given an active role in crafting the action, not just advisory. The neighborhoods affected need to be given a real seat at the table, to assert their property owners and business owners' viewpoints, and to consider this the new way of doing business. In the long term, the city needs to overhaul the way its council members are elected. We need a ward system, where each neighborhood has a specific voice and a specific person who will address constituent services. The at large system was scrapped in most cities in the '60s when it was shown that decisions in cities where groups or portions of cities with more population or clout would attempt to speak for all.

That's not representation, that's removal of voter and property rights. The city is a

rich mixture of neighborhoods and it is the neighborhood where power should be returned. When elected to city council I will make representing neighborhoods my paramount concern.

Rich Williamson
Independent Candidate for Alexandria
City Council

Keep Death Penalty

To the Editor:

This is in response to Ms. Tostanoski's "State-Approved Killings" letter [March 5, 2009]. Edward Nathaniel Bell was executed on Feb. 19, 2009 for the murder of Winchester Police Officer Ricky Timbrook. Bell received the death penalty because he was found guilty. He exhausted all his appeals and Governor Kaine refused to grant clemency. Thus, his legal options of proving that he was innocent were exhausted.

Ms. Tostanoski makes the point that: "killing a person who has killed another person to make the point that killing a person is wrong is absolute nonsense. Our humanity is diminished when the commonwealth kills in our name." I beg to differ. Justice is served when the death penalty is carried out. The death penalty in Virginia is reserved for the harshest crimes imaginable, like when Mr. Bell executed a police officer. The death penalty means that murderers like Eddie Bell will not perform any heinous crimes again. It also alleviates a burden to the taxpayers who would otherwise have to foot the bill for his jail stay, his health care, and mental well being. It makes my blood boil when there are homeless people out there who cannot afford a place to live, or often a hot meal and then I see criminals like Mr. Bell getting these services. While I admire and praise Ms. Tostanoski's convictions, they are simply wrong when something so heinous is practiced upon the public servants that protect us, and fellow citizens.

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Talking Trash

FROM PAGE 8

and cans, some so full of sand that I wonder how many years this rocky spot has been used for a refreshing pause. I have been picking up water bottles, soda cans, and juice boxes all along, but this is a real cache.

Construction trash, plastic pipe, chunks of Styrofoam packaging, a spent tube of caulk, a smashed oil can, wire, a screwdriver, and a hubcap, turn up among the riverbank's spring plants.

THERE ARE PLENTY of representatives of invasive plants which threaten to take over the natives, like garlic mustard, plus prickly-stemmed multiflora roses and wineberry. Insistent English ivy has crept out from the edge of a playground, under the fence, and down the bank toward the sun. If it's not removed, in a few years, it will take over the banks and run up the trees to grow berries and take over, so I pull what I can.

Garbage taxonomy, beginning plant identification, and a good workout are just a few of the things that make this day fun. That, and the satisfaction that some 35 people care enough to gather on a cold Saturday morning in Shirlington to pick up 43 bags of trash in about three hours. It is a good day.

I'll want to be at the Potomac Watershed Clean-Up on April 4, for another good day.

Susan Hepler is a community volunteer, and a writer based in Alexandria. More information about the April 4 event may be found at http://www.potomaccleanup.org/trash_initiative/trash_cleanup.html

PEOPLE

Helping Youth

FROM PAGE 4

nity, the children and the parents.

What would happen if nobody was doing your job?

These students would have nobody visiting their homes and talking to their parents about these issues. Nobody would be available to run to the "Too Good for Drugs" program. Nobody would be visiting the homes of these children. This is my concern. I hope something can change with my position.

What do you think you might do if you get laid off?

At this moment, I think I would probably volunteer because I love the community. So I would try to continue working with the community, especially making home visits and talking to people who really need intervention. Many of these parents don't know how to handle situations with their children or even talk to their children. They need to learn how to be in control of their children, and they speak very limited English. So it's very difficult for them to get these messages any other way.

IRA Elsewhere? It's time to...

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NEWS

Head Start Celebrates 43 Years



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

The piñata opens and the children scramble to collect the candy and toys.

Children at four of the nine Head Start sites in the city received special visitors Friday, March 13. Mayor Bill Euille, ACPS Superintendent Mort Sherman, ACPS board member Yvonne Folkerts and former City Manager Vola Lawson arrived at various sites and spent the morning reading books to the children followed by a small celebration.

The Head Start program began in 1966. In Alexandria, according to the Campagna Center, more than 11,000 children have participated in the program.

For more information on Head Start in Alexandria contact Joy Trejo at 703-549-0111 x162 or visit www.campagnacenter.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

As for Eddie Bell's competence, that's something that's provided for in the lengthy appeals process (eight years from trial to execution) and if nothing was found or presented, then why is it the State's fault?

Ms. Tostanoski also states that:

"Unless and until we have a fool-proof legal system, incapable of error, I do not want any state-approved killing carried out in my name. How about you?" Well, that's never going to happen. We are human, mistakes happen. However, our justice system is probably the best in the world (especially when it comes to molly-

coddling criminals) and I have faith that justice will be served.

As for Ms. Tostanoski's point about: "killing carried out in my name", it's simply not true. It's Justice carried out in my name.

Keep the death penalty.

TJ Parmele
Alexandria

Karastan

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Edible Jazz

Upcoming lecture to probe how African-American foodways shaped Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Michael Twitty, a leading expert on African-American foodways, will return to the Alexandria Black History Museum next weekend to discuss the use of open hearths, stew stoves, special tools and pots that gave certain foods their unique flavor. He will also discuss the importance of tradition, nature, and availability of ingredients in Afro-Virginian cooking. His book, "Fighting Old Nep: The Foodways of Enslaved Afro-Marylanders 1634-1864," will be available for purchase.

How did you become interested in the subject of African-American diet and food preparation?

When I was a kid I was surrounded by a family that treasured its own history and the history of all people of African descent. What intrigued me the most our folk culture, especially that of enslaved people in the South and their forebears from West and Central Africa. I've always been interested in food. As an African-American kid you wonder — OK that ethnic group has their way of cooking and eating, what about us? I interviewed my grandparents, learned to cook, garden, fish, hunt and raise livestock through my parents, uncles, aunts and grandmother. That's how it all started.

What is distinctive about African-American foodways?

African-American foodways are based on a food heritage brought from Africa transformed and adapted to the ways and ingredients of the Americas. Native America is in it, so is Western Europe. It's our edible jazz, and unlike any other cuisine it fits like

Sweet Potato Pumpkin

Although it sounds exotic, the sweet potato pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata*) was the glory of the African Virginian's table. Thomas Jefferson stated clearly that it was "well esteemed at our tables, and particularly valued by our Negroes." Cushaws produced from the late summer into the late fall, taking the place of sweet potatoes while they were out of season. The word cushaw is derived from an Algonquin word, although the plant itself ultimately derives from the West Indies, possibly Jamaica. When African Virginians moved across the Piedmont into the Appalachians, they brought the sweet potato pumpkin with them, and like the banjo (Kimbundu: mbanza) it became part of Southern Appalachian culture. Cushaws are made into cushaw butter, pie filling, puddings, and are cooked on their own. Striped green and creamy white, the "potato pumpkin," made into *The Virginia Housewife*, having attained popularity across lines of class and race.

Ingredients:

- ❖ 1 medium sweet potato pumpkin or cushaw
- ❖ 1 teaspoon of salt
- ❖ 1/2 cup of molasses
- ❖ 1/4 cup of butter
- ❖ a few dashes of spiced rum

Directions:

- ❖ Cut the top off of the pumpkin and pare off the rind. Scoop out the seeds and reserve them for other dishes or for seed saving. Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees.
- ❖ Cut the sweet potato pumpkin up into small chunks and place in a pot or Dutch oven with water to cover. Add the salt. Boil gently until just barely fork-tender.

a puzzle piece with our spirituality, fashion, music, dance, oral tradition and intellect. It's call and response you can eat.

What role did the availability of ingredients play in Afro-Virginian cooking?

You didn't have much. Imagine a larder without salt, pepper, wheat flour, butter, milk, sugar, eggs or spices — all the staple ingredients of a modern American kitchen. But unlike other places where you might be completely cut off from these ingredients, enslaved Virginians' practice of selling produce or chickens or crafts for money or barter helped them to acquire such delicacies. It's amazing that with simple ingredients, my ancestors were able to create a diet that sustained them despite having very little.

What kinds of food was commonly found in slave quarters?

Salted fish or meat, corn — measured in gallons according to the gender and workload of the person. Corn became hominy, hoecake, cornbread, corn mush and porridge. Sweet potatoes, turnip greens, cymling squash, field peas, red peppers, pole beans, watermelons and okra were all pretty common in the gardens of Virginia's enslaved. Wild greens, fish, fruit — like persimmons or apples — and wild game like opossums and squirrel were constants in the cabins according to the seasons.

What tools were used, and how did this influence the cooking?



Blind Pilot

Hear Music of Blind Pilot

They will be playing at Iota on Friday, March 27.

Israel Nebeker and Ryan Dobrowski make up Blind Pilot. They have been friends since college and they played music on the streets of Newqay, England. This is their first van tour across the United States. For information on the band, visit blindpilotmusic.wordpress.com.

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

When I was six I obsessively asked my mom daily to get me piano lessons. I started writing songs when I was the typical anxiety and wondering 15 year old or so, but I never considered performing since I was painfully shy as a kid. Somehow my friends convinced me to play some house parties and I got hooked on the feeling of it. We rarely get to share ourselves vulnerably with people and I like that about playing shows quite a lot. I believe there's a space created by performance that relies just as much on an audience as the performer. I don't really try to perform. I just try to be as into the songs as when I'm playing alone and somehow it all gets heightened with a crowd.

If applicable, how were your musicians chosen?

I know how we all came to play together, but it's really still a mystery for me. Ryan and I met long ago in school, but the rest of the band came after recording three rounds and a sound.

What is your best memory when it comes to music?

Ryan and I lived for a summer in Newqay, England for a university exchange program. It's a really beautiful tourist/surfer town and we busked on the street during the weekend late night pub crowds to make up for our tiny income we had there. That's one of my favorites. Super scary to play for pass-

ing people on the street, but when random people stop and gather into crowds it's wonderful. I think that helped shape what we do as Blind Pilot quite a lot.

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

I don't know that I have one. One of the best parts of this tour is that we've never been to any of these cities and it's exciting to see how the music will sound in new places and for new people.

Best compliment about a performance?

The first time someone thanked me for making music and writing songs was a bit mind blowing. It's a bit of a disconnect to think that this thing that is my favorite thing to do — something I'd do just for myself — somehow benefits another person.

What is your favorite piece of music and why?

Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev. When I was a kid I had this tape of David Bowie narrating it along with a book. It was often the only thing to keep me entertained or comfort me. So it's got nostalgic value, but it's really just amazing musically and conceptually.

Who would you love to play with? Why?

Anyone? There's so many musicians and bands that I admire, I wouldn't know where to start. Two that I've admired for a long time are The Decemberists and Andrew Bird, and it's like a dream come true that we get to play two shows with them this July.

Describe your sound:

I'm never good with this. I dunno, it's kind of like describing your sister to somebody and everything you say is just technically your sister but not her really. I feel like saying, hey, just MEET her. She's really great and maybe you'll like her, but you'll never know anything about that from what I tell you. Folk.



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FOOD & DRINK

Food of the Past

FROM PAGE 13

It was extremely Spartan. Iron pots or dutch ovens, frying pans or skillets, a few wooden spoons, gourds and shells and maybe stray castoffs from slave holders made up the kitchen gadgets. There were a lot of one-pot meals. Think about our slow cookers today and fried foods — foods that could either be prepared over the course of a long work day or cooked up quick at then end of one.

Did slaves develop special techniques to cook their food?

My ancestors often wrapped foods in leaves to steam, which was a common cooking method among Africans and Native Americans. Two other methods that came from Africa are deep frying and grilling spiced meats over smoky wood — what you might call barbecuing — are elements that enslaved Virginians drew on in creating their meals.

What can modern-day people learn from studying Afro-Virginian cooking?

That we are what we eat. History is really made in the kitchens and around the kitchen tables from day to day. My ancestors would have been just fine in times like these. They knew how to make something from nothing. If it wasn't for those endless days of corn mush and salt pork, a lot of us wouldn't be here to tell the tale.



Michael Twitty

Free Lecture

Michael Twitty, a leading expert on African-American foodways, will return to the Alexandria Black History Museum on March 28 to present "Cooking in the Quarters: Enslaved African Virginians Cooking for Themselves." The free lecture, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will explore the preparation of foods of enslaved Virginians. Reservations are requested, as seating is limited. For more information or to make a reservation, please call 703-838-4356.

CALENDAR

E-mail calendar announcements to 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 for more.

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 March 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 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 or 703-780-2000.

Performance. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Zemfira Stage presents "Oleanna." \$15/adult; \$10/student, senior, military. Visit www.zemfirastage.org or 703-318-0619.

Mount Vernon will bring back its popular **National Treasure Tour through Oct. 31**. Included in this approximately hour-long walking tour is the Mansion's basement and cornerstone, the setting for a pivotal

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18



The City of Alexandria,
Environmental Policy Commission (EPC)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Department of Urban Affairs & Planning

Invite residents to attend

Eco-City Alexandria

Eco-City Action Plan Café

When: Thursday, March 19
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Where: Lee Center
1108 Jefferson Street

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3232
Woodland Ln
\$649,900

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

open floor plan, 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!



4203
Adrienne Dr
\$459,000

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

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4003
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Riverfront!
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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.



3601
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Riverwood Gem!
Updated Colonial near the Potomac River neighboring homes selling for

\$3,595,850 and \$5,500,000! Owner spent \$175K in recent upgrades. Spectacular custom kitchen with granite, stainless & light maple cabinets, 4BRs, hardwood floors, updated & reconfigured baths, large screened porch, oversized garage & fenced yard.



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.



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!



9305
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\$985,900

Prestigious!
Stately Colonial boasts 5BRs (with rare main level suite), 5.5BA, stunning updated

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4307
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Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



OPEN SUN. 1-4

1915 DUFFIELD LANE
Alexandria - \$589,900

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Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



OPEN SUN. 1-4

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Martha Deal 703.622.6797



OPEN SUN. 1-4

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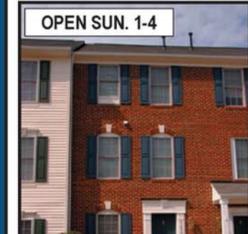
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1819 DUFFIELD LANE
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BELLE HAVEN ON THE GREEN. Turn key 3 lv TH w/ garage on prime lot backing to woods. 3-4BR, 3.5BA, open floor plan, new granite & SS, Kit opens to DR & LR w/FP, rec room & spacious tiered patio. Updated thru-out. \$40K in extras NOT INCLUDED in price. Only one light to OT & GW Parkway. Owner / Agent.



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42800 PILGRIM SQUARE
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suite adds to charm & appeal of this great home. Enjoy the South Riding community.

Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



1206 MICHIGAN COURT
OT / New at Nethergate - \$589,900

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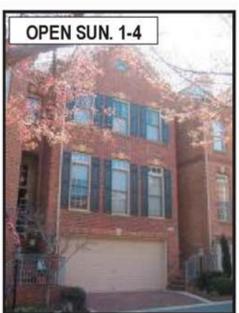


8817 LINTON LANE
Mt Vernon / Stratford - \$625,000

5th bedroom and 3rd bath in this pretty home are perfect for nanny, guests or in-laws! A renovated kitchen with eating space and hardwood floors is light and bright. Big family room, replaced windows, roof and gutters are all pluses!



Leah Chapla 703.929.4875



OPEN SUN. 1-4

1675 HUNTING CREEK DRIVE
Alex / OT - \$875,000

1 LIGHT TO DC AND AIRPORT!
4 gorgeous levels, 4Br/4.5Ba. Elegantly appointed with beautiful moldings and hardwoods on the main level. Open floor plan and gourmet kitchen makes entertaining a breeze. Large guest suite with full bath on private upper floor.



OUTSTANDING VALUE!
Ann Logsdon 703.568.8433



OPEN SUN. 1-4

801 NORTH PITT ST. UNIT 218
Alexandria - \$187,000

Charming sunny Port Royal corner unit studio w/priv balc. New HVAC. Rooftop grill deck w/smashing views, low condo fee incl all utilities. 24hr concierge. Pet-friendly bldg. Free parking. Fabulous location. GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!



Martha Deal 703.622.6797



702 WEST ABINGDON COURT
Alex / Beautiful Nethergate - \$615,000

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! 4lvl brick TH w/gourmet Kit, 2 MSTR suites (1w/FP), MSTR Ba w/2 sinks. Formal LR w/FP leads to delightful Georgetown patio. Lg Family room w/FBa & FP, storage, new windows.



Anne Hambley 703.946.7266



7522 MILWAY DRIVE
Alexandria - \$399,000

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! "As is" sale is an opportunity for astute builder or handy person! 4-level split with garage and replacement windows! Milway Meadows homes sell from \$525,000-\$650,000. Handyman special. NOT a short sale or foreclosure!



Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

4909 John Ticer Drive
\$940,000 | Cameron Station
Spectacular detached cottage home in prime location. Sun-filled 3,350+ square feet on 3 levels, 4 bedroom, 3.5 baths, chef's kit with granite, stainless steel appliances, opens to great room, high ceilings, custom moldings, gleaming hardwoods, 2-car garage. Free shuttle to Metro www.paddockhomes.com.

Vaughn & Diane Paddock | 703.628.2828



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

4 Rosemont Lane
\$849,000 | Alexandria City
Classic Rosemont beauty just blocks to Metro. 3 bedroom, 2.5 baths. Comfortable, flowing floor plan with sunny living room leading to charming porch, large formal dining room, gourmet kitchen, family room that opens to private patio/ yard. Dir: From King St, N on Russell Rd, R on Rosemont Ave.

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



NEW LISTING

5710 River Drive
\$889,000 | Hallowing Point, Mason Neck
Charming colonial on 1 acre, timeless architecture in unique setting surrounded by parkland and Potomac River. 30-40 minutes from Old Town and DC. 4 bedroom, 3.5 baths, main floor master bedroom, water view, community boat launch, pier, tennis & beachfront park.

Susan Gray Chambers | 703.203.9900



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

2410 Brentwood Place
\$589,000 | Alexandria S / Hollin Hills
Modern home with floor to ceiling windows and striking views of the outdoors. Vaulted ceilings, updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, custom counters, pendant lighting, large dining area/family room. Updated bathrooms, three bedrooms.

Mary Cay Harris | 703.328.7041



NEW PRICE

409 North Columbus Street
\$775,000 | Old Town
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 has great room sizes and tons of sun! Great Old Town location! www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



2 MASTER BEDROOMS

2181 Jamieson Avenue #2007
\$475,000 | Carlyle Towers
Spectacular 2 master bedroom floor plan. Glass sunroom with ceramic tile, marble foyer, separate dining room, large kitchen, wood floors throughout, views of Potomac River & City from this 20th floor unit. Garage space. Many upgrades. MLM1606@aol.com www.CarlyleTowers3-2007.com.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

2121 Jamieson Avenue #1603
\$739,000 | Carlyle Towers
Beautifully updated & maintained 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath sunny end unit. Views of Masonic Temple. Custom French doors to glass enclosed balcony, many built-ins! Pool, 2 gyms, tennis, 24-hr mgmt & security. Garage parking, close to 2 metros. MLM1606@aol.com www.CarlyleTowers1-1603.com.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

2151 Jamieson Avenue #606-607
\$825,000 | Carlyle Towers
Large, bright and open. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, glass enclosed balcony. Sunny view of fountain park. Wood floors! Large eat in kitchen, expanded master bedroom with extra closet, garage parking. Duke St to Lion statues on Delaney, R Jamieson to 2151 MLM1606@aol.com www.CarlyleTowers2-607.com.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



NEW LISTING OPEN SUNDAY 1-5!

2181 Jamieson Avenue
\$800,000 | Carlyle Towers
Large 3 bedroom with 20th floor panoramic views. Elegant and spacious with wood floors, crown molding, chair rail, decorative fireplace, gourmet kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, 2 tiled enclosed balconies, whirl pool tub, 2 garage spaces. Walk to 2 metros, 24hr security, pool, tennis.

Brenda Stone | 703.739.4663



NEW LISTING OPEN SUNDAY 1-5!

2121 Jamieson Avenue
\$900,000 | Carlyle Towers
Stunning 3 bedrooms, 3 bath condo features incredible built-ins in every room, center hall tray ceiling, arched entry hall ceiling, moldings, wood floors, granite counters, SS appl. 270 degree, top of the world view from the Masonic Temple past the DC Skyline to the Potomac River.

Brenda Stone | 703.739.4663



NEW LISTING

2500 Q Street NW
\$940,000 | Washington DC
Spacious, sunny top floor 1 bedroom in prestigious Georgetown building. Great location just blocks to Metro. Open floor plan with lots of closets, large living room and dining room. Fitness center and roof deck with fabulous view of the City. Secure bldg with 24 hr front desk, shops and restaurants nearby.

Eloise Brantley | 703.408.4887



NEW LISTING

3600 Glebe Road #717W 'The Eclipse'
\$494,900 | Arlington
Bank owned. Corner unit, L-balcony and Juliette balconies on each bedroom. Views of Potomac River, Reagan National Airport & the trains! Two garage spaces, hardwood floors throughout except in the bedrooms. Master bedroom with tub, separate shower and dual vanity.

Sherry York | 703.625.3377



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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

5116 Kenwood Drive
\$1,399,000 | Annandale
 Nantucket Estate with wrap porches and cupolas on nearly 1 acre, heated stone floors, see-thru fireplace, copper roof, gourmet kitchen, exercise/media rooms, private patio and deck. Additional photos at www.phyllispatterson.com. Dir: 495 West, exit on Braddock Road, Left of Kenwood.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4! REDUCED \$100,000!

6406 Woodhaven Drive
\$799,900 | New Alexandria
 A new price on this "like new" 4/5 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage, 3 finished levels, high ceilings, hardwood floors, new kitchen with granite and center island overlooking deck and yard, master retreat formal living room and dining room, study and wine cellar. www.phyllispatterson.com

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



NEW LISTING

810 Rivergate Place
\$1,149,000 | Old Town
 Large master bedroom with cathedral ceiling and sitting area and two additional bedrooms and baths, upgraded kitchen, cozy family room with wood burning fireplace. Lower level rec room with full bath adjoins large, two car garage. Private patio with koi pond. Steps from Potomac & minutes to National Airport and DC.

Hugo Romero | 703.582.6727



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

1500 Grassymeade Lane
\$899,000 | Alexandria S / Fort Hunt
 All brick colonial featuring 5/6 bedrooms, 3.5 baths with 2-car garage. Off a "country lane" on a wooded lot. Open and spacious with 2 cozy fireplaces, hardwoods, eat in kitchen with large island and granite, inviting family room for gatherings. Dir: South on GW Pkwy, right on Collingwood Rd, left on Fort. Hunt Rd, right on Grassymeade Lane.

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

500 S Fairfax Street
\$1,199,000 | SE Quadrant, Old Town Alex
 Sunlit end townhouse with four bedrooms, 3.5 baths, two fireplaces, updated kitchen, patio, one off street parking space and much more. Great floor plan. There is also unlimited potential to finish the attic into living space.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA, SE QUADRANT

610 S Washington Street
\$1,899,000 | Old Town
 Everything on your wish list! Brick end unit townhouse, two years old. Amazing attention to detail, four finished levels, reclaimed pine wood floors, two car garage, gourmet kitchen, four gas fireplaces, 3 bedrooms, 4.5 baths 3,400+ square feet.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



GREAT PRICE

1737 Potomac Greens
\$998,000 | Old Town
 One of Potomac Greens largest models shows "just like new." This lovely 4 level town home offers gorgeous hardwood floors, gourmet kit w/ center island, granite, ss appl, 2 sided fpl, 4th level loft and roof top deck. 3 bedrooms, 2 full/ 2 half baths, 2 car garage. This home is also offered for rent at \$4,000 per month.

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



NEW PRICE

1203 Essex Manor Court
\$1,399,000 | Alexandria S / Fenwick Estates
 5 bedrooms, 4 full & 1 half baths, on a large private lot with custom wood deck and mature trees. Grand foyer, formal living room and dining room, 2 story family room that opens to chef's kitchen with breakfast room & sunroom with floor to ceiling windows. Hardwood flooring / plush carpets. On a cul de sac in a small enclave of homes, just off the GW Pkwy.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



MUST SEE INSIDE!

502 Upland Place
\$1,195,000 | Alexandria City, GW Park
 Wonderful home just blocks from the metro. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, kitchen and breakfast room, living room, dining room, family room, gorgeous master suite, 4 fireplaces and full basement! Great, close in location in MacArthur Elementary School district. First floor bedroom and bath. Totally renovated/updated.

Linda Trinkle Wolf | 703.518.6165

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FINE ARTS

Celebrate the Art of Making

BY MARY LOUISE CLIFFORD, DRA MEMBER

Del Ray Artisans (DRA) is presenting a new all-member, all-media show from March 27 until April 26 to celebrate the art of making. This is the first of three all-member shows in 2009 at the DRA gallery in Alexandria. The more than 200 members of the organization have the opportunity to display their finest creative examples of painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, glass, jewelry, ceramics, fiber arts, quilting, and mixed media. Art lovers will find a wide variety of two- and three-dimensional works, most of which will be for sale and could become a gift or home display.

The theme of this show is "Celebrate the Art of Making." The show is designed to reflect the joy of creating art, in all its many forms and the curators are Betsy Mead and Michele Reday Cook. Betsy has been a lifelong art lover and maker, but only recently began to focus on glass as a medium. Michele is a longtime oil and watercolor artist.

Curator Michele comments, "On an all-member show, presentation of the actual exhibit rarely reflects the curators' vision. Instead it is the result of curators' frantic

efforts to showcase as much of the members' art as possible, while trying to pull together a look that is exciting, artistic, and graphically compelling. It takes balancing beginners' work with that of consummate professionals and having it all look good.....It's finding a thread to tie together a vast variety of really disparate works of art, whether it be color, style, medium, shape or size. Sometimes themes just develop, as the work comes in, for which curators are very grateful."

Come view the diverse talents of DRA members. The opening reception for "Celebrate" will be held in the gallery on Friday evening, March 27 from 7 - 10 p.m. and will be a great opportunity to meet and chat with the artists. The opening reception and the exhibit are free and open to the public and the facility is handicap and wheelchair accessible.

New, extended hours are in effect for this show so the gallery will be open Thursdays noon - 4 p.m., Fridays noon - 9 pm, Saturdays 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Sundays noon - 6 p.m. The Del Ray Artisans gallery is located at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. For more information or directions contact the Gallery at 703-838-4827 or visit the DRA Web site at <http://www.thedelrayartisans.org/>.



Oil and brushes photo by Michele Reday Cook, DRA Board of Directors and co-curator of the show.

CALENDAR

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scene in the movie. This daily tour is limited to 25 visitors per time slot, takes place at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., and costs \$5 per tour in addition to Estate admission: \$15 adults; \$14 seniors; \$7 children (6-11); free for children 5 & under. Advance tickets are available online at MountVernon.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear Railroad Earth. \$25/person. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

Starting a Vegetable Garden. 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about tips to help a vegetable garden. \$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.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at St. Elmos Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear Jim and Ashley Cash perform with their band Woven Green. Free. Visit www.stelmoscoffee.pub or 703-739-9268.

Event. Enjoy scripture, music and more at 7:30 p.m. at First A.M.E. Church of Alexandria, 8653 Richmond Highway. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.famealexandria.org or 703-606-553.

Theater Performance. "Godspell" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School. \$10/adult; \$8/student, senior. 703-212-5166.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Dance Performance. 7:30 p.m. at

The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. \$14-\$28/person. See performances by Jane Franklin Dance, music by the Washington Saxophone Quartet. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

Swordsmen's Rendezvous. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. Learn how to wield a sword, tour the museum and more. \$5/person. Reservations required, www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-838-4242.

Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. See Jane Franklin Dance perform. \$28/adult; \$25/senior, student. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111 for discounted tickets.

Floral Design in French Style. 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Laura Dowling will share floral designs from French masters. \$18/person. To register, 703-642-5173.

Harambee Readers. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "A Mercy" by Toni Morrison. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

Gentle Yoga. 2 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults can experience the benefits. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear Richie Havens. \$25/person. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

Kite Festival. Noon-5 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road. Fly a kite, enjoy a puppet show, hearth cooking and more. \$10/adult; \$6/child. Bring own kite or purchase one.

Swordsmen Rendezvous. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. See a re-enactment and more. \$5/person. Reservations required, 703-838-4242.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear music by Karan Casey. \$25/advance; \$29/door. Visit www.sunspotpro.com or 800-404-9049.

Theater Performance. "Godspell" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School. \$10/adult; \$8/student, senior. 703-212-5166.

Author Event. 2 p.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Andrea Price will hold an event for children ages 5-7. She will read from "Pelle's New Suit" and more. Free. 703-548-4092.

Opening Reception. 2-4 p.m. The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College will feature artist Ellen Cornett's Illuminated Tales, pastel on paper drawings, from Friday, March 20 through Sunday, April 19. Visit www.schlesingercenter.com for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

Display Your Collection. 1 p.m. at Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to create a display for any type of collection. \$25/person. 703-941-7987.

Conifers for Gardens. 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. Author Richard Bitner will discuss using conifers in garden design. \$10/person. 703-642-5173 to register.

Bach Vespers. 6 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Alexandria. Features music of Bach, hymns and more. Visit www.wpc-alex.org for more. Free.

Music. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear the United States Air Force Singing Sergeants. Free. 202-767-5658.

Spring Concert and Dinner. 6 p.m.

at Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Drive. Features Zemer Chai. 703-998-6460 for information.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Road. Hear Jim Stoltz perform a multimedia concert. \$10/adult; \$5/child. Visit www.mvuc.org or 703-721-0595.

Music. 3 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road. Free-will donation benefits Community Lodgings. Hear music by Designer Sounds. Visit www.trinityalexandria.org or 703-549-5500.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear the Air Force Chamber Players. Free. 703-549-1421.

Dance Stories. 3 p.m. in the Tyler Building on NVCC Alexandria campus. Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre performs. Tickets are available at the door for \$10. NVCC students, faculty and staff are free. More information is available at www.khgdt.org.

Author Book Signing. 11 a.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. Alexandria author Peter Cresse will autograph "The Bloody Hand." Free. 703-548-4092.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

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 or 703-838-4242.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere. Hear bass player Victor Wooten. \$35/person. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

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.

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

Escape into Reading. 7 p.m. at Jefferson-Houston. Students can enjoy celebrating reading with a show by magician Joe Romano. Free. 703-706-4408.

Dance Stories. 7:30 p.m. in the Tyler Building on NVCC Alexandria campus. Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre performs. Tickets are available at the door for \$10. NVCC students, faculty and staff are free. More information is available at www.khgdt.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

Spring Sunshine. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children 2-5 enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

Peer Review Group. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Adults can bring work and get feedback. Free. 703-339-4610.

Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. James D. Bish will discuss "Alexandria: From Farm, to Port, to Town and the Importance of the West Family." Free. Visit www.alexandriahistorical.org or 703-683-2636.

Lecture. 7 p.m. at Virginia Tech Alexandria Center, 1021 Prince St. Gerrit-Jan Knaap discusses "Exploring Alternative Futures for the Baltimore-Washington Region." Free. 703-706-8132.

Family Safety Event. 4:30 p.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Didi

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

CALENDAR

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Malovic will entertain with stories and music and then discuss family safety. Free. 703-548-4092.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. The combined bands of West Potomac High School present "March Madness" Band Concert. Free.

THURSDAY/MARCH 26

Preschool Storytime. 1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 3-5 enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

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

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at West Potomac High School. Hear music by different choirs. Free.

Book Night. 5:30 p.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Watch performances, meet teachers and more. Free. 703-706-4500.

FRIDAY/MARCH 27

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.

Book and Art Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Browse books, puzzles and more. Free. Visit www.mvuc.org or 703-765-5950.

Illuminare Concert. 8 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road. Enjoy the program "The Lily and the

Lion." \$15 suggested donation. Visit www.carmina.org or 703-542-9356.

Revival. Enjoy scripture, music and more at 7:30 p.m. at First A.M.E. Church of Alexandria, 8653 Richmond Highway. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.famealexandria.org or 703-780-0653.

Opening Reception. 7-10 p.m., "Celebrate the Art of Making," the all member, all media show by Del Ray Artisans members which reflects the joy of creating art and showcases the diverse talents of DRA members is open March 27 through April 26 at the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org or call 703-838-4827.

Music Performance. 9 p.m. at 219 Restaurant, 219 King St. \$5/person. Hear Rick Whitehead Jazz Trio.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

Mixed Planting. 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to make a garden look its best through all seasons. \$18/person. 703-642-5173 to register.

Tea Traditions. 2 p.m. at Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn the etiquette and origins of teatime. \$18/person includes a traditional tea. 703-941-7987 to register.

Kaydee Puppets. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. All ages enjoy "The Little Red Hen's Wacky Week." Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Music Performance. 4 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 115 S. Washington St. Hear the U.S. Navy Chamber Players. Free. Visit www.wsunc.com or 703-836-

4324.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Alexandria. Hear the Austin College Choir. Free. Visit www.wpc-alex.org for more.

Book and Art Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Browse books, puzzles and more. Free. Visit www.mvuc.org or 703-765-5950.

Performance. 8 p.m. at Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St. Hear music by the Alexandria Choral Society. \$20/adult; \$10/senior and student. Visit www.alexchorsociety.org for more.

Foodways Lecture. 11 a.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Michael Twitty will explore the preparation of foods of enslaved Virginians. Reservations required, 703-838-4356. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Auction. 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Road. Charles Barrett Elementary School PTA. \$15/person advance; \$20/person door. 703-549-5533.

Gala. "Generation to Generation" gala at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, recognizes families that have served Alexandria through businesses, faith communities and more. 703-836-4414 ext. 14 to attend.

Music Performance. Austin College Choir Concert at 7:30 p.m. Austin College's outstanding A Cappella Choir will present a concert of a variety choral music. Westminster Presbyterian Alexandria, www.wpc-alex.org.

Run Vs. Row Reunion. 8:30 a.m. at Dee Campbell Boathouse, 1 Madison St. Take an easy 5k fun run/walk and watch T.C. Williams high school rowers compete in a regatta. Suggested donation \$20. Visit www.tewcrew.org for more.

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Contact Pam Wiener (703) 537-3061 • PamW@jccnv.org



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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

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Ample Free Parking

NEIGHBORHOODS

Old Town

A DEFROST FOR THE BIG FRIDGE - The Historic Alexandria Foundation has turned a cold shoulder to existing plans to “spruce up” the 200-plus year-old ice well under the sidewalk next to Gadsby’s Tavern. So has the Old Town Civic Association. So has the Historic Alexandria Resource Commission. So have many ordinary folks around town, including me. And that’s important, because I’m writing this column, “Townners!”

You will remember that we told you the other day about the budding tiff over this old ice box next to the iconic Gadsby’s, perhaps one of Old Town’s most important and majestic structures. The board that governs the glorious Tavern wants more attention paid to the ice well, all but hidden from public view. Proponents say it is time to renovate the well and make it more attractive to visitors.

Unfortunately, this well-intended project would cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$400,000 at a time when our cash-strapped city is having a tough time keeping many of our historic structures looking good. Proponents note that no public funds would be used. The Office of His-

toric Alexandria is seeking a state grant to pay half of the cost and would like to organize a public fund-raising drive to finance the rest.

The HAF and other groups succeeded in taking the project off the table, at least for now, until everyone has an opportunity to weigh in on a number of factors — not the least of which is the question: Is this costly renovation necessary? While no one questions the need to make the ice well more attractive, opponents argue the spruce up as now planned is too large, obtrusive and expensive.

The Office of Historic Alexandria agreed to withhold its proposal until there is a public consensus about its design. The matter won’t come before the Board of Architectural Review until April at the earliest.

THE SALVATIONS AND MEADOWLARK - Growing up, I was introduced to those hoops wizards, the Harlem Globetrotters, a true sports delight still going strong.

A key to the glorious decades when the Trotters did their thing was a magician named Meadowlark Lemon and, guess what, he’s coming to town, courtesy of the

Salvation Army of Alexandria. The ‘Lark,’ as we called him, will speak at the Army’s annual civic dinner and fund-raiser on March 28 at 7 p.m. The dinner and both silent and live auctions will be at the Crowned Plaza, 901 N. Fairfax St. Bring your running shoes.

— BOB FELDKAMP

Rosemont

Some say we’ve got “trouble in the neighborhood.” Or so it seemed to the group who convened to hear about a land swap which must be addressed (by June 3). Where is there any land to swap in Rosemont? It appears that we have some open space near the Braddock Metro beside GW Middle School. The advocates for Smart Growth say that the best use for valuable land near a metro is development. The most density provides the highest use, the more dense the development, the more ground space that remains open. Ergo, higher buildings are more dense than lower ones, thus of better value.

However, that belies the fact that no longer would the playing fields exist in close proximity to those who use them; the Phys Ed teach-

ers could be herding kids a farther distance, any future school expansion could not be possible, and neighboring groups may not find walking a farther distance to be enjoyable. Increasing the troubling traffic in a major east/west corridor can accumulate safety issues.

So if a swap of open space were to happen, where would it go? North: abutting the railroad tracks toward Monroe Avenue. Theoretically, it would give more open space to that area (which is scheduled for townhouses, apartments, condominiums, and/or offices) which is directly accessed from Potomac Yards.

These were some of the premises discussed on March 12 at a feasibility study hastily brought to the Citizens Association wherein the City is reacting to planning at Potomac Yards. There are some who think this development is a good idea. Should people not welcome a nebulous plan of undefined height or usage — retail, commercial, apartment, or condominiums? Traffic impact could be studied. Flooding from Hoof’s Run (now underground) would be considered. That increasing school enrollment might be considered. Height issues would be considered. Thoughtful citizens were

surprised, confounded and dumbfounded when these ideas were brought to them. When the vote occurred, a clear majority voted against the swap. The “enhancements” did not seem to contain validity. The many parents that send their children to GW Middle School are not aware of the swap idea, nor were the schools themselves. The PTA representative was somewhat aghast, and was pleased to learn that she had been invited to our meeting. We are sure that more meetings will be planned, as the timeline draws nearer — the permission to build in the “swap parcel” (Landbay L) has a deadline to meet. For map info, etc. go to www.alexandriava.gov/planning/info

If there is news of neighborhood interest, let Judy Miller know at RltrMiller@aol.com

Seminary Valley

Don’t miss a BSVCA Special Meeting on City budget issues on April 7 at James K. Polk Elementary School (5000 Polk Avenue) from 7 to 9 p.m. At the Jan. 26 BSVCA Quarterly meeting, Coun

SEE NEIGHBORS, PAGE 23

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Sunday
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2:00 pm (en Español)
6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 7)

Weekdays
(Mass or Communion Service)
9:00 am (followed by Rosary)
Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am
Mass (English)
Sign Language Interpreter
Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

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COMMUNITY



Rosa Fullerton models a single strand of 88 pearls that will be included in the live auction next Saturday.

Jane Ring shows a hand-painted silk scarf that will be an item in the live auction at the gala this coming Saturday night.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Supporting ASO

SOLA held its annual ASO patrons party at the Army Navy Club in Washington D.C. on Saturday, March 14. The party was hosted by club members Ward and Nancy Lasley.

The annual SOLA gala is scheduled for this coming Saturday at the Ritz Carleton in Pentagon City. A number of the live auction items were previewed at the reception. Tickets for the upcoming gala are still available. For more information visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.



Ann Kavaljian and Gant Redmon talk with ASO music director Kim Allen Kluge.

NEIGHBORHOODS

FROM PAGE 22

Councilman Rob Krupicka and City Manager Jim Hartmann volunteered to speak to the BSVCA about the city's Fiscal Year 2010 operating budget and 2010-2015 capital improvement program (CIP) budget. They have graciously agreed to speak to the community on April 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Polk School. Information about the proposed budget, which includes possible funding for a desperately needed gym at Polk School, can be accessed at <http://www.alexandriava.gov/budget/info/default.aspx?id=17842>. In addition, Councilman Krupicka would be very grateful if people could complete a survey on budget issues by going to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=IWFfufXdzIq911HcQIxKQ_3d_3d. For more information on the BSVCA Special Meeting, please contact Geoff Goodale at geoff.goodale@bsvca.net.

THE CITY COUNCIL and School Board races are shaping up. The council seats are at-large, but the school board race is area specific. Seminary Valley is in District B. Incumbents Yvonne Folkerts, Arthur Peabody and Marc Williams are running, as is newcomer Janice Howard. The election is on May 5. Keep your eyes peeled for information about candidate forums as funds are tight for the city and there are many newcomers running for City Council. Go to www.sbe.gov for information about all candidates for these elections.

NEIGHBOR and Hammond Band Director Vaughan Ambrose is traveling abroad for

six weeks teaching music to students in the Middle East. He just led the Admirals to one of their best showings ever at the District X Band Festival on March 6, in addition to a 2nd place trophy at the George Washington Birthday Parade. Hammond is welcoming Martin Kaplan, a New York-based educator to stand in for Mr. Ambrose during his absence.

WHO ARE THOSE great Hammond Admirals? Caroline Chamberlain, Alex Daniels, Sydney Zelaya, Nebal Maysaud, Camila S. Molina, Aleccia Stephens, Luwam Bokure, gocelin Rivas, Ralph Mupto, Nora Belkhat, Alyson Templer, Michelle Sanford, Dean Martin, Stephanie S. Ruffin, Morgan Lataillade, Silviya Aslamyar, Claudia Bonilla, Danniellie Ortiz, Alimatu Sesay, Yasmin Williams, Nysaniso Burris, Jalie Gonzalez, Kyle Carrington, Sarah Ardura, Sonya Fessehay, Frida Cruz, Steven Pereyra, Brendan Kerwin, Samuel Davis, Ashley Martin, Maddy Stone, Carolos C. Torress, R.J. Thorne, Ryan Zach, Cameron Sullivan, Justin Altruz, Michael Girma, Zerubabel Tessema, Nick Lennon, Karim Ismail, Britani Stowe, Eshaka Conteh, Nathan Patterson, Tiffany Person, Maria Jones, Micahe Bai-Attila, Dagim Girma-Hirpas, Brenna Lancour, Armani Tagle, Wasef Imani Shabir, Giovanni Douglas, Christian Contreras, Brian Dansby, Jessye Jairrels, Urmana Islam, Steven Hetzer, Jeremy Wayhudi, Kevin Bueno, Bessama Calderon, David McDonnell, Nassim El Gourchal, Ramzi Ressay, Indya Weaver and Edward Kargbo Jr.

— MIA JONES

OBITUARIES

James Carl Sheeran

James Carl Sheeran, 72, of Denton died on Sunday, March 8, 2009.

Mr. Sheeran was born on Feb. 13, 1937 to Ralph and Pauline Sheeran in York, Neb. After graduating from the University of Nebraska, he began a 36-year career in military and civic service. During his time in the United States Navy, he met Anne Marie Crowe, and they were married on July 24, 1965. They lived briefly in Denver before relocating to Washington, D.C., where they lived for over 30 years and raised a family of three sons before retiring to Robson Ranch in Denton, Texas, in 2002.

His family and friends will remember and miss his smile and laugh, the way he knew something about everything, his honesty and his work ethic. He valued his family above all else and instilled in them a curiosity for life. His family fondly recalls myriad visits to the Smithsonian, summer trips to the beach,

Beethoven playing in the living room, bedtime readings of great novels, and his love of popcorn.

He is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Anne Marie; his three sons, Edward, Michael and Andrew; and his brother David Sheeran of Bedford and his sister Jean Schuster of Phillips, Neb.

A funeral mass was held at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton on Monday, March 16. The burial will occur later in the spring in his hometown of York, Neb.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Dallas Chapter, 4144 North Central Expressway, Suite 750, Dallas, TX 75204, or Robson Ranch Support Our Troops at: Support Our Troops, Inc., 11413 Ridgedale Court, Denton, TX 76207

DeBerry Funeral Directors of Denton, Texas, is in charge of arrangements.

Patricia Struder Shamburg

Patricia Ann Struder Shamburg was born Aug. 11, 1936 and died on Feb. 17, 2009.

She was born in Alexandria, where she shared a wonderful life with her family and friends.

As a very young mother of three she provided loving care for them and any other family members that needed guidance, love or a place to stay. She

loved her job as a technician for Cable and Wireless. She was an active member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1015 Cameron St., Alexandria, Va., where a Memorial Service will be held on March 21 at noon.

Donations in her name can be sent to Heartland Hospice Memorial Fund - C/O HCR Manor Care Foundation, 333 N. Summitt St., Toledo, OH 43699.

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—Dr. Joseph Arzadon

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"Pleasant attitude and personal attention — took my concerns seriously." — Mary

"Organized, timely, and pain-free and you develop relationships with your patients." — Kim

"The best customer service of any office by far! You treat your patients with respect and courtesy in a way that is extremely rare." — Nancy

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7
vision for a healthier Alexandria. Enjoy food, prizes and more. RSVP to 703-838-4400 ext. 263.

Meeting. 9 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. AAUW meeting. Enjoy a brunch. Reservations by March 18. \$25/person. 703-960-0073.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. Enjoy a talk on alternative energy. \$22/member or \$27/nonmember for lecture plus dinner. 703-549-4696 for reservations.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

Parent Programs. 6:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School. Parents can learn how to help teens make decisions regarding career planning.

Free. 703-824-6833.
Meeting. 7 p.m. at Durant Memorial Center, 1605 Cameron St. Discuss water quality in Hunting Creek, Cameron Run and Holmes Run. Free. 703-583-3804.

THURSDAY/MARCH 26

Meeting. Holistic Moms Network Arlington/Alexandria Chapter Meeting. Moms, dads, partners, caregivers and children are all welcome. 7 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Free. Visit arlalexva.holisticmoms.org or 703-824-6167.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

"Generation to Generation" Gala. Senior Services of Alexandria will honor five families who represent the importance of generations of civic leaders who create strong and caring communities. Call 703-836-04414.



The George Washington Middle School Drama Club is currently preparing for the spring production of "Miss Nelson is Missing." Here, Sarah Laane paints a backdrop.



The boys painting the pickets are Ford Williams and Samuel Roff with ACPS Art Teacher Nick Gust and George Washington Middle School Drama Teacher Robert McDonough supervising.

Legal Notices

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No JJ020587-06-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
UMAR CONTEH
The object of this suit is to:
Approve the permanency plan submitted by Alexandria DHS, to terminate the residual parental rights of Ali Conteh, putative father of the male child born to Eku Jah on March 12, 2004, and to give the right to the Alexandria Department of Human Services to place the child for adoption.
It is ORDERED that the defendant Ali Conteh, putative father, appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 5/19/2009 at 9:00am

Legal Notices

APPLICANT: AGW & Associates, Inc.

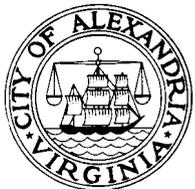
CASE BAR2009-0034
Request for approval of alterations at 906/908 Prince St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Mendelson Properties Limited Partnership

CASE BAR2009-0035
Request for approval of a waiver of HVAC screening requirement at 202 Duke St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Ken Carpi

CASE BAR2009-0036
Request for approval of alterations at 19 Keith's Lane, zoned W-1.
APPLICANT: Kurt Spear for Cathy MacFarlane

OTHER BUSINESS:
City Wayfinding Program

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



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review
Old & Historic Alexandria District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2008-0193
Request for approval of new construction at 714 Wythe St, zoned OCommercial.
APPLICANT: Sophie Development, LLC

CASE BAR2009-0007
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 208 N. Fairfax St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Stephanie Dimond for Peter Erickson

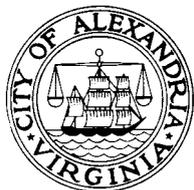
CASE BAR2009-0008
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 208 N. Fairfax St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Stephanie Dimond for Peter Erickson

CASE BAR2009-0015
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 117 S. Lee St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Ken & Esther Carpi

CASE BAR2009-0016
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 117 S. Lee St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Ken & Esther Carpi

CASE BAR2009-0017
Request for approval of a waiver of HVAC screening requirement at 117 S. Lee St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Ken & Esther Carpi

CASE BAR2009-0030
Request for approval of alterations at 411 King St, zoned KR King Street Retail.



A Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard on the hereinafter described ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Capital Improvement Bonds in the estimated maximum amount of \$118,300,000.00 and providing for reimbursement to the City of Alexandria from bond proceeds.

The public is advised that amendments or additions may be made to the proposed ordinance without further publication. It is recommended that persons interested in this ordinance obtain a free full-text copy from the City Clerk at City Hall, Room 2300.

Jackie M. Henderson
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No JJ020587-07-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
UMAR CONTEH
The object of this suit is to:
Approve the permanency plan submitted by Alexandria DHS, to terminate the residual parental rights of unknown father, of the male child born to Eku Jah on March 12, 2004, and to give the right to the Alexandria Department of Human Services to place the child for adoption.
It is ORDERED that the defendant unknown father, putative father, appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 5/19/2009 at 9:00am

The George Washington Middle School Drama Club is currently preparing for the spring production of "Miss Nelson is Missing." Here, Sarah Laane paints a backdrop.

Help Find 'Miss Nelson' at GWMS

George Washington Middle School students are rehearsing and assisting in the technical production of "Miss Nelson is Missing." Performance dates are Friday, March 27, and Saturday, March 28 at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. The school is located at 1005 Mount Vernon Ave.

"Miss Nelson is Missing" is the first in a series of

children's books written by Harry Allard and illustrated by James Marshall. The story revolves around the mysterious disappearance of a young elementary school teacher and her class of third graders who take it upon themselves to solve the mystery.

Ticket prices for "Miss Nelson is Missing" are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults.

Disclosure Forms Reveal Range of Gifts

FROM PAGE 7

of films at Consolidated's Kingstown location with his wife. But he described the gifts as one of the few bonuses benefits of holding office.

"That's about it for the perks of being a member of City Council," said Gaines. "If there are other perks, I don't know about them."

The culture of gift-giving for most members of City Council resembles a high-school cafeteria, with status and prestige associated with which elected leaders are sitting at which corporate table. Council members are expected to make the rounds of luncheons and galas, each of which have a cost charged for admission. Sometimes council members purchase tickets, and then give them away when they accept an invitation to sit at another table. Other times companies will purchase tables and ask City Council members to sit at their table. Among the names listed as giving tickets are Mayor Bill Euille, businessman Jack Taylor, land-use attorney Howard Middleton and former City Councilman Lonnie Rich.

"There have also been times when I have bought tables and had to do my own work to find people to sit in the seats," said Councilman Rob Krupicka in an e-mailed response to questions. "And I sometimes sit at somebody's table but also write a check for the event because I support the cause or bought a ticket before I was invited to join somebody at their table."

ALTHOUGH THE FORMS are legally required, City Council members use varying degrees of discretion when filling them out. For example, the forms call for disclosure of all gifts that exceed \$50 from any "business, government or individual other than a relative or personal friend." Because council mem-

William D. Euille and Associates pays for a company car, gas, a cell phone and secretarial work that the mayor uses to do public business.



bers frequently mix business with pleasure, determining which individuals should be listed on the disclosure form can be a matter of interpretation. Councilman Justin Wilson's form listed \$255 worth of tickets from Washington Gas lobbyist Scott McGeary, whom he described as a close personal friend.

"It can be a fine line in terms of what needs to be disclosed and what doesn't," said Wilson, who also accepted skybox tickets to a Redskins game from Dominion Virginia Power. "I decided to err on the side of disclosure."

Councilman Tim Lovain listed no gifts for the last three years, although he said he has accepted dinner tickets from Lonnie Rich and John Renner. Rich is his attorney and Renner is his accountant, and Lovain described both as longtime personal friends. So when the time came to fill out the economic statement of interest forms he left that page blank because he didn't feel these gifts met the threshold for the required disclosures.

"I didn't feel like these gifts were because of my council position, so that was my interpretation," said Lovain. "These people have been friends for a long time, so it gets kind of intermingled."

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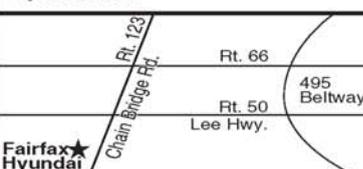
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Robertson to the Rescue

Ireton beats St. Stephen's, T.C. pounds Stuart on opening day.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE PACKET

The baseball record books might need a new statistic considering what Bishop Ireton senior John Robertson did last Saturday in his team's annual Alexandria showdown with rival St. Stephen's/St. Agnes.

Or maybe just start calling him the ultimate closer.

Robertson was involved in all of Ireton's runs during the team's 3-1 win over the Saints, including a grounder to the shortstop in the bottom of the sixth inning that turned out to be the deciding margin after a two-run error by SSSAS. Then, he made sure his dribbler at the plate stood the test of time, taking the mound in the top of the seventh inning to earn his first save of the season.

The senior also scored Ireton's lone run before the sixth inning after stealing second and third base following a second-inning single. Starting pitcher Dan Nicoll brought him home with an RBI single.

"They had a real good pitcher and he had been shutting us down all day, so I just wanted to put the ball in play," said Robertson of his last at-bat. "I was fortunate they didn't make the play."

Nicoll and the Saints' Whit Mayberry went toe-to-toe on the mound on a day when a persistent drizzle made conditions less than ideal. Nicoll gave up just two hits and struck out eight over six innings before giving way to Robertson.

THE WIN WAS a reminder of just how good Ireton could be within the always-competitive WCAC this season. Although the Cardinals finished just 13-13 last year, they made a deep run all the way to the WCAC Tournament finals, upsetting nationally ranked Paul VI in the process.

And with about 75 percent of its innings pitched from a season ago returning, Ireton has dreams of taking the conference title and making a run at the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association state title later this spring.

Area Teams

T.C. Williams

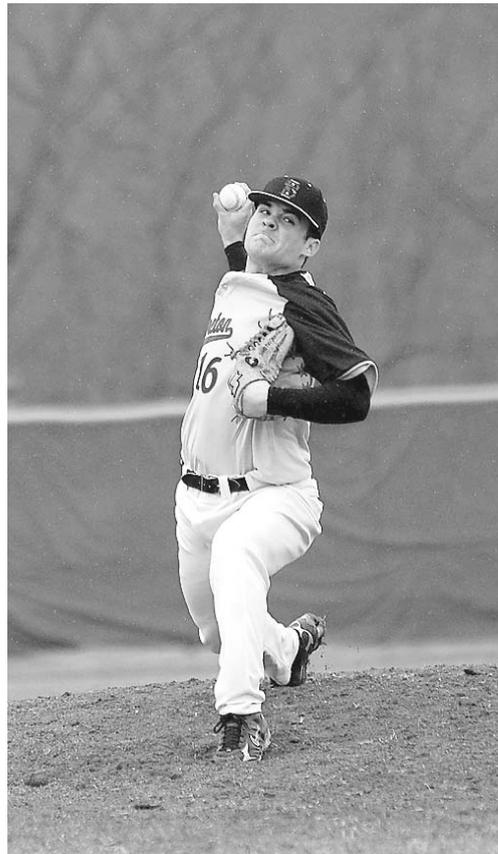
Last Season: 12-11
Hitter to Watch: Junior Robert Mannel, catcher
Pitcher to Watch: Senior Marc Grosser

Bishop Ireton

Last Season: 13-13
Hitter to Watch: Senior Frank Zare, 2B
Pitcher to Watch: Senior Dan Nicoll

St. Stephen's/St. Agnes

Last Season: 20-6
Hitter to Watch: Senior Gerard Taylor, Shortstop
Pitcher to Watch: Senior Whit Mayberry



Senior Dan Nicoll threw six innings of two-hit ball in Bishop Ireton's season-opening win over St. Stephen's/St. Agnes this past Saturday.



St. Stephen's/St. Agnes senior Whit Mayberry will once again be the ace of the Saints pitching staff.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET



T.C. Williams senior Marc Grosser throws a pitch to a Stuart batter during the Titans' opening day romp past the Raiders.

"Once we got back to practice this year, we've just taken off from where we ended last year," said Nicoll, who is committed to play for Hampton-Sydney College next season.

One stumbling block for the Cardinals could be the graduation of the entire heart of their batting order from a season ago. Ireton hit just .250 as a team and scored about six runs per game. Second-year coach Matt Gallagher is counting on the senior duo of leadoff hitter and center fielder C.K. Kraft and 2008 2nd-team all-WCAC second baseman Frank Zare (.327

batting average last season) to provide some pop. But even the coach admits his team is "gonna play a lot of games like we did against SSSAS."

"I think we're better at this point this year than we were at this point last year," said Gallagher. "Whether we'll be better at the end of this year than we were last year, I don't know. But ... we're way ahead of the learning curve."

SEE OPENING DAY, PAGE 30

Titans Start Strong

T.C. Williams girls' soccer wins two-straight, while boys' suffer through ups-and-downs

MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE PACKET

As his team strolled off the field following its season-opening 2-0 shutout win over Mount Vernon last Wednesday, Titans coach Williams Heresniak got another stark reminder of just how young his talented squad is this

"We're gonna surprise a lot of people this year."

— T.C. Williams senior Danielle Thorne

year.

"Remember ladies, after a win we shake our goalie's hand," he said as several players sheepishly went over to congratulate their starting keeper.

Coming off a season in which T.C. Williams won just three games, it seems Heresniak and his small, but vocal group of four seniors have been teaching a crew of seven underclassmen something new every day. That's not such a bad thing for a team that has started the season with two consecutive-victories following another shutout victory over Stuart Friday.

"I think it's different because when it's a younger team, they're just going out there and playing hard," said

SEE TITANS, PAGE 27

SPORTS



PHOTO BY MARK GIANNOTTO/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Senior Kamila Benzina is one of only four seniors on this year's Titan girls' soccer team. That didn't stop T.C. Williams from starting the season with two-consecutive wins.

Young Titans Start Strong

FROM PAGE 26

senior midfielder Danielle Thorne. "When you get older, you think more and get scared, so I think having a young team is to our advantage right now."

Thorne will be joined in the midfield by fellow senior captain Kamila Benzina, a duo that Heresniak hopes can control the pace of play. Senior Amy Greco will anchor the defense. Other than that, it's just a mixed bag of youth and inexperience, although Heresniak thinks much of his firepower offensively will come from junior Keely Porterfield and freshman Hannah Clark.

Benzina and junior Molly McNabb contributed the Titans' two goals against Mount Vernon last week.

It also helps that T.C. Williams has the benefit of playing true home games this season with the renovation of Parker Gray Stadium complete. Since the school has been under construction the past few years, last Wednesday was the first time many on the Titans had even played a soccer game on their home field.

It seems whether between the lines or outside them, this will be a season of firsts for everyone involved with the Titan girls' soccer program.

"I think it's a different team now, a lot has changed," said Thorne. "We're gonna surprise a lot of people this year."

FOR THE T.C. WILLIAMS BOYS' soccer team, the beginning of a new season hasn't brought about as smooth of a transition. A year after winning both the regular season and tournament titles in the Patriot District with a sterling 14-2-2 record, the Titans have stumbled out of the gates losing two of their first three with just three starters returning from last season.

Following a heartbreaking 5-4 loss to Mount Vernon — a game T.C. Williams led 3-1 at the half — the team rebounded against Stuart, winning, 1-0. On Monday night, T.C. Williams lost to South Lakes, 2-1.

But the return of last year's Patriot League Player of the Year and first team All-Region selection Bryan Frank means the losing skid shouldn't last too long. Frank (18 goals last year) heads an offense that will also benefit from dangerous midfielder Kevin Perreira's speed up front.

One thing plaguing the Titans in the early going



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Senior Frederick Frimpong and the rest of the T.C. Williams boys' soccer team started the season 1-2 last week heading into a Wednesday game with Wakefield, after the Gazette Packet's deadline.

has been consistency. Against Mount Vernon last Wednesday, the offense was clicking on all cylinders thanks to goals from Frank, Perreira, and junior Alhaji Hassann.

In the past two games, quality chances have been aplenty. The Titans just haven't been able to get on the scoreboard as much as they'd like, something coach Martin Nickley hopes will change heading into a Wednesday match-up with Wakefield, after the Gazette Packet's deadline.

"We've got a good group, and they will certainly be doing better as the season goes along," Nickley said. "I'm not too worried, it's still early. We are looking forward to Wednesday ... in order to put a complete match together."

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SPORTS

T.C. Pounds Stuart on Opening Day

FROM PAGE 26

IN ANY OTHER LEAGUE, St. Stephen's/St. Agnes would have probably been champion last season. The Saints racked up a 20-6 record, losing just three games in conference, but that was only good enough for second place in the IAC. Two of those conference defeats, though, were to last year's IAC juggernaut, St. Alban's, who lost just two games all year en route to an undefeated conference championship.

Ten players graduated from last year's squad, but coach Jim Supple believes he's got a strong crop of seniors and juniors ready to take the mantle and take over where St. Alban's left off.

Led by their University of Virginia-bound ace Mayberry, shortstop Gerard Taylor, and an assortment of talented juniors, Supple believes days like Saturday should be few and far between once again.

"I do think we've reloaded," he said. "The first thing I told them after the game is re-

member this feeling. Certainly you want to be on the winning side of things, but we battled to the end."

OVER AT SIMPSON FIELD, the T.C. Williams baseball team got its season going under the direction of aptly named first-year coach Andrew Simpson. The Titans dominated Stuart, 11-1, behind a sharp four-inning pitching performance from starter Marc Grosser.

The senior loaded the bases on three walks in the first inning but recovered to strike out nine and yield just one Raider hit.

After taking a 1-0 lead in the first inning thanks to catcher Robert Mannel's RBI single, the Titans exploded for six runs in the third. Sophomore third basemen Darwin Alcantara's two-run triple and back-to-back doubles by sophomores Will Rossi and Trav Clark highlighted the surge.

The Titans take the field again Wednesday, after the Gazette Packet's deadline.

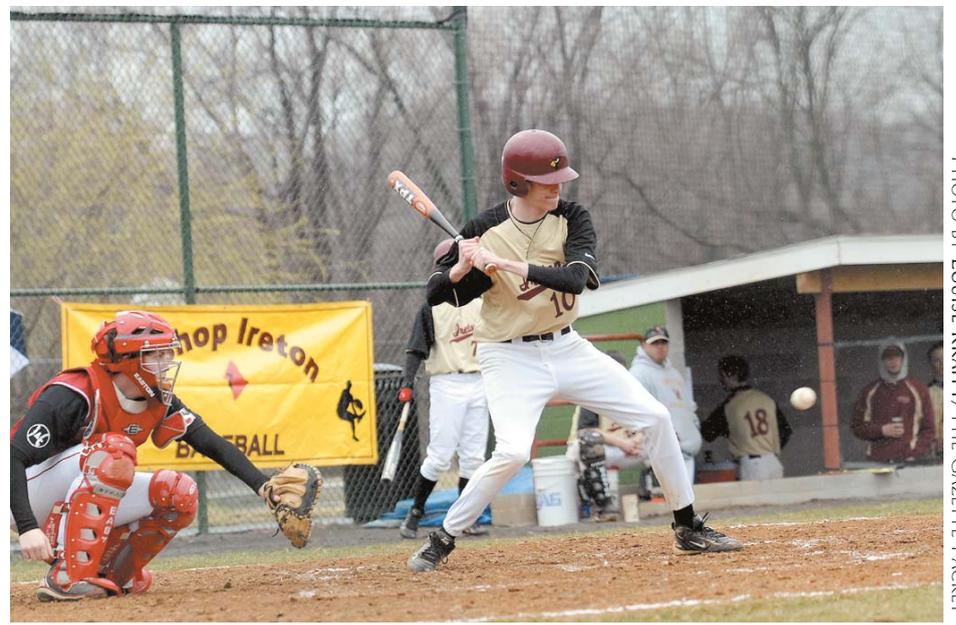


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Bishop Ireton's Drew Lichtenberg takes aim at a pitch from St. Stephen/St. Agnes pitcher Whit Mayberry during the Cardinals' 3-1 win last Saturday.

ALEXANDRIA SPORTS BRIEFS

Ireton Basketball Coach Resigns

Mark Vincent has stepped down as Bishop Ireton boys' basketball coach effective as of last Thursday, according to athletic director William Simmons.

Simmons said Vincent's resignation stems from budget cuts being made by the school during these tough economic times. Vincent was an assistant athletic director, a position the school has recently decided to eliminate, meaning the former coach no longer had a full time position.

Vincent, who was once the interim head basketball coach at nearby T.C. Williams, took over in the summer of 2006 after former coach Chuck Driesell left to take an assistant coaching position under Gary Williams at Maryland.

Vincent's Ireton team was full of underclassmen this year and finished with a 5-23 record, winning just one game in the WCAC. During Vincent's two-year tenure the Cardinals won just nine games, but Simmons emphasized that wins and losses had nothing to do with the decision.

"There was no firing involved," said Simmons. "It was about the budget, not how the team performed on the court."

Varsity assistant coach Shirvan Joseph will serve as interim head coach until Ireton finds a permanent replacement.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Former Bishop Ireton boys' basketball coach Mark Vincent (right) resigned last week due to school budget cuts.

National Titles For Butts

T.C. Williams senior Tynita Butts capped off her scintillating indoor track season by taking home two national titles at the National Scholastic Indoor Championships last weekend, becoming the first athlete in the 26-year history

of the meet to win both the long and high jumps.

She won the long jump with a leap of 5-10 1/2 and cemented her status as the nation's No. 1 ranked high jumper by clearing 20 feet 1.25 inches. Butts now turns her attention to the outdoor track and field circuit, where she will again star for the Titans before continuing her career at East Carolina next fall.

Alexandria Little League Opening Ceremony

The Alexandria Little League and the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will be celebrating the 56th Anniversary of Little League baseball in Alexandria on Saturday, March 28. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. at Simpson Field, 500 Monroe Avenue and will honor all past and present players, coaches and volunteers in the league. Screech, the official mascot from the Washington Nationals, will be among the guests along with other local dignitaries. Food and other items will also be sold at the ceremony. For more information, call the Youth Sports Office at 703-838-4345 or go on the Recreation Department's Web site at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation or the Alexandria Little League's Web site at alexandriabaseball.com.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) elementary schools are holding open houses and/or school tours designed primarily for parents of rising kindergartners and other new ACPS students. If unsure to which school assigned, call 703-824-6710 or refer to the online Attendance Zone Locator, at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/enroll/zonelocator.php>. Schedule:

◆ Charles Barrett Elementary School, 1115 Martha Custis Dr., Alexandria, 703-824-6960 — Tours take place from

9 to 10 a.m. on Wednesdays. A date is not yet finalized for a children's kindergarten visit that will take place in April.

◆* George Mason Elementary School, 2601 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, 703-706-4470 — An open house will take place from 1 to 2 p.m. on March 27. Tours are offered at 9:15 a.m. every Wednesday.

◆ James K. Polk Elementary School, 5000 Polk Ave., Alexandria, 703-461-4180 — An open house will take place on May 20. Tours may be arranged by calling the school.

◆ William Ramsay Elementary School, 5700 Sanger Ave., Alexandria, 703-824-6950 — Tours are available by appointment upon request.

◆ Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, 435 Ferdinand Day Dr., Alexandria, 703-933-6300 — An open house

will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on April 23. Tours are available by appointment upon request.

The City of Alexandria's Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave., will offer a **weeklong nature day camp** for youth ages 7 to 10. The camp is scheduled for **April 6-10**, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Campers will participate in fun, nature-based learning activities, including woodland hikes, live animal exhibitions, journaling, story time, and nature games and crafts. Campers may be dropped off at 8:30 a.m. The camp fee is \$275 for City residents (\$300 for non-residents) for the entire week. Registration is ongoing, and advance registration is required for all campers. Space is limited. To register, or to receive additional information, call the Naturalist staff at 703-838-4829.

ceive additional information, call the Naturalist staff at 703-838-4829.

StagePlay's Midsummer Drama Camp for ages 5-14 will run weekday afternoons June 28-July 2, July 6-10 & July 13-24 at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church. The program includes Shakespeare and more. For full details e-mail bardsplay@aol.com or visit www.stageplay.tv.

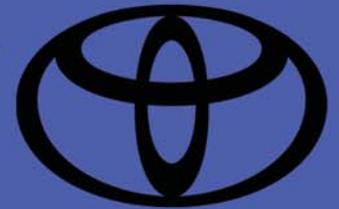
Three Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) teachers received National Board Certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). The newly certified teachers are **Suzette Adams**, counselor at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology; **Jennifer Larsen**, first-grade teacher at George

Mason Elementary School; and **Celia Ochs**, second-grade teacher at James K. Polk Elementary School.

George Mason Elementary School is one of 162 Virginia public schools earning the 2009 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence. **Douglas MacArthur Elementary School**, **James K. Polk Elementary School**, **Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy** and **Samuel W. Tucker** Elementary School are among 544 schools and 24 school divisions to receive the Board of Education Excellence Award, the second-tier honor in the VIP program. **Charles Barrett** Elementary School is one of 276 schools and 10 school divisions to receive the Board of Education's Competence to Excellence Award.

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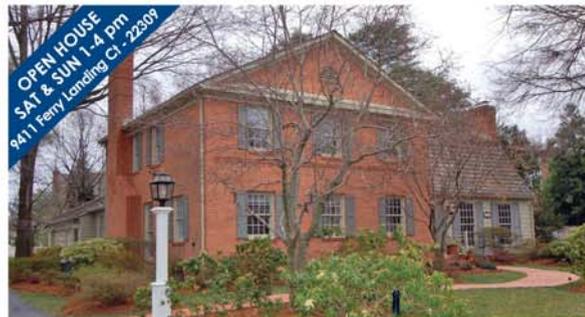
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