

Alexandria Gazette Packet



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MARCH 26, 2009

Delayed Again

Parents at Polk are frustrated by proposed budget cut affecting their outdated facility.

BY MICHAEL POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

When Star Dollbier's son has weekly art and music classes at Polk Elementary School, getting from Classroom 16 at the end of the Kindergarten hall to the basement music and art rooms can be a frustrating challenge. Although the School Board approved funding for an elevator that allows access for students with disabilities, City Manager Jim Hartmann's proposed budget removed the item from the list of projects that are funded in the next five years — leaving the Kindergarten student

and his family to wonder when, if ever, the building will ever be easy to navigate.

"I'm really surprised that the school does not have accommodations for handicapped children," said Dollbier. "Are we really the first ones to have had a problem with the stairs?"

Her son has a birth defect known as fibular hemimelia. His right leg is several inches shorter than his left leg, and one of his feet is missing several bones. As a result of treatment for this condition, the Kindergarten student gets around with the help of a walker or sometimes a wheelchair. Some days he is carried down the stairs. Other times a staff member will help him walk down one stair at a time. When the weather



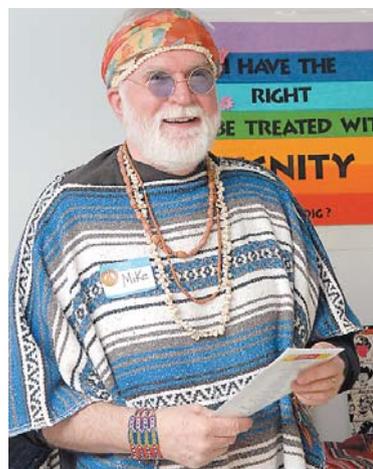
PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Star Dollbier stands at the top of the staircase separating her son from Polk Elementary School's basement.

is nice, he can navigate his wheelchair through the parking lot to an external entrance that allows access to the basement. But there are times when he tells the teacher

that he'd rather not go to music or art because the hassle is just too much of a burden to bear for the Kindergarten student.

SEE POLK, PAGE 5



Dr. Michael Gilmore, executive director of the Alexandria CSB, in '60s costume was emcee for the 40th anniversary celebration which brought out about 500 guests.



All smiles over the unexpectedly large turnout are Tiffeny Sanchez and Susan Drachler, co-chairs of the Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center, and Masharia Holman, co-chair of the 40th anniversary committee and vice-chair of the Alexandria Services Board. Sanchez is also vice-chair of the CSB.

Celebrating Hope and Respect

About 500 people went back to the 1960s last Thursday night, March 19, at George Washington Middle School to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Alexandria Community Services Board and the 25th anniversary of the Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center.

Encouraged to come in costume, guests got into the mood when offered peace signs and flowers to wear in their hair as they listened to '60s music, ate from a buffet provided by local businesses, watched historic slide shows provided by the CSB and Friends and looked at the art on the walls of the GW cafe-

teria provided by clients from Vocational Services, the Clubhouse and Juvenile Detention.

The cafeteria was transformed with tie-dyed draperies, balloons and hanging beads while Dr. Michael Gilmore, executive director of the CSB, got into the mood of the evening with a complete '60s costume down to sandals and granny glasses, a la John Lennon. After hearing several jokes and puns, some of the council members suggested he could help with the city's shortfall by taking the show on the road.

Mayor Bill Euille presented the CSB and Friends

SEE CSB, PAGE 4

Wife's Murder Yields 32 Years in Prison

West-End Ethiopian man sentenced for beating wife to death.

BY ALEKSANDRA KULCZUGA
THE GAZETTE PACKET

When Alexandria resident and Ethiopian immigrant Mesfin Hussin, 35, murdered his wife, their 11-year-old daughter came to bear the largest burden of the tragedy. The child had been watching TV in the living room as her mother Hawlett Mohammed, 27, was beaten to death in the bedroom of their West-End apartment. Now the child has lost both parents. On Thursday, March 19, attorneys made their final pleas in

the sentencing of Hussin, who earlier this year was found guilty of second-degree murder. At the center of both attorney's arguments was the welfare of the child who is now living with her mother's cousin.

Commonwealth's Attorney S.



Mesfin Hussin

SEE MAN, PAGE 3





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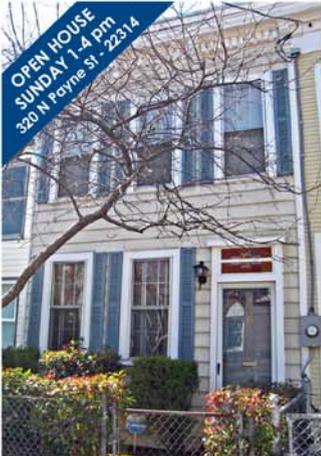
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COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

Goring the Ox

For many residents of Old Town, the ever-present motorcoaches that constantly traverse the city streets are a major drag. The noisy oversized buses create traffic congestion and generally gunk up the scenery. But they also need a place to park, creating tension between the city's tourism industry and neighborhood groups.

One recent proposal to solve the problem would designate the south side of Jamieson Avenue as short-term motorcoach parking. The idea would remove 26 parking spaces and line the buses up between Holland Lane and South West Street, giving bus drivers access to nearby commercial venues in the Carlyle neighborhood. But that would also block the view from Old Town Village. The proposal will be taken up by the city's Traffic and Parking Board before being considered by the Motorcoach Task Force and ultimately City Council.

"There is not a good short-term solution that doesn't put the problem in somebody else's yard," said Councilman **Rob Krupicka**. "This is kind of a game of whose ox is going to get gored."

Candygram Census

One year from now, the next U.S. Commerce Department will conduct a constitutionally required census. But will it count everyone in Alexandria?

City officials say the 1990 census undercounted 3,281 people — about 3 percent of the 1990 population. As was the case with other jurisdictions across the county, the undercount was highest among minorities, with a 9 percent undercount of Hispanics and a 5 percent undercount of the city's black population. Because incorrect numbers could mean fewer federal dollars, city officials are eager to make sure the count is as accurate as possible. So the City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to create a Complete Count Committee to ensure an accurate count.

"I remember I had somebody literally knock on my door," recalled Vice Mayor **Del Pepper**, who lives in a highrise condominium on the West End.

"How did they get in your building?" asked Councilman **Paul Smedberg**.

"Moving right along," the vice mayor responded.

"Candygram," joked Smedberg, referring to a famous Saturday Night Live skit about a cunning landshark who tricks women into opening their doors.

Clang, Clang, Clang

Some people look at the King Street Trolley and fume with anger at wasted tax dollars. Others see the rubber-tire vehicles as a great way to get around. Yet as City Council members slog through this year's budget, they'll have to make some decisions about the service.

The original version of the trolley service was budgeted at \$1 million a year, with four trolleys serving King Street every 15 minutes. Then the hours were cut back, and one trolley was removed from the equation, reducing the price tag to \$700,000 for service every 20 minutes. Yet according to City Manager **Jim Hartmann**, cutting the trolley too much could be problematic.

"It represents something that one could posit is similar to a 'soft' dedication of the tax revenue," Hartmann wrote in a recent memorandum on the issue. "However, funding for the trolley is part of an understanding with the city's hospitality industry in return for the higher hotel tax rate approved in FY 2009."

Surveys show peak hours for the trolley service are in the evening from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. when average ridership is 28. According to one recent budget memorandum, City Council members could consider extending service hours on Friday and Saturday evenings to midnight — an option that would cost \$35,000 in next year's budget.

"There has been some interest from the Lower King Street business community in offering service during this period to encourage additional commerce during peak time," Hartmann said.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



SOLA co-presidents **Cecily Winchell and Rosa Fullerton** with Ball Chair **Frances Vaughan** and Auction Chair **Miriam Browning**.



Ward and **Nancy Lasley** with **Regina Begliutti** and **Don Cohen**.

Symphonic Support

The Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria (SOLA) held its 22nd Annual Symphony Ball, entitled "Shangri-La," on

Saturday, March 21, at the Ritz Carleton Hotel in Pentagon City.



Former U.S. Sen. **John Warner** and his wife **Jeanne** with **Nancy Rowe, Cindee Jackson** and **Ron Cornelison**. More photos on the Alexandria Gazette Packet Web site at www.connectionnewspapers.com.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Man Sentenced for Killing Wife

FROM PAGE 1

Randolph Sengel argued that several aggravating factors made this crime a borderline first degree murder. The weapon used to beat his wife, a steering-wheel lock, had to be retrieved from the closet and used repeatedly and deliberately. This, coupled with the fact that there was an additional method of death, suffocation, led the prosecutor to argue that this was a particularly vicious crime that deserved a steep penalty. Public defender Melinda Douglas countered that Mohammed's death was the result of an argument that spiraled out of control. There was no blood at the crime scene, and Hussin had no intention of killing his wife. Upon realizing what he had done, Hussin immediately turned himself in, and repeatedly warned police that his child was home in order to protect her. Douglas argued that his willingness to subjugate himself to the rule of law and take responsibility for his actions shows he is not a dangerous or violent person.

The prosecutor pointed out, "The defendant wants us to proceed on the assumption that he lost control or went crazy," and he pointed to Hussin's history of suspicious, controlling behavior where he refused to let his wife interact with her coworkers. He went on to say that his lack of self-insight and his refusal to take responsibility for his behavior made him a threat to the community.

"The true tragedy here is that the defendant has created a lifelong burden and deprivation on his own child, not to mention those family members who have stepped forward to take care of her. This is an 11-year-old girl who doesn't have a mom or a dad."

AS SENDEL spoke of his child, Hussin lowered his head between his hands, which he kept folded in front of him in a prayerful position. He listened care-

fully to the translator who whispered at his side.

Sengel continued, "We have to rely on the natural resiliency of childhood. The healing process for this child will consume her life, and so we have to ask, what do we owe this child? Besides certainty and closure, we owe her an affirmation of the value of her mother's life."

The prosecutor asked for a sentence at the high end of the scale, 30-40 years in prison: "The defendant's behavior was vastly different than normal. The abject contempt he showed for the future of his own child is what sets this apart. If we deem this worthy of mercy that we have truly turned justice on its head."

Douglas countered these claims, noting Hussin's primary concern in the aftermath of the murder was the wellbeing of his daughter. Douglas pointed out that Hussin was "shaking like a leaf" when police arrived, and that he offered his hands to the police that in his culture is an admission of guilt. This was a sign that he was clearly accepting responsibility and was ready to accept punishment. He understood the enormity of what he had done and he subjected himself to the rules of law. Douglas argued that Hussin had demonstrated a law-abiding spirit in the aftermath of the crime, and that he loved his wife and his child.

Douglas was careful to note she was not making excuses for the defendant, but was rather explaining the context in which his behavior could be understood. The cultural differences that Hussin struggled with in America created enormous problems in the already troubled marriage. In Ethiopia women have more defined roles, and Hussin struggled to reconcile what he had always known with his lifestyle here. This was a source of much anger, frustration and

SEE HUSSIN, PAGE 5

NEWS

500 Celebrate CSB's 40th

FROM PAGE 1

with a proclamation honoring their service while Vice-Mayor Del Pepper and Councilman Rob Krupicka recalled their days as members of the CSB. Pepper was involved in the very beginning of the CSB, "the first board I ever served on," she said while Krupicka served in the '90s and navigated the minefield of persuading his Del Ray neighbors to accept a group home.

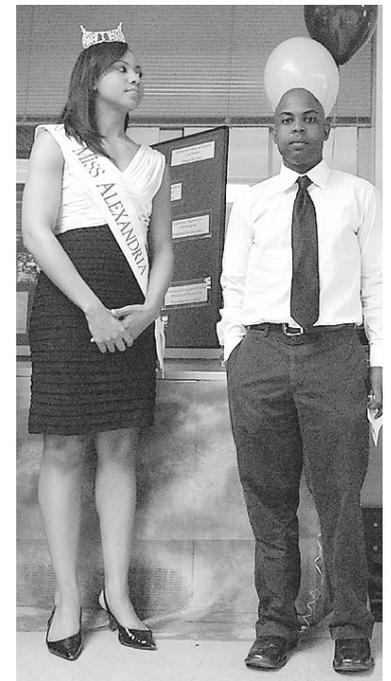
Proof that attitudes have changed for the better is the fact that Krupicka is now a councilman and Del Ray has more group homes than any other part of the city.

Other councilmen in attendance were Tim Lovain, Paul Smedberg and Justin Wilson along with Alexandria Fire Chief Adam Thiel, City Manager James Hartmann and assistant city Manager Debra Collins, also head of the Department of Human Services.

After the food, the speeches and the poetry came what everyone was waiting for, the dancing. As '60s music blasted, the crowd took

to the floor and although many were not even born in the '60s, they certainly knew the music. For many of the clients who attended, a party is a rare thing, and they were determined to enjoy every minute of it.

Food and some decorations were provided by Alexandria Whole Foods Market, All At Once Hair Shop, Baja Fresh, Baskin Robbins, Best Buns Bread Company, Bittersweet Catering-Cafe Bakery, Buzz, Caboose Cafe, Chipotle, Cheateau Gateau, Diversions, Evening Star Cafe, Fairlington pizza, Fern Street Gourmet, Foxchase Harris Teeter, Great Harvest Bread, Hank's Oyster Bar, HOPS Restaurant Bar and Brewery, King Street Cafe, La Casa, Layla's Lebanese Restaurant, Los Tios, Mango Mike's, Masaya Thai Restaurant, Monroe's An American Trattoria, One Good Tern, Panera Bread, Ravi Kabab House, Raw Silk Indian Restaurant and Lounge, Red apron, Reunions, Starbucks, Potomacv Yard, Taqueria el Poblano, Thai Peppers Restaurant, The American Cafe and the Light Horse.



Miss Alexandria, Erika Elaine Thomas, second from left is introduced by Jason Robinson, executive director of the Miss Alexandria pageant and a teacher at George Washington Middle School.

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Taylor Run

HELP MACARTHUR SCHOOL

On Saturday, March 28 at 7 p.m. MacArthur PTA will put on a Silent Auction to raise money for new playground turf. Please call Ms. Suzanne Houck to offer donations or to help.

MACARTHUR UPDATE

Our school has grown to an enrollment of 605. We have a new assistant principal, Melva Holloman, eight new teachers, and a new second grade.

TRCA MEETING AND ELECTION

Taylor Run Civic Association will elect officers at its annual meeting April 1 at 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. President Chad Sarchio points out that, while a slate of nominees will be presented, anyone may make nominations from the floor.

Del. David Englin and Councilmen Rob Krupicka will speak about the financial woes we all face.

STREAM CLEANERS NEEDED

For many years (ever since I learned it was possible) TRCA has derived most of its income by cleaning our parks. Last year we made almost \$2000.

Please help us celebrate Earth Day by coming to Angel Park at 9 a.m. April 25 to clean our epony-

mous stream.

Don't wear good clothes.

FORT WARD FUTURE

The Friends of Fort Ward, at a March 10 meeting, passed a resolution urging the City of Alexandria to continue preservation efforts and to limit uses which detract from its historic importance.

The group urged the city not to enlarge the parking areas and not to add more picnic areas. We also asked that the maintenance area, with all that machinery, be moved out of the park to a more industrial area.

President William Schreiner pointed out that after 1865 the grounds around the fort provided homes for freed blacks, and that one of the earliest schools for black children was here. Oakland Baptist Church has had its cemetery here for many years.

Present were George Muellere, Mike Kalis, Patty Wheeler, Lou Smith, Barbara Loumis, Wally Owen, Susan Cumbey, William F. Smith, Charles Ziegler, Marge Teutenberg, Andrew M. Johnson, Russell Vermillion, Kathy Scheibelhoffer, Hal Collums, Greg Thielmann and David Heiby.

The Friends will take a bus tour May 9 to sites of the Seven Days Battles in 1862. Please call the museum at 703-838-4848 for details.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

OBITUARY

Nancy Lynne Farmer-Hoisington

Nancy "Lynne" Farmer-Hoisington, 58, died on March 7, 2009 after a year-long struggle with cancer. She was born and lived her early adult years in New Jersey and Massachusetts. Since 1990 she has lived in Alexandria near Episcopal High School. She earned a B.A. from Wellesley College and her master's degree from VCU School of Social Work. She was the director of the Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp from 1992-1998. She also worked at the Episcopal High School for a number of years. Most recently she was employed by Bell Nurseries of Burtonsville, Md.

She is survived by her husband Jeff and children Christy, Tim, and Zack. A service was held at the Episcopal High School on March 11. Donations can be made in lieu of flowers to Burgundy Farm Country Day School Alexandria, VA 22303.

Parents Oppose Renovation Delay at Polk

FROM PAGE 1
dent.

"Although I really appreciate it, it's not really safe to have him carried — and it's kind of embarrassing and inappropriate," Dollbier told City Council members during a public hearing on the budget earlier this month. "On very bad days, he'll ask the teacher to let him stay in the classroom rather than going to music or art."

WELCOME TO POLK Elementary School, originally constructed in 1965. Although a number of ramps connect various levels of the school, access to the basement is limited to a stairwell with 13 steps. Then students must get down another five steps or use a ramp crafted from a crawlspace several years ago. A sidewalk leading to the school's parking lot can be used when the weather is nice, but it that's quite a haul for a Kindergarten student who usually gets around on a walker.

"The stairs have posed a problem in the past," said Principal Michael Brown. "But in those cases it was temporary, with someone being on crutches for a period of time."

Since 2002, parents have been pushing for a new addition to the school that would create a new "multi-purpose room" that includes an elevator granting access to the basement. The addition would allow stu-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Polk Elementary School PTA president Elizabeth Atkinson, right, and Star Dollbier walk along an outdoor sidewalk that is sometimes used by her son to access art and music classes.

dents to continue their physical education classes during election days and move two classrooms out of trailers. Plans also call for an elevator that would allow Dollbier's and other students with disabilities to attend art and music classes without being carried down a flight of stairs by a staff member. Yet the project keeps getting delayed.

"We know that money is tight, but this has been in the budget since 2002," said Polk PTA president Elizabeth Atkinson. "It's been a bit of a tease."

When School Board members approved

their capital spending items late this year, they ranked the Polk addition as second on a list of improvements that need to be completed. But then City Manager Jim Hartmann removed the item from the list when he submitted his proposed budget in February. So after years of waiting for their project to receive funding, parents have been told the new multi-purpose room and elevator have once again been put on hold — this time indefinitely.

"I guess we sort of feel like Charlie Brown," Polk parent Jeff Zack told City Council members during the budget public hearing. "Every time we are running up there to kick that football, it moves a little bit."

THE CITY MANAGER'S decision to remove the Polk addition from the list of approved items is especially frustrating for parents at Polk because they've spent the last several months meeting with representatives from Alexandria-based BMK Architecture. Although the firm has created a \$12-million design for improvements to the school, no funding currently exists for the project. School officials have listed the project on a list of items that might be funded by the federal stimulus money, but parents at Polk have become increasingly frustrated by years of delay that have left their school outdated and inaccessible.

"In this case, we asked the architect to look at the overall building and all the retrofits and renovations to bring the building up to current code," said Mark Krause, director of educational facilities for the school system. "So the \$12 million includes several layers of contingencies and safety margins built in that includes a renovation to every classroom in the school."

Although several of the Polk parents who testified before City Council last week complained that the school was not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Alexandria school officials challenged that interpretation in interviews this week. Administration officials describe the law as a civil-rights designation, not a code mandate. And School Board member Arthur Peabody, who is the liaison to the West End school, said that although it was regrettable the school didn't have an elevator that didn't mean the facility was not in compliance with the letter of the law.

"Of course it would be preferable is the school had an elevator," said Peabody. "But the law recognizes that some buildings are so old that it's not feasible."

Hussin

FROM PAGE 3

negative feelings.

AS JUDGE DAWKINS prepared to hand down the sentence, the defendant stood quietly and offered no statement. The judge agreed that the greatest victim in this case is the child who is now orphaned, and who will live with the emotional repercussions of the act for the rest of her life. He sentenced Hussin to 32 years in prison and stated that the court would suspend 12 of those years.

Awad Ali, a cousin of the victim who was present at the sentencing, asked his attorney if he could write a letter to the judge thanking him. "We were thankful for the way the trial was conducted and for the judge's comments. I just wanted to let him know."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

West End Man Found Guilty of Murder

Although Randy Baldon and Darrell Williams had been friends for years, a dispute between the two men turned deadly one humid August evening last year. Emergency-medical technicians found Williams' body on a sidewalk in the 200 block of South Whiting Street shortly after 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 26. Police officials arrived on the scene that night to find Williams dead. They eventually charged Baldon with murder, but during a two-day murder trial this week his defense attorney tried to present evidence that the murder was a fatal mistake.

"There was a struggle for the gun, which

was accidentally discharged," said Frank Aschmann, who represented Baldon during the trial. "Mr. Williams then continued coming toward Mr. Baldon."

But Circuit Court Judge Nolan Dawkins did not agree with the defense attorney's theory of events, in which Baldon shot Williams in a mixture of confusion and self-defense. Instead he sided with Commonwealth's Attorney S. Randolph Sengel, who argued successfully for the first-



Randy Baldon

degree murder conviction. Prosecutors presented evidence that Baldon was stopped running from the scene within five minutes of the shooting and positively identified by an eyewitness as the shooter.

"His gun was found along his path of flight," added Sengel, adding that the a .22-caliber firearm was traced to Baldon by a serial number that was recorded when he bought the gun three years ago. "The deceased had been shot eight times, and eight shell casings found at the scene of the shooting were determined to have been fired from his gun."

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Electing the Bottom Line

Budget issues could dominate upcoming City Council campaign.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

City Council candidates from left to right: Paul Smedberg, Kerry Donley, Justin Wilson, Del Pepper, Frank Fannon, Tim Lovain, Rich Williamson, Alicia Hughes, Rob Krupicka and Phil Cefaratti.

The 10 candidates running for six seats on the Alexandria City Council are certain to face a number of challenging questions on the campaign trail, but none may be as daunting as the ones related to the city's dwindling resources. Every program the candidates advocate comes with a price, and a pursuit of fiscal discipline with residential property taxes could lead to a dramatic reduction in services as the result of sluggish real-estate assessments. With the city government facing an economic crisis unlike any other in recent memory, distinctions between the City Council candidates are starting to emerge that will present voters with stark choices.

"It's important to take care of the underprivileged," said Republican candidate Frank Fannon during a candidates' forum last week. "But we need to take care of our city and keep taxes low."

Nowhere in the budget will the clash between pressing need and dwindling resources be felt more acutely than the human services offered by the city government and nonprofits. This phenomenon comes at a time when the need for public assistance

has doubled over the last two years as the amount of money funding these programs has steadily decreased. Meanwhile, the city manager has suggested staffing reductions for mental-health therapists and a \$400,000 cut in the amount of money the city contributes to nonprofits through the Fund for Human Services.

"The cuts to mental-health services and assistance to nonprofits are ones that jump out at me as ones that would be good candidates for restoring," said Councilman Tim Lovain. "As we prioritize, the most important thing for me is the social safety net. Yet at the same time, I would try to avoid any increase to the average tax bill."

ALTHOUGH BUDGET officials say that the city of Alexandria is relatively insulated from the brunt of the economic downturn that's being experienced in other parts of Virginia, the city's current unemployment rate is 3.7 percent — a 54 percent increase compared to last year. Applications for the city's JobLink program have increased by 67 percent in that period, yet City Manager Jim Hartmann's budget proposal recommends reducing two staff positions for the program and increasing caseloads at a time when demand for

the services has spiked. Ultimately, incumbent City Council members will have the final say over the budget numbers one week before the election in May.

"I would like to find a way to find money for job training beyond what the city manager has proposed," said Councilman Rob Krupicka, who requested an analysis of human-services cuts from budget officials last month. "We may do that through stimulus money or we may have to move some things around."

Some of the candidates are critical of the priorities expressed in the city manager's proposed budget. Independent candidate Alicia Hughes, for example, said she would oppose the city manager's recommendation of increasing the Vice/Narcotics Section of the budget by \$689,466 this year while saving \$187,000 in an elimination of three substance-abuse therapists. Hughes, who is a former sixth-grade science teacher, said she has seen firsthand how prevention can be more cost effective than prosecution.

"If we make sure these kids stay off drugs in the first place, they are going to contribute to the city rather than being a drag on its resources," said Hughes. "Prevention is going to be better than prosecution any day."

THE CHOICE BETWEEN guns and butter is a topic that could find itself at the center of the coming debates between City Council candidates. Independent candidate Rich Williamson has proposed allowing residential taxpayers to choose a specific local human-services charity they would like their taxes directed toward. In one-on-one discussions and in public appearances, Williamson said funding for priorities such as education could be increased by reducing money going toward the Police Department's proposed \$81.1-million headquarters. When Williamson opposed the new police headquarters during a candidates' forum last week, Councilman Justin Wilson wanted to know where Williamson asked where he planned to locate the force.

"I don't know if Mr. Williams is willing to host the Police Department out of his home," said Wilson.

"We don't need more buildings," responded Williamson. "We need to pay our police officers more, and we need more equipment."

Former Mayor Kerry Donley said he would

SEE HOW TO SPEND, PAGE 7

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Welcome to The Machine

With one-party ruling City Hall since 2003, some have argued that Alexandria is run by a political machine. But nobody has made the argument quite as forcefully as independent City Council candidate **Rich Williamson**. During the first candidates' forum for council candidates the independent candidate accused the city's ruling elite of wielding power in the shadows.

"We need to break this machine we have at City Hall," Williamson said during his opening remarks.

It was a theme he came back to during almost every answer, accusing the Democratic incumbents of irresponsible spending and unsustainable growth. But it was also a strategy that made him a target. When Williamson said the city's rainy-day fund was \$1.3 million, Councilman **Rob Krupicka** said knowing the fund had \$30 million "requires some experience with city government to understand." When Williamson accused the Democratic Party of leading an "entrenched machine," 30-year-old Council-

man **Justin Wilson** said he wasn't old enough to become entrenched in anything yet. And when Williamson said neighborhoods never partner with charities, Councilman **Tim Lovain** countered with several examples of civic associations that partner with nonprofits. "It's not easy to break the machine," Williamson concluded in his closing remarks.

Cents or Percents?

Republican candidate **Frank Fannon** is basing his campaign for City Council on fiscal responsibility, a theme he returns to in response to almost every question. Take, for example, the council's recent decision to advertise a tax rate that's six cents more than the current tax rate. According to the press release issued shortly after the vote, "the base real estate tax rate could be raised by a maximum of six cents, from 84.5 cents to up to 90.5 cents per \$100 assessed value."

"Make no mistake: The above statement is completely true. It contains no lies or false statements. However, it also lacks clarity," Fannon wrote in a press release issued shortly after council voted advertised a maximum tax rate that could raise the average residential property tax bill by as

much as \$85. "Presenting 'six percent' as 'six cents ... per \$100 assessed value' is needlessly and, I fear, intentionally confusing."

Finding New Solution

Although Republican candidate **Phil Cefaratti** is critical of a recent City Council decision to waive \$5,000 worth of fees to the Alexandria Boys and Girls Club, he isn't merely content to disparage the arrangement as a sweetheart deal for a favored institution that counts Mayor **Bill Euille** as an influential board member. Instead, Cefaratti offered a potential solution during a candidates' forum last week.

"I would have said let's get the construction community to cough up the \$5,000," Cefaratti said. "We could put up a placard in their name."

Misuse of Funds

As a former clerk for a federal judge in Alabama, independent candidate **Alicia Hughes** has some strong opinions about the number of court cases that the city has engaged in over last few years.

That includes the federal lawsuit Norfolk

Southern Railroad filed against the city government. The complaint was filed after the city unilaterally issued a haul-route permit issued last June that restricted the roads used by the ethanol-laden trucks, limiting the hours of operation from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and restricting the number of daily trucks to 20. The company never asked for the permit and never wanted one, but city officials issued one anyway. A few days later Norfolk Southern filed a federal lawsuit arguing that the city authority is preempted by federal laws regulating railroads, rail safety and railroad transportation of hazardous materials. In an interview, Hughes criticized the permit as an irresponsible action and blasted the lawsuit as an expensive public-relations ploy.

"All that money in legal fees and outside council was spent to make City Council members look good in front of citizens," said Hughes, who expressed confidence Norfolk Southern would be triumphant in the courtroom of Judge **James Cacheris**. "We could have saved all that money and maybe saved a few jobs."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

POLITICS

How To Spend Tax Money?

FROM PAGE 6

support raising the tax rate by 5 cents rather than the city manager's proposal of raising it 4.2 cents. He said the extra money could be stashed in contingent reserves for the unexpected needs that could result in the event the current national recession deepens. That way human-services funding for helping people find jobs or survive being homeless would be available if current funding levels become inadequate.

"I think that would be a responsible solution," said Donley. "This would provide some flexibility to the City Council for funding human services or other unexpected needs that may arise."

PUTTING TOGETHER a budget during a recession has presented contradictory choices for City Council members in the midst of a campaign for reelection. For example, the city manager has proposed cutting back employment services for people who have been laid-off by \$200,000, which budget officials estimate would lead to a 24 percent reduction in the number of clients served at a time when the unemployment rate has

doubled over the last year. But finding money to restore to the program would require raising taxes on homeowners during a time when many families are already struggling to make ends meet.

"These cuts are painful, but they were made very carefully to balance the budget and taxes at a status quo," said Vice Mayor Del Pepper. "So we are going to be faced with looking at whether a service is so needed and so necessary we would have to raise taxes."

Pepper was not willing to say whether she was willing to raise taxes to restore specific programs, and Republican candidate Phil Cefaratti said he did not know enough about the human-services budget to comment on the city manager's proposed cuts. But as the late April deadline draws closer, City Council members and their potential replacements will have to face social-service agencies that would like to see funding levels restored as well as taxpayers concerned about rising tax bills.

"I will ask tough questions," promised Councilman Paul Smedberg at the outset of last week's forum. "And I pledge a thoughtful, balanced approach."

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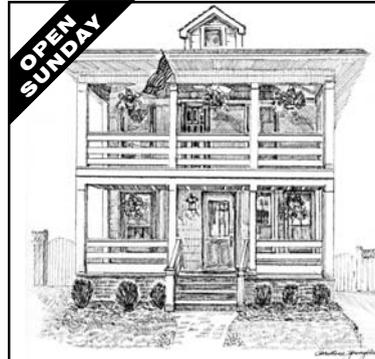


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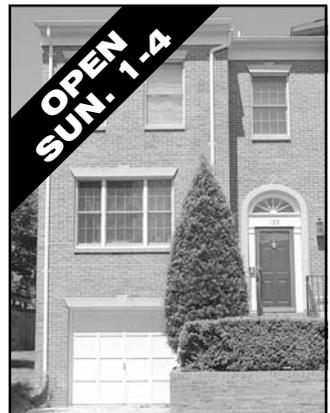


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Not Quite Like Everyone Else

BY MARY ANNE WEBER
CHAIR, COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

“A life like everyone else.” That current rallying cry for those with intellectual disabilities is very different from what I used to hear as a child growing up, the expert advice too often given to those who had a baby with disabilities. “Put him away and forget he ever existed.” There were institutions across this country, some as well run as could be expected for the time, others houses of horror which one day would be exposed. That’s where these children were expected to live out their lives from birth until death. The language used even in textbooks was pejorative: idiot, imbecile, cretin, moron.



Mary Anne Weber

It took a very special breed of parent to go against official advice, to insist on keeping their children at home and their struggle was a lonely one. Their children were not welcome in the public schools, in the churches, in the community. They received no help and were considered misguided or deluded in believing their children could grow, could thrive, could learn just like everyone else.

Like so much else, that began to change in the 1960s and as a young reporter I covered public hearings of the state legislature in Albany, N.Y. — hearings that were happening around the country. The issue was two-fold, exposing what went on in the institutions and demanding services in the community including education. New York already had a system of education but it was separate and unequal and excluded some children. At the same time as these hearings were going on, the Sunshine School in Albany (named for its yellow brick façade) was celebrating its 50th anniversary as an educational center for children with IQs under 50, then referred to as the trainable retarded. It was a remarkable accomplishment for its time, but the people wanted more. And they got it.

In 1976, after several states including Virginia had begun to move toward reform, then President Gerald Ford, reluctantly signed the bill that gave every child across the United States the right to an appropriate education. That plus the American Disabilities Act opened the door to people with intellectual disabilities so they had a chance for a life like everyone else. By then I was still a reporter but also a mother of four children including one with autism so the victory was personal to me and many of those I knew.

The battle was far from over. It had just begun with school districts often needing to be forced into complying with the law, with a special branch of the PTA to defend the rights of those with disabilities, with the federal gov

SEE NOT QUITE LIKE, PAGE 23



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Snapshot

Cherry blossoms on Northridge,
3:09 p.m., March 24.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Examine That Assessment

To the Editor:

Your article in the Gazette brought back not so fond memories of my assessment appeal last year. I went through the entire process mentioned in your article and had quite a time. I had received an assessment for my condo unit that was \$39,000 more than what a comparable unit had sold for in October (three months before the Jan. 1 day they project to). I dutifully filled out the form to appeal my assessment with the Tax Assessors Office but promptly received a letter stating they thought the assessment was just fine. My experience with the Board of Equalization was much better. One person took a quick look and in a number of minutes concluded that the appraiser had used the wrong formula and my assessment was lowered by \$24,000. I thought that sounded fine but the appraiser who was at the meeting started to argue against me having my assessment lowered. (I guess she felt that it didn’t really matter if I was overcharged since everyone else was overcharged as well.) Their decision did prevail and as a result I saved a few hundred dollars. Good news for me but bad news for the 30-plus people who owned similar units. I have to chuckle when I think about the City Council who had to hire an ethicist to prioritize services for reduction or cancellation, yet they have no problem with accepting more money from taxpayers than they are supposed to. I wonder what the ethicist would say about that.

Based on that experience I would recommend that people bypass the Office of Tax Assessment altogether in favor of working with the Board of Equalization, who is an honest broker who report to the Court as opposed to the City. I like Cindy Smith Page (she is both knowledgeable and very professional), but the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

Need To Focus On Middle Schools

BY DR. MORTON SHERMAN
ALEXANDRIA SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

John Wayne once said, “Courage is being scared to death... and saddling up anyway.” It’s about overcoming fears and breaking down barriers. In Alexandria, we have begun to have courageous conversations about student achievement; courageous, because there is a certain amount of risk involved in tackling tough issues honestly and openly. We have begun to let our guard down, admit our weaknesses, put the past behind us, and work together. There have been several recurring themes during these courageous conversations. One of them is middle school.

Across the country, middle schools are being rigorously reviewed. Middle schools have been blamed for increases in behavior problems, teen alienation, disengagement from school, and low achievement. Many of the challenges we face in Alexandria are not unique; however, if we are being courageous, we must admit that among parents and community members there is a perception and some reality that ACPS middle schools are our Achilles’ heel.

We are working very hard to address many issues at the middle school level. Several of our Division Goals for 2008-2010 specifically address grades 6-8 including increasing the percentage of students prepared for and enrolled in algebra in the eighth grade; implementation of the AVID program (Advancement Via Individual Determination), which is designed to help underachieving middle and high school students prepare for and succeed in colleges and universities; extensive staff development to provide support for our teachers; and increasing efforts to include and engage parents. I could include a long list, but what I’m most excited about is something that will benefit students at every grade level — in the newly adopted long-range ACPS Strategic Plan, one of the strategic objectives is to ensure that every student has a responsible adult advocate, mentor, or advisor.

There is no magic bullet, but I believe that this one objective will do more to increase student achievement than anything else. Whether it’s a parent, a counselor, a teacher or a volunteer, imagine the possibilities if every student had at least one person who cared about them, supported them, and had high expectations for them.

We need to build on our strengths (and we have many strengths!) by supporting our teachers and providing the ongoing training and staff development that they need, and by developing and enhancing a strong curriculum at all levels of this school division.

In many ways, middle schools are easy targets and have an unfair reputation, yet we

SEE FOCUS ON SCHOOL, PAGE 22



Morton Sherman

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Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-917-6431
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter, 703-615-0960
alexandriagazette@yahoo.com

Rebecca Halik
Editorial Asst., 703-917-6407
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

Tax Assessors Office is not geared towards helping people, it are geared towards generating revenue for the city. Another thing that people need to remember is that they need to be persistent. I am continually amazed by the fact that while the office is able to provide the taxpayers of Alexandria with their assessment each year, they are unable (or unwilling) to provide just about any information you can think of related to these assessments. There needs to be more transparency and less of a felling that taxpayers are the enemy who cannot know anything about the assessment process.

With regards to my present assessment, it does look reasonable. But you can bet that I will be checking it more closely. If I end up feeling that it is not accurate I will do the same thing all over again.

Micheline Eyraud

Close Residency Loophole

To the Editor:

I am a District A candidate for

the Alexandria School Board. When I was calling voters last week, a neighbor in Del Ray said, "My neighbor sends her grandkids to the Mount Vernon Community School and I don't think that's right. They don't live in Alexandria," she said, "they just use her address."

A few days later, another District A parent said she was concerned because there were so many cars with Maryland license plates dropping off and picking up kids at her school. "I understand that different families have different custody arrangements," she said, "but it sure seems like a lot."

We have this problem because the city's residency requirements are not stringent enough. When a child first enrolls as a student in Alexandria public schools, all that's required is proof that the adult enrolling the child lives in Alexandria. There is no requirement that the adult prove that s/he is the child's legal guardian.

Because of this loophole, almost anyone can enroll a child (like grandchildren) in the Alexandria city schools, regardless of where that child lives. And because no further documenta-

tion or verification is required once a child enrolls, families can move to other jurisdictions and continue to send their children to Alexandria city schools.

The impact of such a policy is significant. We spend nearly \$20,000 a year educating each student. If just 100 of our 10,000+ students don't actually live in Alexandria, then we're spending nearly \$2 million educating children whose parents don't pay taxes to support our schools.

Some of these expenses are fixed and would not be recouped if these students no longer attended. But even if just 50 cents of every dollar was recouped, we could save millions each year by simply strengthening and enforcing residency requirements.

Those funds could then be used to support science teachers in all elementary schools, incentive and leadership pay for teachers, expanded preschool opportunities, bilingual staff in all schools or many other worthy initiatives.

Let me be clear. This is not a veiled attempt to uncover undocumented aliens. Virginia law specifically prohibits asking about immigration status during

school enrollment. Instead, this is an overt attempt to eliminate wasteful spending and redirect it in ways that benefit our school system and our children.

If I'm elected to the Alexandria School Board, I will work to strengthen residency requirements. In these difficult economic times, it's hard enough to find the funds to educate our own children. Let's not make it even harder by educating others.

Mimi Carter

District A Candidate
Alexandria School Board

'Don't Get Fooled Again'

To the Editor:

Abraham Lincoln once quipped, "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." This time the people of Alexandria are not fooled. The strident discourses of the one-party chorus that currently holds the Alexandria City Council to the electorate urging "vote the party!" belies their concern

if real opposition were allowed to sit on the body that governs our City.

But what would such opposition bring to Council? Wisely sending representatives who are Independents or Republicans will shine a light of accountability and inquiry into a body that should embody democracy and not the Democrat party line. Independent Alicia Hughes, and Republicans Frank Fannon and Phil Cefaretti bring qualifications as strong as any member of the party opposite currently standing for election. The value these candidates add is that they will question, probe, and inquire into the matters brought before Council from vantage points their Democrat counterparts can't or won't.

On May 5, vote for Independent Alicia Hughes, and Republicans Frank Fannon and Phil Cefaretti and only them. By doing so we can bring change and inquiry to a body that has been dominated far too long by only one party. And then, as Pete Townsend of The Who wisely counseled, "We don't get fooled again."

Amy Millican
Alexandria



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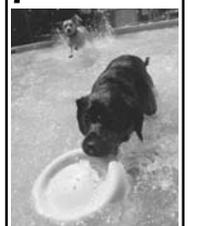
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COMMUNITY



After his sold-out concert at the Birchmere, folk singer Richie Havens accepted an invitation to brunch by the owners of Food Matters in Alexandria. With him Sunday, March 22, are three of the four restaurant's owners: Victoria and Gerry Hebert and Chef Tom Przystawik.

Richie Havens: All About Community

After Richie Haven's concert at the Birchmere Saturday night, March 21, Victoria and Gerry Hebert invited the iconic '60s folk singer to visit their restaurant, Food Matters, in the Cameron Station neighborhood of Alexandria. Asked how it all came about, Gerry Hebert responded:

"He was very accessible. After the Birchmere concert, he came out to the outer hall and signed autographs and memorabilia for fans who were lined up (including my wife and me, who asked him to sign one of Richie's old record album — 'The Great Blind Degree'). He was gracious and gave personal attention to each person in line. What a wonderful spirit he has. I told him about the restaurant and invited him. His manager was nearby (Leslie Hawes) and she and I quickly exchanged business cards and information about the restaurant. She said they were heading to Annapolis for another sold-out show Sunday night, but thought that a visit to the restaurant the next morning for brunch would be great. And sure enough they were there as they said they would be, and they spent time eating and enjoying the ambiance of Food Mat-

ters. Sunday was really nice weather and we overlook Brenman Park so it was just a good time to kick back and relax. Richie Havens signed autographs and posed for pictures with customers and staff.

"I met Richie one time in 1966. I was a freshman at Stonehill College in Massachusetts. Richie came down to visit a friend of his who lived across the hall from me in the men's dorm. Richie stayed overnight and I met him then (although he had not yet reached superstardom yet). I asked him if he remembered visiting. He said yes, he had only visited Stonehill the one time and remembered going, but of course beyond just remembering the trip, he didn't recall much else about it after all these years.

"He has a warm and gentle personality, and a terrific sense of humor. He asked about the community we lived in. And he was interested to hear about our involvement with ALIVE!. He's very much about being in service to each other and speaks with sincerity about living in community with each other. We will treasure his visit. Our first celebrity at Food Matters. We hope he'll come back for a visit. His table will always be ready for him."

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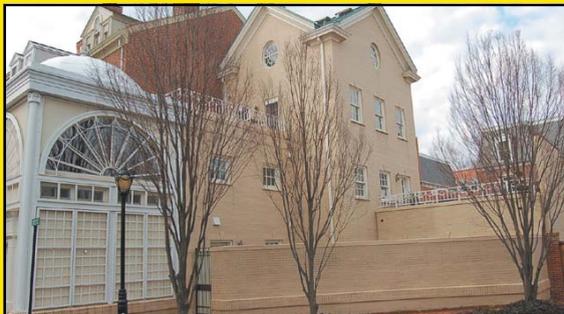
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Turning a New Page

Actress Tina Louise, an advocate for children's literacy, brings book to Workhouse Arts Center April 4.

BY AMBER HEALY
GAZETTE PACKET

It's been decades since Tina Louise left America's most famous island and living rooms, but she has never dropped out of the public eye.

These days, Louise's fans are a little younger, and know her better as an author than the copper-haired vixen from "Gilligan's Island."

"I signed 300 books today at a school in New Jersey," said Louise, with a sigh, from her New York City home. "I've been doing this for 12 years now and I just love it."

Louise is the author of "When I Grow Up," a children's book that compares what animals do with various professions. She will be signing copies of her book at the Lorton Arts Foundation Workhouse on Ox Road on Saturday, April 4, and she hopes the audience is full of young, smiling faces.

Her inspiration for the book, and her involvement in the New York City literacy program,

"It's a very beautiful experience to be in front of children and work with them."

— Tina Louise

At a United Nations dinner one night, she began talking with a woman who had been involved with N.Y. School Volunteers, a group that worked to improve literacy in city schools. That program morphed into Learning Leaders, a volunteer literacy tutor organization, and with that, Louise became an advocate for children, especially in the ar-



Tina Louise

eas of literacy and physical education.

"The first time I walked into a public school, I felt very happy," she said. "It's a very beautiful experience to be in front of children and work with them."

MANY CHILDREN didn't know what they wanted to be when they grew up and they didn't really know what options they had, Louise explained. That's how she got the idea for the book, by taking children's love of animals and their imaginations and putting the two together to show children they could be anything they dreamed.

Eventually, when she was on tour promoting "When I Grow Up," she started asking children what kind of careers they might want to pursue. She would ask who wanted to be an architect, and count the number of hands that went up.

During last week's visit to New Jersey, she finished her talk by asking the children how many wanted to be president.

"I walked around the gym and had some teachers helping me to count because I wanted to make sure we got every single little hand," Louise said. "There were over 150 hands raised. It was just wonderful."

Speaking of the presidency, Louise said she was able to give a signed copy of her book to the Obama family back when Barack Obama was still a senator. She has a framed letter from the new president thanking her for the gift to his young daughters.

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, 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

Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services present free **dance workshops** at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500

During her short stay in Northern Virginia, Louise said she hopes to be able to stop by Capitol Hill to urge legislators to work on restoring physical education for all children during the school day. From talking with students, she's distressed at the lack of physical education classes and the rising rates of obesity among the youngest citizens.

"I'm a workout fanatic," Louise said. "I think that's one of the biggest problems in public schools today. I believe schools should have physical education from first grade up. I also think schools should send information home to parents to let them know what children are being fed and I think kids should have a better idea what they're eating."

Working for literacy and physical health are the "most important things" in Louise's life these days, she said, and she wouldn't trade them for anything.

Louise is currently working on her second children's book, but declined to give away details about the project because she's looking for a publisher. She would say that the book may explore what children and grown ups alike can do about the environment. This would actually be her third book. The first was a memoir, "Sunday," which chronicles what Louise calls an "unusual" childhood.

It took a while for her to find a publisher for her first book, which she relates to children by saying sometimes they're going to have difficulty in reaching some of their goals. But if they keep trying, she said, anything is possible.

"Things take time," she said. "The first publisher I talked to wouldn't publish the book, but I worked hard until I found someone who would publish it the way I wanted it done. It paid off."

WHEN LOUISE comes to Lorton, she is hoping to see quite a few children in the audience and is eager to ask them about their dreams for the future.

"I just think they're all so beautiful," she said. "They all look like Renoir paintings to me, just beautiful."

Louise is at least the second high-profile celebrity to visit the Workhouse, the first

Meet Tina Louise

The Lorton Arts Foundation is sponsoring an evening with Tina Louise on Saturday, April 4 at the Workhouse on Ox Road. She will be reading from and signing copies of her book, "When I Grow Up." Tickets available at www.workhousearts.org, since the establishment's grand opening last fall. Through a long-time friendship with one of the Arts Foundation's staff members, she accepted an invitation to visit and read excerpts from her book.

Sharon Mason, executive director at the Lorton Arts Foundation, said she is thrilled to have Louise, who she called an "icon" in American entertainment, reading at the Workhouse.

"We thought this would enable us to cast a wider net to schools and other literacy programs that have been started by Caren Hearne, our education program specialist," Mason said. "Including local children in this event was a major draw for us."

The Arts Foundation has partnerships with Lorton Station, Gunston and Featherstone elementary schools and Woodbridge High School that have been notified about the event, and Mason is hoping for at least 35 students that evening.

Excitement is starting to build for the reading, Mason said, with TV and radio interviews already lined up. Not bad for the Workhouse, in its sixth month, and a sure sign of things to come, she hopes.

"Given all the years Tina has been in show business, we are certain this should be a wonderful night," she said. "We're excited about the Q&A session. ... She's been a performer on the Broadway stage, dramatic actress and of course the famous Ginger from 'Gilligan's Island.' We're delighted she can share her years with her fans at LAF."

Julie Curtis, marketing and communications specialist at the Arts Foundation, said Louise's visit is just the start of a long line of special visitors and new events.

"We're starting to do more with our Film Institute and we'll have an event with Tippi Hendren coming up in May, so there's a lot going on," Curtis said.

Since its official opening last fall, the Workhouse has already expanded its reach into the community, bringing in visual and performing arts as well as a series of exhibits on the women's suffrage movement and Lorton's past, she said.

"We have a lot to offer, especially with the series of classes we offer to the community," Curtis said. "We just keep building on the ideas that keep flowing from our staff and volunteers."

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14



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FOOD & DRINK

Yo Ho Yo Ho

Rum punch challenges
restaurateurs to think
outside the box.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

When Alexandria was a bustling seaport, every two-bit tavern in town had its own signature rum punch. Tavern-keepers knew that a strong and tasty rum punch would bring in customers and create a kind of branding to set them above the competition. Ever since 17th-century pirate popularized a drink then known as "kill-devil," the libation has always had a popular place in the imagination. Legendary pirate Blackbeard, for example, was said to enjoy a glass of flaming rum mixed with gunpowder. In America, so close to the sugar plantations of the Caribbean, rum held a special place in the liquor cabinet.

"Rum embodies America's laissez-faire attitude: It is whatever it wants to be," wrote author Wayne Curtis in the 2006 book "And a Bottle of Rum: A History of the New World in Ten Cocktails."

"The spirit of this event is to come up with the best way to showcase this drink you don't often see on menus anymore."

— **Liz Williams, assistant director of Gadsby's Tavern Museum**

Yet the popularity of rum punch has waned over the years, and now patrons would be hard pressed to find the item on the menu of any modern-day establishment. Today's prized selections tend to lean toward the creatively assembled martini or the out-of-the-box mojito. Yet Old Town stalwart Gadsby's Tavern is keeping the tradition of rum-based drinks alive and well next month with the fifth annual Great Rum Punch Challenge on April 4 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

"The spirit of this event is to come up with the best way to showcase this drink you don't often see on menus anymore," said Liz Williams, assistant director of Gadsby's Tavern Museum. "And rum punch was the most popular drink of the 18th century, so it's a fun way to showcase a drink that most people don't necessarily consume anymore."

The event will feature entries from six dif-

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13
admission: adults, \$15; youth ages 6-11, \$7; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit MountVernon.org or 703-780-2000.

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.

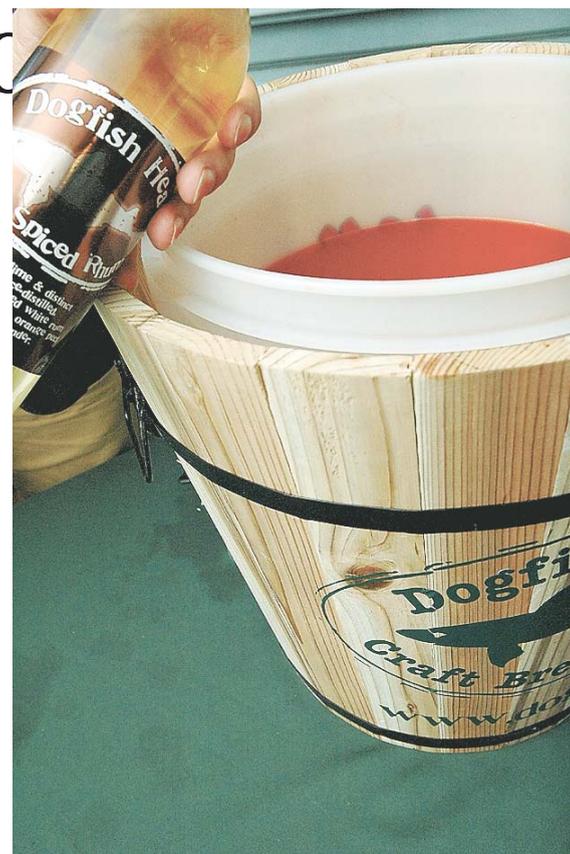
Book and Art Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Browse books, puzzles and more. Free. Visit www.mvuc.org or 703-765-5950.

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20



Dogfish Head won the inaugural challenge and last year's challenge. They will be competing this year.

ferent local distilleries, restaurants and caterers: Bacardi Rum, Bittersweet, Union Street Public House, Dogfish Head's Microdistillery, R&R Catering and the PX. For the cost of a \$50 ticket, participants will be able to sample all the entries and vote for their favorite. Gadsby's Tavern museum is also offering \$100 VIP tickets that include admission to a pre-event tasting of Bacardi's special rums. Each of the rum-punch entries will have a distinctive interpretation on the drink.

"We like to stay with food because that's what we do," said Bittersweet marketing director Lena Teveris, adding that this year's entry will include caramel and apple. "We've found that caramel and rum seem to go well together, and people seem to be drawn to it."

Two years ago, when Bittersweet won the first-place award, their drink was based on a pineapple upside-down cake — a recipe that included caramel. Other creative interpretations over the years have included variations on the New Orleans "hurricane" or incorporation of popular desert items such as lemon crème pie or chiffonaded mint. Union Street Public House has its own competition in which staff members come up with a number of selections from which the winning selection is chosen for the Gadsby's Tavern event.

"We don't really make them available for the customers so much, but we let some of our regular guests try the different selections," said Kathy Boone, private dining manager at Union Street Public House. "It's more like a friends and family thing. The staff has a lot of fun with it."



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1819 DUFFIELD LANE
Alexandria / Belle Haven - \$585,000

BELLE HAVEN ON THE GREEN. Turn key 3 lvl 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 Old Town & GW Parkway. Owner / Agent.

Francena Alvarez 804.690.1618



OPEN SUN. 1-4

1025 DUCHESS LANE
McLean - \$1,695,000

EXCEPTIONAL COLONIAL! Don't miss out on this beautiful 3lv classic - backs to woods, cul-de-sac, 9'ceilings, formal LR/DR, marble entry, deluxe Kit w/island, Mstr suite, sitting rm w/FP, den, FF in w/out LL. 2 car garage & more! 4Br/4.5Ba. Close to dwtwn McLean.

Franki Roberts 703.898.0840



OPEN SUN. 1-4

8061 FAIRFAX ROAD
Alexandria - \$1,169,000

MOVE IN READY! One of 4 new homes by GCM Inc in the new Hollin Hall. Stunning light-filled home features large front porch, hardwoods, gourmet kitchen w/Wolf, Sub-Zero, SS appliances, granite, 9' ceiling in w-out base w/custom gym. Walk to pool, shopping, restaurants.

**Other models & lots available!
AMAZING VALUE, MUST SEE!**

Jill DiPasquale 571.436.8699



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

Beautiful 4 level TH w/ completely remodeled kitchen, 2 master suites, updated bathrooms, and lower level family room. This home also has 3 FP, fenced patio and pkg. Walk to the METRO, shops, restaurants, the Potomac river and more!

Blumel Adams Group
Dayna Blumel/Kerry Adams
703.587.7841



WELCOME BACK!

We are proud to welcome back Sheryl Lambson, NVAR Lifetime Top Producer, ABR, and licensed in VA, & DC. Whether you are a buyer or a seller, Sheryl is committed to offering you the highest quality service. She has the latest market information, effective advertising strategies and the very best advice to provide you with professional, ethical and confidential service while keeping you informed every step of the way.



8430 THAMES ST
Springfield - \$435,000

REVAMPED home ready to move in. New carpet, fresh paint, refinished hardwoods, new appliances, new roof/siding & windows. All the work has been done for you. Other great features are eat-in Kit, sep DR, updated baths, FR addition w/FP, storage galore, great yard & more.



1778 POTOMAC GREENS DR
Alexandria - \$884,900

PRISTINE in Potomac Greens. 4 fin levels, 3Br on 3rd level w/4th on level 4 w/Fba leading to roof top terrace. Plumbed for bar on 4th floor. 2Hba. Plantation shutters throughout. 2 car garage. Close to METRO, DC Reagan Airport, OT, National Harbour, boutiques and restaurants.

Sheryl Lambson 703.217.7012



745 FAYETTE STREET
Alexandria - \$739,900

BRADDOCK LOFTS. 1 block from the Braddock METRO. New York style loft offering open floor plan. Large windows & plenty of space, upgraded Kit w/ breakfast bar & desk area. Huge 20x20 rooftop terrace. View tour at:

www.BobSkinnerHomes.org
Bob Skinner 703.598.7279



OPEN SUN. 1-4

251 SOUTH PICKETT ST.
Unit #201
Alexandria \$

Beautifully updated condo in Hillwood Subdivision. 2Br/2Fba. FP w/ custom mantel, California Kitchen w/ granite countertops. Bathrooms updated w/ ceramic tile. Foyer features marble flooring. Corner unit w/extra light, freshly painted. Call...

www.fxvafinehomes.com
Elizabeth Sachero-Perez 703.774.7448



3701 JENIFER STREET, NW
Washington, DC - \$839,900

MOVE IN READY! Stunning corner lot. Duplex w/ garage off Conn. Ave. 3lv, 4Br/3.5Ba + bonus room. LR w/FP, formal DR, Den w/French doors to deck. Finished LL rec room/au-pair suite. Landscaped yard. Perfect home & location!

www.homesfromanita.com
Anita D'Antonio 202.460.1809



SELL or RENT!***

1250 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST #318
Alexandria - \$410,000

Spacious 1Br/1Ba w/separate Dining room/Den, eat-in Kit, great closet space. 1 underground parking space & extra storage. Balcony affords great sunset & city/bridge lights. Enjoy a landmark complex well sited on the Potomac & well known for social, resort feel & amenities.

Richard Webber 703.598.2526



RENTALS

- 2 Auburn Court #2D \$975**
Auburn Village Garden style Condo - 1Br/1Ba
Steve Kindrick 703.683.0400
- 2500 North Van Dorn Street \$1,150**
Park Place Hi-rise - 1Br/1Ba, 1 parking
Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264
- 805 North Howard Street \$1,600**
The Plaza Garden Condo - 2Br/2Ba, 1 parking
Jery Beamer 703.929.5763
Brian Hong 703.929.5764
- ***1250 South Washington St #318 \$1,850**
Porto Vecchio Mid-Rise Condo - 1Br/1Ba, 1 pkg
Richard Webber 703.598.2526
- 5500 Holmes Run Pkwy #311 \$1,900**
Place One Hi-Rise Condo - 2Br/2.5Ba, 1 parking
Janice Allen 703.509.0906

RENTALS

- 400 Madison Street #1904 \$2,200**
Alexandria House Hi-rise Condo - 2Br/2Ba, 1 pkg
Ann Kavaljian 703.626.9171
- 1800 Wilson Blvd #245 \$2,350**
Wilson Blvd Garden Condo - 1Br/1Ba, 1 pkg
Norma Gants 703.408.2560
- 1830 17th Street, NW #206 \$2,400**
Old City #2 Mid-Rise Condo 1Br/1Ba
Sean Satkus 703.731.8086
- 1250 Washington St #324 \$2,950**
Porto Vecchio Mid-Rise Condo 2Br/2.5Ba, 2 pkg
Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
- 700 Miller Lane \$4,500**
Potomac Greens
Townhouse 4Br/4.5Ba, 1FP, 2 pkg
Sean Satkus 703.731.8086



OPEN SUN. 1-4

2828 BRYAN STREET
Alexandria City - \$499,900

FANTASTIC HOME FOR THE PRICE! All brick rambler w/3Br/2Fba, hardwood floors on main level, romantic LR, FP & large LL family room! PLUS 1-car attached garage! Nice slate patio off Kit. Close-in location. Just over 1mi to King St METRO.

Pat Wilson 703.598.7279



506 CAMERON STREET
Alexandria - \$2,990,000

HISTORIC HOUSE! Original woodwork, fixtures and mouldings. Grand entry hall, excellent room sizes, 6 BR - 3 with private sitting rooms, 9 FP - 2 working and 5 off-street parking spaces. Currently set-up as a main house and 2 separate apartments. Located in the Heart of Old Town Alexandria.

Martine Irmer 703.346.7283





RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



NEW PRICE - READY TO BUILD!

4800 Old Mill Road
\$349,900 | Alexandria South
Just reduced!! Half acre, level lot in beautiful Mt. Vernon neighborhood. Ready for your custom home. Plans available. Water, sewer and tap fees paid. Seller subsidy available. Why wait to build the home of your dreams?

Rachel Carter | 703.851.4207



ROSEMONT GEM

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 and yard. From King St, North on Russell Rd, Right on Rosemont Ave.

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



NEW PRICE

4500 Neptune Drive
\$550,000 | Yacht Haven
So affordable - this charming 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath rambler has beautiful hardwood floors, updated doors, bathrooms, kitchen and more! In sought after Yacht Haven; just minutes from Washington, DC, Old Town Alexandria and more. Fully fenced backyard on 1/2 acre lot. See more at www.NeptuneDr.com.

Rachel Carter | 703.851.4207



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

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! Enjoy a great Old Town location! www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



COMING SOON!

2217 Lakeshire Drive
Call for Pricing | Alexandria South
Victorian front porch embraces a slower life-style. Flowing rooms with newly refinished hardwood floors, new carpet, granite, stainless steel appliances and many more upgrades complete this home. Featuring 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3 finished levels and sunlight streaming in.

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 and City from this 20th floor unit. Garage space. Enjoy many upgrades. MLM1606@aol.com www.CarlyleTowers3-2007.com.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



BEAUTIFUL UPDATES

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



LARGE, BRIGHT & OPEN!

2151 Jamieson Avenue #606-607
\$825,000 | Carlyle Towers
Large, bright and open. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, large 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



PENTHOUSE VIEWS!

125 North Lee Street
\$3,100 / Month | The Torpedo Factory
Chic penthouse in the heart of Old Town, one block from the river. Kitchen with cherry, granite, Viking stainless steel appliances. Updated baths, hardwood floors, fireplace, cathedral ceilings and window lined walls. Great city views of old town rooftops, D.C. to the north and waterfront from your private patio.

Susan Gray Chambers | 703.203.9900



DC VIEWS! OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

Marina Towers, Unit 1011
\$439,500 | Old Town Alexandria
Panoramic views of DC and Alexandria from two bedroom, two bath on a high floor in luxury bldg. On the Potomac river and bike path near National Airport. Resort-style living with fitness center, pool, convenience store, 24 hour desk & garage. Easy metro access. DC, Pentagon & Capitol Hill just minutes away.

Eloise Brantley | 703.408.4887



GEORGETOWN

2500 Q Street NW, Unit #532
\$399,000 | Washington DC
Spacious, sunny top floor one 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 hour desk, shops and restaurants nearby.

Eloise Brantley | 703.408.4887



NEW LISTING

2101 Shenandoah Road
\$459,000 | Alexandria
Nestled among mature trees, this 3 bedroom home features neutral colors, an open family room with dramatic cathedral ceiling, beautiful skylights and built in bookcases. Enjoy a large corner lot with a level, fenced yard. Great location for an easy commute to Old Town Alexandria or Washington, DC. [MRIS # FX7009455](http://MRIS#FX7009455).

Ann Lockwood | 703.299.8643



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PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL - LUXURY HOMES

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is proud to present these luxury listings. With innovative technology, targeted marketing and a strong national presence, we know your neighborhood and reach the world.



NEW CONSTRUCTION

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



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



RIVER VIEWS

8307 East Boulevard Drive
\$2,100,000 | Alexandria South
 Featured in the Washington Post and House and Garden Show. Classic brick Georgian colonial boasts grand room sizes, fine moldings, hardwood floors, two fireplaces, abundant storage, oversized two car garage. 5 bedrooms, 5 full baths, 3 half baths. Fabulous artist studio, finished basement with huge game room.

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



PLENTY OF SPACE

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 Parkway, right on Collingwood Rd, left on Fort. Hunt Rd, right on Grassymeade Lane.

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



BRAND NEW LISTING

2219 Lakeshire Drive
\$974,000 | South Alexandria
 Center Hall Colonial complete with 2 car garage, and great flow for entertaining and today's living. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, numerous upgrades, 3 finished levels, sprinkler system, and so much more. Sunlight streams through every room because of it's southern exposure.

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



OLD TOWN LIVING

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, stainless steel appliances 2 sided fireplace, 4th level loft and roof top deck. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths and 2 half baths, 2 car garage. This home is also offered for rent at \$4,000 per month.

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



CLASSIC COLONIAL - REDUCED PRICE!

5009 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway
\$849,900 | Alexandria South
 An amazing value for this stunning 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath custom built Colonial with granite counters, hardwood floors, 42" cherry kitchen cabinets, gracious master bedroom suite and beautiful architectural details throughout. Fully finished basement and beautiful half acre lot. Water access, too! Make this your next home. See more at www.5009MtVernon.com.

Rachel Carter | 703.851.4207



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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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14
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.

Art Exhibit. Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. See a rarely seen portrait of Major General Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee by Gilbert Stuart from 6-8 p.m. Free. RSVP to 703-548-1789.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Hear music from the '50s from the Mount Vernon Pyramid middle, elementary and high schools. Free.

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.wsumc.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.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

THE CARLIN

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4300 N. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA 22203



The City of Alexandria, Virginia Notice of Proposed Budget For the Year Ending June 30, 2010

The City Manager has recommended a General Operating budget totaling \$524.3 million and an All Funds budget totaling \$636.1 million. A Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2010 to FY 2015 has been proposed which totals \$389.5 million in City Funding and \$403.0 million in All Funds for this six year period, including \$71.4 million in proposed City funding for FY 2009 and \$78.1 million in All Funds. The proposed budget and CIP both address the City Council's Strategic Plan in providing to meet the goals of:

1. Quality development and redevelopment that is well planned and consistent with Alexandria's vision.
2. An integrated, multi-modal transportation system that efficiently and effectively gets people from point "A" to point "B."
3. A caring community that is diverse and affordable.
4. A strong local economy that is growing in varied small businesses and job opportunities.
5. A City that respects, protects and enhances the natural environment.
6. A City government that is financially sustainable, efficient and community oriented.
7. Public schools that are among the best in Northern Virginia (in partnership with the Alexandria Schools).
8. A safe community maintained by high quality public safety organizations and judicial administrations.

The proposed rate advertised below is the maximum rate that City Council may approve for use in Calendar Year 2009. City Council may decide to approve a lower rate, and has directed that this rate be advertised only to preserve flexibility. Such flexibility is needed to assess the possible impact on the City's budget of decisions made by the Virginia General Assembly, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and testimony on other possible funding needs requiring a higher real estate tax rate.

The proposed budget and CIP are available for public review in the City's libraries and online at: www.alexandriava.gov/budget

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASES

The tax rate that was proposed in the City Manager's budget at \$0.887 per \$100 of assessed value to fund the FY 2010 Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program. For advertising purposes, the City Council has authorized a proposed general real estate tax levy on all property at the rate of \$0.905 per \$100 of assessed value. The general real estate tax rate may not exceed \$0.905, it could be less, and it will not be set until April 27, 2009.

The City of Alexandria proposes to increase the current property tax levies.

1. Assessment Decrease: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments for new construction, or improvement to property, is less than last year's total assessed value of real property by 2.83 percent.
2. Tax Rate Increase: The City of Alexandria proposes to advertise a real estate tax rate of \$0.905 per \$100 of assessed value. At a real estate tax rate of \$0.905 per \$100 of assessed value, the increase in the real estate rate would be 7.1%. Due to decreasing average assessments, the average residential tax assessment would increase approximately 2.0%. Individual general property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.
3. Proposed Total Budget Decrease: Based on the advertised real property tax rates and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the City of Alexandria (including the General Fund and all Special Revenue grant funds and other sources) will be less than last year's by 3.4 percent.
4. Impact of Tax Exempt Properties: For 2009, the total estimated value of taxable and non-taxable locally and non-locally assessed real property within the City is \$39.4 billion, with \$1.1 billion as the estimate of the value of non-governmental tax exempt property, \$3.9 billion as the estimate of the value of governmental tax exempt property, and \$34.4 billion as the value of taxable property. The estimated amount of forgone annual real estate taxes from non-governmental tax exempt property is \$10.0 million at the proposed tax rate of \$0.887.

A public hearing on the increases will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., at the City Council Chamber of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia. The hearing shall be open to the public. The governing body shall provide persons desiring to be heard an opportunity to present oral testimony within such reasonable time limits as shall be determined by the governing body.

All persons wishing to speak to this issue may contact the City Clerk and Clerk of Council located on the second floor, Room 2300, City Hall, or may appear and be heard after completing a Speakers form before Council.

Persons with disabilities who wish to request accommodation for this public hearing should contact the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at 838-4550 (TTY/TDD 838-5056) prior to Monday, April 13, 2009, if possible.

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements, or who require language translation services to participate in the City Council meeting may call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at 838-4500. We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

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You don't have to think too hard, let us solve this classic question.

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Real food, for real people at reasonable prices.

Monday - Kids Night

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

Tuesday - Greek Night

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

Wednesday - All American Night

Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham

Thursday - Italian Night

Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

Friday - Fish Night

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

Saturday - Steak and Chop Night

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

Sunday

Brunch served 7am - 2pm

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

Dinner hours 2:30-9:30pm
730 North Saint Asaph Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 548-1616



Ample Free Parking

CALENDAR



Joe Bonamassa will be performing at the Birchmere on Monday, March 30 and Tuesday, March 31. Visit www.birchmere.com for more. An interview with Joe is up at www.connectionnewspapers.com.

FROM PAGE 20

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.tcwcrew.org for more.

Rock the Recession. 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Road. Charles Barrett Elementary School PTA will hold a live and silent auction. \$15/person advance or \$20/person door. 703-549-5533.

Art Exhibit. Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. See a rarely seen portrait of Major General Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee by Gilbert Stuart from 1-4 p.m. Free. 703-548-1789.

Music Performance. Local band Standard Deviation will perform 9:30 p.m. at O'Shaughnessy's, 1324 King St. \$5/person.

Book Fair. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Children can learn about Abraham Lincoln through story times, crafts and more. Many books will be available for purchase. Proceeds

benefit the Lyceum. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or 703-838-4994.

SUNDAY/MARCH 29

Performance. 2 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear music by the Marine Band. Visit www.schlesingercenter.com or 703-845-6156.

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Solveig Eggerz discusses "Seal Woman." Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

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

Reception. 1 p.m. meet the artists of "Artistic Duo" through March 29 at Green Spring Gardens. Features art by Carolyn Grosse Gawarecki and photographs by Stephen Gawarecki. Free. Visit www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173.

Celebration. Enjoy scripture, music and more at 4:30 p.m. at First A.M.E. Church of Alexandria, 8653 Richmond Highway. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.famealexandria.org or 703-780-0653.

Craft Fair. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Queen of Apostles Catholic School, 4409 Sano St. Enjoy a plant sale, bake sale and more. Free.

Art Exhibit. Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. See a rarely seen portrait of Major General Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee by Gilbert Stuart from 1-4 p.m. Free. 703-548-1789.

Concert with a Cause. 4 p.m. at Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 Fairfax St. Peace College Chamber Choir will perform. Free. 703-549-6670 ext. 121.

MONDAY/MARCH 30

Closing Reception. 6-7:30 p.m., the Springfield Art Guild will showcase art at River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive through March 30. Free. Features art of a botanical nature. Free. 703-644-6677.

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.

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.

Family Story Time. 2 p.m. at Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road. All ages can listen to stories and enjoy activities. Free. 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY/MARCH 31

Lecture. 7 p.m. at Lettie Pate Evans Auditorium, 3737 Seminary Road. Discuss "What is the Role of the Church in Environmental Stewardship?" Free. 703-461-1764 to register.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 1

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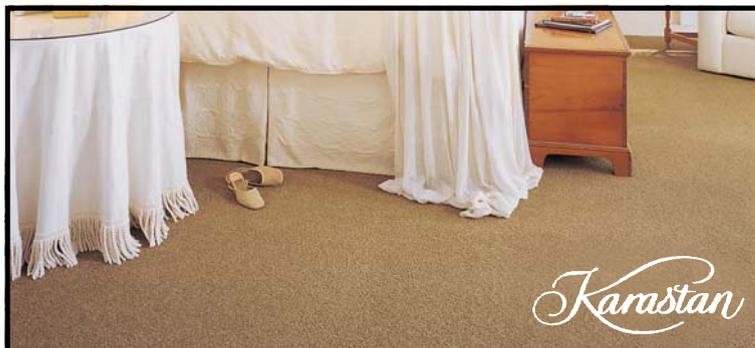


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OPINION

Focus on Middle Schools

FROM PAGE 8

could and should be doing better. But what evidence do we use to determine quality? What value do we hold for accomplishments beyond standardized tests? We have an award-winning music program. We offer Chinese. I hear time and again from parents whose perceptions were significantly improved once they visited one of our middle schools and saw first-hand some of the excellent learning and teaching that occurs.

Let's not forget all that is right with our middle schools. We have teachers and administrators who care deeply about the students. Our students, many of whom are achieving at high levels, are also volunteering in our community, learning respect and tolerance for others, and developing the larger social and critical thinking skills that will enable them to become contributing members of our democracy.

Still, we have work to do. And it will take courage. We must tackle our challenges by continuing to speak openly and candidly, without blame or excuses. We must celebrate our success, set high expectations, and work together without giving an inch on our core beliefs in the remarkable potential of each and every student.

BUSINESS NOTE

David Speck Among Barron's Top 1000

Former Alexandria City Councilman David G. Speck of Wachovia Securities, LLC, has earned a ranking among Barron's first annual Top 1,000 Financial Advisers nationwide and among the top five in Virginia.

Winner's Circle, a research organization recently acquired by Barron's magazine, produced the rankings, which consider advisers' assets under management, revenue generated for their firms, quality of service and regulatory records. The Top 1,000 is a first-time expansion of the magazine's traditional annual ranking of the Top 100. Speck and his partner, Tristan M. Caudron, form the Old Town Alexandria firm of Speck-Caudron Investment Group of Wachovia Securities, LLC.

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Not Quite Like Everyone Else

FROM PAGE 8

ernment even sending inspectors out to make sure the laws were being obeyed.

Parents memorized chunks of the law, the better to get through to stubborn bureaucrats, organized to open public, taxpayer-funded recreation to their children, and realized their children not only needed education, they would need jobs and eventually a place to live in the community.

It would be nice to think that now that the Alexandria Community Services Board is celebrating 40 years of service, and now that over 30 years have passed since the federal government has guaranteed a right to education, the battle has been won. But unfortunately it hasn't.

WE'VE COME a long way in Virginia and Alexandria. Children with intellectual disabilities can begin their education at 3 and continue through their 21st year. There are great recreational opportunities for children and adults, and there are adult services. There are services for infants at risk to identify their needs and in some cases to ameliorate them and even help them catch up.

But employment opportunities are scarce even more so in these times. And decent, affordable housing hard to come by. Too many people still think they have a right to

tell people with disabilities where and how they can live.

Too many public schools are still reluctant to deal with the most disabled, willing to work with those whose improvement is quick and visible, not so willing to work with those with severe disabilities whose road to self-sufficiency is filled with a lot of stumbles. Many see special-needs children as those who are economically disadvantaged or traumatized and forget about those born with disabilities that cannot be cured, only compensated for.

Parents are still struggling to get the right kind of education for their children, a struggle exacerbated by the current need for cuts. And people are too quick to want labels, a facile explanation, instead of the real one that people with intellectual disabilities are just like everyone else in many ways but each is different. We know now that a child's destiny is not fixed at birth or even in early childhood. Brains grow at different rates, just as bodies do and people learn differently at different speeds.

March, the month set aside to recognize those with intellectual disabilities, is almost over. But our work still continues until every person is welcome in Alexandria, as a student, a worker, a resident, a member of the community who contributes to the community.



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Hurry, Space is Limited!

Titans Emerging from Private Shadow

While private schools dominate lacrosse scene, T.C. Williams has reasons for optimism.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE PACKET

There's no doubt girls' lacrosse is alive and kicking in the Alexandria area. Just check out the pre-season watch list for this year's Tewaarton Foundation Award, a season-ending honor bestowed on the area's best lacrosse player.

There are seven girls from Alexandria's three private schools listed, more than any other area in Northern Virginia. And yet, peruse the list for a player from T.C. Williams and the search will be for naught.

'Tis the fate of a program playing in the shadows of perhaps the area's best team (St. Stephen's/St. Agnes), its fastest rising (Bishop Ireton), and a potential division winner (Episcopal) — not that it bothers the Titans all that much.

"They're a half-mile away, but it feels like they aren't even there," said T.C. Williams coach Jillian Clacherty after her team improved to 3-1 on the season with a 16-8 victory over Edison Tuesday night.

The main difference between the private and public ranks around Alexandria is experience. At schools like SSSAS and Ireton, athletes play lacrosse year-round on club teams and in general have the sport embedded in them from a young age. At public schools, many players pick up sticks for the first time as freshmen and sometimes even later.

But this year has brought a welcome



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE GAZETTE PACKET

change to that stigma, as Clacherty has the benefit of four four-year varsity starters in seniors Linzi Burstein, Megan Miller, Allie Clark, and Jess Raugitane — all of whom should compete for all-region postseason honors.

Throw in the addition of one-year exchange student, junior midfielder Anna Kopekca, who was previously a member of the Czech Republic U-19 National Team, and these Titans have the makings of team that could do some damage within the Northern Region this season. "We have a really strong starting lineup," said Clacherty.

It was on full display Tuesday as T.C. Williams blew open a 3-3 game early in the first half by scoring 11 of the contest's next 12 goals. Leading the charge were Clark (four goals, two assists), Burstein (four goals, three assists), and Kopekca (five goals).

The Titans take on Lake Braddock Wednesday, after the Gazette Packet's deadline.

Its dominance of the area girls' lacrosse

team has gone on for so many years that long-time St. Stephen's/St. Agnes coach Kathy Jenkins can't even remember the last time the Saints didn't win the ISL title. But coming off an undefeated state championship season last year and with eight returning seniors signed on to play Division-I lacrosse next spring, conference championships are just one of this team's goals.

Of those eight seniors, four made the Tewaarton watch list, including attack Kelly Austin (Virginia), midfielder Charlotte Davis (Princeton), midfielder Ashley Hunter (Georgetown), and goalie Louise Fauth (Notre Dame). With so much talent across the board, Jenkins knows the question isn't how much skill her team has, but how well that skill comes together as it pursues yet another VISAA state title.

"I think chemistry is huge," said Jenkins. "These seniors don't want to be the ones to end the streak, but there are a lot of teams out there that want to beat us."

BISHOP IRETON'S RECENT resurgence

could some day mean there will be a challenger to SSSAS on the Alexandria girls' lacrosse scene. Under coach Steve Telas, the Cardinals have surged from a middle-of-the-pack WCAC squad at the beginning of the decade into one of the area's best after a second-place finish in the always-tough WCAC a year ago.

The Cardinals have been to the WCAC title game three of the past six years, but have come out with no championships. Telas will count on seven seniors signed on to play Division-I lacrosse next spring to get them to that next level of success. Most notable amongst them are Tewaarton watch list members Lauren Gray (Georgetown) and Claire Banta, both of whom play on defense.

Ireton has started the year 3-1 with an impressive win over Northern Region juggernaut Robinson. The Cardinals lost to SSSAS, 18-7, two weeks ago.

"This team fears no one and respects everyone, which is the perfect situation for a coach," Telas said.

OVER AT EPISCOPAL, the goal is to get out of the lower division of the ISL and back into the upper AA league. The winner of the A division moves up, while the last place team in the AA division moves down.

Episcopal will have to do it without its star player from last year's 12-9 campaign, Lindsey de Butts, who is currently a starter at Princeton. Coach Jen Seferiadis will count on a trio of seniors — Kelsey Knutson (defense), Jenna Oates (midfield), and Carly Linthicum (midfield) — to lead a talented group of underclassmen. Linthicum is on the preseason Tewaarton watch list.

"We've really been trying to push our girls early to see what the level of competition is and where we want to be," said Seferiadis, whose team has started the year 1-2 against a tough schedule.

Athletes Turned Laxers

Area boys' lacrosse teams are replenishing with more talented athletes than ever before.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE PACKET

It was just a preseason practice leading into the T.C. Williams boys' lacrosse team's season opener against Centreville two weeks ago, but when Titan coach Charles Juris pulled freshman Cody Richards aside for a 30-second chat, he essentially got to the crux of what this year's team must overcome.

"You better stop thinking like a freshman," said Juris to his young player, a message he could have probably delivered to most of the team at that point.

"We've got a very young team, the majority being freshmen and sophomores," Juris later said. "It's very encouraging for the future, but it makes for some growing pains."

Two weeks into the regular season, Juris looks like a prophet as his Titans are off to a 1-2 start that has

been all about the extremes. In its first two games, the opposition outscored T.C. Williams by a combined 30-1 tally, but the Titans rebounded to bludgeon Wakefield, 11-1, last Thursday. T.C. Williams faces Lake Braddock Wednesday, after the Gazette Packet's deadline.

According to Juris, athletes aren't the problem. In fact, the coach thinks this might be the most athletic team he has had in his eight seasons at the school. The issue is developing that talent to perform lacrosse-specific skills, a sticky situation since the best players in the area generally start playing on club teams by middle school.

That's why Juris has taken over the task of building from the bottom. Last season, he launched the school's first-ever freshmen program and this year he's helping launch a U-13 team within the Alexandria Lacrosse Club.

And if any can turn into success stories like that of



PHOTO BY MARK GIANNOTTO

T.C. Williams coach Charles Juris talks with his team during a recent practice. Juris is "building from the bottom", having started freshmen and U-13 youth teams the past two years.

senior defenseman James Collier, Juris's vision will be complete sooner than he thinks. A standout on the football team, Collier picked up a lacrosse stick for the first time last year when he came

out for the squad.

Now Collier is "probably our best player overall," according to Juris. Collier covers the opposing team's best player every game, and

SEE BOYS LACROSSE, PAGE 25

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SPORTS

Private Schools Tee Off

Weather may be cold, but golf season is already heating up.

MICHAEL K. BOHN
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE PACKET

Despite iffy early spring weather, golf season is in full swing at local private high schools.

All three Alexandria schools — Episcopal, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes, and Bishop Ireton — held tryouts in early March and immediately began dual match play. Ireton plays in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference, while Episcopal and SSSA belong to the Interstate Athletic Conference.

Conference coaches expect either Fairfax's Paul VI or DeMatha to win the WCAC and Georgetown Prep to take the IAC crown. Match play records for each team are as of March 24.

Bishop Ireton. Although junior Steve Porter will play number one most often, first year coach Pete Davey will count on two seniors to pace his team — John Attiliis and Andrew Hirsch. Ireton failed to advance to the WCAC second round in 2008, but Davey hopes for a better finish this year. "We are aiming to be in the upper half of the league, and expect a good showing." The Cardinals are 0-2 in dual matches so far this season.

Episcopal. Golfers attending this small boarding school lack the chance to practice at their home clubs before the season. Coach Whit Morgan tries to schedule early season practice to compensate, but variable March weather complicates his task. Morgan expects junior Adam Stowe to play number one, with sophomore Bailey Patrick competing for the second spot. Senior Hill DuBose will add depth. "We have been stuck in third place in the IAC for the past two years," Morgan

said. "But it will be difficult to unseat either Prep or Landon." Episcopal has played only one match, losing to powerful Paul VI, 0-9.

St. Stephen's and St. Agnes. "We'll compete," coach Jerry Howell promises. "Senior Joe Curley and junior Holt Mountcastle are my two best players, and sophomore David Budway will help." SSSAS finished fifth in the IAC last year, and Curley tied for 11th in the tournament's individual competition. SSSAS lost its only match so far, a squeaker to Good Counsel at Belle Haven.

All three schools have posted their golf schedules on their Web sites. Click on Athletics and select the golf team page. The first round of the WCAC tournament starts April 28 at Springfield Golf and Country Club, with round two the following week on May 5. The IAC will hold its one-day championship on April 28 at Shenandoah Valley Golf Club in Front Royal.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

Senior Joe Curley leads the St. Stephen's/St. Agnes golf team.



Episcopal's Adam Stowe tied for sixth in the 2008 IAC championship, and the junior plays number one on his team.

Boys Lacrosse

FROM PAGE 24

was the No. 1 vote getter when T.C. Williams voted for captains this season. "I think that gives you a sense of where this program is," said Juris.

OVER AT ST. STEPHEN'S/ST. AGNES, coach Andy Taibl is focused on replicating his team's impressive run to the IAC finals a year ago after finishing the season with wins in seven of its last nine games, including a conference semifinal victory over perennial power Georgetown Prep.

The Saints bring back a strong group of offensive weapons with plenty of big game experience led by senior attack Alex Clay and senior midfielder and captain Jack Sieke.

Through four games his message has gotten through as the Saints are off to a 3-1 start with wins over St. Anne's Belfield and Notre Dame Academy this past weekend.

Upcoming games against Boy's Latin of Baltimore and last year's IAC champion Landon will be a good indication of just how far SSSAS can go this season.

"They've got a good idea of what it takes to be successful," said Taibl.

SEE BOYS LACROSSE, PAGE 28

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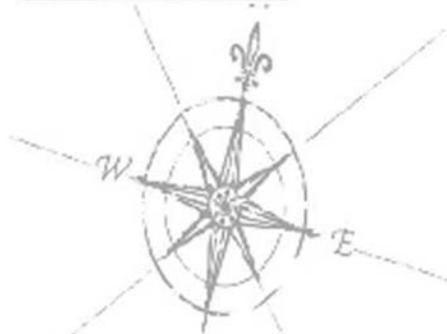
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International Amateur Soccer Tournament The Challenge for the Tiffany Trophy Cup



Soccer Superstars of the Future

America's Best versus the World's Best U17 Boys competition in this elite, invitational tournament

April 4-11

D.C. United Academy v. Real Madrid CF*

(Doubleheader with MLS Game D.C. United v. Houston Dynamo)

RFK Stadium 4:30p.m. April 4

Additional Matches at Georgetown University, Trinity College & other Washington, DC fields.

Go online for the full schedule & ticket info!

*Subject to weather

www.InternationalAmateurSports.com

International Teams



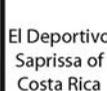
Blackburn Rovers FC of England



Chivas de Corazon de Mexico



Real Madrid CF of Spain



El Deportivo Saprissa of Costa Rica

American Teams



D.C. United Academy



Freestate SA Elite



Great Falls A'91 Elite



Pachua FC USA Internationals

Legal Notices

Obituary
L.G. (Gary) Byrd

Tryon, NC - Lloyd Garland (Gary) Byrd, 85, of 77 Chestnut St., Tryon, died Friday, March 20, 2009 in Tryon.

He was born in Atlanta, Ga. on May 6, 1923 and was the son of the late Lloyd Porter and Gladys Ardee (Daniell) Byrd.

Mr. Byrd served during WWII from 1943 to 1945, in the 76th Division, Ardennes Forest, Patton's Army.

He was a consulting civil engineer from 1949 until his death, and was inducted into the National Academy of Engineers in 1987 "for pioneering contributions to highway maintenance management systems and research."

In 1963, he formed a partnership with Bertram D. Tallamy, the Federal Highway Administrator in the Eisenhower administration, and later formed his own firm of Byrd, Tallamy, MacDonald and Lewis, which became a division of Wilbur Smith and Associates in 1972.

Legal Notices

as well as departments of transportation in Virginia, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. He led management systems studies covering highway operations, maintenance and equipment fleets for transportation agencies in Idaho, Nevada, Montana, Colorado, Ohio, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Bolivia and Jordan, and led the inspection and evaluation of rehabilitation requirements for highway bridges in Virginia, Illinois, New York, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

From 1984 to 1986, he was interim director of the Strategic Highway Research Program, responsible for planning a \$150 million, five-year national research effort for the American Association of State and Highway Transportation officials.

He was the editor of the Street and Highway Maintenance Manual, American Public Works Association, 1985 and the Handbook of Highway Engineering, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co. Inc., New York, 1975.

He was a member, held leadership positions in, and received numerous awards from the National Research Council, the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, the

Legal Notices

American Association of Engineering Societies, and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

He started his career as an engineer with the Ohio Department of Highways and the Ohio Turnpike Commission and from 1960-1963 was associate editor of Public Works Publications in Ridgewood, N.J.

He received his Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from Ohio State University in 1950 and received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Ohio State University College of Engineering in 1978.

He was also very active in civic life, serving as the chairman of the Fairfax County (Va.) Human Rights Commission from 1978-79, president of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, 1975 to 1976, and the Hospice of the Carolina Foothills board of directors from 2002 to 2007. He was a member of the Tryon Country Club, the Rotary Club of Tryon and the Congregational Church United Church of Christ in Tryon.

He is survived by; his wife of 66 years, Jeanne Parkhurst Byrd of the home; two daughters, Donna Van Ness (David) of Monument, CO and Julie Burke (Pat) of Tryon, NC; two sons, Gary Byrd of Buffalo, NY and Jeff Byrd (Helen) of Tryon, NC; three brothers, Daniel Byrd of Houston, TX, Richard Byrd (Jeanine) of Downers Grove, IL and Robert Byrd of Columbus, OH. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren, Matthew, Amy, Greg, Adam, Katie, Emily, David, Sarah, Daniel and Colleen and two great grandchildren, Thomas and Finn.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2009 in the Tryon Congregational Church with Rev. Bob Barrows officiating.

A reception will be held immediately following the service in the fellowship hall of the Congregational Church, Tryon, NC.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of the Carolina Foothills, 130 Forest Glen Drive, Columbus, NC 28722.

An online guest register can be signed at www.mcfarlandfuneralchapel.com. McFarland Funeral Chapel, Tryon, NC

Legal Notices

Consideration of a request for an expansion of an existing child day care center to provide an additional classroom; zoned CDD#9/Coordinated Development District

Applicant: Bright Start Learning Center by Kerri Chase

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2009-0009

4906 BRENMAN PARK DRIVE (Parcel Address: 191 Somerville Street)

FOOD MATTERS RESTAURANT

Consideration of a request for an expansion of an existing restaurant, an increase of indoor and outdoor seating and a parking reduction; zoned CDD#9/Coordinated

Development District. Applicant: Food Matters, LLC by Victoria & Gerry Hebert and Christy & Tom Przystawik

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2008-0084

ENCROACHMENT #2008-0005

532 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET

OFFICE BUILDING ADDITION

Consideration of a request for a development site plan for an addition to an office building, a parking reduction and a request to for an encroachment into the public right of way; zoned OC/Office Commercial. Applicant: North Parkway, LLC by Duncan Blair, attorney

DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2006-0006

3650 WHEELER AVENUE

LINDSAY LEXUS

Consideration of a request for a development special use permit, with site plan, to construct a parking facility for more than 20 vehicles and a light repair service facility; zoned I/Industrial. Applicant: Lindsay Cadillac Company, Inc. by J. Howard Middleton, attorney

DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2004-0028

6101 AND 6125 STEVENSON AVENUE

STEVENSON AVENUE RESIDENTIAL

Consideration of a request for a development special use permit, with site plan to construct a residential building with an affordable housing bonus density pursuant to Sec. 7-700 of the Zoning Ordinance and additional height;

zoned OCM(50)/Office Commercial Medium. Applicant: Steven A. Hansen, LLC and WWIV Stevenson Avenue, LLC by M. Catharine Puskar

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE HEARD BY PLANNING COMMISSION ONLY, (AND BY CITY COUNCIL ONLY UPON APPEAL.)

DEVELOPMENT SITE PLAN #2007-0011

532 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET

OFFICE BUILDING ADDITION

Consideration of a request for a development site plan for an addition to an office building; zoned OC/Office Commercial. Applicant: North Parkway, LLC by Duncan Blair, attorney

DEVELOPMENT SITE PLAN #2008-0017

4615 SEMINARY ROAD & 4550 WEST BRADDOCK ROAD

ENCORE APARTMENTS CLUBHOUSE

Consideration of a request for a development site plan for renovation of and an addition to an existing pool house into a clubhouse and additional parking; zoned RB/Residential.

Applicant: Bonaventure Realty Group by M. Catharine Puskar, attorney

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE HEARD BY CITY COUNCIL ONLY.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2008-0095

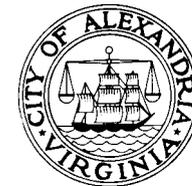
411 EAST BRADDOCK ROAD (Parcel Address: 405 E. Braddock Road)

7-ELEVEN, INCORPORATED

Consideration of a request for the continuance of a convenience store use; zoned CSL/Commercial Service Low. Applicant: 7-Eleven, Inc by Michael Vanderpool, Esquire

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION: RECOMMEND APPROVAL 7-0

Legal Notices



LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009 - 7:30 PM COUNCIL CHAMBERS, City Hall Alexandria, Virginia

Information about these items may be obtained from the: Department of Planning and Zoning, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 838-4688

BZA CASE #2009-0005 300 E. DELRAY AVENUE R-2-5, RESIDENTIAL Rodney and Elizabeth Louison, owners: Variance to raise the roof of an existing detached garage to accommodate storage space 1.50 feet from the east side property line. If the variance is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a variance from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure.

LEGAL NOTICE

AT&T intends to file an application to construct a cellular telecommunications tower at 2006 Belle View Boulevard, Alexandria, Virginia 22307. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as Belle Haven will consist of constructing a 115-foot tall pinetree stealth pole. The equipment will be placed within an 18-foot by 22-foot fenced compound that will be within a 75-foot by 75-foot lease area. An H-frame, equipment cabinets (located on an 11-foot by 11-foot concrete pad), disconnect for Mesa Span XL, Mesa Span XL Cabinet, and quazite box will be located within the fenced area. An ice bridge will extend from the equipment cabinets to the pinetree stealth pole. Electric and telco trenching will extend south from the proposed compound adjacent to the church parking lot and finally to existing power poles located adjacent to Belle View Boulevard. AT&T also intends to grub and remove all vegetation within the fenced area and provide geotextile fabric and stone within the compound. A 15-foot wide access/utility easement, including a 12-foot wide gravel access road and turnaround, will extend south from the compound to the existing asphalt trail. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o markos9@atcassociates.com

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

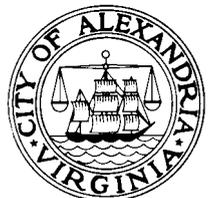
ORDER OF PUBLICATION

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

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA May 5, 2009 Election Information Mayor, City Council and School Board Election VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION Voter Registration Deadline Monday, April 6, 2009, 5:00 PM Virginians 18 and over may apply to register to vote by mail or in person. By mail, applications are available at: www.alexandriavoter.org Voter Registration Sites listed below Call 703-838-4050 to request an application by mail April 6 - postmark deadline for the May election In Person, at the following Voter Registration Sites: Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 5 pm Voter Registration Office 132 North Royal St, Suite 100 Citizens Assistance Office City Hall, 301 King St. Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 5 pm Saturday, 8 am to 12 noon Division of Motor Vehicles 2681 Mill Road ABSENTEE VOTING INFORMATION Registered voters in the City of Alexandria may vote by absentee ballot if they are: away on business, vacation, active military service, or at school physically unable to go to the polls or the primary care giver for a family member who is physically unable to go to the polls To vote absentee by mail: Download the application from www.alexandriavoter.org, or Contact the Voter Registration Office and ask for an absentee application Return your completed application: By Mail to Voter Registration Office By Fax to 703-838-6449 Deadlines: Mailed or faxed absentee application must be received by Tues, April 28, at 5 pm Return mailed Absentee Ballot by Election Day, Tues May 5, 7 pm To vote absentee in person: Vote absentee in person at the Office of Voter Registration 132 North Royal Street, Suite 100 In-Person Absentee Voting Hours Beginning on April 6 Monday thru Friday, 8 am to 5 pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday April 20, 21, 28, 29 until 7:30 pm Saturday, April 25 & May 2, 8 am to 5 pm Deadline for in-person absentee voting: Saturday, May 2, at 5 pm Alexandria Electoral Board Anna Leider, Secretary Donald E. Ledwig, Chairman Peter Newbould, Vice Chair Office of Voter Registration 132 N. Royal Street, Suite 100 703-838-4050 Fax: 703-838-6449 www.alexandriavoter.org Special Services: All requests for reasonable accommodation due to a disability should be made to the Registrar of Voters with at least a 48 hour notice. Call 703-838-4050 TTY number for hearing impaired persons is 703-838-5056.



ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION

APRIL - 2009

The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the following dates. NOTICE: Some of the items listed below may be placed on a consent calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the consent calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the public hearing to a future date. For further information call the Department of Planning and Zoning on 838-4666

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009 7:30 PM, CITY HALL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 301 KING STREET ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009 9:30 AM, CITY HALL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 301 KING STREET ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

GREEN BUILDING POLICY

Consideration of a request to adopt the Green Building Policy. Staff: Planning and Zoning

CITY WAYFINDING SIGN PROGRAM

Consideration of a request to approve Phase 1 Design Guidelines for the City's Wayfinding Program. Staff: Planning and Zoning

SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2009-0005

4915 and 4920 BRENMAN PARK DRIVE

BRIGHT START LEARNING CENTER

HOME SALES

02/01/09 ~ 02/24/09

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
100 QUAY ST	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$1,650,000	Townhouse	0.04		OLD TOWN
311 UNION ST S	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$830,000	Townhouse	0.02		WATERFORD
1229 ROUNDHOUSE LN	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Townhouse	0.02		OLD TOWN VILLAGE
3612 ORLANDO PL	3	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$699,900	Detached	0.25		BEVERLEY FOREST
3004 RUSSELL RD	5	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$674,900	Detached	0.19		MONTICELLO PARK
206 VASSAR PL	4	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$668,000	Detached	0.21		CLOVER
237 MURTHA ST	4	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$665,000	Townhouse	0.04		CAMERON STATION
5190 BRAWNER PL	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$599,900	Townhouse	0.02		CAMERON STATION
2417 GORGAS PL	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$590,000	Townhouse	0.07		STONEGATE
1115 CAMERON ST #409	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$566,250	Garden 1-4 Floors			PRESCOTT CONDOMINIUMS
1209 DUKE ST	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$550,000	Townhouse	0.03		OLD TOWN
2538 GADSBY PL	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Townhouse	0.04		STONEGATE
504 COLUMBUS ST	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$539,000	Townhouse	0.03		OLD TOWN
1210 QUEEN ST #1	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$525,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			OLD TOWN
1250 WASHINGTON ST S #422	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$520,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			PORTO VECCHIO
153 SOMERVELLE ST	2	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$467,500	Townhouse	0.02		CAMERON STATION
345 PICKETT ST #28	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Townhouse			TOWNES OF HILLWOOD
3900 ELBERT AVE	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$438,500	Townhouse	0.03		SUNNYSIDE
2181 JAMIESON AVE #510	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$425,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			CARLYLE TOWERS
309 HOLLAND LN #110	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$420,000	Other			THE ROYALTON
5084 ENGLISH TER #102	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$415,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			CAMERON STATION
53 MOUNT VERNON AVE	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$410,400	Townhouse	0.03		ROSEMONT
2505 CREST ST	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$410,000	Detached	0.13		BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
421 DEL RAY AVE E	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$410,000	Semi-Detached	0.13		DEL RAY
419 STANTON PL	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$399,900	Townhouse	0.04		EDSALL RD T/H
2181 JAMIESON AVE #604	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$385,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			CARLYLE TOWERS
417 DEL RAY AVE	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$348,000	Duplex	0.07		DEL RAY
5407 FILLMORE AVE	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$340,000	Detached	0.23		DOWDEN
624 ALFRED ST	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$332,000	Townhouse	0.03		OLD TOWN
247 PICKETT ST S #401	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$330,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			HILLWOOD
3101 HAMPTON DR #612	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$325,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	0.00		NORTHAMPTON PLACE
23 FRENCH ST	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$315,000	Duplex	0.14		DUKE GARDENS
3507 VALLEY DR #707-35	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$310,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARKFAIRFAX
407 RAYMOND AVE E #3	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$299,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			DEL RAY
4518 VENABLE AVE	3	3	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$292,000	Detached	0.16		TARLETON
211 TENNESSEE AVE	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$287,500	Attach/Row Hse	0.04		WARWICK VILLAGE
404 ALEXANDRIA AVE	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$285,000	Townhouse	0.02		DELRAY
4862 EISENHOWER AVE #465	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$285,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			EXCHANGE AT VAN DORN
3101 HAMPTON DR #610	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$278,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			NORTHAMPTON PLACE
200 PICKETT ST N #213	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$270,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			HALLMARK
407 RAYMOND AVE E #2	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$269,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			DEL RAY
4850 EISENHOWER AVE #215	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$265,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			EXCHANGE AT VAN DORN
4560 STRUTFIELD LN #1408	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$244,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			PALAZZO AT PARK CENTER
1417 VAN DORN ST #1417C	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$235,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARKSIDE AT ALEXANDRIA
2934 COLUMBUS ST S #B1	1	1	0		ARLINGTON	\$229,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			FAIRLINGTON VILLAGE
3101 NORTH HAMPTON DR N#813	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$214,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			NORTH HAMPTON PLACE
3101 HAMPTON DR #607	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$210,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			NORTHAMPTON PLACE
203 YOAKUM PKWY #1420	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$195,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
51 REED AVE	3	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$194,500	Townhouse	0.04		HUME SPRINGS
301 BEAUREGARD ST N #105	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$190,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			THE FOUNTAINS
250 REYNOLDS ST S #606	1	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$180,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			TEMPLETON OF ALEXANDRIA
205 YOAKUM PKWY #404	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$160,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			WATERGATE AT LANDMARK
5911 EDSALL RD #404	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$154,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			HIGHPOINTE
133 REED AVE W	3	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$152,385	Townhouse	0.03		HUME SPRINGS
4600 DUKE ST #716	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$149,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			FORTY SIX HUNDRED
4850 EISENHOWER AVE #223	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$148,500	Garden 1-4 Floors			EXCHANGE AT VAN DORN
12 VAN DORN ST S #503	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$144,769	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			TWENTY-ONE
5851 QUANTRELL AVE #310	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$140,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			THE SEASONS
5801 QUANTRELL AVE #507	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$139,900	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			THE SEASONS
6300 STEVENSON AVE #523	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$137,750	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			SENTINEL OF LANDMARK
5934 MAYFLOWER CT #5934	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$131,500	Townhouse			MAYFLOWER SQUARE
2500 VAN DORN ST N #805	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$130,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			PARK PLACE
708 FOUR MILE RD	3	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$129,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.08		BEVERLY PARK
5831 QUANTRELL #T-8	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$120,000	Other			THE SEASONS
401 ARMISTEAD ST N #502	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$101,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			THE SEASONS
4600 DUKE ST #621	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$97,500	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			FORTY SIX HUNDRED
431 ARMISTEAD ST #501	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$93,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			THE SEASONS
75 REYNOLDS ST S #317	0	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$93,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			TWENTY-ONE
525 ARMISTEAD ST N #303	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$80,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			SAXONY SQUARE
515 ARMISTEAD ST N #302	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$79,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			SAXONY SQUARE
513 ARMISTEAD ST N #103	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$78,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			SAXONY SQUARE
5851 QUANTRELL AVE #409	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$75,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			THE SEASONS
493 ARMISTEAD ST #102	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$65,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			SAXONY SQUARE
519 ARMISTEAD N #519-T	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$63,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			SAXONY SQUARE
4520 KING ST #205	0	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$54,900	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			BOLLING BROOK TOWERS

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For more information on MRIS, visit www.mris.com.
To search for a home online, visit www.HomesDatabase.com.



Are you facing foreclosure?

**YOU MAY HAVE
A BETTER WAY OUT!**

AlexandriaShortSale.info

CURIOUS ABOUT SHORT SALES?

If you're behind on your mortgage, we may be able to help you Avoid Foreclosure and Save Your Credit. At McEneaney Associates, we understand that bad things happen to good people and we're here to help. Visit www.AlexandriaShortSale.info to see if you qualify for a short sale.

Sponsored by Tamara Inzunza,
McEneaney Associates, Inc. REALTORS® - 703.623.8759

Aldersgate Church Christian Drama Ministry presents:

GODSPELL



APRIL 2, 3, & 4 at 8pm
APRIL 4 & 5 at 3pm

This is our gift to the community
Admission is FREE
but reservations are encouraged

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, VA 22308
(corner of Collingwood and Fort Hunt Roads)

For more information and reservations:
703-765-6555 or www.aldersgate.net

Donations of items for local shelters welcomed.

Win a 2009 Prius — Help College Hopefuls

ONLY 700 RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE!



**2009 TOYOTA PRIUS
COURTESY OF
JACK TAYLOR'S
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

Each year the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria provides need-based college scholarships to seniors graduating from T. C. Williams High School. Buy a ticket **TODAY** because proceeds from this year's raffle help make college a reality for students in need.

- Winner drives home a 2009 Toyota Prius – or – pockets \$22,000 cash!
- Drawing at the May 9th Scholarship Fund of Alexandria Spring Gala
- Only 700 tickets will be sold

Visit www.alexscholarshipfund.org and click on **Prius Raffle** to order tickets or call 703-824-6730. Look for ticket sellers at the Alexandria Farmers Market!

SPORTS

Boys Lacrosse Gaining More Talent

FROM PAGE 24

“Early in the season, it’s not all gonna get perfect, so you just try to do what you do well and improve on your weaknesses.

EPISCOPAL has suffered the same fate as its neighbor T.C. Williams in recent years with plenty of athletes, but not enough la-

crosse players. But this season, coach Scott Conklin thinks he’s got more skill than he has had in quite some time after an 8-12 campaign a year ago.

Conklin is counting on leading returning scorer Hunter de Butts (18 goals, 35 assists), goalie David Block (committed to Haverford for next season), and defenseman Brandt Gess to help the Maroon

early. The team is off to a 4-2 start after an overtime loss to Notre Dame Academy Tuesday night.

“I think it’s important for us to get off to a good start,” said Conklin. “We need to win the games we should win, and we haven’t done that the past few years.”

THE GOAL AT BISHOP IRETON is to avoid being middle of the pack in the WCAC once again. Coach Joe Kesterman will count on the leadership of seniors Mac Fife (four-year starter committed to play lacrosse at the Air Force Academy) and Taylor O’Sullivan (1st team All-WCAC) to avoid another season in the doldrums like last year’s 7-13 campaign.

The team has just two returning defensemen, but Kesterman said that unit has been stronger than expected as the Cardinals have jumped out to a 2-2 start to the season. Aside from an 11-6 loss to Potomac School in its season opener, Ireton hasn’t allowed double-digit goals all season.

The Cardinals take on Good Counsel Wednesday, after the Gazette Packet’s deadline.

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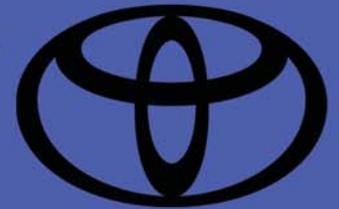
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