

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 2, 2009

Facing Down Frustrated Parents

School Board candidates respond to questions about special education.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

As an 8-year-old child, School Board member Charles Wilson had a problem paying attention. His mind wandered, and he couldn't stay focused on what his teachers were trying to tell him. So his school moved him into what Wilson said was then known as "the retarded class." But one of his teachers recognized that Wilson just needed more direction and took him out of the class, clearing the way for his career in the Army and eventually a seat in District C on the Alexandria School Board.

"I didn't hear a single new idea from any of the candidates."

— Paul Wilson, member of the Special Education Advisory Committee

"We have too many kids in special education that don't need to be there," said Wilson, who is running for reelection, during a candidates' forum about special-education issues this week.



Candidates for School Board appeared at a forum this week on special-education issues. From left to right: Bill Campbell, Mimi Carter, Sheryl Gorsuch, Helen Morris, Scott Newsham, Yvonne Folkerts, Arthur Peabody, Ronnie Campbell and Charles Wilson.

"The system is clogged because we have too many students competing for resources."

The debate about special education comes at a critical time for Alexandria City Public Schools. Last year, an audit by state officials concluded that Alexandria schools are not meeting the needs of its special-needs population — which has seen the number of au-

tistic children increase 92 percent in Alexandria over the last six years. School officials are now trying to demonstrate to their state counterparts in Richmond that the system is addressing those areas deemed out of compliance as eight incumbent School Board members face voters on the campaign trail.

SEE FACING PARENTS, PAGE 24

Spring Or Fall?

Three candidates support keeping the May election; two incumbents are undecided.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Shortly after the May 2006 election for City Council and School Board, Councilman Rob Krupicka wrote a letter to the editor of the Alexandria Gazette Packet calling for an end to the springtime ritual. Citing the 20 percent turnout, Krupicka launched a campaign to move the May elections to the more popular November ballot. Even in years without presidential elections, November elections bring out more voters — 46 percent in 2005, 59 percent in 2006 and 29 percent in 2007.

"I wouldn't support presidential or congressional overlap as those races would overwhelm local issues," said Krupicka. "But the argument that fall voters are some

SEE LOCAL FOCUS, PAGE 4

King Street Still Looking for Right Mix of Retailers

Retail study points to needed changes in Old Town.

BY ALEKSANDRA KULCZUGA
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Urban planning consultant Bob Gibbs explained exactly how special Alexandria is to a packed roomful of local business owners at the Lyceum on Thursday, March 19. "I have developers paying me big bucks to tell them how to build successful communities. We fly all around the country in private jets looking at developments, but I always bring them here and explain that Alexandria is one of the best examples of successful urban development in the world," he declared as he

flashed a picture of a private jet during his presentation.

Gibbs runs Gibbs Planning Group, and is an expert in urban retail who specializes in redevelopment and revitalization efforts in small downtowns and historic districts. He was hired nine months ago as an independent third party to help identify opportunities to increase commerce in the area.

Most of the people present at the forum owned shops along King Street, and were looking for suggestions to improve their own businesses. The King Street Retail study, commissioned by the city

last year to identify areas for improvement, found that King Street business is being artificially suppressed by a confluence of correctable non-market factors. Gibbs described that what makes Old Town unique is that its problem is a result of supply, not demand, and that this is a good place to be.

Stephanie Landrum, senior vice president of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, admitted that the problems Alexandria faces are problems that other cities wish they had. "It's true that our status quo is a very good place to be, but we are constantly trying to better serve the

businesses in Alexandria," she said.

THE CHALLENGE is to identify the elusive mix of national chain outlets and independent shops that provides the optimal synergy for the local community.

Many independent businesses feel threatened at the prospect of

national retailers joining them on Alexandria's main street. "Bigger is not always bad," Gibbs reassured the audience. He added that big box retailers are increasingly adapting their designs to fit into historic small-town communities. "There is a strong positive relationship between an anchor and inde

SEE RIGHT MIX, PAGE 4





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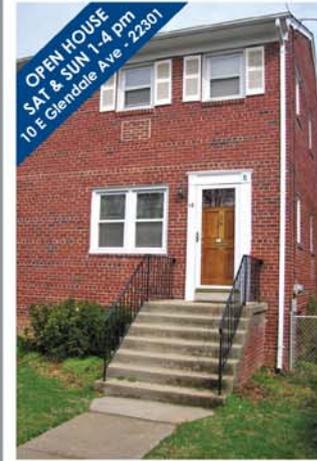
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Non-profits Learn Together

Leadership Exchange hosts social event where non-profits gather and exchange information.

BY EMMA GONZALEZ
THE GAZETTE PACKET

A crowd of non-profit representatives gathered Wednesday, March 18, to share information and find extra help during these economic times. Hosted by Alexandria Community Trust (ACT), the Alexandria Board Leadership Exchange sought to connect the different non-profit organizations in the city.

Jonelle Wallmeyer, ACT executive director, introduced herself and the thinking behind the social event, "We have a true backbone here. We have had recessions, but we're here to strengthen. To offer up more opportunities for non profit organizations that may need that extra help." She added, "We have to be more engaged and involved in the community. We can connect."

Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, an Alexandria resident and director of marketing and special projects for Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR), was at the event in hopes of recruiting volunteers and to learn about other non-profits around the area. OAR is a group dedicated to helping those incarcerated and ex-offenders to find communities, re-entry in professions and to become responsible citizens.



Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Director of Marketing and Special Projects of OAR.

"We are a bit new to the Alexandria area so what better way to connect with others that want to give to the community?" Valderrama said, "We are always looking for recruits and ways of connecting with others. It's about partnering a getting together as a whole." She added, "We need to give back to the community. As an Alexandria resident, It's always good to see the community come together and succeed."

AMONG THE TABLES of food,

there was also a table dedicated to flyers, cards and contact information of all the different non-profits that attended that night. Many took advantage and created their own packets from all of the information provided.

Jennifer Styles, a volunteer from Volunteer Alexandria, explained to various people the purpose of her organization. "We're on the coordinating committee on ABLE and I feel like it's a great opportunity for non-profit organizations to collaborate with the resources offered to them," Styles said.

The event's purpose was, as Wallmeyer mentioned, to bring the community of Alexandria closer.

Representative of Friends of Guest House, Sharon McMichael, attended the event because of the importance of recruiting volunteers and giving back to the community. "All of our organization's volunteers are vital. We really have no money so we have to rely heavily on volunteers. I at least hope it gets people thinking about volunteering," McMichael said. "Everybody can be involved, it does not necessarily have to be a large investment. Many people think that volunteering comes with a huge responsibility. But in fact, even the littlest efforts are helpful. Every effort is needed and welcome," she said.

A Clearing in the Distance

Chuck Hamel says goodbye to Alexandria and his beloved Founders Park.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

With its sweeping view of the Potomac River and its rolling landscape, Founders Park is the undisputed star of the Alexandria waterfront. Yet the area was once an industrial eyecore — abandoned land that was being eyed by developers and soccer players. Enter Chuck Hamel, veteran bureaucratic warrior who knew how to coordinate resources for maximum effectiveness. Along with other neighborhood activists, Hamel helped create what is now known as Founders Park and the Founders Park Community Association.

Now, after 34 years of living in Old Town, Hamel and his wife are moving to Seattle to be near relatives. Longtime friends gathered last weekend to celebrate the couple's decades of commitment to civic



Chuck and Kathy Hamel.

life.

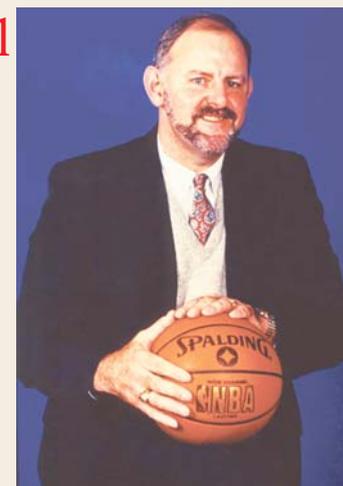
"For me, Chuck and Kathy are the official greeters of Alexandria," said neighbor Judy Hildebrand. "They chat up anybody that walks by their house."

The story of how a stretch of abandoned industrial property along the waterfront became Founders Park begins in the late 1970s, when changing dy

SEE HAMEL, PAGE 5

The Legend Returns

Skeeter Swift will make a number of appearances in Alexandria next month.



BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

A native of Alexandria, Harley "Skeeter" Swift was a star basketball player at George Washington High School, where he graduated in 1965. After that he attended college at East Tennessee State University, where he played in the Sweet Sixteen in 1968. He was later drafted by the New Orleans Buccaneers in the American Basketball Association, then by the Milwaukee Bucks in the National Basketball Association. He now lives in Kingsport, Tenn. He will return to Alexandria, when he will speak to a group of children at the Charles Houston Recreation Center on April 7; the Optimists at the Belle Haven County Club on April 8; and inmates at the Alexandria jail on April 9.

Why are you returning to Alexandria now?

I come back to Alexandria periodically, a lot of times its for the George Washington alumni association. Since last year, I've been coming back more often because I've been working on a book to tell my story. I've been working with Harry Covert to put the book together that's basically a biography. It's a tell-all. If you do a biography, you'd better tell it all, right?

Will the book have any surprises?

No. I made first team all metropolitan, in every newspaper from the Washington Metropolitan area — everything from the Washington Star to the Alexandria Gazette. The George Washington High School basketball team was covered extensively by the Gazette, and we drew sellout crowds Jack Tulloch Memorial Gymnasium. I held every record there was in that gym.

What do plan on saying to the kids at Charles Houston?

I'm going to tell them to use basketball, don't let basketball

Legendary basketball player Skeeter Swift will return to Alexandria for several public appearances.

use them. The name of the game is to get your college education. There are too many young people who are outstanding athletes who can play the game but they don't have a job or they are on welfare. When I was playing pro basketball, I was quite active in speaking at basketball camps all over. They would listen to me because I was honest with them. At the end of four years of basketball in college, you should be able to graduate and walk into a place of business and get an interview or know somebody who can get you in the door. It's vitally important that you get your college degree. That's the name of the game.

What message do you have for the Optimists at Belle Haven County Club?

Most of those guys there went to school with me, so that's more like homecoming and telling war stories. How many kids do you have, and that sort of thing. These are people who knew me when UI loved in Alexandria. There are many of these people who I probably haven't seen in a long time.

You're also speaking at the jail. How does that work?

There are going to be more than 200 inmates, and that includes both male and female inmates in addition to the guards and everybody else. The reason I don't have a problem speaking at the jail is because I come from the streets. I've been in a gang, and I've stolen. I drank and smoked cigarettes when I was 12 years old. So I was no saint. I could never repay Alexandria for what it was done for me through sports.

Plunkee the Elephant

Facing a powerful Democratic ticket that includes five incumbents and a former mayor, the Alexandria City Republican Party has embraced a new tactic — plunking. Also known as “bullet voting,” it’s a way of maximizing influence in the voting totals by minimizing the number of votes that are cast. They’ve even adopted a new mascot to publicize effort: **Plunkee the Elephant**.

“Alexandria Republicans and Plunkee the Elephant want you to vote for three outstanding candidates in the May 5 City Council election — Republican candidates **Phil Cefaratti**, **Frank Fannon** and independent candidate **Alicia Hughes** (a federal employee who belongs to our local Commonwealth Republican Women’s Club),” proclaims a flier now in circulation.

Republican chairman **Chris Marston** explained that plunking is a “time-tested” political strategy that has been used by opposition and minority parties in at-large elections. Because the City Council is essentially a popularity contest in which the six candidates with the most votes end up winning, Republicans will be able to concentrate their efforts without contributing to a Democratic victory. Marston said that Republicans might have considered adding independent candidate **Rich Williamson** to the Plunkee bandwagon if they had time to vet him beforehand.

“To be honest, we developed this plan before we knew Rich was running,” said Marston.

Five Endorsements, Six Seats

When the Alexandria Police Benevolent Association announced its list of endorsements late last month, each of the Democratic candidates received support from the organization except one: Vice Mayor **Del Pepper**. According to association president **Michael Kochis**, his organization screening process was designed to determine the level of support among the candidates for raising salaries of police officers. The panel that issued endorsements was impressed by Mayor **Bill Euille** and all the other Democratic candidates, but Pepper didn’t make the cut.

“We are the lowest paid police department in Northern Virginia,” said Kochis. “All of the other Democratic candidates had a plan for how to fix that except Del.”

And the Republicans?

“They talk about supporting public-safety,” said Kochis. “But when it comes down to offering competitive pay, they weren’t sympathetic at all.”

Candidate Drops Out

The School Board election has become a *fait accompli* for six incumbent members who are now running without opposition in two of the three districts. On Tuesday, District B candidate **Janice Howard** informed the city’s registrar that she has decided to withdraw her name from consideration. When reached by telephone to explain her decision, Howard indicated “personal reasons” were behind the move although she declined to elaborate.

“Her name will still appear on the ballot because we don’t have time to remove it,” said Registrar **Tom Parkins**. “Absentee balloting starts next week, so that doesn’t give us any time to change the names.”

Howard’s decision to withdraw from the race leaves District B incumbents **Yvonne Folkerts**, **Arthur Peabody** and **Marc Williams** without opposition. They will join District C incumbents **Ronnie Campbell**, **Blanche Maness** and **Charles Wilson** in running unopposed for another term on the Alexandria School Board.

That leaves District A, which represents the eastern part of the city, as the only competitive race. Although incumbent member **Eileen Cassidy Rivera** decided against running for a second term, **Sheryl Gorsuch** and **Scott Newsham** are both campaigning for a second term on the Alexandria School Board. Joining the two incumbents are three new candidates: **Bill Campbell**, **Mimi Carter** and **Helen Morris**.

Of those five candidates, the three with the most number of votes will represent District A.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

POLITICS



Phil Cefaratti



Frank Fannon



Paul Smedberg



Tim Lovain



Del Pepper

Local Focus Vs. Local Turnout

FROM PAGE 1

how different doesn’t square with the facts.”

Yet a handful of the candidates that will be on the ballot in May have argued against the change because they think a November ballot could drown out the traditional civic debate that happens every third spring — one that is timed to take place the week after City Council members take a final vote on the tax rate. Vice Mayor Del Pepper, a Democratic incumbent who is running for a ninth term on City Council, said she was concerned local issues would get lost in the shuffle. Because the \$60,000 expenditure is only needed once every three years, she said the cost was worth it in the long run because of the engagement it fosters in people who choose to participate.

“Usually, there are a number of council candidates and School Board candidates running, and it’s difficult as it is for voters to get to know each of them,” said Pepper. “May elections allow the focus to be entirely on local issues.”

“I just haven’t heard a compelling argument to move the city elections to November yet.”

— Councilman Paul Smedberg

ASIDE FROM PEPPER, most

of the Democrats are united in favor of moving the elections from May to November. Those in favor of jettisoning the springtime campaign for City Council and School Board frame the debate in terms of money and participation. Councilman Justin Wilson, who became a member of the City Council in a special election that had 12 percent participation, said moving the election to November would include more people in the process.

“The folks who turn out in May are primarily from the East End, primarily homeowners and are not representative of the diversity of the city,” said Wilson. “May elections are an anachronism, and it’s long since time we relegate them to history.”

The Alexandria City Republican Committee opposed the idea when it was considered last year, and both Republican candidates have come out against the plan. Frank Fannon, whose great-grandfather was elected to the Alexandria City Council during a springtime election in the early 20th century, said the idea that local elections should be mixed with other campaigns is a threat to tradition and an invitation to increased party dominance.

“If we move the election to November, voters will tend to vote straight party line in accordance with the presidential candidates,” said Fannon. “The people who are truly interested in city government will come out for a May election.”

ALTHOUGH SUPPORTERS of May elections admit that turnout is lower when compared to November, they say that having a distinct time that is separated from other campaigns benefits the public discourse. They argue that mixing nine School Board seats, six City Council positions and a mayoral race

into a ballot that could also include races for governor, attorney general, House of Delegates and various amendments would be a mistake. Some make the case that a lower turnout could benefit the city.

“Disassociating from the November elections provides a time and place for local issues to be addressed singularly and more directly,” said Republican candidate Phil Cefaratti. “I work under the assumption that when taken as a group, voters who take the time to come out in May are showing a greater interest in local politics than and are more well-informed on local issues than the group of voters heading to the polls in November, whose primary concerns might be statewide or federal elections.”

On the other side of the issue are both independent candidates. Alicia Hughes favors moving city elections as a cost-effective way of increasing participation and encouraging a higher turnout. Rich Williamson said May elections prevent people from participating in their own government.

“Keeping the strange calendar of elections is merely another tool of incumbents to keep opposition away by hiding the election in plain sight with poor marketing and only involving die-hard political special interests or political operatives in both the primaries and city elections,” said Williamson. “When only 1,000 voters of a city of 140,000 participate in one party’s primary, which has consistently, in a machine-like fashion, become an automatic seat on the City Council, you know the system is broken.”

TWO INCUMBENT members of City Council remain undecided on the issue, explaining that they can sympathize with both sides. Councilman Tim Lovain, a Democratic incumbent who is running for a second term, was asked about the issue during a candidates’ forum last week. In answering the question, Lovain explained that he essentially agrees with both sides of the debate.

“I am leaning toward November because of the cost savings and the fact that we usually seem to have as much other politics going on in the springtime as we do in the fall,” Lovain explained after the debate. “But I remain concerned about the disruption of reversing a longstanding tradition.”

Councilman Paul Smedberg, an incumbent seeking a third term, is also undecided on the issue. Although the issue has been heavily debated since Krupicka first raised the idea of moving the election in 2006, Smedberg said he would need to hear an “overwhelming case” to get rid of the intense focus on local issues created by the springtime election.

“I just haven’t heard a compelling argument to move the city elections to November yet,” said Smedberg. “Just because people are tired of having frequent elections, that’s not a good reason in my opinion.”

PEOPLE

Hamel Says Goodbye

FROM PAGE 3

namics brought development interests to the site. Although one developer proposed constructing a high-rise complex known as "Watergate Alexandria" on the land, City Councilwoman Ellen Pickering opposed the idea and began a movement for the city to purchase the land instead. Yet after the government finalized the sale, people were divided on what to do with the acquisition.

"The City Council was under a lot of pressure to put soccer fields there," said Chuck Hamel, who moved to Quay Street in 1975. "But we wanted a passive park."

SUCH WERE the circumstances behind the creation of Founders Park Community Association, a nonprofit organization created to advocate for the creation of a new public space. Hamel worked with attorney Bruce Clubb, psychiatrist David Charney and Potomac historian Fred Tilp to create the park. Each of the founders had his own area of expertise, and Hamel was dispatched to City Hall to use his background in legislative affairs to lobby for the project.

"Once he gets an idea in his head, he's like a guided missile," said neighbor Linda Couture. "When there's a barrier, he'll find a way to get around it."

A native of Watertown, Conn., Chuck Hamel came to Washington to study foreign service at Georgetown University before taking a position as chief of staff to U.S. Sen. Thomas Dodd (D-Conn.). It was during this period he met his future wife, a native of Maryville, Wash., who was then secretary for U.S. Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson (D-Wash.). He would eventually leave Capitol Hill to become vice president of Universal Shipping before launching his own company a few years later. The couple was married in 1977.

"Chuck and Kathy have been like a beacon," said neighbor Valerie Ianieri. "They have really created a sense of community in Founders Park, and they will be greatly missed."

After fending off developers who were interested in constructing a high-rise on the land, the Hamels had to fight back the soccer-field enthusiasts. Then they helped coordinate a landscape architect from George Washington University to create a distinctive design for the park. When the Hamels found out that City Manager Jim

SEE HAMEL, PAGE 20

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OPINION



2008 VPA AWARD WINNING PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Gazette Packet Wins VPA Awards

The Connection Newspapers and sister papers Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and Centre View, won more than 40 editorial awards for all aspects of its coverage in 2008.

The awards, including 17 first place awards, were announced at the annual Virginia Press Association editorial conference in Norfolk on Saturday, March 21. Connection writers won in categories including investigative reporting, government writing, education, health, science and environmental writing, public safety writing, features, sports, business and financial writing, and editorial writing. Our papers also won multiple awards for lifestyle/entertainment pages, page design, and photography.

The Alexandria Gazette Packet garnered 16 Virginia Press Awards, including eight first place awards in the 2008 Editorial contest. The awards were announced at the annual Virginia Press Association editorial conference in Norfolk on Saturday, March 21.

Michael Lee Pope won eight awards, including five first place awards in government writing, in-depth or investigative reporting, health, science and environmental writing and education writing.

In awarding one of Pope's first place awards, the judges commented: "You are clearly the class of this division. ... Nice variety, good command of the language and attention to detail."

On Pope's coverage of the ethanol transfer station issue: "This reporter demonstrates te-

The Awards

Here are some of the awards won by the Alexandria Gazette Packet and Mount Vernon Gazette:

- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, First Place, Government Writing
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, First Place, In-depth or Investigative Reporting
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, First Place, Health, Science and Environmental Writing
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, First Place, Education Writing
- ❖ Mark Giannotto, First Place, Sports Writing Portfolio
- ❖ Rebecca Halik, Greg Wyshynski, Louise Krafft, Michael Lee Pope, Mary Anne Weber, Chuck Hagee; First Place, Lifestyle/Entertainment pages, Alexandria Gazette



Michael Lee Pope



Mark Giannotto



Louise Krafft

- Packet
- ❖ Louise Krafft, First Place, Pictorial Photo
 - ❖ Louise Krafft, First Place, Picture Story/Essay
 - ❖ Julia O'Donoghue, First Place, Mount Vernon Gazette, In-depth or Investigative Reporting
 - ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Second Place, Public Safety Writing
 - ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Second Place, Feature series or continuing story
 - ❖ Louise Krafft, Second Place, General News Photo
 - ❖ Louise Krafft, Second Place,

- Feature Photo
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Second Place, Personality or Portrait Photo
 - ❖ Louise Krafft, Third Place, General News Photo
 - ❖ Kenneth Lourie, Third Place, Column Writing
 - ❖ Chuck Hagee, Third Place, Feature Writing Portfolio
 - ❖ Rebecca Halik, Louise Krafft, Greg Wyshynski, Mary Anne Weber, Chuck Hagee, Michael Lee Pope, Third Place, Lifestyle/Entertainment pages, Mount Vernon Gazette

nacity in his craft at public service writing."

Mark Giannotto won two first place awards, one in the Alexandria Gazette and one in the Arlington Connection for sports writing portfolio.

The Alexandria Gazette Packet's entertainment pages won first place, with judges commenting: "The Alexandria Gazette Packet's Arts and Entertainment section is delightful. Compact and easy to navigate."

Julia O'Donoghue won first place in depth/

investigative reporting for her three part series on different categories of voters, which appeared in the Mount Vernon Gazette. She also won first place for government writing.

Connection photographer Robbie Hammer won eight awards while Louise Krafft won nine awards in all.

Mirza Kurspahic won first place for general news writing for his coverage of immigration issues in Herndon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Committed To Fairness

To the Editor:

In response to the letter by Micheline Eyraud ("Examine That Assessment," published March 26, 2009) about the actions and procedures of the City of Alexandria's Department of Real Estate Assessments, I would like to address Ms. Eyraud's advice for City property owners to "bypass the Office of Tax Assessment altogether

in favor of working with the Board of Equalization." Each year, our staff works with property owners on their individual Requests for Review of Real Estate Assessments. The Review, different from the initial mass appraisal, allows us to study the issues raised by a property owner, as well as other property data and property characteristics that we rely on to determine a property's fair market value.

The Board of Equalization advises property owners to take advantage of the Review of Assessment process before filing an Appeal to

the Board, allowing issues to be resolved before reaching the Board of Equalization. During a Review, the matter often is settled to the satisfaction of the property owner. In instances when this does not occur, the additional study given to a property's assessment is helpful to the appellant and to the City in presenting their opinions before the Board of Equalization.

The assessment process is mandated by the Code of Virginia and we adhere to the requirements for providing fair and equitable assess-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

ments to all 44,000 property owners in the City. Tax bills have two components: the first is the assessed value of the property; the second, the tax rate set by City Council.

I would like to affirm Ms. Eyraud's excellent advice to property owners — review your assessment and property information. Each property is assessed annually, and I encourage all property owners to take advantage of the Review and Appeal processes if they believe there is an error in their assessment. Our department will continue to strive to maintain accurate assessments for all property owners.

The property owners of Alexandria are our customers, and the Department of Real Estate and Assessments is geared toward helping them. We have professional appraisers and administrative support staff who are experienced and trained in customer service. We also make information about our assessments and the assessment process accessible for property owners by posting information at alexandriava.gov/realestate and by making presentations at community meetings to assist neighborhoods in understanding their individual areas. We are committed to serving our customers and ensuring their properties are assessed fairly and equitably.

Cynthia Smith-Page, Director
Department of
Real Estate Assessments
City of Alexandria

Experience Matters

To the Editor:

We are writing to express our support for Del Pepper in the upcoming city council election this May.

Our city is facing extraordinary pressures and challenges, and we need experienced, competent leadership to help us weather the storm and continue moving Alexandria forward. Del exemplifies the hard work, know-how, and experience we need on city council.

As co-chair of the Mirant Monitoring Group, Del has been an outspoken leader in pushing to clean up and/or close down the Mirant power plant. During this term, the city reached a landmark agreement with Mirant to clean up its operations. Although ultimately the Mirant plant should be closed, the agreement is a significant accomplishment, and will improve air quality in Old Town and the whole city.

The Mirant issue is an example of Del's leadership on environmental issues. Current projections are that unless we act aggressively to slow down climate change now, sea levels are likely to rise between between 2.5 and 6.5 feet by the end of the century. This alone, aside from other consequences of climate change, will have a dramatic impact on the Alexandria waterfront and the quality of life in our city for generation, after generation, after generation to come.^o

Del cosponsored the initiative to create an environmental action plan and as a member of the Steering Committee has played a leading role in the ongoing process. The city has approved a Phase I action plan to guide environmental progress over the next two fiscal years, and will soon take up an action plan covering future years. Unless we make Alexandria more sustainable, we'll be consigning our children and our children's children to diminished quality of life and unnecessary expenses.

We are proud of our city, and of the hard, committed, thoughtful work done by Del and the other mem
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 7

bers of our city council. We urge our neighbors to vote for the Democratic candidates for council in order to make sure that we appropriately balance the often competing goals of constraining tax increases, fostering development, preserving our city's heritage, and investing in our future as One Alexandria.

Mary Alyce Delaplane, Lois Calso Hunt, Anne Kelly, Ron Lafond, Ernie Lehmann, Scott Barstow, Resa O'Flaherty, Mike Wenk and Connie West

Non-residents Impact Schools

To the Editor:

Mimi Carter has earned my vote for school board. After reading her letter printed here last week, "Closing the Residency Loophole," I have decided that her obvious attention to such "Broken Window" issues (small, but adding up quickly) as a part of her commitment to public education in Alexandria makes her my #1 District A candidate.

With two daughters in Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy, I see the cars with Maryland and D.C. license plates every day at pick-up, and have grown to resent those who perpetrate this wrong on the taxpayers of Alexandria. Not only is our \$20,000 per child per year being abused by the parents of about 20 kids at Lyles-Crouch, but I'm told it's even worse in other schools. Mimi Carter is right; this issue is not about alien status or race; it's about economics. At our school, I am 100 percent certain of six families cheating the system. Of those six families, none is Latino, two are African-American and four are white. Sadly, these parents seldom appear at school to volunteer or take part in any programs, fearing exposure. We all know that one of the greatest strengths of any school is the participation of its parent community in the education of their own children, but that can't happen if some parents are never active in order not to call attention to non-residency.

This issue is not about the kids; it is simply a matter of paperwork. Beyond supplying the currently required custody paperwork, all parents/guardians registering a child for public school in Alexandria should have to show a lease or deed for their home, and they should have to do this before the start of each school year (as many hundreds of other public school systems demand). The current option of presenting nothing more

solid than a phone bill at an Alexandria address is a joke and its time has passed. Properly placing even 10 kids per year out of each ACPS school would give us many millions of dollars which Mimi Carter has suggested might be spent on tutoring to close the achievement gap or expanded ESL services or badly needed early childhood education. When you come right down to it, we just can't afford not to ask for the right paperwork anymore.

Helen Epley
Old Town

Supports Public Schools

To the Editor:

As we approach the upcoming City Council and School Board elections, education is top-of-mind for many Alexandrians. Parents across our city are concerned as our schools face a shrinking budget, growing enrollment, and possible service cuts. But as two parents who are active at Maury Elementary and MacArthur Elementary, we're optimistic about the coming years. Among the reasons for our optimism are those City Council candidates who wholeheartedly support excellence in public education. In particular, we'd like to recognize and urge people to vote for Councilman Justin Wilson. Justin has consistently supported Alexandria's schools by promoting a better environment for teachers, more resources for students, and smaller class sizes, among other things. He's also a good steward of our city's limited resources; Justin is someone who trains a careful eye on what we have and what we need, and he strives to bring the two closer together.

We appreciate that Justin recognizes that quality schools are our community's moral obligation. He understands our school system and is ready to fight, not just for the basics, but also for those things that will make our school system great. And we agree with him that pursuing excellence in our schools should be among our community's top priorities. With focused and dedicated leaders committed to continuing this pursuit, Alexandria will have a world-class school system.

The quality of a city's schools says a lot about its citizens and their priorities, and a city with good schools attracts more jobs and more opportunities for its residents. We hope you'll make our schools a priority on May 5, and vote to re-elect Councilman Justin Wilson. Our city deserves someone who will continue to

Walkathon To Support Learning Center

BY MARIAN VAN LANDINGHAM
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE PACKET

Danielle Young and 34 other "at-risk" preschool students learn and play at the Child Development Center run by ALIVE! (ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically) because hundreds walk on what is always a glorious May day. This year it will be Sunday, May 3, starting at 1:30 p.m.

An energetic 5 year old who loves to draw and sculpt Gizmo the guinea pig, Danielle has been at the preschool for three years and has made great strides in language and social skills, according to center director Pam Blankenship. Her mother, Tiffany Oliphant, has a full time job and is able to drop her at the center early in the morning and pick her up after 5 p.m.

Oliphant says that Danielle is ready for kindergarten next year but will miss her friends, teachers, pets and toys at the learning center. When she is sick, she hates to miss a day, even when she has taken home one of her favorite toys like Charlotte the giant spider.

ALIVE! has operated the Child Development Center for children at-risk-for-school-failure in a building behind the First Christian Church on King Street for 38 years and for 28 of those, the Walkathon has helped fund it, according to walk chair Barbara Watts.

This year, the Walkathon will start, as usual, at First Christian, 2723 King St., which has a large parking lot. It will proceed down King to Old Town, stopping at Market Square for a choir concert, and then come back up to the starting point for a picnic. Individuals, groups and church delegations are all welcome. The fee for entry is \$10 for persons 19 to 70 and \$5 for those younger or older.

Everyone gets a free t-shirt, courtesy of sponsors who pay \$200 to have their names listed on the shirts. Potential sponsors should call ALIVE! at 703-837-9320.

During the year, about 60 children get care and



Danielle Young attends the Child Development Center run by ALIVE!

education at the learning center, where parents pay on a sliding fee scale. About a third to half are qualified by the Alexandria Department of Social Services for a subsidy to help pay for the center's schooling.

Blankenship explains, "in high-quality early childhood education programs serving at-risk preschoolers, the optimal teacher:child ratio is 1:5. This allows for nurturing, individualized care and promotes preparation for kindergarten success." She says that in addition to the 8- 9-hour days of her staff, most take additional early education classes evenings and weekends to up-grade their skills.

"This is a job for persons who approach their work as a ministry," she explains. "It is long days year round." She says that Carrie Diggins has been on the staff for 17 years and Ra'Isha Pollard for five.

When the center took the children to the National Aquarium in Baltimore recently, Danielle decided she wanted to be a dolphin trainer when she grows up. "I love dolphins and can't get my mind off that."

stand up for high-quality public education.

John Leary
Lisa Medley

Educational Leadership

To the Editor:

Over the past two and a half years, I have had the privilege of serving on the Alexandria City School Board alongside Sheryl Gorsuch. When I stop to think about Sheryl's outstanding qualities — her compassion for all children, her phenomenal abilities to recite and apply appropriate and relevant educational policies to improve our own policies, her tireless efforts to build new bridges to the community, her enthusiasm for improving not only her own skills, but her insistence on continued board development, education and training — I can't think of a leader more qualified to represent Alexandria City Public Schools at such a pivotal time in our city and nation's history. Sheryl's masterful leadership of the new Strategic Plan for Alexandria City Public Schools is testament to her commitment and dedication to making our school system the greatest in the country. Sheryl has served our city with honor and distinction since 2006. We need to re-elect Sheryl to another term so we can continue to make progress in closing achievement gaps that have disproportionately affected many students from reaching their fullest potential. In order for our children to continue to grow and prosper in our public school system, they need Sheryl's leadership, vision and passion for educational excellence. Let's re-elect Sheryl Gorsuch to the School Board on May 5.

Eileen Cassidy Rivera
Board Member, Alexandria City Public Schools

Protect Charity Deduction

To the Editor:

I don't support the administration's plan to indirectly tax charities by reducing the income tax deduction for charitable giving. This is bad policy that punishes America's charities by taking away desperately needed financial resources in a time of economic uncertainty.

As someone whose life has been touched by cancer, I beg you to reconsider an action that would result in the immediate reduction of services provided by charities to people living with cancer.

Please do not support any effort aimed at reducing the income tax deduction for charitable giving by U.S. taxpayers. To do so would result in a needless increase in suffering by our most vulnerable citizens.

Louise H. Massoud
Alexandria

LETTERS

Optimists Deserve Own Recognition

To the Editor:

This past week, on March 25, my daughter Tori Bossa, who attends the Francis C. Hammond Middle School, was recognized by the Optimist Club of Alexandria; Gary Thomas, director of the arts and music for the Alexandria City Public Schools; Ivan Hodge her music teacher, and Sara Schafer, the principal of Hammond Middle School, for her dedication and involvement with her school orchestra and also for her exemplary character and her academic excellence. Needless to say as parents, my wife, Elizabeth McIntyre, and myself were very proud of our daughter and this recognition. I wanted to say thank you to Mr. Thomas for his involvement and dedication to the music program, to Mr. Hodge for his nomination and instruction, and to Ms. Schafer for her support of the music program at Hammond Middle School.

But I especially wanted to recognize the wonderful job Del Wilson, and all the members of the Optimist Club of Alexandria, did in making my daughter feel special that day. They provided a wonderful lunch at the Belle Haven Country Club, not only for Tori, but my wife and I as well, they asked Mr. Hodge to present the \$50 Savings Bond they provided and for Mr. Hodge to speak about why my daughter deserved this award and when they asked Tori to play her violin, were profuse in their praise on her music abili-



Hammond Middle School student Tori Bossa with her principal Sara Shafer and music teacher Ivan Hodge.

ties. Needless to say, my daughter felt honored and "one of kind" for the two hours we spent with this gracious group of people. They presented my daughter with their Optimist Creed and truly live their lives based on that creed. Their support of the middle school arts and music and their support of the Alexandria City community has made a positive impression on one 12-year-old girl and her family.

I wanted to say thank you to all the members of the Optimist Club of Alexandria for their support of this wonderful award and for showing our middle school students involved in the arts the respect and support of the community.

Robert J. Bossa

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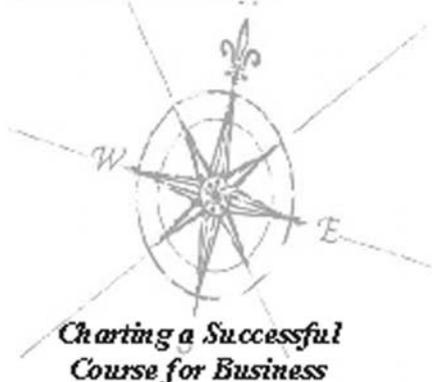


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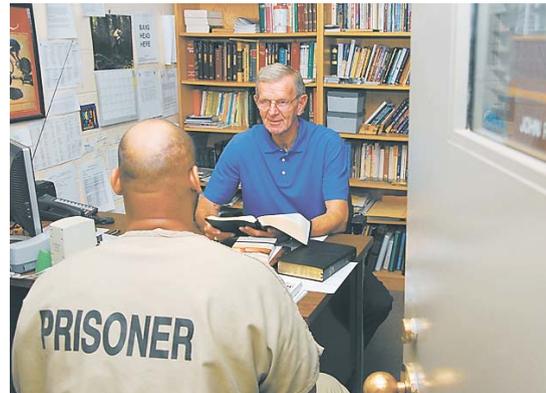
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PEOPLE



John Poffenberger counsels an inmate at the Alexandria Detention Center.

Poffenberger 'Released' From Alexandria Jail

BY HARRY COVERT
ALEXANDRIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

After 23 years, John Poffenberger is getting out of jail.

He got his first taste of jail life as a young Marine when he was assigned to Brig Duty at Great Lakes, Ill., in 1958.

In reality, John Poffenberger is retiring as chaplain of the Alexandria Detention Center and Sheriff's Office where he has served since May 16, 1986. However, he leaves Alexandria "re-fired and not retired." His last day at the jail was Friday, March 27.

He and his wife Betty are moving to Huntsville, Ala., where he has established Proclaiming Christ Ministries. He will be involved in itinerant/interim pastoral ministry.

His first and only jail assignment came from the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry which has provided the chaplaincy in Alexandria and jails throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and nation since 1961.

Poffenberger, 71, is a native of Hagerstown, Md. He has been a five-time winner of the Good News Ministry's chaplain of the year, an honor of his colleagues.

"Chaplain Poffenberger has distinguished himself as the chaplain

and a valued member of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office," said Sheriff Dana Lawhorne. "His service to the inmates and staff over the years has been outstanding. He is respected and appreciated."

POFFENBERGER WAS ordained at age 37 in April 1975 at the Hagerstown Bible Church. He served as pastor of Calvary Bible Church, in Berkeley Springs, W.Va., and associate pastor at Hagerstown Bible Church. While serving in Hagerstown, he ministered in the local jail and three Maryland state prisons. His interest in jail work grew and he joined the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry, then located in Arlington. On May 16, 1986 he was assigned to the Alexandria Detention Center.

"I have enjoyed my work here in Alexandria," Poffenberger said. "The staff has always been helpful, cooperative and made me feel at home."

Both Poffenberger and his wife were born and raised in Hagerstown where they raised two daughters. They are grandparents of two grandsons who reside in Huntsville, Ala.

While he is proud of his ministry and family, the chaplain is also happy to be a "Marine not on active duty."

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No 'Doubt' About It

Port City's production of 'Doubt' is superb.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
GAZETTE PACKET

John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer and Tony Award winning play can be an intriguing, absorbing and satisfying experience, whether performed by world-famous talents on Broadway, regionally known talents in professional theaters or volunteers in a local community theater. Proof of the latter is provided by the new production at The Port City Playhouse which runs at the Lee Center through April 11.

"Doubt, A Parable" is a play that puts many questions before the audience but refuses to provide simple answers. Instead, it leaves them open for discussion and debate after the curtain falls on the ninety minute, one act production. The show may well be brief, but with the fine performances of this four-member cast, the audience leaves with their need for theatrical satisfaction fully met.

The performance of Adriana Hardy is at the center of the piece and she carries the load with grace and intelligence.

She plays a nun who is the principal of a Catholic school in Boston in the early 1960s, a woman who came to the calling late in life after the death of her husband, and thus, a somewhat more worldly woman than some who wear the habit. She develops a suspicion that a young and extremely popular priest in the parish has made inappropriate advances on one of the young boys in the school.

Her sense of duty and responsibility compel her to take some action but she doesn't have proof – only doubt. What should she do? What should the student's teacher, a young sister new to the classroom be ex-

SEE DOUBT, PAGE 12



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The governors and General Braddock sit around the table discussing funding the invasion.

An Invasion that Failed

British General killed after failing to achieve a stimulus package of colonial money.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

For British General Edward Braddock, invading the French-controlled "Ohio Country" was serious business. It was not something to be hastily thrown together or — even worse — underfunded. So when he arrived in Alexandria to meet with several colonial governors at the Carlyle House in the spring of 1755, the 35-year military veteran argued that the colonists should be charged for the services provided by his army. But the colonial governors hated the idea and vetoed the plan in Carlyle's dining room, insisting that only Parliament could issue taxes.

"I guess we'll never know if Braddock was right," said Jim Bartlinski, director of the Carlyle House Museum. "Maybe the invasion would have been more successful if it had been better funded. It's just one of those things we'll have to wonder about."

After alienating the colonial governors of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, Braddock met with a delegation of Indian chiefs to explain their historic claims to land in the Ohio Valley were worthless and that the mighty British army had no use for savage. This prompted most of the tribes in the region to side with the French, further contributing to the impending disaster. By the time the general found himself in a pitched battle in modern-day Pittsburg, he had cre-

ated a no-win situation.

"As Braddock saw it, he commanded the largest and best equipped military force ever assembled on the North American continent, making victory inevitable," wrote historian Joseph Ellis in "His Excellency." "In fact, the campaign was doomed from the start."

THE ARGUMENTS THAT unfolded in the dining room of the Carlyle House would have dramatic influence in the events of what is now known as the "French and Indian War" — a misleading name considering the British and the French were the opponents with Indian allies fighting on both sides. Understanding the conflict can be difficult because the complex motives involved from the various participants. But a visit to the Carlyle House on April 14 will bring the arguments of that era into vivid relief.

Since 2005, the museum has been conducting reenactments of the famous meeting John Carlyle referred to as "the Grandest Congress held at my home ever known on this Continent." The event features reenactors in period costume portraying the governors arguing with Braddock about money and strategy. Outside the house, visitors can experience soldiers drilling on the lawn with firearms, rifles and cannon. A number of female "camp followers" will also be on hand.

"There was always a good number of

"Maybe the invasion would have been more successful if it had been better funded. It's just one of those things we'll have to wonder about."

— Jim Bartlinski, director of the Carlyle House Museum

women who followed the men around," said Sarah Coster, curator at the museum. "They did the cooking and the laundry and a number of other chores."

THIS YEAR, unlike previous reenactments, the museum is planning an "after-action report" to conclude the day's events. Unfortunately, it's kind of an anti-climatic ending. After Braddock's men crossed the Monongahela, a force of fewer than 900 French and Indians met them. Braddock was killed when he rode into a friendly fire zone in an attempt to prevent the British regulars from firing at the Virginia militia. The star of the after-action report is sure to be 23-year-old George Washington, who rode into the hail of bullets to stop the British from firing at the Virginians before leading the retreat.

"We're hoping the after-action report will put the whole event in context," said Bartlinski. "It'll certainly make the discussion between Braddock and the governors more poignant."

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Open studios and refreshments

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THEATER



PHOTO BY DOUG OLSTED

Blake Brophy as Father Flynn talks to Corrine Brush as Sister James.

Alexandria's Award-Winning Theatre Company!

Port City Playhouse Presents

Doubt, A Parable

By John Patrick Shanley
Directed by Frank Pasqualino

"Doubt is a lean, potent drama . . . passionate, exquisite, important and engrossing." - *Newsday*

Performances: Fri & Sat 3/27 & 3/28, 4/3 & 4/4, 4/10 & 4/11 plus
Tue 4/7, all at 8pm. Sunday Matinee 4/5 at 2pm
Lee Center for the Performing Arts
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\$12 Groups of 10 or More

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'Doubt' Comes to Port City

FROM PAGE II

pected to do? That young sister is played with a nice combination of youthful sincerity and insecurity by Corrine Brush.

So, what of the priest in all this? Blakeman Brophy plays this young priest who is charming, enthusiastic, committed to the "new openness" of the Catholic Church under the Second Vatican Council with a freshness that is appealing. Then, when confronted with the Sister's doubts, he responds with strength. His reaction is crucial to Shanley's entire point - is his denial genuine? Is his reaction based on fear of the consequences of the Sister's accusations, being insulted by the very thought that she could harbor such suspicions, or is there guilt underlying the reaction?

Brophy follows the script carefully, leaving enough ambiguity in his portrayal to let audience members make up their own minds. That is precisely what Shanley wanted from the actor playing this part, for the play isn't about pedophilia in the church, it is about what its title says it is: doubt. Had Brophy

played the part as either clearly guilty or clearly innocent, the essence of the play would have been violated.

Director Frank Pasqualino draws superb performances out of all three of the principal players, and the production is also well served by Anissa Parekh, who has a single but memorable scene as the mother of the young boy.

The production is but more proof, if any were needed, of the ability of quality community theater companies such as Port City Playhouse, to present superb performances. This has been a particularly strong season for the company, with fine productions of "An American Daughter" by Wendy Wasserstein and Ira Levin's "Veronica's Room" thus far. "Doubt" will be followed later this spring by John Patrick's "The Curious Savage." Serious fare being given seriously satisfying treatments.

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway, and edits *Potomac Stages*, (www.PotomacStages.com). He can be reached at Brad@PotomacStages.com.

Where and When

The Port City Playhouse production of "Doubt, A Parable" plays Friday - Saturday at 8 p.m. through April 11 with a Tuesday evening performance on April 7 and a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee on April 5 at The Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Tickets are \$14 - \$16. Call 703-838-2880 or visit www.telgo.com/pcp/.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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

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

Beginning Feb. 25, the **T.C. Williams High School Planetarium** will welcome the Alexandria community one night each month during the school year for a free hour-long show. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for "A Night With the Stars," which will run from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Advance registration, required, may be completed online at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/planetarium/> or by calling the planetarium at 703-824-6805,

extension 6300.

Mount Vernon will bring back its popular **National Treasure Tour through Oct. 31**. Included in this approximately hour-long walking tour is the Mansion's basement and cornerstone, the setting for a pivotal scene in the movie. This daily tour is limited to 25 visitors per time slot, takes place at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., and costs \$5 per tour in addition to Estate admission: \$15 adults; \$14 seniors; \$7 children (6-11); free for children 5 & under. Advance tickets are available online at MountVernon.org.

Fairfax County Department of

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

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9516
Mt Vernon
Landing
\$2,900,000
Waterfront!
Waterfront homes rarely become available in Mt Vernon on the

Potomac! Spacious custom Tudor was carefully crafted with the highest quality materials and planned with three levels of Pella window walls to maximize water views. 5BRs, 4BAs, full walk out LL and many rooms with dramatic river views. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Ferry Lndg Rd, R Mt V Cir, R Mt V Lndg.



9405
Ferry Lndg Ct
\$795,000
Magnificent Setting!
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the river. Traditional exterior is complimented by bright, sunny interior opening to spectacular sun room. Large room sizes, updated baths, elegant trim detail, oversized garage and absolutely pristine condition on beautifully landscaped half acre grounds! Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Ferry Lndg Rd, R Ferry Lndg Ct.



1210
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9333
Brambly Lane
\$539,000
Super Value!
Exceptional opportunity! Spacious home in prime Mount Vernon location!

Large room sizes, four bedrooms (potential for fifth), family room with fireplace, huge eat-in kitchen, screened porch and covered parking. Gorgeous setting on large wooded lot fronting quiet cul-de-sac in premier location. Priced thousands below market – reflects need for updating.



3232
Woodland Ln
\$649,900
Water Access!
Truly special home on 1/2 acre lot just steps from community water access! Bright,

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



9304
Allwood Drive
\$698,000
"Green" House!
Expanded and updated, this spectacular home features uniquely bright, open floor

plan, soaring cathedral ceilings and updated kitchen and baths. Expansion was done with carefully selected natural materials to minimize environmental impact. Prime location on large lot in the heart of Mount Vernon's nicest neighborhoods. "One of a kind" home!



4003
Belle Rive Terr
\$4,800,000
Riverfront!
Prime Mt Vernon location with the most breathtaking river views you have ever seen!

Over 11,000 sq ft with five bedrooms including main level river view master suite with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River.



8304
Riverton Ln
\$825,000
Stunning!
Victorian home combines farm house exterior with stunning open interior. 3 fin

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



4307
Sheridan's Point
\$879,000
Georgian Colonial!
Large Price Reduction! Classic updated Colonial in prime Mt

Vernon location. Home has a combination of location, size and features typically only available in \$1,000,000+ homes! Three finished levels, open kitchen/family room, stunning master suite, two bonus rooms on lower level and dramatic sun room overlooking private fenced yard. Just off the GW Pkwy – easy commute to DC!



8826
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\$899,500
Gorgeous Setting!
There's nothing like it on the market today – fabulous new

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



4203 Adrienne Dr
\$459,000



4300 Neptune Dr
\$425,000



4212 Dandridge Ter
\$575,000

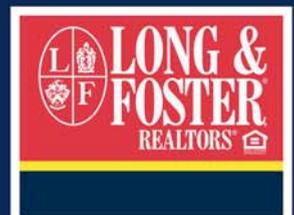


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Brad Kintz 703.519.6644



OPEN SUN. 1-4

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! Perfect for commuters!



Blumel Adams Group
Dayna Blumel/Kerry Adams
703.597.2252



OPEN SUN. 1-4

714 A NORFOLK LANE
Alexandria - \$469,000

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Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



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JUST LISTED! Detached 1900 home located in the Historic Parker Gray District; walking distance to 2 METROS; charming front porch; updated throughout; private rear patio; hardwood floors; plantation shutters.



www.BobSkinnerHomes.org
Bob Skinner 703.598.7279



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Old Town - \$785,000

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Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343



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Alexandria - \$1,169,000

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421 CAMERON STREET
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"MILLION DOLLAR VIEWS" Great panoramic views of DC & the Potomac River are from this 2Br/2Ba condo in sought after Alexandria House. This spacious unit features a wrap around balcony with floor to ceiling windows/doors, ample closets, kitchen with eat-in space and 2 covered parking spaces. For more information call...



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4500 Neptune Drive
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Charming 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath rambler with 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.

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2410 Brentwood Place
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Modern home with floor to ceiling windows and striking views of the outdoors. Vaulted ceilings, updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, custom counters, large dining area/family room, updated baths, 3 bedrooms. GW Parkway to Morningside, Right on Davenport, Left on Elba, Right on Brentwood.

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JUST LISTED OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

1703 Maple Hill Place
\$899,900 | Alexandria
Just completed total renovation with chef's kitchen, travertine floors, master retreat on main level, open soaring ceilings, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, hobby room, rec room, 2 car garage, private deck & patio Dir: King St Metro, West on King, Left Janneys, Right Francis Hammond to Maple Hill. More photos at www.phyllispatterson.com.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



JUST LISTED OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

5685 Tower Hill Circle
\$710,000 | Kingstowne
Gorgeous 5,000 sq ft professionally decorated detached home. 5 bedrooms, office, 4.5 baths, 2 car garage, chef's kitchen with granite, island, breakfast room, family room, recreation room, hardwood floors, fireplace, deck. Dir: 495 to Van Dorn cross Franconia, Left on Tower Hill Circle. More photos at www.phyllispatterson.com.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



NEW LISTING OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

170 Martin Lane
\$574,950 | Cameron Station
Light-Filled 4-level end unit townhouse. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, master suite floor with luxury bath, sun-filled kitchen with granite & breakfast bar, deck, 1 car garage, carport & driveway. Large windows, high ceilings, gas fireplace. Dir: Duke St W, Left on Cameron Station Blvd, Right on Donovan, Left on Martin Lane.

Greg Doherty | 703.408.5068



JUST LISTED OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

7008 Colgate Drive
\$360,000 | Bucknell Manor
Charming Cape Cod with 3 Bedrooms and 1.5 Baths, 2 levels, hardwood floors, replacement windows throughout, remodeled kitchen and bath. The brick surround fireplace and detached garage are rare finds in this neighborhood. Dir: South on GW Parkway, Right Belle View, Left Fort Hunt Rd, Right Rollins Dr, Right Colgate Dr.

Cindie Fish | 703.201.4451



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

2121 Jamieson Avenue #1603
\$729,000 | Carlyle Towers Old Town
Bright, sunny 180 degree view from east to west. Two bedrooms with den, 2.5 baths, curved enclosed balcony with custom glass doors and view of Masonic Temple. Customized kitchen with loads of storage. Garage parking, high floor. Photos and information at: www.CarlyleTowers1-1603.com. MLM1606@aol.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 38' glass enclosed balcony. Sunny view of fountain park. Wood floors! Large eat in kitchen, expanded master bedroom with extra closet, garage parking. Dir: Duke St to Lion statues on Delaney, Right Jamieson to 2151. Photos and information at: www.CarlyleTowers2-607.com. MLM1606@aol.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



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2237 Farrington Avenue #201
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One bedroom condo near Huntington Metro offers great convenience. Condo has washer/dryer in the unit, low condo fee that includes everything except electricity, extra storage and plenty of parking. Farrington Place is close to Old Town, just a short walk to Metro and is convenient to major commuter routes.

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2217 Lakeshire Drive
Call for Pricing | Alexandria South
Victorian front porch embraces a slower lifestyle. 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



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409 North Columbus Street
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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 close to shopping, dining and more! www.VirginiaRealEstate4u.com.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



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.

Ann Lockwood | 703.299.8643



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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.



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

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

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



RIVER VIEWS

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

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



FRESHLY REFURBISHED

504 Canterbury Lane
\$1,125,000 | Alexandria
 Just repainted and in lovely move-in condition, this stately four bedroom plus three and a half bath brick colonial is available for immediate occupancy. This classic center hall colonial boasts grand room sizes, sparkling hardwoods, three fireplaces, a delightful screened porch, garage plus swimming pool! Reasonably priced at \$1,125,000.

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



CUSTOM HOME WITH A NEW PRICE

Evenstar Lane
\$1,298,000
 Custom built estate on five wooded acres. All brick, 3 car garage, rooms of grand proportion. Over 7,500 square feet, 5/6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, separate office, sunroom, master bedroom sitting room. Elegant formal curved stairs and back staircase, 10 foot ceilings, 6 fireplaces, built-ins, moldings, lower level au-pair suite!

Sue Dickerson | 703.299.5614



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 its southern exposure.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



OPEN SUNDAY 2-5

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



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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 kitchen with 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



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 Extremely well priced! An amazing value for this stunning 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath custom built Colonial with granite counters, hardwood floors, 42 inch 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



NEW LISTING OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

8025 Washington Road
\$1,249,750 | Alexandria South
 Model home for new Hollin Hall community of 22 new homes offering old world charm with an open floor plan. Features include 10 foot ceilings, walk ins, 2,3 or 4 finished levels, two toned kitchen with Wolfe and SubZero appliances, wine chiller, master bath spa shower, main level library. Dir: Fort Hunt Rd, Right on Wellington, Left on Yorktown, Right on Washington Rd.

Sherry York | 703.625.3377

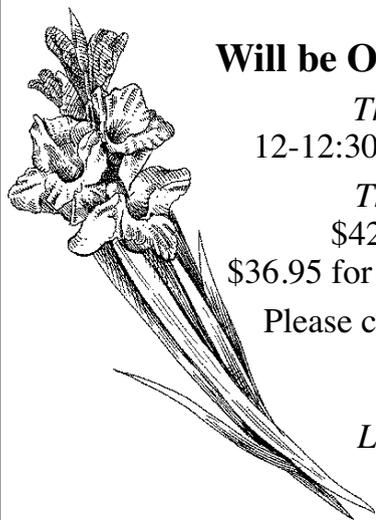
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Friday - Fish Night

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Ample Free Parking

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

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 11 and 11:30 a.m. Beginning April 11, storytelling sessions will move from the Hands-On History Room in the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center to the George Washington: Pioneer Farmer site. The storytelling program is recommended for children ages three to eight. Parental supervision is required. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15; youth ages 6-11, \$7; and children under 5 are admitted free.

Spectacular gardens are in bloom as Mount Vernon hosts its annual outdoor garden and gift sale beginning April 11 through May 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This annual sale includes ornamentals, perennials and annuals, garden items, books, and heirloom plants propagated from historic cuttings. No admission is required to shop in the Gardening Days tent (located in front of the Mount Vernon Inn Complex). Visit MountVernon.org or 703-780-2000.

FRIDAY/APRIL 3

Musical. 7 p.m. at Convergence, A Creative Community of Faith, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Watch "The Gospel of Mary." Suggested donation of \$10. Visit www.convergenceccf.net or 703-461-6785.

Theater Performance. 1 p.m. at George Washington Memorial Theatre, 101 Callahan Drive. Watch "Standing up for Shakespeare." Free. 703-360-0033.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Hear music for the trumpet and horn. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-5658.

Stand Up for Shakespeare. 1 p.m. at the GW Memorial Theatre. All ages can enjoy activities and an abridged version of "As You Like It." Free. Visit www.stageplay.tv or 703-360-0033.

Sing Along with Mr. Skip. 12:30 p.m. at Spill the Beans Coffee House, 1900 Elkin St., Suite 4. Enjoy singing and dancing with Mr. Skip. \$5 per child. No pre-registration required. More info at spillthebeansva.com.

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 4

Musical. 7 p.m. at Convergence, A Creative Community of Faith, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Watch "The Gospel of Mary." Suggested donation of \$10. Visit www.convergenceccf.net or 703-461-6785.

Great Rum Punch. 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy six different treats and vote for favorite. Enjoy food, auction and more. \$50/person or special \$100/person VIP. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-838-4242 for reservations.

Learn How To Search. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Special Collections in the library, 717 Queen St. RSVP to 703-838-4577 ext. 213.

Barbecue and Bluegrass

Fundraiser. 7 p.m. at Old Dominion Boat Club. Benefits T.C. Williams Crew. \$40/person and must be purchased in advance. Enjoy food, dancing, drinks, auction and more. E-mail jpwhite28@comcast.net for more.



Plowboy will play April 10 & 11 at Nick's Nightclub. Visit www.nicksnightclub.com for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 5

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. Hear the NOVA Community Chorus. Free, donations accepted. 703-845-6097.

Music Performance. 3:30 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Hear the John Adams Orff Ensemble perform with the National Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet. \$30/adult; \$10/child. 703-824-6970.

Palm Sunday Worship Event. 4 p.m. The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom; ancient liturgy set to music by Sergei Rachmaninoff, sung in English by Westminster Choir. Reception following worship featuring Russian food. Westminster Presbyterian Alexandria, www.wpc-alex.org.

Music Performance. 4 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Free. Visit www.alexsym.org for more.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Hear Yee Von Ng, Alexis Tantau, Ethan Watermeier and Jenny Wu. Free will offering taken.

Opening Reception. 2-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows see "Ado About Nature," an exhibit and sale of nature photographs by Jorja and Bob Feldman. Free. 703-768-2525.

Rabies Vaccination Clinic. 2-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Held by the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. \$12/pet. 703-830-1100.

Bridge Club. 4 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults and teens can learn how to play. Free. 703-765-3645.

MONDAY/APRIL 6

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.

Benefit Concert. 8 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear James Jelastic and Jon Lackey. \$25/person. Visit WatersEdgeRecords.com for tickets.

TUESDAY/APRIL 7

Read-Along. 10:30 a.m. at Spill the Beans Coffee House, 1900 Elkin St., Suite 4. Bring the children to Spill the Beans for some read along fun with StagePlay's own Heather Sanderson. Free. Visit spillthebeansva.com or 703-780-3561.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 8

Stay at Home Gala. The National Council For Adoption is trading the glamour and glitz for a low-cost celebration at home with loved ones at the 2009 Stay at Home Gala. Visit www.adoptioncouncil.org or contact Lauren Ridenour at 703-299-6633 to get involved.

Lecture. 9:30 a.m. at Mount Vernon District Gov. Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. Talk about the Middle East. Free. 703-360-6561.

StoryTime with Colleen! 10:30 a.m. at Spill the Beans Coffee House, 1900 Elkin St., Suite 4. Free. Visit spillthebeansva.com or 703-780-3561.

Rising Words, Rising Images. 11 a.m. at Sherwood Hall Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "The Breadwinner" by Deborah Ellis. Children ages 9-12. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

THURSDAY/APRIL 9

Reception. 6-8 p.m., see "1968 in SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18
America" at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Exhibit showcases some of the tumultuous events. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org for more.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Hear Patty Reese. \$10/person. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Reception. 6-8 p.m., see an exhibit made of entirely recycled materials at Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., through April 26. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 10

Sing Along with Mr. Skip. 12:30 p.m. at Spill the Beans Coffee House, 1900 Elkin St., Suite 4. Enjoy singing and dancing with Mr. Skip. \$5 per child. No pre-registration required. More info at spillthebeansva.com.

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 11

Flower Power Workshop. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. Catherine Hillis will show how to paint vibrant flowers in watercolors. To register, 703-584-2900.

Yuri's Night. 8 p.m. at The Warehouse Arts Complex, 1021 7th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. Enjoy music, dancing and more by local bands. \$20/advance; \$25/door. Visit www.outofthisworldparty.com for more.

Book Sale. 10 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre.

All ages can find books. Free. 703-339-4610.

SUNDAY/APRIL 12

Flower Power Workshop. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. Catherine Hillis will show how to paint vibrant flowers in watercolors. To register, 703-584-2900.

Easter Egg Hunt. 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. \$5/child. See the Easter bunny as well. 703-548-1789 for reservations.

Easter Egg Hunt for History. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Take a tour and find the Tavernkeeper's eggs while learning about the museum. \$5/adult; \$3/child. Reservations required, 703-838-4242.

MONDAY/APRIL 13

Tavern Toddlers. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. Toddlers up to 36 months can enjoy games and more. \$7/group of three; \$3/additional person. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org 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.

Giggles and Wiggles. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 24-35 can enjoy stories. Free. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Book Discussion. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Call for title. Free. 703-768-6700.

Early Reader Discussion. 3:30 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose

Hill Drive. Children ages 6-8 can enjoy activities. Call for title. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Books & Ideas. 7:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "The Story of Edgar Sawtelle" by David Wroblewski. Free. Registration required, 703-768-6700.

TUESDAY/APRIL 14

Read-Along. 10:30 a.m. at Spill the Beans Coffee House, 1900 Elkin St., Suite 4. Bring the children to Spill the Beans for some read along fun with StagePlay's own Heather Sanderson. Free. Visit spillthebeansva.com or 703-780-3561.

April Showers. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children 2-3 years enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

Evening Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Call for title. Free. 703-768-6700.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

StoryTime with Colleen! 10:30 a.m. at Spill the Beans Coffee House, 1900 Elkin St., Suite 4. Free. Visit spillthebeansva.com or 703-780-3561.

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 16

Poetry Discussion. 7 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Free. 703-768-6700.

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Old Town

AN ENCHANTED EVENING (And Then Some!) — ‘Townners, trust me on this one (as if you wouldn’t after all these years): Old Town has a magnificent new jewel in its crown, an elegant and sophisticated downtown hotel, restaurant and spa that I raved about all last weekend.

So you think I’m being carried away here. Give me a minute and I’ll tell you why. We were fortunate enough the other chilly evening to attend opening ceremonies for the grand opening of the Lorien Hotel and Spa in the very heart of our old port city at 1600 King St.

The place literally sings. The Lorien, a Kimpton Group Hotel, is tucked into a cozy spot on Upper King that, once inside, is already living a secluded and private life of its own. We were also fortunate enough to be the guests of Old Towners Ben and Diane Anderson, who are the parents of the Lorien’s general manager, Don Anderson — a Northern Virginia native.

Don, a rising star in the Kimpton family, was kind enough to give a fill on the bones of this architectural delight. The Lorien cost about \$50 million to take its place in Old Town. It has 107 rooms, a

delightful size in our busy city. It has 139 employees who seem to smile a lot.

Don Anderson opened the brief official ceremony by paying homage to his colleagues. “We offer thanks to the vision, dedication and hard work of the DSF Group. We are excited to celebrate the grand opening of the Lorien Hotel and Spa today. Being an Alexandria native, I am proud to bring world-class service and accommodations to Old Town ...”

Mayor Bill Euille, who also spoke at the opening, said that “Alexandria has added a high-quality hotel to the city which will help meet the growing demand from the tourist population as well as the families and friends of those who live here. The Lorien is great.” Alexandria City Manager Jim Hartmann broke into a huge smile at this point.

Two Old Towners, Cindy and Len Glassman, who live in the Southeast quadrant of the city have already been to Wiedmaier’s restaurant at Lorien two times. Your hard-working and well-fed reporter asked Cindy for an assessment. “We’re already booked for this Saturday,” she said.

So may be I. Welcome Lorien.

— BOB FELDKAMP

Hamel

FROM PAGE 5

Hartmann had recommended that a 12-day festival celebrating the Jamestown anniversary take place in Founders Park, they helped rally their forces against the proposal.

“If you have one day of rain, the kids are going to be sloshing around in mud,” said Hamel in a 2006 article about the controversy. “If you have three days of rain, the park will be ruined.”

Although Chuck Hamel may be best known nationally for being a constant antagonist of Alaska’s major oil companies, his legacy can be found in the grassy fields at Founders Park and the neighborly atmosphere in the homes that surround it. As the Hamels prepared to leave over the last week, friends gathered at Chadwick’s Restaurant last weekend to express their gratitude for the well-known couple.

“He’s informally known as the mayor of Quay Street,” said neighbor Jim Dorsch. “Without his efforts, I don’t think Founders Park would be the vibrant spot it is now. It might just be a flat piece of grass on the waterfront.”

10,000 trees to climb • 400 acres to explore • 100 deer to observe • 25 yards of pool to splash • 10 canoes to paddle • 8 tennis courts to ace • 6 archery targets to shoot • 4 approaches to the zip wire • 2 softball diamonds to steal • Too many new friends to count

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NEWS

Right Mix

FROM PAGE 1

pendent retailers," said Gibbs, at the same time making it clear that it is up to Alexandria to decide on the right balance between chains and independent businesses.

The suggestion at the top of Gibbs' list is to form a Business Improvement District (BID) along King Street to help coordinate the management of this area. This would have the potential to eliminate problems with parking, coordinate open business hours, lighting, and landscaping maintenance.

Bill Reagan, executive director of the Alexandria Small Business Development Center, commented on how a BID could positively impact the area. "The city can't provide the kind of support for a shopping district the way a focused BID could. Monitoring cleanliness, lighting, and all the things that give a community its identity would be its sole purpose. Business owners need to understand that they will benefit from the centralized management of a BID. It would provide leverage to compete with the shopping malls and strip centers."

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 Wishing You a Blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter

April 5 - Palm Sunday
 8:00 a.m. Reading of the Passion
 10:15 a.m. Blessing of the Palms & Procession*

April 9 - Maundy Thursday
 6:00 p.m. Upper Room Seder Supper (please RSVP)
 7:30 p.m. Solemn Communion with Foot Washing & Stripping of the Altar
 9:00 p.m. Vigil in Garden of Repose until Noon on Good Friday

April 10 - Good Friday
 Noon Vigil Concludes with Communion & Stations of the Cross in the Wooded Gardens
 6:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross in the Gardens for Children & Families
 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy with Special Cantata

April 12 - Easter Sunday
 8:00 a.m. Easter Communion with Special Music
 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast*
 10:15 a.m. Children's Service with Communion & Special Music*
 11:30 a.m. Easter Picnic, Egg Hunt and Games on the Lawn
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Visit [www. StJamesMV.org](http://www.StJamesMV.org) for details

Bethany Lutheran Church
 2501 Beacon Hill Rd, Alexandria, VA 22306.
 Join us in worshipping the Glory of the Lord at our **Easter Sunrise Service** at Mt. Comfort Cemetery located at 6600 S. Kings Hwy, Alexandria, VA at 7AM on Sunday April 12.
 We welcome guests at our 8:30AM and 11AM church service at Bethany.
 www.bethany-lcms.org
More info (703) 765-8255

Good Shepherd Catholic Church
Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening
 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

Sunday
 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon
 2:00 pm (en Español)
 6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 7)

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Public Open House: Sunday, April 5, 1:00 - 4:00
Broker's Brunch: Tuesday, April 7, 11:00 - 1:00

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 Chateau Gateau
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 Foxchase Harris Teeter
 Great Harvest Bread
 Hank's Oyster Bar
 HOPS Restaurant Bar & Brewery
 King Street Café

La Casa
 Layla's Lebanese Restaurant
 Los Tios
 Mango Mike's
 Masaya Thai Cuisine
 Monroe's An American Trattoria

One Good Tern
 Panera Bread
 Ravi Kabab House
 Raw Silk Indian Restaurant & Lounge
 Red Apron
 Reunions
 Starbucks, Potomac Yard
 Taqueria el Poblano
 Thai Peppers Restaurant
 The American Café
 The Light Horse

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No CSB funds were used for the anniversary celebration thanks to the above businesses and the generous monetary contributions of several CSB & Friends' Board members.

Titans Handle Pressure, Beat West Potomac

T.C. Williams boys' tennis escapes with 5-4 win, ups record to 6-1 this season.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Singles play had just gotten under way during Tuesday's boys' tennis match between T.C. Williams and West Potomac, but Titans coach Mike Vitez already had an inkling as to how this contest would be won.

"This one is gonna come down to the doubles," said Vitez. "I can already see it."

Lo and behold, a few hours later a small crowd of parents and teammates had moved steadily towards the far side of the tennis courts as the No. 1 doubles teams of T.C. Williams and West Potomac went head-to-head with the results of eight other matches riding solely on the outcome of one final contest.

With the team score deadlocked at four apiece, the pressure was squarely on the shoulders of the Titans' duo of seniors Max Rickett and Evan Hulehan and the Wolverines' top doubles pairing of senior Forrest Allen and sophomore Alex Cheng to break the stalemate.

Luckily for T.C. Williams, Rickett and



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior Max Rickett and his partner Evan Hulehan won the decisive doubles match of Tuesday's contest against West Potomac. "I just love the rush," said Rickett of the playing pressure-packed matches.

Hulehan knew shying away from the lime-light just wouldn't work. So they embraced it.

"With a match like this, you can feel the pressure, but I just love the rush," said Rickett after he and Hulehan remained undefeated in doubles play this season with a 10-8 victory that gave the Titans a 5-4 team win.

"When the pressure's on, it just feels more rewarding to win," said Hulehan. "And the adrenaline is awesome."

That they won was a testament to their resiliency. Earlier during single's play, "nothing was working" for Hulehan as West Potomac's No.1 Cheng made easy work of him, winning 10-0. But between matches, Hulehan took the court with an assistant coach to get his strokes back in order.

THE EXTRA SESSION paid off later when Hulehan and Rickett trailed, 6-5, in doubles. As Cheng and Allen succumbed to the spotlight, falling victim to some costly unforced errors, Hulehan and Rickett just stayed consistent throughout.

"In doubles you can always rely on one another to keep spirits up," said Hulehan. "Even when we were down, we came back."

But those two weren't the only success stories in the Titans' close call. The main reason Hulehan and company had all the pressure was the play of T.C. Williams' No. 3 doubles team of junior Scott Cohen and senior Abe Bekele. The two made easy work of West Potomac's Penpet Wongkaw and Drew Sanders, winning 10-4.

Cohen also won his No. 4 singles match against Wongkaw, 10-7. Cohen led 6-3, but watched that margin disappear when Wongkaw tied it up 6-6. But Cohen regrouped to win four of the last five games.

"In one of these matches where it could go either way, you can't get ahead of yourself," Cohen said. "No matter who you're facing you should carry yourself the same way because if you get cocky that's when you lose."

THE TITANS' lone loss in doubles play came from their No. 2 pairing of senior Tarik Rattir and freshman Kyle Hairston, but it was the duo's first loss all season. Both Rickett and Tarik also won their singles matches in the No. 2 and 3 singles slots, respectively.

With the team win, T.C. Williams improves to 6-1 on the season, their lone defeat coming in a close 5-4 loss to Lake Braddock on March 18. The Titans get a chance at redemption Thursday when they take on the Bruins again, after the Gazette Packet's deadline.

"I have a lump in my stomach because we were that close to losing," said Vitez after Hulehan and Rickett pulled out the doubles victory.

"But the true mark of a champion is your ability to handle pressure under intense conditions and they do it all the time. It's amazing."

ALEXANDRIA SPORTS BRIEFS

Ireton's Victories

If there was any doubt that the Bishop Ireton baseball team means business in the WCAC this season, its performances this past week should all but quiet any remaining skeptics. The Cardinals extended their early-season winning streak to seven with conference wins over Paul VI and St. John's last week. Both games were decided by one run.

That Ireton came out on top in both games is a testament to its pitching staff. Led by seniors Dan Nicoll and John Robertson, the Cardinals are giving up just more than three runs per game thus far.

The Cardinals stumbled a bit Tuesday, losing their first game of the year to Gonzaga to fall to 7-1. But with upcoming games against O'Connell and DeMatha after the Gazette Packet's deadline, Ireton has a chance to give itself a little distance in the hotly contested WCAC standings.

T.C. Lacrosse On a Roll

In the past week, the T.C. Williams girls' lacrosse team began delivering on its promise to shock

some of the region's best this season. The Titans scored a 14-8 win over perennial power Lake Braddock last Wednesday night and followed that up Monday with a 15-6 victory over Washington-Lee. The strong performances leave T.C. Williams with a 5-1 record heading into a match-up with Alexandria private school rival Bishop Ireton.

The win over Lake Braddock was the Titans first-ever victory over the Bruins in program history. After trading goals for much of the game, the Titans went on a 6-0 surge midway through the second half to take a commanding 14-7 lead and never looked back. Leading the charge were seniors Linzi Burstein (four goals), Megan Miller (three goals, one assist), and Katie Mulberger (three goals), but six different Titan players registered a goal in the game.

T.C. Williams followed that up Monday night; the Titans stormed to a 10-3 halftime lead behind four first-half goals by Burstein. Miller, Mulberger, senior Allie Clark, and junior Anna Kopecka also chipped in goals. Freshman goalie Jordan Cirenza was also impressive in net.

Jenkins, King in



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Senior pitcher Dan Nicoll and the Bishop Ireton baseball team are off to a 7-1 start to the season.

All-Star Game

The list of alumni who have participated in the Capital Classic, now in its 35th year as an area high school basketball all-star showcase, could act as a list of NBA all-time greats. Current superstars like LeBron James, Dwight Howard, Chris Paul, and Jason Kidd join past legends like Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, Patrick Ewing, and Dominique Wilkins as

current and future Hall-of-Famers who have all participated in the event.

On April 9, T.C. Williams senior Edward Jenkins will be able to include his name on that list. Jenkins was chosen to play on the suburban D.C. all-star team that will take on a team of Washington, D.C. high school all-stars as part of the Capital Classic festivities on the campus of American University at Bender Arena. The main

event pitting a team of U.S. all stars against a squad of this area's best will follow.

Leading the senior will be a familiar face, T.C. Williams coach Julian King, who was tabbed as the suburban team's coach after he took the Titans all the way to the state quarterfinals in his first season at the helm.

Skeeter Back In Town

Alexandria native and Tennessee basketball Hall of Famer Skeeter Swift will be appearing at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, at the Charles Houston Recreation Center in Alexandria. He will make a motivational presentation for the city's youth. Skeeter, a candidate for the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame, was a successful collegiate and professional player, as well as a successful high school and college coach. His appearance is being sponsored by the Hoop Academy Project, a division of Hoop Academy International, Inc. and Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

OBITUARIES

Virginia Corey Edgell

Virginia Corey Edgell of Alexandria, died on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at Capital Hospice, Arlington, Va. She was born on June 8, 1930 and is survived by a daughter, Margaret Edgell Core; a son, John Edgell; a son-in-law, Lyndell Core; a daughter-in-law, Bradley Edgell; a granddaughter Eleonore Edgell, and grandsons Michael Edgell, James Core, and Joseph Core.



A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 3, 2009, at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, followed by a reception. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made in Virginia's name to the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Attn: Office of Development, Harris Building, Suite 4000

3300 Whitehaven Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007. The family would like to express their appreciation to the staff at Georgetown Hospital, Alexandria Hospital, and Capital Hospice for the care, compassion and love provided to Virginia in her final days.

Norman Allen Hicks

Retired U.S. Army Col. Norman Allen Hicks, 67, died in the comfort of his family on March 26, at his residence in Wayland, Mass. following a battle with ALS.



Norman Allen Hicks

Hicks was born in Albany, Calif. on March 23, 1942 the son of the late Norman Guy Hicks and Sylvia Irene (Larson) Hicks.

Hicks is survived by his wife of 46 years, Marilyn J. (Rehman) Hicks of Wayland. He was the father of Susan M. Memoli and her husband Christopher C. Memoli and their children Madeline R. and Nicholas A. Memoli, all of Wayland, and Heather L. DeMasi and her husband Michael T. DeMasi and their children Jessica L. and Miranda G. DeMasi, all of Wayland.

Hicks has resided in Wayland for the past year and a half and previously resided in Springfield. He was a graduate of Warden High School in Washington. He received his B.A. in business administration from Eastern Washington University and his M.B.A. from Indiana University. He graduated from Command and Military Staff College in 1981 and Army War College in 1986. He served with the United States Army during the Vietnam War and retired as the comptroller of the Army Reserves, after a 30-year career as an Army Finance Officer. His military awards include the Vietnam Service Medal, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medals and National Defense Service Medals.

Upon his retirement from the United States Army, he was a licensed Fraternal Insurance Counselor (FIC) with Thrivent Financial in Alexandria. He served as the president of the Virginia Fraternal Congress and was awarded the 2007 Richard M. Douglas Memorial Award and Virginia FIC of the Year Award. He was a lay minister at St. John's Lutheran Church in Alexandria, before moving to Wayland. He enjoyed traveling, photography, swimming, running in road races with his daughter Heather and skeet shooting with friends. He was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather to his family who were the center of his life.

Funeral services for Hicks took place on Saturday, March 28, at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sudbury, Mass.

A Memorial Service will take place on May 5, at

7:30 p.m., at St John's Lutheran Church, 5952 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Interment with full military honors will be conducted Wednesday, May 6, at 9 a.m. at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Hicks' name to the ALS Assoc., 27001 Agoura Road, Suite 250, Calabasas Hills, CA 91301 or online at www.alsa.org/donate.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of the John C. Bryant Funeral Home of Wayland.

Louise Roth terHorst

Louise Roth terHorst died from complications of Alzheimer's disease on Saturday morning, March 21, 2009 at her residence in the Givens Estates retirement community in Asheville, N.C. She was 88.

Born Louise Jeffers Roth on Aug. 24, 1920 to Joseph Nathaniel Roth and May Howell Roth of Germantown, Penn., she was the oldest of four children (siblings Margaret, Charles and John). Louise spent her childhood and early teen years in Arlington Heights, Ill., where her father worked as an engineer for Montgomery Ward. His work took the family to Belding, Mich., where Louise finished high school.

During the Depression era, Louise and her family provided a home for her grandmothers, as well as relatives who had lost jobs.

Louise attended Albion College for one year, and then transferred to Michigan State University (MSU) where she earned a BS in Food Science, completing the last of her classes after her marriage and the birth of her first child in 1948. At MSU she met her future husband, Jerald "Jerry" Franklin terHorst, while both were working for the Michigan State News.

From 1942 to 1944, Louise worked as a reporter at the Grand Rapids Herald in Grand Rapids Mich. She married Jerry on Jan. 20, 1945, while he was on leave from the U.S. Marines Corps during World War II. She subsequently moved to San Diego, Calif., where Jerry was based. The couple moved back to Michigan after the war, where Jerry found work as a Grand Rapids Press reporter.

Louise bore four children between 1948 and 1957, and the family moved frequently in their early years of marriage. When Jerry went to work as a reporter for the Detroit News, the family moved to Lansing, Mich., then to Detroit, and finally to Alexandria, Va. in 1957.

With four children under the age of 10, Louise managed a busy household as well as her children's extracurricular activities. She also became an active member of the Northern Virginia Democratic Party. Because her husband's career elevated him to the post of White House correspondent, Louise led an active social life among the city's national news reporters, politicians and lobbyists, and the couple received regular invitations to attend functions at the White House during several administrations.

In November 2006, Louise and Jerry moved to the Givens Estates retirement community Asheville, N.C. Louise was soon diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and she lived in the Starnes assisted living unit during the final two years of her life.

Louise is survived by her husband Jerry of 64 years; her sister, Margaret Mirti of Las Vegas, Nev.; her four children, Karen Morris of Decatur, Ga.; Margaret "Peggy" Robinson of Alexandria, Va.; Peter terHorst of Asheville, N.C.; Martha Lubin of St. Petersburg Fla.; and her eight grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in Alexandria, Va. in June; details will be provided a future date.

Donations in Louise's memory may be sent to: Friends School of Atlanta, 862 Columbia Dr., Decatur, GA 30030; MemoryCare, 100 Far Horizons Ln., Asheville, NC 28803; United Community Ministries, 7511 Fordson Rd., Alexandria, VA 22306.

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 of 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

WHAT'S NEXT, A TROPHY HUSBAND?

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Facing Down Parents

FROM PAGE 1

“The biggest difference between 2006 and 2009 is that at least we now acknowledge problems instead of trying to convince people there are no problems,” said Scott Newsham, an incumbent running for reelection in District B.

According to an on-site review of the city’s special education program in May, Virginia Department of Education officials found six areas where the city is out of compliance with regulations under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Many of the problems centered on how the Individualized Education Programs — known as IEPs — are written, with auditors finding that many of the documents lack measurable goals and educational performance measures. Auditors also found that the city was inappropriately sending students out of district, lacking adequate discipline procedures and failing to re-evaluate students with disabilities to make sure they are still eligible for services.

“It’s obvious that we are not doing very well,” said Vice Chairwoman Sheryl Gorsuch, an incumbent running for reelection in District A. “And it’s very frustrating to me that we haven’t had more of a discussion about the data.”

An annual report of students with disabilities prepared by the Virginia Department of Education released in late July showed that the city failed to meet state targets in seven “indicators,” which are required under the state’s special education State Performance Plan. According to the required performance report, the city did not meet the state targets in a number of areas for students with disabilities — maintaining a graduation rate of 43 percent; keeping dropout rate under 2 percent; evaluating the eligibility of children in a timely manner and developing an Individualized Education Program for eligible children by their third birthday.

“We don’t follow the rules, and that’s intolerable,” said Bill

Campbell, who is running for District A. “But parents can never abdicate responsibility. The responsibility is with the parents to keep pushing it up the line.”

The number of children in Alexandria who qualify for special-education services because they are categorized as “students with disabilities” is a matter that has troubled the education community for some time. According to the state audit, 1,804 of 10,334 students enrolled in Alexandria City Public Schools are in this category. That’s 17 percent, which is higher than the statewide average of 12 percent.

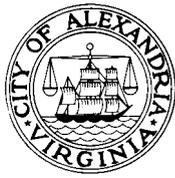
“We need to even out the distribution,” said District A candidate Mimi Carter, noting that some schools bear what she described as a disproportionate share of the special-education population.

Carter said she would support behavior-modification plans, inquiry-based projects and peer coaching as possible improvements to the special-education system in Alexandria. Yet many of the parents at the forum on special-education issues this week were focused on specific problems they experience on a regular basis. One parent told School Board members about frequent days she takes off work in an attempt to implement her child’s Individualized Education Programs — including three meetings with the superintendent.

“I’m not a School Board member, but I would like to apologize to you as a citizen of Alexandria,” said Helen Morris, who is running for District A. “We have got to make sure the IEPs are being followed.”

Several parents at this week’s debate on special education felt that the candidate did little more than offer platitudes. “I didn’t hear a single new idea from any of the candidates,” said Paul Wilson, a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee, after the debate concluded. “There was a lot of agreement about what the problems are, but not a lot of direction for the future.”

Legal Notices



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review Old & Historic Alexandria District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2009-0043
Request for approval of after-the-fact alterations at 113 King St, zoned KR King Street/Retail.
APPLICANT: Ray W. Lotto

CASE BAR2009-0045
Request for approval of a waiver of HVAC screening requirement at 102 Gibbon St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Robert & Caty Poulin

CASE BAR2009-0046
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 102 Gibbon St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Robert & Caty Poulin

CASE BAR2009-0047
Request for approval of alterations at 102 Gibbon St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Robert & Caty Poulin

CASE BAR2009-0048
Request for approval of alterations to previously approved plans at 725 S. Columbus St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Stephanie Dimond for Chris Faranetta & Janine Rubitski

CASE BAR2009-0049
Request for approval of signage at 428 S. Washington St, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: Jerald J. Littlefield

CASE BAR2009-0050
Request for approval of alterations at 618 N. Washington St, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: Great Beginings Early Learning Center

CASE BAR2009-0051
Request for approval of signage & alterations at 106-108 N. Washington St, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: Capitol Burger, LLC By M. Catherine Puskar

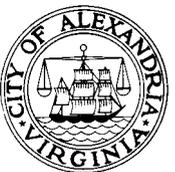
CASE BAR2009-0052
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 420 N. Columbus St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Beverly Fetty

CASE BAR2009-0053
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 420 N. Columbus St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Beverly Fetty

CASE BAR2009-0054
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 911 S. St. Asaph St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Edward & Joan Niles

CASE BAR2009-0055
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 911 S. St. Asaph St, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Edward & Joan Niles

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



City of Alexandria

FISCAL YEAR 2010 PROPOSED BUDGET

A summary of the City of Alexandria’s proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget is set out below.

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget for the City of Alexandria. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, on Monday, April 13, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Persons wishing to speak on the proposed

Legal Notices

budget may sign up prior to the public hearing by calling the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at (703) 838-4550. Presenters are requested to provide a copy of their text to the City Clerk and Clerk of Council.

Persons with disabilities who wish to request an accommodation for this public hearing should contact the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at (703) 838-4550 (TTY/TDD (703) 830-5056) prior to April 13, 2009, if possible.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2010

General All
Fund Funds FY 2010
PROPOSED PROPOSED Capital
FY 2010 FY 2010 Improvements

(1) (2) (3)

City Council \$524,157 \$524,157

City Manager 1,664,664 1,664,664

City Attorney 3,166,798 3,166,798

City Clerk and Clerk of Council 420,585 420,585

18th Circuit Court \$1,353,347 \$1,353,347

18th General District Court 79,228 79,228

Clerk of Courts 1,579,460 1,579,460

Commonwealth’s Attorney 2,648,168 2,887,722

Court Service Unit 1,363,877 1,670,751

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court 34,155 34,155

Law Library 117,279 164,065

Other Public Safety and Justice Activities 5,212,162 5,405,520 \$141,369

Registrar of Voters 1,077,368 1,077,368

Sheriff 26,320,052 27,298,347

Citizen Assistance \$573,148 \$578,646

Finance 9,173,730 9,402,323

General Services 11,449,819 11,665,220 \$35,594,563

Human Rights 616,464 651,564

Information Technology Services 6,549,136 6,549,136 3,981,500

Internal Audit 224,175 224,175

Management and Budget 1,146,834 1,146,834

Non-Departmental - Debt Service 37,252,967 37,252,967

Non-Departmental - Contingent Reserve 0 0

Non-Departmental - Insurance, Memberships, Other 9,194,033 9,194,033

Office on Women 1,334,062 1,826,922

Personnel Services 3,114,631 3,120,631

Real Estate Assessments 1,527,794 1,527,794

Office of Communications 1,313,784 1,313,784

Fire \$32,709,142 \$34,616,472

Code Administration 6,995,739 7,564,944

Police 53,997,444 55,673,280

Alexandria Health Department 6,870,274 6,870,274

The Alexandria Fund for Human Services

Children’s Fund 854,480 854,480

Youth Fund 261,041 261,041

Community Partnership Fund 799,577 799,577

Human Services 27,773,777 54,887,881

Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse 17,149,339 30,675,049

Other Health Activities 1,038,600 1,038,600

Housing 1,548,152 3,494,542

Economic Development Activities 3,221,153 3,221,153

Planning and Zoning 5,409,792 5,409,792

Historic Alexandria 2,554,331 3,062,238

Library 6,093,498 6,752,368

Legal Notices

Other Recreation Activities 288,814 288,814 \$359,862

Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities 18,919,041 19,749,299 1,395,320

Transit Subsidies 16,054,474 19,764,474 8,915,000

Transportation and Environmental Services 27,394,521 36,584,859 10,225,550

Other Educational Activities \$12,304 \$12,304 \$136,732

Schools 164,594,674 211,019,067 10,635,677

Cash Capital \$700,000 \$700,000

GRAND TOTAL \$524,272,044 \$636,080,704 \$71,385,573

Any person desiring to review the proposed budget may visit the City’s website (alexandriava.gov/budget) or visit City Hall, Office of Management and Budget, Room 3630, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Additionally, copies of the proposed budget may be examined at Barrett Library, 717 Queen Street, the Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Avenue, Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road, and the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street.

PROPERTY TAXES

The proposed budget provides for an increase of 4.2 cents in the real property tax rate of 84.5 to 88.7 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation based upon an assessment ratio of 100% fair market value. It should be noted that the advertised tax rate is 90.5 cents. This is the highest tax rate City Council may set, although Council may set a lower rate. The tax on commercial real property cannot exceed 90.5 cents as well.

The proposed budget represents no change in the present personal property tax rate of \$4.75 per \$100 of assessed value on all taxable personal property except vehicles specially equipped to transport persons with disabilities, which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$3.55 per \$100 of assessed value; machinery and tools, which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$4.50 per \$100 of assessed value and, privately owned boats and water craft that are used for recreational purposes only which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value. Under the proposed budget, the amount of the real estate tax rate required to support existing debt service related to open space acquisition will be 0.3 percent of the total real estate tax revenues. The amount of real estate tax rate dedicated for affordable housing is likewise reduced to cover only the existing and planned debt service related to affordable housing from 1 cent to 0.7 cents.

USER FEES

It is proposed that the City’s single family residential trash collection fee increase by \$30, from \$301 per household in FY 2009 to \$331 per household in FY 2010 to make this activity self-supporting. The proposed budget reflects no increase in the sanitary sewer user fee. A variety of other fees, fines and charges for services are also proposed to increase.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Notice of Availability of Competitive

Grant Funds for Calendar Year 2010

The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) announces the availability of competitive grant funds to provide civil legal services to eligible clients during calendar year 2010. A Request for Proposals (RFP) and other information pertaining to the LSC grants competition will be available from www.grants.lsc.gov on April 10, 2009. In accordance with LSC’s multiyear funding policy, grants are available for only specified service areas. The listing of service areas for each state and the estimated grant amounts for each service area will be included in Appendix-A of the RFP. Applicants must file a Notice of Intent to Compete (NIC) in order to participate in the competitive grants process. The NIC will be available from the RFP. Please refer to www.grants.lsc.gov for filing dates and submission requirements. Please e-mail inquiries pertaining to the LSC competitive grants process to Competition@lsc.gov

ABC LICENSE

Leopold Imports, LLC trading as Leopold Imports, LLC, 106 W. Cedar St, Alexandria, VA 22301-2620. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine Importer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Paul Scolese, Managing member

Legal Notices

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

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

Legal Notices

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

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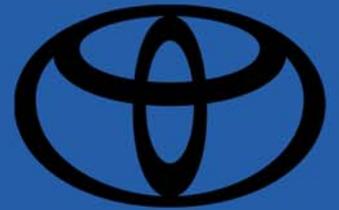
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