

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 30, 2009



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Frances Pickering, the daughter of Ellen Pickering talks about her mom and Earth Day and the award, the first Ellen Pickering Award about to be given at Saturday's event.

Eco-Award on an Ecology-Minded Day

Alexandria Old Town residents Elizabeth Chimento and Poul Hertel received the City of Alexandria's first annual Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award on Saturday, April 25, during Earth Day activities. The award recognizes residents, groups, and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to protecting the natural environment and promoting environmental



SEE EARTH DAY, PAGE 18



Elizabeth Chimento and Poul Hertel greet friends after receiving the Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award from the city.

Transportation and Environmental Services staff William Skraback and Lalit Sharma unfurl the environmental pledge commitment that the mayor and the commission members signed at the 2009 Earth Day.

Council Votes For Higher Taxes

Average residential property tax bill will increase from \$4,227 to \$4,303.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Expect King Street to be a little bit dimmer this year. Those holiday decorative lights that have been illuminating the trees along the Old Town corridor since 2007 will be taken down this summer if not sooner. Restricting the lights to a three-month holiday season will save \$42,000, although not everyone was happy with the belt tightening. Vice Mayor Del Pepper opposed the cut, even making a last minute pitch to her colleagues moments before the final budget vote Monday night.

"I would really like to see this come back," Pepper said during the last work session.

"Bah humbug," responded Councilman Justin Wilson.

Like many other city programs and services, the festive lights on King Street trees will be discontinued as a result of City Council's adoption of an operating budget for fiscal year 2010. Council members unanimously approved the \$530-million general fund operating budget Monday night, raising the tax rate from 84.5 cents to 90.3 cents for every \$100 worth of assessed value. That will increase the



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT

Say goodbye to the decorative lights on King Street, which will be cut back as a result of the City Council's approved budget this week.

"Regrettably, we are going to have some employees lose their jobs."

— City Manager
Jim Hartmann

average tax bill by \$76.

"I'm one of the residents who saw his property go up for the first year after a couple of years of decline," said Councilman Rob Krupicka,

whose assessment rose from \$1,216,590 in 2008 to \$1,256,050 in 2009. "So I'm going to be paying a little more this year."

ALTHOUGH THE FINAL vote was unanimous, council members have been haggling over budget items since City Manager Jim Hartmann proposed a \$524-million operating budget in February. Hartmann recommended a tax rate of 88.7 cents for every \$100 of assessed value, which was calculated to keep the average resi-

SEE JOBS, PAGE 4

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

James Banks is formally introduced as Alexandria's new city attorney Tuesday night.

Attorney from Richmond

Although he doesn't officially start his new job until next week, Alexandria City Attorney **James Banks** went behind closed doors Tuesday night to discuss the possibility of appealing the recent ruling of federal Judge **James Cacheris** in a lawsuit Norfolk Southern filed against the city last year. The executive session took place moments after Banks was formally announced as the successor to former City Attorney **Ignacio Pessoa**, who retired in December.

A native of Bridgeton, N.J., Banks grew up in Salem, N.J., before receiving a bachelor's degree in sociology from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania and a juris doctorate from the University of Virginia. He's been a vice mayor, deputy commonwealth's attorney and a substitute judge in Richmond's Thirteenth Judicial District. The new city attorney currently serves as member of the Virginia Law Foundation board of directors and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority board of directors. When asked about Virginia's limitations on city governments, he said the Dillon Rule was instituted during a time when city governments were distrusted. "That era has long ago passed," said Banks, the city's first African-American city attorney.

Ghost of Downside Risk

For months, the specter of "downside risk" has haunted City Hall. Essentially, that means the city is down in the dumps and things could get worse if the economy continues to tank. According to the April financial report, the city's unemployment rate has spiked to 5.1 percent — the highest since 1994. Meanwhile, the vocabulary of "downside risk" has been adopted and maintained over the months.

"The turbulence in the credit markets and the uncertainty of future consumer spending still leaves some downside risk to the city's future revenue projections," wrote City Manager **Jim Hartmann** in the latest monthly update. "The economy has been in recession since December 2007, and as of this month, the current recession officially becomes the longest since World War II."

Hartmann quoted noted investor **Warren Buffett's** comments about the "freefall" of business activity "at a pace that I have never before witnessed." Then came a raft of troubling statistics that show the office vacancy rate doubling over the last year, with one out of every 836 properties in Alexandria currently in foreclosure. Although retail sales taxes receipts were down only 3 percent over the last year, other forces may have been at work.

"Sales tax receipts would have decreased further but for the opening of a second Best Buy in the city," Hartmann concluded.

Swine Fever

"Don't panic."

That's the advice of city officials to those concerned about swine flu, a respiratory disease caused by type A influenza virus that usually causes influenza in pigs. With confirmed cases spreading from Mexico into the United States, Alexandria health officials are closely monitoring events and have moved to make pharma

SEE COUNCIL NOTEBOOK, PAGE 12



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Taylor Swift performs a private concert at Bishop Ireton High School.



Geoffrey Oldland cheers as the show gets under way.

Taylor Swift At Bishop Ireton

The student body of Bishop Ireton High School was treated Tuesday, April 28, to a private concert by 19-year old award winning singer/songwriter Taylor Swift. Winning a contest sponsored by Verizon Wireless, the school qualified for having the most qualified entries of Verizon text messages, the total number was recorded at 19,285. The total surpassed the nearest competitor by 3,000 calls.

City's Special Ed in Transition

Director of the school's special-education services to retire this summer.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

With numerous challenges facing the city's special-education services, now the system is bracing for new leadership.

Michael Romanelli, who has been director of the public school system's special-education services, announced this week that he will be retiring. The departure comes during a time when many parents are frustrated with how special-education services are delivered in the city. After Superintendent Morton Sherman reorganized the department, he informed Romanelli that he would be welcome to apply for a new executive director position overseeing special education. But Romanelli declined.

"At this time in my life, I want to retire and be my own boss," said Romanelli, who has been with Alexandria City Public Schools since 2006. "I'm looking at other job opportunities."

Romanelli's departure comes at a time when the school system is under intense pressure to improve its special-education services. Last year, an audit by state officials concluded that Alexandria schools are

not meeting the needs of its special-needs population. 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.

"The documentation is not up to snuff," said Romanelli. "Teachers need to spend more time collecting and analyzing data."

MANY PARENTS of children who receive special-education services praised Romanelli's leadership over the last three years. David Cordell, who is a former chairman of the special-education advisory committee, described Romanelli was a "breath of fresh air" who made improvements to how the system operated.

"I'm disappointed," said Cordell. "He's been a wonderful director."

Others were sharply critical of the superintendent. Paul Wilson, another member of the advisory committee, said he interpreted Romanelli's retirement as a termination brought after he expressed concerns about Alexandria's special-education services.

"This is classic revenge against a whistleblower," said Wilson. "And it stinks."



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NEWS



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Mayor Bill Euille looks over last minute details before voting for raising taxes on residential property owners.

Jobs To Be Eliminated

FROM PAGE 1

dential property tax bill the same as last year. But then in March, the council voted to advertise a maximum tax rate of 90.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value.

"People are tightening up their household budgets, and they are facing great uncertainty in their economic future," said Councilman Tim Lovain, who unsuccessfully argued for a tax rate of 89.7 cents for every \$100 of assessed value. "So I just think we need to take extraordinary measures to keep taxes as low as possible."

Lovain's proposal would have paid for the lower tax rate by decreasing the amount of cash the city used to pay for capital projects. But other council members balked at the idea of increasing the amount of borrowing — especially with some economic projections showing the recession could last well into next year and perhaps beyond that. In the end, council members raised the tax rate to 90.3 cents for every \$100 of assessed value.

"My colleague, with all due respect, is essentially proposing that we borrow from tomorrow to pay today," said Wilson. "I don't support that."

FOR THE FIRST time since 1994, the city's tax base is expected to decline in 2009. City officials estimate that the tax base will decline 2 percent in 2009 and 5 percent in 2010. The overall assessed value of real property in Alexandria decreased by about \$724 million this year, with the average assessed value for residential properties decreasing from \$500,234 in 2008 to \$476,490 in 2009. Because 31 percent of the

city's revenues come from residential property taxpayers, the decline in assessed value has created the need for tighter budgeting.

"Regrettably, we are going to have some employees lose their jobs," said Hartmann Monday night, adding that he had signed a reduction-in-force order earlier in the day. "But that contribution positions us for better accommodating the city's future."

In its final form, the budget that will begin on July 1 will eliminate 117 positions from the government and freeze salaries for those who remain. Because of a hiring freeze, most of those eliminated jobs are vacant. But city officials estimate that about 20 current employees will be laid off as a result of the cutbacks.

"Alexandria continues to face its most serious fiscal decline in more than 30 years," said Mayor Bill Euille in a written statement issued shortly after the unanimous vote. "City Council's actions are the next step in confronting the fiscal challenges we may continue to face next year."

Changes that council made to the city manager's proposal included adding \$610,000 for social safety net programs, \$600,000 for DASH bus replacement, \$1.4 million for a capital improvement project at Polk Elementary School and \$287,000 for economic development priorities. Council members also authorized an increase to the cigarette tax, raising it from 70 cents a pack to 80 cents a pack, which budget officials estimate will bring in an extra \$400,000.

"We've got to steel ourselves for the rough waters ahead," said Councilman Ludwig Gaines. "I hope we have done enough to shore up the safety net."

NEWS



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET



George Alberts cools off with a snowcone awaiting a chance to dunk the next contestant.

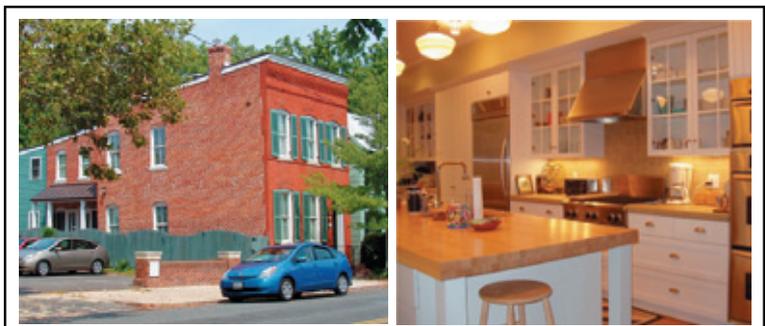
Emma Goetas aims at the target to sink assistant principal Peter Balas.



Students in the Cosmetology class worked on braiding hair throughout the afternoon under the shade of the trees at the park. Pictured is Jazzmine Steele, Tiara Peterson and the Cosmetology instructor Patricia Farrar.

Titan Expo

T.C. Williams High School held its annual Titan Expo in Chinquapin Park on Sunday, April 26. The Expo raises money for the Larry Trice Vocational Scholarships.



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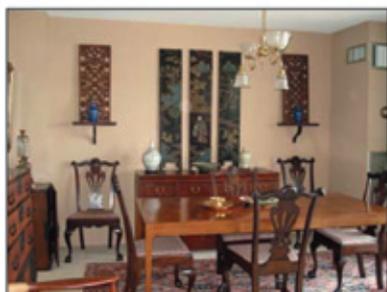
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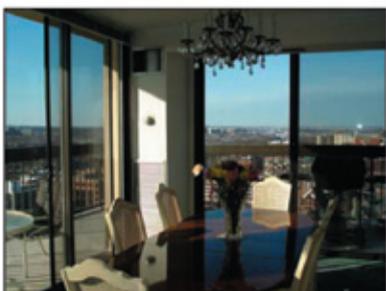
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ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

For complete archive
of election coverage, see
www.alexandriagazette.com.

Tuesday Is Election Day

When the polls open at 6 a.m. on Tuesday May 5, voters will be faced with a ballot that groups candidates by party even though none are listed on the ballot. All the Democratic candidates for the City Council will be listed first in alphabetical order followed by the Republicans and finally the independents. Voters will also be able to vote for the School Board, although six of the nine seats are unopposed. Only District A, which includes nine precincts on the city's East End.

Registrar **Tom Parkins** expects about 15,000 voters to participate in this year's election, which is about 20 percent of the city's registered voters and about 13 percent of the population 18 or older. This election will also feature new technology replacing the old-fashioned poll books with networked laptop computers. Now when an election volunteer indicates a voter has been issued a ballot, that information will register in an online database that can be consulted from other precincts.

"We expect this to be much more efficient," said Parkins.

Republicans Attack Budget

For now, the city's budget calendar is set for a collision course with the political season every three years. Those who favor May elections say the proximity of the local election to the budget vote adds a layer of responsiveness to the City Council. In the hours after the City Council unanimously voted to increase taxes on residential property taxpayers, both Republican candidates issued press releases blasting the vote.

"The City Council is avoiding making tough decisions," said **Frank Fannon** in a written statement issued Tuesday afternoon. "Numerous times during Monday night's deliberations they mentioned how the upcoming election made this process tough. Given the end result we now believe them."

"The City Council did not do enough in its budget to cut government head count, demand productivity increases and cut salaries and benefits," said **Phil Cefaratti** in a written statement issued Tuesday night. "Fiscal responsibility does not currently exist in Alexandria government."

Neither of the candidates mentioned specific cuts they would have suggested.

Fundraising Money Online

Campaign-finance information on all candidates for the City Council are available online from the Virginia Public Access Project at vpap.org. The Web site, which has posted General Assembly fundraising totals for years, recently expanded to include several local elections including Alexandria. Although the transition did not go off without a new minor glitches.

Under a quick of Virginia law, some of the candidate filed electronically while others filed the old-fashioned way with hand-written documents. As a result, some of the information was available from the State Board of Elections while other documents had to be acquired from the city registrar. As a result, compelling standardized information became a challenge. But now all the most recent data is available.

Sample Ballot

Member, City Council

(Vote for not more than six)

- ❖ Kerry J. Donley
- ❖ K. Rob Krupicka
- ❖ Timothy B. Lovain
- ❖ Redella S. "Del" Pepper
- ❖ Paul C. Smedberg
- ❖ Justin M. Wilson

- ❖ D. Philip Cefaratti
- ❖ Frank H. Fannon IV

- ❖ Alicia R. Hughes
- ❖ Rich C. Wilson

Member, School Board District A

(Vote for not more than three)

- ❖ W.E. "Bill" Campbell
- ❖ Mary Mein "Mimi" Carter
- ❖ Sheryl K. Gorsuch
- ❖ Helen F. Morris
- ❖ Scott A. Newsham

Member, School Board District B

(Vote for not more than three)

- ❖ Yvonne A. Folkerts
- ❖ Janice Lee Howard
- ❖ Arthur E. Peabody Jr.
- ❖ Marc Williams

NOTE: Janice Lee Howard is no longer a candidate for the School Board, District B. She withdrew for personal reasons after the ballot had been printed.

Member, School Board, District C

(Vote for not more than three)

- ❖ Ronnie M. Campbell
- ❖ Blanche D. Maness
- ❖ Charles H. Wilson

"We need to require all candidate to file electronically," said Del. **David Englin** (D-45), who is a member of the House committee responsible overseeing election law. "Rural candidates have computers."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

Fundraising Totals

Frank Fannon	\$52,737
Del Pepper	\$40,529
Kerry Donley	\$31,878
Rob Krupicka	\$31,462
Paul Smedberg	\$30,007
Tim Lovain	\$29,850
Justin Wilson	\$26,327
Alicia Hughes	\$17,063
Phil Cefaratti	\$6,549
Rich Williamson	\$5,500

SOURCE: Virginia Public Access Project

OBITUARIES

Pamela Davis Alexander

Pamela Davis Alexander (age 56) died suddenly on April 19, 2009 at Alexandria Hospital after a brief illness.

Pam was born in Dundalk, Md. and moved to the Northern Virginia area in 1976. She graduated from the University of Maryland in 1974 and, most recently, from George Washington University with a master's degree in counseling. During her 30-year career as an educator, Pam taught health education at G. Gardner Shugart and Eugene Burroughs Middle School in Prince George's County.

She is survived by her husband, David C. "Beck" Roehrenbeck of Alexandria, and her two daughters, Brooke Byer Alexander and Hollis Alexander Gorham (Richard), both of Fairfax, as well as the girls' father, Brian Alexander, whose marriage to Pam ended in divorce in 1985. Pam had two stepchildren, Anne Ashley Croker (Thomas) and David Roehrenbeck (Cybil). She is also survived by her three sisters, Jacqueline Spaulding of Radford, Va., Susan Barnes of Wilmington, Del., and Deborah Nichols of Arlington, Va.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at Christ Church in Old Town Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the

FAITH NOTES

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

On the first Monday of each month, the 6:30 p.m. service is a **Requiem**

Men's Home, 402 Hume Avenue, Alexandria, VA, 22301.

Pauline Hall Taylor

Pauline Hall Taylor was born Aug. 6, 1918 in Falls Church, Va. and died April 25, 2009 in her Falls Church home. She was the daughter of Arnold Kellogg Hall and Mattie May Hutton and the wife of John Emory Taylor for 50 years. Pauline is survived by her brother, Raymond Hall, her son John Emory Taylor Jr. of Alexandria, Va. and Sharon Hall Taylor of Arvada, Colo. She is grandmother to four: Daniel Delaney, Elizabeth Reynebeau, Mischa Delaney, and John Emory Taylor III; and the great grandmother to four: Shelby Delaney, Reagan Reynebeau, Catherine Delaney, and Carter Reynebeau.

Pauline was a proud native of Falls Church and had deep roots in her community. Her life was devoted to the welfare and happiness of her family and friends, all of whom will miss her deeply.

All are welcome to her memorial service to be held at her home at 2327 Dale Drive, Falls Church VA 22043 on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 12 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Capital Hospice, 6565 Arlington Blvd, Suite 500, Falls Church, VA 22042.

Eucharist. Names of loved ones who died during that month in any year and of our service men and women who died in the previous month are read aloud during the service. To have a loved one added to the list, call the parish office at 703-549-1980 and providing the full name and date of death. Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell

Road, Alexandria. Visit www.gracealex.org.

Summer Camp coming to Messiah. Camp will run from June 22 to Aug. 28, 7:30-6 p.m. Full and part time available. Messiah Lutheran Church, 6510 Ft. Hunt Road. Contact Anndra, 703-765-5003.



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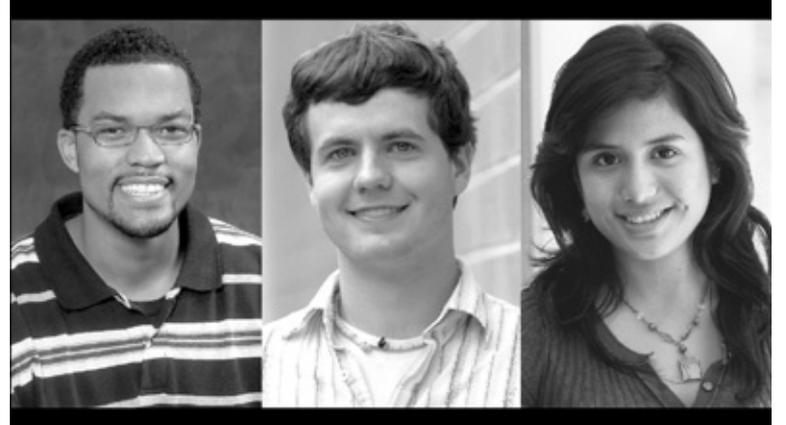
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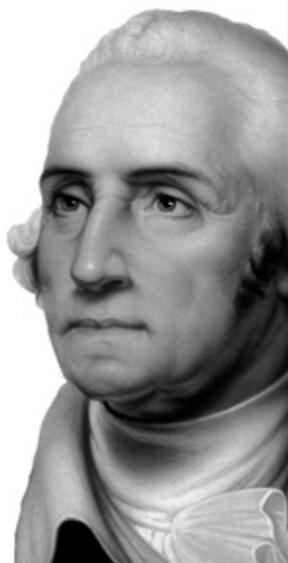
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Seminary Valley

Hammond Middle School may be going through another evolution, from a single middle school to a one-building, three-school model. The model, proposed by Superintendent Mort Sherman, is at its initial planning stages and could be implemented as soon as the coming fall. The changes are intended to combat high dropout rates and lack of progress on standardized tests. They include the inauguration of a Middle School International Baccalaureate Program, as well. For more information,

go to www.acps.k12.va.us.granicus.com. Of course, Hammond was once a thriving Alexandria high school, and its alumni are quite active. Kassy Benson, the current president of the Alumni Association, puts together a great online newsletter with all the haps about Hammond High alums and their families. The newsletter is also a great source of information about reunions and even has a small section dedicated to George Washington High. For more information, especially about the 1969 class reunion, go to www.hammondhighschool.com; to get the newsletter, email

FCHHSAA@listserv.com.

The Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association quarterly meeting is set for Monday, April 27 at 7 p.m. at the Beatley Library. Transportation and traffic mitigation plans, especially those affecting the West End, are on the agenda. Those attending will also vote on Community Grant applications, the BSCVA Beautification Awards program, a Spring Event, and hear from the police liaison. BSCVA received over a dozen applications for the Community Grants this year, which shows how much activity there is in our neighborhood. To get up-to-date information about the Association, go to www.bsvca.net.

If you are looking for some diversion at a good price, look no further than T.C. Williams High School, which is producing "Fiddler on the Roof" during the first two weekends of May. The production, running May 1 and 2 and May 8 and 9 at 7 p.m., features several West End students: Zach Frank (as Tevye, no less), Abby Keller (Fruma Sarah) Sam Jones (Perchik) and Andrew Flack (Lazar Wolf), Maham Ayaz (Yente), Renzo Garcia-Lacherre, Amber Muhammed, Anthony Parker (Motel), and Maria Simpkins.

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 for adults.

— MIA JONES

Taylor Run

TREES DESTROYED

For Earth Day and Arbor Day, while oratory about Nature filled the air, I went down to the Duke Street - Telegraph Road intersection and shed a little tear for the small trees cut down by - what? Carelessness? Bureaucratic bungling?

In 1997, Taylor Run Citizens Association, Fairfax chapter of Global Releaf, and the City of Alexandria Parks and Recreation Department planted hundreds of little trees on the large clover leaf there, hoping to help increase Alexandria's tree canopy to the 40 percent recommended by American Forests.

CHILDREN WORKED

The Alexandria Gazette of May 8, 1997 records that the late Ellen Pickering, Suzie Jackson, Maitland Bottoms, Kevin Sherlock, and Commonwealth Attorney Randolph Sengel were all out there in the rain, doggedly planting trees with children from Flint

SEE TAYLOR RUN, PAGE 13

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On Tuesday, Cast Your Votes for Balance and Diversity.

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Celebrating Arbor Day in Del Ray

Cooperation restores trees in Commonwealth Avenue medians.

BY JAMES SNYDER

The Del Ray neighborhood celebrated Arbor Day in Alexandria with a Tree Planting and Adoption program on Saturday April 18. In a joint project, the City of Alexandria and the Del Ray Citizens Association have begun the restoration of the major trees and landscaped medians on Commonwealth Avenue in the Del Ray community.

Commonwealth Avenue was formerly an electric trolley line that was key to the development of the early trolley car suburbs of Del Ray, St. Elmo and Rosemont. Wide landscaped medians replaced the trolley tracks many years ago, and the Avenue has become a favorite route for the annual Turkey Trot, bicyclists, joggers, dog walkers, runners and all manner of pedestrians and strollers. In recent years

a number of the 50-plus large trees in the landscaped median have declined and had to be removed.

In a partnership with the Del Ray Citizens Association's and the City Adopt A Park Program, City Arborists John Noelle and Jerry Dieruf developed an action plan to restore the tree-lined character of this important city greenway. The first step included an inventory and assessment of the health of the more than 50 trees in Del Ray. Those trees, which were dead, diseased or were determined to be in irreversible decline, were removed earlier this spring in preparation for replanting. Noelle hand selected 17 Nutal Oak trees, which were planted last week by the City's landscaping contractor Dennison Nurseries. The Nutal Oak (*Quercus Nuttalli*) is an adaptable variety of Red Oak that tolerates poorly drained soils and

SEE RESTORING, PAGE 11



Jerry Dieruf, Debbie Olving and dog, Cindy Clemmer, David Fromm and John Noelle (behind the tree).

PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Alexandria Gazette Packet will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

PhotoAX@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to: The Alexandria Gazette Packet, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery," 7913 Westpark Dr., McLean, VA 22102 Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

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"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve. Since my election last summer, we have passed a Strategic Plan and a budget that directs more resources toward student achievement while reducing the budget by \$3 million. But, the work of the Board, the Superintendent, and the whole school division is just beginning. There must be a continued focus on giving students what they need to succeed, fostering creativity and critical thinking, and instilling in every student a lifelong love of learning."

I Would Appreciate Your Vote On May 5.
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NEIGHBORHOODS

Restoring Trees in Del Ray

FROM PAGE 9

drought conditions. Its strong, fast growing trunk grows to more than 50 feet. It has a rich red fall color and acorns that will keep the local squirrel population happy.

A key to the survival of newly planted trees is watering during the spring, summer and fall. Local Del Ray residents have adopted the newly planted trees and will help water them by periodically filling green 20 gallon water bags that slowly release water to the tree's root ball. Later this summer, the City will prune the dead wood out of the existing trees. In the fall,

the City will work on soil aeration and amendment and turf improvements to enhance the growing conditions for the existing trees in the medians. This should improve survival rate of the existing trees and contribute to the ongoing effort to improve the City's tree canopy. The strategy is to proactively retain and improve the



Jerry Dieruf and John Noelle with Sally Nist and her adopted oak tree.

health of the existing large trees rather than allowing them to decline removing them at significant expense to the City.

The improvements to the Commonwealth Avenue medians are consistent with the City's Open Space Master Plan which calls for the enhancement of Commonwealth Avenue as a Pedestrian

Friendly street that links important public buildings and open spaces. Del Ray Citizens Association is also working with the City on the implementation of a newly purchased park at East Del Ray and Commonwealth Avenues. The Parks and Recreation Commission recently approved the final master plan for the Park.

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Council Notebook

FROM PAGE 3

ceutical stockpiles available. In the event of a pandemic, government officials would order health officials to release stockpiles of Tamiflu and Relenza to be distributed by pharmacies. But local health officials warn that the drugs should be used sparingly.

"I'm concerned about using antiviral agents too broadly," said Alexandria Health Department Director Dr. **Lisa Kaplowitz**. "The virus could develop a resistance."

During a 2006 scare involving avian flu, Mayor **Bill Euille** appointed a working group to plan for the city's response with participants ranging from the mortuary industry to the chief judge of Alexandria's circuit court. A role-playing scenario tested the laws governing quarantine, yet the city's plans leave unanswered questions.

"What if we don't have enough respirators for everybody? Nobody has come up with a good answer to that yet," said former Health Director Dr. **Charles Konigsberg** shortly after the 2006 avian training drill. "The attorneys were bringing up legal issues that we hadn't anticipated."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

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President Barack Obama
Weekly Video Address 4/11/09

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Phil Cefaratti
Republican for
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Mayor **Bill Euille**



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Daniel Baum	Gayle Rueter	Judy Lowe	Micki Feldheim	Stephen Koenig	
Darryl Francois	George Berger	Judy Stack	Mimi Olinger	Stephen Rosenfeld	

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Alexandria Teachers (A-PACE)
Alexandria Police (VPBA)
The Sierra Club
NOVA Labor Federation
The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund

- Addressing Economic Challenges
- Making Government More Effective
- Enhancing Quality of Life
- Supporting Public Schools

Paul Smedberg Re-elect Democrat Alexandria City Council

For more information please visit www.paulsmedberg.org

NEIGHBORHOODS



In the Earth

Lynn Watkins, Nancy Anderson, Nancy Rosenberg and Roni (kneeling) from Hermitage in Northern Virginia celebrate Earth Day.

Taylor Run

FROM PAGE 8
Hill Preparatory School.

VANISHING TREES

One year later I was appalled to see that powerful machines had cleared most of the trees.

Buffie Brownstein, then with the City Parks and Recreation Department, assured me that her employees had not done the damage, and that it would not be repeated. (Gazette, April 23, 1998)

NASTY SHOCK

How depressing it was to see this year, that mowing had happened again.

John Noelle, City Arborist, says that his department was not responsible. He spoke of a gardening committee removing "invasive species," by which he means Bradford pears not planted by his department.

Be that as it may, the tree canopy so many worked for is just not there.

Will taxpayer money have to be used again to replace trees cut down by City inefficiency?

— LOIS KELSO HUNT



Alexandrians for Kerry Donley

Rep. Jim Moran, Sen. Dick Saslaw, Sen. Patsy Ticer, CA Randy Sengel, Sheriff Dana Longhorne, Karyn Moran, Vola Lawson, Diane and Eugene Rossi, Jack Taylor, Marcia and David Speck, Mame Reiley, Ann and Rick Dorman, Ann O'Hanlon, Steve and Lynne Weir, Jim and Mary McIntyre,

Sherry Schiller, Mia Jones, Mary Ellis Fannon, Liz Johnson, Bob Eiffert, Mike Curry, Judy and Michael Stack, Clare McIntyre, Brian Devine, Lonnie Rich, Marcia Call, Brian Abramson, Daniel Abramson, Barbara Brecher, Jerome & Bernice Chapman, Diane Charles, Gerald Cohen, Susan Dawson, Virginia & Henley Guild, Derek Hardwick, Kevin Heanue, William Hendrickson, Richard Hobson, Jean & Philip Hocker, Clare & Ed Jayne, Tom Knoernschild, Andrea Leidolf, Norman Lodato, Allen Lomax, Brian & Kelly Meehan, Rabbi Jack Moline, Majorie & Pat Mulloy, Connie Murphy, Sandra Murphy, Judy Noritake, Michael Poterfield, Kitty & James Ray, Gayle Reuter, Edward Silverman, Sills & Amoret Bunn, Kathleen Smith, Glenn Hopkins, Charles White, Michelle Boggs, Ron Roys, Donnan Wintermute, Robert Carragher, Beth Tuttle, Jeffrey Peisch, Alan Anderson, Sally Krahn, Barbara Anderson, Stewart Dunn, Ferdinand Day, Jim Hanagan, Mary Hanagan, Catherine Desmarais, Dick Hobson, Owen & Mary Jane Malone, Mark & Maggie Fitzsimmons, A. Melvin Miller, Pam O'Shaughnessy, Beth Temple, Bev Jett, Kathleen Smith, Mary Batte, Mary Bayer, Tania Blagrove, Giuseppe Cecchi, Martha Bethea, Mary Smith, Tom Smith, Nancy & Paul Vogel, Ellen & Joseph Miles, Kristin & James Dundon, Ali Ahmad, Harlene & Bill Clayton, Hazel & Ron Rigby, Michele Levy, Jane Franklin, John Leary, Ella Lewis, Gerald Lindrew, Stephen Malleck, William McCrory, Kate Cook, Richard McGuire, Jeffrey McQuilkin, Brent Minor, John Morgan Jr., Ken Naser, Chris Naser, Monica & Bob Bell, Helen-Marie Niernberger, Rochelle Schwab, Thomas Ritter, Robert Burns, Victor Roy, Jane Scheper, Jose Sorto, Renato Sozio, John Street, Laura Mandala, Lynette & Gary Matz, Tripp Howell, Cris Hamer, Mike Geissinger, Pam DiCandio, Gregg Murphy, Kim Fiske, Stephanie Clayton, Brian Murphy, Allen Johnson, Michele Bajek, Sandra Troutman, Robert Burns, Kevin Grimm, Michelle Brandon, Skip Bea, Cassandra Krauss, Robert Krauss, Andrea & Ron Shamblyn, Eileen Ahern, Murray Bonitt, Meg Bonitt, Meredith Bonitt, Jesse Jennings, Donna Fossum, Rich & Carolyn Young, Mike Jackson, Natalie Bass, Tom & Bernice Lee, Scott Donley, & Eva, Kristin, Kaitlin, Cara, Colleen & Kelsey Donley.

Please join your fellow Alexandrians and vote for former Mayor Kerry Donley and the rest of the Democratic ticket on May 5th!

Kerry has also been endorsed by:

Alexandria Police Benevolent Association, Virginia Partisans, Education Association of Alexandria, The Sierra Club, & Northern Virginia Association of Realtors.

www.VoteKerryDonley.com

Paid for by Alexandrians for Kerry Donley

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Alexandria School Board District B



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"Endorsed By Teachers" – A-PACE, Educational Association of Alexandria

On May 5th Vote for Arthur Peabody, Alexandria School Board – District B

Authorized and paid for by Arthur Peabody

OPINION

Call for Mother's Day Photos — and Fathers Too

Also inviting contributions of photos and stories from the community from any local event.

Every year at this time, the Gazette Packet puts out the call for photographs of mothers and their children, grandmothers and their children and grandchildren.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10, and once again the Gazette Packet will publish a gallery of Mother's Day photos.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children, a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to include your town name and neighborhood.

We prefer digital photos, but we also accept prints. We will do our best to return hard copies of photos that include a self-addressed-stamped envelope for that purpose, but please do not send us any photos that cannot be replaced.

Email photos to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

Send photos to The Gazette Packet, Mother's Day Photo Gallery, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102.

Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, will be here by the time we blink, and we will also accept Father's Day photos, with the same guidelines.

EDITORIAL THE GAZETTE PACKET'S photographers, Louise Krafft and Robbie Hammer, won almost every possible award this year in the Virginia Press Association news contest. But they cannot attend even a significant fraction of the many newsworthy, photographic events that occur every week.

Many of our readers are accomplished photographers, and many more perfectly competent with their point and shoot digital camera. We invite you to send us photos and a short write-up of any local event you think might

interest us.

Some examples: events, awards or other happenings at schools; fairs, charity events or any other gathering at a house of worship; a photo celebrating the anniversary of a business; a photo celebrating a local couple's milestone anniversary; engagement and wedding announcements; graduations; Eagle Scout projects and ceremonies; youth sports teams with trophies; community service projects by families, individuals or teams of employees; almost anything else you can imagine.

We prefer digital photos emailed along with the write-up. Be sure to include the name of everyone in the photo including where they live; we will almost certainly not use a photo if people are not identified. Please include age, grade and school for young people. And a paragraph or two that says where and when the event took place and what is happening. Include a phone number in case we have any questions.

Email photos to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

The High Cost of Stigmatization

LETTERS

BY MARY ANNE WEBER
CHAIR, ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

The Alexandria Mental Health Anti-Stigma HOPE Campaign is a large title and so is the problem they are tackling, the stigmatization of people with mental health problems, intellectual disabilities and substance use issues.

Judging by the distorted coverage in the media recently of several instances involving mental health and the vicious and bigoted remarks on the Internet, they have a long way to go. Despite the strides in treatment, education and medications made over the last 40 years, children and adults are facing the same barriers in school, at work and in the community that they did then.

Several recent studies done by Portland State University and sponsored by several Federal agencies, show that children with mental health difficulties often feel they must be bad, adolescents who are experiencing serious symptoms don't seek the help they need for fear of labeling and caregivers, especially parents, are blamed for doing something wrong. All because of stigmatization.

One survey was done with youth over 14 who had been diagnosed with a mental health condition before age 18. These young people described themselves as having bipolar disorder, depression and anxiety/PTSD. Eighty-five percent were taking medication. When asked who treated them most unfairly, the answers were significant. Seventy percent reported their peers, sixty-five percent their friends, a little over 60 percent school personnel. About half reported being stigmatized by other adults in the community and by members of their family. Not surprisingly 86 percent of them said they were signifi-



Mary Anne Weber

cantly or moderately impacted by this negative treatment.

When caregivers were questioned, 81 percent of them reported negative treatment from teachers or school personnel, people in the community and friends or people you socialize with. The majority of caregivers were white, female and the child's biological parent. Their children were diagnosed as bipolar, ADHD and Asperger's/Autism. They felt that people did not treat them negatively to be cruel or mean. That instead people felt that the parents were weak-willed or not trying hard enough to get their child to behave. They also assumed that the family was dysfunctional and that they were bad parents.

ANOTHER STUDY on caregivers in the workplace showed that parents were reluctant to discuss a child or adult member of their family who had mental health issues for fear of being labeled as incompetent, flaky or unreliable. They worried about being called at work about problems, about having to leave for appointments and about not being able to even talk about their child as other employees talk about theirs.

The worst effect of this stigmatization is that both children and adults avoid reporting symptoms or getting the help they need. They worry they will be limited at school or work, or that their abilities will be underestimated.

Over 30 years ago when I first dealt with the pub

Share Poetry

To the Editor:

This is the home stretch: the final week of National Poetry Month, one final burst of literary awareness, culminating in Alexandria's first Poem-in-Your-Pocket Day on April 30. I am hoping that we've succeeded in generating some interest in that event, and that The Athenaeum on Thursday night will be thronged with Alexandrians, waving their favorite poems and clamoring for the opportunity to share them with an audience. But, whether we have 5 or 50 or 500 participants that night, there have been some palpable results. We have started conversations. At City Hall, in restaurants, in coffeeshops, in bookstores, people have talked about poetry, and that is something they may not have done since they were in high school. People have remembered poetry, whether the poems they remembered were elementary school doggerel or Mad Magazine parodies or memorized pieces from their youth. In a small way, we have reconnected at least a part of our population with poetry.

In this busy month, I have talked to a variety of people about what I do — from 6th graders to casual

SEE THE HIGH COST, PAGE 22

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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www.AlexandriaGazette.com

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

acquaintances, from cocktail party conversation-ists to family and friends, from neighbors to wait-ers and business owners. None of these have re-sponded with the ever-so-polite "Oh" or "Really?" when I talk about stimulating interest in poetry. Al-most without exception, they launch into stories or memories or favorite poems, willing to share an ex-perience that relates to poetry. That is a measure of success that I never expected when we launched Poem-in-Your-Pocket Day.

That's what poetry's all about, really. Communi-cating. Sharing the human experience in the best way we know how. We don't have to wait for Poetry Month or even a Poetry Day to celebrate it. Whether we speak or write or sing it, it's poetry. Poetry Month is just a reminder of that. Celebrate it.

Mary McElveen
Poet Laureate
The City of Alexandria

Same Old, Same Old?

To the Editor:

Please vote May 5.

Regardless as to how you vote or for whom, exer-cise one of the greatest freedoms we have — the secret ballot.

Having said that, history indicates that about 8 out of 10 registered voters will sit at home on their big butt and do nothing.

That means a couple thousand votes will control the election for mayor and council. And given the unfortunate state of our local politics — no serious competition, no political diversity, no difference of opinion or discussion allowed, no new ideas, no

Flight?

I feel like a ripe, mid-aged crow,
Large wing spread,
Much contained in my crow mind + heart.
On a branch poised for flight,
The Fact of me detaching,
From the tree where I have been rooted
so very long.

— Nancy Ford-Kohne Alexandria

breath of fresh air — we will have more of the same old, same old out of our local government and city hall. Which means more of the same old, same old results. The honest, hard working, legal, tax paying citizen and resident gets nothing. My tax money goes for programs I don't want, need, benefit from or be-lieve in. It goes to waste projects, support criminals and feed bloated over-budget pork.

If enough of you stay-at-homes do something it might, it could be different. Let's hope.

Joe Schramm
Alexandria

Collaborative Spirit

To the Editor:

We write to express our support for Helen Morris as a candidate for Alexandria School Board in the May 5 election. A long-time resident of Alexandria whose daughter will enter Jefferson Houston in the fall, Helen will work tirelessly to see that every child in the Alexandria public schools receives a world class education. She will bring to the board not only her passion for education, but years of practical experi-ence and expertise gained from her work in educa-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

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Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



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2121 Jamieson Avenue #1603
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180 degree views south, west, and north - skyline, Masonic Temple, and park! Bright 2/3 bedroom unit with 2.5 baths. Eat-in kitchen has extra cabinets, dining room has silver storage, special glass doors to the curved, windowed balcony. Vacant and ready. Garage parking. Call Marie for floor plan or personal showing. MLM1606@aol.com.

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



TOP FLOOR PENTHOUSE

5250 Valley Forge Drive #805
\$290,000 | Wapleton
Fabulous top-floor penthouse corner unit with stunning eastern & southern exposure. Private 400 square foot terrace plus 2 balconies! 2 bedrooms and a den, two separate entrances to the unit, parking space #39 immediately outside the side condo entrance. These top floor units with the terrace rarely come on the market!

Sherry York | 703.625.3377



JUST LISTED - OPEN SUN 1-4

2215 Lakeshire Drive
\$825,000 | South Alexandria
Charming sunny farmhouse with front porch on 1/3 acre; 2 car garage, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 updated baths and plumbing for another. Granite, stainless, refinished hardwoods, new carpet, paint and ready to move into. Even a kitchen garden to plant your own vegetables! Open Sunday 1-4.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



JUST LISTED! OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

6641 Wakefield Drive #703
\$310,000 | River Towers
3 bedroom, 2 bath condo with renovated kitchen, updated baths, new interior doors and plenty of closets. Resort living in a peaceful setting located on 26 landscaped acres backs to trees and Dyke's Marsh. Ample parking, pool, tennis courts, picnic grove with grills and more. Convenient to Old Town, shops, restaurants and bus to Metro.

Denise Davis | 571.332.8531



OLD TOWN LIVING

543 South Saint Asaph Street
\$605,000 | Old Town Alexandria
Charming 3 bedroom home in desirable Old Town location. Beamed ceilings, exposed brick hearth, hardwood floors, kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, three bedrooms, two and one half nicely renovated bathrooms, neutral paint and fresh décor. Private patio. Shopping, dining and more!

Cindie Fish | 703.201.4451



COMPLETE RENOVATION!

9334 Old Mount Vernon Road
\$599,000 | Old Town Alexandria
Beautifully Renovated! Enjoy a lazy summer by the spectacular pool and large deck area, plus screened porch! Appreciate the large open remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors throughout, lovely family room with fireplace, 4 spacious bedrooms and a great multi purpose room with outside access.

Nancy Tompkins | 703.518.2813



JUST LISTED

1208 Cedar Dale Lane
\$575,000 | Alexandria South
Renovated one level living on a country lane just 5 miles south of Old Town on 1/2 acre lot. Eat-in kitchen overlooking fenced yard, spacious master suite with doors to deck, ample closet space, renovated bath. Lower level has two bedrooms, family room, splashy full bath, utility room, storage closet, laundry area. Systems all recently replaced.

Jane Cole | 703.598.6198



JUST LISTED

6115 Greeley Boulevard
\$475,000 | Springfield
Unique and upgraded floor plan. Stainless steel appliances, large family room, guest suite with full bath and private exit to wrap around deck. Master has fabulous closet with many built in areas-this was originally a bedroom. Lower level has 2nd family room, full bath and the 4th bedroom. New entry door and front windows.

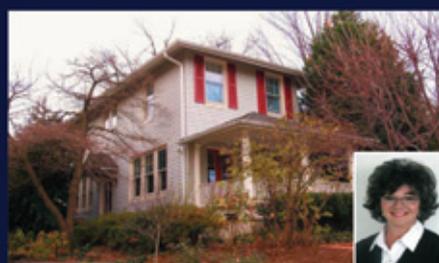
Ann Lockwood | 703.299.8643



UNDER CONTRACT

5081 Donovan Drive
\$439,900 | Cameron Station
Pristine two level, end-unit condo townhouse with garage. Prime Cameron Station location. Featuring 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, warm hardwood floors, and a stylish granite kitchen. Designer touches throughout. Close to community amenities, easy access to free shuttle to Metro. Photos on www.paddockhomes.com.

Vaughn & Diane Paddock | 703.628.2828



ROSEMONT BEAUTY

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

Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041

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Nancy Tompkins | 703.518.2813



CIRCA 1780 - OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA LANDMARK

414 Franklin Street
\$4,700,000 | Old Town

This landmark Old Town property originally served as a tavern and it is historically documented that George Washington spent his very last Fourth of July here! Sited on almost a one-half acre of beautifully landscaped gardens with swimming pool, this wonderfully charming four bedroom plus four and a half bath residence boasts original wide plank floors, five fireplaces, original hardware and a recently renovated kitchen with large family room addition. The brick carriage house includes a guest suite, game room plus two car garage. Reasonably priced at \$4,700,000.

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

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

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

1029 Arcturus Lane
\$1,225,000 | South Alexandria / Wellington
 Bright and open 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath, 2 car garage on almost 1/2 acre. Over 5100 finished square feet on 3 levels. Sun drenched kitchen, breakfast room and family room. Hardwood floors, high ceilings, custom moldings, open lower level with game/TV/ hobby rooms. Directions: South on GW Parkway, right Wellington, left on West Boulevard, right on Arcturus Lane. www.phyllispatterson.com.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



COMING SOON - POTOMAC RIVER VIEWS

1503 River Farm Drive
\$1,799,000 | South Alexandria
 Large luxury home with over 6,500 finished square feet of living space and large sweeping deck with breathtaking views of the Potomac River. 5/6 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms, 4 car garage, elegant tiered decks plus so much more!

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4! GREAT RESIDENCE!

1250 Dartmouth Court
\$1,200,000 | Alexandria City / Quaker Hill
 5 bedroom home near historic Old Town is exquisitely appointed and combines open space with the ultimate in interior and exterior detailing. An exceptional property featuring renovated kitchen awash in natural light. A great room with walls of windows opens to spacious deck. Master suite with super bath and expansive walk-in closets. The only way to describe this stunning home is fabulous!

Fran Orr | 703.623.4070

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Earth Day

FROM PAGE 1

sustainability.

The Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award, part of the City's Eco-City Alexandria initiative, is named in honor of Frances Ellen Pickering, a longtime City activist, and her lifelong dedication to preservation and conservation throughout the City. Pickering first helped to create the Mount Vernon Trail between Alexandria and Washington D.C., and was committed to preserving and enhancing the City's waterfront. She urged the adoption of the City's Open Space Plan, lobbied to preserve Founder's Park and protect it from high-rise development, and implemented the planting of 1,000 citizen-donated cherry trees during her tenure as chair of the Alexandria Beautification Commission.

Award winners Elizabeth Chimento and Poul Hertel are both longtime environmental activists.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The plant manager of the Alexandria branch of Virginia Paving David Horton is awarded the Sequoia Award for the company's commitment to the Earth Day activities.

They have been particularly influential about improving air quality throughout the City. Their lobbying efforts ensure proper emission regulations, which continue to improve and protect Alexandria's environment.

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\$389,900
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4BR, 3BA Cape Cod has been totally remodeled from top to bottom! Features include: brand new baths & kitchen, hardwood floors on two levels, recessed lighting, finished lower level with full bath and prime location on large level lot convenient to everything!



9516
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\$2,900,000
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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. 6BRs, 5BAs, full walk out LL and many rooms with dramatic river views.



9304
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\$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!



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

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4203 Adrienne Dr
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9405 Ferry Lndg Ct
\$795,000



9333 Brambly Ln
\$539,000



9305 Mt Vernon Circle
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bettyquirk.com or liveinbellehaven.com



6510 10th STREET
Alexandria / Belle View - \$349,000

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Pictures: www.ijumani.com
Inderjeet Jumani 703.472.8804



1105 POTOMAC LANE
Alexandria - \$715,000

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Catherine.Foltz@longandfoster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914



1915 DUFFIELD LANE
Alexandria - \$579,900

Fab new price for this meticulous 3 lvl garage TH in Belle Haven; mins to OT, Potomac, METRO & more! Brand new kit & baths incl lux Master Suite. 3Br/3Ba, private outdoor stone patio, custom built-ins, 2 FP & convenience! Walk to bike path, shops and restaurants!

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



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Pristine like-new 3 lvl brick Col in enclave of 32 lux homes, mins to Ft Belvoir, METRO & BWay. Almost 5,000 sf of living space, 4Br/3.5Ba, gour kit, walk-o bsmt w/slate patio, extensive landscape, 2 car gar & more! DIR: from BW, Telegraph Rd S approx 3 mi's to R Highland Meadows to 7020 on L.

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Hardwoods, premium carpet, cook's kitchen, deck, patio, gorgeous landscaping & 2 car garage. Only 1 light to DC & airport.

OUTSTANDING VALUE!

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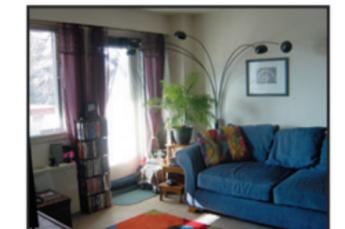


429 NORTH COLUMBUS ST
Old Town - \$785,000

STUNNING HOME in Old Town Alexandria. Quality detailing, 10' ceiling, Hardwoods throughout. Gourmet Kitchen /stainless appliances, granite, and maple cabinets. Spacious MBR and Bath/granite and

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Alexandria - \$187,000

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1123 PORTNER ROAD
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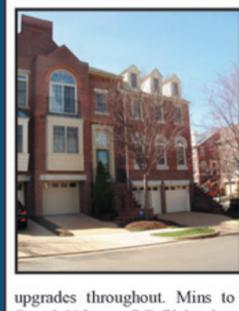


2509 HUNTON PLACE
Alexandria
\$649,900

STONEGATE FABULOUS! Jefferson model, 4 lvs, 3Br/2.55Ba, cat-in kitchen next to FR, sep dining room, hardwoods, extra high ceilings, Palladian windows w/plantation shutters, custom

window treatments, brick patio off huge LL rec room, deck off LR, 2 car garage. Many upgrades. Better than a model!

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3803 COURTLAND CIRCLE
Alexandria - \$550,000

3Br, 2.55Ba luxury Townhouse. Dramatic open floor plan! Cathedral ceilings, Palladian windows, built-ins, designer niches & quality

upgrades throughout. Mins to Pentagon, DC & OT. Dir: I-395, exit-7/S Glebe, bear R onto W Glebe, L on Charles, bear L on Courtland.

Pictures: www.ijumani.com
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202.277.5478



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- 2 Auburn Court #2D \$975**
Auburn Village Garden 1Br/1Ba
Steve Kindrick 703.683.0400
- 4426 Pembroke Village Drive \$1,400**
Pembroke Village TH 2Br/2Ba/1FP
Randy Bender 703.906.1749
- 805 North Howard St #331 \$1,475**
The Plaza Garden 2Br/2Ba 1Parking
Brian Hong 703.929.5764
- 155 Potomac Passage \$1,700**
National Harbor New! 1Br/1Ba Parking
Frankie Roberts 703.898.0840
- 110 Cameron Street #102 \$1,700**
Torpedo Factory Mid-Rise 1Br/1Ba
Norma Stratton 703.966.0756

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- 631 D Street, NW #531 \$2,250**
LaFayette Hi-Rise 1Br/1Ba 1Garage
Betsy Gorman 703.861.4825
- 1800 Wilson Blvd #245 \$2,350**
Wilson Blvd Garden 1Br/1Ba 1Parking
Norma Gants 703.548.2313
- 1250 South Washington St / Porto Vecchio**
#215 \$2,250 1Br/1Ba 1 Parking
#324 \$2,950 2Br/2Ba 1 Parking
Patricia Tierney 703.850.5630
- 3076 South Glebe Road #3076 \$2,800**
Arlington Ridge Terrace TH
3Br/3.5Ba/1FP Parking
Patricia Landaeta 202.390.2793



6621 WAKEFIELD DRIVE #913-A
Alexandria / River Towers - \$149,000

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McLean - \$1,550,000

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The High Cost of Stigmatization

FROM PAGE 11

lic school system to get help for my son who was autistic, my first introduction was to the social worker who dealt with children appearing before the Committee on the Handicapped as it was then called. My son was in an expensive, private pre-K program and I had learned from New York State's education department that my husband and I ought not to be paying for that, that Sean was eligible for public school services. My school district, was at the time, notorious for keeping "special children" out of the district. (It later became a leader in special education so change is possible.) The social worker's first remark to me was that I needn't go to the hearing so everything could be "anonymous." She obviously thought I didn't want anyone to know I had a child with Autism and obviously thought it was somehow my fault.

THAT'S WHEN I learned the best way to fight stigmatization is to shine a white, bright hot light on it and to keep it shining. Needless to say I did go to the hearing, got my son what he needed, and began talking about and writing about mental health and intellectual disabilities. A doctor friend of mine told me

a long time ago the best ally children have is a "tough mother." We need a lot of tough mothers and fathers to insist that all children be treated fairly, that educators be educated in best practices and that other parents and children behave appropriately. We need to challenge ignorant or bigoted statements whether they are made by the press, teachers, politicians or our neighbors and we need to get the right information out there.

That's what the Anti-Stigma Campaign hopes to do. Made up of members from the Community Services Board, the Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center and the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, the group is sponsoring two events in May, one aimed at parents and one at adults.

On Tuesday May 5, at The Lyceum at 201 South Washington St., psychologist Anne Kendall Ph.D will discuss practical strategies for parents of children and teens who exhibit emotional issues such as difficulty adapting to change, inability to calm themselves, intense behavior and over-reaction to stimulation. She will touch on a variety of approaches parents can use in supporting their children. The presentation is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. And a book-signing will follow. Child care is available. Register with

LaTanya Wooten at 703-746-3579 or Latanya.wooten@alexandriava.gov.

On Thursday, May 21, starting at 6:30 p.m., counselor, comic and author David Granirer will perform at T.C. Williams High School auditorium in "I'm OK But You Need Professional Help: Using Humor to Fight Stigma." The presentation is part comedy and part education. For this presentation, Granirer has taught five local people with mental illnesses to become stand-up comics. Granirer, who lives with depression, and his five assistants will look at the lighter side of taking meds, seeing counselors and surviving the mental health system. The show will be followed by a book signing.

Just two small steps but ones that will shine some light. Just as too many Americans have bought into the myth that if they do everything they are supposed to, they will live long, healthy lives, so many have bought the corollary, which is that if you have a mental illness or an intellectual disability or are dealing with substance abuse, you or your family or both did something wrong and it's your fault.

Wrong. The truth is that bad things happen to good people, all the time, everywhere and it is our job as a community to help them pick up the pieces and be a welcome part of the community again.

FROM PAGE 15

tional policy at the National School Boards Association, Edvantia, and Texas Instruments, Inc.

Helen will promote greater community involvement, fiscal responsibility, and innovative educational programs that will provide vital opportunities to all of our children. With the exciting leadership of Dr. Sherman, it's a new era in ACPS, an era to which Helen will bring new energy, common sense and a collaborative spirit that has been sorely lacking. We stand squarely behind Helen, and hope you will too on May 5.

Antonio Alcalá, Carolyn Caldwell, Beth Coast, William Cromley, Sally Eastman, Margie Finkelnburg, Nensi Fiorenini, Todd R Foust, Trey Hanbury, Matt Harris, Suzanna Kang, Stephen Mostow, Scott Singleton, Helen Soule, Bob Soule, Christa Watters, Kate Watters, Patrick Welsh, Larry Williams, Margie Williams

Balanced Leadership

To the Editor:

Electing Frank Fannon to City Council will bring much-needed balance to Alexandria's leadership. He is a well-established professional with the knowledge to effectively serve our residents and businesses.

In this time when balancing spending cuts and providing services is crucial to all of us, City Council will benefit from bi-partisan debate and fresh ideas. Alexandria voters deserve balanced leadership. Given Frank's experience in banking, owning a business, and being a life-long city resident, he is a strong multi-dimensional candidate for City Council.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 28

“MADEIRA GIRLS have something to say”

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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Fine Art For Mom

Just in time for Mother's Day, Del Ray Artisans host spring art sale.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

So Mother's Day is looming on your calendar, and you want to get her the perfect gift. If you suspect a work of fine art might do the trick, head on over to Colasanto Park at the corner of Mount Vernon and Commonwealth avenues the day before Mother's Day. Vendors will be selling jewelry, soap, sculpture, paintings, photographs, ceramics, fabrics and much more.

"This is a great chance to get art that's less expensive than it would be if you bought it framed from a gallery," said Rob Rudick, who has been organizing the annual sale for the last five years. "And it's so close to Mother's Day that it's a great opportunity to get a perfect gift."

Rudick said that many artists will be offering unframed prints and matted work at prices lower than framed pieces. Overall, the sale will feature original works from more than 20 artists in a variety of 2D and 3D media will be featured. Although Rudick acknowledged art sales have been down in recent months because of the economy, he said that recent weeks have seen more activity. Others agreed that the market for art seems to have picked up lately despite continued economic hardship.

"In times like these, art is a good investment," said Del Ray Artisan Michele Reday, who has been selling paintings in the springtime art sale since it began five years ago. "You could buy fashion, but that will come in and out of style. A painting is forever."

Participating artists say the springtime art show has a much more intimate feel than the larger and more well known Art on the

SEE ART PAGE 24

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The cast of "Heroes."

Pure Charm Takes The Stage

MetroStage features a terrific trio of "Heroes." Where and When

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
GAZETTE PACKET

Three local actors, Ralph Cosham, John Dow and Michael Tolyado, work wonders as they perform a short and slight comedy of a trio of aging residents in an old soldiers home at MetroStage on North Royal Street. "Heroes," translated from Gérald Sibleyras' original French into English by Tom Stoppard, is a play about French Army veterans of World War One that gives these three veterans of local stages all the bright pithy lines they need to cast a wonderful spell over an audience.

There's Ralph Cosham as an old soldier whose dreams of escape from the home, if only so far as to the poplars he can see from the terrace, form the slender plot of this collegiality confection.

John Dow is a vet with a scrap of shrapnel still in his head, causing him to lose consciousness at various times, only to awake repeating the same line each time: "Captain, We'll take them from the rear." Just what that means only becomes clear half way through the play.

Michael Tolyado, who was so memorably gentle here at MetroStage in "Sea Marks" a number of years ago, returns to play a former soldier who doesn't let his need for a cane keep him from his daily constitutional.

It was Tolyado who discovered the script and brought it to the attention of MetroStage's Producing Artistic Director, Carolyn Griffin. It wasn't the first time he'd brought in a real charmer of a play. He was the one who discovered "Sea Marks" as well. So far, with two plays discovered, he's batting a thousand.

The project is under the direction of John Vreeke, himself a veteran of many wonderful productions in our region, including both "For The Pleasure Of Seeing Her Again" and "One Good Marriage" at MetroStage. He allows his cast the luxury of a leisurely pace for the piece, giving the audience a chance to savor particularly satisfying moments without letting the play appear to drag.

Colin K. Bills, whose many design credits in our region has included a number of productions where he designed both set and lighting, again handles both aspects here, providing a single locale set of the terrace

"Heroes" continues through May 24 at Metrostage, 1200 North Royal Street. Performances are Thursday - Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

of the old soldier's home which give the actors distinct areas in which to work (just watch Tolyado purposeful cane-assisted stride across the back walkway or Dow droop over the park bench in one of his character's spells).

The simple set, gentle lighting, appropriate chamber-music interludes between scenes and the spot-on costumes provided by Ivania Stack combine to put the attention precisely where it should be: on the performance of the three actors. They deliver gentle, affectionate performances that charm the audience for just under an hour and a half that make this lovely one-act play a delight.

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.

THEATER LISTINGS

Tennessee Williams' "Small Craft Warnings" will be performed at the Clark Street Playhouse, 601 S. Clark St., through May 10. Tickets range between \$25-\$35/person. Visit www.boxofficetickets.com/WSC or 1-800-494-TIXS.

See "Rosa de Dos Aromas (Two-Scented Rose)" at Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang St., from May 21 through June 13. \$25/person; \$20/student, senior. Visit www.teatrodelaluna.org

or 703-548-3092.

See "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde" at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria through May 9. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or 703-683-0496.

Synetic Theater, 4041 Campbell Ave., presents "A Swedish Tiger" from April 22 through May 24.

Performances are Thursdays through Sundays at 8 p.m. \$20/adult; \$10/student.

"Giant" through May 31 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Based on the novel by Edna Ferber. \$49-\$77/person. Visit www.signature-theatre.org or 703-573-SEAT.

See "Legacy of Light" from May 8 through June 14 at Arena Stage. Tickets are \$25-\$66/person. Visit www.arenastage.org or 202-488-3300.

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FINE ARTS

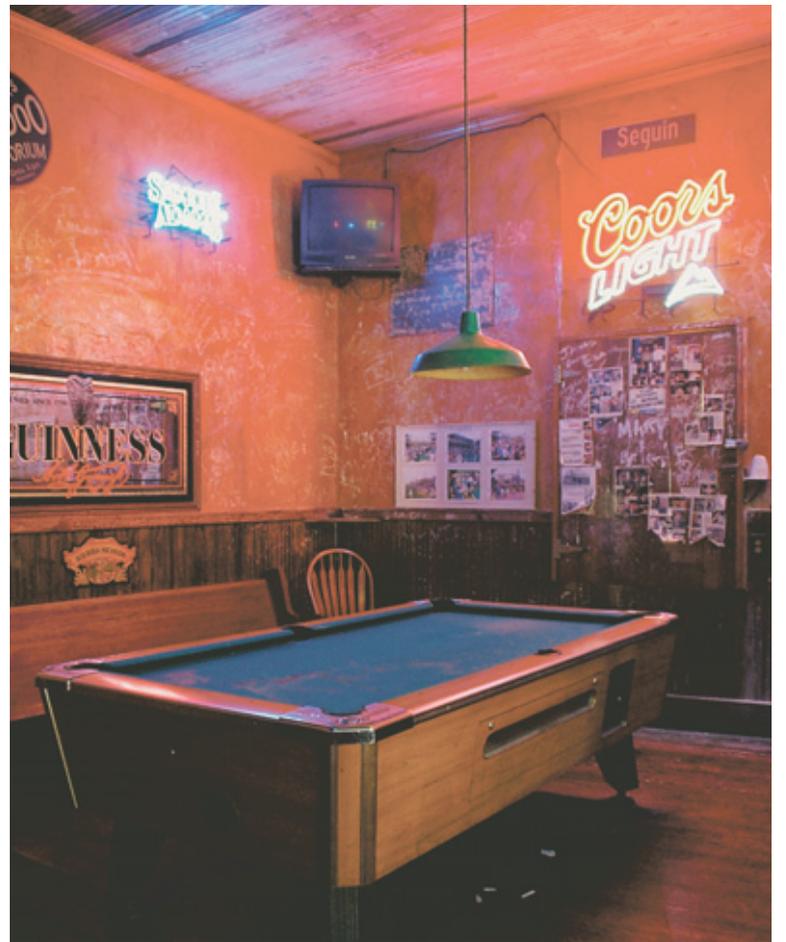
Art Sale At Del Ray

FROM PAGE 23

Avenue, which takes place in October. The smaller scale allows the Commonwealth Avenue gallery to be featured in a way that larger events won't allow. And participants are limited to active members of the Del Ray Artisans, so the universe of work available is strictly local.

"This gallery has a strong connection with the neighborhood, so people tend to come out," said Michele Banks, a painter who has participated in three of the spring-time sales. "It's not a huge crowd, but it's a nice crowd if the weather cooperates."

**Tai Shan Visits Del Ray
by Rob Rudick will be
for sale.**



Old Point Bar (New Orleans) by Rob Rudick will be for sale.

Spring Art Sale

On May 9, the Del Ray Artisans will host its sixth annual Spring Outdoor Art Sale at the Colasanto Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Original works from over 20 artists in a variety of 2D and 3D media will be featured. This is a rain or shine event and is free and open to the public. 703-838-4827.

Other Items

Art at the Center, 25 S. Quaker Lane, Room 16, classes are forming now for adults and children from 18 months and up. For details go to www.artatthecenter.org or call 703-581-5598.

Life Drawing (and painting) at Del Ray Artisans is open to all artists. Short poses scheduled for Mondays May 4 and June 8 and long poses for painting on Mondays May 25 and June 15. Sessions are from 2 - 5 p.m.; \$8 for DRA members and \$10 for non-members. Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Contact Katherine Rand at 703-836-1468 or visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Exhibits

"Roots and Wings" is on display at the Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. **from April 9 through May 4.** See work by Christine Giammichele. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

See **paintings** by the Potomac Valley Watercolorists at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Runs from April 28 **through June 28.** Visit potomacvalleywatercolorist.com for more.

Through May 3, see the **"April Members Show"** at Gallery West, 1213 King St. See works by new members. Free. Visit www.gallery-west.com for more.

See **"Progression"** at The Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Suzanne Yurdin presents abstract paintings **from May 7 through June 1.** Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.



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**Reservations are required and
limited to 40 guests.
Admission is free.**

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper.

Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

ONGOING

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

Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services present free **dance workshops** at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, from 3:30-5 p.m. on 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.

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.

Join City archaeologists and trained volunteers for a program for children of all ages at Alexandria Archaeology **Family Dig Days**. Monthly Family Dig Days will be held from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, in Alexandria. The 2009 dates are: Saturday, May 30; Saturday, July 18; Saturday, Aug. 15; Saturday, Sept. 12; Saturday, Oct. 17. \$5/person. Registration required, 703-838-4399 or visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org.

Mount Vernon commemorates George and Martha Washington's 250th wedding anniversary with a **new collection of fine stationery** available at the Shops at Mount Vernon, open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Visit MountVernon.org or 703-

780-2000.

FRIDAY/MAY 1

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.

Art show and Sale. 1-8 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Partial proceeds benefit Lazarus Ministry. Free.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. Watch "Footloose." \$10/person.

Annual Gala. Terminal A of Reagan Washington National Airport. \$150/person with proceeds benefiting New Hope Housing. Reservations at 703-799-2293.

Music Performance. 8:30 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear music by Cole. Free. Visit www.themusicofcole.com for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 2

Kentucky Derby Party. 4-8 p.m. at an undetermined location. Enjoy food, bets and more. All proceeds benefit the Campagna Center. 703-549-0111 ext. 107.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. \$20-\$80/person. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

Music Performance. 2 p.m. at St. Paul's Old Town, 228 S. Pitt St. Hear the keyboard scholars. Free. Donations accepted.

Garden Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 27



Call Randy Bender
703.906.1749

Fax: 703-739-0521

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- ◆ Master has many closets, luxury bath with corner tub and separate shower, and private deck with endless views

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Alexandria \$1,400/mo
Pembroke Village

Two level, 2 BR, 2 full BA condo. Vaulted ceilings in living area with corner gas fireplace, plus walks out to deck. Open kitchen with bar area also walks out to 2nd deck. Upper level has large loft area that overlooks living room, 2nd bedroom and 2nd full bath. It's ready for you to move in.

Alexandria \$1,450/mo
Valley View

All brick and stone Cape Cod with excellent Alexandria location. Beautifully landscaped 1/3 of an acre yard perfect for entertaining. 2 BR, 1 full BA, eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, many large windows, walk up floored attic for lots of storage. This is a must see.

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Monday, June 1st, 2009
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Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

Kim Allen Kluge, Music Director

Saturday Evening
May 2, 2009
8:00 P.M.

Season Finale Concert

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... A Symphonic Season
Inspired by the Voice!

Wagner	<i>Tannhäuser Overture</i>
Rodgers	<i>South Pacific Overture</i>
Tchaikovsky	<i>Symphony #5</i>

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photos: Carol Pratt

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Real food, for real people at reasonable prices.

Monday - Kids Night

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

Tuesday - Greek Night

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

Wednesday - All American Night

Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken, Va. Ham

Thursday - Italian Night

Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

Friday - Fish Night

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

Saturday -Steak and Chop Night

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

Sunday

Brunch served 7am - 2pm

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

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730 North Saint Asaph Street
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(703) 548-1616**

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DANCING

**Friday Nighters Go To
The Movies**

The invitation read “Come dressed as your favorite actor or movie character.” It came on the announcement to the monthly dance of the Friday Nighters Dancing Club held their monthly dance in Mount Vernon. Sally Fields arrived on the arm of Groucho Marx followed by Marlon Brando and his beautiful wife. The members and guests danced to the live music of The Family. The dancing club has been active in the area since 1945. Monthly dances are held throughout the year, usually on the second Friday of the month with the exception of July and August. For more information on the club visit www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com



New members Doris and Steve Hallerman take a twirl on the floor.



Club president Peter Zeranski and his wife Laura.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE
KRAFFT/GAZETTE
PACKET



The Family with Larry Kopp, Alan Freedman, Alex Smith and Frank Cocuzzi have been performing continually at the club dances for the past 12 years.

CALENDAR



The Alexandria Harmonizers will perform on Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9 at Annandale High School.

FROM PAGE 25

Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Browse shrubs, plants, flowers and more from local growers. Free. Visit www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173.

Grandma Rita's Children Fund-raiser. 2-7 p.m. at Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road. Enjoy a crop space, light dinner and more. \$45. E-mail avonlady_jihanna@msn.com for more.

Art show and Sale. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Partial proceeds benefit Lazarus Ministry. Free.

BIG Sale. Items donation by Washington Metro Chapter of American Society of Interior Designers will be on sale, including wall hangings, blinds, shades and more at Habitat ReStore of Northern Virginia, 7770 Richmond Highway. Visit www.restorenova.org or 703-521-9890 ext. 105.

British are Coming. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Carlyle House. Hear stories from British soldiers, view equipment and more. For more information regarding this event, contact the Carlyle House at 703-549-2997 or Carlyle@nvrpa.org.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Schlesinger Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Season finale of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. \$20-\$70/person. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. Watch "Footloose." \$10/person.

Mother's Day Art Studio. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Get ready for Mother's Day by making cards and gifts for mom, grandmas and anyone else. Visit www.artatthecenter.org/classes for details.

Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Williamsburg Manor Community. Free. 703-780-5009.

SUNDAY/MAY 3

Reception. 1-3 p.m. see paintings by the Potomac Valley Watercolorists at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Runs from April 28 through June 28. Visit potomacvalleywatercolorist.com for more.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Hear the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. \$25/adult; \$20/senior; \$5/student. 703-635-2770.

Opening Day. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park. The West End Farmers' Market is open. Free. 703-838-4343.

Concert with a Cause. 4 p.m. at Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 S. Fairfax St. Hear Shaun and Jina Tirrell perform. Free. Donations benefit Faith Ministry. Visit www.opmh.org for more.

Art show and Sale. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Partial proceeds benefit Lazarus Ministry. Free.

Benefit Brunch. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Hosted by the Board of Lady Managers. Donations benefit NICU of INOVA Alexandria. 703-919-1149.

Architecture in the Afternoon. 2 p.m. at Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road. Learn about George Mason's home. Admission applies. Visit www.gunstonhall.org for more.

Family Fun Festival. Noon-4 p.m. at Browne Academy, 5917 Telegraph Road. Free admission, cost for tickets and food. Enjoy games, rides, and more.

Mother's Day Art Studio. 2-3:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Get ready for Mother's Day by making cards and gifts. Visit www.artatthecenter.org/classes for details.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear music by South American composers. \$25/person. 703-264-1258.

Bach Vespers. 6-6:45 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian, 2701 Cameron Mills Road. Free. www.wpc-alex.org.

Chorus Concert. 4 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road. Hear the Alexandria Choral Society. Free. Visit www.alexchoralsociety.org or 703-548-4734.

Walk Through Old Town. Five mile Walkathon to raise funds for the ALIVE! Child Development Center. Starts at 2723 King Street at 1:30 p.m. Community picnic to follow. www.alive-inc.org or 703-548-9255.

MONDAY/MAY 4

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.

Workshop. Learn how to create spring-inspired centerpieces at 7 p.m. at the Studio, 8088 Danewood Drive. \$255/three classes. Visit www.WisteriaFlorals.com or 703-336-1042 to register.

Mother's Day Art Studio. 2-3:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Get ready for Mother's Day by making cards and gifts. Visit www.artatthecenter.org/classes for details.

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children 1-2 years can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

TUESDAY/MAY 5

Benefit Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road. Hear Mendelssohn's Octet in E-Flat Major. Donations accepted. 703-933-4135.

Lullaby Stories. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children 1-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. 703-339-4610.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 6

Girls Night Out. 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Teens can discuss books. Call for titles. Age 12-15. Registration required, 703-971-0010.

THURSDAY/MAY 7

Fiesta Cinco de Mayo. 6:30 p.m. at Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota, 3750 Jefferson Davis Highway. \$100/person, proceeds benefit health care of low-income families. Enjoy music, raffles, auction, food and more. E-mail cincodemayoalex@aol.com

BBQ. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Enjoy bbq pork, chicken and more. \$8/proceeds benefit church. Visit www.saintlukeschurch.net or 703-765-4342.

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May 10**



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SUNDAY, MAY 3 • 3:00 PM
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Ludwig Spohr: Nonet for Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, Bassoon and Strings in F Major, Op. 31
Elliot Carter: Quintet for Winds
Johannes Brahms: Serenade No. 2 in A Major, Op. 16

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Tickets: \$25 adults • \$20 seniors • \$5 students
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Celebrate Mother's Day with an Eclipse Musicale
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Sunday, May 10th • 2:00 pm
\$75 includes chamber recital and light dinner
Call (703) 635-2770 for reservations



Sylvia Alimena, Music Director

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Arlington North **\$1,249,000**

Maywood Renovation

Masterful expansion and renovation of 1920s farmhouse in keeping with Maywood Historic District guidelines and using "green" elements. Beautiful recycled wood floors unify the new and old part of the home on the main level which offers a living room, spacious dining room, sleek kitchen with Energy Star appliances and onyx countertops, and wonderful family room with atrium doors to the rear porch. Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms plus the laundry room while the top floor is a retreat for a home office or playroom. The lower level has a rec room with extensive audiovisual capabilities, guest suite with fireplace and bathroom and an atrium door to the patio. Walk to shops, restaurants, park and bike path. One light to D.C.! Taylor, Swanson, Washington-Lee schools.



Arlington North **\$1,335,000**

Dramatic Views

Nestled on the end of a private cul-de-sac, this expansive home is sited on a half-acre lot and provides views of the Potomac, Georgetown and Washington. Exceptionally large rooms include living, dining and family room with tall windows, updated kitchen with breakfast area, four large bedrooms and two bathrooms upstairs along with the laundry room. The lower level has recently been updated with a stone fireplace and media/rec room with a second kitchen. Also on this level is the 5th bedroom with private bathroom and a playroom with pint-sized powder room. Just blocks from Potomac Overlook Park and an easy commute to Washington, Crystal City, Airport, Pentagon, Old Town, Langley and Tyson's Corner. Taylor, Williamsburg, Yorktown schools.



Arlington North **\$995,000**

Cherrydale Craftsman

Built in 1917, this authentic Craftsman home was renovated and expanded in 2005 by Morris-Day. Enter through a deep front porch to the inviting living room with wood-burning fireplace flanked by bookcases. Built-ins are also in the den and breakfast area which has a door leading to the deck and level, fenced yard. The kitchen has honed granite countertops, cream cabinets and stainless appliances and a pantry too. Upstairs there are three bedrooms and two new bathrooms. A sleeping porch remains off one bedroom while the master bedroom has windows overlooking the yard. A one-car garage completes the home. Walk to Ballston Metro, shops, restaurants, library, parks and bike path. Taylor, Swanson, Washington-Lee schools.



BETSY TWIGG
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E-mail: betsy.twigg@longandfoster.com
Web: betsytwigg.LNFRE.com



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 22

Alexandria has too many critical challenges before it not to have voting representation on both sides of the aisle. Frank Fannon is the balance that we need. On May 5, voters will benefit by electing Frank Fannon to City Council.

Steven Moore

Responsible Board Member

To the Editor:

We support Sheryl Gorsuch for reelection to her second term on the School Board of the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), District A. As a long-time advocate for our children, Sheryl is uniquely qualified to serve the needs of our community. Before her first election to the board, she invested the time to understand the issues, the needs of our community, and the needs of our students, among other things serving as PTA president, on the PTA Council, and on the ACPS Budget Advisory Committee. In her first term on the board, she has advocated for the best interests of our children, she has listened to the concerns of the community, and has worked to bring consensus on difficult issues. Sheryl has always been responsive to the issues brought to her by community members, and we appreciate all that she has done. In addition, as a successful small business owner, Sheryl has demonstrated the business skills necessary to be a good leader.

Sheryl commits the time and effort required to understand how the school system functions, so as to consistently offer realistic solutions for improvement. Sheryl has been instrumental in developing the strategic plan for Alexandria City Public Schools, bringing the vision needed to focus our limited resources on our most important issues.

Please join us in re-electing Sheryl Gorsuch to the Alexandria School Board. We know her to be a responsible board member and a good friend.

Karen Helbrecht, Gordon Johnston, Lonnie Rich, Marcia Call, Sean and Marilyn Doherty, Peter and Jenny Heimberg

Serves with Dedication

To the Editor:

This certifies unreserved support for the Honorable Vice Mayor, Del Pepper, for re-election to City Council. For years, Del Pepper has served the community well with dedication, honesty, vision and good will. She is well known for

service in a wide variety of community organizations such as the NAACP of which she and 15 members of the Pepper family are also lifetime members.

Del Pepper, since arriving in our city, has persistently promoted both general health and mental health. She has consistently supported our public school system during good times and bad times. Her service on the Hammond School Board and the T.C. Williams PTSA is particularly noteworthy. She has also been a persistent promoter of affordable housing and a protector of the rights of the disadvantaged.

In my opinion, Del Pepper has always been responsive to the total needs of all citizens. On May 5, I will vote to re-elect Del Pepper and hope that you will do the same for the continued growth of our "dream city."

Ferdinand T. Day
Alexandria

Innovative, Committed

To the Editor:

Supporting Frank Fannon for City Council on May 5 is a show of support for a native Alexandrian that exhibits leadership and commitment to our community every day. Knowing Frank for more than 20 years, I have had several business dealings with him, benefiting from his experience and knowledge in each. Additionally, I have observed Frank's growth and use of innovative ideas with his clients' concerns at heart and leading his own successful business in Alexandria as he remains committed to our community. Frank consistently contributes to our community and organization operating in it financially, as well as participating in numerous activities. His time and sincere efforts to improve every endeavor he involves himself in a fiscally responsible way, demonstrates the type of leadership we need on our city council.

As a past president of the Alexandria Sportsman's Club I have served with Frank on the Board of Governors and as an officers of the club. Frank's genuine desire to do more than just maintain the club at status quo and position it to do more for youth of Alexandria in the future lead to increases in membership, left it stronger financially, and enabled the scholarship funds to grow.

Frank Fannon's Alexandria based business, community activism, and demonstrations of leadership in each exemplify the reasons we need to support him for

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 29

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 28

Alexandria City Council.
John Crane

Past President Alexandria
Sportsman's Club

Champion for Children

To the Editor:

We are writing this letter in support of the re-election of Rob Krupicka for City Council. We could delve into various examples of his leadership, but would like to emphasize one of Rob's major contributions — his efforts on behalf of our City's children. Rob and his wife Lisa are tireless champions for all our children in their efforts to become productive and successful citizens. His commitment to ensuring that our City's children have access to quality preschool is well known.

Rob chairs the Governor's School Readiness Task Force and in that capacity helped create a comprehensive and visionary set of statewide standards to ensure that every child is ready for school. As a member of the Virginia Board of Education, Rob will take his leadership in school readiness to the next level in our statewide K-12 programs. No doubt he will

help create innovative policies that ensure our children's success through their school age years. Bringing the skills and insights from these statewide endeavors back to our community is one of Rob's greatest assets. Our School Board has created a new strategic plan with a vision that states we will "Set the international standard for educational excellence, where all students achieve their potential and actively contribute to our local and global communities." Changing our vision from "meeting standards" to "setting standards" is a huge shift in priorities. It raises the bar to a level we have too often perceived as unattainable and it requires a collective responsibility far beyond the support system of our schools. Without the necessary leadership on Council and elsewhere in our City, we cannot achieve the level of success that is explicitly stated in this new vision.

Therefore, we strongly encourage you to turn out for the Council elections on May 5 and to vote for Rob Krupicka. Rob's proven and passionate leadership is needed if we are to make the success of all our children a reality ... not just a dream!

Monica Bell, Charlie and Sandi Collum, Sean

McEneaney, Art Schmalz, Sheryl Gorsuch, Bob Bell, Marcia Call, Eileen Rivera, and Susan Johnson.

Unacceptable Status Quo

To the Editor:

I attended last week's District A Candidate Forum for School Board at Mount Vernon Community School and was most impressed with Bill Campbell, who has not received much attention to date. He answered every question with such passion and commitment, and underscored the importance of parental involvement to the success of all of our students. More importantly, when the panel of candidates was asked what was the most pressing issue confronting our schools, Bill Campbell expressed what I hope was the feeling of all who were in attendance that night; his shock and disappointment that a School Board incumbent's response was "aging facilities and infrastructure."

Bill Campbell responded "When we put plaques on buildings in this town that are 100 years old, I cannot believe a sitting School Board member believes aging infrastructure is our number one problem.

When we know that 1 out of every 4 Hispanics drops out and that 40 percent of our students come to high school reading below grade level, folks, that's sad."

He is absolutely right. We can tolerate this no more. We pay too much money in Alexandria to have School Board members who are so out of touch sitting on the board.

This is why I am voting for Bill Campbell, Mimi Carter and Sheryl Gorsuch for School Board on Tuesday, May 5. Their platforms of parental engagement, academic excellence and accountability will take our school system where it needs to be. The status quo is simply unacceptable to me.

Maria Getoff

Expertise Needed

To the Editor:

Alexandria needs to reelect Tim Lovain as a member of the Alexandria City Council. Tim has the transportation expertise to help solve Alexandria's traffic problems. He understands that providing alternative multi-modal transportation systems using efficient, arterial routes for Alexandrians is one of the best ways to protect our neighborhoods and

keep Alexandria moving. Tim's goal is to move people, not cars, around Alexandria.

Tim Lovain was a valuable supporter of the Transportation Master Plan adopted for Alexandria last year. He understands that planning in advance is the key to handling Alexandria's transportation issues and will assure that every land use decision fits into the overall transportation plan for the City.

Tim knows that we need to implement multi-modal integrated transportation systems that include trolleys, bus rapid transit, dedicated bicycle lanes, improved pedestrian walks and enhancements to existing public transportation. Tim Lovain has sponsored a public forum on street cars to educate Alexandrians about how the modern street car fits into today's transportation plans. It is definitely "not your father's car" any longer.

Improved public transportation is not just more routes and vehicles — it is using technology to alert riders to when vehicles will be arriving and where there are delays — as well as providing comfortable "Smart Shelters" in which riders can wait comfortably. Modern

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 30



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 28
technology allows public transportation to be easy to use and become the first choice of people in Alexandria.

There must be reliable transportation alternatives to automobiles. Alexandria needs to implement the Master Plan which recognizes these alternatives. Tim Lovain has been in the forefront in focusing on this and we need to retain his expertise on City Council. All Alexandrians need to support Tim Lovain for City Council.

Lois Walker

Neighborhood Representative

To the Editor:

We are parents of young children who will be attending kindergarten at Jefferson-Houston School in the fall. Jefferson-Houston has suffered in the past from lack of attention from ACPS. Principals came and went, the arts curriculum failed, and many middle class parents opted out, lotteried out, or moved out. A big part of the problem was that no one represented the neighborhood around Jefferson-Houston on the school board. On May 5, we have the chance to fix that — by electing Helen Morris.

Helen has led a group of interested parents and community members to advocate for Jefferson-Houston, studying and pursuing needed reforms while working closely and collaboratively with Kimberley Graves, Jefferson-Houston's principal. Helen believes that each child at Jefferson-Houston can and should succeed, and that implementing the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program at the school will drive that success. We are excited to have IB at our school, and want it to make Jefferson-Houston the pride of all of our neighborhoods, as Jefferson-Houston is the neighborhood school for much of Old Town where Beth lives and part of Del Ray where Stephen lives.

So we were troubled by some of the things we heard at the School Board District A candidate debate at the Durant Center on Monday, April 20. Sheryl Gorsuch, who comes from Del Ray, made noises about supporting IB during the debate — but the fact is that she voted against implementing IB at Jefferson-Houston and spoke out against IB at every turn. So it was disappointing that Ms. Gorsuch did not have the courage of her convictions to explain what those concerns were while debating right next to Jefferson-Houston and in front of Jefferson-Houston parents.

Del Ray candidate Mimi Carter also made a good show of praising Jefferson-Houston's recent progress and mouthing support for IB. But this position is wholly at odds with her own Web site, where Ms. Carter said that ACPS should consider closing Jefferson-Houston as a neighborhood elementary school and transferring all the students to surrounding schools. We think this is a terrible idea and a slap at the Parker-Gray community and everyone involved in making Jefferson-Houston a wonderful school.

By contrast, we think that Helen Morris will provide principled, consistent, and honest leadership on the School Board for Parker-Gray, Old Town, Del Ray, and all of Alexandria. We are proudly and loudly supporting her on May 5.

Stephen Mostow
Beth Coast

Beyond 'D' or 'R'

To the Editor:

I am a property owner and a long time City of Alexandria resident. My business is located here as are most of my friends. I care about this city and what happens to its citizenry and my tax dollars. I love the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I am supporting two candidates this year who are from opposing parties, but have our best interest at heart. Frank Fannon for City Council and Brian Moran for governor.

I am a registered Republican, but I'm going to vote for Brian Moran for governor. As strange as that may sound, it makes total sense to me. Brian has proved time and time again that he gets it, he has worked hard, he is honest and he has the best interest of his constituents at heart.

At some point I decided that the mettle of the man was more important than the "D" or "R" after the name on the ballot.

On May 5, the city will hold elections for city council; I fear it will result in the same old song, "D" or "R", "D" or "R", with quality people being excluded from the function of government because of some misguided adherence to a national party being displayed in a local election. Maybe it's time to drop the old party line and vote the mettle of the man (or woman.)

My friend Frank Fannon is a tireless worker, he loves this city, and, like Brian, he gets it. Frank is a 5th generation Alexandrian who truly cares about our city. Frank knows our neighborhoods well, believes ideas count more than party labels, and has the financial exper-

tise we need in government right now.

I'm going to put away my elephant tie for the day and give Brian a shot, because of who he is, not because of or despite his political affiliation. He is the best person for the job.

I encourage Alexandria Democrats to give Frank Fannon the same opportunity. If you love this city as much as I do and if you care about it's future, buck the system, leave the donkey tie in the closet and cast a vote for Frank Fannon on May 5.

John R. Keegan
Alexandria

Innovative Thinker

To the Editor:

As the parent of an Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) student and a soon-to-be kindergartner, and the spouse of an ACPS teacher, I encourage all voters in District A to choose Mimi Carter for Alexandria School Board.

I have known Mimi through the Mount Vernon Community School PTA. She is an amazing leader. Mimi encourages parental involvement, takes time to learn about new issues and always makes decisions based on what will help our students and teachers.

Mimi has devoted countless hours to organizing programs at MVCS, listening to school staff and working with the School Board to maximize resources that will meet our children's needs.

Mimi is absolutely correct that ACPS needs to devote more attention to making sure that we are educating children who live in Alexandria. Our school system offers fantastic opportunities. It is no wonder that families living outside of the city want their children to attend our schools. Our students and taxpayers rely on ACPS to protect those resources.

Mimi will be an effective addition to our School Board. She is dedicated, intelligent, knows when we need to work in new directions and has the innovative thinking to do what is best for our kids.

I hope that District A voters will join me in voting for Mimi Carter on May 5.

Kimberley Moore

Public School Advocate

To the Editor:

We are writing this letter in support of our neighbor, friend, and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 31

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 30

public school advocate, Scott Newsham, who is running for re-election to the ACPS school board in District A on May 5.

Our relationship with Scott has spanned the last three years of his School Board service and included working collaboratively with him to raise awareness and support for environmental stewardship throughout ACPS. With Scott's support and leadership, environmental stewardship has become an integral element of ACPS' current strategic plan. Our children and community will undoubtedly benefit from the energy and attention he has given to this vital issue.

Scott's leadership targets a single agenda: *raising student achievement system-wide*. He has worked in partnership with ACPS administration, other school board members, and community members to recruit a new superintendent to our school system, develop a budget that meets our children's needs, and create policies that deliver meaningful outcomes for our children.

We have observed Scott's strengths and leadership skills first-hand and know that he brings an unwavering dedication to excellence within ACPS and a capacity for collaboration that translates to positive results. We and other community members who know him appreciate his candor, his responsiveness, and his focus on doing the right thing.

Scott has been involved in public service for more than 30 years. Today, he dedicates himself to enriching every Alexandria City child's education experience through his service on the ACPS School Board. Our community has come to rely on his sound judgment and solution-oriented approach.

Please support Scott Newsham's candidacy for re-election to our School Board on May 5 and ensure that our children continue to

benefit from his exceptional leadership.

Samantha and Kenneth Ahdoot, Linda and Timothy Critchfield, Heather and Freeman Jelks, Christine Matthews, Lori and Lee Quill, Amy Slack and David Fromm, and Margaret Wohler

Progressive Thinker

To the Editor:

I am a small business owner, active environmentalist, and resident of Alexandria for the past nine years. Rob Krupicka strikes me as the right person at the right time to address the issues most pressing to the city — supporting small businesses and the jobs they create and catalyzing a greener Alexandria.

Rob places a high priority on creating consistent and predictable processes for business and on keeping business property taxes relatively low, compared to other jurisdictions here in Northern Virginia. Consistency, predictability, and low-cost make for just the right environment for a small business to thrive. Rob's emphasis on making Alexandria an attractive, livable city means small business owners have a pipeline to talented, local employees. His business policy strikes just the right note, particularly in this economically tough time.

I served for a time on Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission and, in that role, witnessed Rob's commitment to making Alexandria a leading edge city in terms of our environmental sustainability. Rob is a progressive thinker who recognizes the opportunity for our city government and our business community to lead the way in making the city more energy efficient, more pedestrian friendly, less wasteful, and more livable.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 33



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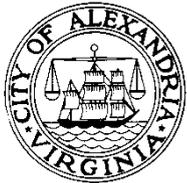
Sapore D'Italia Inc. trading as Sapore D'Italia, 1310 Mount Vernon Ave. Alexandria, VA 22301. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on premise, mixed beverage on premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jose Dominquez Oscar M. Bermudez

ABC LICENSE

Target Stores, Inc trading as Target Store T-1076, 3101 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22305. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine & Beer Off premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Timothy R. Beer Executive Vice President

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the New York, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that proxy ballots for eligible ASCO members to vote on proposed amendments to ASCO Bylaws are available through ASCO's official website, www.asco.org. Eligible members must vote between March 24 and May 18, 2009, to have their proxy ballots counted and delivered to the ASCO President for casting at the 2009 ASCO Annual Business Meeting. Members with questions can email ASCOBylaws@asco.org or call (571) 483-1310.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPEAL OF A DECISION OF THE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW, OLD & HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT ON MARCH 4, 2009.

A public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, on **Saturday, May 16, 2009 at 9:30 am**, in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2008-0158

An appeal of the Board's decision approving, as amended, demolition/encapsulation at **113 Princess St**, zoned RM Residential.

APPLICANT: Karl and Lydia Svoboda

APPELLANT: Mr. and Mrs. Allan Gruer on behalf of petitioners

CASE BAR2008-0159

An appeal of the Board's decision approving, as amended, an addition & alterations at **113 Princess St**, zoned RM Residential.

APPLICANT: Karl and Lydia Svoboda

APPELLANT: Mr. and Mrs. Allan Gruer on behalf of petitioners

This appeal is being held pursuant to Section 10-107 of the Zoning Ordinance for the Old and Historic Alexandria District of the City of Alexandria.

Legal Notices



**Notice of Proposed Ordinance
And
Invitation to Bid
City of Alexandria, Virginia**

The City of Alexandria proposes to grant a franchise, in the manner prescribed by law, for Telecommunications Services, excluding Cable Services, permitting the design, construction, maintenance, upgrade, repair, removal and operation of a system to provide telecommunications services, excluding cable services, for the benefit of residents, businesses and government in the City. Detailed conditions and specifications for the franchise are on file in the office of the Director of Citizen Assistance, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

Notice:

Bids are invited by the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for the grant of a franchise permitting the franchisee to use the public rights-of-way in the City for the design, construction, maintenance, repair, upgrade, removal and operation of a system to provide telecommunications services, excluding cable services, for the benefit of residents, businesses and government in the City. Detailed conditions and specifications for the franchise are on file in the office of the Director of Citizen Assistance, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

The term of the franchise is negotiable, but it shall be for a minimum of five years.

All bids are to be submitted in writing and delivered to Rose Williams Boyd, Director, Office of Citizen Assistance, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before May 18, 2009 at 3:00 pm, eastern time. At that time bids shall be publicly opened and bidders identified.

In addition, identification of the bidders shall be announced in open session of the City Council of the City of Alexandria in the Council's Chambers, City Hall, 301 King Street, second floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on May 26, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at that time, the Mayor shall refer the bids received to the city manager to evaluate, review and consider in the manner prescribed by law, including the selection of, and negotiation of a franchise agreement with, a preferred bidder. As soon thereafter as practicable, the City Manager will recommend the successful bidder, and present the negotiated franchise agreement, for consideration and approval by City Council.

The City reserves the right in the City Manager's sole discretion to reject any and all bids; to terminate negotiations at any stage of the selection process, and to reissue the request for bids with or without modification.

The descriptive notice of the proposed franchise ordinance is as follows:

The proposed ordinance will grant a franchise, under certain conditions, permitting the grantee to use the public rights-of-way in the City of Alexandria, for the design, construction, maintenance, repair, upgrade, removal and operation of a Telecommunications System, excluding Cable Services, for the benefit of residents, businesses and government in the City. (Complete text of ordinance available in office of the City Clerk.)

Jackie M. Henderson
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

PEOPLE



Lonnie Rich, state Sen. Patsy Ticer and Jen Walker



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Marcia Call and her daughter Meg Rich.

Salute to Women Awards

More than 250 people attended the Alexandria Commission for Women's 29th annual Salute to Women Awards Banquet on March 30 to honor 17 outstanding women nominated by fellow residents for their contributions to the Alexandria community. The event is held with support from the Alexandria Office on Women each year during Women's History Month.

Presiding over the banquet, Commission for Women Chair Mary Catherine Gibbs welcomed all award nominees:

- ❖ Marguerite Payez Lifetime Achievement Award – State Sen. Patsy Ticer
- ❖ Women's Health and Safety Advocate Award – Frances Hicks
- ❖ Youth Community Services Award – Dr. Diane Reese
- ❖ Leadership in Business & Career Development Award – Marcia Call

- ❖ Marian Van Landingham Legislation and Public Policy Award – Karen Gautney
- ❖ Rising Star Award – Alicia Hughes
- ❖ Making a Difference Award – Alice Merrill and Linda Odell
- ❖ Volia Lawson Award – Audrey Davis

For the fourth year, the banquet was a fundraiser to support programs of the Office on Women, including domestic and sexual violence services.



Karen Gautney



Diane M. Reese and Audrey P. Davis



Karyn Moran, Alice Merrill and Linda Odell



Frances Hicks

Legal Notices

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

The Board of Equalization and Assessment Review for the City of Alexandria will convene at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2009, at 301 King Street, City Hall, Room 3008, Alexandria, Virginia, for the purpose of equalizing real estate assessments. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss meeting dates, docket order and processing, and other administrative issues. On succeeding days, as established during the May 20 organizational meeting, the Board of Equalization and Assessment Review will meet for the purpose of hearing complaints of inequalities wherein the property owners allege a lack of uniformity in assessment, or errors in acreage in such real estate assessments. The Board also shall hear complaints that real property is assessed at more than fair market value. Persons who wish to appeal to the Board of Equalization and Assessment Review may obtain the necessary forms by applying to the City of Alexandria Department of Real Estate Assessments, 301 King Street, City Hall, Room 2600, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you wish only to obtain the necessary forms related to the assessment appeal process, please call 703-838-4576. The form may also be printed from the City's web site at.....

http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedfiles/realestate/info/request_appeal.pdf

If, after receiving or printing the forms you would like further information, please call 703-838-4646 during normal business hours. **The deadline for filing an appeal is July 1, 2009.** Appeals with a postmark after July 1, 2009, will not be accepted. The July 1, 2009, appeal deadline is not applicable to appeals of assessments made pursuant to Virginia Code § 58.1-3292.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 31

I would encourage all those who want a thriving business community and a thriving green Alexandria to cast a vote for Rob this May.

Jerry Casagrande
CarrotSeed
Alexandria

Big Step Forward

To the Editor:

There is a revolution happening in Alexandria's transportation system.

Due to a concerted effort by the city government and participation by Alexandria residents, our city is now only second in the region to Washington, D.C. for the percentage of residents — 9 percent — who walk or bike to work. In the last Council of Government's survey we passed Arlington's rate of 7.6 percent.

Whether you walk, bike, use transit or drive, you should care about these numbers. This trend towards walking and biking helps to spread out the capacity of our transportation system. According to the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, changing a car trip to a bicycle trip saves us money. This savings comes from the price of congestion, road maintenance, parking, gas, air and noise pollution.

Those of us who are walking and biking more are certainly benefiting from stronger hearts and better health. We are also fighting air pollution, as motor vehicles are responsible for about 30 percent of all NO₂ and VOC emissions, and about 9 percent of particulate matter (aka soot), according to the National Council for Science and the Environment.

This makes Alexandria a more desirable place to live and work, helping our property values. According to the Urban Land Institute, homebuyers are willing to pay a \$20,000 premium to live in pedestrian friendly neighborhoods. And the National Association of Realtors says that trails are one of the most popular features that homebuyers look for.

This trend towards walking and biking has not happened by accident.

The Community Pathways program that Councilman Smedberg and I started, plus our great Safe Routes to School programs, our community bike activists and the City Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator have all helped to make this happen.

We have done a lot to make Alexandria a safer and more convenient place to walk and bike. The City's "Year in Review" document

available on its Web site can give you all of the details, but some of the highlights of our efforts include:

❖ 2.7 miles of on-road bikeways and has approved another 32 miles in the Transportation Master Plan.

❖ A total trail network through the city, including connecting regional trails of 76.6 miles.

❖ The installation in 2008 of the region's first pedestrian beacon — known as a HAWK signal — on Van Dorn Street.

❖ Installation of new sidewalks along including Edsall Road and West Nelson Avenue and approved a Safe Routes to School sidewalk project on Cambridge Road.

❖ Improvement to over 20 individual intersections with new crossing signals, median refuges, crosswalks and safety improvements.

❖ Installation of over 90 new bicycle racks.

❖ Completion of a re-surfacing of the trail along Eisenhower Avenue and built a new 1/2-mile connection to near Vola Lawson Animal Shelter

❖ Two bi-annual Street Smart campaigns, each in the spring and fall, targeted towards drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists to raise awareness about safety. Each campaign included specific enforcement waves with tickets issued.

There is a lot for all of us to be proud of in these numbers. We are moving in the right direction. We need to keep it up.

Rob Krupicka
City Councilman

In This Together

To the Editor:

If you give me 30 minutes of your time on May 5, Election Day, I'll give you three years of my life. Alexandria is a great city. We can make it even better. We're all in this together, so we should do it together. I have the background and experience to help do that. That is why I am a candidate for Alexandria City Council. Please make the time to make a difference. Vote for me on Tuesday, May 5, and you can take part in change for the better.

With all that is at stake today, we cannot afford to talk past one another. We can't afford to allow old differences to prevent us from making progress in areas of common concern. We can't afford to let walls of mistrust stand. Instead, we have to find — and build on — our mutual interests. For it is only when people come together, and seek common ground, that some of that mistrust can begin to

fade. And that is where progress begins.

These are the words of President Barack Obama, spoken during his weekly video address on April 11, 2009. His actions have matched his words through his appointment of Republicans to his own Cabinet. Clearly, it is by working together that we will find better solutions to today's and tomorrow's problems. Alexandria needs the strength to believe in change and togetherness.

I believe that we can best serve Alexandria by creating a City Council of different viewpoints to create greater discussion. Working together by looking at problems from different perspectives will lead to ideas and solutions that make us better than we are now. I have no intention of acting divisively once elected. Working productively, constructively, and proactively, we can achieve everyone's goal: making Alexandria better.

For more than seven years, the City of Alexandria rode the crest of the wave of rising real estate assessments. Since the development of the Patent and Trademark Office, the focus has been on residential development at the expense of commercial development. Current homeowners are suffering because of this strategy. The current City Council wants to raise real estate taxes to make up for declining assessments. I will not vote to raise taxes, and I'll tell you why.

Alexandria needs to focus on reducing the scale of government in head count and dollars spent, while increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of our workforce. We can make budget cuts and still retain all of our services by demanding more from our workforce. Workers in the private sector are suffering layoffs, pay cuts, and the demand for greater productivity. We need to demand the same from our City employees.

Until now, there has been a lack of discussion on the negative effects of an increase in the real estate tax rate. That changes now. I have read and heard residents discussing increases in taxes in terms of a latte (\$3.50 or so) a day. I prefer to discuss a tax increase in terms of items such as school lunches, bus fares, and prescription medicines. To many in our City, \$3.50 a day is a great deal of money and affects them substantially, especially to those who are losing their jobs or dealing with pay cuts. If the City Council increases the real estate tax rate and a family in our City goes hungry or isn't able to pay for necessary medicines, we will be doing a disservice to our residents. The gov-

ernment is here to serve us. We are not here to serve the government.

Phil Cefaratti

Give Locally

To The Editor:

Alexandrians know how important it is to shop locally to support our community's economy. Today, I am asking Alexandrians to give locally to support our community's non-profit health and human services providers.

Thanks to the generosity of citizens and businesses throughout our community, the Alexandria United Way is very close to reaching its 2008-2009 campaign goal. With less than two months remaining in this year's campaign, we need everyone with a little extra to spare to help put us over the top.^o

Because of the recession, non-profit health and human services programs in Alexandria are facing monumental funding cuts at the very same time demand for their services has increased. Reaching our fundraising goal will empower United Way to support these agencies to ensure that services are available to individuals and families in our community who need help. Working together with the United Way of the National Capital Area, these services include programs in the following strategically targeted categories: Helping Children and Youth Succeed, Improving Health and Wellness, Promoting Self Sufficiency, Strengthening and Supporting Families, and Supporting Vulnerable and Aging Populations. In addition, through our own initiatives, Alexandria United Way is working to address the community-wide challenges of Affordable Housing and Child Wellness.

Giving locally to your Alexandria United Way has never been easier. You may donate online through our secure Web site at www.unitedwaynca.org, or you may mail your donation to the UWNCA Administrative Office, 8391 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200, Vienna, VA 22182. Be sure to select code #9001 to designate your contribution to the Alexandria Community Impact Fund. To ensure that your donation counts towards our 2008-2009 campaign goal, please pledge before May 31.

By giving locally to the Alexandria United Way, together we can protect vital non-profit services that make such a difference to the unfortunate in our community during these difficult economic times.

Del. David Englin
2008-2009 Alexandria United
Way Campaign Chair

Structure's Significance

To the Editor:

Referring to the "Gothik Alamo," Alexandria Gazette, April 23, 2009:

In his response to your question regarding an old perception relating St. Paul's church at the Alamo, Professor Wilson evidently was not aware of the former appearance of the facade. At an unknown date in the early part of the 20th c., a small curvilinear parapet was added to the top of the center bay of the facade, and was topped with small cross. The small parapet had a central curved top, flanked by two

smaller curves, the whole vaguely reminiscent of the larger and more pronounced curvilinear elements of the Alamo facade. Thus was born the sense of a physical, but not stylistic, relationship between the two buildings.

In the late 1990s the church underwent a partial restoration of the facade in order to recapture the appearance of the street elevation of the building when completed in 1818. In addition to mortar joints painted on the "sandstone-like" stucco of the facade to simulate stone ashlar courses, it was necessary to remove the so-called "Alamo" parapet to more fully attain the original configuration of the church. This removal was documented as part of the restoration process and images of the former condition of the facade are on file in church archives as well as in my own project files.

Thank you for your assistance in maintaining a sense of accuracy in the historic evolution of this significant structure designed by Mr. Latrobe.

C. Richard Bierce, AIA
Restoration Architect
Alexandria

Protecting Public Land

To the Editor:

Way to go Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar! Since taking office you have begun to halt the run-a-way destruction of our national parks and nature preserves. Thanks. Although this approach has provoked a backlash by those who seek to profit from the destruction of our public lands, you have shown remarkable resolve. Your conscientious understanding that you are a steward is a breath of fresh air after the past eight years.

Thank you for protecting "our" land.

Harriet Matthews
Alexandria

Revival on the Potomac

Area crew teams bask in Potomac River's last annual regatta turned festival.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE

Bishop Ireton senior Clara Candalar was well aware that last weekend's Charlie Butt Invitational is the lone remaining crew regatta to actually take place on the Potomac River every year, but that's not why she loves the event so much.

For her, a member of the Cardinals' varsity four boat, it's all about comfort.

"We've got 1,000 people waiting for seven minutes of race, so the rest of the time is a bit of a party."

— Ireton coach Austin Middleton

"This is the one place where you can walk in spandex and feel completely comfortable," said Candalar. "It doesn't feel awkward at all, you're just proud of it. If we were to go anywhere else in D.C. and do this, you couldn't. It just wouldn't work."

Thousands of athletes, parents, and rowing enthusiasts — including Vice President Joe Biden — joined

Candalar along the Potomac River bank in Georgetown, basking in the glow of the unseasonably warm weather and a crew event that feels more like a festival than a race.

Dozens of tents were filled to the brim with food for post-race consumption as 18 teams — including T.C. Williams, West Potomac, Ireton, and Episcopal — lined a quarter-mile stretch of the district shore while rowers alternated between lounging with friends and cheering on their teammates as they crossed the nearby finish line.

With everything side-by-side, it made for an impromptu tent village along the waterfront.

"We've got 1,000 people waiting for seven minutes of race, so the rest of the time is a bit of a party," said Ireton assistant coach Austin Middleton.

"If I weren't wearing TC stuff, I could probably eat at every tent out there," joked T.C. Williams girls' coach Jon Schildknecht.

FOR REGATTA ORGANIZER and Yorktown coach Andy Bacas, the day's event was more like a revival. A Washington-Lee graduate who rowed for the Generals 35 years ago under coach Charlie Butt, Bacas remembers when every crew race in the area took place on the Potomac, either in Georgetown or down by Alexandria. Butt established the W-L crew program as the first in the area 60 years ago in 1949.

In recent years, though, the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association (VASRA) has de-emphasized regattas on the Potomac in favor of the Occoquan River, which is larger, and therefore can accommodate more teams. For example, a race on the Occoquan can have six lanes of boats, whereas the Potomac has the capacity for just four lanes. The only

SEE CREW TEAMS, PAGE 36

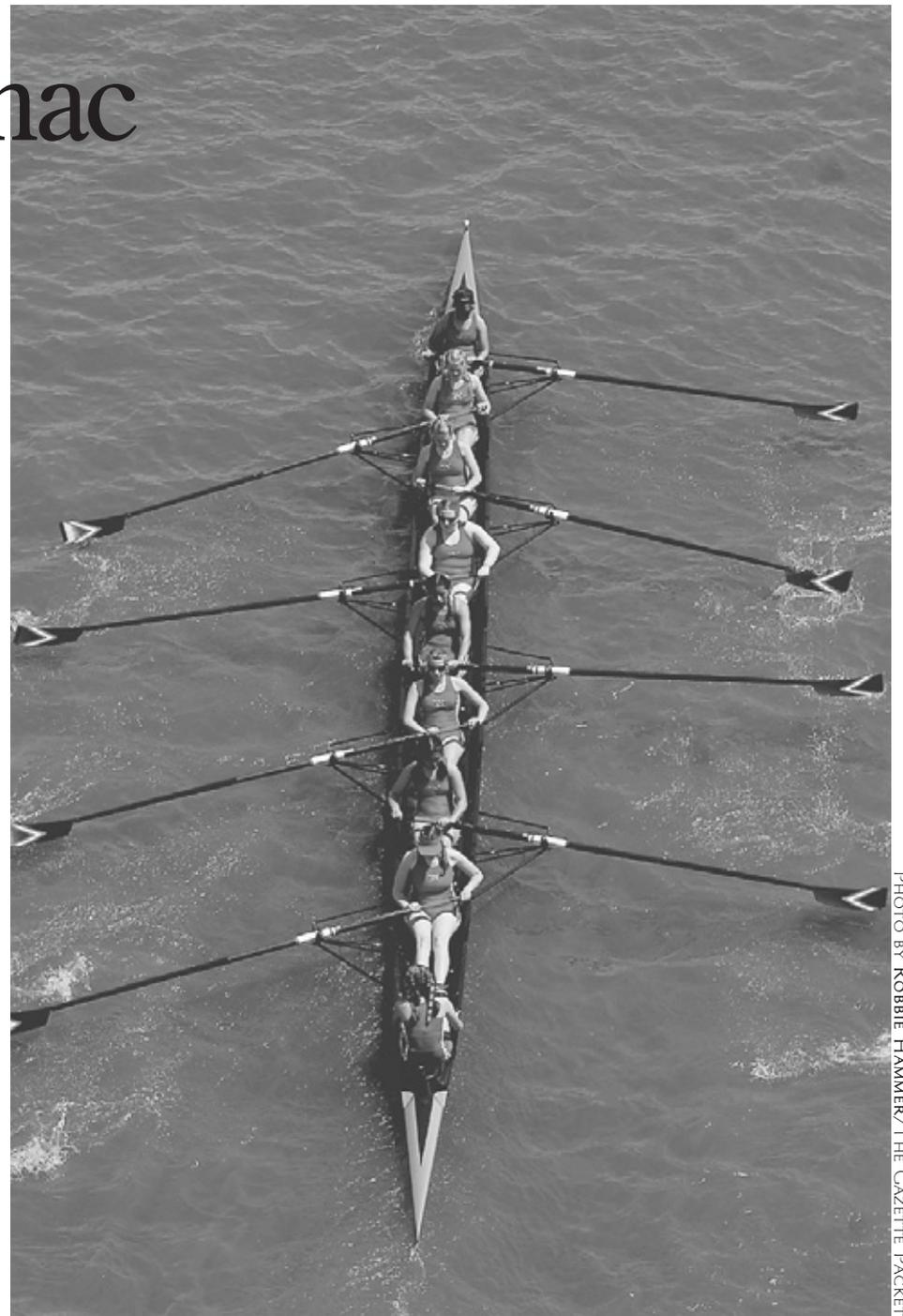


PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE GAZETTE PACKET

The defending state champion T.C. Williams women's varsity eight boat cruised to a first-place finish at the Charlie Butt Invitational this past weekend.

Wounded Titans Keep Trucking Along

T.C. Williams girls' soccer team perseveres through slew of injuries.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE GAZETTE PACKET

As T.C. Williams girls' soccer captain and defender Amy Greco limped off the field with a sprained ankle during last Friday's game against West Potomac, it occurred to coach Williams Heresniak just how depleted his squad had become over recent weeks.

A team that started with 19 players, the coach had a dilemma with just two choices he could make to replace his fallen leader in the back. The Titans have endured a rash of injuries this season that no team in the area can empathize with.

Including Greco, seven players have missed some amount of game time due to

injury, forcing younger, less experienced players to the forefront and in the process, derailing what once looked like a promising season.

"The injuries are really hurting us," said Heresniak after his team dropped games to West Potomac and Annandale this past week. "We have fewer options on the bench to go to."

THE EFFECTS are noticeable when one takes a glance at the Patriot District standings. After beginning the season with four-straight non-district wins, T.C. Williams has yet to win a game against a conference opponent thus far, amassing an 0-4-2 record.

SEE TEAM PERSEVERES, PAGE 35



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

With injuries befalling several top players on the team, T.C. Williams coach William Heresniak has turned to youngsters like freshman Kirby Porterfield to help carry the load.

SPORTS

Team Perseveres Through Injuries

FROM PAGE 34

Part of the problem has been the strength of the Patriot District this year. Three teams — South County, West Springfield, and Lake Braddock — have legitimate regional title hopes.

Another issue is consistency. With the lineup constantly in flux, Heresniak has been unsure what team will show up. For instance, against West Potomac last week, the Titans fell behind 1-0, only to reclaim the lead with two goals in the second half.

But all of a sudden, with no time remaining on the scoreboard clock, the Titan defense broke down and allowed the Wolverines' Gabby Katzbahn-Rush to score the game-tying goal. Afterwards, Heresniak would question whether the refs should have allowed the play to continue considering no time was left, but it was to no avail.

The momentum had changed, though, and West Potomac went on to score two goals in the overtime period to secure a 4-2 victory. It was a game the Titans had in full control only to watch it crumble beneath injuries and mysterious mental lapses.

"We're unpredictable," said Heresniak. "When we

get fired up, we play harder and it's like 'Oh my goodness, we're a new club,' but we're having just random breakdowns like once a game or twice a game when we're letting in stupid goals."

THE GOOD NEWS following a 3-2 loss to Annandale Tuesday night, in which the Titans "dominated the second half" according to their coach, is that help is on the way. Both Greco and junior defender Molly McNabb are rehabbing and hope to return in time for postseason play in two weeks.

And the injuries have allowed talented players like freshman striker Hannah Clark, who had a goal last Friday, and freshmen midfielders Sofie Schelder and Kirby Porterfield a chance to get valuable varsity playing time. Senior captain and midfielder Kamila Benzina has also been a rock in the middle while her team fights through adversity.

Plus, Heresniak was encouraged by the way the team played in both the West Potomac loss and the final half Tuesday night. With winnable games against Edison and Potomac on the horizon and a — hopefully — shrinking infirmity, the Titans have it in their hands to finish the season on a good note.

"When we get fired up, we play harder and it's like 'Oh my goodness, we're a new club.'"

— T.C. Williams coach William Heresniak

ALEXANDRIA SPORTS BRIEFS

T.C. Tennis Makes Regionals

With a 5-4 win over West Potomac Tuesday, the T.C. Williams boys' tennis team secured a spot in Northern Region AAA championships for the second time in three years. The Titans went 12-2 this season with their only losses coming to undefeated Lake Braddock.

Leading the charge was senior Tarik Kottir, who finished the season 14-0 in singles play and 12-2 in doubles matches alongside freshman Kyle Hairston. Co-captain Max Rickett was also impressive, going 12-2 in both singles and doubles this year. His partner was fellow senior Evan Hulehan.

Golfers Shine in IAC Tournament

Episcopal's Adam Stowe posted three-straight birdies on the closing holes to boost him to within one shot of winning the Interstate Athletic Conference (IAC) championship on April 28. The junior's 2-under 69 almost landed him in a playoff with Matt Brown of Georgetown Prep. But Brown sank a tough 6-foot putt on the last hole for his 68 and the individual title at Shenandoah Valley Golf Club.

Senior Joe Curley of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes shot a tidy 33 on the back nine for a 1-over 72 and a tie for third. His teammate David Budway tied for 18th

along with Episcopal's Hill Dubose.

In the IAC team competition, Episcopal finished in fourth place, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, fifth.

Ireton, Episcopal Lacrosse Split

As part of its fifth-annual youth lacrosse day this past Saturday, Bishop Ireton hosted Alexandria rival Episcopal in both boys' and girls' lacrosse games. The festivities also included youth league games scheduled between the two varsity contests.

The Ireton girls, one of the best teams in the area, improved their record to 14-2 this season with a dominating 19-7 victory over the Maroon. Leading the charge was

senior Ashton Hellmuth (Lehigh) who finished with 6 goals and junior Janet Tela (five goals, three assists).

Senior Maria Bowman's (Villanova) also chipped in with a four-goal one-assist performance.

The score could have been even more lopsided if it weren't for the play of Episcopal's goalie, MC McClellan, who finished with 16 saves.

In the boys' game that followed, Episcopal recovered from an early 3-1 deficit against Ireton and scored eight of the contest's next 11 goals en route to a 9-6 victory. For the Maroon, Hunter de Butts, Nick Weeden, and Connor Gallegos all finished with two goals. Leading Ireton were Tommy Skelly and Mike Larrabee with two goals apiece.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Senior Ashton Hellmuth led the Bishop Ireton girls' lacrosse team with six goals in its 19-7 win over Episcopal last Saturday.

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SPORTS



With 18 schools in attendance, there were dozens of tents lining the Potomac River with plenty of food and fun for rowers, their friends, and family in attendance.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Crew Teams Bask in Potomac River's Last Annual Regatta

FROM PAGE 34

problem is most boathouses on the Occoquan are at least 30 miles outside the area.

And while many of the coaches and athletes on hand Saturday agreed that regattas held in the city are logistically more difficult, preserving the tradition and ambiance of crew along the banks of the Potomac is more important.

"I think it's really important that we hold these high school regattas where the city of Washington and the surrounding suburbs can actually see it happening," said Bacas. "The sport needs to keep selling itself as a highly valuable activity with participants and parents, but if we compete in visual obscurity all the time, the city never gets to see what the kids do."

With the Kennedy Center serving as a backdrop, and the lush woods of Roosevelt Island opposite the shoreline, nobody was complaining about the picturesque view along the river.

The course, however, wasn't as smooth. Some coaches complained about river traffic like kayaks and yachts as temperatures rose above 90 degrees. They would have preferred a closed route.

Another issue was a lack of docks at the starting line, with races beginning on a floating basis. This meant most boats weren't even at the starting gun.

BUT THE POSITIVE reviews of a day spent along the Potomac, with familiar landmarks and lots of spectators, far outweighed any negatives.

"I like going under the Key Bridge," said West Potomac sophomore Matthew Bird of the final stretch of Saturday's race that went directly under the arches of the bridge. The Wolverines did not have a boat make the finals.

"I think the setting is one of the best we have, especially in this area if not the whole country," said Episcopal coach Dave Collins, whose women's varsity four boat finished an impressive fourth place against top notch competition, improving their time by 15 seconds. "Logistically, it is a little hard to get around so I don't know if I want to do it every week, but I love coming here at least once a season."

The T.C. Williams crew program certainly made themselves right at home even though they usually practice downstream, where the Potomac hits Alexandria. On the girls'

side, the defending state champion T.C. Williams varsity first eight boat cemented its status as a favorite to repeat with a convincing victory over other perceived frontrunners McLean, Yorktown, and Washington-Lee. The Titans also took first place in the women's varsity second eight race. The Titan boys' varsity first eight made the final heat, but finished in fourth.

Ireton was led by its women's varsity first four, which came in third place, while the Cardinals' second varsity four out rowed Madison by a mere 0.6 seconds in the varsity second four race.

"You cheer with everybody, scream at the top of your lungs with the boat coming down the last 500 meters," said Candamor of how she spent her day. "The spirit here, it's like a family and it's always so much fun."

T.C. Williams assistant rowing coach Adam Soller stands among the masses at last Saturday's Charlie Butt Invitational along the Potomac River in Georgetown.

Too Many Rowers?

Tired of having to make the trek down to the Occoquan River, many area coaches have been advocating for a new boathouse along the Potomac River for years so that more regattas like Saturday's Charlie Butt Invitational can be held. Currently 12 high school rowing teams house their boats at Georgetown's Thompson Boat Center, sharing the space with Georgetown University, George Washington University, and several rowing associations.

To say it's cramped would be an understatement and that was part of the reason Saturday's festivities took all day. T.C. Williams rowing coach Jon Schildknecht graduated from high school in this area in 1992. Back then, he said there were about 12 schools with crew teams.

Now that number is more than double with "30-plus" around the area to go along with a burgeoning rowing scene in the Richmond and Chesapeake areas. And yet, the number of boathouses along the Potomac has remained the same for the past three decades.

"We don't have the infrastructure anywhere," said Schildknecht, whose Titans house their boats at the Dee Campbell Rowing Center, a facility owned and operated by Alexandria City Public Schools in Old Town Alexandria, and not used by other high school crew teams. "Even the Occoquan can barely handle the number of people that use it."

Bishop Ireton rows on the Anacostia, while West Potomac moved to the Mansion House Yacht Club in Mount Vernon to store its boats after having practice time curtailed at their previous home, the Fort Belvoir Marina, three years ago.

"The rowing community around here is in desperate need of a new boathouse," said Bacas, who added that several proposed sites and private funding from Georgetown University have been shot down by the National Park Service, which controls much of the land along the Potomac River. "This is a growing sport and to allow more kids to participate in a complete way, we need to solve the overcrowding."

"I think the setting is one of the best we have, especially in this area if not the whole country."

— Episcopal coach Dave Collins about racing on the Potomac River



Spectators line the Potomac River bank armed with binoculars to get a glimpse of the passing crew teams that took part in the Charlie Butt Invitational this past Saturday.

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21 Announcements

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Giant Yard Sale Cameron Station community yard sale, 5010 Duke St, 5/2, 8:30-1 rain or shine

15 Getaways

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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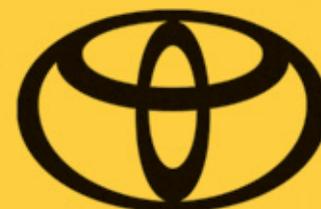
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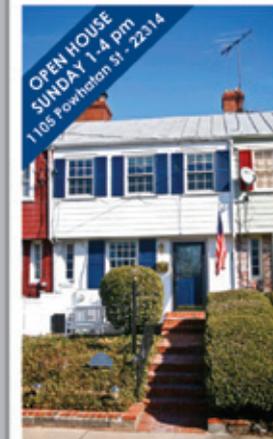


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