

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 25, 2009

## Parker Gray Murders

**A March 9, 2005** in the 700 block of North Fayette Street: Eric Jones, 25, was sentenced to 13 years for murdering Corey Hargrow, 21. The two men, both Alexandria natives, had been friends since childhood. Prosecutors did not present a motive for the murder, which happened in the Andrew Adkins public-housing complex.

**B Dec. 7, 2005** in the 400 block of North Patrick Street: David Murphy, 37, was gunned down in front of his house while working on his truck. Police have yet to arrest anyone in this case.

**C Dec. 27, 2005** in the 800 block of Montgomery Street: Sebastian Carter, 22, was sentenced to 43 years for the murder of Lawrence Sims, 22. Court records show that the two men had an ongoing dispute, culminating in a heated dispute that ended with Carter shooting Sims several times at the edge of the James Bland public-housing complex.

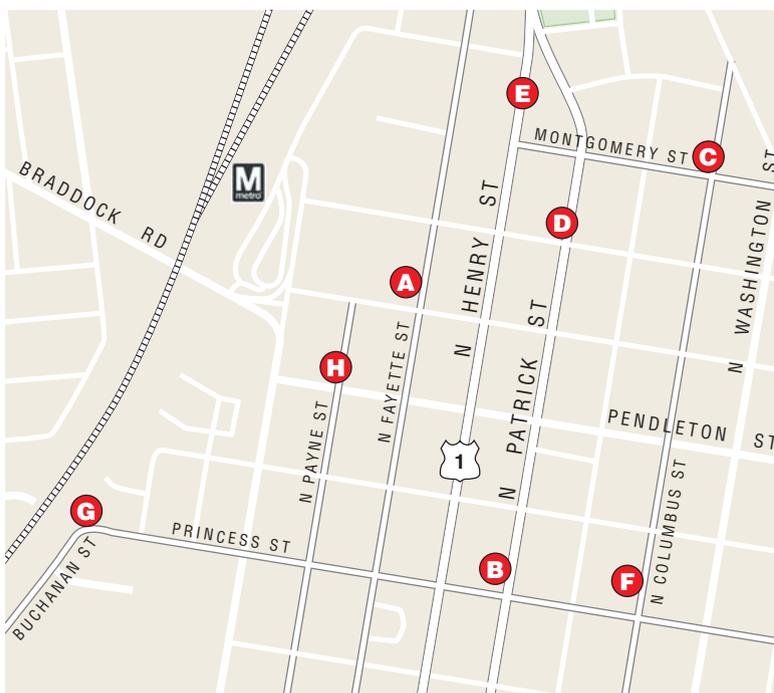
**D April 19, 2007** in the 800 block of North Patrick Street: Darrell Watson, 19, was sentenced to two life sentences for the murder of Nathan Travis Lee, 31, and Mark Anthony Collins, 28. Watson, who was a resident of a public-housing unit in Chatham Square, shot the two men after a dispute over a game of dice.

**E July 19, 2007** in the 900 block of North Henry Street: Gerald Dwayne Curtis, 42, was sentenced to three years for the voluntary manslaughter of Ricardo Lloyd Cherry, 29. After a day of fighting with each other at the Carpenter's Shelter, where they were both staying, Curtis stabbed Cherry.

**F Sept. 22, 2007** in the 400 block of North Columbus Street: No arrests.

**G Jan. 18, 2009** at the intersection of Buchanan Street and Princess Street: Akeem Chappell, 16, Jamal Berry, 20, and Joshua Moore, 18, have been charged with the murder of a 50-year-old taxicab driver named Khalil Siddiqi.

**H June 18, 2009** in the 600 North Payne Street: A 45-year-old Pennsylvania man who was wanted by the U.S. Marshals Service was found dead of trauma to the upper body.



GRAPHIC BY LAURENCE FOONG/GAZETTE PACKET

## Neighborhood Struggles with Another Murder

For many in the Parker Gray, news of homicide was familiar drill.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

It's a routine residents of the Parker Gray neighborhood have come to know too well. First, there's a squadron of cruisers with flashing strobe lights. Then the yellow police tape goes up. Eventually a press release from city officials asking residents if they know any details of the crime. After family members have been notified, the victim is publicly identified. Then there's the wait for results of the autopsy. In most cases, a suspect is arrested.

Sometimes not.

Welcome to Parker Gray.

"It's a problem," admitted Melissa Luby, who has lived in the neighborhood since 1986. "Maybe we need more police coverage. It doesn't seem to me that the community police here are as visible as they used to be."

Whatever the reason, Parker Gray has become location of more murders than any other part of the city. Since 2005, nine of the 22 murders in Alexandria have taken place here. The latest happened last week, when a 45-year-old man from Pennsylvania was

found lying in the 600 block of North Payne Street suffering from trauma to the upper body. Police officials refused to disclose the cause of death, although they identified the victim on Monday as Michael James Horton.

"We're asking for the public's help to find out what he was doing in the area," said Ashley Hilderbrant, who declined to explain the circumstances of his death. "Any information would be helpful to our detectives."

Horton was wanted by the United States Marshals Western Pennsylvania Fugitive Task

SEE ONCE AGAIN, PAGE 4

## Relieving Van Dorn Station

City, Metrorail representatives meet with commuters.

BY TOMMY HILL  
GAZETTE PACKET

The parking lot at the Van Dorn Street Metrorail Station was clogged with cars, buses, and shuttles as commuters poured out of the station exit during rush hour on Friday afternoon. The congestion has become typical at the station. With the surge in residential and commercial development of the surrounding area in recent years, the station's parking lot and bus bays cannot accommodate the volume of vehicles transporting commuters to the station.

One major strain on the parking lot has been the many private shuttle buses that use the lot to pick up and drop off Metrorail riders. Private shuttles, like the ones run by the Manhattan International Limousine Service, provide a vital link between this outlying station on the Blue Line and the many residential centers in the area. "In recent years, we've seen a huge increase in the number of people accessing the station through shuttles," said Jim Maslanka, Division Chief of Transit for the City of Alexandria.

Steven Taubenkibel, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Author

SEE BATTLING, PAGE 4

## One Year In, Sherman Retains Aggressive Agenda

Change in schools: Fast beats slow.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
GAZETTE PACKET

It was the middle of August and Dr. Morton Sherman was two days from officially beginning his new job as superintendent of Alexandria Public Schools. With that in mind, he sat down to watch "Remember the Titans," a symbol of what some say was the Alexandria school system's great-

est achievement, the creation and integration of T.C. Williams High School.

Sherman turned on the DVD and took himself back to another era for Alexandria. He had seen the movie before, but when the beginning credits rolled and the screen flashed "Alexandria, Virginia" for the first time, Sherman got emotional.

"It was an important part of our

history, that this school community came together years ago and did the right thing for kids," said Sherman back in August. "I told the staff that this is like turning the page. There's a wonderful chapter that precedes it and the next chapter that we're going to write together is not 'Remember the Titans,' but 'Imagine the Titans.' We're going to imagine together as a school faculty and as a community what the next chapter of excellence is going to be."

Now 10 months and one school

year into the job, Sherman's vision of bringing the school community back together to address a new set

SEE ONE YEAR IN, PAGE 22





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## The Long Goodbye

Tuesday's night's meeting at City Hall had all the bittersweet pathos of a last day of school or a high-school commencement ceremony. There were speeches and platitudes and promises to stay in touch. Memories were shared and a poem was read into the record. There were even a few tears. In the end, the last meeting of the current City Council offered an opportunity for three outgoing members a chance to say goodbye to their seats on the dais.

"We have a very collaborative council, and sometimes I guess that looked suspiciously machine-like to some people," said outgoing Councilman **Tim Lovain**. "But really it was just friends working together."

Each was presented with a resolution encapsulating highlights of their service, creating a rough draft of a legacy for departing council members. Lovain was applauded for his efforts to create a streetcar system in the city and do away with plastic bags. Outgoing Councilman **Justin Wilson** was honored for his attempt to thwart delivery of unwanted copies of newspapers as well as his granular knowledge of budget detail, with the resolution explaining he "was known by city staff for being familiar (or wanting to be familiar through budget memo requests) with every line item in the proposed budget." And outgoing Councilman **Ludwig Gaines** was celebrated for his efforts to save the Burke Library, his work to create a gang-prevention task force and his endeavor to create a poet laureate for the city.

"The debt that I owe I suspect I'll be paying after this meeting is over," said Gaines. "By cleaning the garage."

## Cha Ching

It's not every day that city officials save taxpayers \$12.5 million. But that's what happened on the third floor of City Hall on Tuesday, where senior city officials were able to use some financial black magic mixed with a measure of creative financial management and a healthy dose of good luck.

First there was a refinancing of debt previously issued by the Washington Transit Authority, which represents the city's share of a portion of the WMATA Metro Matters capital improvement program. That's estimated to save \$3 million over 20 years. Then city officials were able to become the first jurisdiction in the United States to issue Build America Bonds, which were created as part of the stimulus package and include a 35 percent interest-rate subsidy from the federal government. In total, the city sold \$80 million worth of 20-year obligation bonds this week at an interest rate of 3.28 percent. That's seven-tenths of a percent less than last year, which was 3.99 percent.

"This is a number that may set a record or be pretty close to it," said Deputy City Manager **Mark Jinks**. "It was a very good day for the city of Alexandria."

## Green Shoots

Hotel occupancy rates have fallen. Meals taxes are down. Foreclosures are up. Yet city officials say are seeing what they describe as "green shoots" in the economy. For example enhanced revenue-collection methods have added \$300,000 to city coffers. And Alexandria's unemployment rate dropped from 5.1 percent in February to 4.7 percent in April.

"This number is not adjusted for seasonality and tends to decrease every April," wrote City Manager **Jim Hartmann** in the most recent financial report. "But it is a sign of encouragement and was slightly more than half the national unemployment rate in April."

## Dairy Godfather

Something about Alexandria invites its own set of rules. The sun and the moon might not necessarily revolve around the city, but it sometimes seems that way — especially for the offspring of City Council officials. Take **Eli Wilson**, son of Councilman Justin Wilson. When the 4-year-old scion of Alexandria politics was informed that President **Barack Obama** made a weekend appearance at Del Ray's Dairy Godmother, he wondered if anybody more important was there.

"Was the mayor there?" asked the boy, according to an anecdote related later by his father.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



**Frank E. Mann Field Dedicated** Mayor Bill Euille and members of the Alexandria Ace's management and the Alexandria Little League joined with Anita Mann and her children and grandchildren and friends for a dedication and ribbon cutting of the Frank E. Mann Baseball Field on June 5. Former Alexandria Mayor Frank E. Mann died in 2007. A memorial plaque will be placed at the field. The plaque notes Mann's service as mayor and Alexandria council member and Virginia state delegate, many of his accomplishments during his tenure and his effort to bring a minor league baseball team — The Alexandria Dukes — to Alexandria. He was also remembered for his leadership roles and participation in the Alexandria Optimists, The Alexandria Harmonizers and Boys and Girls Club. Because of the rain, the dedication was held inside the Cora Kelly Recreation Center.

# Goal: Individualizing Help

## Outgoing School Board member leaves behind legacy of targeting students who need help.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**S**am Student has a goal. According to a document outlining his path to academic success, Sam hopes to improve his Algebra I grade average by 60 percent to 70 percent by the end of the third quarter. Then there's Sally Student. She hopes to achieve an 85 percent average score on her math quizzes. Mary Mathematician plans to score 80 percent on tests.

None of these students are real, but each of them has an "individualized achievement plan" — the Alexandria Public School's new documents geared to help students who are failing in one or more class. It's a concept that's been advocated for years by outgoing School Board member Eileen Rivera, although her efforts to create such a program were largely ignored during a time when board members were focussed on getting rid of former Superintendent Rebecca Perry and finding a replacement. Now, as Rivera plans to leave office next week, the division's implementation of the individualized achievement plans is a legacy that Rivera leaves behind.

"She was talking about this long before anybody else joined the bandwagon," said Michele Brandon, coordinator of educational enrichment at the

Campagna Center. "This is now a key part of the strategic plan, which is a monumental achievement."

In one-on-one meetings and in public forums, Rivera championed the idea of creating individual plans for struggling students. Modeled on "individualized education programs" that are legally required for students in special education, Rivera envisioned the documents as a way to create metrics for struggling students. She first started talking about the idea after the Advancement Project and Tenets and Workers United released a 2007 report titled "Obstacles to Opportunity" that accused the school system of maintaining a "two-track system," a college-bound track for the privileged white minority and a separate one that marginalized Latino students.

"Eileen did a lot of the heavy lifting after that report was released," said John Liss, executive director of Tenets and Workers United. "She listened to us and heard our concerns and then took action."

**AFTER SUPERINTENDENT** Morton Sherman took control of the city school system, Rivera expressed her concerns to him about the achievement gap in the city — especially among Hispanic students. Once again, she advocated for individualized plans for struggling students. Those discussions led to the creation of 3,000 "individualized achievement plans" that are now guiding expectations for students throughout the system.

"Our first plans will focus on achievement in mathematics, as stated in division goals," said Deputy Superintendent Cathy David in a November presentation on the program. "Yes, we have tried to write plans before, and again, for many students, these



**Eileen Cassidy Rivera**

SEE INDIVIDUALIZING HELP, PAGE 7

# Battling Congestion at Van Dorn Street Station

FROM PAGE 1

ity spokesman, estimated that nearly 25 percent of the roughly 3,700 weekday commuters at the station use the shuttles. Taubenkibel noted that some private shuttles have been idling in the station parking lot's Kiss and Ride zone, disobeying posted traffic regulations and blocking traffic in the lot. Shuttles provided by private companies are restricted from using the lot's bus bays, reserved for Fairfax Connector, Alexandria Dash, and Metrobus vehicles. But for lack of space elsewhere, some shuttles have resorted to using the exclusive bus bays.

"The many shuttles delivering commuters from local residential centers to the station have been causing a serious traffic issue," said Taubenkibel, "and they have also been causing a pedestrian safety issue."

**A COMMUNITY MEETING** held at the Days Inn Alexandria on Thursday, June 18 brought together commuters, shuttle providers, Alexandria City officials and Metropolitan Transit Authority spokespeople to discuss short- and long-term solutions to the station's traffic issues.

City and Metrorail officials unveiled a series of new regulations to help encourage a smoother, safer flow of traffic. Traffic police at the station will ensure that shuttles stay out of the bus bays and do not stand idly in the Kiss and Ride zones. "Because of the lot's size, one or two vehicles standing in the wrong place can keep the entire traffic situation from running smoothly," said



Shuttle buses/car pooling vans wait for residents to board at the Kiss & Ride entrance of the Van Dorn Metro station.

Maslanka.

To further relieve the crowded lot, all shuttles greater than 26 feet in length will no longer be permitted to drop off commuters in the station parking lot. Such larger shuttles will instead drop off along the south side of Eisenhower Avenue, adjacent to the station.

But such announcements were met with opposition by a number of the shuttle users and providers present at the meeting. "This is not a proper design adjustment," said

Gregory Golubin, owner of the Manhattan International Limousine Service, to officials at the gathering. "The City is just throwing a Band-Aid on the problem."

Only two of the shuttles regularly delivering to the station parking lot are greater than 26 feet, meaning that the Kiss and Ride zone may continue to be congested. And, as commuters, City and Metrorail officials mutually recognized, the traffic situation will only worsen as the area's development continues. "Today we're only dealing with

two bus-length shuttles," said Robert P. Schmitt of the Metro Parking Office, "but one day we'll be dealing with 12."

**MANY COMMUTERS** at the meeting argued for the establishment of a designated area for shuttles within the station parking lot. However, Maslanka said, "The fact of the matter is, the station was not designed for this kind of activity." The lot's size makes any large-scale realignment nearly impossible.

As the Washington Metropolitan region continues to experience new commercial and residential development, the strains felt at Van Dorn Street are becoming common throughout the Metrorail network. "These station designs were made 25 years ago," Jorge Nevares, director of community relations for the Metro's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, said at the meeting. "As the region continues to develop, our needs are changing. We have experienced similar problems at stations along the Orange Line in Arlington."

Few shuttle-users at the meeting last week were satisfied with the short-term adjustments presented by the City and Metrorail, and officials were unclear about more dramatic, long-term solutions. One of the only matters upon which both the officials and the commuters present at the meeting could agree was the need for more meetings on the subject in the future. In the mean time, officials with both the City and Metrorail will monitor the station's traffic situation and the changes brought by the adjustments.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

## Once Again, Neighborhood Struggles with Murder

FROM PAGE 1

Force for possession of cocaine, burglary and violation of probation. A wanted poster issued by the Marshalls Service indicated Horton was considered "armed and dangerous," describing him as an individual with "violent tendencies" who is a "known drug user." Warrants were issued in September and December, and the task force began looking for him since February.

"Frankly we were a little surprised when we heard the news," said Michael Bachman, supervisory deputy marshal on the task force. "We didn't know he was down there."

**NEWS OF THE MURDER** has rekindled long-simmering frustration among some residents that their neighborhood has become the city's most violent enclave in the city. Meanwhile, prosecutors are gearing up for two murder trials next week involving a taxicab driver who was killed in the neighborhood earlier this year. Police officials say addressing crime in the neighborhood is a top priority, and they have already taken a number of measures to combat violent crime in the streets of Parker Gray. Police Chief David Baker said his department has stationed one community officer here as well as two residential officers. In recent

years, he has also worked to use environmental design to reduce the opportunity for crime, such as increasing lighting and clearing shrubbery.

"This is not an area of the city that's targeted," said Police Chief David Baker. "In some cases, people who have committed crimes in this neighborhood have indicated to us that they come back because they have legitimate family or friendship connections to this part of the city that go way back."

Many neighborhood residents applaud the work of police officials, who have implemented a Strategic Response System to use data analysis in deployment decisions. For some residents of the area, the challenges presented by violent crime in Parker Gray are more about the city's planning policy than policing strategy.

"I believe that with all the enormous changes that have happened in our neighborhood in the last 20 or 30 years, the one constant besides crime is the presence of concentrated low-income housing," said Leslie Zupan, president of the Inner City Civic Association. "In my opinion, that may serve as a magnet for criminal activity."

**OVER AND OVER AGAIN**, criminals are drawn to the area near the Braddock Road Metro station. Some say that a concentra-

"... the one constant besides crime is the presence of concentrated low-income housing."

— Leslie Zupan, president, Inner City Civic Association

tion of public-housing in the area is part of the problem, pointing to a 2005 murder that took place in the Andrew Adkins public-housing complex and a 2007 murder committed by a public-housing resident in Chatham Square. But Melvin Miller, who is chairman of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, said that he thinks some neighborhood residents have a tendency to overstate the relationship between crime and public housing.

"Some people see African-Americans standing on the corner and think that drugs are being sold, but that's not true," said Miller. "When I look at the police reports, I don't see any indication crime is higher around public housing than anywhere else in the city."

Decisions made in the middle decades of the 20th century concentrated a number of public-housing sites in the neighborhood, including the 15-unit Ramsay Home built in 1942, the 66-unit Samuel Madden development built in 1945, the 194-unit James Bland development built in 1959 and the

90-unit Andrew Adkins development built in 1968. Some neighborhood residents see the area's history of racial segregation and public-housing concentration as factors that have created a complicated set of demographic challenges.

"This neighborhood is burdened with the naivete of social engineering," said Sarah Becker, who has lived in Parker Gray since 1987. "Until the city comes up with a new brand for this neighborhood, the kinds of crime we've seen here will keep happening."

After news of the most recent murder in the neighborhood broke, Mayor Bill Euille requested that the city manager brief City Council members on crime in the neighborhood. Although he said he wanted to learn more about the data before commending on whether the area needed more community policing or different planning policy.

"Crimes are going to happen, but why they are happening in this neighborhood is a good question," said Euille. "I don't want to prejudge or conclude anything until all the facts are in."

# NEWS

## Online Reservations: Now Serving Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association launches service to aid businesses.

By KRISTEN MCCARTHY  
GAZETTE PACKET

With the state of the economy, online dinner reservations may be one solution to help boost local businesses. The Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association launched this service last month on its Web site through an affiliation with the company Fish Bowl which is connected with Live Booking — a major restaurant booking agency in Europe.

So far, the Web site has had more than 100 users for the online reservation system. However, there is no specific breakdown as to how many locals versus tourists have used this service since it was just recently set up.

“It has helped with convenience because it provides up to the minute availability with the restaurants participating,” said Emily Hellewell, who is the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association communications manager. Providing the user with a chance to look at an overview of the restaurant, its telephone number, along with a map of its location, allows the user to plan their evening accordingly. It also indicates local businesses, landmarks and attractions that are near the restaurant.

Online reservations have already helped some local businesses. “Since I started back in

SEE ONLINE, PAGE 24

## Correction

One of the photos on page 8 of the June 18 Gazette Packet, “Spring for Alexandria,” should have identified Joyce Jefferson, one of the Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria graduates, and Lyles Carr as they are getting ready to paint a room in the Animal Shelter.

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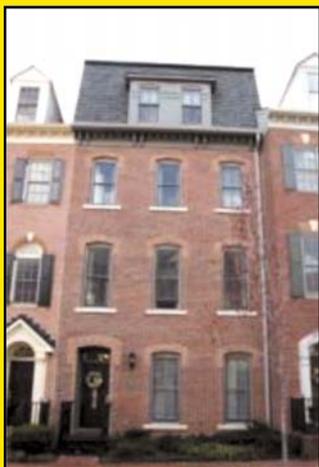
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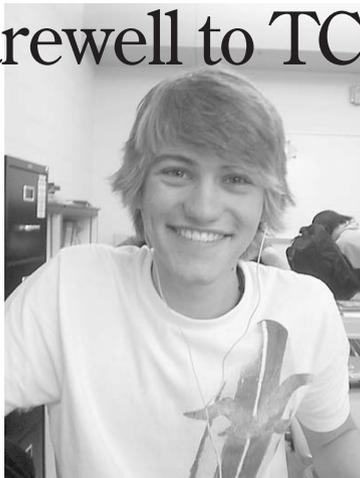
# Exchange Students Bid Farewell to TC

**Finding opportunities and friends.**

BY ERICA KICAK-VANDERHOEVEN  
GAZETTE PACKET



**Yukiko Yamaguchi and Neeracha Sunthonthip**



**Karlo Oehring**

“I will miss like everything, the family, the school — everybody I think,” said Neeracha Sunthonthip. Neeracha, Gift, is one of the four exchange students who spent this school year in Alexandria, attending TC Williams High School. Gift, from Thailand, Yukiko Yamaguchi, from Japan, and Karlo Oehring, from Germany, will be returning to their respective countries on July 1.

The exchange students came in August and started school two weeks after their arrival. TC itself was one of the biggest changes. “Here there are no rules. I thought, ‘all things are free.’” said Yukiko, who went to a strict all-girls high school in Japan. Gift, who participated on the cross country and winter crew teams, did volunteer work, and was a member of the Art club and the Asian club, said that two of her favorite things were her astronomy and TV production classes — two courses not available at her school in Thailand.

There was some difficulty in adjustment. “People always noticed at first that I was not an American, like how I dressed and what I said,” said Karlo, who was on the tennis team, did fall crew, and went to most of the TC basketball games. Yukiko and Gift also mentioned how difficult it was having to constantly speak English, as well as how difficult the language barrier made making new friends in the U.S.

Karlo, a skier, took a lot of skiing trips over the winter and learned snowboarding. Gift experienced

many things through school, like a trip to the planetarium. She also enjoyed experiencing life in this area and cites Old Town as one of her favorite places that she visited. Yukiko, who visited Arizona and New York City, was struck by the different geography of the United States. It’s the “same country but its really different,” she said. All of the students noticed how much their English improved. Yukiko said that learning English by speaking English was one of her favorite parts of the entire experience. She was also excited that she was able to learn French in a school class, and also learn some Spanish from her friends.

Karlo, who says that he is “pretty sure I’m very American now,” told a story about trying to talk to his mother in German on the phone this past week. After he’d gotten off the phone with her, she told a friend that his German was “crappy” and that she could barely understand him.

All three students want to make sure to stay in touch with all of the people they met here. When asked if she was excited to return home, Yukiko said “It’s like 50 and 50, ‘cause I’m really excited to see my family and my friends, but here I have to say goodbye [to my host family and friends].” Yukiko, who sang and played piano with the TC Williams choir, is actually considering coming to study music at an American college, “because I’m learning English and I don’t want to forget .... I like English. I like the United States.”

# Individualizing Help

FROM PAGE 3

plans and the interventions embedded in them were successful. Unfortunately, our previous endeavors have not met the needs of all our students.”

As the “Obstacles to Opportunity” report pointed out, Alexandria’s school system had lingering disparities in test scores, discipline practices and

**DESPITE THE THREAT** of censure, Rivera kept making public statements about the achievement gap — drawing special attention to the Hispanic dropout rate and racial disparities in test scores. Those concerns were validated in April, when a report issued by the Virginia Department of Education identified Alexandria as having the highest dropout rate of any

**“She was talking about this long before anybody else joined the bandwagon.”**

**— Michele Brandon, coordinator of educational enrichment, Campagna Center**

jurisdiction in Northern Virginia — a trend that was particularly alarming among the city’s Hispanic students, who have a dropout rate of 24.8 percent. “One of the major challenges I’ve had over the last three years is getting the School Board to focus on issues like the increasing dropout rate, especially among Hispanic students,” Rivera said at the time. “If we keep on doing what we’re doing now, we’re going to keep on having the same problems.”

“That report was a real black eye for the school system,” said Rivera. “I would bring these issues up during out School Board meetings, but nobody wanted to talk about it.”

Meanwhile, the toxic relationship among School Board members was festering and preventing a public discussion of the report and its consequences. Relationships first became strained after four School Board members weren’t consulted before former Superintendent Rebecca Perry was informed that a majority of board members were interested in conducting a search to replace her. The situation intensified when former School Board Chairman Claire Eberwein had the locks changed at the division’s headquarters on Perry’s last day.

“After Claire Eberwein threatened to censure me for talking to the press, I actually wrote a resignation letter,” said Rivera, adding that School Board member Sheryl Gorsuch ripped it up. “There were days when I would have rather had a root canal than go to a School Board meeting. But I knew that closing the achievement gap was worth the agony.”

But the new leadership in the school system was not content with doing the same thing. Instead, the individual achievement plans were being rolled out across the system. Already, more than 3,000 plans have been created for students struggling for math. Administrators say they hope to expand the program into other areas as get a better idea of how students are responding to the new model. Meanwhile, several groups that advocate for Hispanic and immigrant students are recognizing Rivera for her longstanding support for the individualized education programs. Last week, she received an award from a group known as Building Better Futures, a group launched in 2003 to help students who speak English as a second language prepare for college.

“Eileen has always been a friend to Latino and immigrant students, which is why the students wanted to recognize her with the award,” said Krishna Levya, director of Building Better Futures. “These plans are helping many Latino students get the specialized attention they need to succeed.”



**First Place** A video created by two of Nancy Bort’s seventh-grade science classes at Francis C. Hammond Middle School won first place at a Youth Summit sponsored by Earth Force, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of watersheds. “Holmes Run... and Other Streams. How They Affect Your Environment!” uses a mock newscast and commercial in addition to a trash-adorned character named Eco Dude to educate the public on ways they can cut down on trash and prevent it from getting into waterways. To help protect the environment, students subsequently created reusable shopping bags to give away.

# OPINION

## Top Ten Secrets

To long, happy, useful,  
productive and meaningful life.

*This is a month filled with graduations and graduation messages. Last month the speech for graduates at my daughter's Earlham College struck me as one of the best. Here, squeezed to less than 20 percent of its original, are excerpts from the Baccalaureate address by Chuck Yates, professor of history.*

—MARY KIMM

**NUMBER TEN:** Figure out what you like to do and then find someone who'll pay you to do it. But don't go where the money is good; go where the work is good, where the good comes from the difference the work makes in your life and the lives of others.

**NUMBER NINE:** Get to know the locals. Remember: they live here; they know how the system works here; they know who the movers and shakers are. The locals are your neighbors. The locals are your community. The locals are your lifeline.

**NUMBER EIGHT:** Ask for directions. You might as well get used to the idea that you're going to get lost now and then. So ask for directions. There's no shame in not knowing the way.

**NUMBER SEVEN:** "To thine own self be true." ... And when you mess things up, be the first one to step up, and own up, and do what you can to fix what you broke.

And forgive — always forgive. Forgiveness is not about letting the other person off the

hook; it's not about the other person at all. It's about you, about the kind of person you want to be, about how you define yourself as a moral agent. And forgive yourself when you trip over your own feet and fall flat on your face.

**NUMBER SIX:** Know what you think, but more important, know why you think it. What you believe is nobody's business but your own, but the rub is that belief guides behavior, so knowing why you think what you think is a precondition for knowing why you do what you do.

**NUMBER FIVE:** Remember that other people want you to take them just as seriously as you want them to take you. If you don't understand your opponent's position well enough to make your own persuasive defense of it, at a minimum that probably means you haven't been paying attention.

**NUMBER FOUR:** Take care of yourself. Hold it in your heart that taking care of yourself is not the same thing as being selfish. ... And there's this one other thing that's absolutely essential if you want to do your best job of taking care of yourself: never take yourself too seriously.

**NUMBER THREE:** Remember that most of the time, most of it isn't going to make much sense to you. But that doesn't mean it doesn't make sense. Most of us spend a lot of time and

energy trying to make the math come out even. The trouble is, the only place where the math comes out even is in math.

**NUMBER TWO:** Keep your scriptures handy. We all need scriptures. What's good about scriptures is that they put us in touch with the wisdom of others who've gone a lot farther down the road than we have. The scripture I rely on most frequently is very simple, and goes like this: "God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."

**NUMBER ONE:** Love. Paul told the Corinthians, there are three things that last forever. They work together — faith, hope, and love — each one woven through the other two into a fabric that never tears, never wears out, and always gives warmth and shelter. But love, Paul said, love is the main thing.

So here I am, telling you to love. Love yourselves. Love each other. Love this magical mysterious heart-breaker of a world we live in. Love it for what it can become. But love it for what it is too. If you choose love, you create a center of gravity for yourself that will help you stay balanced no matter what happens.

Yate's address ended with a crowd-pleasing round of the Beatle's "All You Need Is Love." For the full address, see [www.earlham.edu/documents/pdf/baccalaureate/2009address.pdf](http://www.earlham.edu/documents/pdf/baccalaureate/2009address.pdf)

## LETTERS

### Inadequate Vetting?

To the Editor:

In an earlier letter, before the recent City Council election, I commented on the candidacy of Councilwoman-elected Alicia Hughes, noting that all we knew about her was her ambition. Today those words seem almost prophetic. As it turns out we were ignorant of many things about Ms. Hughes, including that she might not be a Virginia resident and thus ineligible for election to the Council.

Surely we must be able to vet more thoroughly local candidates for office. Part of the problem was the lack of any vigorous press scrutiny. The Democratic Party, which I am a member, might also have done more thorough checking about Ms. Hughes. But the principal responsibility must fall on the Republican Party of Alexandria which backed her vigorously. Longtime GOP activists were at many polling places in May specifically urging her candidacy, despite the fact that she was running as an Independent.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

## Keeping Focus on Students

BY DR. MORTON SHERMAN  
ALEXANDRIA SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

At the close of my first school year in Alexandria City Public Schools, I am grateful for and humbled by the honor of serving as superintendent. The remarkable history of Alexandria is a daily reminder of the importance in this community in setting high standards, breaking down barriers, and serving as a model for our country.

During this school year, I have visited nearly all ACPS classrooms, met with PTAs and community organizations, and had ongoing conversations with student focus groups. These conversations helped clarify that some structural changes would help to move us ahead, with the full knowledge that structural changes (e.g., school size and organization) by themselves do not always lead to higher achievement. Therefore, three significant changes set the stage for the more important work of curriculum development, professional development, and accountability:

1. Incorporating the 9th grade school into T.C. Williams — Minnie Howard campus, with the goal of fully articulating programs, curriculum, and services into one unified school.

2. Expanding Jefferson-Houston Elementary School into a K-8 school and beginning the application process for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme.

3. Transforming the two large middle schools into five autonomous middle schools and beginning the application process for IB Middle Years Programme as we create more personalized, customized, engaging environments.

These initiatives and others emphasize continuity of instruction and connectedness of students, teachers, programs, and the community. They provide a framework for more personalized focus and creativity that will enable our students to solve problems, examine issues from a global perspective, employ higher level thinking strategies and make meaningful connections to their local and global communities.

We have made good progress this year. For example, based on preliminary spring test score information, we are optimistic that both middle schools will meet the State accreditation benchmarks and that, for the first time, both middle schools will make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Our thanks and congratulations go to our middle school staff and students. As with most basic indicators, even though this news is very good, we still have work to do. Over 20 percent of our middle school students have yet to pass the SOLs.

As with all public institutions, public dollars must be designed to support student achievement as we are mindful of economic conditions. A significant amount of my time during my first 10

SEE UPDATE, PAGE 11

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

The best rationale for keeping partisan elections at the local level is the sifting and winnowing process that both political parties normally exercise. Party stalwarts take the measure of people that aspire to political office by judging their participation in civic, business, and political life. Ambition alone is not sufficient to win approval. In this instance, however, the Republicans, hungry for a win, forgot their responsibilities to the public. As a result, we have a tainted election and a potentially crippled Council. They owe Alexandria an apology.

**Jack Sullivan**  
Alexandria

## Setting the Record Straight

To the Editor

Foolish of me to think that I could answer a question posed by Gazette Packet reporter Michael Lee Pope and have it reported accurately. To the contrary, I was deeply disturbed to read in last week's news article, "Councilwoman-Elect Challenged," a com-

ment of mine that was utterly and completely reported out of context.

To be specific, when asked by Mr. Pope during a break in last Saturday's Council public hearing to share my thoughts about the blogging, e-mailing and across the fence community talk regarding recent revelations of Alicia Hughes's financial challenges and possible Hatch Act violations (including reports that at least one blogger impersonating Mr. Pope attempted to post damaging information to Ms. Hughes on a local blog), I replied, that "there's clearly an effort in some circles to discredit Ms. Hughes and challenge her qualifications before she takes office." I followed that statement by saying that there does not appear to be much to these allegations that would prevent Ms. Hughes from assuming office. Quite a departure from what was reported I said.

My comment was squarely in response to the community talk and alleged Hatch Act violations and not the allegations regarding Ms. Hughes's challenged residency and eligibility to vote or hold office in Alexandria. In fact, I specifically informed Mr. Pope that I was not yet familiar with the lat-

est allegations and that I had not yet reviewed attorney Gerald Hebert's challenge of Hughes's eligibility sent to the Voter Registrar, and Commonwealth and City Attorneys. Knowing this, Mr. Pope forwarded by e-mail to me three days later a copy of Mr. Hebert's letter (Pope to Gaines e-mail, Tuesday, June 16, 9:15 a.m. - subject line by Pope: "voting and candidacy eligibility of Alicia Hughes").

Despite this, my quote was made to appear as if it was in direct response to the challenge to Hughes's residency status and eligibility to vote and hold office which it clearly was not. Obviously, there's a huge difference between responding to rumor, innuendo and unsubstantiated allegations and responding to what has been formally alleged by Mr. Hebert on behalf of Alexandria residents.

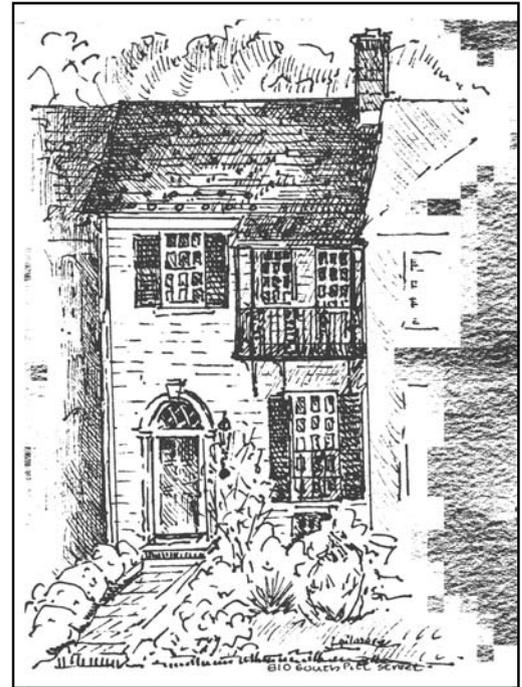
While at best this may have been an error on the part of a reporter, greater care must be given to accurately quoting reported comments in order to avoid the appearance of sloppy and outright misleading journalism, and in order to maintain the integrity of the reporting itself. Time will tell

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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## LETTERS

# Reflection on Three Years of Service for City's Children

BY EILEEN CASSIDY RIVERA  
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

## COMMENTARY

Three years ago when I ran for public office, I set out on a mission to be an effective representative of my community and to serve alongside other committed individuals determined to make a difference for the children in the Alexandria City Public School system.

I will forever treasure the privilege to champion interests and good ideas to improve our educational system and to question, debate and deliberate important issues and policies.

As I reflect on the past three years, I am excited about the new direction of the Alexandria City Public School system. It took us a few years to get to this point — a point beyond acknowledging and talking about our many challenges — but a new beginning where we're actually developing solutions, making real changes and developing the metrics to measure the impact from our departure from the way things used to be done that did not benefit all students in our

school system. The City of Alexandria has made the move to a whole new approach that will eliminate the multi-tracked course it put its public school students on — tracks that took some students to great heights of success and others to drop out of school and on the streets.

Under the wise, thoughtful yet courageous leadership of our new Superintendent, Dr. Morton Sherman, we have embarked on a new path. I am grateful for the opportunity to have hired and brought Dr. Sherman to our school district. I strongly encourage my fellow board members going on to serve another term, as well as the two new incoming board members, to work hard at continuing the School Board's healthy working relationship with Dr. Sherman based on openness, honesty and collaboration.

The new path we're taking — which we wouldn't have gotten on without our insistence on developing a new strategic plan — addresses many areas that I believe will

take Alexandria City Public Schools from good to great.

One of the areas which spans different components of the strategic plan is to close achievement gaps which have for too long plagued our school system.

The one issue above all others — creating higher achievement opportunities among our students who have not received the best of what Alexandria City Public Schools has to offer — has been the primary driver through thick and thin for my service on the School Board and to my community.

I am heartened that in the final days of my service on the board, we're actually able to report on progress toward closing achievement gaps, as detailed in our division's first annual report. Progress such as the identification of 1,662 at-risk students in K-5, and 1,453 students in grades 6-12, and the further drilling down of 1,003 elementary students at promise for math achievement — with 982 of these students now receiving targeted interventions — resulting in 423 elementary students already

following Individualized Achievement Plans. This is one small step for Alexandria's at-risk students, a giant step for Alexandria City Public Schools closing its achievement gaps.

There are other examples of seeds that have begun to be planted across the school division in areas that will reap benefits for our children in the years to come. Like everyone, I am eager to see results. I will be watching, cheering and applauding future accomplishments.

With the knowledge I've gained from the school board and the issues and challenges I remain passionate about, I will direct some of my free time as a member of the Commission on Women. There, I want to focus on ways we can better help and advocate for women in our community, many of whom are heads of households in our city and play an integral role in their children's education and livelihood.

Thank you, Alexandria, for allowing me to serve you these past three years.

*Eileen Cassidy Rivera's school board term ends on June 30.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 9

whether Ms. Hughes's wounds are self inflicted or not. This is not for me to answer, especially while a formal inquiry is underway. In the interim, we must insist on due care and fairness in the process on the part of all involved, including those who report it.

**Ludwig. P. Gaines**  
Member of Council  
City of Alexandria

## Election Debacle

To the Editor:

Last week I wrote about the flawed process that resulted in Council's passage of an ordinance moving the Council elections from May to November. The conduct of individual Council members also deserves to be highlighted. Council member Paul Smedberg conveyed at the best attended forum, on April 30, 2009, that he opposed the move to November elections — he argued that cost savings were not a reason to move to November elections. Even after the election, at Council's May 16 meeting, Smedberg expressed skepticism of the change. Council member Tim Lovain, who was not re-elected, stated at the March 29 forum that he was undecided on this issue. Certainly, nobody expected Lovain to make up his mind during the lame duck term after being defeated for reelection.

Let's be very clear what happened: After the May 5 election, defeated Council member Justin Wilson introduced the ordinance to move the elections to November. Then, during the lame duck term, Smedberg and Lovain capitulated in the face of intense pressure from Mayor Euille. Smedberg changed his position and Lovain declared his position, both voting for the election change. The ordinance would not have passed but for the support of either Smedberg or Lovain.

What's a voter to do?

And, to aggravate the offense, state law prevents the new Council from reconsidering this decision — only the state legislature can move the election back to May. Whether you are for or against local elections in November, this conduct by Council is very troubling.

**Tom Parry**  
Alexandria

## Thank You, John Porter

To the Editor:

Thank you, John, for your many years of service to the City and the schools.

Congratulations on your move to ACT. Our loss, their gain.

Your significant accomplishments are too numerous to mention. One, however, that is important to us, is your time as principal at TC Williams. You roamed

and ruled the halls with discipline. You set an example for dignity, honor, hard work and trust. Our sons are better men today for having spent their years at TC with you as part of growing up.

God bless, God speed and good luck. Above all, thank you.

**Sarah and Joe Schramm**  
Alexandria

*Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Operations John Porter will be leaving Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) this summer to become executive director of ACT for Alexandria, Alexandria's community foundation.*

## Unseemly Decision

To the Editor:

The Alexandria League of Women Voters is the only organization to do a detailed rigorous study of voting in local elections. The study was completed in 1999, but it is still the only study of its kind done for Alexandria in modern times.

The League members who designed the study created two focus groups, one of people who never voted in local elections and one of people who almost always voted in local elections. The study committee also did a telephone survey. On page 2 of our study, we describe the feedback from this methodology:

"We asked our survey respondents whether various election

reforms would make them more likely to vote.

"The reform that garnered the most support, about half of all respondents and about three quarters of nonvoters, was voting by mail.

"About one-third of all respondents found that keeping the polls open more than one day would encourage their voting, but about two-thirds of nonvoters wanted voting on more than one day.

"In contrast, both voters and nonvoters felt that the current poll hours of 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. were convenient and that moving the election to a different time of the year would not make them any more likely to vote."

So there you have it, an actual study based on actual opinions of voters and nonvoters. Ignoring actual data in favor of facile assumptions is never a good way to reach any decision. Changing our election law two weeks before the end of this Council term was a reckless, haphazard way to do the public's business. It was unseemly.

This is particularly so because our quirky state law decrees that once the date of the Council election is changed to November; it can not later be changed back to May. "What is done cannot be undone," moans Lady Macbeth as she wanders through the night. Like her, the departing Council did something that can not be undone and will bear the blame if it turns out badly.

And it can turn out badly. Election law changes are notorious for

producing unintended, unpredictable consequences. Dividing our school board elections into districts was supposed to produce more diversity. The school board has never been any more diverse than the Council.

Here are two consequences we can predict for Alexandria if all voting occurs in November. First all candidates will have to spend more money to gain the voters' attention. Second all candidates will have to compete with candidates for offices rated as "higher" for notice in the news media. They will also be competing with higher office candidates for campaign workers. The task for every Council candidate will be harder and the voters won't gain anything from that extra effort. Those who choose to vote will just go to the polls less informed than they are today.

In which November will we have this election? That's a very meaningful question which the departing Council dropped on their successors for an answer. If our November election were held when only candidates for the General Assembly were running, the turnout, if it reflects past elections, would not be much higher than it is for a May local election. If the Council election were held while the Governorship or Congressional seats were being decided, the competition for attention would be intense. If it were held during a Presidential election year, there

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 25

# Cardiac Care Does More Than Saves Lives

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO  
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA  
HOSPITAL



For several weeks, an active, stay-at-home mom began each day by packing up a few boxes in preparation for her family's move out of state. The woman decided that she would only spend a couple of hours each day sorting and moving because she didn't want to overexert herself. One day when she completed her packing for the day she felt some pain in her shoulder and chest. The woman was also extremely exhausted. She sat down to rest but found it difficult to breathe and began sweating. Her hus-

band put down the boxes he was moving and called 9-1-1 because something was clearly wrong. After arriving at Inova Alexandria Hospital, she was diagnosed with a blockage in some of the arteries delivering blood to and from her heart. It became necessary for her to have a triple bypass to save her life. A bypass is a surgery that creates a new route for blood and oxygen to reach the heart. It is a common procedure performed at Inova Alexandria Hospital for coronary artery disease.

As part of Inova's Heart and Vascular Institute in Falls Church, our hospital is well-equipped to handle any cardiac emergency. Our cardiologists can diagnose and moni-

tor a multitude of heart conditions and our heart surgeons are a complement to an outstanding cardiac team with many years of experience in congenital heart conditions, thoracic aneurysms and heart failure. Even when the heart is beyond repair, surgeons at the Inova Heart and Vascular Institute in Falls Church, perform heart transplants, all part of Inova's standard of seamless care.

The woman did very well during her surgery and recovered quickly. After her surgery she enrolled in Inova Alexandria Hospital's cardiac rehabilitation program, which was recently reaccredited by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation. The hospital's cardiac rehab team provided suggestions on how to manage stress, implement a regular exercise program and a heart-friendly di-

etary plan.

Inova Alexandria Hospital takes a team approach to the care of not only cardiac patients but all patients who come through our doors. This integrated and seamless system continues well after many patients return home.

This patient is a testimony to Inova Alexandria Hospital's cardiac care program. Although she and her husband postponed their move for several weeks to help reduce stress and enable a quicker recovery, they were able to relocate to their new home outside the Washington, DC, area. The state-of-the-art cardiac treatment she received saved her life and the education about heart health and stress management has allowed her to fully enjoy life and spend time with the people she loves.

## 10 Months Later

FROM PAGE 8

months in Alexandria has been spent on creating a financial roadmap which meets our increasing enrollments, increasing demands on students, aging facilities, and decreasing resources. We are very proud that we met these challenges while reducing the budget from the previous year without raising class size or enforcing large scale layoffs. The first guiding principle for every budget decision was: Will it encourage higher achievement for every student?

The completion of the ACPS Strategic Plan, which was adopted in March, will include greater detail, timeframes, and accountability measures. Committing to the Plan as the guiding document for

all future decisions and initiatives, we will achieve our vision to:

Set the international standard for educational excellence, where all students achieve their potential and actively contribute to our local and global communities.

I believe that of all places in America, it is here in Alexandria that we can make dramatic and significant differences in the lives of children. Through local, national, and international partnerships, ACPS will become a model for education. Key to our ongoing progress is open and honest conversation, based on data and evidence, with a laser-like focus on each student.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the students of Alexandria.



Snapshot King Street Metro, June 23, 5:08 p.m.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

### Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor, The Gazette Packet  
1606 King Street, Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6431.

By e-mail: [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

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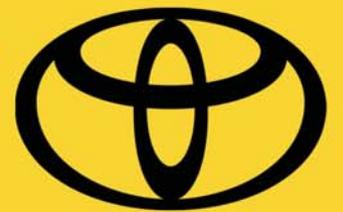
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# Daytime Fireworks To Be At Mount Vernon on July 4th

## Independence Day at George Washington's Mount Vernon Home



The First Virginia Regiment readies a cannon on the Bowling Green.



General Washington bows to a young visitor on Independence Day at Mount Vernon.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he Mount Vernon Estate hosts the annual Independence Day celebration this Fourth of July with the mindset there is no better place to celebrate the birth of a nation than on the founder's doorstep.

**THE CELEBRATION** begins at 8 a.m. and runs through the afternoon. Mount Vernon does not want participants to be discouraged from this daytime celebration for fear of missing traditional evening fireworks.

"Because Mount Vernon is in so many backyards, locals often don't think of it," said Emily Coleman Dibella, Mount Vernon's director of public affairs. The schedule allows participants to come and go as they please while making the Fourth celebration a daylong event.

The agenda includes revolutionary reenactments, a reading from the Declaration of Independence and visits from George and Martha Washington. "When George and Martha are here together, which doesn't happen often throughout the year, they are rock stars. We have top actors who know all about George and Martha and the founding of the country," said Dibella.

Also new to the agenda this year are the daytime fireworks, visible through colored smoke, and a naturalization ceremony of 100 immigrants performed by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Dibella describes all the events of the Fourth's celebration "moving" in their own ways, a function of their occurrence in the historical setting.

The list of activities has appeal for all ages and Mount Vernon's intent for the celebration is to simply wish the country a "happy birthday." Mount Vernon provides an outlet to express gratitude for being American while observing the importance of the founding of the country. They are even providing birthday cake.

"This is such a perfect place to celebrate the birth of our country," said Dibella.

## Saturday, July 4 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Historic Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, salutes the country's first commander-in-chief with a display of daytime fireworks during its annual Independence Day event. For the first time ever, visitors will be treated to smoke fireworks in patriotic colors fired during the finale of the National Concert Band of America's performance. The event also includes a naturalization ceremony for 100 new citizens (also new this year), military reenactments, a special wreath-laying ceremony, free birthday cake for all (while supplies last), and a visit from the "first" first couple, "General and Mrs. Washington." All events are included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$15; children ages 6-11, \$7; and children under 5 are admitted free. Go to [Visit.MountVernon.org](http://Visit.MountVernon.org) for more information.



Soldiers marching at Mount Vernon on Independence Day.

### SCHEDULE

♦ **All day:** "General and Mrs. Washington" will be on hand to greet and take photographs with visitors. In the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center, visitors can cool down in the Revolutionary War Theater where "snow" falls on the audience as Washington is crossing the Delaware River.

♦ **9:30 a.m.:** Re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment assemble for inspection by "General Washington" on the Bowling Green, where the Declaration of Independence will be read by the First Virginia Regiment.

♦ **10 a.m.:** Visitors may join the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) in a procession to George Washington's Tomb for a special wreath-laying ceremony.

♦ **11 a.m.:** A special Independence Day naturalization ceremony for America's 100 newest citizens with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

♦ **12 p.m.:** The annual "Red, White and Blue Concert" takes place featuring patriotic favorites by the National Concert Band of America, an 80-member

company of retired musicians from each of the United States Armed Services' bands.

♦ **12:45 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.:** A pyrotechnic salute to America from the home of George Washington! Watch as a colorful display of smoke fireworks are fired over the Potomac river.

♦ **1 p.m.:** Mount Vernon's all-American birthday cake will be offered to visitors (while supplies last).

♦ **1:30 p.m.:** Fife and drum corps will perform military music and drills.

♦ **2:30 p.m.:** Revolutionary War military demonstrations by the First Virginia Regiment take place on the Bowling Green.

**Summer Farm Life:** July has always been a time of celebration at George Washington's farm as it marks the beginning of the wheat harvest season. To celebrate Washington the farmer, field hands will kick-off the season on Independence Day with wheat-treading demonstrations at the George Washington: Pioneer Farmer site. Costumed staff will lead Mount Vernon's horses as they tread wheat in the 16-sided barn at 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.

# CALENDAR

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E-mail announcements to the Gazette, [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-917-6407 with questions.

### ONGOING

**The Third Annual Alexandria Film Festival** is soliciting entries from U.S. and international filmmakers. The festival will be held Sept. 24-27 at the George Washington Memorial Masonic Temple. This year, the Film Festival is partnering with Withoutabox, the film industry's premier online service platform. To submit your film online, visit [www.withoutabox.com/login/7816](http://www.withoutabox.com/login/7816). All entries submitted through Withoutabox will receive an additional discount. For more information or to obtain entry forms and submission guidelines, visit [www.alexandriafilm.org](http://www.alexandriafilm.org). Call 703-838-6348.

### THURSDAY/JUNE 25

**Music at Twilight Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Features Annie Sidley duo (Original Pop/R & B). At Fort Ward Park (4301 W. Braddock Rd.). Call the Special Events Hotline at 703-883-4686 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation).

**Paying It Forward Day.** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free food, free chair massages, a Red Cross blood drive, entertainment, face painting, raffles and more to help raise awareness for Catholic Charities' Christ House of Alexandria. At 6295 Edsall Road in Alexandria. Call 703-778-4444.

### FRIDAY/JUNE 26

**Cardinal Brass Band.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. Their musical style has been described as a mixture of classical to jazz and Broadway to blues. At Grist Mill Park as part of the Mt. Vernon Nights summer concert series. At 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) after 6 p.m. for cancellation updates. Go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/).

**Lantern Tours.** 7-10 p.m. Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum (134 N. Royal St.) by candlelight with a costumed guide and see how guests experienced the historic tavern and hotel before electricity. \$5 per person, ages 5 and up. The museum may be closed on some occasions; call 703-838-4242.

**Choralis Sings.** 7 p.m. Bach's Mass in B Minor, with orchestra. At Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, with Gretchen Kuhmann, Conductor/Artistic Director. At 3001 N. Beauregard St., Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria. Tickets \$25-35; students w/ ID - \$5; age 12 and under - free. Info/tickets: [www.choralis.org](http://www.choralis.org) or 703-237-2499.

**Special Workshop for Teachers.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. Archaeologists and museum educators will present a two-

hour program, "Cactus Hill & Werowocomoco: Everything You Ever Needed to Know," especially for teachers. At the Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, at 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 27

**Benefit Shopping Night.** 7-9 p.m. Twenty percent of the sales will go to the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia's children's feeding program in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. At Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-684-1435.

### Huntington Community Festival.

Noon to 6 p.m. Free. Children's rides, games, vendors, giveaways, food and live entertainment. Live Performances from Pasaporte Latino, Watusi, Spice Hayes, O.U.O. (Of Unknown Origin), Blacksun, The Alan Palmer Group, Black L.I.O.N., B the B-Boy, Vocalz, Maryae, Mike the Ripper, Von (V for Vendetta Mix Tape), Disorderly Conduct Band, DJ Misterman, plus more to be announced. Contact 703-960-1917, TTY 711. At Huntington Community Center, 5751 Liberty Drive, Alexandria.

**Community Yard Sale.** 7 a.m.-2 p.m. at Anthony T. Lane Elementary School, 7137 Beulah St. Hosted by the Alexandria Jaycees. Free. Visit [www.alexjaycees.org](http://www.alexjaycees.org) for more.

**Del Ray Music Festival.** 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Jazz, blues, swing, folk, country, Celtic, and rock. The majority of the musicians that will take the stage are residents of the neighborhood as well. The National Capital Area Affiliate of Guitars Not Guns will be raffling off a Brazen Fantasy Standard guitar valued at \$750. On the fields of Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Avenue.

**Volunteer Training.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers wanted at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. At 134 North Royal Street. Contact Michele Longo at 703-838-4242.

**Community Concert Band Festival.** Noon. Free. The National Community Concert Band Sousa Festival will highlight three bands, at noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.: Auburn Community Band (IN); Chatham Community Band (NJ); and Middlesex Concert Band (MA). Each band performs a concert featuring music of "The March King," John Philip Sousa, original works for concert band, featured soloists, American music, poplar and patriotic favorites, and a variety and upbeat music. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Go to [www.musiccelebrations.com](http://www.musiccelebrations.com).

### SUNDAY/JUNE 28

**Pet Fun.** 4-6 p.m. At Chateau Animaux, 101-A S. Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria. Artist Eric Ginsburg's artwork will be on display. Special on Zanadoo Treats, pet goodies. All dogs

### SATURDAY/JUNE 27

**Burning Desires.** 3-6 p.m. Presented by Empowered Women International. A mixed media exhibition and performing program featuring 11 immigrant, refugee and American-born women artists, all graduates of EWI's Art Entrepreneur Training for Success. Stained glass Silk, Handmade silk paper. At Convergence Gallery, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. From June 4 through July 30.

will get a treat on the house. Visit [www.chateau-animaux.com](http://www.chateau-animaux.com) or call 703-518-5188.

**Summer Chamber Music Series.** 3 p.m. Free. Violinist Marlisa Woody and pianist. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria.

**Jazz Jam.** 7 p.m. Featuring Rick Whitehead trio. Musicians are encouraged to attend to either just listen or to perform. At the Episcopal church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. \$10. A reception follows. Call 703-768-5821.

### TUESDAY/JUNE 30

**Hands-on-History Tent Event.** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Explore life for children in the 1700s, both rich and poor, slave and free at Carlyle House's Hands-on-History Tent Event. Free. Designed for children ages 3-12 and their parents. At Carlyle House in Alexandria. Call 703-549-2997.

### SATURDAY/JULY 4

**Organ Fireworks Concert.** 10-10:45 a.m. Free. Organist-Choirmaster Douglas A. Beck. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-3312.

**Handbell Choir Festival Concert.** 7 p.m. Douglas A. Beck, St. Paul's Organist-Choirmaster presents songs, audience participation and a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-3312.

### SUNDAY/JULY 5

**1759 Conversations: Establishing Gunston Hall.** 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Learn about the early days of the historic plantation. Talk with a costumed interpreter about George Mason's new house and how it was built. Included in site admission: \$9, \$8 seniors, \$5 ages 6 to 18, younger free. Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Rd., Mason Neck. 703-550-9220 or <http://www.gunstonhall.org>.

**Summer Chamber Music Series.** 3 p.m. Free. Pianist and composer Haskell Small. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria.

**Architecture in the Afternoon Tours.** 2 p.m. Discover the architecture of George Mason's home. This 90-minute tour explores the mansion's exterior and interior. Find out why Gunston Hall's carpenter-joiner William Buckland and master carver William Bernard Sears continue to be highly regarded. Regular admission. Friends free. Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Rd., Mason Neck. 703-550-9220 or <http://www.gunstonhall.org>.

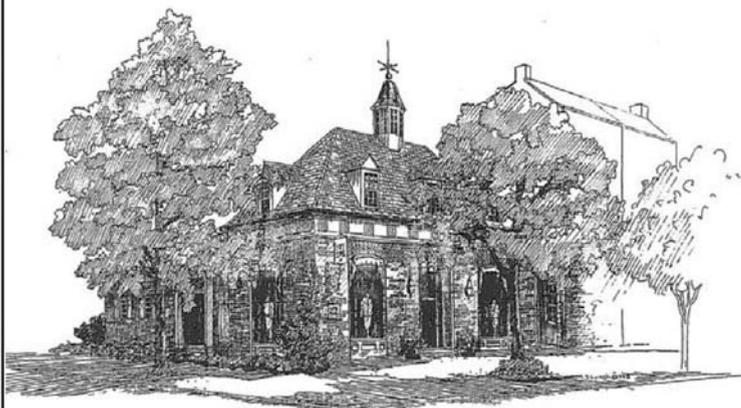
### TUESDAY/JULY 7

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

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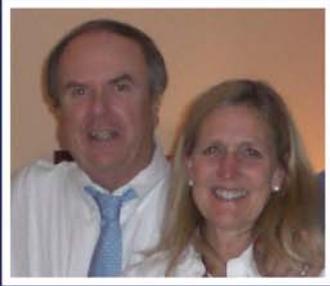
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*Dream Home!*

Builder's loss is your gain! Originally priced at almost

\$2,000,000 - just reduced another \$300,000 to create a once in a lifetime opportunity! Stunning model offers the best of everything: open floor plan, high ceilings, 6BR, 6.5BA, 3 finished levels, top of the line kitchen & baths, 3 car garage and more!



**WATERFRONT!**

9380  
Mt Vernon Cir  
\$3,500,000  
*Private Waterfront Estate!*

Stunning value! Majestic Colonial custom designed

to capitalize on panoramic water vistas from all four levels and dramatic riverfront swimming pool! Abundant superlatives include: Over 9,400 total sq ft, 4 levels, 5 BRs, 5.55 BAs, 7 fireplaces, stunning 2 level MBR suite, custom built-ins, dock with power lifts, the list goes on & on! Price slashed over \$200,000 to expedite sale!



**WATERFRONT!**

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

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

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



**STRATFORD LANDING!**

8826  
Camden Street  
\$899,500  
*Gorgeous Setting!*

There's nothing like it on the market today – fabulous new

Wakefield Home custom designed for this half acre lot overlooking acres of natural conservation land. Bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, granite countertops and two car garage. Pre-construction sale allows for maximum customization.



**FREE FINISHED BASEMENT with BATH!**

Brambly Lane  
\$865,000  
**FREE FINISHED BASEMENT with BATH!**  
**\$50,000 VALUE!**  
Pre-construction special makes this new luxury home available at a price

that is simply incomprehensible! Popular Stockton model with high ceilings, open floor plan, 4BR, 3.5BA, energy conserving features, oversize garage & more! (Picture of different model for illustration purposes only.)



**SOLD!**

4224 Adrienne Dr  
\$454,950



**SOLD!**

4816 Stillwell Ave  
\$450,000



**CONTRACT!**

8642 Braddock Ave  
\$399,500

# CHRIS WHITE (703) 283-9028

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**722 SOUTH FAYETTE ST**  
Alexandria - \$384,900

BRIGHT & SUNNY! 3rd floor renovated 4BR/2BA condo. New AC, SS appliances, granite counters, paint, laundry & extra storage in basement. Adjacent to Lee Center for pool & fitness room & home of Port City Playhouse. Walking dist to METRO, shops & restaurants.



**Sheryl Lambson 703.217.7012**



**106 COLVILLE DRIVE**  
Manassas - \$557,900

STUNNING 4 lvl, 3BR + loft you can use as an office or 4th bedroom. New SS refrigerator & range, paint, landscaping & carpeting. Enjoy special touches of floor to ceiling bookcases in loft, hwd's, corian counters, FP in rec room & a walk-out fully fenced flagstone patio.



**Sheryl Lambson 703.217.7012**



**OPEN SUN. 1-4**  
**1707 NORTH-CLIFF STREET**  
Alexandria - \$425,000

DEL RAY'S FINEST! Fabulous 3 level, 2BR/2BA and den in heart of Del Ray. Recent updates include remodeled Kit, BA, A/C, and more. Off street parking & only 2 blocks to shops and restaurants on Mt Vernon Avenue.

DIR: from OT, N on Mt Vernon Ave, L on Bellefonte, L on Cliff, property on L

**Glenn Witucki 703.518.8708**  
**Pat Wilson 703.598.7279**



**2151 JAMIESON AVENUE #1104**  
City of Alexandria - \$449,900

CARLYLE TOWERS! 2BR/2BA corner unit w/ enclosed balcony. Open fl plan. Eat-in kit upgrades incl granite, sink & lighting. Mstr suite w/priv BA/walk-in closet. Gar pkg & xtra storage. Walk dist to PTO & METRO. For showing call...



**Pat Wilson 703.598.7279**



**502 BASHFORD LANE #3212**  
Old Town - \$274,900

RIVERTON! One bedroom w/southern exposure & lots of windows. First floor above ground location, new granite & SS kitchen, new bath, W/D, see pictures online. Pool is open!



**ReneeSells Alexandria.com**  
**Renee Reymond 703.507.5330**



**JUST LISTED!**

**1315 EAST ABINGDON DRIVE #2**  
Alexandria / Harbor Terrace - \$324,999

FALL IN LOVE! 2BR condo w/gleaming hwd flrs, granite kit & bath counters, SS appliances & lg private deck. W/D & new HVAC. Close to METRO, OT, Potomac & more...!



**Peggy Baldwin 703.772.5236**  
**Ann Simmons 202.253.6643**



**OPEN SUN. 2-5**

**1516 10th STREET, NW**  
Arlington - \$310,000

BOUTIQUE BUILDING! Well appointed 1BR residence completely renovated incl: hwd flrs thru-out, paint, closet space, gourmet kit w/SS & granite. Central A/C, W/D in unit. Low condo fees. A gem.



**THE CAREY TEAM**  
**Kristin Longhauser**  
571.334.9050



**1105 POTOMAC LANE**  
Alexandria - \$699,995

GREAT VALUE IN WAYNEWOOD! This 3,400 sq ft home w/gar boasts a large, level, landscaped backyard. A fireplace distinguishes the remodeled country kit in this 5-6BR/3BA home. 2 more fpls, hwd, lg FR make this home a real value!



**Catherine Foltz@longandfoster.com**  
**Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914**



**OPEN SUN. 1-4**

**8311 MOUNT VERNON HIGHWAY**  
Alexandria / Mt Vernon - \$899,000

New Homes - New Prices - This fabulous, lushly appointed 4Br/3.5Ba model home can be upgraded to 5Br/5.5Ba. Preview the numerous new Wakefield homes now being offered in the Alexandria area. Too many options to list. Visit our model home & choose yours today!



**Mary Rice Prosser 703.625.4461**



**OPEN SUN. 1-4**

**LOFTY OAKS**  
Mount Vernon - upper \$700,000's

PREVIEW the newest Wakefield Homes community. Several models available and waiting for your personal touch. Model located at 8311 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309.



**Mary Rice Prosser 703.625.4461**



**OPEN SUN. 1-4**

**624 SOUTH PITT**  
Old Town - \$1,150,000

NOT YOUR TYPICAL COLONIAL! Dramatic & architecturally significant residence in SE quadrant. Must be seen to appreciate the 2-story atrium w/skylights reminiscent of NY lofts. Features state of the art kit, 2 private gardens, 3BR/2.5 BA, 2 fireplaces, custom all the way!



**ReneeSells Alexandria.com**  
**Renee Reymond 703.507.5330**



**Price Reduction!**

**111c I STREET**  
New Alexandria - \$799,000

CLOSE TO POTOMAC - new construction. Spacious upscale new TH w/front porch & ample pkg. Features include hwd flrs, FP, granite SS, spa style Ba. 3 fin lvls above ground approx. 3,500 sq ft w/roof top deck. Minutes to METRO & more!



**www.marylousage.com**  
**Marylou Sage 703.851.5441**



**3803 COURTLAND CIRCLE**



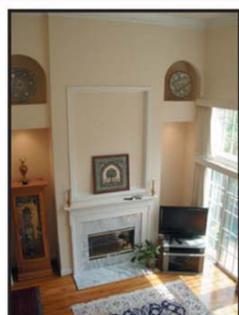
**Inderjeet Jumani**  
703.472.8804



**BOTH OPEN SUN. 1-4**

**2 TOWNHOUSES with**  
**COURTYARD LOCATIONS!**  
Alexandria - \$540,000

LUXURY townhouses, both 3BR/2.55BA, 4 lvls, 2,540 sq ft. Marble entries, soaring ceilings, Palladian windows, 2 lvl loft style MBR suites, 2 fireplaces, balconies, upgrades and more. DIR: from OT, Rte 1 North, L on E Glebe, R on Charles, bear L on Charles, R on Courtland. Call either agent for details. Pictures: www.ijumani.com



**3903 COURTLAND CIRCLE**



**Brandy Buzinski**  
202.277.5478

## RENTALS

**906 So Washington Street \$1,125**  
Bearings South Garden Efficiency/1Ba  
**Pat Garrity 703.298.2287**

**3926 El Camino Place \$1,200**  
Sequoyah Patio Home 2Br/1.5Ba  
**Susan Batchelder 703.919.8359**

**4623 South 31st Street \$1,600**  
Fairlington Village Garden 2Br/1Ba  
**Renee Reymond 703.507.5330**

**12610 Victoria Station Court \$2,250 1Pkg**  
Fair Lakes Condo 3Br/3.5Ba  
**Mary Taylor 703.785.5619**

**1250 South Washington Street #319 \$2,350\***  
Porto Vecchio Mid-rise 1Br/1.5Ba 1 Pkg  
\* for details on 1 mos free rent CALL  
**Patricia Tierney 703.805.5630**

## RENTALS

**2024 Franklin Street \$2,350**  
Franklin Forest Cape Cod 2Br/1.5Ba 1Pkg  
**David Okonsky 703.585.5268**

**399 Pickett Street #48 \$2,400**  
Townes of Hillwood Townhouse 3Br/3.5Ba 1Pkg  
**Pat Wilson 703.598.7279**

**1250 South Washington Street #201 \$2,500**  
Porto Vecchio Mid-rise 2BR/2BA 1 Pkg  
**Patricia Tierney 703.805.5630**

**27 Spring Street \$2,800**  
Temple Park Detached 3Br/1Ba 1Pkg  
**David Okonsky 703.585.5268**

**5902 Mount Eagle Drive #1608 \$3,000**  
Montebello Penthouse 4Br/3Ba 1Pkg  
**Norma Stratton 703.966.0756**



**OPEN SUN. 1-4**

**712 WOLFE ST**  
Old Town - \$649,500

WOLFE STREET GEM  
Magnificent circa 1820 historic plaqued 2 BR/1.5BA end unit TH in heart of Old Town. Upgraded kitchen with period Hutch, Old Pine Floors, Crown moulding, large "6 over 6" windows bask rooms in warm glows. Fabulously deep garden. 4 blocks to King Street.

To view home call...



**Philip G. Matyas 703.518.8727**



**JUST REDUCED 20K!**

**318 PRINCE STREET #7**  
In the Heart of OT Alexandria - \$739,000

Former model is "1" of a kind, 20' ceilings in LR/DR, custom built-ins, Corinthian column detail. Huge eat-in kit w/brkfst bar leads to patio & access to Royal St. Renovated/expanded MBR w/custom closet, original pine flrs, new maple vanity in BA w/granite in shower. LL BR w/atrium window offers privacy. Access to pkg from unit.



**Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594**



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

# COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

**1250 Dartmouth Court**  
\$1,200,000 | Alexandria City, Quaker Hill  
Elegant five bedroom home located near Old Town is exquisitely appointed and combines open space with the ultimate in interior and exterior detailing. 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.

Frann Orr | 703.623.4070



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

**6 Keith's Lane**  
\$1,495,000 | Old Town Alexandria  
Bright and spacious Royal model with striking waterfront views! Gourmet eat-in kitchen with exit to deck, granite counters and breakfast bar, private master suite with walk-in closets, upper level bedroom and loft area with private bathroom. Hardwood flooring, elegant moldings, exceptional location near shopping, dining and Potomac River.

Cathy D'Antuono | 703.819.3077



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

**1203 Essex Manor Court**  
\$1,340,000 | Wellington  
New hardwood floors, carpet, paint. Over 6000 sq ft, 5 bedrooms, study, library, 4.5 baths 2 car garage, almost 1/2 acre, kitchen with granite, island, breakfast room. Sun and music room overlooking deck and yard. Finished lower level suite, rec room, hobby room, storage. Dir: S on GW Pkwy, R Morningside Lane, L Admiral, L Essex Manor.

Phyllis Patterson | 703.518.6158



JUST LISTED

**3449 South Stafford Street**  
\$539,500 | Fairlington  
Highly sought-after Dominion, the largest floor plan in Fairlington! This 3 bedroom plus 2 bath end unit boasts hardwood floors, plaster walls, plantation shutters and a renovated kitchen with granite counters. The fabulous lower level offers a family room with built-ins plus a guest suite. A large TV screen and surround system convey! The home is a gem!

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

**2310 Wilkinson Place**  
\$579,900 | Kirkside  
Charming 4 bedroom dream home, perfect for family and entertaining. Updated eat-in kitchen with new appliances, countertops and flooring. Living room with fireplace, formal dining room. Spacious lower level rec room with built-in bookcase and fireplace. Large patio and backyard.

Frann Orr | 703.623.4070



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

**125 North Payne Street**  
\$699,000 | Old Town Alexandria  
A charming, sunny house with long garden, 2 bedrooms, new eat-in kitchen with granite counters and breakfast bar, trendy exposed brick walls, cathedral ceilings and skylights! 1.5 bathrooms. Close to King Street metro and shops. For information, more photos or floor plan please visit [www.125NorthPayneSt.com](http://www.125NorthPayneSt.com). [MLM1606@aol.com](mailto:MLM1606@aol.com).

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



TWO HOMES - OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

**2151 Jamieson Ave #607 - \$795,000**  
**2121 Jamieson Ave #1603 - \$668,500**  
Two great 3 bedroom Carlyle units with striking views and bright, open floor plans. Enjoy garage parking, sunny glass enclosed balcony, hardwood floors and designer upgrades. Close to restaurants, movies, Dash bus, and 2 Metro stops. [www.CarlyleTowers2-607.com](http://www.CarlyleTowers2-607.com) [www.CarlyleTowers1-1603.com](http://www.CarlyleTowers1-1603.com). [MLM1606@aol.com](mailto:MLM1606@aol.com).

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



JUST LISTED

**5901 Bush Hill Drive**  
\$496,900 | Bush Hill Woods  
Completely renovated home with gleaming hardwood floors, decorator paint, new kitchen with ceramic floors and stainless steel appliances, gracious LR with fireplace, formal dining room, finished LL with large recreation room, chair rail, 4th bedroom and 3rd full bath. 4 bedroom, 3 bath plus garage.

Liz Bucuvalas | 703.626.8400



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

**8708 Bradgate Road**  
\$619,000 | Stratford Landing  
4 bedroom, 3 bath home - updated top to bottom! Stunning multi-level deck! Move in ready with new Energy Smart appliances, new flooring and more! Take GW Pkwy South; right on Stratford, left on Camden, left on Londonderry, right on Highgate, left on Waterford, right on Bradgate. [www.8708Bradgate.com](http://www.8708Bradgate.com).

Bob Kuletz | 703.615.2626



JUST LISTED!

**3108 Cunningham Drive**  
\$649,000 | Wessynton  
4 bedroom, 3 bath home located just off the GW Parkway near Mt. Vernon. Community pool, tennis courts and water access! Recent renovations include new windows, roof and HVAC, remodeled kitchen with Corian counters and stainless steel appliances, hardwood and cork flooring, and idyllic tree views from the spacious rear deck.

Mark Souder | 703.856.5538



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

**519 Alfred Street**  
\$630,000 | Old Town Alexandria  
Very special 2 bedroom, 2 bath home in historic Old Town. with wood burning fireplace! Perfectly renovated in the past 3 years including EIK, baths, hardwoods, exterior and delightful outdoor space. Convenient to all Old Town has to offer. Just 6 blocks to metro! N. on GW Pkwy into Old Town. Rt. on Pendleton, Lt on N. Alfred St. to 519 on left.

Linda Wolf | 703.518.6165



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

**1503 Alexandria Avenue**  
\$564,900 | Hollin Hall Village  
Situated on corner lot across from parkland, this 3 level, 4 bedroom, 3 bath home is a jewel! Living room with fireplace, dining area and updated kitchen with granite and stainless steel. Lower level with bath and spacious family room with fireplace, and entrance to the outside deck and fenced rear garden.

Boots Howland Leavitt | 703.582.5665



Coldwell Banker is owned and operated by NRT, LLC.

Old Town Alexandria King Street Office  
310 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300 Main Office

# WWW.CBMOVE.COM/ALEXANDRIA

# PEOPLE



**Lonnie Rich, state Sen. Patsy Ticer and Chief Circuit Court Judge Donald Haddock.**



**Mayor Bill Euille, Charlotte Hall and Lonnie Rich.**



**Sue and Steve Levinson.**

## Celebratory Cruise

**A**lexandria law firm, Rich Rosenthal Manitta Dzubin & Kroger, LLP celebrated its first anniversary aboard the Miss Mallory on June 10. Guests were feted to a reception at dockside followed by a sunset cruise down the Potomac.

**Nancy Belmont, Tony and Kristine Mayo and Gerald Ragland.**



**Anne and Ed Beemer.**



**Nadine and Ken Boland join friends at the boat party.**



**Amie Hess and Mark Falsone.**



**Amie Hess, Miriam Castellanos and Dionne Castro.**



**Greg Hunanian, Lana Manitta, Neena and Daniel Dzenitis.**



**Erin and Sean Dunston.**

PHOTOS BY  
LOUISE KRAFFT/  
GAZETTE PACKET

# Enjoy Music Under The Stars . . .



## Come for the Concerts. Stay for the Summer.

Join us for a *Free Summer Concert Series* featuring favorite music performed by local bands on our beautiful South Lawn. Please bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Thursday, June 25 • 6:30 p.m. Marty Nall Jazz Trio	Thursday, July 30 • 7:30 p.m. The Mount Vernon Swing Band
Thursday, August 20 • 6:30 p.m. The Continentals	

Call us today at 703-768-0234 for more information and find out more about the surprisingly affordable retirement living we offer that includes:

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Featured in  
July 2009  
Kiplinger's  
Magazine!

# The Royal Restaurant

(now smoke free)

## “What’s for Dinner?!”

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

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

**Real food, for real people at reasonable prices.**

### Monday - Kids Night

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

### Tuesday - Greek Night

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

### Wednesday - All American Night

Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham

### Thursday - Italian Night

Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

### Friday - Fish Night

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

### Saturday -Steak and Chop Night

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

### Sunday

Brunch served 7am - 2pm

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

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



Ample Free Parking

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

**Pinhole Photography Workshop.** 4-5:30 p.m. Photographers age 10-15 can step inside a camera obscura to explore the simple science behind the art of photography. Visit [www.artatthecenter.org](http://www.artatthecenter.org) for details.

**Color Mixing as Science and Art.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. Children ages 4-10 are invited to explore the wonders of color mixing, creating a custom palette of tints, hues and shades. Visit [www.artatthecenter.org](http://www.artatthecenter.org) for details.

### WEDNESDAY/JULY 8

**“An’s Insiders View of Today’s USO” Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Hosted by the Springfield/Alexandria Women’s Connection. At the Springfield Golf & Country Club. The cost of \$17 includes the luncheon and free childcare. Reservations must be made by noon, Monday, June 6, to 703-569-4670 or 703-876-4780 or email to [SpringWmConn@yahoo.com](mailto:SpringWmConn@yahoo.com). Pamela Horton, an Airport Service Specialist of the USO at Reagan and Dullas Airport, will share heartwarming stories and experiences and talk about today’s USO. Nancy O’Meara, will speak about rebuilding her life as a divorced woman and single mother.

**Beat the Heat Summer Studio.** 1:30-3:00 p.m. On Wednesday afternoons artists of all ages are invited to follow a weekly routine of working with a drawing material to begin, followed by an activity with paint or collage and ending with time to work with clay. Visit [www.artatthecenter.org](http://www.artatthecenter.org).

### THURSDAY/JULY 9

**The Great Zucchini.** 11 a.m. A magic show with laughs. Recommended for ages 2 & up. At Barrett Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4555, ext. 3.

### SATURDAY, JULY 11

**Used Book Sale.** Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call 703-339-4610.



**“The Fine Art of Jazz,”** an exhibition highlighting the names and faces synonymous with the Kansas City tradition of American jazz, at the Alexandria Black History Museum at 902 Wythe Street. The exhibition will run through Saturday, Aug. 8. The Alexandria Black History Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and suggested admission is \$2. Go to [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).

## MUSIC LISTINGS

Know of a local venue that we don't have listed? Contact Steve Hibbard at [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-917-6407.

### The Athenaeum of Alexandria

201 Prince Street; call 703-548-0035. [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

July 9 at 7 p.m. - Carol Gaylor and Bruce Katsu. \$10 tickets online at [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

August 13 at 7 p.m. - One Eye Closed, featuring Les Thompson, founder of the Nitty-Gritty Dirt

### Austin Grill

801 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-684-8969.

### Bangkok Blues

926 W. Broad St., Falls Church. Call 703-534-0095. <http://www.bangkokblues.com/>.

### The Birchmere

3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

June 25: **Jazz Attack!** featuring Jonathan Butler, Rick Braun and Richard Elliot

June 26: **Herman’s Hermits** featuring Peter Noone

June 27: **The Seldom Scene** and The Dillards

June 28: **The Soul Sista Serenade** featuring Conya Doss, Sy Smith, Maya Azucena and M.C. YahZarah

July 3: **Amel Larrieux** is cancelled

July 8: **Les Nubians**

July 9: **Alex Bugnon and Paul Taylor**

July 10: **Roseanne Cash** with Dean Fields

July 11: **Old Time Banjo Festival**, featuring Mike Seeger, Bruce Molsky, Cathy Fink and Marcy Marner, Clarke Buehling, the Old 78’s and Adam Hurt

July 12: **Kindred the Family Soul**

July 16: **The Robert Cray Band** with John Forte

July 17: **Oleta Adams**

July 18: **Bill Kirchen and the Hammer of the Honky Tonk Gods** and Ruthie and the Wranglers

July 20: **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** “How Big Can You Get 100 Years of Cab Calloway”

July 21: **The Rippingtons** featuring Russ Freeman

July 23: **Hiroshima**

July 24: **Jimmy Thackery and the Drivers**, and Lil’ Ed and the Blues Imperials

July 25: **Dave Alvin and the Guilty Women**, featuring Sarah Brown, Cindy Cashdollar, Amy Ferris, Kristy McWilson and Lisa Pankratz with Eilen Jewell Band

July 29: **David Cook with Green River Ordinance**

July 30: **Jody Watley**

July 31: **Deanna Bogart** and the Tom Principato Band

### Bistro Europa

715 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-549-0533.

### Cameron Perks

4911 Brenman Park Drive, Alexandria. All events are free. Visit [www.cameronperks.com](http://www.cameronperks.com) or 703-461-6900.

### Caribbean Breeze

4100 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington. Call 703-812-7997.

**Salsa Lessons** every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

### Calabash of Alexandria

7305 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, 703-765-0222. Live Music every Saturday night at 9 p.m. with no cover charge. Open mic on Wednesdays and karaoke on Thursdays. Visit <http://calabashofalexandria.com>.

### Carlyle Club

411 John Carlyle St. Visit [www.thecarlyleclub.com](http://www.thecarlyleclub.com) or 703-548-5953.

June 25, 6:30-10 p.m. Terry Lee Ryan; June 26, 7:30 p.m.-midnight, Daryl Davis; June 27, 6:30-12 a.m. Doc Scantlin and the Imperial Palms Orchestra.

### Clarendon Ballroom

3185 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-469-2244

### Clarendon Grill

1101 N. Highland St., Arlington, 703-524-7455. [www.cgrill.com](http://www.cgrill.com). Party D.C. events every Wednesday. Live dance music from

9:30-12:30 a.m., plus micro brews, specials and more. No cover charge. Mondays are **Salsa night**, with free dance lessons and salsa music. Tuesdays are **Poker Night**, with free Texas Hold-’Em tournaments.

### Cowboy Cafe North

4792 Lee Hwy., Arlington. Call 703-243-9882.

### Duke’s Bar and Grill

1755 Duke St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-9602 or visit [www.dukesandwindsor.com](http://www.dukesandwindsor.com).

**Live Acoustic music**, every Friday Night. Shows from 5:30-9 p.m.

### Evening Star Café

2000 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-5051. Visit [www.eveningstarcafe.net/](http://www.eveningstarcafe.net/).

### Fireflies

1501 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-548-7200.

**Live bluegrass** music Sundays during brunch, starting at 11 a.m. No cover charge.

### Freddie’s Beach Bar and Restaurant

555 S. 23rd St., Arlington. Call 703-685-0555.

**Comedy Show** every Monday night at 8 p.m.

**Karaoke** every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m.

**Drag Show** every Sunday at 9 p.m.

### The Fish Market

105 King St., Alexandria. Shows at 9 p.m. Call 703-836-5676. Visit [www.fishmarketoldtown.com](http://www.fishmarketoldtown.com).

### Galaxy Hut

2711 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Shows begin at 9:45 p.m. \$5 cover. [www.galaxyhut.com](http://www.galaxyhut.com)

### Iota Club and Café

2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-522-8340.

### Ireland’s Four Courts

2051 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-525-3600. [www.irelandsfourcourts.com](http://www.irelandsfourcourts.com)

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Del Ray Music Festival Saturday

Celebrate the rich diversity and talent of the community at the Third annual Del Ray Music Festival on Saturday, June 27. Scheduled from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center Fields, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., the Del Ray Music Festival will include music, food, games, and a chance to ring in the summer with your friends and neighbors. The festival

will feature a variety of music including jazz, blues, swing, folk, country, Celtic, and rock. The majority of the musicians that will take the stage are residents of the neighborhood as well — something that makes this an extra special show for the performers. Visit the Web site at [www.delraymusicfestival.com](http://www.delraymusicfestival.com) or email [info@delraymusicfestival.com](mailto:info@delraymusicfestival.com).

### Main Stage

- 10 a.m. Swing Command (Swing Dance Band )
- 11 a.m. Sioban Quinn and Michael Bowers (Blues/Folk)
- 12 p.m. Ampersand (Rock)
- 1 p.m. Subtle Madness (Rock)
- 2 p.m. Chicken Fried Swing with Karl Straub (Swing/Rockabilly)
- 3 p.m. 50 Man Machine (Celtic Caribbean Rock)
- 4 p.m. Brad Linde Ensemble (Jazz)
- 5 p.m. Kate Moran Band (Pop/Rock)
- 6 p.m. Gulley Jimson Quartet (Rockabilly)
- 7 p.m. David Dodd and his band Shiner (Rock)
- 8 p.m. Naked Flames (Rock)
- 9 p.m. Dagmar and the Seductones (Rockabilly)

### 15-Minute Stage

- 10:45 a.m. CSA (Bluegrass)
- 11:45 a.m. Youth Fife and Drum Group
- 12:45 p.m. TC Williams Jazz Band
- 1:45 p.m. Steven Selman
- 2:45 p.m. 24-7 Band (Rock)
- 3:45 p.m. 24-7 Band (Rock)
- 4:45 p.m. Celtic Society of Southern Maryland
- 5:45 p.m. Celeste Starchild
- 6:45 p.m. Tim Parks
- 7:45 p.m. Jeff Stapleton
- 8:45 p.m. Paul Caffrey



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[www.christthesaviouranglican.org](http://www.christthesaviouranglican.org)  
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Mass Schedule

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

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## SCHOOLS

# Sherman: One Year In

FROM PAGE 1

of issues isn't near completion. But his stamp is evident. With dropout rates and achievement gaps he deemed "unacceptable," Sherman has gone about recreating the city's middle schools. He has begun to address shortcomings in the city's special education programs and elementary schools. And in some cases, he has revamped the entire curriculum, bringing in ideas from outside the area.

Most importantly, though, he has brought a new tone to Alexandria's schools, one that acknowledges its deficiencies and has taken an aggressive approach towards correcting them.

"When we hired Dr. Sherman, we knew we were getting an individual unafraid of change and tackling big problems," said School Board chairwoman Yvonne Folkerts, who is currently leading a board review of Dr. Sherman's first-year performance. "He's leading us to have courageous conversations and leading us to embrace the challenges we have. We brought him in here to make some changes and that's what he's doing."

**THOSE WHO WORK** with Sherman on a daily basis all have the same question and it has nothing to do with low test scores.

Does the man ever sleep? According to a number of people, it's not unusual to receive an email from the superintendent time stamped at three or four in the morning.

Despite that, "he's full of energy," said outgoing PTA Council president Melynda Wilcox. And almost immediately upon beginning his new job, Sherman used that vigor to engage the community.

When he arrived in the area last summer, Sherman was entering a time of great tumult for Alexandria and the 16 schools it supports. His predecessor, Rebecca Perry, had been fired by the School Board thanks to a divisive 5-4 vote earlier in the year. The School Board chairwoman at the time, Claire Everwein, had stepped down citing a move to Austria. T.C. Williams principal Mel Riddle left the school system to join a Reston-based association. The school's athletic director, Kerry Donley, was also newly departed, with a run for the Virginia House of Delegates on his mind. Even the Titans' state championship winning basketball coach, Ivan Thomas, had left the building following the 2007-08 school year.

So Sherman sought to give the city's schools direction. To do that, Sherman visited with more than 40 civic groups, holding several open community forums to get a sense for what Alexandrians were looking for. He started monthly brown bag lunches with the PTA Presidents of every Alexandria school, something long overdue according to those involved with the meetings.

"I've noticed a major shift in the sense that he has reached out to the parent community for input in a very positive way, and it's not just asking for opinions, but also inviting parents to participate in the decision-making process," said Melynda Wilcox, the outgoing PTA Council president. She cited Sherman's status as a father and grandfather as well as his blog and wife Debbie, a special education teacher, as other factors in her comfort level with the superintendent.

"His outreach has been outstanding, that's probably where he shines," said School Board member Charles Wilson.

**WHAT SHERMAN** discovered from these encounters were passionate parents concerned about issues like the city's middle schools never achieving the adequate yearly progress status set by the No Child Left Behind Act and achievement gaps that had some white students passing standardized tests at more than double the rate of their black counterparts.

All this in Alexandria, where more money is spent per pupil than any other jurisdiction in the Washington, D.C. area.

"Alexandria city public schools had become a bit insular, it's like somebody pulled up a professional veil over the beltway," said Sherman, sitting in his office sipping a Diet Dr. Pepper earlier this week. "The fact that we have accepted underachievement for up to 30 percent of our kids has been disturbing. ... Where's the national consultants that have connections to universities, where's the recruitment across the country for some of the best brains anywhere to try and address some of the forward thinking issues that we have?"

Immediately, Sherman reached for a higher standard. He ended the practice of hanging a banner celebrating "This school is fully accredited." The first line in his new mission statement read "Set the international standard." And he made some visible changes.

He incorporated the 9<sup>th</sup> grade school at Minnie Howard into T.C.

SEE CHANGE, PAGE 23

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# SCHOOLS

## Change: Fast Beats Slow

FROM PAGE 22

Williams. He expanded Jefferson-Houston Elementary School into a K-8 program, beginning the application of the British-style international baccalaureate primary years program. He brought in outside consultants like Lucy Calkins of Columbia University, who revamped the elementary-level writing program. And most notably, he made the decision to transform Alexandria's two large middle schools into five smaller academy schools.

**HIS BIGGEST PROPOSAL**, and perhaps his most controversial, is this "re-creation" of the middle schools in Alexandria. Recent research has concluded that success at the middle school level has a direct correlation to dropout status later on in high school.

Coupled with a report that said during the 2007-08 school year 89 percent of white students at George Washington Middle School passed standardized tests compared with less than 50 percent of their black counterparts, Sherman went into action.

His plan to separate George Washington and Hammond Middle Schools into five autonomous academy-style schools was approved by the School Board earlier this month and will go into effect in 2009-2010 school year. All five schools will have approximately 450 students, with principals, teachers, counselors, and students staying together all three years. Sherman's hope is to create a learning environment based on small class sizes, customization, and personalization. He said this week that everything — teachers, principals, schedules — have been completed and the five schools could open tomorrow if necessary. If it works, Sherman wants to implement this "multiplex" style of learning at all levels of the Alexandria school system.

"We think it's terrific and more than that we think it's responsible" said Sherman of the new middle school plan. "We're not going to just accept kids dropping out anymore."

But his plans have been met with some resistance. The cost-neutral plan adds no new faculty to the middle school level, which has some critics echoing Rhodessa Bender, whose son is a sixth grader at George Washington.

"How can you make the classes smaller when you have the same number of students and the same number of teachers?" she wondered. "I don't think [APS] were being very forthcoming with us."

Despite those complaints, the School Board passed the middle school proposal despite concerns that the superintendent was moving too fast to implement his plan.

"I'd rather have those problems with someone going too fast than have to kick someone in the butt to speed them up as

long as they're going in the right direction," said Wilson. "But it does make me nervous sometimes."

**THOSE DOUBTS** have fueled Sherman in recent months. He admits the critics probably made him work more and drive his staff even harder to make sure the implementation of his ambitious middle school program goes as smoothly as possible.

But he scoffs at the notion that he's moving too fast, that he should wait a year to test his proposals.

"This is drastic for Alexandria," Sherman said. "But when I talk to folks across New York or California, some of the proposals I've put forward are fairly standard for them. ... So I should sit in this office and worry that somebody is upset I'm moving too quickly when kids' educational lives are stake? I can't have it. There's enough body of research out there to tell us how it should be done, how it could be done, how kids will learn. We're not making it up, we're not pulling stuff from the clouds."

The sky, though, is where he sees the limit of Alexandria Public Schools. Over the past year, since Sherman's arrival in Alexandria, the School Board has gone from divisive 5-4 votes to near unanimity on most issues.

But even though test scores are slightly up across the board after just one year with a new regime, new problems have cropped up. With an influx of 700 unexpected students this past year and private school enrollment down across the

board thanks to the recession, Sherman is expecting an additional 1,000 students to populate the city's elementary schools in the next five years.

On the back of the door to his office is a piece of construction paper listing seven of the city's elementary schools that are classified as either "Uh-Oh" or even worse "Oh My" in terms of how overcrowded they could be by 2010-2011.

Still, 20-25 percent of Alexandria students are not passing standardized SOL tests and even Sherman admits the special education programs in Alexandria must be overhauled so that all students are learning similar content, rather than simply being separated due to disabilities.

It remains to be seen whether Sherman's vision will come to fruition in Alexandria. Full test scores for his new middle school program and his K-8 "elemiddle" experiment at Jefferson-Houston won't be conclusive for a few years.

"We had fallen into complacency of almost accepting mediocre results," said Sherman "Some of our kids were great, but we've unleashed some power and we've had some quick results. I'm really excited about the next couple of years. I think we'll take our place on the world stage, I'm absolutely certain of that."

**"The fact that we have accepted underachievement for up to 30 percent of our kids has been disturbing."**

— **Dr. Morton Sherman, Superintendent of Schools**

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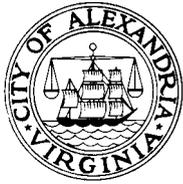
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For more information visit [alexandriava.gov/Dial746](http://alexandriava.gov/Dial746)

**Legal Notices**



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review  
Old & Historic Alexandria District

**LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

**CASE BAR2008-0235**  
Request for approval of alterations & signage at 134 N. Royal St, zoned CD Commercial.  
APPLICANT: City of Alexandria

**CASE BAR2008-0192**  
Request for approval of alterations at 408 Duke St, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Neils Nordquist

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

**CASE BAR2009-0106**  
Request for approval of alterations at 809 Chetworth Place, zoned RB Residential.  
APPLICANT: Howard Jennings

**CASE BAR2009-0115**  
Request for approval of alterations at 205 N. Patrick Street, zoned RB Residential.  
APPLICANT: Residential Management Realty, Inc.

**CASE BAR2009-0116**  
Request for approval of alterations at 421 S. Columbus Street, zoned RB Residential.  
APPLICANT: Christopher C. & Kay M. Morell

**CASE BAR2009-0117**  
Request for approval of alterations at 123 S. West Street, zoned CD Commercial.  
APPLICANT: Valda Anderson

**CASE BAR2009-0119**  
Request for approval of signage at 102 N. Fayette Street, zoned CD Commercial.  
APPLICANT: Knit-a-Gogo, Inc.

**CASE BAR2009-0120**  
Request for approval of signage at 210 King Street, zoned KR King Street Retail.  
APPLICANT: Le Tache Lingerie

**CASE BAR2009-0121**  
Request for approval of alterations at 429 N. St. Asaph Street, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Wilson Grand, LLC.

**CASE BAR2009-0122**  
Request for approval of alterations at 416 N. Union Street, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Fred L. Brewer

**CASE BAR2009-0123**  
Request for approval of demolition at 209 S. Fairfax Street, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: David Kiernan & Mandy Locke

**CASE BAR2009-0124**  
Request for approval of alterations at 209 S. Fairfax Street, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: David Kiernan & Mandy Locke

**CASE BAR2009-0125**  
Request for approval of alterations at 216 Wilkes Street, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Craig Hudnell

**CASE BAR2009-0126**  
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 607 S. Fairfax Street, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Catherine M. Cotell

**CASE BAR2009-0127**  
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 607 S. Fairfax Street, zoned RM Residential.  
APPLICANT: Catherine M. Cotell

**CASE BAR2009-0128**  
Request for approval of alterations at 528 N

**Legal Notices**

Washington Street, zoned OC Commercial.  
APPLICANT: ASCPT

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

**ABC LICENSE**  
Bottle & Cork, Inc trading as Unwined Bellevue, 1600 A Belleview Blvd, Alexandria, VA 22307. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine & Beer off Premise/Delivery Permit license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.  
Vanessa Moore, President

**ABC LICENSE**  
HKP Good News, Inc. trading as Kimchi House, 8537 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer/Wine on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Hye Kyong PANG, President

**ABC LICENSE**  
Lorton Arts Foundation, Inc trading as The Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse way, Lorton, VA 22079. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for an Annual Mixed Beverage Special Event License to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sharon Mason, Executive Director

**ABC LICENSE**  
The Christmas Attic, Inc trading as The Christmas Attic, 125 S Union St, Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a retail license-gift shop(beer/wine) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Fay Hobbs-Carter, President

**ABC LICENSE**  
Unwined, Inc trading as Unwined Online, 1600 B. Belleview Blvd. Alexandria, VA 22307. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Internet Wine Retailer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Vanessa Moore, President

**Public Notice Pursuant to the Voluntary Remediation Program**

At **4109-4125 Mt. Vernon Avenue (VRP00472)**

Property Address: 4109, 4115, 4121 & 4125 Mt. Vernon Avenue

Alexandria, VA 22305

Tax Map Numbers: 007.01-02-19, 007.01-02-20, 007.01-02-21, 007.01-02-22

VRP Applicant/Owner: City of Alexandria

The City of Alexandria enrolled the Site in the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) administered by the Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ). This notice is to fulfill the public participation requirement (9 VAC 20-160-120 (A) (3)) of that program. Remediation has been implemented and the participant is in the process of submitting the results to the VRP. Any questions or comments about the remediation of the Site are welcome during the 30 day public comment period.

**Description of Remediation/Nature of Release/Proposed Land Use Control:** The environmental impact on the properties is presumed to be a result of releases from the Site's historic uses in combination with fill material imported in the 1950's. Former Site uses include a retail paint store, gas station and dry cleaner. Site investigations found reportable concentrations of lead, petroleum hydrocarbons and chlorinated solvents in the groundwater and reportable levels of arsenic in the soil. A total of 55 tons of impacted soil was excavated and disposed of off-site. Air testing at 4109 Mt. Vernon Avenue confirmed no adverse impacts to indoor air quality. A groundwater deed restriction will be placed on the properties to prohibit use of groundwater.

**Contact for Additional Information or to Submit Comments:** To comment or request additional information regarding this Site contact Daniel Imig at The City of Alexandria, Office of Environmental Quality, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 3000, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-746-4070, [daniel.imig@alexandriava.gov](mailto:daniel.imig@alexandriava.gov)

**PEOPLE**



The girls with the Charles Barrett Junior Varsity wait in the hallway to be called in to the competition.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Cheer Gathering**

More than 200 elementary schools cheerleaders converged in the gym at TC Williams High School for the annual cheerleading competition in April, hosted by the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities / Recreation Services Division.

Deputy Director of the city recreation department William Chesley welcomed all to the annual event. EZ Street of 93.9 WKYS and Sheeba Reese served as Masters of Ceremonies. The competition was judged in three divisions: the Pee Wee's, the Juniors and the Varsity. Five area recreation centers competed: Charles Houston, William Ramsay, Mt. Vernon, Cora Kelly and Charles Barrett. Special guest performances by the Hot Topic Twinkle Stars, Hot Topics Rising Stars, The Young Titans Dance Team, Hot Topics Lightning Stars, Shining Stars and the William Ramsay Recreational Center Dance Troupe entertained the audience.



The Mount Vernon Junior Varsity squad take the floor.



The Charles Houston Center Junior Varsity division performs.

**Online Reservations: Now Serving**

FROM PAGE 5

December, we have had an average of over 200 restaurant reservations per month. My business has improved by that much and more during the same period," said Troy Clayton, owner of Geranio Restaurant.

Laurent Janowsky, the owner of La Bergerie has found that online reservations has helped to improve his business and has helped with customer satisfaction, "I think it's a wonderful tool."

VisitAlexandriaVA.com's Web site not only provides

restaurant reservations, but it also posts local activities on its Web sites. The user is able to book hotel reservations and find local shopping places such as clothing boutiques, antiques, specialty stores, home and garden and jewelry stores. Local activities include art and music festivals, along with food tastings and garden meetings.

There are more than 85 restaurants to choose from for a night out. Cuisine ranges from Italian to Nuevo Latino, Thai and French.

For more information about online reservations, go to [www.VisitAlexandriaVa.com](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVa.com).

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# NEIGHBORHOODS

## Seminary Valley

This column is full of congratulations:

It seems like yesterday when a bumper crop of five year olds headed off to Polk Elementary School, and now they are headed to college. On Thursday, Seminary Valley will have a bumper crop of high school graduates: Makda Aman, Mia Brown, Patrick Cox, Eni Maho, Katie Jones, Emily Haitzuka, Linzi Burstein, Larry Dow, Abby Keller, Jesse Schaffer, Marc Grosser, Hannah Levy and Simon Conn.

Neighbor Vaughan Ambrose and his wife, Katrina, welcomed their third son to the neighborhood last week. The newest addition, Tad, joins his brothers James and Julian and is settling in well on Naylor Place.

Jeff Murphy can tell the Ambroses a few things about boys. He has five! And has coached his T.C. Williams' Rugby team to its first state championship. Our Sutton Place neighbor is passionate about the sport and deserves credit for putting together the team after only a few seasons. The Titans' victory was decisive, beating Menchville (Newport News) 28-0. Rugby is catching on for Alexandrians of all ages; if you are in-

terested in taking up the sport, go to [www.alexandriarugby.org](http://www.alexandriarugby.org).

Kudos to Will Augustine, a rising 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Polk Elementary School, who just took first place in a hydroplane regatta in Tabor City, NC. For those of you not in the know, hydroplanes are small racing boats; the regatta was a sanctioned American Power Boat Association event. Will's participation in the Junior Hydro Class continues a longtime family tradition of boat racing; his grandfather, dad Gary (who started racing at age 12), an uncle and a cousin all compete. Will says that the best races are when the competition is a close one.

They say the apple does not fall far from the tree, and in our household this certainly rang true as the school year came to a close. Yours truly was voted "Most Musical" in her 1978 graduating class at Santa Ynez Valley Union High School. Lo and behold, daughter Maria was voted "Most Musical" in her 8<sup>th</sup> grade Hammond Middle School class, son Sam was voted "Most Musical" at the Minnie Howard Campus of T.C. Williams, and daughter Katie received the John Phillip Sousa award for musical achievement from the T.C. Williams Band.

— MIA JONES

MAMAMIAJONES@GMAIL.COM

## Taylor Run

### LOCAL HISTORY

Friends of local history heard an interesting report from Rose Dawson, Alexandria Library head, at their annual meeting. Confronted with a 14 1/2 percent budget cut, Dawson managed to maintain staff with no firings, no shutdown.

She cut the security budget, the cleaning budget, and the book budget, while increasing fines and fees.

Dawson urged the Friends to work for more funds next year.

### NEW ACQUISITION

A broadside advertising Goerge P Hill Crackers and Cakes was bought for the library through the efforts of Ellen Donald and Elaine Hanes. A copy was passed around.

Local history hours are now only MWF and one Saturday each month.

### BETH EL

Melissa Miller outlined for us the 150-year history of Beth El Hebrew Congregation.

### BABY TEA

The misses Addison Taylor Rowe, aged 7 weeks, and Hailynn Nicole Rowe, 3 1/2 years, recently received friends at the home of their grandparents, Nancy and John Rowe.

Among those present were Suzanne Thomson Rowe (their mother), Murray Richey, Joanne Grimes, Rhee Earl, Barbara Wollon, Karen Myers with daughter Kristi, 3 1/2, Dot Neumann, Elaine Anderson, Pat Laane, and Judy Albarelli.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

would be no competition for attention. Council candidates just wouldn't get any.

This Council on its way out of office has created a future in which Council candidates will run for office in virtual secrecy and those elected will serve the city anonymously. The League of Women Voters believes that local elections and local government are important. They deserve their own campaign season devoted to local issues and their own election day.

**Katy Cannady**

President,

Alexandria League of Women Voters  
East Oak Street, Alexandria

## So Long To Citizen Participation

To the Editor:

As a 33-year Alexandria resident and generally Democratic Party supporter, I am writing to express my dismay and disappointment at the Mayor and four City Council members who voted to reschedule City elections to November ("City Elections Rescheduled," June 18) despite significant opposition.

As your article stated, the change was made despite the contrary recommendation of a Mayor-appointed committee, chaired by activist Dick Hobson (a former delegate and City Council candidate), and 3/4 of the speakers — that is, the people who cared enough to show up to voice an opinion. So Council voted to substitute their own opinions and to exchange quality participation for mere increased numbers of voters despite those who took the trouble to state otherwise. Councilman Wilson's comment that he represents "all Alexandrians, not just those who show up here" is especially gal-

ling.

Not that long ago, activists like the late Ben Brenman and others, who would be seen sitting in the same seats attending all Council meetings, keeping our "Town Hall" spirit alive, and often influencing Council votes by testimony or just by "button-holding" Council members during meetings, would frequently be heard to say, "Council works for us; we're the citizens here." He was referring to his fellow activists; the ones who cared enough to show up and make their voices heard.

Seems only long-serving Del Pepper and outgoing Ludwig Gaines remembered that healthy attitude. Alexandria has been made lesser for the loss of our past effective activist voices, and now by Council's duplicitous action.

**Stephen Newman**

Alexandria

## Let's Limit Campaign Signage

To The Editor:

Now that my Republican opponent has formally declared her candidacy, I have asked her to please join me in a simple pledge to help preserve the beauty and character of our community:

Let us pledge that we will only place our campaign signs in the yards of our supporters and not litter them throughout our community along public rights of way and in other public spaces. We ought to commit to this with no loopholes and no exceptions; I will ensure that nobody from my campaign, our local Democratic organizations, or any other group puts my signs anywhere other than in the yards or windows of my supporters. The morning of Election Day on Nov. 3, let us place no more than four of each of our signs outside of each polling

place.

On the heels of a City Council race and a statewide primary contest that overwhelmed our community with political signs during one of the most beautiful times of year, and which placed an unfortunate burden on local roads maintenance officials, together we can take this simple, bipartisan step to avoid contributing to the problem over the coming months.

**Del. David Englin**

45th District

## When Less Can Be More

To the Editor:

The Post Office wants to eliminate Saturday delivery and close and/or consolidate its retail locations. I think USPS should take it a step further and just shut down completely on weekends. Many Post Offices already have APCs which can complete many routine transactions; the rest could be similarly equipped. There are convenient outlets just about everywhere that potential customers frequent, and if you just need to purchase first class stamps, well, there's always the grocery store. But the most important reason to implement such a change is societal; let me explain.

I grew up in a time when there were Blue Laws, those now seemingly pesky and archaic rules that forbade most forms of commerce on Sundays, a time which was reserved as sacred for God, for family, or for unstructured downtime, the proverbial forced day of rest. Over the years, as lives got busier and more complicated, the weekend became increasingly utilized to "catch up," do the shopping, take care of home related business. It spiraled out of control when the pursuit of leisure became indulged in with the precision of a work week sched-

ule. And then the economy tanked.

Coupled with "the Great American Black-out," otherwise known as the digital conversion which has left millions with either no TV reception or more limited programming options than before, my suggestion would be a step in the right direction, no matter how backward it might at first glance appear. For years, life 24/7 has been about "the stuff," or how much can be crammed into a day, or what of either can be bragged about to impress and pass, poorly, for conversation. The reverse, prodded by financial malaise, and brought into perspective by more physically limited options for shopping and entertainment, should usher in the onset of a trend of real and meaningful communication and putting the intrinsic value of human beings first. Despite all the interminable hoopla leading up to June 12, Best Buy has just posted quarterly profits down 15 percent, with a 6 percent decline in same store sales. It appears that despite the hype, there was no stampede to upgrade or purchasing frenzy, but rather a resignation of cash strapped consumers to do without. The Post Office has an opportunity to harness this change in collective mentality to its benefit and to lead by high profile example at the forefront of a national movement, as we necessarily scale back and revamp our lives, one industry and one person at a time. Less can be more. Really...

**Karen Ann DeLuca**

Alexandria

## Write

Letters to the Editor  
The Gazette Packet  
1606 King Street  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6431.

By e-mail:  
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# School's Out, NVSL Now in Session

Despite rainy weather, opening weekend brings enthusiasm, excitement about new season.

BY MADDIE MEYER  
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Although it was a rainy start to the Northern Virginia Swim League season, nothing could dampen the team spirit at Highland Park Pool. In its first home meet of the year Saturday, Highland Park defeated Sully Station II, 205-187, in an event more about the face paint and spirit than any end result. As events progressed, swimmers cheered on their teammates from under umbrellas and tents, screaming to support friends in the part-fun, part-competitive atmosphere that permeated throughout the more than 100 Northern Virginia pools that kicked off the NVSL season last weekend.

Many said the start of swim season marks the beginning of summer. Athletes on the

swim team become a close-knit group, pushing each other to improve during practices and events.

Youths of all age groups enjoy different aspects of the season. Twelve-year-old Lauren Harkes loves to "compete in the races and relays." She swims for Sully Station and believes that wearing "Sully tattoos" helps get the team pumped up for the meet. Nine-year old Joey Deal of Highland Park enjoys the face paint, which was clear when trying to view his face beneath a wall of green face paint.

The excitement at the meet could be seen throughout the pool. As athletes lined up and organized themselves into lanes, energy and excitement took the place of any pre-race jitters. Younger swimmers struggle to stay seated, while older teammates give

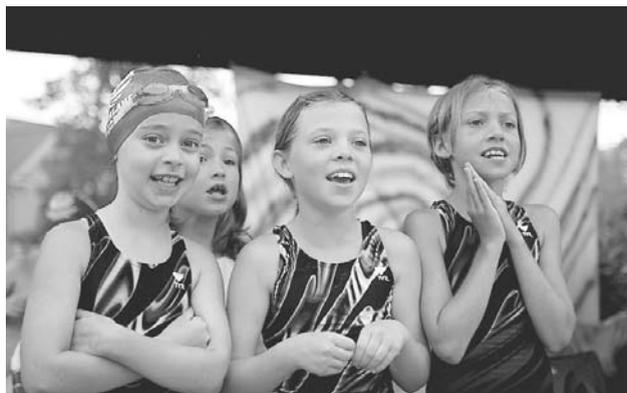


Lauren Harkes, 12, dives head first to start her 50-meter freestyle race during last week's opening swim meet between Highland Park and Sully Station.

SEE NEW SEASON, PAGE 27



Joey Deal, 9, swims breast stroke for Highland Park.



From left to right: Caroline Gerke, Laura Mueller, Grace Sklopan, and Paige Barwick cheer on their teammates.



David Thompson, 8, completes his 25-meter breaststroke race.

PHOTOS BY MADDIE MEYER/THE GAZETTE PACKET

## Kayaking for a Cause

Alexandria siblings raising money to participate in upcoming Junior Olympics.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Liam Malakoff has a distinct memory of when his fascination for paddling down rapids-filled, whitewater rivers began. He was just four years old when his father, an avid canoe enthusiast, bought him and his older brother "a clunky rec boat" to learn how to canoe with.

It was a far cry from the rapids that he maneuvers down daily along the Potomac River in preparation for this summer's Junior Olympics, but a passion had been born. Malakoff quickly moved from the big canoe to a whitewater boat and by age 12, had bought his own whitewater canoe.

"I stuck with the whitewater part," said Malakoff, who along with 11-year-old sister Eliza, will be holding a Learn to Paddle fundraiser along the Potomac River near Glen Echo this Saturday to help raise money so their entire team of Junior Olympic qualifiers from the Bethesda Center of Excellence (BCE) can make it to Ottawa, Canada for the July 3-12 competition.

"We're raising money but we're also hoping that some of them will stay and join the program," said Liam of Saturday's event, which is being held in conjunction with Liam and Eliza's coach, Dana Chladek, a two-time Olympic medalist in kayaking.

SEE KAYAKING, PAGE 32



Liam Malakoff of T.C. Williams in action on his whitewater canoe. He and sister Eliza are helping teach paddling lessons along the Potomac River this weekend to raise money for their upcoming trip to Ottawa, Canada for the Junior Olympics.

COURTESY OF DAVID MALAKOFF

# SPORTS

## New Season for Swimmers

FROM PAGE 26

them advice and try to keep them focused. Parents on either side of the pool cheer for their children, as the coaches yell directions from the opposite end of the pool.

Many of the swimmers see being part of the swim team as a tradition they have been participating in since they were very young. Once they are older, it is their job to help out their younger teammates. The team aspect in swimming is unique from other sports. While there are technically no teammates to help you out in the water, there are plenty providing encouragement from the side of the pool.

And it's not often a high school senior is cheering on an elementary school student, but the NVSL, now in its 43<sup>rd</sup> year of existence, brings children of all

ages together in one, fun-filled setting. This season more than 15,000 swimmers will dive into the pool in NVSL meets.

Linzi Burstein, 18, swims and coaches for Highland Park and was a captain for the T.C. Williams swim team this past winter. "It's critical I set a good example and demonstrate team spirit and good sportsmanship," she said of being an older member of the team. Burstein helps her younger teammates stay focused and pushes them to keep cheering during the rainy meet.

And though it may only be the first meet, swimmers have high hopes for the season. "The goal of the team is to swim the best we can," said Harkes. Team-oriented goals such as these are what push the competitive and friendly atmosphere of NVSL swimming.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

## Butts Wins National Title

Over the first two days of the Nike Outdoor Track and Field Nationals that took place June 18-20 in Greensboro, N.C., no athlete from the state of Virginia could break through and capture a national title. On day three, Tynita Butts of T.C. Williams changed all that.

By clearing 5-10.50 in the high jump, Butts overtook first place from Brian Rice of Missouri, and became the first Virginian to take home a national title

at the prestigious meet, cementing her status as the best high jumper in the country after winning the Nike Indoor title in the event this past winter.

Later on day three, Butts came within an inch of another national title in the long jump. Her mark of 19'11.50 was good enough for second place, a far cry from last year when she fouled out of the long jump competition in both the Virginia AAA state meet and the USATF Junior Nationals.

Meanwhile, Danielle Williams of St. Stephen's/St. Agnes placed third in the emerging elite 100-meter dash and 14<sup>th</sup> in the elite 200 meters. She teamed up

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 30

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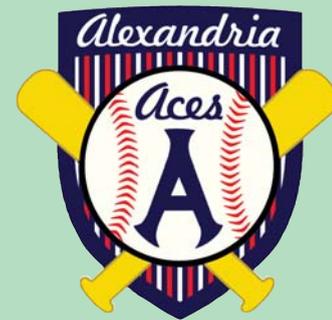
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**Contact for Additional Information or to Submit Comments:** To comment or request additional information regarding this Site contact Daniel Imig at The City of Alexandria, Office of Environmental Quality, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 3000, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-746-4070, [daniel.imig@alexandriava.gov](mailto:daniel.imig@alexandriava.gov)

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# SPORTS



COURTESY OF DAVID MALAKOFF

Eliza Malakoff of George Washington Middle School in action on her whitewater kayak. She and older brother Liam are helping teach paddling lessons along the Potomac River this weekend to raise money for their upcoming trip to Ottawa, Canada for the Junior Olympics.

## Kayaking for a Cause

FROM PAGE 26

Liam, 15, and Eliza, 11, are relative newcomers to the sport of whitewater slalom. In races, they must navigate their boats down a twisting course through a series of "gates" hung above flowing water. It can look like a cross between ballet and pinball, as the paddlers bounce over waves and carve graceful arcs through the poles. Liam will start his junior year at T.C. Williams this fall. Eliza just completed the sixth grade at George Washington Middle School. Liam races in a single-seat canoe and only started racing competitively in the last year and a half. His boat looks like a kayak, but he kneels instead of sits, and uses a single-bladed canoe paddle instead of a double-ended kayak paddle. He is currently the nation's third-ranked under-16 canoe racer, and recently won a spot on the MidAtlantic Regional Slalom Team.

Eliza uses a more conventional kayak that

one would see traveling along the Potomac River during a nice afternoon. The two usually train in the Feeder Canal, a set of rapids that connects the Potomac River to the C&O Canal.

"It's cool because it's not just you," said Eliza. "You're not the only force that's getting you through the river. You definitely have to work with the water."

"The real challenge and sort of the great reward of whitewater canoe or kayak is as you progress and the longer you paddle, the experience you gain allows you to read the river well," added Liam.

The Learn to Paddle workshop is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday this coming weekend on the Potomac River near Glen Echo, Md. The workshops are open to children ages 10-15 with instructors and the necessary equipment provided. For more information, contact Dana Chladek at [dana@telecamlfilms.com](mailto:dana@telecamlfilms.com)

## SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 27

with freshman Lauren Martin and juniors Mya Reid and Briana Richardson in the emerging elite 4x100 relay. The quartet established a school record of 49.07 in the preliminaries on Friday. The time wouldn't stand for more than 24 hours, though. The Saint relay broke their record again with a time of 48.97 in the finals. Their time ranks the Saints at No.12 in the state of Virginia.

## Little League Home Run Derby

On Sunday June 21, 12 Alexandria little league players from the Majors (the 10-12 age group), who'd hit home-runs during the

regular season, took the field at Little Simpson Field for the Alexandria Little League's home run derby.

In round one, players had 10 outs to hit two balls out of the park. If they hit two home runs, they advanced to the final two rounds. In rounds two and three, players had five outs at which point their totals were added up and winners decided.

In third place, with four home runs in the second and third rounds, was 10-year-old Dylan Elmore. In second place, with seven home runs in the last two rounds, was 11-year-old Andrew Tovskoy. The overall winner was Cameron Kicak, who just turned 13 and had 10 overall home runs in the last two rounds. He hit eight of the 10 in round three.



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