

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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JULY 23, 2009



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Gov. Tim Kaine takes the stage at T.C. Williams joining over 20 religious leaders from Prince William, Fairfax and Arlington Counties and the City of Alexandria and U.S. Sen. Jim Webb's Chief of Staff Paul Reagan.**

## Preserve or Demolish?

**Old American Legion Hall is at center of debate about future of neighborhood.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The unassuming yellow building on South Fayette Street has been deserted for years, although it's now at the center of a growing controversy about the nature of historic preservation and the future of the Parker Gray neighborhood. At issue is a 1944 structure originally constructed with federal money by the city of Alexandria as a nursery for what was then the city's African-American neighborhood.

By 1950, the structure became home to American Legion Post 129, the William Thomas Post — a bar that was frequently rented out and an address with a reputation for violent crime and moral turpitude in the 1980s and 1990s. But since 2007, when the American Legion moved to Mount Vernon Avenue, the building has been deserted even as the neighborhood around it has experienced a renaissance. Now Alexandria developer Bill Cromley is seek

**“There should be some way that this building doesn't just disappear from the landscape.”**

**— Louis Hicks, director of the Black History Museum**

SEE PRESERVE, PAGE 21

## Rattling Virginia's Cash Jar

**At TC, Governor commits to working toward expanding dental coverage to uninsured adults.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

As Washington grapples with health-care reform, Willie Jackson is facing his own health-care crisis. He must choose between paying for a place to stay or scraping to-

gether enough money to fix his seven rotting teeth. It's a choice that illustrates the real-world decisions people without dental insurance face every day.

“My teeth are loose,” said Jackson. “They are so loose, I have to be very careful about what I eat.”

Jackson told his story to Democratic Gov.

Tim Kaine and 1,100 participants of a new interfaith religious group known as Virginians Organized for Justice and Political Participation — known as VOICE. The group, which was created last October, called the mass meeting at T.C. Williams High School this week to address Virginia's lack of dental care for low-income residents and the persistent delays in processing naturalization applications of Northern Virginia residents. After hearing personal and at times

SEE FAITH GROUPS, PAGE 5

## New Bid for BID

**After a failed attempt in 2005, business leaders decide to reconsider Business Improvement District.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Some of the old and faded signs from 2005 can still be found up and down King Street, supporting and opposing a proposal that died years ago to create a Business Improvement Dis-

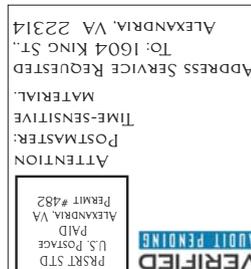
trict along the King Street corridor. The proposed district, known by the acronym BID, would have used an add-on tax to the commercial property tax rate that would have generated about \$1 million a year that would have been used for a number of purposes — pressure washing bricks on the side-

**The BID steering committee circulated ‘yes’ signs that supported the 2005 proposal.**



**The National Taxpayers Union circulated ‘no’ signs that opposed the 2005 proposal.**

SEE TIME, PAGE 3





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## OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

\$925,000



### Semi-Detached circa 1880 Beauty

The southern light permeates this frame and brick home located in the southeast quadrant just a short walk to Lee Street Park, Potomac River shopping and restaurants. The remodeled kitchen has top of the line stainless steel appliances and Brazilian honed countertops which adjoins a family room that over looks a deep and exquisitely landscaped garden. Additionally, there are two wood burning fireplaces and upstairs you will find three bedrooms and two full baths.

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Stunning four-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath newer home crafted for today's lifestyle offering open floor with gourmet kitchen and adjoining family room. Spacious living and dining rooms, relaxing master suite, private fourth bedroom/loft for home office or playroom and designer finishes all within walking distance of two Metro stations, Old Town and Del Ray entertainment. More photos at [www.jenwalker.com](http://www.jenwalker.com).

**Jennifer Walker**  
703.675.1566  
[www.jenwalker.com](http://www.jenwalker.com)



\$699,000

## ALEXANDRIA/BELLE HAVEN

\$1,095,000



### Before and After! ~ Mirror Image Houses in the Heart of Belle Haven

These mirror-image Dutch Colonial homes were built in 1954. With approximately 3,000 square feet each, these classic structures reflect quality construction and design.

**6015 Grove** is an excellent example of classic features and is in very good condition. With a freshly painted exterior it features three bedrooms and two full baths (including an oversized master suite) on the upper level, and living room with wood burning fireplace, dining room, den, kitchen, half bath and sun porch on the main level. There's a full basement which is ready to become comfortable living space - driveway included! The backyard is brilliant with greenery and color!



Next door at **6017 Grove**, the owners have meticulously renovated this stunning home! Upstairs features four bedrooms and two full baths including a master suite with walk-in closet, balcony and limestone bath. The main level has a chef's kitchen with breakfast room, oversized living room, half bath, year-round sunroom, and dining room. Outside there are three lovely levels of stone terrace, complete with pergola. Downstairs is a family room, guest suite and mudroom. Off-street parking for two/three cars.

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## ALEXANDRIA

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### King Street Treasure!

Beautiful hardwoods in this three-bedroom, one-bath home that is conveniently located. Walls of windows flood this home with natural light and a cozy retreat by the fireplace! The kitchen has gorgeous granite counters and Decora light wooden cabinets. Downstairs you'll find a generous finished basement with plenty of storage. Delightful landscaping and brick patio!



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# The Matriarch

For more than a century Evelyn Brooks raised a family and served others in the church.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The stretch of Evelyn Brooks' life expands more than a century, surviving segregation, wars, hardship and adversity. Her strong-willed personality and forceful demeanor created a household where the expectations were high and achievements accumulated. When her grandson became a general in the United States Army, her family gained the distinction of being the only African-American family in the history of America to have a father and two sons to become generals in the United States Army. Brooks died on July 8, less than a month after celebrating her 101st birthday with family and friends.

day to attend church at Zion Baptist Church on South Lee Street. By 1963, when her husband became pastor at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Rockville, Md., Evelyn Brooks assumed the role of deaconess.

"My mother insisted on having things a certain way," said Leo Brooks, her son. "Like all the cloth in the church, which had to be folded in such a way that it would not wrinkle."



Evelyn Brooks

**ALL OF HER CHILDREN** attended segregated schools in Alexandria and moved on to colleges and graduate schools because of their parents' encouragement: Houston Brooks Jr. received a doctorate in biochemistry; the late

Henry Brooks received a doctorate in psychology and a divinity degree in clinical pastoral education; Nellie Brooks Quander is a retired teacher, principal, and senior administrator in the Alexandria and Fairfax County school systems; Leo Brooks rose to the rank of major general in the United States Army; and Francis Brooks is a retired teacher and science department head at Montpelier High School who went on to serve for 26 years in the Vermont House of Representatives.

**SHE IS SURVIVED** by four children; one son-in-law, Welton Quander Sr; four daughters-in-law, Willa Mae Brooks, Aeolus Brooks, Naomi Brooks and Eunice Brooks; 13 grandchildren, Carl Brooks, Roger Brooks, Alyson Brooks, Stephen Brooks, Patricia Brooks, Evelyn Ridgeway, Sherrie Quander, Welton Quander Jr., Brig. Gen. Leo Brooks Jr. (retired), Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, Marquita Brooks, Eric Brooks and Maria Brooks. She is also survived by a grandson-in-law, three granddaughters-in-law, eight great-granddaughters, a great-grandson-in-law and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was an active member of Esther Chapter No. 23, Order of Eastern Star in Alexandria for 56 years and was its Worthy Matron from 1946 to 1947.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Biden at Durant Center** Vice President Joe Biden, who leads the White House Middle Class Task Force, discusses health care reform, particularly as it affects senior citizens, Thursday, July 16 at the Durant Center. He is accompanied by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and by Barry Rand, chief executive of AARP.

## Time To Reconsider BID

FROM PAGE 1

and the steering committee withdrew its plan in December 2005.

"I think the economics of Old Town would be entirely different story had it not been defeated," said developer Rob Kauffman, who served as chairman of the steering committee. "We've lost a lot of business to places that do have BIDs."

Across the region, special taxing districts have sprouted up in places such as Annapolis, Crystal City and downtown Washington. Now the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce has opened a new dialogue about the possibility of creating a sort of business improvement district here in Alexandria. Although the memories of the 2005 attempt are still raw for some, others say the time is ripe for seeing if a consensus could emerge in the business community.

"If Old Town ever needed rescuing, it's now," said Joe Edgerton, owner of Arts Afire. "We are losing one of our main attractions, and that's quality retail shops."

**CHAMBER LEADERS** were clear that they are not necessarily advocating the creation of a district, although they organized a break-fast discussion of the idea this week. The meeting was purposefully located in one of the many vacated retail spaces on King Street, highlighting the economic stark problems facing the city. Organizers said they were open to exploring a number of different possibilities for how such an organization could be created and maintained, including where such a district might be located.

"Old Town is the natural focus," said Cathy Pusker, chairwoman of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. "But there are other areas of opportunity, in-

### What Is a BID?

A Business Improvement District, known by the acronym BID, is a geographically defined area where the majority of property owners agrees to provide an extra level of public service by imposing an added tax or fee on all the businesses in that area. Services could include pressure washing, potted plants, park benches or security guards. Most BIDs are add-on taxes to the existing commercial property tax rates, collected by the municipal government and distributed to the BID board of directors.

cluding Del Ray or the West End or Carlyle."

No formalized plans exist yet, although opposition is already mounting against the idea of forcing higher taxes on business owners. The Crystal City BID, for example, adds 4.3 cents to the existing commercial property tax rate. Some who opposed the 2005 BID attempt in Alexandria say that kind of plan would likely face an opposition campaign that would resurrect the old stop-sign placards.

"If they propose an involuntary tax, we'll probably have those stop signs up within 72 hours," said Bud Miller, president of Alexandria Taxpayers United. "The worst thing you could do to a business in this environment is raise taxes."

Chamber leaders were clear that they were more interested in finding out what level of interest the idea had rather than discussing the mechanics of how the operation might work. Yet the details of how revenue is collected, how much money is involved and who is granted oversight are certain to frame any discussion of what an Alexandria BID might look like. Although building a consensus behind an involuntary tax might be difficult, a voluntary association of merchants might be an easier sell.

"It can't be a mandate," said Councilman Frank Fannon. "It would definitely have to be a voluntary program."

**"If they propose an involuntary tax, we'll probably have those stop signs up within 72 hours."**

— Bud Miller, president of Alexandria Taxpayers United

# Alexandria Gets Bike Friendlier

City officials see bicycles as key to sustainable future.

By TOMMY HILL  
THE GAZETTE PACKET

The steady buzz of spinning bicycle wheels competed with the hum of passing traffic as swarms of cyclists enjoyed the newly-completed Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail one recent weekend afternoon. The trail, which opened to the public following a dedication ceremony on National Trails Day on June 6, provides a link between the Mount Vernon Trail in Alexandria and the Potomac Heritage and Harborwalk Trails in Prince George's County. Combined with its commanding views of Old Town, the National Harbor, and the District, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail has quickly become one of the most popular in the region.

But the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail is only the most visible in a series of improvements that have swept Alexandria's cycling network in recent years.

"In the last three years alone we've added nine miles of on-street bike trails across the city," said Yon Lambert, pedestrian and bike coordinator for the City of Alexandria. "That's a huge step up from the mere mile and a half of on-street bike trails the city had in 2006."

Other recent improvements to the city's bike trail network include the resurfacing of a 0.5 mile stretch of trail along Eisenhower Avenue; a Duke Street overpass that provides a pedestrian and bicycle link between the Cameron Station Development and Beatley Library; and a new trail along Route 1 that



A biker uses the Commonwealth Path, which begins at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and King Street in Old Town Alexandria and extends to Four Mile Run.

## More

Check out the Gazette Packet's complete guide to biking around Alexandria, including a trail map and bike path tidbits. See Sports, page 22.

provides a connection between the Mount Vernon Trail in Old Town and the Huntington Metro Station. The city has also outfitted all Dash buses with bicycle storage racks and installed dozens of bike racks on sidewalks across the city to encourage cycling as a viable transportation option.

"Thanks to these improvements," Lambert said, "about nine percent of all commuting trips in Alexandria are now made by cycling and walking, an increase of over five percent since 1994. That's four times the national average."

**AT A CELEBRATION** on Bike to Work Day on May 15, the city was formally recognized for its efforts by the League of American Bicyclists. The city joined 108 other communities across the country to be recognized by the organization as a "Bicycle Friendly Community."

"We were thrilled to be recognized," said Jerry King, current president of Bike Walk Alexandria, an organization that lobbies for

the interests of pedestrians and bicyclists. "In the next couple of years, we will be working ... with the city to improve signage and expand the network of bike trails and lanes."

Alexandria officials had been striving for recognition from the League of American Bicyclists since 2006, when city council members approved what they named the "Spin City 2009 Action Plan." In an outline of the plan from June 2006, it was noted that increased bicycle use can provide a set of social benefits ranging from pollution control to enhanced recreational opportunities to advances in the city's appeal to tourists, businesses and new residents.

"Alexandria should be a walking and biking city," said a May 2005 city council memo. "This is not a silver bullet for our changing region, but it is a critical component of how we improve our quality of life. People should not always have to get in the car for a carton of milk or to meet friends for a cup of coffee."

Many city officials view improvements to the bicycle network as key components of a larger, long-term effort to transform the city's transportation system and to minimize car dependence.

"Current levels of automobile use are not sustainable," said Bruce Dwyer, former chair of the Alexandria Bicycle Study Committee, now known as Bike Walk Alexandria. "Making Alexandria more bicycle friendly is just one in a set of bigger issues that includes enhancing transportation alternatives like walking and mass transit," Dwyer went on.

"I would bet that 80 percent of people in Alexandria live within walking or biking distance of a grocery store, a school, a post office — anything the average resident would need on a day-to-day basis. The reason people don't

SEE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 23

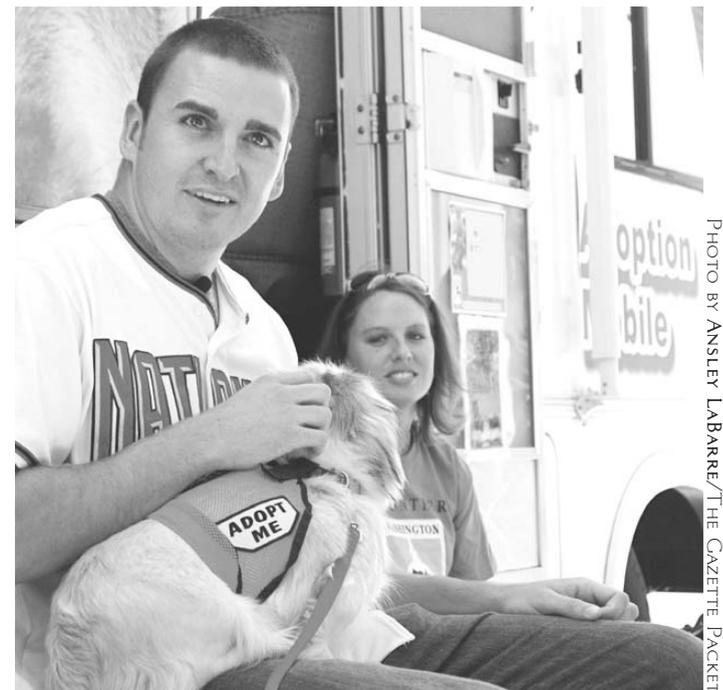


PHOTO BY ANSLEY LABARRE/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Nationals pitcher John Lannan sits with volunteers from the Washington Humane Society to encourage pet adoption outside Richmond Highway's PETCO on Saturday.

## Lannan Pitches for Pets

Nationals pitcher talks about pet ownership at local PETCO.

By ANSLEY LABARRE  
THE GAZETTE PACKET

A variety of wide-eyed and furry fans greeted Washington National's pitcher John Lannan at the PETCO on Richmond Highway last Saturday, where Lannan joined the Washington Humane Society to sign autographs and promote responsible pet adoption.

Lannan's agent Todd Wiseman noted the event is part of the effort to get the major-league pitcher involved with the community. Lannan spent two hours signing autographs, doling advice for young baseball players, and scratching ears.

Lannan admits he didn't have much exposure to animals as a child aside from the occasional low-maintenance gerbil. "But when his grandmother rescued their first dog, Lannan was hooked." The pitcher bought a French bulldog-beagle mix named Bailey last October. "However, the traveling required with a Major League baseball team makes it difficult for him to give Bailey constant care, so he relies on the support of his family to lend a hand.

"It's a lot of work," said

Lannan regarding dog ownership, "it's a lot of responsibility."

This responsibility is fundamental to the Humane Society's message. Julie Conway, chief development officer for the Society, acknowledges Lannan's support of their organization enhances his ability to act as a role model for young fans.

"If kids see pro-athletes loving animals, they're going to love animals, too," said Conway.

The Humane Society had its "Adoption Mobile" parked outside the PETCO during Lannan's visit to encourage the adoption of young dogs. And Lannan was just as enthusiastic about engaging the animals as he was fans, who often brought along their own pets. While the 24-year-old does admit he is not crazy about cats, he nevertheless welcomed a multitude of Nats enthusiasts — young, old, with fur or scales — to join him.

Lannan acknowledged one of the best parts of being a pet-owner is their ability to bring a family together, as happened with his own dog Bailey.

"You don't just get a pet temporarily," said Conway. "They are a part of your family and they're part of your family for life."



The recently opened Route 1 bike path connects with the Mount Vernon and Woodrow Wilson Bridge trails.

# Faith Groups Support Expanding Dental Coverage

FROM PAGE 1

emotional testimony, the governor pledged to “rattle the cash jar” for expanding dental coverage for the uninsured.

“Candidly this issue was not on my radar screen before,” said Kaine. “But it’s on my to-do list now because of VOICE.”

Kaine reminded the capacity crowd that in the first year of his administration he worked to expand dental coverage to

100,000 additional low-income children early in his administration. But he admitted that after achieving that victory, the issue of expanding dental coverage to the uninsured was no longer a concern. That’s why VOICE leaders said after the meeting they counted the governor’s commitment to rattling the cash jar as an important victory — even if the governor stopped short of promising he would find funding for the issue.

“I think this is what we expected, considering the budget situation,” said Scott Davis, senior pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church. “We are going to continue pushing.”

**THE OTHER ISSUE** on the agenda Monday night at T.C. Williams was the persistent federal delays in processing naturalization applications of Northern Virginia residents. Although Virginia’s two United

States senators were unable to attend the meeting because of pressing business at the Capitol, their representatives were presented with 200 individual cases VOICE leaders said demanded their attention. And they pressed for speeding up the processing time in Northern Virginia, which lags behind other areas of the county.

“We see the human face of this issue,” said

SEE FAITH GROUPS, PAGE 10

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# Some Swine Flu Risks

**If you're sick, stay home from work; if the children are sick, keep them home from school.**

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Virginia has had more than 300 confirmed or probable cases of swine flu, and two deaths from the swine flu, including one in Arlington. A 27-year-old Alexandria man, hospitalized with a confirmed case of H1N1 flu, died in June.

We suspect the actual number of cases of swine flu in Virginia to be much higher, given the example of other states, e.g. Wisconsin, which reports more than 6,000 probably or confirmed cases of swine flu, but just eight deaths.

Cases have spiked in Virginia in recent weeks according to the Virginia Department of Health, during a time when health officials say anyone with flu symptoms of sore throat, fever and cough almost certainly is infected with swine flu. The regular, seasonal flu is almost

unheard of this time of year. The CDC identifies the level of infection in Virginia as "regional," with the level of infection in Maryland as "widespread."

Overall, so far swine flu has been more mild than feared, with most people recovering without hospitalization. Seasonal flu, as differentiated from swine flu, kills about 36,000 people nationwide each year; about 1,000 people die in Virginia each year from influenza and pneumonia.

The CDC is predicting that swine flu will continue to spread through the summer and into the fall and winter, and will be a significant complicating factor when the seasonal influenza strikes when the weather gets cold.

**EDITORIAL**

The CDC reports: "The novel H1N1 virus, in conjunction with regular seasonal influenza viruses, poses the potential to cause significant illness with associated hospitalizations and deaths during the U.S. influenza season."

The primary method to avoid the spread of the swine flu is to tell people who are sick to stay home from work, keep sick children home from school or camp. Call your doctor's office, let them know you have flu symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat), so your doctor can determine if you would benefit from an antiviral medication. People who have had the swine flu are deemed contagious for seven days af-

ter the onset of symptoms, or until all symptoms have disappeared, whichever is longer.

All of our health in the coming year will depend on people following the advice to stay home if sick and seeking the right medical attention from a doctor's office, not the emergency room.

But what about the millions of workers who have no (or very limited) paid sick leave? What about the millions of people who have no health insurance and have no doctor to consult by phone?

According to a new report from an advocacy group, Health Care for America Now, in Virginia, about 12 percent of whites, 17 percent of African Americans and 45 percent of Latinos lack health insurance.

According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, about half of workers (excluding those who work for government) have no paid sick leave.

The rest of us who are blessed with access to health care and paid sick days are at risk as other workers are under intense financial pressure to go to work even when they are sick, or their children are sick.

There are no simple answers, but it's also important to recognize the growing costs of the status quo on health care.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

## VDOT's Monument To Expediency

To the Editor:

There's a paradigmatic clock ticking toward the 11th-hour climax of the Trojan Horse usur-

pation of Alexandria's quality of life, and our city council needs to pull the plug on it post-haste.

In a few weeks, this usurpation will be complete with the signing of a construction contract between the Virginia Department of Transportation and its Australian corporate developer to extend high-occupancy toll lanes into the I-395 corridor all the way past the Pentagon. Mindful of that project's impending deleterious impact, the board of directors of the multi-acre Parkfairfax condominium recently passed a formal resolution of opposition.

We Parkfairfaxians know that the city council has passed a resolution withholding support for the project. But, at this stage, that document has all gums and no teeth. We know, too, that a few council members share some of our concerns about this most ill-advised project in the history of Virginia's transportation management.

What we need now is less lukewarm reaction from council and more (sustained) proaction. Specifically, I and a growing list of other Alexandrians and Arlingtonians, ask that council proceed with the following actions:

- ❖ Issue, as soon as possible, a council resolution opposing any extension of the HOT lanes inside the I-495 beltway;

- ❖ Join forces with the Arlington County board of supervisors to formally demand immediate cessation of the HOT lane project within the affected inside-the-beltway communities (such as Fairlington, Parkfairfax, Shirlington, North Ridge, Beverly Hills, and Parc East);

- ❖ Authorize and direct Alexandria's city attorney to undertake all appropriate legal action, in coordination with all pertinent other jurisdictions, to geld the stealthy HOT lane stallion in its tracks;

- ❖ Mobilize and conduct periodic public hearings on the council's progress in helping us resolve this issue in favor of sane/sound/safe and economically sensible transportation management.

The hands of VDOT's paradigmatic clock have approached 25 minutes to 11 o'clock (each minute signifying a day's worth of time left for council to act on our behalf). How about it, councilmembers: Who among you are bold enough to add your signatures to the online anti-HOT-lane petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/xhotlane/petition.html> ?

Larry W. Bryant  
Alexandria

## Too HOT for Seminary Hill

To the Editor:

Seminary Hill Association, Inc. (Seminary Hill) shares the concerns raised about the proposed I-95/I-395 HOT lanes in "In the HOT Seat" (Gazette Packet, July 9, 2009) and joins the Parkfairfax Condominium Unit Owners Association in its opposition to the I-395 HOT Lanes Project.

Over the past five months, Seminary Hill has

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

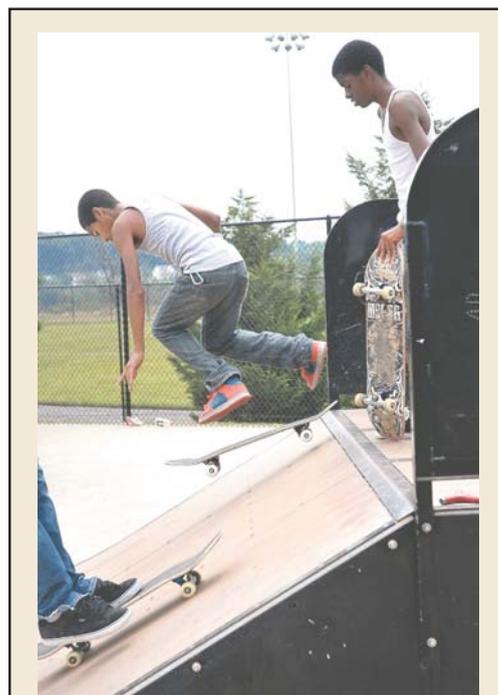


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

### Snapshot

Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skate Park, 1:48 p.m., July 20.

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# OPINION

## Keeping Promises

BY DR. MORTON  
SHERMAN  
ALEXANDRIA SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS



**M**y father was a mechanic who never graduated from high school. He told his five sons, "Choosing to be a mechanic is a good thing, if you have the choice." He was right, and his advice still works today. We must ensure that every child in our schools has the choice to attend college or follow a different path. Only through high academic achievement for all students can we assure responsible and meaningful choices. Let us not expect less from some students; let us not take away their life choices.

We use the term "at-promise" in Alexandria City Public Schools to describe children who have the potential to achieve at a higher rate than they are currently achieving. Really, all children are at-promise, because we, as educators, have made a promise to each and every child that we will work toward higher achievement for all, from those who are most struggling to those who are already achieving at high levels. We promise to give each of them the tools to achieve at their highest potential so that they have choices about life.

To keep our promise, every ACPS employee must feel responsible for the success of every student. This has not always been the case. Systemically, we've been set up to compartmentalize. A general education teacher may feel that a student receiving ELL or special education services is the responsibility of a specialized instructor. If a student drops out, teachers may feel they can no longer help. I've said many times, "no blame, no excuses." We must move forward,

and this silo mentality must change. All teachers need the tools and skills to feel empowered to take responsibility. They need support, just as our students need support. We have made that promise to our teachers as well.

To achieve our goals, we must recognize that teaching is central to all we do. There is no such thing as a born teacher. While some may be naturally gifted, all teachers need on-going professional development to hone their skills. Teaching is a science, or perhaps more of an art, in which compassion, intelligence, integrity and skill must be combined with pedagogy (methods of instruction) to achieve maximum results. This year and in the future, ACPS will focus much more on meaningful professional development to help our new and experienced teachers achieve at high levels. We will also focus on evaluation. Although we do not have the option of giving up on an unmotivated child, we will assist any teacher or administrator, who does not fully believe in the potential of every child, in finding a position elsewhere.

When my family moved to New York many years ago, my oldest daughter quickly learned that she would need to make the swim team in order to hang out with the "cool kids." She had never participated on a swim team before, and this school had won the State championships eight years in a row. Still, she tried. And when she finished her try-out, completely out-of-breath and exhausted, the coach approached her and said, "You keep swimming like that and you could make the Olympics." He could see that she needed extra help, but he also saw her poten-

SEE KEEPING, PAGE 12

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Thursday, July 30th

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**LETTERS**

FROM PAGE 6

expressed its objections at two VDOT Public Hearings, at an Alexandria Transportation Commission Public Hearing, and before the Alexandria City Council. Our position and concerns are summarized below:

- ❖ Seminary Hill opposes any off-ramps onto Seminary Road. Seminary Road is a residential street that runs through the heart of Seminary Hill and connects with other residential streets — Jordan, Howard, Braddock, Fort Williams, Quaker and Janney's — all of which would likely become cut-through routes through our neighborhoods. We oppose such a ramp even if it is initially designated as transit- or bus-only. Once built, there would always be the potential for it to be opened up to cars.

- ❖ We oppose the construction of a transit station in the middle of the Seminary Road interchange — this makes no sense.

- ❖ The proposed changes to the Shirlington circle with so many additional traffic signals are very troubling. This is a complicated interchange that actually works very well as it is today, with only one traffic signal — why mess it up?

- ❖ We question the wisdom in

taking one of the most, if not the most, successful carpool projects in the country and risking compromising its success.

- ❖ We question the wisdom of extending HOV or HOT lanes from so far south heading north onto I-395. This sends the wrong message — live as far away as Massaponax and VDOT will make it easier for you to commute by car into one of the most congested traffic situations in the country. And once HOV or HOT lanes are built all the way to Massaponax, it is sure to invite more residential development all along the way, which will only lead to more traffic headed in our direction, and toward the 14th Street Bridge.

- ❖ We have safety concerns with the narrow widths proposed for some of the lanes and shoulders, and their impact on the number of accidents and response times.

- ❖ We are concerned about visual pollution. VDOT has spoken of extensive new signage — how many signs? Where? What would they look like?

- ❖ We are concerned about the proposed sound walls which, on VDOT's maps, line both sides of virtually every foot of I-395 between Seminary and Quaker. How effective will they be? Will I-395

be made as ugly as what is already being done to the beltway?

- ❖ We are concerned about how many trees will be lost.

- ❖ We are concerned about the revenue/penalty structure for the entity that would operate the HOT lanes. I was told by VDOT that unlike the beltway HOT lanes, the I-95/I-395 proposed HOT lanes would not include penalties to be paid to the operator in the event that the HOT lanes do not generate sufficient toll revenue. If the I-95/I-395 HOT Lanes proposal moves forward, we must make certain that this is the case — if (when) gas prices return to \$4/gallon or more and people get out of their cars, whether HOV or HOT vehicles, Virginia taxpayers should not bear the risk of what the operator deems to be insufficient revenue.

- ❖ What will happen to all of the vehicles as they approach the Pentagon and the 14th Street Bridge? Where will they go? Recent news reports state that I-395 at the 14th Street Bridge is the most congested traffic area in Northern Virginia. VDOT clearly has not addressed this adequately.

Most of these issues were raised at Seminary Hill's Board or Directors meeting this past March,

when representatives of VDOT and the proposed operators, Fluor and Transurban, were present. We did not receive satisfactory or meaningful answers to our questions.

The construction of HOT lanes on I-395 would offer no benefit to residents of Alexandria, yet we would bear many costs in the interest of encouraging people to commute from much too far away into what is already a terribly congested area.

**Joanne Lepanto**  
President

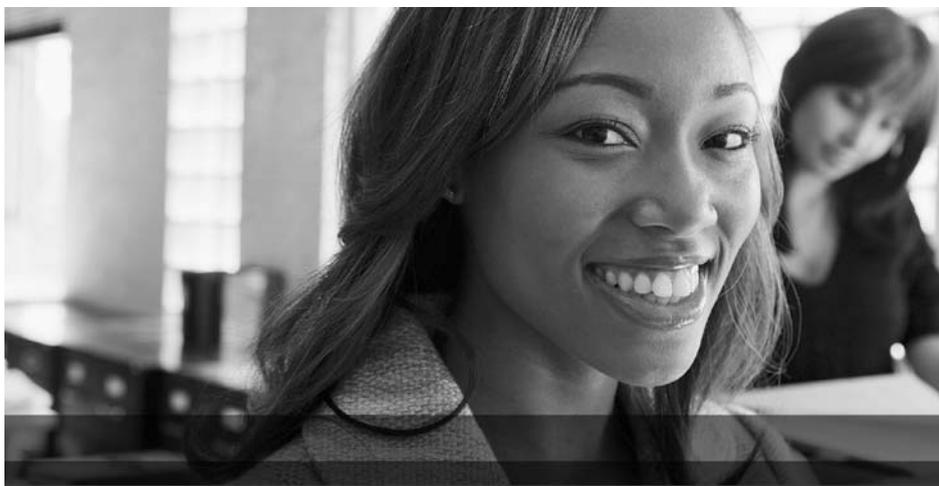
Seminary Hill Association, Inc.

**Source on  
Flounder?**

To the Editor:

In the article "Raising the Roof" by Michael Lee Pope there were two obvious errors that should not have escaped your review before going to print. For anyone familiar with Alexandria's history will know that there are a multitude of "flounder" houses built during the early days of the city and for very basic reasons. When one bought land from Mr. Alexander it was determined that the buyer

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



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Bob Kuletz | 703.615.2626



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**300 Princeton Boulevard**  
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**122 Madison Place**  
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Overlooking the Potomac River and Oronoco Bay Park, this four level townhome boasts an open & airy floor plan, high ceilings, fine moldings, spacious room sizes, two car garage. Featuring 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, recently renovated kitchen with adjoining family room with fireplace, this beautifully maintained home is perfect for the most discriminating purchaser.

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Karen Leonard | 703.328.7041



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**125 North Payne Street**  
**\$699,000 | Old Town Alexandria**  
A charming, sunny house with long garden, 2 bedrooms, new eat-in kitchen, 1.5 bathrooms. Close to King Street metro and shops. Exposed brick walls, neutral paint, cathedral ceilings, skylights, hardwood flooring! For information or floor plan call Marie! For more photos go to www.125NorthPayneSt.com. MLM1606@aol.com

Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



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**7421 Rebecca Drive**  
**\$625,000 | Hollin Hills**  
Contemporary at it's best!! Lovely home features two fireplaces, large open rooms and views that won't stop! Great touches and beautiful outdoor areas. Wake up to nature everyday, tend your flowers and sell the lawn mover! The area lends itself to great walks, easy commute and shopping nearby.

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Cindee Jackson | 703.518.6157



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Linda Wolf | 571.332.8531



OPEN SUN, 1-4! GREEN OASIS!

**6123 Stegen**  
**\$849,000 | Wilton Woods**  
The setting on this beautiful house is extraordinary --private, brick patio and walkways, mature trees and plantings, lighting, fountain. Must see this gorgeous landscape. The house feels new with many upgrades and convey items, including three large plasma TVs! Five bedrooms on 2nd level, fully equipped exercise room, 2-car garage.

Rita McCauley Redmond | 703.447.9114



GOLF COURSE VIEWS

**1727 Belle Haven Road**  
**\$625,000 | Olde Belhaven Towne**  
Great House! Great Location! Great Price! Lovingly maintained and completely updated! The beautiful hardwood floors, great new kitchen, updated baths, fresh paint, 2 fireplaces and large courtyard make this the ideal city home. The million dollar view of the golf course is the finishing touch!! Plenty of parking.

Nancy Tompkins | 703.518.2813



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!

**2415 Lakeshire Drive**  
**\$1,195,000 | South Alexandria**  
Almost 1 acre in 22308 and a fabulous house comes with it! .97 acres of backyard oasis, a sunlit center hall colonial with 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 car garage, sunroom, huge master, updated eat-in kitchen, many upgrades. More than enough room to grow and entertain.

Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



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## PEOPLE

# Making a Difference

The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission presented its 2009 CIVIC Awards earlier this month. The annual awards program recognizes the volunteer efforts of residents who are involved in their communities by helping to meet recreation, park, or cultural needs.

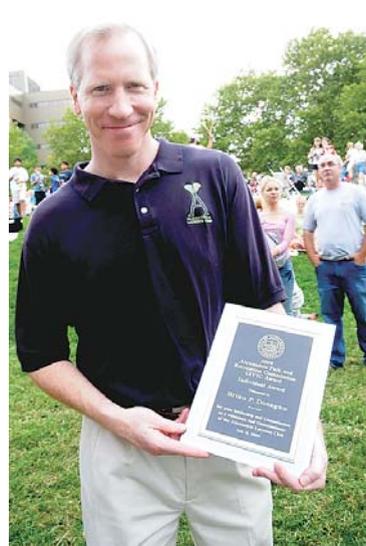


**Maureen Dugan, president of the Old Town/Hunting Creek Civic Association, was commended for convincing the City, VDOT and the Woodrow Wilson Task Force to turn the overgrown, formerly crime ridden space at the end of Church Street into a large planting area. Dugan also successfully spearheaded efforts to add plantings in other space on and around Church and Patrick Streets.**

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE



**As an Eagle Scout, Zac Stewart designed a beautification project for Monticello Park. He developed plans to rebuild and update the sign board at the entrance of the park, to remove brush, ivy and debris; to plant trees and shrubs, and to repair several foot paths. On Dec. 6, of last year, Zak and a squad of youth from Boy Scout Troop 129, along with approximately 50 other volunteers executed Zac's plans. All of the planned projects were completed including the planting of 50 plus oak saplings.**



**Brian P. Donegan has been a seven-year volunteer for the Alexandria Lacrosse Club. He began as a coach for girls' lacrosse. He knew very little about lacrosse when he agreed to serve as a volunteer lacrosse coach. He brought some books and quickly learned the game through lots of studying and by practice. He has served as the Commissioner for girls' lacrosse and currently is the Commissioner for the Alexandria lacrosse Club and a member of the Youth Sports Advisory Board.**



**Jeff Murphy has been involved as a volunteer youth and high school rugby coach since the late 1990s and is a former president of the Alexandria Rugby Club. He was the driving force behind the creation of the Recreation Department's non-contact youth rugby program that began play in 2003. In 2004, Murphy established a rugby program at T.C. Williams High School and he recently led the boys' rugby team to the Virginia Division 2 State Championship. He also serves as a member of the Youth Sports Advisory Board.**



**Matthew Harwood has served on the Alexandria Commission for the Arts since 2006 and is chair of the Public Art Committee. Under his leadership, the committee has taken an active role in advancing public art in the City including revising the City's 20 year-old policy on Acquired Art. He coordinated the Chinquapin Soft Playroom Mural Project and served on the selection panels for three significant public art projects: Charles Houston Memorial Public Art Project, Police Memorial and Freedmen's Cemetery.**



**Susan Miranda — Robert Delgado President of the TRCA accepted the award on her behalf — led the efforts of the Taylor Run Citizens Association's weekly park clean-up events for the past three years. Her dedication to this event made a difference in the overall beautification and maintenance of the Chinquapin and Angel parks.**

# Faith Groups Support Expanding Dental Coverage

FROM PAGE 5

Davis. "If we could get a seat at the table with Secretary Napolitano, we would consider that a huge victory."

The religious leaders also pressed the senatorial proxies for greater accountability from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service on processing citizenship, permanent residency and asylum applications from families in Northern Virginia. The audience gasped in disbelief when one woman explained that she wasn't able to attend the funeral of her son in Indonesia because she was told she would not be able to return to the United States. Kaine agreed that the woman deserved better.

"How hard is it?" the governor asked, his voice cracking with emotion. "It's not that hard."

**SINCE ITS CREATION** in October, the multi-faith organization has been pushing for a number of specific action items across the political spectrum. Earlier this year it was able to persuade elected officials in Alexandria and Fairfax County to maintain funding levels for affordable housing and expand dental coverage locally through the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic. In the future, VOICE leaders say, they would like to meet with U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to press

for speedier processing of applications for citizenship, green cards and political asylum. In the future, the group plans on pressing for more funding for open-enrollment English classes at community centers.

"A lot of people say that immigrants don't want to learn the language, but I can tell you that many of them do but they can't get into a class," said Davis. "There is a lot of demand for these classes, and we hear from many people who say the classes fill up almost as soon as they're offered."

VOICE was founded on Oct. 5, 2008 as a multi-faith, multi-racial, non-partisan coalition of religious organizations seeking social justice. Participating groups include a

wide range of the Northern Virginia religious community, and has grown from 40 member organizations to 48 since it was created. Leaders say the focus of the group is to advocate for low-income residents of Northern Virginia — specifically on issues pertaining to affordable housing, immigration and health care.

"VOICE has shown we are willing and able to use our power network with elected officials to craft solutions to improve the lives of all our families and communities," said Leonard Hamlin, one of the chief clergy leaders of the organization. "It is in times like these that we need to stand up with the most vulnerable."

# HOME SALES

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502 UPLAND PL	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,125,000	Detached	0.11	GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK		
314 FAIRFAX ST S	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,100,000	Townhouse	0.06	OLD TOWN		
319 PRINCE ST	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,100,000	Townhouse	0.02	OLD TOWN		
712 POTOMAC ST	3	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,025,000	Townhouse	0.03	BACKYARD BOATS		
810 RIVERGATE PL	3	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,020,000	Townhouse	0.04	RIVERGATE		
1250 WASHINGTON ST S #311	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$975,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	0.10	PORTO VECCHIO		
104 MAPLE ST E	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$935,000	Detached	0.10	ROSEMONT PARK		
4909 JOHN TIGER DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$900,000	Detached	0.08	CAMERON STATION		
3521 SAYLOR PL	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$870,000	Detached	0.46	QUAKER LANE/STERLING		
11 WALNUT ST E	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$849,000	Detached	0.10	ROSEMONT PARK		
713 GIBBON ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$822,500	Townhouse	0.08	GIBBON ROW		
711 GIBBON ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$822,000	Townhouse	0.05	GOLDFARBS		
724 GIBBON ST	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$821,500	Townhouse	0.07	GOLDFARBS		
100 BRADDOCK RD W	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$817,500	Detached	0.22	ROSEMONT		
1702 MAPLE HILL PL	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$800,000	Detached	0.10	MAPLE HILL		
410 PITT ST S	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$795,000	Townhouse	0.05	OLD TOWN		
1127 BAYLISS DR	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$793,775	Detached	0.18	TUCKAHOE		
16 ROSECREST AVE	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$780,500	Detached	0.14	ROSECREST		
1200 SAINT STEPHENS RD	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$780,000	Detached	0.46	SEMINARY RIDGE		
16 MYRTLE ST W	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$775,000	Detached	0.10	ROSEMONT		
1230 ROUNDHOUSE LN	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$758,000	Townhouse	0.02	OLD TOWN VILLAGE		
421 CAMERON ST	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$749,500	Townhouse	0.02	PITT MEWS		
904 OVERLOOK DR N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$738,000	Detached	0.15	BEVERLY HILLS		
2101 COMMONWEALTH AVE	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$727,500	Detached	0.13	DEL RAY		
310 FAYETTE ST N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$714,900	Townhouse	0.05	PARKER GRAY		
126 HARVARD ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$685,000	Townhouse	0.04	OLD TOWN		
1 MASONIC VIEW AVE W	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$680,000	Detached	0.11	TEMPLE PARK		
5014 GARDNER DR	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$670,000	Townhouse	0.04	CAMERON STATION		
526 COLUMBUS ST N #2	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$668,000	Townhouse	0.04	OLD TOWN		
111 RAYMOND AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$663,000	Detached	0.12	DEL RAY		
2602 CENTRAL AVE	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$660,000	Detached	0.13	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS		
526 TENNESSEE AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$660,000	Detached	0.19	BEVERLY HILLS		
722 LEE ST S	2	1	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$659,000	Townhouse	0.04	YATES GARDENS		
2426 GREYER PL	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$655,000	Townhouse	0.09	STONEGATE		
1102 TRINITY DR	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$650,000	Detached	0.19	COLLEGE PARK		
906 CRESCENT DR	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$642,000	Detached	0.18	BEVERLY HILLS		
2715 HEMLOCK AVE	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$640,000	Detached	0.09	GROVES/MT IDA		
2600 LESLIE AVE	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$636,000	Detached	0.14	DEL RAY		
607 SAINT ASAPH ST #13	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$625,000	Townhouse	0.03	PORTNER BREWERY		
306 ASPEN PL	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$620,000	Detached	0.28	BEVERLY HILLS		
508 TENNESSEE AVE	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$613,000	Detached	0.13	BEVERLY HILLS		
279 MURTHA ST	4	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$610,000	Townhouse	0.03	CAMERON STATION		
213 LAVERNE AVE	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$610,000	Detached	0.14	DEL RAY		
2930 VIEWPOINT RD	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$599,990	Detached	0.18	CLOVER		
418 QUEEN ST	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$599,000	Detached	0.02	OLD TOWN		
5128 KNAPP PL	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$595,000	Townhouse	0.03	CAMERON STATION		
916 JUNIPER PL	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$585,000	Detached	0.21	BELLE WOOD		
1123 PORTNER RD	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$585,000	Townhouse	0.02	VIRGINIA VILLAGE		
2433 RIDGE ROAD DR	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$575,000	Detached	0.16	BRADDOCK HEIGHTS		
2615 GADSBY PL	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$575,000	Townhouse	0.03	STONEGATE		
1110 ABINGDON DR W	2	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$574,900	Townhouse	0.02	NETHERGATE		
5010 GRIMM DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$572,000	Townhouse	0.03	CAMERON STATION		
1206 MICHIGAN CT	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$569,900	Townhouse	0.02	NETHERGATE		
4630 KEMP CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$565,000	Townhouse	0.04	STONEGATE		
1037 PITT ST N	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$565,000	Townhouse	0.02	WATERGATE OF ALEXANDRIA		
253 MEDLOCK LN	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$560,000	Townhouse	0.02	CAMERON STATION		
305 ROYAL ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$560,000	Townhouse	0.03	OLD TOWN		
314 ALFRED ST S	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$557,000	Townhouse	0.02	BURGESS SQUARE		
2122 EARLY ST N	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$555,000	Detached	0.18	BRADLEE HOMES		
112 MONROE AVE W	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$550,000	Detached	0.15	DEL RAY		
1241 PORTNER RD	2	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$550,000	Townhouse	0.02	NETHERGATE		
704 LITTLE ST #A	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$544,000	Duplex	0.07	TEMPLE PARK		
811 GREEN ST	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$543,000	Townhouse	0.03	HUNTING CREEK		
311 PAYNE ST N	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Townhouse	0.03	OLD TOWN		
4920 GARDNER DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$539,900	Townhouse	0.03	CAMERON STATION		
5032 GRIMM DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$539,000	Townhouse	0.03	CAMERON STATION		
716 NORFOLK LN #70	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$539,000	Townhouse	0.03	OLD TOWN GREENS		
309 HOLLAND LN #115	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$538,750	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.04	THE ROYALTON		
3923 COURTLAND CIR	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$530,000	Townhouse	0.03	SUNNYSIDE		
431 PATRICK ST N	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$530,000	Townhouse	0.05	PARKER GRAY HISTORIC DIST		
3831 DOMINION MILL DR	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$528,000	Townhouse	0.04	TOWNES AT CAMERON PARKE		
462 UNION ST S #2	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$525,000	Townhouse	0.04	HARBORSIDE		
1115 CAMERON STREET S#210	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$520,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.04	PRESCOTT CONDOMINIUMS		
1005 DUKE ST	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$517,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.02	OLD TOWN		
5065 MINDA CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$505,000	Townhouse	0.02	CAMERON STATION		
120 MEADOWS LN	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$500,000	Townhouse	0.03	TOWNES AT CAMERON PARKE		
601 WILKES ST #403	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$500,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.03	TANNERY HOUSE		
2736 FRANKLIN CT	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$495,000	Townhouse	0.03	CHAPEL HILL		
270 CAMERON STATION BLVD	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$495,000	Townhouse	0.02	CAMERON STATION		
1212 PRINCESS ST	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$495,000	Townhouse	0.04	OLD TOWN		
925 OROCO ST	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$489,900	Townhouse	0.03	PARKER GRAY HISTORIC DIST		
100 SANBORN PL	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$480,000	Townhouse	0.05	MT VERNON CT		
2121 JAMIESON AVE #801	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$477,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	0.04	CARLYLE TOWERS		
200 RAYMOND AVE E	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$475,000	Detached	0.12	DEL RAY		
2404 RANDOLPH AVE	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$460,000	Detached	0.08	DEL RAY		
607 PELHAM ST N	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$460,000	Detached	0.21	BROOKVILLE		
1213 QUAKER HILL DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$460,000	Townhouse	0.04	QUAKER HILL		
445 CAMERON STATION BLVD#3	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$459,000	Townhouse	0.03	CAMERON STATION		
43 HERBERT ST	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$444,500	Townhouse	0.03	LAND OF HERBERT		
18A MASONIC VIEW AVE E	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Duplex	0.06	ROSEMONT		
2945 HICKORY ST	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$439,000	Townhouse	0.04	WARWICK VILLAGE		
227 GUTHRIE AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$438,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.04	WARWICK VILLAGE		
5807 PEARSON LN	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$437,500	Townhouse	0.03	SUMMERS GROVE		
293 CAMERON STATION BLVD#501	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$437,500	Townhouse	0.03	CAMERON STATION		
1745 CLIFF ST N #1745	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$435,000	Townhouse	0.03	CLIFF GARDENS		
3838 DOMINION MILL DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$435,000	Townhouse	0.03	TOWNES AT CAMERON PARKE		
2953 SYCAMORE ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$430,000	Townhouse	0.04	WARWICK VILLAGE		
202 BURGESS AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$429,000	Townhouse	0.09	WARWICK VILLAGE		
5081 DONOVAN DR #184	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$427,500	Townhouse	0.02	CAMERON STATION		
5834 COWLING CT	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.02	SUMMERS GROVE		
6026 MORGAN CT	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$420,000	Townhouse	0.05	BEAUREGARD MANOR		

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## NEIGHBORHOODS

### Old Town

**THE 'BIG FRIDGE' LIVES** - Maybe it's the summer doldrums. Or something in the water. Even the fact that 'Townners' by the droves are leaving for vacation breaks to anywhere and everywhere.

I don't know. But I do know that finding myself (once again) writing about the world's most expensive ice box doesn't make it. Or, putting it another way, there must be something more important to write about than the land's most expensive refrigerator.

But I'm doing it. You may recall we told you last winter about a well-meaning but grandiose plan to "spruce up" the 200-year-old plus ice well beneath the sidewalk lining Gadsby's Tavern at Cameron and N. Royal St. Briefly, the plan would expand the ice well — virtually unchanged since 1793 — into a mini-museum, open to all. Why, you might ask, is this necessary when so many of our architectural masterpieces are crying out for restoration and preservation funding to survive?

Opponents didn't necessarily trash the idea of highlighting the ice well as an important artifact of our living history. But they wondered at the time why we should consider spending \$300,000 or

more funded through grants and donations to make the ice well a "better visitor experience" for those stopping by the glorious and important Gadsby's Tavern, where George Washington was known to have quaffed a pint or two from time to time. The original ice well has changed little over the years.

Groups such as the Historic Alexandria Foundation and the Old Town Civic Association opposed the "spruce up" plan as too large, obtrusive and expensive. As I write this I'm sifting through six pages of comments from 'Townners' sent to the Board of Architectural Review opposing the plan as presented to the BAR last winter. Since then and in the face of the opposition, it has been scaled back — but not all that much. Listen to only two of the dozens of letters to the BAR:

R. Hackney Weigmann of Cameron St.: "The creation of an amphitheater stairwell ... is, in my opinion, inconsistent with Old Town's historic character. In addition, I believe that the amphitheater design is a safety hazard for pedestrians who regularly walk by the corner of Cameron and Royal Sts., including my family ...." Allan Gruer of Princess St. saw it this way: "We should not tinker with historic modification using a 'Busch Garden' approach that is

architecturally visible from the street."

Your friendly Old Town correspondent was truly impressed with the range and passion of those folks who took the time to offer their views to the BAR. The other night our BAR voted 5-0 to go ahead with plans for the proposed changes in the Gadsby's ice well. Too bad!

**SCORE ONE FOR THE COPPERS** - Our friend Poul Hertel, president of the Old Town Civic Association, put it this way last week: "Copper caper solved ...."

OTCA had alerted us this summer of a new crime wave hitting Old Town, a spate of brazen thefts of copper gutters and down spouts from homes here, some in daylight, by persons who appeared to be working as contractors. Our keen-eyed copper stoppers stepped up their surveillance immediately after we alerted them to this brazen violation of our copper safety. Detectives were conducting surveillance on a suspect the other day in the 900 block of S. Columbus St. and nabbed him in the act. The suspect was arrested and confessed (fessed up) to all of the thefts.

Copper caper solved by the coppers! Gutterswipe in custody.

— BOB FELDKAMP

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

must build and occupy a two-story two-room house within two years or the land would revert to the seller. A flounder house is an old English concept when lots were small and the original buyer could not afford a larger house at the time of purchase. The flounder was built back from the street to allow a later more square addition to be constructed facing on the street.

A flounder was usually built with a tall, windowless back wall on the property line so there would be yard access for the later building. The roof would be sloping towards the yard. No windows in the back wall so that the neighbors would have some privacy. The concept furthered by the author, Mr. Pope, that the reason the building was call a flounder was because of the windows on the front side is completely erroneous and show his complete misunderstanding about the fish called the flounder. The flounder is completely flat on one side and is known as a bottom feeder thus the flat side of a flounder building. Our ancestors were more knowledgeable about the construction of fish than those of our younger generations of today.

In addition I believe that the photo does not go with the caption accompanying the story on page 3. The photo appears to be a public or city hall event while the caption leads one to believe it as being the flounder building in question.

**Norm Hatch**  
Alexandria

*Editor's Note: The source on the use of the word "flounder" was the late Peter Smith, who served for 18 years as the principal staff member of the Old Town Board of Architectural Review. He delivered this explanation during the City Council's consideration of Zarlenga's appeal.*

**Ivy Whitlatch**  
Alexandria

### Keeping Promises

FROM PAGE 7

tial and took her on and helped her make the varsity team. My daughter had the guts and self-esteem to try out for the team because she'd been encouraged all her life to reach for the stars. This coach saw promise in her, welcomed her, and continued that positive boost. She was surrounded by caring adults who said, "This is important, you can do it, we won't give up on you." Don't all of our students and teachers deserve that?

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**6412**  
Potomac Ave  
\$566,900  
*Bank Owned!*  
Price has just been slashed for immediate sale! Unique property just outside of Old

Town has played a significant role in local history. Updated and expanded over the years, this home features 4BRs, 3Bas, replacement windows, updated kitchen and refinished hardwood floors. Prime location on gorgeous corner lot. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Belle Haven Rd, L Potomac Ave.



**1210**  
N Pegram St  
\$1,351,500  
*Special financing!*  
Interest rate as low as 3.78% with just 10% down payment makes Alexandria's most exciting new

luxury home surprisingly easy to buy! Stunning home offers stately room sizes, open floor plan, 3 car garage and virtually every modern amenity. Nothing in Alexandria matches this home in terms of price & financing! Open Sun 1-4pm. I-395: E Seminary, R Pickett, R Pegram.



**7107**  
Colgate Dr  
\$598,900  
*Huge Price Cut!*  
Motivated seller wants immediate sale! Exceptionally spacious six level home with huge

potential features 4BR, 3BA, 2 half baths, possible 5<sup>th</sup> bedroom and 3,700 sq ft. Commercial grade kitchen with custom cabinets, top of the line stainless appliances and granite countertops. Swimming pool, fenced yard and deck too!



**1100**  
Morningside Ln  
\$975,000  
*The Perfect Lot!*  
Close-in dream home site! Rare, over full acre site off the GW Parkway just three miles from Old

Town. Spectacular setting on elevated bluff with seasonal views of the Potomac River. A gorgeous site of this size just outside of Old Town is almost impossible to find! Take advantage of the best time in years to have a home built. (Potential to be subdivided into two lots.)



**4307**  
Sheridan's Point  
\$794,500  
*Georgian Colonial!*  
Large Price Reduction! Classic updated Colonial in prime Mt

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



**9304**  
Allwood Drive  
\$639,000  
*"Green" House!*  
Expanded and updated, this spectacular home features uniquely bright, open floor

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



**9316**  
Heather Glen Dr  
\$775,000  
*Fantastic Price!*  
Classic Colonial façade with magnificent interior featuring glass walled

addition across the rear. Meticulously maintained 4 BR, three level home is loaded with special features and upgrades. Stunning custom addition overlooks beautifully landscaped yard and the most spectacular custom pool you'll ever find! You won't believe that this extraordinary home can be yours for such a reasonable price!



**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!



**4003**  
Belle Rive Terr  
\$4,200,000  
*Riverfront!*  
Just reduced! 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.



**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.



**9500**  
Ferry Hall Court  
\$1,450,000  
*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!



**9403**  
Brambly Lane  
\$975,000  
*Luxury Home! Special Financing!*  
10% down 30 yr fixed low rate makes it easy to

purchase this luxurious brand new home by Wakefield Homes. Fabulous Mason model with bright, open floor plan loaded with upgrades and special features. House will be ready for its new owners by mid-August! Price + Special Terms - Best New Home Value in the Alexandria area!

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**202 SOUTH SAINT ASAPH STREET**  
Alex / Old Town - \$2,999,000

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**Anne Hambley 703.946.7266**



**1421 T STREET, NW, #9**  
Washington, DC - \$515,000

JUST LISTED! Two level condo w/two master suites in fantastic DuPont/U Street location! Features include 1/2 bath on main level, updated kitchen and baths, HW floors, two balconies and a patio PLUS PARKING!



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**5245 BESSLEY PLACE**  
Cameron Station - \$825,000

INDIVIDUALITY! If you have been waiting for something other than the ordinary to reflect your uniqueness, this garage TH lets you create your own lifestyle. 3,372sqft, w/a custom built Scottish bar, 3 levels plus a loft, deck & patio. 3 fireplaces, California walk-in closets in popular Cameron Station. See for yourself, this is a 10-OUT OF THE ORDINARY.



**JoAnn LaFon 703.618.2500**



**705 BASHFORD LANE**  
Old Town - \$475,000

DELIGHTFUL! 1930's stone front w/ slate roof TH. 3 lvls, skylight, wood floors, fireplace & potential off-street parking. Within walking distance to METRO, shops & the best North Old town restaurants & live theater. 2 lights to DC, 2 blocks from jog/bike path along the Potomac. Minutes to King St - the heart of Old Towne. 2BR/1BA



**Norma Stratton 703.966.0756**



**2103 NORTH SCOTT STREET #87**  
Arlington - \$339,900

EXCELLENT LOCATION! 2nd fl, 2BR/1BA condo is only a short distance to Rosslyn & Courthouse METRO. Hot water, heat pump & appliances replaced in 2008. All windows replaced in 2007. Fresh paint, new carpet, & updated Kit w/granite. Everything has been done... Just move in!



**Randy Bender 703.906.1749**



**4681 LAWTON WAY #303**  
Alex / Stonegate - \$379,000

DON'T MISS OUT... on this rare top fl, 2 lvl, 2BR/2BA "Pendleton" loft model w/lear gar. Vaulted ceilings, skylights, & loft overlooking living/ dining area make this a real show stopper. Fresh paint, lge additional storage room in loft area & much more. A must see!



**Randy Bender 703.906.1749**



Major Price Reduction!

**232 MEDLOCK LANE**  
Alex / Cameron Station - \$725,000

Discerning buyers will appreciate the abundance of chic European design features/upgrades in this 4BR END GAR TH w/3lvl bump out. Media rm/theatre screen, au pair suite, wood flrs 3 lvls, custom cabinetry, gracious rooms & more. Treed view, park, club house & pool. NOT THE USUAL!



**Pat Tierney 703.850.5630**



**6301 STEVENSON AVENUE #1003**  
Alexandria - \$187,500

Updated 1Br/1Ba condo w/utilities included. White kit w/upgraded appliances, flooring, lighting; painted; AC unit & carpet ly-o; walk-in closet plus more. Wall of windows in all rooms. Lge balcony. Mins to 1-395, shopping, amenities, DC, 1-495.



**Pictures: www.ijumani.com**  
**Inderjeet Juman 703.472.8804**



REDUCED!

**1025 DUCHESS LANE**  
McLean - \$1,450,000

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! Make an excellent investment in your future. Beautiful 3 lvl classic - backs to stream & woods, cul-de-sac, lge gourmet Kit, library, 2-story FR w/FP, huge Mstr suite w/sitting room + FP, LL rec room w/FP and walk-out to an expansive deck. 4Br/4.5Ba



**Franki Roberts 703.898.0840**



**1808 CALIFORNIA STREET, NW**  
Washington, DC - \$599,900

DRAMATIC, fabulous 2Br/2Ba w/incredible upgrades: wood flrs; terrazzo tile; granite in kit & baths; new SS, & so much more! Every room has at least one window - incl the baths! - and there is new recessed lighting thruout the home. There is a private patio. Parking available across the street.



**Ellen Young 703.518.8769**



**2012 "O" STREET, NW #32**  
Washington, DC - \$485,000

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**Georgia McLaughlin 703.628.4663**



APPOINTMENT ONLY!

**1900 GLEN DRIVE**  
Alex / Belle Haven - \$1,250,000

HISTORIC TREASURE! Architect James Earley designed this magnificent European style home in 1932 made of precast mosaic concrete & terra cotta tile roof. Historic steel windows offer light & views of the formal gardens & reflecting pool. Gracious rm sizes, 3Br/4Full renovated baths.



**Suzanne Backus 703.338.3594**



**7819 YORKTOWN DRIVE**  
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**THE CAREY TEAM**  
Sean Satkus/Kendra Carey  
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OPEN SUN. 1-4

**1101 SOUTH 16th STREET**  
Arlington - \$550,000

1939 DUPLEX TH. End unit, completely renovated & painted thru-out. Hardwood floors. Wood burning fireplace. Wrap around 3 season front porch; oversized rear & side gardens w/ mature plantings. 2BR/2BA



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

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**Mary Rice Prosser 703.625.4461**



OPEN SUN. 1-4

**6402 13th STREET**  
New Alexandria - \$699,000

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**Margaret Keagle 703.518.8726**



**506 CAMERON STREET**  
Alexandria - \$2,850,000

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

**Martine Irmer and Emily Capelli**  
703.346.7283



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## Tavern Day Is at Gadsby's Tavern Museum Aug. 1

Have you passed by Gadsby's Tavern Museum hundreds of times and never gone in? Take this opportunity and experience life in the 18th century, as well as learn about the educational volunteer opportunities at Gadsby's Tavern Museum on Saturday, Aug. 1, from 1-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Day. Admission is free.

Tavern Day Open House at Gadsby's Tavern Museum will feature continuous tours of the historic site by costumed guides, the opportunity to learn to dance like George and Martha Washington, and much more. This year's highlights include enlightening 18th-century science experiments conducted in the Assembly Room. Light refreshments will be served. Combine this with the Friendship Firehouse Festival and have a great day in Old Town Alexandria.

As America began as a nation during the late 18th century and emerged in the 19th century, Gadsby's Tavern was the center of social and political life in Alexandria as well as the new Federal City of Washington. The tavern served as the premier gathering place for residents — including George Washington — and visitors to eat, drink, learn, and influence history. Tavern keepers John Wise and John Gadsby hosted balls, performances, and meetings, and their accommodations were known as the best by travelers near and far.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal Street in the heart of Old Town Alexandria and is owned and operated by the City of Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

# When Yorkies Come to Town

## International YorkieTalk Meetup Comes to Alexandria.

BY ERICA KICAK-VANDERHOEVEN  
THE GAZETTE

It was a friendly atmosphere as online pals finally met up in person, introducing themselves by their screen names, except for the occasional interruptions of yaps, snuffles, and cries of "what are you doing? Come back here!" About 70 humans and more than 100 silky Yorkshire Terriers met at Sheraton Suites Old Town on North St. Asaph Street over the weekend for the International YorkieTalk Meetup.

**FROM THURSDAY** to Sunday, they came from as far away as Arizona and Canada — mostly middle-aged ladies — with their 7-pound blue and gold Yorkies strapped to their arms, some carrying them in rolling baskets and even Barbie totes.

The weekend's events began with a Doggie Happy Hour with dog treats and appetizers followed by a Doggie Cruise on Thursday evening. Other highlights were Q&A sessions and the fashion show on Saturday. The catwalk featured female Yorkies in everything from a purple and gold LSU cheerleader's outfit to lacy gowns complete with accessories from doggie boutiques. "Macho" male Yorkies modeled outfits from green army camouflage, complete with custom dog tags, to more dapper dogs in black and white miniature tuxedos. There was even an owner/dog pair in matching orange and black, tiger print dresses.

Some ladies took dog training seminars called agility for dogs. Some were excited by the chance to learn more about their favorite breed.

"I thought this would be a great place to learn more about Yorkies," said Margie of Clinton, Md., who has owned her Yorkie, Mimi, for 17 months. Others wanted the chance to meet in person with those they'd connected with so much online. "We've been through a lot," says Bo, from Havre de Grace, Md., who came with her "babies" — Hotrod and Maggie Mae — of the members of the YorkieTalk forum. "He went through surgery. Everyone's been so supportive. I've just cried on everyone's shoulders."

**YORKIETALK** posts can be about basic dog care questions to general discussions about anything — even non-canine topics like decorating and reality TV. Breeders go onto YorkieTalk to find homes for their litters. Many of the Yorkies at the Meetup were actually related. An important feature of the forum is doing rescues of Yorkies in shelters.

"I posted about a dog on dogfinder in Texas, who was blind in one eye and she was actually adopted by someone on YorkieTalk," said Renata, from Des Moines, Iowa. "I have a lot of posts," she says with a laugh, "probably more than anyone in this room."

This year was YorkieTalk's second-annual



Maggie takes a stroll through the lobby of the Sheraton Suites.



Daisy is accompanied by Lea Moelk.



Maggie and Cory Ciampa.



Bubba looks around to see who is to be joining him in the park.



Emmett and Cindy Hice



Roxie heads back to the elevators to change her dress for playtime in the park.

meetup. Participants were very pleased with the location. "I love this area. It's so nice. Every store is so dog friendly," said Kelli, who came down from Buffalo, NY, with her sister and their two Yorkies.

To join the forum or to learn more, go to [www.yorkietalk.com](http://www.yorkietalk.com).

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

# THEATRE

## Video Added to the Bard

**Firebelly  
augments  
Hamlet with  
camera, screen.**

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE GAZETTE

It is always a pleasure to find a theater company that stretches its reach, giving artists challenges and, at the same time, audiences a fresh look at some familiar works. With a new view of Shakespeare's "Hamlet," Arlington-based Firebelly Productions continues to meet its mission of giving young performers and designers meaty material on which to cut their teeth, but the results don't give audiences a lot of new insight into a classic work.

Did they reach a bit too far? No. Not really. They manage to provide a clear and consistently watchable presentation of a complex and convoluted story, but they don't add a lot to one of the theater's most oft-produced dramas.



**John Bonner (center) of Chantilly plays an easy-to-follow young Hamlet.**

"Hamlet" has been something of a staple for quite a few centuries now. First penned at the start of the 17th century (or perhaps even the end of the 16th) the story of the prince of Denmark who feigns madness in order to unmask his father's killer has been on local stages multiple times in recent seasons, many with satisfying productions and some with stunning ones.

Firebelly's is more a middling

one. Lead actor John Bonner of Chantilly makes an easy-to-follow young Hamlet driven by a thirst for revenge when his uncle Claudius murders his father the King and marries his mother, Queen Gertrude. The King may be dead before the play begins, but Matthew Friedman stalks the ramparts as his ghost before re-appearing in the role of one of Hamlet's famous friends as one half of the

SEE "BARD", PAGE 19



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**Friday July 24th with Bill McKenney  
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# CALENDAR

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

### NOW THROUGH LABOR DAY

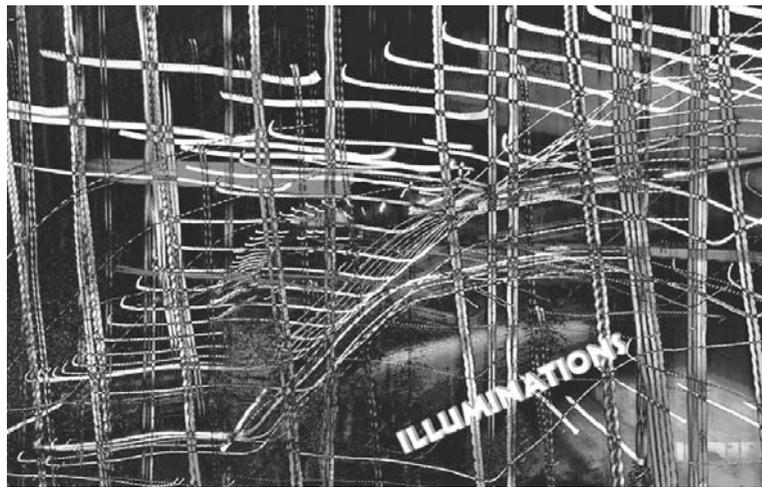
**Michael Jackson's Patent and Trademarks.** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open exhibit of Michael Jackson's patent and trademarks. At the National Inventors Hall of Fame and Museum, Madison Building, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, in the atrium. Call 571-272-0095.

**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/JULY 23

**Music at Twilight Concert.** 7:30 p.m. The Alexandria Harmonizers (Barbershop) will perform. At Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Rd. Concerts are cancelled in the event of inclement weather and subject to change without notice. Call the Special Events Hotline at 703-883-4686 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation).

**Cocktails and Conversation.** 6-8 p.m.



### AUG. 7-30

**Illuminations**, an exhibit of painting, photography, gardening, and painted glass, will be on view at the Del Ray Artisans gallery from Aug. 7-30. The works are by members of the DRA Board of Directors who have volunteered in that role for at least two years. Opening reception will be held on Friday, Aug. 7 from 7-9 p.m. It is free and open to the public. Contact co-curator Jeanne Tift at [jldtiff@cox.net](mailto:jldtiff@cox.net) or 703-960-3873 for information about the artists or visit the DRA web site, [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org), for gallery hours, directions, and special events related to the exhibit.

\$35/person. Led by The Protocol School of Washington-certified Susanna Theo, the program focuses on artful conversation skills for business/social networking. Discussion will include the do's and don'ts of positive conversation; how to correctly handle food and drink while networking; and answer questions like "how can one back away from the incessant talker." At Indigo Landing Restaurant, 1 Marine Drive, Alexandria. Contact Katherine Turner at [turnerk@indigoland.com](mailto:turnerk@indigoland.com) or 703-548-9227.

**Bob Brown Puppets.** 3:30 p.m.

Presents "Old MacDonald's Farm." Recommended for children ages 2 & up. At Barrett Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4555, ext. 3.

### FRIDAY/JULY 24

**Ms. Virginia Senior America Pageant.** 2-4 p.m. Free admission but suggested donation of \$10. Contestants are Diane Roberts of Staunton, Sue Athanas of Virginia Beach, Charlotte Allen of Falls Church, Maureen Ribble of Alexandria, Joan Phillips of Roanoke and Judith Mudd-Krijgelmans of Reston. The pageant will be co-hosted

by Pinky O'Neil of Reston and Jim Seeley of Mt. Vernon. At the Lee Center Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. The winner of Friday's pageant in Alexandria will compete for the title of 'Ms. Senior America' in Atlantic City. Call 703-425-7258 or go to [www.msvirginiasenior.com](http://www.msvirginiasenior.com).

**Pablo Antonio y La Firma.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. 13-piece Latin band specializing in salsa, cumbia, bachata, regaeton and merengue. Performing as part of the Mt. Vernon Nights summer concert. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria. Concerts are cancelled if it is raining. If there is a threat of bad weather, call 703-324-SHOW (7469) after 6 p.m. for cancellation updates.

### SATURDAY, JULY 25

**African Heritage Cultural Festival.** 1-7 p.m. The music, culture, and food of Africa takes center stage as the City of Alexandria hosts the African Heritage Cultural Festival. Featured performances include the Prince William County Players, SAMO'O and the band JFC, with Caribbean sound; Elikeh, Afro funk music; Phaze II Jazz; and Nu-Era with contemporary R & B. In addition, the festival features youth performances by Recreation Center participants, Church groups and other local young talent. Alexandria African Heritage Tours will be offered between 10 a.m. and noon, originating from the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Call 703-838-4844 by Friday, July 24. At Market Square, 301 King St. Call 703-883-4686 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation).

**Beatrix Potter Storytime.** Ages 3 and up. 11:30 a.m. Snuggle up in storytime corner and read about Peter Rabbit, Benjamin Bunny, and a host of our other favorite friends! Free. 703-548-

4092. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St., Alexandria. [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com)

### JULY 25-26

**Auditions.** For "Inherit the Wind," Saturday, July 25 from 2-4 p.m., and Sunday, July 26 from 7-9 p.m. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. The director will be casting 10-15 males (ages 18 - 65), 5-7 females (ages 20 - 65), and 2 children (male - age 13 and female, age 12). All roles are open. Call 703-660-2611 or go to [www.acconline.org](http://www.acconline.org).

**Festival for Bug Lovers.** 10 a.m. to noon. At the Visitor Center at Huntley Meadows Park. \$4 per child. Family-oriented exhibits, crafts and games. On Saturday, July 25 from 8-9:30 p.m. families can walk the park after dark with a bat expert Carolyn Gamble. \$6/adults, \$4/children. On Sunday, July 26 from 11:30-12:30 p.m., Ed Eder will introduce families to ambush bugs, owlflyies and silk moths. Call 703-768-2525. At 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria.

### SUNDAY/JULY 26

**Where's Waldo Event.** Ages 6 and up. 2 p.m. Can you find Waldo? Stop by the store and test your Waldo-locating skills at this special event for our favorite friend in the red and white striped shirt! Free. 703-548-4092. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St., Alexandria. [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com)

**Summer Chamber Music Series.** 3 p.m. Free. Pianist Alex Beresovsky. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria.

**Fort Hunt Concert.** 7-8 p.m. The Mount Vernon Brass Ensemble will present a free concert at Fort Hunt Park. Visit [www.mvbands.com](http://www.mvbands.com) or call 703-768-4172.

### JULY 27-31

**Del Ray Artisans Summer Art Camp.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Kids can get eco-creative with this one week camp which includes painting, drawing, collage, games and more. There is a fee that includes professional artists and instructors, art supplies, and healthy lunches and snacks. The camp is limited to 26 students. Call 693-838-4827 or [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org).

### WEDNESDAY/JULY 29

**Stories in the Park.** 11 a.m. Join the Alexandria Library, for ages 2 and up. In Section 7 of Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road. In case of extreme heat or rain, the event will be at the Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Call 703-838-4555.

**Steve Smith & the Meteors Concert.** 7 p.m. Blues music at the Ben Brennan Park Amphitheater, 4800 Brennan Park Drive, Alexandria. Come enjoy a folk rock concert featuring Wes Tucker & the Skilletts. Concerts are cancelled in the event of inclement weather and subject to change without notice. Call 703-883-4686 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation).

### JULY 29-31

**Clio's Kids: A History Mini-Camp.** 9 a.m. to noon. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Camp is for ages 5 through 7. It introduces children to American history and life in historic Alexandria through artifacts, story-telling, singing and dancing, crafts, old-fashioned games, and visits to historic places. Advanced registration is required and there is a

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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. 13)

**Weekdays**  
(Mass or Communion Service)  
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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

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## THURSDAY/JULY 30

**Jim Stephanson and John Previti.** 7-9 p.m. Blues, swing and jazz-inspired tunes. Free. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, part of the Thursday Nite Local Spotlight series. At 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or go to [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**Pizza Party and Family Orientation.** 7 p.m. At Uhler Street Playground, Mount Vernon Community School, 2601 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. The orientation will take place in the school auditorium. Contact Wendy Moniz at [wendymoniz@comcast.net](mailto:wendymoniz@comcast.net) or 703-683-6961.

**18<sup>th</sup>-Century Dance Classes at Gadsby's Tavern Museum.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Also Thursdays, Aug. 6 and Aug. 13. Learn the dances of Jane Austen, George Washington, and Abigail Adams in Gadsby's Tavern Museum's historic ballroom. Dance master Corky Palmer will lead this fun and educational series of 18th-century English country dance classes in preparation for the Jane Austen Ball on Saturday, Aug. 15. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. The cost for lessons is \$30 for the series or \$12 per class. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-838-4242.

**Fort Ward Park Concert.** 7 p.m. At Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. The Irish Breakfast Band will perform. Free. Call 703-883-4686.

**Groovy Mr. Nate.** 11 am. Join Mr. Nate in making music! Recommended for ages 2 & up. At Barrett Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4555, ext. 3.

**"The Fugue," the film.** 9:30 p.m. Screening of film produced by Kathryn O'Sullivan. "The Fugue" is a thriller about a young graphic designer living



Photo by Varon Thomas, Ventura, CA, 2007

## THURSDAY/JULY 23

**KUKU — Live Music Performance.** 7-9 p.m. KUKU performs uniquely soulful and captivating music inspired by his African heritage. Part of the Live Music at the Torpedo Factory. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565 or visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

in Chinatown who is haunted by the spirit of a dead childhood friend. It was filmed last summer in the area. At the Old Town Theater on King Street in Alexandria. Admission to the premiere is free. Call O'Sullivan at 703-464-5709.

## FRIDAY, JULY 31

**Jeff Majors in Concert.** 8 p.m. As part of his National Tour for the Homeless, gospel/jazz artist Jeff Majors is giving a concert to benefit the ministries of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church. At Bethlehem Baptist Church,

7836 Fordson Rd., Alexandria. Admission free but tickets required. Contact Rising Hope at 703-360-1976 or email [risinghope@risinghopeumc.org](mailto:risinghope@risinghopeumc.org).  
**Alexandria Citizens Band.** 7:30 p.m. concert. Jack Dusek, interim conductor. At Market Square, Old Towne Alexandria. Call 703-339-6643 or go to [www.band.alexandria.va.us](http://www.band.alexandria.va.us).

## SATURDAY, AUG. 1

**Potomac River Moonlight Dance Cruise.** 8:30-11:30 p.m. CAC of Washington, an organization of 250 single Catholics in the area, is sponsoring its night cruise aboard the Cherry Blossom. Boarding begins at 8:15 p.m. at the foot of North Union and Cameron Streets. Admission is \$47. Contact Michael Coogan at 301-916-6336 or email: [dance@dcsinglecatholicpro.org](mailto:dance@dcsinglecatholicpro.org) or visit us at [www.DCsingleCatholicPro.org](http://www.DCsingleCatholicPro.org)

**Friendship Firehouse Festival.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Celebrates the 235<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Historic Fire Company, Restoration and Repainting of the Cupola. Hosted by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association. View a collection of antique and modern fire equipment and apparatus. In the 100 block of South Alfred Street between Prince and King streets, which will be closed off to traffic for the festival. Admission is free.

**Soldier-Led Walking Tours at Fort Ward.** 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Free. Participants begin the tour inside the Museum with a brief orientation of the Defenses of Washington. Visitors will learn about Fort Ward's construction and a soldier's life in the Defenses of Washington as they explore the Officers' Hut, the preserved walls of the fort, and the restored Northwest Bastion during the hour-long tour. At 4301 West Braddock Road in Alexandria. Call Fort Ward Museum at 703-838-4848 or visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

# Video Added to the Bard

FROM PAGE 17

pair of Guildenstern and Rosencrantz.

The 400-year-old text often falls on modern ears as a bit of heavy going but the cast here does its job of first understanding the meaning of the measured verse and then communicating that meaning to modern audiences. Best at this in this cast are Steven J. Hoochuck, as the felonious uncle Claudius; Charles St. Charles, as Polonius, a court advisor who goes with the flow; and Charley Mann, as his son Laertes, who seeks his own revenge when Hamlet mistakenly stabs his father thinking it is the king hiding behind a curtain.

**THE PLAY** only provides two roles for women but they are certainly solid roles. Sonia Justl delivers a high-octane mad scene as Hamlet's girlfriend, Ophelia, while Shelby Sours hits a few nice highly emotional notes as the Queen.

The production is under the direction of Michael Ryan Fernandez, who is currently working on his masters at the Film School at DePaul University after graduating from George Mason's

## Where and When

The Firebelly Productions' "Hamlet" continues through Aug. 9 at Arlington's Theatre on the Run, 3700 South Four Mile Run Drive. Performances are Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12-\$15. Call 703-409-2372 or log on to [www.firebellyproductions.net](http://www.firebellyproductions.net).

Theatre Department. His interest in film and video technology is clear in this production as he uses a screen at the back of the stage to display live images of many of the scenes from video cameras both hand held and mounted on the set. These images don't often add a great deal to the proceedings and often distract when attention should be focused on the action. However, the pre-taped (or filmed) scene of Ophelia's off-stage death by drowning is both effective and particularly memorable.

Since video technology is visible during the production, it seems proper that this is a modern-dress mounting of the venerable classic, using street-style clothing for

many of the men, but putting the queen in some outfits that look a bit like out-of-date prom dresses. Stephen Frost provides an almost cinematic musical score that, in keeping with Fernandez's approach, sounds at times like the soundtrack of a Hollywood movie.

No production of "Hamlet" can truly work without close attention being paid to the combat skills of the troupe. Here, in the small black box Theatre on the Run where no seat is more than four rows from the stage, it is even more important. Firebelly was fortunate to obtain the services of Andrew Pecoraro as "fight coordinator," who makes sure that the final scene in which Bonner, as Hamlet, and Mann, as Laertes, go at it with poisoned swords and daggers.



Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway, and edits Potomac Stages, a Web site covering theater in the region ([www.PotomacStages.com](http://www.PotomacStages.com)). He can be reached at [Brad@PotomacStages.com](mailto:Brad@PotomacStages.com).

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# NVCC 'Guarantees' Admission to State Colleges

Community college graduates with certain GPA, courses, can win automatic acceptance.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen Suzanne Spatz graduated from Woodson Secondary School in 2007, her family knew she wouldn't be able to attend a four-year college or university right away.

Even though she received excellent grades in high school, Spatz suffered from Lyme disease and was too sick to go away to college at the time. So the teenager opted to attend Northern Virginia Community College and live at home while her health stabilized.

"We never would have thought about it until she became ill," said Melody Spatz, about the decision to enroll her daughter, Suzanne, at a community college.

Both Melody Spatz and her husband had attended the University of Virginia and always assumed their children would enroll in traditional four-year undergraduate programs. Initially, Melody Spatz worried

Suzanne would not be an attractive transfer applicant for selective four-year universities because she would be coming from a community college.

**BUT** Suzanne Spatz's time at Northern Virginia Community College helped, rather than hindered, her admission to one of the top public universities in the country.

The teenager was automatically accepted to the University of Virginia after meeting all the requirements laid out in a "guaranteed admissions" agreement between Northern Virginia Community College and the highly competitive state school in Charlottesville.

The arrangement allows the community college graduates to bypass the regular application process and ensure their transfer to the University of Virginia if they meet certain academic thresholds while earning their associate's degree.

Students like Spatz, who earn a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.4 on a 4.0 scale, can be assured a slot at the University of Virginia through the arrangement.

In addition to the GPA cut off, the students must earn at least a "C" or higher in all of their community college classes and

a "B" or higher in two required English courses. They also have to take a certain number of community college credit hours in foreign language, social science, humanities and historical studies. They must enroll in at least one "non-Western perspective" course.

"I am very happy that I did it. It was kind of nice to know I could guarantee my admissions somewhere," said Spatz.

**IN ADDITION** to the University of Virginia, about 38 other colleges and universities have signed "guaranteed admissions" agreements with Northern Virginia Community College over the last two years.

Some of the schools participating are among the state's most prestigious — including the College of William & Mary, Virginia Tech, James Madison University, George Mason University, The George Washington University and Georgetown University.

"The arrangement covers some private and virtually all the public institutions in Virginia, except for [Virginia Military Institute]," said Bob Templin, president of Northern Virginia Community College.

Required coursework and GPA cut offs for

automatic acceptance vary, depending on which four-year college or university a student would like to attend. But all students are obligated to earn an associate's degree before taking advantage of the "guaranteed admissions" arrangement.

Students who take some community college classes but do not earn their associate's degree are not eligible for "guaranteed admissions" and have to use the traditional application process at all colleges and universities who participate in the program.

According to Templin, students who earn an associate's degree tend to perform better academically at four-year institutions than those who transfer out of Northern Virginia Community College after only completing some coursework.

"When you complete the degree program, your chances of doing well at the university are much better than if you come in and sample a few courses before transferring," said Templin.

As the public hears more about the "guaranteed admissions" arrangements, Northern Virginia Community College will become a more popular among students who have always intended to earn a bachelor's degree, said officials.



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**The American Legion hall on North Fayette Street is at the center of a dispute between historic preservation advocates and a developer seeking a demolition permit.**

PHOTO BY  
LOUISE KRAFFT/  
GAZETTE PACKET

# Preserve Old American Legion Hall?

FROM PAGE 1

ing a demolition permit to tear the building down and construct a mid-century modern condominium building with eight units.

“Demolition is not something I take lightly,” said Cromley, an Alexandria native. “It’s almost laughable that people would attach some sort of significance to this building.”

The City Council will ultimately have the final say in the fate of the building, which some say deserves to be protected as an important part of the neighborhood’s history. According to those who would like to save the former American Legion Hall, the structure played an important role in the history of the city’s African-American community. Instead of demolition, the preservationists say, they would prefer to see an adaptive reuse similar to one that took place at a nearby laundry building Cromley renovated into high-end condos.

“Unfortunately, some of the most important buildings in the district, like the two Parker Gray schools, have already been lost,” said Boyd Walker, chairman of the Greater Alexandria Preservation Alliance. “How great it is to have an intact building in our community that will become a place that people visit to understand history.”

**BUT THE HISTORY** of this particular building is a double-edge sword — one that includes perseverance during the era of segregation as well as persistent violent crime in more recent years. It’s a story that begins during World War II, when the federal government allocated \$12,000 for what was then known as a “Negro nursery” to be operated by the Alexandria public-school system during the war. In its staff report recommending against the demolition permit, the Board of Architectural Review staff report describes the structure as retaining its original asbestos shingle siding as well as its double-hung, twelve-over-twelve windows.

“Buildings such as the American Legion that are directly connected to the social history of the neighborhood, namely its African-American history and the era of segregation, are important to be retained,” the report concluded.

By 1950, the building was being leased by the city to the American Legion post named for William Thomas, the first African-American soldier from Alexandria to be killed in action during World War I. Although the post had been originally chartered in 1931, its move from the intersection of Pendleton and Henry streets to North Fayette Street represented a critical development for the neighborhood. Over

the years, the building became associated with vice and crime — a phenomenon that came to a boiling point in 1992 when the Alcohol Control Board revoked the post’s liquor license in 1992.

“Fights, public drunkenness and property damage have been attributed to activity around closing-time at the legion,” wrote Alexandria Gazette Packet reporter Rich Blake on May 7, 1992. “The area around Queen and Fayette streets is one of several target areas of police for drug activity.”

In a letter recommending that the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control revoke the American Legion’s liquor license, then-City Manager Phil Sunderland noted an Inner City Civic Association petition complaining about a number of problems at the site — excessive noise, alcohol abuse, littering, loitering, public drunkenness, public urination, damage to property and street violence. Sunderland also cites crime data from that era, including a homicide, a shooting, several fights and a probation violation.

“Neighbors don’t have fond memories of this site,” said Inner City Civic Association President Leslie Zupan. “I personally don’t feel it has any architectural significance.”

**ALTHOUGH THE BUILDING** has been poorly maintained over the years, it was included on a list of buildings contributing to the proposed Uptown/Parker Gray National Register Historic District. Some preservationists who would like to see the building maintained for adaptive reuse say its presence on the list of contributing buildings to the National Register is a key argument for denying Cromley a demolition permit. Others say the building’s memory should be preserved in some fashion even if the physical structure is not.

“There should be some way that this building doesn’t just disappear from the landscape,” said Louis Hicks, director of the Black History Museum. “This is a building that holds significant history.”

Cromley said the city has neglected to preserve the building on multiple occasions — once when the city sold it to the American Legion in 1987, again when it refused to purchase it back in 2000 and again when Cromley offered to give it to the city and move it at his own expense. Ultimately, the developer said, the building was a temporary wartime structure that later gained a sullied reputation. Demolishing it to build a modern structure of glass and stone would accomplish a larger goal of contributing to the city’s often staid architectural vocabulary.

“It’s not going to be as radical as people might imagine,” said Cromley. “But this city can do better than phony colonial.”

**Legal Notices**



**ALEXANDRIA PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

The following requests have been received for administrative review and approval.

The Director of Planning and Zoning may approve the permits unless a request that the application be forwarded to City Council is received by August 13, 2009.

**Legal Notices**

**Draft Finding of No Significant Impact**

Warrior in Transition Unit Complex  
U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir  
Directorate of Public Works  
Fort Belvoir, Virginia

**Name of Action:** Construction and Operation of a Warrior in Transition Unit Complex

**Description of Proposed Action:** The Army proposes to construct and operate a Warrior in Transition Unit Complex at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The proposed action involves constructing new facilities, including buildings, sidewalks, parking, access roads, and necessary utilities to accommodate the personnel and functions of unit headquarters, two companies of Warriors in Transition and a Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC) that would assist both soldiers housed at the Warrior in Transition Unit Complex and additional recovering soldiers residing off post. Approximate sizes of the new facilities include 194,400 square feet (SF) for the barracks, 15,000 SF for the SFAC, 31,000 SF for the administrative and operations facility, and 412 new parking spaces. The new facilities would accommodate the use by 412 warriors, with 36 personnel staffing the SFAC and 137 personnel for administration.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluated the proposed action Alternative, which sites the project in an area north of 9th Street, on the former South Post golf course. A No Action (No Build) alternative also considered by the Army would not meet the need to provide adequate new facilities meeting current standards for care of Warriors in Transition at Fort Belvoir. Two sites along Gunston Road were considered in earlier phases of the planning process. These alternatives were not carried forward in the EA as they were considered unreasonable alternatives. The Army Material Command site was dismissed due to limited future growth and does not have adequate space without encroachment on sensitive natural resources. The Directorate of Public Works site was dismissed as an alternative due to its greater distance from hospital and safety concerns for wounded soldiers crossing a major roadway.

**Environmental Consequences:** The EA identified and evaluated the following potential impacts:

**Transportation and Traffic:** It is anticipated that the proposed action would adversely affect two intersections during the a.m. peak hour and one intersection during the p.m. peak hour. The proposed action would not adversely affect transit operations in the area or adversely affect bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Construction traffic from the proposed action would average less than 6-percent of the total construction traffic at Fort Belvoir during the period through 2015 and would not be a significant impact

**Air Quality:** Air pollutant emissions from the proposed action would not be significant and would be below *de minimis* levels for general conformity. During construction of the proposed action, the restrictions outlined in the Construction Performance Plan for the Reduction of Air Emissions for Implementation of 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Recommendations and Related Army Actions at Fort Belvoir, Virginia would be implemented to offset cumulative impacts.

**Natural Resources:** The proposed action would not have significant impacts on renewable natural resources, wetlands, resource protection areas, topography, or soils.

Leveling and grading of the project site would result in minor impacts to soils or topographic conditions. The required soil erosion and sediment control plan would be implemented to ensure impacts to soils are temporary and minor.

The proposed action would have minor impacts to surface water. Plans for stormwater management, storm-water pollution prevention, and sediment and erosion control would mitigate these effects. The proposed action is not located in floodplains and will have no effect.

The proposed action would be sited in an area that is partially developed and contains semi-improved grounds. Mitigation of tree removal would include tree replacement at 2:1 for trees four inches in diameter or more. Minor impacts to vegetation and wildlife would occur and no impacts to threatened & endangered species are expected.

**Cultural Resources:** The proposed action would not have an adverse effect under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. No cultural resources, including archaeological sites, are present at the project site. The planned building height of no more than four stories would not be visible or affect the setting of any historic property.

**Utilities:** The proposed Warrior in Transition Unit Complex would require a minor increase to overall demand for potable water, sanitary sewers, gas, and electricity.

Sustainable strategies would be included in the proposed project design, construction, and operation to meet or exceed Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver rating; the High Performance and Sustainable Building, Low Impact Building Memorandum of Understanding; and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 for reduced energy and water requirements.

The EA concluded there would be minimal impacts for land use plans, aesthetics, coastal zone management, noise, socioeconomic, and community facilities and services as a result of the proposed action.

**Summary of Environmental Impacts:** The proposed action would not generate significant impacts on human health or the environment.

**Conclusion:** On reviewing the EA and other project information, the Installation Commander at Fort Belvoir has concluded that the proposed action would not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed.

**Notice of Availability:** The public may review the EA at the Directorate of Public Works, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; the John Marshall Public Library; Kingstowne Public Library; Lorton Public Library; Sherwood Regional Library; City of Fairfax Regional Library, Van Noy Library; or on the installation web site at <http://www.belvoir.army.mil>.

Interested parties may submit written comments for consideration on or before 30 days after publication of newspaper announcements on 23 July 2009, to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, 9430 Jackson Loop, Suite 100, ATTN: Directorate of Public Works, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116 or e-mail comments to [environmental-jb-dpw@conus.army.mil](mailto:environmental-jb-dpw@conus.army.mil). For more information, contact Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, Chief of Environmental and Natural Resource Division, at 703-806-4007.



## SPORTS

# Alexandria Gets Bike Friendlier

FROM PAGE 4

choose bicycling as an option is because they see it as dangerous. That's where the city must come in."

Dwyer pointed to engineering improvements like more bike lanes and bike racks throughout the city as important steps in improving the safety of biking.

**BUT EQUALLY** important to making bicycle use a safer and more accepted form of transportation are city-wide bicycle education and encouragement efforts. The Bicycle Section of the City of Alexandria's Comprehensive Transportation Master Plan, adopted April 12, 2008, proposes that Alexandria City Public Schools begin keeping track of the number of children who choose bicycling as a means of getting to school. The plan proposes that schools work towards increasing this number by five percent annually through 2011. The plan goes on to mandate that "more than 50 percent of elementary-aged school children receive bicycle safety education by 2010."

Middle school students have been the subject of the city's bicycle education and encouragement efforts as well. As part of Alexandria's Bicycle Ambassador Program, starting in summer 2008, 12 students from George Washington and Francis Hammond Middle Schools have attended dozens of community events like farmer's markets, the Friendship Firehouse Festival, and the Red Cross Waterfront Festival, where they distributed bicycle maps and safety information to city residents.

But the continued rise in the City's level of bicycle friendliness faces obstacles.

"As with any major City initiative, the challenge is always funding," said Lambert. "As the city faces financial difficulties, we've had to look for alternative sources, like federal grants and stimulus money." In 2008 the city secured more than \$5.6 million in state and federal grants for bicycle and pedestrian improvements, including safer routes for students commuting to school. "We're headed in the right direction," said Lambert regarding improvements to the City's trail network and broader transit system, "but there's still a lot of work to be done."

## Alexandria Chamber Cup Golf Classic!



On August 19th, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce will be holding our annual Chamber Cup Golf Classic at the newly renovated National Golf Club at Tantallon in Fort Washington, MD. Come join us for a fun-filled day of golf, raffles, and prize packs followed by a BBQ feast catered by Mango Mikes. Prizes include a 3-day, 2-night golf trip to Melbourne, Florida for two; a 3-day, 2-night golf trip to Madeira Beach, Florida for two; a 5-day, 4-night trip to St. Thomas for two; and a 5-day, 4-night trip to Hawaii for two. Plus great giveaways and complimentary golfing!

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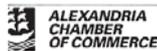
For more information, contact Special Events Coordinator  
Janelle Schmidt at [jschmidt@alexchamber.com](mailto:jschmidt@alexchamber.com) or

**703.739.3808**

**Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2009**  
**Tee Time: 7:00 am registration begins**  
**9:00 am tee time**  
**Cost: \$175/golfer**

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## ALEXANDRIA BASEBALL IS BACK!

**Friday, July 24th 7:00pm**  
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### Season Finale!

**Sunday, July 26th 7:00pm**  
**Aces vs. Herndon Braves**

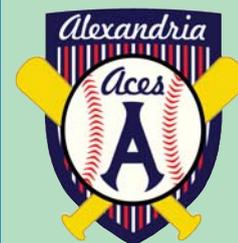


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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

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U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir  
Directorate of Public Works  
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Interested parties may submit written comments for consideration on or before 30 days after publication of newspaper announcements on 23 July 2009, to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, 9430 Jackson Loop, Suite 100, ATTN: Directorate of Public Works, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116 or e-mail comments to [environmental-jb-dpw@conus.army.mil](mailto:environmental-jb-dpw@conus.army.mil). For more information, contact Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, Chief of Environmental and Natural Resource Division, at 703-806-4007.

## Part-time Office Assistant

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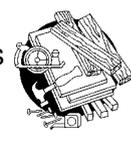
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## SPORTS



COURTESY OF DAVID MALAKOFF

Eliza Malakoff (pictured) and brother Liam of Alexandria both recently won gold medals at the Junior Olympics whitewater games in Ontario, Canada.

### Alexandrians Medal At Junior Olympics

Alexandria siblings Liam and Eliza Malakoff returned from Canada this week toting a bouquet of gold and silver medals from the Junior Olympics whitewater games in Ontario, Canada. The two-week-long event drew more than 100 competitors from around the world, and included five major races on some of the most difficult whitewater rivers in North America.

"It was an incredible experience," said Liam, 16, a rising junior at T.C. Williams High School. He won a gold and four silver medals, racing in single and double canoe. Eliza, 11, won a gold and three silvers paddling a single-seat kayak, and was the top under-12 girl in the event.

Both Malakoffs are serious about the sport of whitewater "slalom." In races, they must navigate their boats down a twisting course through a series of "gates" hung above fast-moving rapids. It can look like a cross between ballet and pinball, as the paddlers bounce over waves and carve graceful arcs through the poles. Both are part of a D.C.-area team coached by Dana Chladek, a two-time Olympic kayaking medalist, and sponsored by the Bethesda Center of Excellence (BCE), a nonprofit group that promotes paddle sports.

This year's success was particularly sweet for Liam. Last year, in his first Junior Olympics competition, he failed to finish his races after flipping in the rapids and having to escape his canoe. He trained hard all year,

so standing on the podium this year "was a great validation," he said. Eliza, competing in her first major competition, was also thrilled with her performance. "I can't wait to get back on the river," she said.

### T.C. Williams Basketball Clinic

T.C. Williams girls' basketball coach Cavanaugh Hagen is hosting a summer clinic for girls ages 7-17 and boys ages 6-12. The one-week clinic will take place between July 27 and Aug. 1 with sessions running from 4-6:30 p.m. The clinic is just \$75, which breaks down to \$12 a day. There are also a few scholarships available upon special situations.

The clinics will feature individual team competition, skill work, awards, a talented staff of counselors including North Carolina-bound Northern Region Player of the Year Tierra Ruffin-Pratt, and guest speakers of all levels. For more information contact Cavanaugh Hagen at cav484@gmail.com.

### Youth Baseball Registration

Registration for Fort Hunt League fall baseball is now open. See the "Baseball" link at the top of the [fhyaa.org](http://fhyaa.org) Web site for information on our baseball program.

Register online at <http://fhyaa.org>. For questions, contact the President Paul Murphy (FortHuntBaseball@msn.com) or Registrar Jeff Lerner (fhl.registrar@verizon.net).

**SPORTS BRIEFS**

### SCHOOL NOTES

The following students earned a spot on the dean's list for the spring semester at Lynchburg College, which requires a QPA of 3.5 or higher.

\* **Patricia Casey Clay of Alexandria**, daughter of Frank and Ann Clay, is a 2009 graduate with a B.S. in business administration.

\* **Ashley E. Hoath of Alexandria**, is a senior exercise physiology major.

\* **Edgar Eduardo Reyes-Jacobo**, son of Esmeralda and Eduardo Reyes-Jacobo of Alexandria, is a sophomore art major.

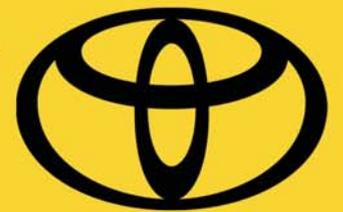
**Mary Elizabeth Kostelc** graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor of science degree last Spring.

**Amanda R. Baldwin**, a resident of Alexandria, has earned a Bachelor of Science from Excelsior College.

**Megan Kamide**, a resident of Alexandria, received a Master of Arts degree in Forensic Psychology from Roger Williams University.

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LORTON \$724,900



### Privacy and Tranquility

Off the beaten path and tucked away in Mason Neck, this Colonial is the perfect getaway. A short but scenic walk to the river, this detached colonial on a corner wooded level lot offers three bedrooms, hardwood floors in the kitchen and dining room, and upgraded baths.

**Tamara Inzunza**  
703.623.8759  
www.MovingToNova.com



ALEXANDRIA \$579,000



### Curb Appeal Galore

All-brick raised rambler offering fabulous updated kitchen and two full baths, three main-level bedrooms, warm hardwood flooring, fireplace, plantation shutters, huge rec room for game nights or quiet home office, private patio and elevated deck overlooking terraced lawn. Walk to Metro, schools, park and trails.

**Joy Sutherland**  
703.725.5061  
www.joysutherland.com  
MLS ID# AX7040583



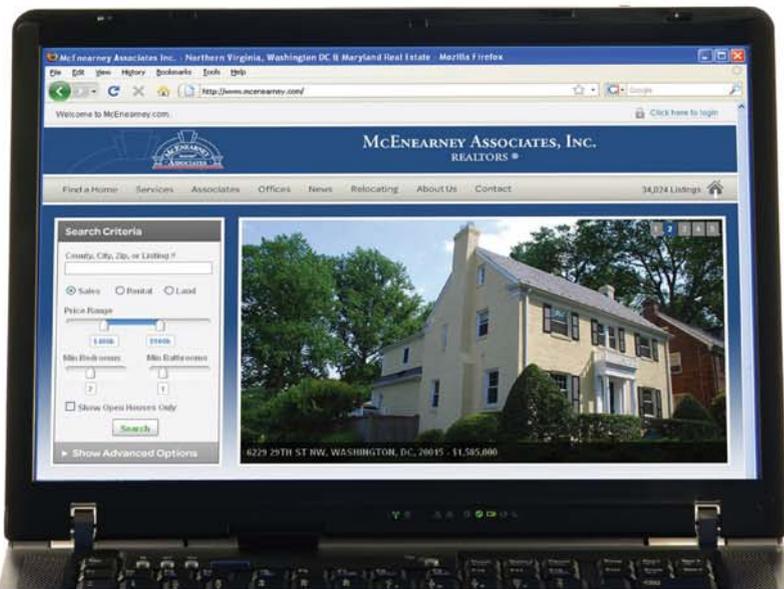
LORTON \$689,000



### Corner Lot Backing to Woods

This lovely Colonial features a two-story foyer and family room with fireplace, four bedrooms, three-and-a-half' baths, and two-car garage. Gourmet kitchen with granite and island with cooktop. Trex deck. Fabulous rec room with bar and lots of extras. Community tennis courts, pool, center, trails, tot lots, and new schools.

**Catherine Davidson**  
703.201.1998  
www.cmdrealty.net  
MLS ID# FX7063665



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