

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

Vol. CCXXV, No. 33

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 20, 2009



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Twelve members of the Tech Rescue Team set up station as team members used petrogen torches to cut trough an I-beam in the rescue drill.

Rescue Training

Last week the members of the Alexandria Fire Department's Tech Rescue Team participated in their monthly team drill exercises. The team works on rescue skills in the event of a structural collapse. The team also trains in rope rescues, trench rescue, and confined space rescue and vehicle extrications.



Captain Michael Sharpe takes turns cutting through the final section of the beam.

HOT Lanes Begin Melting

Controversial project now faces a federal lawsuit.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Rising anger over a proposed plan to allow private companies to construct and maintain High Occupancy Toll lanes on the Shirley Memorial Highway has provoked a standstill for the project. Although the Virginia Department of Transportation and the companies hoped to finalize a contractual arrangement this month, those plans seem to have evaporated in a climate of increasing economic uncertainty for the project. Meanwhile, the

Arlington County Board filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday morning challenging the then Bush administration's decision to move ahead with the project without first conducting an environmental impact study.

"Unfortunately, the project as currently conceived has significant negative impacts for Arlington and the entire Northern Virginia region," said Arlington County Board member Chris Zimmerman. "In the last few weeks of the Bush administration, this went through very quickly without a lot of consideration.

SEE HOT LANES, PAGE 3

Two-Year Itch

Superintendent's plan expects all students to pass English and Math tests in the next two years.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The expectation has been looming like a sword of Damocles over Alexandria City Public Schools since 2001 — all schools will be expected to achieve 100 percent pass rates for all students. The upward trajectory started in 2001, with a 61 percent benchmark for English and a 69 percent standard for Math. The scores have been rising ever since, with a 77 percent expectation in English and a 75 percent objective in Math this year. And the benchmark for "adequate yearly progress," known as AYP, will continue to rise each year until 2014, when all schools will be expected

to have a 100 percent pass rate in English and Math.

"Is it hard? You bet. It is challenging? You bet," said School Board Chairwoman Yvonne Folkerts. "But I don't think that's an unrealistic goal."

The next few years will be the most critical test for No Child Left Behind. As expectations rise closer to 100 percent, more schools will be put to the test. Already, the system is starting to show a strain. According to the most recent standardized test scores, seven schools did not meet this year's benchmark. One of those schools was MacArthur Elementary School that is usually at the top of the standardized score charts. Documents

SEE SHERMAN, PAGE 23

Five Days in Jail

After pleading guilty to DUI, former police chief entered jail Friday and exited Tuesday morning.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Former Alexandria Chief of Police David Baker spent the weekend in the Arlington County jail as the result of a guilty plea he entered to the Arlington County District Court Friday morning. Although Baker initially vowed he would fight the

charges and plead not guilty, the former chief changed his mind and decided to work with Arlington prosecutors to strike a deal. Judge Dorothy Clarke sentenced the former chief to five days in jail, ordering him to report to the county jail no later than 6 p.m. Friday night.

SEE FIVE DAYS, PAGE 7

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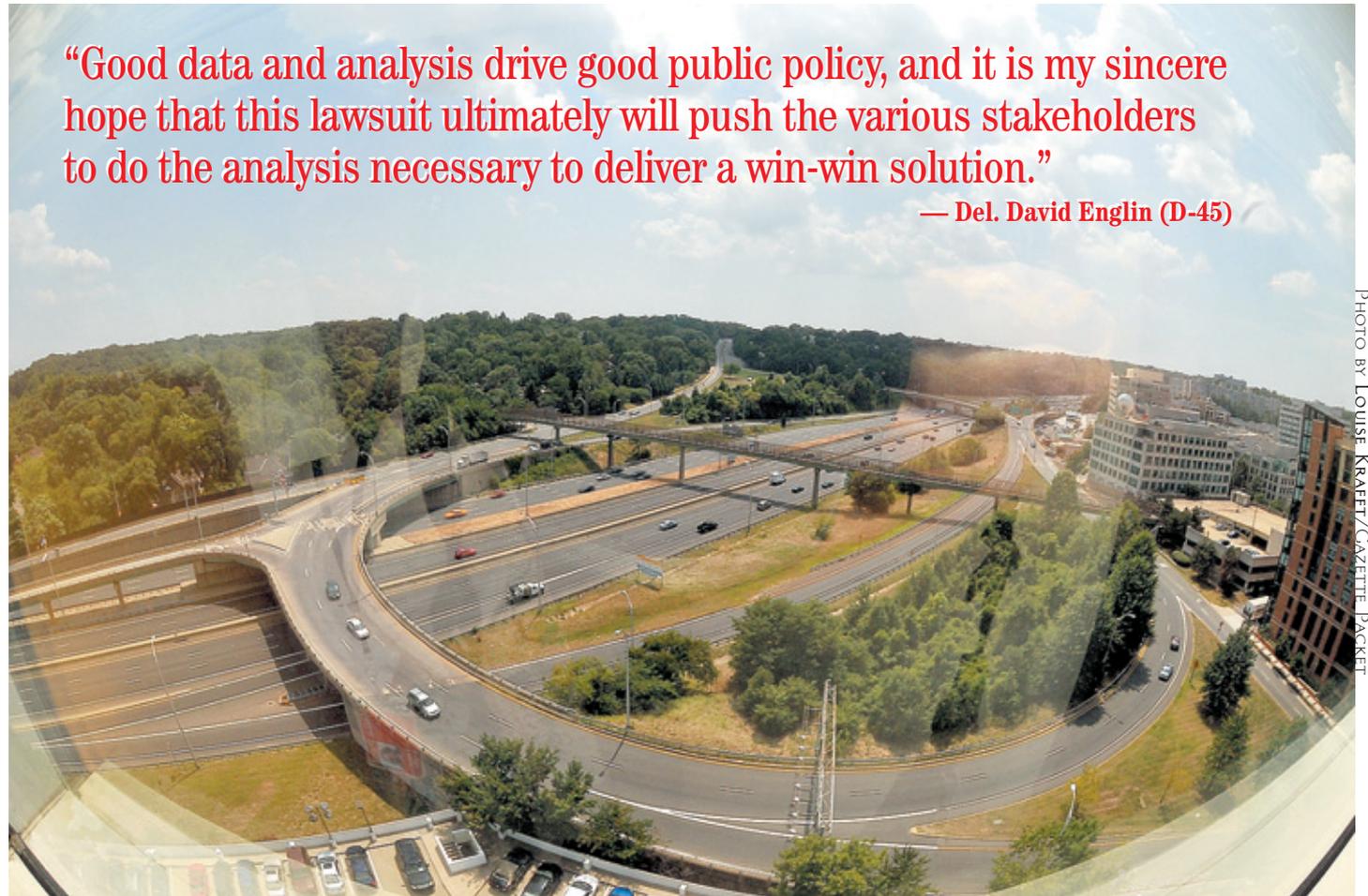
FROM PAGE 1

And now the only recourse is litigation.” The complaint was filed Tuesday morning in United States District Court for the District of Columbia, alleging that the Federal Highway Administration and the commonwealth of Virginia failed to meet environmental requirements by granting a “categorical exclusion” for the project — essentially setting aside the need to conduct an environmental impact study. The logic for granting the exclusion was that the project was so important that it needed to be rushed through without being delayed. But that timetable was undercut earlier this week, when local leaders received word from the Virginia Department of Transportation that the project was being delayed indefinitely. “Our original schedule called for the project to reach commercial close this month,” wrote Transportation Chief Engineer Malcolm Kerley in an Aug. 17 letter. “However, due to local government and community concerns, as well as a challenging credit market conditions, we will not reach commercial close this month.”

NEWS OF the federal lawsuit and indefinite delay was greeted as two separate victories by residents in the Parkfairfax neighborhood in Alexandria, where concerns have been mounting for months about adding traffic to local streets. Residents there have long been concerned about how a reconfigured Shirlington Rotary would dump traffic from the HOT lanes into their neighborhood, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

“We’re really pleased that Arlington is moving forward with the lawsuit,” said Heather Rogers, who has lived in Parkfairfax since 2001. “It sounds like a lot of issues we’ve been concerned in the neighborhood about are covered in their lawsuit.”

When members of the Alexandria City Council return from their summer recess in



“Good data and analysis drive good public policy, and it is my sincere hope that this lawsuit ultimately will push the various stakeholders to do the analysis necessary to deliver a win-win solution.”

— Del. David Englin (D-45)

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

The federal government did not consider the impact of increased traffic on neighborhood streets near the Shirlington Rotary as the result of the HOT lanes proposal.

September, they will review the lawsuit and consider whether or not to join the Arlington County Board. Meanwhile, Arlington officials say the proposed HOT lanes project is flawed because it focuses more on moving cars than moving people, an emphasis that conflicts with the county’s goal of encouraging transit options and improving air quality standards. The lawsuit brought by Arlington County Board members charges that the Virginia Department of Transportation

has exaggerated the benefits of the project and underestimated the adverse impacts.

“I wish it did not have to come to this,” said Arlington County Board Chairwoman Barbara Favola in a written statement. “But the county was left with no alternative.”

BACK IN JANUARY, the Arlington County Board adopted a resolution that withheld its support for the HOT lane proposal until

its concerns about regional transportation problems could be addressed. The Alexandria City Council followed suit in March, adopting a resolution that accused VDOT of improperly preparing environmental documentation for the project. Now that the County Board has filed suit, leaders in Alexandria and Arlington say they hope transportation officials will finally conduct the

SEE HOT LANES. PAGE 10

Sheriff’s Office Hosts First Youth Academy

For three days in August, more than a dozen youth participated in the first youth academy hosted by the Sheriff’s Department. The students met with senior command staff at the city detention center and toured the sheriff’s office. The youth participated in a firearms safety course preceded by a demonstration by Sergeant Mike Neebe at the firing range and training facility on Eisenhower Avenue.

The students also met Sherman,

the sheriff’s K-9 bomb-sniffing dog, toured the city courthouse, met with the public defender’s office staff and rode in the sheriff’s squad cars. The program is designed to inform the youth about the different kinds of work performed by the sheriff and the deputies.

Sergeant Mike Neebe answers questions about the use of firearms on the job as a sheriff’s deputy.

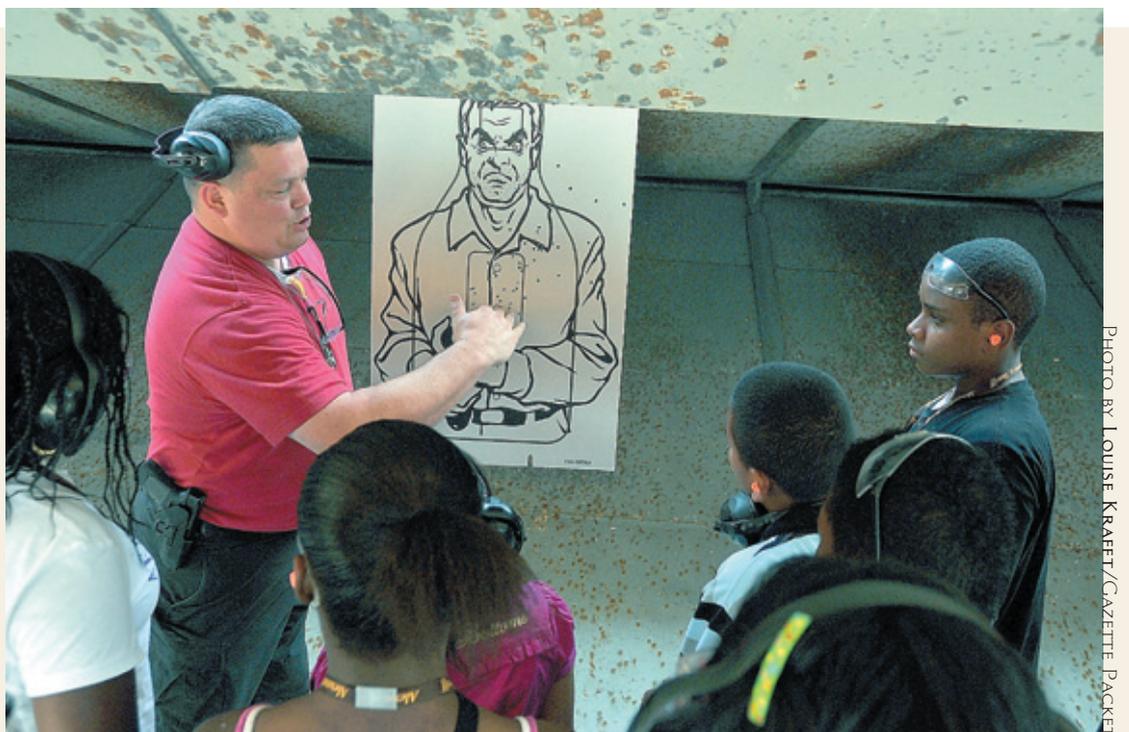


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Polishing Alexandria's Riverside Jewel

City officials work with members of the community to plan the waterfront's future.

BY TOMMY HILL
GAZETTE PACKET

Since Alexandria's founding on the banks of the Potomac in 1749, the Potomac Waterfront has been key to the economic and cultural life of the city. The city's riverside location made it a bustling center of fishing and shipbuilding in the 18th and 19th centuries, and has helped in its transformation from an industrial center to a regional hotspot of culture and tourism in recent decades. And with the July 22 launch of the Alexandria Waterfront's Facebook page, the city's historic riverside treasure has officially entered the information age.

Today, the stretch of riverside land from Jones Point Park to Daingerfield Island is at the heart of an ongoing discussion between city officials and members of the community. Since the spring, city and community groups have been working to develop a comprehensive plan for the area. It will be a plan that attempts to enhance the waterfront's cultural offerings while respecting its history and the needs of the community.

"The metaphor we've been using is 'polishing the jewel,'" said Karl Moritz, Alexandria's deputy director of strategic and long range planning. "The Potomac waterfront is already a jewel; we're working with the community on finding ways to make it even better."

One way the city is working to polish the jewel is by increasing the presence of art in the many public spaces that line the river. "One of the most significant aspects of the waterfront is its connection with the arts," Moritz went on.

AT THE WATERFRONT planning charrette held on June 27, which brought together city officials, planning experts, and almost 100 members of the community, many in attendance emphasized the importance of public art to the waterfront's character and appeal. So as the planning process continues, the city will be cooperating closely with the Art League and other area art groups to enhance the waterfront's identification with the arts. Visitors to the waterfront could expect an increased number of sculptures, fountains, and public performances along the river in the coming years.

"We are really excited about working with the city on this plan," said Rosemary Covey, president of the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association, members of which attended the June 27 charrette. "We want to be a part of what's being done."

Polishing the jewel will also entail improving the continuity of the parks along the river, turning the stretch of land from Jones Point



Residents are encouraged to help develop a vision for the waterfront's future.

Park to Daingerfield Island into a continuous string of pedestrian-friendly public spaces.

"There are several places where continuity along the waterfront is obstructed," said Moritz. Such places include Robinson Terminals North and South and the Strand Properties along the river adjacent to Robinson Terminal South.

At the recent charrette, a number of redevelopment options for these sites were explored. "For the Robinson Terminal North site, [redevelopment] possibilities discussed at the meeting included a boutique hotel, a community museum, even an aquarium," said Project Manager Veronica Davis.

BUT ANY REDEVELOPMENT of these sites will have to be mindful of the history of the waterfront area. As City Archaeologist Pamela Cressey pointed out, "The sites of both

Robinson Terminals are directly related to our city's earliest heritage." Both warehouses sit on land associated with Alexandria's early shipbuilding industry. Robinson South is believed to be located on the site of the Thomas Fleming Shipyard, founded in the 1740s, and it is suspected that Robinson North sits on the site of the Hugh West Warehouse, founded as early as the 1730s. "It's quite possible that there

could be important archeological findings around these areas," Cressey continued. "The plan should encourage the preservation and the appreciation of the history of these sites."

The Historic Alexandria Foundation will be working to ensure that education and appreciation regarding the city's riverside history are included in the plan. "It's important that proper signage be included in the future development of the waterfront so that visitors understand the history of the sites along the river," said J. Lance Mallamo, director of Historic Alexandria.

Members of the community have also raised questions about the Mirant Power Plant that faces the Potomac in North Old Town. "The big issue that remains in the North End is the Mirant Plant," said Christa Watters, a resident of the Old Town North neighborhood since 1983. "It could have a lot of uses ... I would like to see at least a place-holder plan for what could become of that site." But so far, the city has provided no specifics on the future of the site.

As discussions of development continue, addressing the issue of transportation and access to the waterfront will be a top priority. "One of the things that came up in the

June 27 charrette was the issue of north-south access," said Moritz. While the King Street Trolley provides an east-west public transportation option, there is no north-south counterpart. "We discussed some sort of transportation line along Union or Lee Streets that would provide north-south access," Moritz continued. Options explored include a trolley similar to the one that currently runs along King Street.

BUT A MAJOR obstacle the city will face as plans materialize is the issue of funding. "One of the common ways to fund public amenities is to have new development pay for it," said Moritz. "But since there's not much space for new development in the plan area, we'll be looking for alternatives that could generate additional revenue, like additional dining opportunities and expanded marine facilities."

Other possible funding strategies include a sponsorship program to fund capital improvement projects and a seasonal concessions program that would bring carts and kiosks into the open spaces along the waterfront. As yet, no concrete strategy has been agreed upon.

The city will continue to work with members of the community to develop a plan for the waterfront's future that is economically viable in addition to being respectful of both residents' interests and the area's history. "I think with the public hearings that the city has organized, the public has had the opportunity to be involved in this process," said Michael Geissinger, a 20-year resident of Alexandria and a long-time sailor who would like to see an expansion in the waterfront's marina facilities.

"This is not a plan of the Planning Commission or of the City Council, this is a plan of the citizens of Alexandria," said Planning Commission Chair John Komoroske at a Public Forum regarding the Waterfront Plan held April 23.

As part of its effort to engage with the public in the planning process, the Alexandria Planning Commission invited members of the community to join in a one-day bus trip to New York City on Aug. 5 to examine such successful public spaces as Bryant Park, the recently-completed High Line, and Battery Park. Battery Park in particular, with its abundant public art, its well-designed transportation options, and its continuity along Manhattan's waterfront, is viewed by the Commission as an inspiration. Photos of the trip can be found on the Alexandria Waterfront's Facebook page.

"People will have many additional opportunities to voice their opinions on the plan and help the city shape a plan that works best," said Moritz. Formal discussions between city officials and the public will continue in late September. Until then, interested members of the public can express their concerns and learn more about the ongoing planning process by visiting the Waterfront Plan's recently-launched Facebook page or by viewing the plan's Web site at alexandria.gov/Waterfront

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

"This is not a plan of the Planning Commission or of the City Council, this is a plan of the citizens of Alexandria."

— John Komoroske, chair, Planning Commission

BULLETIN BOARD

To have a notice listed, e-mail gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

ONGOING

The City of Alexandria is announcing a **Call for Artists for the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial**, which will be located at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. The City will conduct the search for qualified applicants through a Request for Qualifications. The anticipated installation date of the Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial is April 2011. Artists interested in applying to

the RFQ are encouraged to register with the City of Alexandria's e-procure system at <http://eprocare.alexandriava.gov/bso>. Applications may be submitted online, by postal mail or in person. The deadline for applications is Oct. 1, at 4 p.m. Three finalists will each receive an honorarium of \$2,000 to submit a complete proposal. All inquiries regarding the RFQ should be directed to Dominic Lackey, City of Alexandria Procurement Department, by calling 703-838-4946, ext. 600, or e-mailing dominic.lackey@alexandriava.gov.

Late-Night Hang-Out. Every Thursday and Friday nights from 9 p.m. to midnight. At Charles Houston

Community Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Basketball league games, card tournaments, table game tournaments, DJ music. For young adults, 19 years and up. Call 703-838-4814.

NAACP, Fairfax County Branch. 7 p.m. Meets on second Tuesday of the month at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Call 703-591-4488 or send email to info@naacp.org.

The Wright to Read program will celebrate 30 years in Alexandria this September. Wright to Read volunteers or students from 1979-2001 may contact Leigh Hoyer at lhoeyer@campagnacenter.org or 703-549-0111 ext. 101.

AUG. 17-31

Shoe Drive. To benefit Soles4Souls, the shoe charity. St. Elmo's Pub will be collecting "gently worn" shoes for those in need of shoes worldwide. At St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. **Contact** William Rogers, St. Elmo's, williamprogers@gmail.com.

Glebe Road, Arlington. Website: <http://arlexva.holisticmoms.org/> Contact: holisticmomsarlex@gmail.com or 703-824-6167.

ESL for Employment. 7-9 p.m. For workers who want to improve their English language skills and advance their career. At NOVA's Alexandria Campus - Bisdorf Building, Room 293, 3001 North Beauregard Street. Free. Call 703-764-7779 or email ESLEmployment@nvcc.edu, or just show up.

Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group Meets. 7-8 p.m. At City Hall, Room 1101. The summer check-in group meetings are informal. SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 24

THURSDAY/AUG. 20

Holistic Moms Network Arlington/Alexandria Chapter Meeting. 6:30-9 p.m. Topic: "Schooling Options for the Holistic Family" a panel presentation. At Arlington United Methodist Church, 716 S.

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PEOPLE



Branch staff Candace Cole, Rob Peterbark Jr., Howard Spratt and Toni Andrews join the new bank president Scott McSween with a piece of birthday cake.

Burke & Herbert Celebrates 157 Years

The branch managers and staff of Burke & Herbert Bank and Trust offered cake on Friday, Aug. 14, to their customers in celebration of the bank's birthday at 157 years old.



Assistant bank manager Candace Cole cuts the birthday cake at the Fairfax Street branch.



Bank CEO and Chairman of the Board Charlie Collum is joined by acting Police Chief Earl Cook.

PEOPLE NOTES

To have a People Note published in the Gazette-Packet, send an e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or call Steve Hibbard 703-778-9412. Pictures encouraged.

Byron F. Andrews, captain with the Alexandria Fire Department and chief of the Sterling Volunteer Rescue Squad, won the Outstanding EMS administrator award at an EMS awards ceremony honoring outstanding individuals in Northern Virginia on June 11 in Haymarket. The Alexandria Fire Department won the Outstanding EMS Agency.

Gen. Robert Magnus, USMC (ret.) of Alexandria was honored as a 2009 inductee into the International Forest of Friendship, in Atchison, KS, during ceremonies in June. The Forest is a living, growing memorial to the world history of aviation and aerospace. Gen. Magnus served as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, the second highest position in the Corps, from 2005 to 2008.

PreeAnn Johnson, an assistant principal with ACPS since 2002, has been appointed as the new principal at James K. Polk Elementary School. An

ACPS educator since 1985, Johnson most recently served as an assistant principal at T.C. Williams High School Minnie Howard Campus, Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology and Douglas MacArthur Elementary School. Johnson has a bachelor of science in human development from St. Mary's College of Maryland and a master of education, specializing in working with emotionally disturbed students, from American University. She is pursuing her doctorate in education, administration and supervision from the University of Maryland.

OPINION

Public Options

Government jumps into business for a variety of reasons.

While private options of this amenity are plentiful, they are so expensive that they are out of reach for many even in our affluent area.

So government has jumped in to offer the opportunity at greatly reduced prices, making it available to almost everyone. It's not clear what the impact of the public option has been on the private businesses involved.

We're talking, of course, about golf courses.

Joining a private country club can cost tens of thousands of dollars in original membership fees, plus thousands in annual fees.

But around Northern Virginia, there are many public options for golf, some nationally acclaimed, where one can swing the clubs around 18 holes for under \$30.

Offering access to recreational facilities at cost well below private options is a common activity for local governments. Water parks, indoor and outdoor pools, indoor and outdoor

tennis are all available in our area at reduced prices via government involvement. Recreation centers provide an affordable alternative to health clubs.

Localities offer summer day camps of many varieties, all at a fraction of the cost of private camps.

Public colleges and universities offer lower cost tuition than private colleges and universities.

EDITORIAL

Publicly owned historic sites and park facilities compete with restaurants and banquet halls to host weddings and other events.

Do these public options hold down the prices at private camps, private colleges, private country clubs? That's unknown, but what we do know is that the public options make many things affordable and accessible to people who would not be able to afford them otherwise.

Meanwhile people continue to pay a premium for the amenities, services and added value and availability of the private options, keeping those businesses in business.

Local 'Public Options'

For public recreational opportunities, see:

- ❖ Northern Virginia Park Authority, <http://www.nvrpa.org/>
- ❖ City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, <http://alexandriava.gov/Recreation>

Governments are also offering a private option for many things that previously have been strictly free public goods. One example is roads.

A private company is widening the Beltway, 495, from the Virginia side of American Legion Bridge to the Springfield Mixing Bowl. When it's finished, drivers will have the option to pay a significant toll to the company to ride in the "High Occupancy Toll" lanes to avoid the crowded but free lanes. Vehicles with at least three occupants will be able to ride in the new lanes for free.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Statement From Baker

To the Editor:

Drinking and driving is dangerous and against the law. Drunk drivers risk killing or hurting innocent people and themselves. I know that and obviously as police chief I had an even higher responsibility not to engage in such behavior.

By doing so, I let down the Alexandria Police Department, City officials and the community I have loved and served for 19 years. I also let down my family, my friends and myself. As much as it pained me, resigning from my post as chief was the appropriate decision given my actions. I offer no excuses for my bad decisions and behavior because there are none. And I am, and will be, forever haunted by the personal embarrassment and humiliation I caused to those who have supported, mentored and guided me through my personal life and long and rewarding public safety career.

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the woman whose car I ran into that night for the pain and inconvenience I have caused her. I have already expressed my regret and sorrow to her privately and I would like to acknowledge my regret now publicly. She did not deserve to have any of this happen to her.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend Arlington police and sheriff's deputies who performed the night of my



The felled tree by the entrance of George Washington Middle School.

arrest and during my detention with the highest degree of professionalism and who have treated me fairly and with dignity.

I am going to work with my family and others to properly examine my actions of July 24, 2009, and to find a new and appropriate way to serve the community I love and have let down. It is then that I hope I will have earned your forgiveness.

David Baker

Former Alexandria Police Chief

Killing the Oaks

To the Editor:

I don't consider myself a "tree-hugger," but I was dismayed on Aug. 18 when I rode my bicycle down Mt. Vernon Avenue and saw the remains of a mature oak tree lying on the ground like a body at the scene of a crime. The former tree, which stood by the entrance to George Washington Middle School, lay in great chunks, still dripping wet with sap.

I had to stop and ask the reason

for this drastic event.

The tree cutter — an employee of SavATree — told me it was "diseased" and that the city had ordered it to come down. "How can that be?" I asked pointing to the clean, fleshy pink slices of wood that bisected the massive 12-foot round trunk. Then he pointed to a five-inch round blemish of rot that was isolated on the edge of one section of trunk. "That's the disease," he said.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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Making a Difference with Specialized Stroke Care

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL

One evening a 69-year-old man was brought by the City's Emergency Medical Services to the Inova Alexandria Hospital Emergency Department after collapsing during choir rehearsal. Immediately the hospital's Stroke Rapid Response team was called in to assist.

Upon arrival, the man had difficulty speaking, his face was limp, he was numb and couldn't move his left side. The Stroke Team began using tPA, a clot dissolving drug, to try to break up the blood clot in the brain and then a clot retrieval device called the Merci Retrieval System. The quick action of the Stroke Team saved the life of this husband and father and resulted in a full recovery.

There are two types of stroke. The man mentioned above suffered from an ischemic stroke which is a blood clot that blocks an artery or vessel, interrupting blood flow to an area of the brain. When blood flow to the brain is blocked, brain damage can occur and abilities such as speech or movement may be lost. A hemorrhagic stroke is the accumulation of blood within the skull. Getting state-of-the-art stroke treatment in a timely manner is the key to surviving any stroke.

According to the American Heart Association, about 700,000 Americans suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year. In Virginia, stroke



causes about 3,000 deaths per year. Here at Inova Alexandria Hospital our commitment to quality care makes us one of the best places in the region to receive stroke treatment, according to the Joint Commission.

The Joint Commission, the accrediting organization for all of the nation's hospitals, has designated the hospital as a Primary Stroke Center. Recently, the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association also recognized the hospital with a Silver award, indicating that the stroke services at the hospital provide patients with the best chance of survival.

These awards are a testament to the commitment we have to provide the expert care needed to overcome this deadly condition.

Nearly 80 percent of all strokes are preventable according to the National Stroke Association. As part of our education to the community about health-related issues, we frequently offer suggestions in this column to improve your health. We would like to continue to provide this education because we know it saves lives.

Discussing your risk of developing a stroke with your primary care physician will help you

take the necessary steps to prevent a stroke. Other tips you should follow are: knowing your blood pressure numbers and working with your physician to lower those numbers if they're elevated. Stop smoking and overindulging in alcohol. This tip alone can lower your risk of having a stroke by 50 percent. Also, manage your cholesterol levels, improve your eating habits, and exercise. If you have stroke symptoms, which include numbness, weakness, trouble speaking, walking, or a severe headache, seek medical attention immediately. In the event that you need us, Inova Alexandria Hospital is here 24-hours a day to provide the high quality stroke care you deserve.

For more information about the warning signs of stroke, contact Inova Alexandria Hospital's Neurovascular Care Unit at 703-504-3650 or visit www.inova.org/stroke.

MILITARY NOTES

Army Pvt. Robert M. Martin has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. Martin is the son of Patricia O'Neill of Glenwood Court, Alexandria, and Mike Martin of Harbour View Drive, Kill Devil Hills, N.C.

Air Force Airman Vincent J. Coyle graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Genny Coyle of Candlewood Drive, Alexandria. Coyle is a 2008 graduate of Bishop Ireton High School, Alexandria.

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OPINION

FROM PAGE 8

I'm not an arborist, but I can tell you that I have seen that tree every day on my way to work and it didn't appear to be "diseased." It was full of leaves, in fact. But because I'm not an arborist, I needed a second expert opinion. I got it from another employee of SavATree trimming branches down the block. His words: "That tree was fine. It didn't need to come down." What it needed was pruning.

An arborist from City Hall later told me the top of the tree was full of "dead limbs" and that the tree was "dying from the top down." If dead limbs were the problem, why not just them out — and cut them out aggressively if necessary? Why the need to kill the entire tree?

To me, destroying this massive oak is akin to euthanizing a patient because of an infection on his elbow. Sure, that infection could spread if not taken care of, but that's no justification for snuffing out the patient.

I returned later that evening to photograph the remains of the trunk and count the rings. I counted 77 rings. In other words, that tree has been providing shade since 1930, standing through the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movements, the ups and downs of the 1980s and 1990s, September 11th, the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, and the election of President Obama.

And in a few short hours, it came crashing down.

While I was counting the rings,

people stopped and asked what was going on. They all shared their disbelief that the tree had to come down. One woman looked at the section of rot, reached in a few inches and pulled out the crumblings. This tree had at least 25 more good years of life, she said, identifying herself as a botanist.

Sad thing is another mature oak tree nearby met the same fate this week. And at least one more giant oak near G.W. was slated to come down as of this writing, as are several cheery trees located in front of the school.

Alexandria goes to great lengths to preserve the character of the city's historic buildings. The same thing should go for its historic trees. The situation is not totally bleak. The city is planting many new trees throughout the city, and that effort is admirable. But think how many years we will have to wait before these saplings ever reach the majestic heights of this great, former oak.

Neal Learner
 Alexandria

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Include home address and home and business numbers. Send to: Letters to the Editor The Gazette Packet 1606 King St. Alexandria VA 22314 By e-mail: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

HOT Lanes Melting

FROM PAGE 3

analysis they say should have already been conducted before negotiations began with the private companies charged with building and maintaining the lanes.

"Good data and analysis drive good public policy, and it is my sincere hope that this lawsuit ultimately will push the various stakeholders to do the analysis necessary to deliver a win-win solution," said Del. David Englin (D-45) in a written statement. "In my view — a view I believe will be validated by analysis resulting from this legal action — a win-win solution will be based on transit that moves people and does not simply increase the volume of cars moving from Stafford and Prince William into the District of Columbia."

The Arlington lawsuit specifically charges that state and federal leaders failed to meet necessary requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act —

known as NEPA. County leaders allege that the modeling used to determine the project impacts was insufficient and not consistent with standard practice. As a result, the lawsuit claims, the categorical exclusion did not properly consider the true impacts of the project. One example mentioned in the complaint is the Air Quality Analysis Technical Report, which county leaders say did not provide the requisite analysis for vulnerable populations and the disparate treatment of low-income and minority communities along the corridor.

"We urge the state to ensure that the project is redesigned to reflect the new analysis and full range of impacts," said Arlington County Attorney Stephen Maclsaac. "The Federal Highway Administration and VDOT should rescind the categorical exclusion classification and, at a minimum, undertake an environmental assessment."



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Police Seek Help in Identifying Burglary Suspect

The Alexandria Police Department is asking for the public's help in identifying the suspect in an armed burglary that occurred in the 100 block of Lynhaven Drive.

On Wednesday, July 15, at approximately 1 p.m., a female resident was leaving her house and was forced back inside by two sus-

pects. One of the suspects was armed with a handgun. They acted as if they were looking for somebody. The person was not found and the suspects fled the area. There were no injuries.

The first suspect is described as a black



Suspect in armed burglary.

male, in his mid 20s, unshaven and wearing what appeared to be a United States Postal Service uniform. He had a tattoo on the inside of his forearm that appeared to be in a script type font. See composite of the sus-

pect and a sample.

The second suspect is described as a black male, in his mid 20s, with medium length dreadlocks. He was wearing a black cap, black shirt, dark blue jeans, black gloves and white Nike "Air Force" shoes.

Detectives remind witnesses that they can remain anonymous. Anyone with information about

this incident is asked to call Detective Chris Whelan at the Criminal Investigations Section of the Alexandria Police Department at 703-838-4726 or the Crime Solvers tip line at 703-838-4858.

Rewards up to \$1,000 can be paid for information that leads to the arrest and indictment of criminals.

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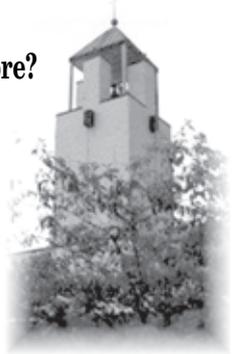


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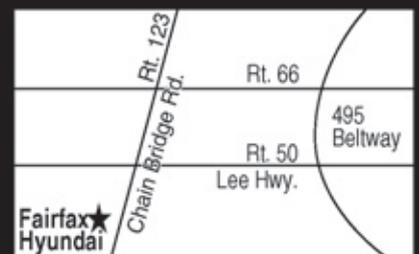


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COMMUNITY



Heal the World tribute is performed by participants from Therapeutic Recreation, William Ramsey and Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.

PHOTOS BY DAVID CORDELL

Tribute to Michael Jackson

Students attending the summer camp programs in therapeutic recreation at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center concluded their session with a "Family Day." The activities included a performance in the auditorium by the students. This year, in tribute to the late King of Pop, the students performed skits and sang renditions of some of Michael Jackson's hits.



"Ease on Down the Road" tribute by Brenda Holloway, assistant director of therapeutic recreation.



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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!



NEW PRICE!

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!



JUST LISTED!

7913
Candlewood Dr
\$530,000
Backs to Park!
Expanded 5BR
home features
hardwood floors,
spacious eat-in
kitchen, formal

DR & 2 fireplaces. Stunning glass walled addition and custom screened porch overlook gorgeous lot bordering acres & acres of county parkland. Prime location just minutes from Old Town. There's nothing like it on the market!



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!



WATERFRONT!

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

Potomac! Spacious custom Tudor was carefully crafted with the highest quality materials and planned with three levels of Pella window walls to maximize water views. 6BRs, 5BAs, full walk out LL and many rooms with dramatic river views.



STRATFORD LANDING!

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

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



9411
Brambly Lane
\$975,000
Luxury Home!
Top quality
luxury home is
loaded with
custom features,
including:

exceptionally bright, open floor plan, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, fabulous large family room, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail and the most spectacular master suite you'll ever find! This home is almost complete and ready for occupancy! Special financing is available.



CONTRACT!

9511 Mt Vernon Lndg
\$900,000



CONTRACT!

7107 Colgate Dr
\$598,900



CONTRACT!

6412 Potomac Ave
\$538,900



CONTRACT!

7114 Coventry Rd
\$548,500

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610 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET
Alex / Old Town - \$1,495,000

3,300sf home w/3BR/4.5BA, chef's kit, maple flrs, roof deck w/FP, 2-car garage
Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams
703.597.2252



601 BASHFORD LANE, #3
Alex / Old Town - \$369,000

Updated 2BR/1BA loft home w/kit w/granite & SS, hwd, W/D, FP & more!
Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams
703.597.2252



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Alexandria, VA 22314
♦ 703.683.0400 ♦
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OPEN SUN. 1-4

1617 A HUNTING CREEK DRIVE
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Laura Biederman 202.309.1350



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2BR/2BA w/gourmet kit w/SS, granite & brkfst bar, W/D, 2 gar prkg spaces. Shuttle to METRO!
www.brianandjery.com
Brian Hong & Jery Beamer 703.929.5764



OPEN SUN. 1-4

1105 POTOMAC LANE
Waynewood / Alexandria - \$699,995

Back on the market! Hardwood floors gleam! Come take a 2nd look at this 5-6 BR home w/gar.
Catherine.Foltz@longandfoster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914



1810 COOL SPRING DRIVE
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Priced to sell, this lovely 4BR/2BA home boasts hwd, updated BAs large flat yd & great curb appeal. EZ commute to Belvoir, Pentagon, DC.

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OPEN SUN. 1-4

2619 CHILDS LANE
Alex / Stratford on the Potomac - \$595,500

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Betty Quirk 703.851.3447



OPEN SUN. 1-4

272 MURTHA STREET
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Stunning 4 level end unit "Randolph" model. 3BR, w/4th level Loft. Hardwood floors, 2 car garage, rec room with FP, eat-in Kitchen with center island, and a deck! Great community amenities! METRO shuttle!

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712 WOLFE ST
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7874 COLONIAL VILLAGE ROW
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TREES! 4Br/3.5Ba sun-splashed TH on cul-de-sac among the trees. Open flpl, updated eat-in kit w/granite, black appl & oak cabinets perfect for entertaining. Dining/living rooms have oak flooring. Fully fin LL w/4th BR & full BA.

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NEW PRICE!
OPEN SUN. 1-4

6301 STEVENSON AVENUE #1003
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GREAT VIEWS! 10th floor 1BR/1BA condo. Updated! Utilities in condo fee, walk-in closet.

Inderjeet Jumani 703.472.8804



RENTALS

- 3964 El Camino Place #3** \$1,100
Sequoyah Garden 2BR/1.5BA
Susan Batchelder 703.919.8359
- 11381 Aristotle Drive #10-410** \$1,500
Fairfax Ridge Mid-Rise 1BR/1BA/1FP 1prkg
Cathy Smyles 571.247.1190
- 7226 Wickford Drive** \$1,950
Wickford Rambler 3BR/2BA/1FP
Mary Bourke 703.906.5825
- 214 North Payne Street** \$2,200
Old Town TH 3BR/1.5BA
Marcy Covarrubias 703.772.6569
- 2218 Windsor Road** \$2,900
Belle Haven Rancher 3BR/2BA/1FP 2prkg
Delaune Campbell 703.518.8740



1001 SAVILE LANE
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Collingwood - \$649,900

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NEW LISTING!

708 NORTH PATRICK STREET
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Detached TH w/2 off street parking spaces, remodeled eat-in kitchen w/granite. High ceilings, hardwood floors on 2 levels. 2 bedrooms and 1.5 baths. Deep yard with flagstone patio.

The Kohler Team
Elke 703.967.7633 or *Heidi* 703.609.7367



E

ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Jane Austen Ball Held at Gadsby's Tavern Museum

Gadsby's Tavern Museum on North Royal Street was transported back to the 1790s last Saturday, Aug. 15 with the Jane Austen Ball. With live music, people dressed in period attire and danced the same English Country dances that were popular way back then. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Gadsby's Tavern was the center of so-



Jane Peese greets her partner on the dance floor in Gadsby's Ballroom.

cial and political life in Alexandria and 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.



Teresa Kitchen



Lynn McAleer, Marilyn Court and Nancy Hadley.



George Kitchen leads Catleen Zaret and Elizabeth and Eleanor Fulham in a right-handed star.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE



Mack Gross, Paul and Lorianne Nelson-Carter and Diane Dukta.

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

THROUGH AUG. 23

Bel Cantanti Opera Summer Music Festival.

Two-week program for young professionals. Held in Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria. The festival will end with two performances of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore* and a performance of selected opera scenes and arias. Contact auditions@belcantanti.com to schedule an audition and reserve an audition slot. Call 301-266-7546.

THURSDAY/AUG. 20

Polka, Polka, Polka. 6:30 p.m. Free. Concert under the stars. At the Paul Spring Retirement Community, 7116 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Call 703-768-0234.

Papermaking. 7-8:30 p.m. Do-it-yourself recycling! An evening for adults to learn how to recycle paper into pulp and create new sheets. Handmade paper makes beautiful cards, books and collages. Visit www.artatthecenter.org for details.

The Reverie Jazz Trio. 7-9 p.m. Will perform early jazz standards and forgotten favorites in a style reminiscent of a bygone era. 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.

AUG. 20-22



THURSDAY/AUG. 20

The Reverie Jazz Trio. 7-9 p.m. Free. The Reverie Jazz Trio will perform early jazz standards and forgotten favorites in a style reminiscent of a bygone era while bringing back the great melodies and emotion exemplified by the great jazz and blues music of the 1930's, 1940's and early 1950's. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565.

"Vanities" by Jack Heifner. At 8 p.m. A comedy directed by Herb Tax. From high school cheerleaders to independent women, follow Mary, Joanne, and Kathy through high school, college and into the "real" world ... and laugh yourself silly in the process! Featuring Natalie Christina (Mary), Carla Francischetti (Joanne), and Pamela Sabella (Kathy). At The Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. \$15/general admission; \$10/seniors, students, retired or active military. Call 703-615-6626, www.zemfirastage.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 21

Great Waves Aloha Day. 3-8 p.m. Come celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hawaii becoming a state at Great Waves Aloha Day at Cameron Run Regional Park in Alexandria with discounted admission. The event also includes a free lei for the first 200 guests and a free gift for the first 100 kids. Visit www.nvrpa.org or call 703-960-0767.

Civil Rights Sit-In. 10 a.m. Students from Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School will participate in the 70th anniversary of the Civil Rights Sit-In at the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. The day was Aug. 21, 1939. Call 703-519-3498.

City of Fairfax's Saxophone Quartet. 7:30 p.m. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria.

SATURDAY/AUG. 22

Kayak Trip — Historic Alexandria Waterfront. 8-11 a.m. Hosted by NVTC. Tour meets at Belle Haven Marina. Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet. For reservations, write to kayak@nvct.org or call 703-354-5093 x26. Seats are only reserved upon confirmation from NVCT. Cost \$30/person.

Adult Chorus Auditions. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. With the Alexandria Choral Society for August 2009, under new Artistic Director, Brian Gendron. All dates by appointment only. For details and/or to schedule, email: AlexandriaChoralSociety@gmail.com.

A Dog's Life Storytime. Ages 3 and up. 11:30 am. Sit and stay in our storytime corner as we read and sing all about our favorite animal pals. Free. Hoopay for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-4092.

AUG. 22-23

Summer Dance Concert. CCP, a modern dance company based in Alexandria, will be staging a Summer Dance Concert, "dance4spaces," Saturday, Aug. 22 at 8 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. Choreography is by Danielle Greene, Alicia Luchowski, Mary Jo Smet and Janet Stormes. At Dance Place, 3225 8th Street NE, Washington, D.C. Call 202-269-1600.

SUNDAY/AUG. 23

Cambodian Community Day Festival. Noon-6 p.m. Celebrate Cambodian culture with entertainment by the Cambodian Mohoree Music Ensemble; classical and folk dances; and live band music and social dances. Exhibits include a showcase of the Angkor Wat Replica, and the Pailin and Tonle Sap regions. Family activities include folk games for children and adults, sports, and vendors offering traditional Cambodian and Asian food and beverages. At Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Ben Brenman Park Drive, Alexandria. Admission is free. Contact 571-218-9513.

Artist Trading Cards Swap. 2-4 p.m. Free. ATCs are 2.5" by 3.5" original works of art in any medium that are signed and dated by the artist and then swapped for other artist cards. Hosted by Del Ray Artisans at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Space is limited, so reserve a space by contacting Theresa Kulstad at 703-283-0399 or tkulstad@verizon.net. Directions at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

A Feast of Flowers: The New Haute Cuisine. 1-3 p.m. Edible flowers, fresh and cooked, add a

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

tasteful and healthful dimension to our tables. Hear about which flowers are edible and how to grow them. A full English tea is included in this program. \$25. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/

Summer Chamber Music Series. 3-5 p.m. Free. The Covington String Quartet. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria.

TUESDAY/AUG. 25

Adult Chorus Auditions. 7-9:30 p.m. With the Alexandria Choral Society for August 2009, under new Artistic Director, Brian Gendron. All dates by appointment only. For details and/or to schedule, email: AlexandriaChoralSociety@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 26

Chevys Fresh Mex Fund-raiser. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. For Tauxemont Cooperative Preschool. Dine at Chevys Fresh Mex in Mount Vernon Plaza on Richmond Highway and support the oldest cooperative preschool in Fairfax County.

THURSDAY/AUG. 27

The Jefferson Street Strutters. 7-9 p.m. Enjoy traditional jazz and American popular songs from the early years of the 20th century. 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.

THURSDAY/AUG. 27

Artist Barbara Hardaway decorated a hundred Arizona Tea bottles for "Spirits in a Bottle: Decorative Expressions of an Ancient African Tradition," an exhibition opening at the Alexandria Black History Museum on Thursday, Aug. 27. This whimsical show pays homage to the 9th- and 10th-century Congolese tradition of adorning the ends of tree branches with colorful



bottles that would catch the sunlight. Barbara Hardaway has updated this ritual by festooning her bottles with feathers, fabric, beads, netting, ribbons and seashells, bestowing each with character and panache. A free opening reception will be held on Aug. 27 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 703-838-4356. The exhibition will be open through Saturday, Oct. 3, and suggested admission is \$2. The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street in the Parker-Gray Historic District. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-838-4356.

FRIDAY/AUG. 28

Sin Fronteras Offers South of The Border

AUG. 27-OCT. 18

Musical of Musicals ("The Musical!") At MetroStage. The play is a funny parody of five Broadway composers, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, Kander and Ebb, Jerry Herman and Andrew Lloyd Webber, with the music by Eric Rockwell, lyrics by Joanne Bogart, and book by Rockwell and Bogart. Both Rockwell and Bogart performed in the original New York production which began at The York Theatre Company before moving Off Broadway to Dodger Stages. It has been successfully presented on many stages across the country and in London and has a national Web site (www.musicalofmusicals.com). Performances are Aug. 27-Oct. 18, Thursdays and Fridays at 8, Saturdays at 5 and 8:30, Sundays at 3 and 7. Tickets are \$45-50. At MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. Alexandria. Fully accessible, free parking, great dining. Call 800-494-8497 or go online to www.boxoffice.com. Call 703-548-9044.

Performance. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free mariachi performance is part of the Mt. Vernon Nights summer concert series. At Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria. Call 703-324-7469 after 6 p.m. for cancellation updates.

SATURDAY/AUG. 29

Adult Chorus Auditions. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. With the Alexandria Choral Society for August 2009, under new Artistic Director, Brian Gendron. All dates by appointment only. For details and/or to schedule, email: AlexandriaChoralSociety@gmail.com

Begonias Abound. 10-11:30 a.m. Want to discover more about this fascinating plant family, the different types and species? Begonia enthusiast

Johanna Zinn and fellow Begonia society members share expansive knowledge gained from their many years of growing these unique and versatile plants; providing culture, care, and propagation information. A guided tour of the annual begonia show included. \$12. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/

Hooray for School Storytime. Ages 3 and up. 11:30 a.m. Special storytime to celebrate the exciting beginning to the school year. Free. Hooray for Books! Children's Bookstore, 1555 King St., Alexandria. www.hooray4books.com. Call 703-548-4092.

AUG. 29-30

28th Annual Begonia Show and Sale. Aug. 29 from 9-4:30 p.m. and Aug. 30 from noon to 3:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Potomac Branch of the American Begonia Society. Expand your plant palette; be tempted with splashes of color for homes and greenhouses that last long after frosts have put our outdoor gardens to bed! The sale offers a wide variety of begonias, including unusual subtropical species. Free. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/

War of 1812 Historic Weekend Re-enactment. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Visit Carlyle House on Aug. 29 to learn about the events of Aug. 29, 1814. On Aug. 30, visit Pohick Bay Regional Park to see how the Americans fought back at the White House Battery." Call Carlyle House at 703-549-2997 or Pohick Bay Regional Park at 703-339-6104. Visit www.nvrpa.org.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3

The Trio Hermitage. 7-9 p.m. The trio consists of Svetlana Nikonova and Varvara Zakharevich of the Washington Balalaika Society, and Zahar Zaharevich of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. 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.

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The City of Alexandria is updating its telephone systems over the next two years. Most City government and agency telephone numbers will change to a new prefix, 746.

Some numbers will change entirely, incorporating the 746 prefix, but all numbers will retain the 703 area code.

NEW NUMBERS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

Circuit Court Judges Chambers (Main)	746.4123
Circuit Court (Main)	746.4044
Commissioner of Accounts (Main)	746.4031
Commonwealth's Attorney (Main)	746.4100
Court Service Unit	746.4144
Courthouse Sheriff (Main)	746.4120
General District Civil Division	746.4021
General District Criminal Division	746.4030
General District Judges Chambers	746.4010
General District Traffic Division	746.4041
General Services Building Engineer	746.4387
JDR Court (Main)	746.4141
Law Library (Main)	746.4077
Traffic Division Recording	746.4040

For more information visit alexandriava.gov/Dial746

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THEATER



Emily Skinner takes on the role of Mae West in "Dirty Blonde."

More Than a Bio-Play

Mae West obsession is just the start in "Dirty Blonde."

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Signature Theatre has opened its 2009-2010 season. It is its 20th in Arlington and its first as the Tony-Award Winning Outstanding Regional Theatre in America. The first show is a three-person, multi-character play that is much more than a simple bio-play, even if it does cover the life and career of an iconic figure of the stage and screen.

"DIRTY BLONDE" tells the story of a pair of loners in the present who are fans of Mae West, a star of the past who appeared in such Broadway scandals in the 1920s as "Sex" and "The Drag" and hit movies of the 1930s including "She Done Him Wrong" and "I'm No Angel" with Cary Grant and "My Little Chickadee" with W.C. Fields. By combining the story of the emerging affection of this couple for each other with the history of West, playwright Claudia Shear manages to avoid simply presenting a biographical play while covering the interesting life of Miss West.

The play was a hit on Broadway in 2000 with Miss Shear playing the dual role of Mae West and the female fan. At Signature, it is Broadway-veteran Emily Skinner who takes on the roles. She is both touching as the young fan and an intriguing mixture of comic and tragic as the star herself both in

her prime and her dotage.

Hugh Nees is fabulous as the other young fan, a loner who is so obsessed with Mae West's memory that he made a pilgrimage to the California hotel where she lived in her last years, earning a chance to meet the star and, eventually, striking up something of a relationship with her. She bequeaths to him some of her gowns which leads to some unorthodox pleasures.

Nees carries the story of this rather sad young man through a number of stages as he suffers the loneliness of an outsider, experiences the thrill of a star-obsessed fan being acknowledged by the object of his fixation, and trepidation of the tentative efforts to strike up a relationship with a contemporary.

ROUNDING OUT the cast is the delightful J. Fred Shiffman who plays some of the men in Mae West's life. He can be a thoughtful friend one moment, a fellow vaudeville hooper the next and later West's abandoned husband.

This is "a play with music" and it features some of the vaudeville routines and songs of West's background. A single piano accompanies some of the scenes. In the small, 120-seat black box theater they call "The ARK" in Signature's two-theater complex in Shirlington, the sound of that piano sometimes overcomes the sound of the actors' voices but the problem doesn't last long.

Since the play involves events in

many locales, set designer Daniel Conway faced a real challenge in the small space which he solves in part through the use of projections on the back wall, visible through two frames fashioned as theater prosceniums. Helen Huang handled costume designs and went all out when it came to Mae West's costumes — luscious fabrics, spangles galore, glittering jewels and flashy boas, head-dresses and hats with plumes, feathers and more spangles.



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). He can be reached at Brad@PotomacStages.com.

Where And When

"Dirty Blonde" runs through Oct. 4 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Avenue in Shirlington. Performances are Tuesday - Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m. and matinees at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$47-\$71. Call 703-573-7328 or log on to www.signaturetheatre.org.

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Tuesday - Greek Night

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

Wednesday - All American Night

Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken. Va. Ham

Thursday - Italian Night

Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

Friday - Fish Night

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

Saturday -Steak and Chop Night

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

Sunday

Brunch served 7am - 2pm

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BUSINESS



Maureen Deacy

Maureen Deacy, RN, MBA, was named to the newly-created position of General Manager of Capital Hospice's Alexandria regional operation. As General Manager, Deacy will oversee all facets of her region's patient care and financial operations from Capital Hospice's office in Alexandria. Officials at Capital Hospice liken the General Manager position to a "regional CEO" who will streamline many business processes resulting in a more nimble organization.



Joe Prezioso

Wachovia Bank, N.A., has named **Joe Prezioso** as community bank president for the Greater Washington, D.C. West region. Prezioso, who oversees 47 stores from Purcellville to Alexandria, also served as retail bank director for Washington, D.C., prior to his appointment to community bank president. Prezioso joined Wachovia in 1997. In addition to serving the Washington, D.C. market, he also managed retail banking in Wachovia's Texas expansion market.



Kari Cafeo

Kari Cafeo was named director of admissions at Burgundy Farm Country Day School. Cafeo served as director of the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Preschool in Alexandria beginning in its founding year of 2006, doubling its enrollment and expanding its programs. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Cafeo earned an M.A. in Education from the University of Cincinnati and a B.S. in Elementary Education from Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana.



Susan A. Magill

Members of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) elected new leadership during their July business meeting, selecting **Susan A. Magill of Alexandria** as Vice Chair. She is the Managing Director for Philanthropic Services and Government Affairs for the Pew Charitable Trusts, a non-profit that serves the public interest by advancing policy solutions and supporting civic life. Before being appointed to the Council by Governor Kaine in July 2006, Magill spent most of her career working with the Congress, including 22 years as U.S. Sen. John Warner's Chief of Staff.

FAITH NOTES

Two historic Alexandria churches — Meade Memorial Episcopal Church and Christ Church — will jointly present activities over three weekends beginning Sept. 13-27. The activities will commemorate 140 years of ministry at Meade Memorial. Meade Memorial was created in 1869-1870 after 50 African American members of Christ Church — the church of Generals George Washington and Robert E. Lee — petitioned to establish a separate, independent church for Black Episcopalians. The commemoration will include the following activities:

- **Sunday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m.** - A celebration of mass will be held at Meade Memorial followed by a 4 p.m. jazz concert at The Lyceum (201 South Washington St., Alexandria).
- **Friday, Sept. 18, from 7-11 p.m.** - Young people are invited to dance for Christ to the sounds of a local disk jockey in the Meade Parish Hall. The price of admission is \$5.
- **Saturday, Sept. 19, 3-7 p.m.** Fort Ward Park (4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria; call 703-838-4848 Email: Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site)- Meade Memorial family, friends and the general public will continue to celebrate with a parish picnic.

• **Sunday, Sept. 20, 5 p.m.** - A joint festival worship service will begin at Christ Church with the Rt. Rev. David C. Jones as celebrant and conclude at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church. Service participants, led by Civil War re-enactors in costume, will process by candlelight from Christ Church to Meade Memorial. A plaque will be placed to honor the vision and sacrifice of the African Americans who transferred their memberships to Meade Memorial.

• **Sunday, Sept. 20** - Immediately following the 5 p.m. service, a cocktail party, a silent auction and a lecture program will complete the evening's activities. Four local historians will present papers discussing various aspects of Meade's history.

• **Sunday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m.** - A thanksgiving service will be held at Meade Church with guest speaker, The Rev. Lloyd A. Lewis, Jr., Ph.D. Rev. Lewis is the Molly Laird Downs Professor of the New Testament at the Virginia Theological Seminary.

BUSINESS NOTES

Send announcements to the Gazette, by e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

Lashawn Sells was named director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs at Burgundy Farm Country Day School. Sells served in the Burlington, Vt., public school system as Diversity and Equity Director and ESL Coordinator from 2002 to 2008, where she led a minority teacher recruitment program as well as training on diversity issues in a community that was experiencing a rapid and dramatic diversification. She was the recipient of the 2006 Martin Luther King Community Award and a Community Leadership Award in 1999. She holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from American International College, Springfield, Indiana. In addition, Sells also has a decade of early childhood and elementary teaching experience.

Scottrade, a leading branch-supported online investment firm, has hired **Clayton Rimmer** to manage its Alexandria office, at 3225 Duke Street in the

Alexandria Commons Shopping Center. As branch manager, Rimmer is responsible for branch operations, managing personnel, and providing customer service.

Union Street Public House, located in Old Town Alexandria, now offers free knife sharpening every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop off your knives from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and let the skilled staff do the work. Contact Martha Miller at martha@lindarothpr.com or 703-417-2709. For a full menu, hours and directions visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com or call 703-548-1785.

Candra Tyler of Alexandria has become an independent consultant with Tastefully Simple Inc., a national direct-sales company featuring easy-to-prepare food products. As a consultant, Tyler offers the company's gourmet foods and beverages to guests at home taste-testing parties. Guests receive samples, easy meal ideas, recipes and serving suggestions.

XSport Fitness, a new 8,000-square-foot health club designed by The Lukmire Partnership, recently opened in Alexan-

dria. The address is 4300 King Street (the old Copelands Restaurant). Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the club occupies a three-story space connected by a dramatic series of 56-foot-long escalators for easy access from floor to floor.

From now through September, area residents can support UMFS (formerly known as United Methodist Family Services) every time they purchase food at Let's Dish! in the Pinecrest Shopping Center, 6550-G Little River Turnpike in Alexandria. Use the special code F7UMFS and 10 percent of the total Let's Dish! purchase will help serve children, youth and families through UMFS. Contact the UMFS Northern Virginia Regional Center at 703-941-9008.

Alexandria's Eisenhower Valley skyline is a step closer to including a dramatic new project—the Eisenhower Gateway. This cutting-edge project features four towers that exhibit innovative rooftop accents such as wind turbines, which provide energy for the buildings. Lane Development is planning to build two 15-story office buildings and two 22-story residential towers one block from the Eisenhower Avenue Metro Station and adjacent to the Capital Beltway.

The Alexandria City Council approved the site plan for the project at a public hearing on June 13.

Located at 2250 and 2200 Mill Road, the Eisenhower Gateway project will include more than 1 million square feet of development with a contemporary appeal. The project will include more than two acres of publicly accessible open space, and one acre of it will be dedicated as public parkland in the Eisenhower Park system. As part of the development, three new streets will be constructed, contributing to an urban street grid with new sidewalks and street parking. Approximately 30,000 square feet within the residential buildings will be set aside for affordable rental or for-sale units.

The Alexandria Economic Development Partnership named Val P. Hawkins its new president and CEO, effective July 13. As President and CEO, Hawkins will be responsible for leading efforts to grow the tax base, diversify the economy and attract and retain businesses and organizations in Alexandria. Founded in 1981, the Partnership joins its city collaborators in defining and marketing Alexandria as a creative, diverse, knowledge-based community with a high quality of life.

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Calling All Wright to Read Volunteers and Students

Celebrating 30 years in Alexandria this September, we would love to hear from you if you were a Wright to Read volunteer or student from 1979-2001 and have a story to share.

Contact Leigh Hoyer at lhoeyer@campagnacenter.org or call 703-549-0111 x 101

Alexandria Gazette Packet

Serving Alexandria Continuously since 1784
 Celebrating Another Community Partnership

Announcing Auditions for the 2009-2010 Season

Adult Chorus Auditions with new Artistic Director Brian Gendron

The 2009-2010 season will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Adult Chorus!

August 22 and August 29 from 11:00am - 5:00pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 August 25 and September 1 from 7:00pm - 9:30pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 For details and/or to schedule an appointment, please email: AlexandriaChoralSociety@gmail.com

Children's Chorus Auditions with Artistic Director Kevin Carr

The 2009-2010 season will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Children's Chorus!

September 10 and 11 from 6:30pm - 7:30pm at the Durant Center
 For details and/or to schedule an appointment, please email: Kevin@AlexChoralSociety.org

All audition dates and times are by appointment only.

For additional information, please contact us at:
 Alexandria Choral Society
 Tel: 703/548-4734; Email: info@AlexChoralSociety.org
 On the web at: www.AlexChoralSociety.org

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BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

Alexa Williams knew her academic experience would be different when she transferred into Episcopal High School in 10th grade.

The teenager grew up in the Mount Vernon area and attended Fairfax County Public Schools her whole life. Attending Episcopal, a boarding school in the City of Alexandria, would be nothing like her ninth grade year at West Potomac High School.

But Alexa, who had always been a straight-A student, was unprepared for how much more challenging Episcopal's curriculum was.

"I got straight A's without trying to hard and I took four honors classes at West Potomac, which is

the most you can take as a freshman," said Alexa, who had also gone through the honors program at Carl Sandberg Middle School and taken some pull-out "gifted and talented" classes at Fort Hunt Elementary School.

Alexa assumed that, even if she had to try a little bit harder in school, she would be able to earn all A's at Episcopal as well. She was wrong.

Even though she was giving it her all, Alexa's grades still dropped sophomore year as she adapted to Episcopal's tougher academic standards.

"I had to take a grammar test at Episcopal and I completely failed it. I didn't even know what a gerund was," said Alexa, who had always

considered English her best subject. At West Potomac, she had earned a numerical average of 100 percent in her ninth grade honors English class.

"I didn't really know how to study before Episcopal," she added.

SEE TEACHING, PAGE 30



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Sherman Sets Two-Year Achievement Target

FROM PAGE 1

from the Virginia Department of Education show two groups — black students and students who live in poverty — did not meet the 79 percent benchmark in Math.

“If we continue the way we’re going, no school is going to make AYP,” said Superintendent Morton Sherman. “MacArthur is a first taste of the application of these formula to all schools in America.”

Other schools that failed to meet federal standards were John Adams Elementary School, Jefferson-Houston Elementary School, Cora Kelly Elementary School, Mount Vernon

“I think we in the education community have been cavalier in saying that it’s OK that some kids are not making it. In fact it’s not OK. We need to do our work more scientifically, more prescriptive and diagnostically.”

— Superintendent Morton Sherman

Community School and T.C. Williams High School. Over the next two years, however, Sherman plans to raise achievement at these schools and every other school in the division. To achieve that goal, he has asked administrators to sign contracts agreeing that they expect 100 percent of the city’s students will pass English and Math tests in 2011 — three years ahead of schedule under the federal rules of No Child Left Behind.

“I think we in the education com-

munity have been cavalier in saying that it’s OK that some kids are not making it,” said Sherman. “In fact it’s not OK. We need to do our work more scientifically, more prescriptive and diagnostically.”

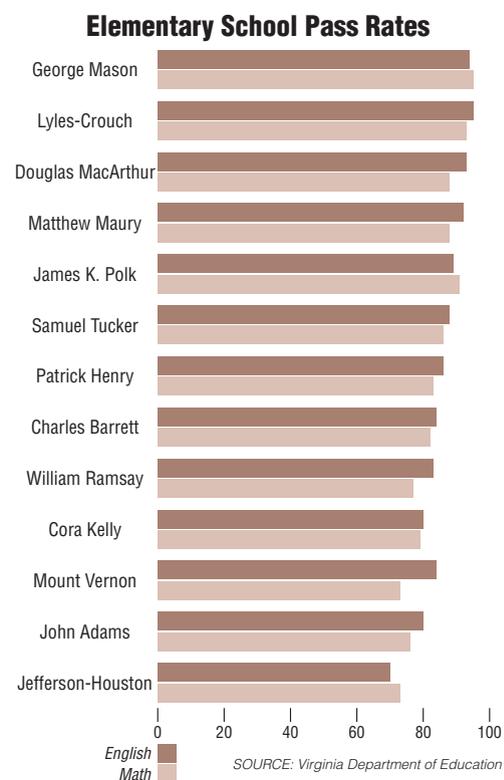
JEFFERSON-HOUSTON is now in “year-four” improvement for English and “year-three” improvement for Math. That saddles the troubled elementary school with a host of sanctions, including waivers that allow parents who live inside the district to ditch the school for one with better tests scores. Parents say they see a number of problems that have contributed to persistent problems at the school, including the demographics. Since a controversial 1999 redistricting plan, the school has gone from having 50 percent of its students living in poverty to 87 percent of its students living in poverty.

“I think it’s a persistent problem because there’s a crying lack of diversity at the school, and until you do something about that, the school is going to continue to fail,” said Trey Hanbury, who lives near the school and is considering the best option for his 3-year-old daughter. “The facility sucks, and School Board has yet to come up with a plan to figure out what to do with it.”

Some say the school’s problems are the result of the boundaries, which include a significant portion of public-housing sites in the city. Others say the problem is the lack of action on the part of the School Board, which has long identified the school as a priority but failed to take action on adopting a plan to address problems with the facility. Many parents and community leaders say the school would benefit tremendously from more community involvement.

“We as a community have historically been great at rioting when we see that a cop has beat up a drug dealer,” said Bill Campbell, vice president of the school’s parent-teacher association. “But we need to riot as a community that our children are not achieving.”

Central administrators have taken a number of actions over the years to raise achievement levels at Jefferson-Houston,



including the creation of an oversight committee to implement a state-mandated corrective action plan. They have also made plans to add middle-school grades to the existing school, creating a hybrid model that will fuse elementary school with middle school. Math specialists have been added, and special-education teachers have been included in regular classrooms rather than separated into isolated classrooms. In the future, the superintendent hopes to persuade well-regarded teachers from other schools to voluntarily move to Jefferson-Houston.

“Even though the schools might be integrated, we still have separate and unequal education in this city.”

— John Liss, executive director, Tenants and Workers United

“Often our very best teachers are the ones who end up teaching the top-level kids,” said Sherman. “Our most needy kids deserve the very best teachers.”

ONCE AGAIN, the standardized testing data revealed racial disparities in the school system that have plagued the city for many years. White students were the only subgroup to meet federal standards citywide in Math. All the other subgroups were not able to pass the tests at the benchmark set forth by the federal legislation, including blacks, Hispanics, students who receive special education, students who live in poverty and students who speak English as a second language.

“Even though the schools might be integrated, we still have separate and unequal education in this city,” said John Liss, executive director of Tenants and Workers United. “I’d like to think things are changing, but we haven’t seen any results to say that’s the case yet.”

One group of students that is particularly challenged by the federal standards is special education students. Statistics released last week show that 67 percent of special-education students passed the English test this year and 58 percent were able to pass the test in Math. But the way the data is compiled often obscures the performance of these students because groups that have 50 or fewer do not count when determining which school met the standard and which ones did not. Because none of the city’s elementary schools have 50 or more students in the universe of tested students, failure to meet the federal standard for special-education students wasn’t used to determine “adequate yearly progress” at any of these schools.

“To really understand what these scores mean, you have to dig a little deeper,” said School Board member Ronnie Campbell, who is the parent of a special-education student at T.C. Williams High School. “The performance of special-education students is certainly not as clear because the population is so small. But it’s also important to note that these scores for special-education students are improving.”

Where it Goes

This summer, the Alexandria Sanitation Authority hosted dozens of local students to explain what happens after water goes down the drain. In July, more than 50 students from the Alexandria Public School Summer Program toured ASA’s facility, learning how ASA filters and disinfects wastewater without using chlorine. They also learned how solid wastes are processed and pasteurized in a process not unlike what’s used for milk and orange juice. The result is pathogen-free matter used like

compost by Virginia farmers and others to help meet ASA’s efforts to benefit the community through sustainability. In August, about a dozen teens and young adults from Alexandria toured ASA as part of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation’s “Green Awareness” program. Sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice, Joblink, and the school system, the program focused on water issues, including shortages and pollution. To plan a tour, contact George Floyd at 703-549-3382, extension 2237.



PHOTO FROM ALEXANDRIA SANITATION AUTHORITY

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

working meetings to provide updates on staff's progress in developing concepts, share working drawings and findings, and hear feedback. Contact Valerie Peterson at 703-746-3858, or by email at valerie.peterson@alexandriava.gov.

SATURDAY/AUG. 22

Car Wash. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The T.C. Williams High School Ice Hockey Club will hold a car wash at Yates Automotive on the corner of Braddock Road and Mount Vernon Avenue, near George Washington Middle School.

Kitty-pa-looza! Noon to 4 p.m. Mindful Hands, a specialty shop dedicated to helping people live gentler lives, will host kitten adoption-a-thon on behalf of King Street Cats. At 211 King Street in Old Town Alexandria. Go to www.mindfulhands.com or www.kingstreetcats.org.

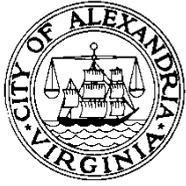
Crab Feast. 1-6 p.m. West Virginia University alumni, family and

friends will host the 32nd annual national Capital Area Chapter Crab Feast. At Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria. For reservations, contact Head Crab Paul Farmer at 703-425-5426, or mail a check made payable to "NCAC" to Paul Farmer, 4605 Demby Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032. Attendees can also register online at <http://ncaccrabfeast2009.eventbrite.com/>. Advance reservations are \$35 per adult and \$15 for children under 12. Children five and under can attend for free. The cost at the door is \$40, so make that reservation now.

TUESDAY/AUG. 25

NOVA Community Chorus Rehearsals. 7:30 p.m. The semester's rehearsals will start on Aug. 25 for October performance of Brahms's Requiem. At the NVCC Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Contact Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, at 703-845-6097 or e-mail: mwhitmire@nvcc.edu

Legal Notices



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review
Old & Historic Alexandria District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2009-0176
Request for approval of demolition at 620 Jefferson Street, zoned RCX Residential Commercial Mixed Use.
APPLICANT: Scott Management Inc.

CASE BAR2009-0150
Request for approval of alterations at 620 Jefferson Street, zoned RCX Residential Commercial Mixed Use.
APPLICANT: Scott Management Inc.

CASE BAR2009-0167
Request for approval of signage at 619 King Street, zoned KR King StreetRetail.
APPLICANT: Old Town Sign Co.

CASE BAR2009-0168
Request for approval of signage at 213 King Street, zoned KR King StreetRetail.
APPLICANT: Foundation for the Preservation of Medieval Arts & FamilyHistory

CASE BAR2009-0169
Request for approval of signage at 100 King Street, zoned KR King Street Retail.
APPLICANT: King & Union LLC

CASE BAR2009-0170
Request for approval of demolition/encapsulation at 100 Queen Street, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: Nancy Pierce

CASE BAR2009-0171
Request for approval of addition/alterations at 100 Queen Street, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: Nancy Pierce

CASE BAR2009-0172
Request for approval of alterations at 228 S Pitt Street, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: St Paul's Episcopal Church

CASE BAR2009-0171
Request for approval of alterations to previously approved plans at 833 S Fairfax Street, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Judith & Tushar Sushar

CASE BAR2009-0174
Request for approval of alterations at 3737 Seminary Rd, zoned R-20.
APPLICANT: T-Mobile Northeast LLC.

CASE BAR2009-0175
Request for approval of signage at 817 S Washington Street, zoned CRM/UL Commercial Retail Mixed Use.

Legal Notices

APPLICANT: Candey's of Alexandria

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

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No JJ021170-09-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
CHANTE M WALLS

The object of this suit is to:

Approve the foster care review plan submitted by Alexandria DHS with a goal of adoption, and terminate the residual parental rights and responsibilities of Natalie Anderson, mother to Chante M Walls, born 7/28/2007. "Residual parental rights" means all rights and responsibilities remaining with the parent after transfer of legal custody and guardianship of the child to DHS, including but not limited to the right of visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation and the responsibility for support.

It is ORDERED that the defendant Natalie Anderson appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 10/29//2009 at 2:00pm

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No JJ021170-10-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
CHANTE M WALLS

The object of this suit is to:

Approve the foster care review plan submitted by Alexandria DHS with a goal of adoption, and terminate the residual parental rights and responsibilities of unknown father of Chante M Walls who was born 7/28/2007 to Natalie Anderson "Residual parental rights" means all rights and responsibilities remaining with the parent after transfer of legal custody and guardianship of the child to DHS, including but not limited to the right of visitation, consent to adoption, the right to determine religious affiliation and the responsibility for support.

It is ORDERED that the defendant unknown father appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 10/29//2009 at 2:00pm

In Memoriam Mrs. Eleanor Massie May 18, 1941 - June 13, 2001



Mom, It has been now 8 years.
Mom it's still so hard to say goodbye, but I truly know you're in a better place.
Love always,
Your devoted son
Billy T. Massie

Taylor Run

TRCA NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Taylor Run Citizens Association ("TRCA") hosted its National Night Out event on Aug. 4 at Angel Park, in conjunction with the Alexandria Police and Fire Departments. More than 60 Taylor Run citizens attended, obtaining valuable information on crime prevention as well as taking advantage of the opportunity to meet fellow neighbors and local first responders. TRCA would like to extend a special thanks to Anthony Saler and Nadene Zuidema for organizing the event.

TRCA GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

The TRCA Good Neighbor Award is presented to a fifth grade student of MacArthur selected by his or her peers. Students describe their reasons for selecting a fellow student for the award. This year's recipient is recognized by peers for a number of enduring characteristics such as playing by the rules at school and on the soccer field, respecting adults and peers, completing homework on time, taking pride in academic work, and accepting responsibility. All these attributes describe a person who lives according to the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. TRCA is extremely proud to present this award to Stephanie Hernandez.

PARK AND RECREATION



Firefighters and police attended Taylor Run's National Night Out gathering.

COMMISSION 2009 CIVIC AWARD

Susan Miranda of West View Terrace, was honored by the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission with a 2009 Civic Award.

Susan was recognized for her work with The Taylor Run Citizens Association's weekly park clean up of Angel Park.

"Her dedication to this event made a difference in the overall beautification and maintenance of the Chinquapin and Angel Parks."

Congratulations to Susan Miranda and the TRCA community of park clean-up volunteers.

Susan, a former executive committee member, and the TRCA were selected to receive a 2009 CIVIC Award from the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission for significant long-lasting contributions in conducting weekly clean-up events in Chinquapin

Park and Angel Park.

As many of you are aware, the TRCA coordinates weekly park clean-ups (every Sunday evening in the Spring, Summer, and Fall) at Angel Park and Chinquapin Park.

This great program gives back, helps beautify the community, and provides a unique opportunity for family participation.

Susan Miranda was instrumental in driving the program for several years and the TRCA is truly indebted to her for these efforts. Erin Streeter is heading up the program this year.

If you are interested in volunteering to participate in the weekly park clean-up efforts, please review the TRCA events calendar @ www.taylorrunalexandria.com for available dates and email Erin @ israelfamily2006@yahoo.com.



STEVEN C. TUTTLE FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY/THE GAZETTE

Archbishop Tutu Visits Community Lodgings

While he was here to accept the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama at the White House, Archbishop Desmond Tutu visited Community Lodgings' Fifer Family Learning Center families on Aug. 12 in Alexandria. Christ Episcopal Church of Alexandria referred Archbishop Tutu's family to Community Lodgings because Community Lodgings' vans were formerly owned by Christ Church. Community Lodgings uses the vans to transport at-risk kids and homeless families to education field trips and other enrichment activities.



A recently constructed barn was set up as a dining area for dinner on Saturday evening.



William Seale dances with Elizabeth Hooff in his office at the farm in Jasper.

William Seale Celebrates 70 Years

William Seale, the long-time Alexandria resident and historian, celebrated his 70th birthday with his wife Lucinda, his children and grandchildren and a few hundred friends at the Seale's farm in Jasper, Texas. The weekend opened with a fish fry on Friday night. Breakfast was served on Saturday morning in the dining room of the Belle Jim Hotel in downtown Jasper. In the afternoon, Seale led a tour down to the river for a history lesson on the Texas boatmen.

The lesson was followed by a grand dinner in the recently constructed barn at the farm. A four-piece jazz band played music through the evening and the guests danced between courses.

Seale, who now has his office in the barn, sought out Elizabeth Hooff for an opening dance on the floor in his library. A surprise skit performed by past and present Alexandria residents, The Hat Ladies, Hannah Cox, Carroll Johnson and Caroline Hooff Norman brought laughter to the Seales and the 100-plus dinner guests.



Charles Everitt joins William and Lucinda Seale at the dinner in the barn on Saturday evening.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT



Jean Federico carries one of the dozen layer cakes that Lucinda Seale baked for the dessert at the Sunday barbecue.



Caroline Norman dances with Bob Montague.



The Hat Ladies — Caroline Norman, Hannah Cox and Carroll Johnson — perform a skit in honor of Seale's 70th birthday.

T.C. Williams Quarterback Position Up for Grabs

Seniors Hargrove, Bray can prove themselves during scrimmages.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Joe Hargrove has the confidence to throw deep and the arm to back it up. Ask the T.C. Williams senior quarterback about his strengths, he'll say he can throw a football 70 yards. Watch Hargrove in practice, and he'll make you a believer. The 6-foot-3 slinger of spirals has the ability to stretch the field with the deep pass, or thread the needle to an intermediate receiver. The left-hander throws with a fluid, over-the-top motion. Consider also Hargrove's belief that he won't be stopped and ability to make plays with his legs and he appears primed to lead the Titans to a successful 2009 season.

Not so fast. Titans senior quarterback John Bray, second on last season's varsity depth chart behind school-record breaker Zach Goehler, is competing with Hargrove for the position. Hargrove is more physically gifted than Bray — Hargrove is three inches taller, 30 pounds heavier and has a stronger arm — but Bray is an experienced passer who is also confident he can get the job done.

Hargrove and Bray have an opportunity to prove themselves during the Titans' two scrimmages, starting with a 7 p.m. Friday meeting with Marshall. T.C. Williams

also hosts a scrimmage Aug. 27 against Centreville.

Titans head coach Dennis Randolph said the team's starting quarterback will be determined by who performs the best during the scrimmages — notably who best handles the team's no-huddle offense — rather than who possesses the superior physical tools.

"I've told them the guy who moves the ball the best is going to be the quarterback," Randolph said. "... All things in all, Joe probably has the advantage for the height and the arm. I think their decision-making ability, their footwork, their leadership ability, I think, is pretty even right now. ... I'll know more [Friday] when we scrimmage Marshall. I want to see who moves them down the field. It's not always about completing passes; it's how you handle yourself.

"We don't huddle — we call everything from the line. It's really important that they be able to manage the game. I don't know who the best game manager is, yet."

BOTH QUARTERBACKS experienced success during offseason passing camps and competitions. Randolph said the team took first or second in every tournament it participated in while rotating Hargrove and Bray. Randolph said Hargrove produced big plays, while Bray was at his best moving

"I've told them the guy who moves the ball the best is going to be the quarterback."

— Head Coach
Dennis Randolph

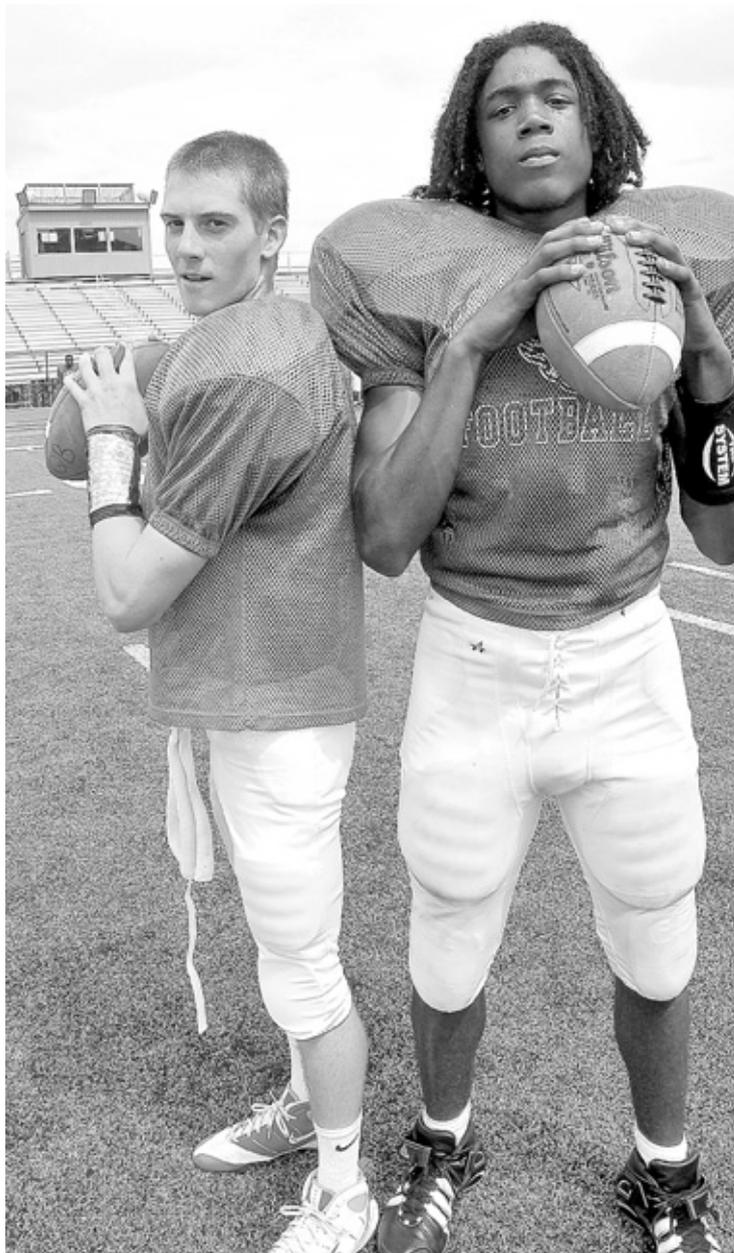


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Seniors John Bray, left, and Joe Hargrove are competing to earn the starting quarterback position at T.C. Williams

the ball down the field during multiple-play drives.

Though Randolph was pleased with his quarterbacks' offseason success, he said now is the time for the two to show what they can really do.

"The 7-on-7 is a different animal than a football game," Randolph said. "It's just a different game. We enjoyed it, we had a good time, we played hard, we were successful, but now it's time to play a little different game."

Hargrove played for the junior varsity last season but dressed for varsity games. He said he wants to play in college and is confident he can lead the Titans.

"I worked real hard to get where I'm at now," Hargrove said. "It just doesn't come easy. You've got to work. ... This is my senior year. I've got to do whatever it takes for me to end up on a DI scholarship or on a DI football team."

Randolph acknowledged Hargrove's ability.

"Joe's a very tough competitor," Randolph said. "He's intense. He has a lot of confidence in himself. He thinks he can throw the ball 100 yards — and there's times where it looks like he can. ... He has limitations, obviously, but he has a lot of confidence in his arm."

Bray, a right-hander with a three-quarter delivery, said he learned from watching Goehler last season. Why should Bray start? He pointed out his commitment to the program.

"I've been here four years," Bray said, "and haven't missed a thing."

Randolph acknowledged Bray's work ethic.

"Nobody has been as dedicated as John Bray," Randolph said. "... John doesn't have the arm strength or anything like that that Joe does, but John believes he can get it done, and that confidence goes a long way in making sure you get the job done."

Randolph hinted he's in no hurry to name a starter and might play both quarterbacks during the season. The coach is confident the Titans can win with either player at the helm.

"Sometimes, whenever you watch two different quarterbacks go in, there's a drop off," Randolph said. "We didn't have that [during the summer]. We haven't seen that yet."

SCHOOL NOTES

Send announcements to the Alexandria Gazette Packet, by e-mail to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos are encouraged. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

Registration is taking place now for Northern Virginia Community College's fall semester. All campuses will be open on Saturday, Aug. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to allow students to talk to counselors, apply to the College and register for fall semester courses. Students may enroll online 24 hours a day at www.nvcc.edu, by telephone at 703-323-3770, or in person at NOVA's campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge.

The 16-week fall semester begins Aug. 24. NOVA also offers two eight-week sessions, starting Aug. 24 and Oct. 21.

NOVA's in-state tuition is the best educational value in the area and a payment plan is also available. Call 703-323-3000 or visit the College's Web site at www.nvcc.edu.

The following students were among the May 9 graduates of Longwood University:

♦ **Anthony Louis Piro** of Alexandria received a Bachelor of Science summa cum laude in Business Administration.

♦ **Katelin Brittany Mills** of Alexandria received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Patricia Casey Clay of Alexandria,

daughter of Frank and Ann Clay, graduated magna cum laude from Lynchburg College on May 16 with a B.S. in business administration. She also received highest honors in communication studies.

Hilary Adams from Bishop Ireton School has been selected for and has chosen to attend this summer's residential Governor's School at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va. Each summer, 400 students who have exhibited exceptional ability in their particular discipline are invited to participate in the Governor's School for Humanities and Visual and Performing Arts.

Sean Edward Sutherland of Alexandria received a B.A. in sports management from Lynchburg College on May 16.

Natalie Titerence of Alexandria graduated from Niagara University in New York on May 17 at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Clair Young Sun Maher has been selected by the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg for Honors Admission for the fall of 2009. Maher is the daughter of William F. Maher Jr. and Michelle Berberet of Alexandria, and is a graduate of T.C. Williams High School. A member of the National Honor Society, Maher is a recipient of the Percy Lavon Julian Achievement Award for biology. A member of the girls' tennis team, she has been a scholar athlete all four years. She's also a member of the Simple Changes Therapeutic Riding Program and

rides, shows and trains horses. In addition, she is an accomplished pianist and a volunteer for a high school tutoring program.

The University of Mary Washington has announced its Dean's List for the 2009 spring semester. The following area students are among the 624 students who have been named to the Dean's List:

♦ **Shama Ahmed**, a senior, from Alexandria;

♦ **Owen Jones**, a sophomore, from Alexandria.

Frances Kupersmith, a resident of Alexandria, was awarded Dean's List honors for academic achievement during the spring 2009 semester at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

PEOPLE



Meeting Alumni
Dr. Christopher Howard, 24th president of Hampden-Sydney College (second from the left), and Barbara Howard (not pictured) were in Alexandria on Aug. 12 to meet alumni, parents, and friends of the college. Howard, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and a Rhodes Scholar, is the youngest college president in Virginia.

Silver Award

MercerTrigiani law firm hosted a table at the 2009 Virginia Public Relations Awards dinner at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Celebrating their Silver Award are (left to right) Checka Noone, firm administrative manager; David Mercer and Pia Trigiani, law firm principals; Pat Hassard, marketing consultant; and Evan Cotter, graphic designer.



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SCHOOLS

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FROM PAGE 22

Now headed into her senior year, Alexa's grades have gone back up and she has adjusted to Episcopal's higher academic standards. She is planning to take five Advanced Placement classes this fall, though she said most of her general education classes will also be challenging.

"I think the regular classes at Episcopal are equal to the honors classes at West Potomac," said Alexa.

FAIRFAX and Montgomery counties have robust and well-regarded public education programs for students who are motivated and academically advanced.

Both offer a range of educational options for students who are working above-grade level, including honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. But the academic programs in the two suburban school systems that are considered the most elite tend to be the "gifted and talented" centers, where qualified students have their own teachers and only take classes with each other.

In Fairfax, about 13 percent of the elementary and middle school students are enrolled in one of these special gifted centers at the elementary and middle school level. Out of the county's 12,900 ninth grade students, just 480 — including a handful from outside Fairfax County — were admitted to attend Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Fairfax's only magnet program for the upper grades.

Montgomery County's gifted and talented centers are even more exclusive. The Maryland school system identified nearly 34 percent of its student population as "gifted" last year but just four percent of elementary school students, three percent of middle school students, and two percent of high school students attend the most exclusive programs.

With few slots available, both Fairfax and Montgomery counties adhere to relatively rigid admissions standards when it comes to centers and schools for students identified as "gifted."

The two public school systems rely heavily on standardized test scores to determine who is initially "center eligible." Students who do not achieve a very high score on an aptitude test are usually not even considered for gifted center admission, though they can enroll honors and advanced placement courses at the middle and high school level.

LOCAL PRIVATE SCHOOLS take a very different approach to the education of academically advanced students and could offer an alternative to parents of high-performing students who are able to cover the tuition costs, which are typically well over \$20,000 per year.

"We don't label kids. We are opposed to

the whole idea of children thinking of themselves as gifted and talented," said Robert Kosasky, head of school at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac.

Kosasky said St. Andrew's likes to emphasize persistence as over natural ability. They want students to know that if a person works hard enough, they can perform at a very high academic level, regardless of their innate aptitude.

Several other administrators made similar remarks about their school's philosophy and said that is why the standards for their advanced academic standards tend to be more flexible than the public school system.

For example, several private schools are more likely to let a child take an honors or accelerated course if the student is enthusiastic about the subject but even if he or she hasn't been identified as advanced in that area.

MANY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS said they did not have a "cut off" score students

must achieve on a standardized test to be accepted either to the school in general or into an honors class, like the public school systems do.

At The Potomac School in McLean, math is the only subject for which students are separated out into different classrooms by ability, and that separation does not happen until students reach the seventh grade.

But at Potomac, until ninth grade, there are no honors or advanced sections for

courses like science, social studies or language arts, though students in one class section may be "grouped together" based on ability level, said Bill Cook, Potomac's assistant head of school for academics.

Cook would not answer whether Potomac considers all of its students gifted and talented.

"That is the kind of question I would rather not answer but we are blessed with an able constituency of families. That doesn't mean they are all brilliant though," said Cook.

Most private school administrators interviewed said it rare for any one student to be one of the highest achievers across all subject areas.

"We do not have a gifted and talented track. ... We find that students' performance in math and reading is not aligned at all. A child that is advanced in reading may not be advanced in math. In fact, they may need extra support in math," said Mimi Mulligan, admissions director and former teacher at Norwood School in Bethesda.

Even at Nysmith School for the Gifted, which uses I.Q. tests to help determine who is admitted, faculty do not find that students are working on a superior level in all academic courses. "That is the exception. There are very, very few students who excel in all subject areas," said Ken Nysmith, who has been working at the Herndon school for about 25 years.

"There are very, very few students who excel in all subject areas."

— Ken Nysmith,
Nysmith School for the Gifted

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