

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 3, 2009



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Polluted water from this site could have ended up in the city's storm sewer, leaving city taxpayers with the bill to clean it up.

City Misses Potential Threat

Fired construction superintendent alerts city to polluted water headed for city storm sewer.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Decades of pollution are at the heart of a legal dispute between a developer and one of its former employees who was fired last summer. That wrongful termination lawsuit is now unfolding at the city courthouse, and City Hall has become caught the crosshairs.

Now city officials are trying to figure out how they almost allowed petroleum-polluted water to drain into the city's storm sewers — a phenomenon that could have left Alexandria taxpayers stuck with the bill for cleaning it up.

According to interviews, court records and documents received as the result of a public-records

SEE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE, PAGE 7

Trying To Save Iraqi Linguists

Couple fights for refugee status for two sisters.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
GAZETTE PACKET

It took just one phone call. Nearly a year ago, Paige Valdiserri sat in her tent on a military base in Iraq and listened to the plea of two strangers. Valdiserri knew nothing of the young women on the other end of the line, except they were consumed with fear.

Iraqi police arrived at the gates of the base housing the two women, led by an irate father. He

demanded the return of his daughters, 21-year-old Sally and 19-year-old Sarah, employed as linguists for U.S. forces. As their fa-

“They were two girls trapped in a patriarchal society that wouldn't let them get out.”

— Tim Kennedy

ther waved what U.S. authorities viewed as a fake warrant for the girls' arrest, Valdiserri recalls few options existed for the surrounding soldiers and the two young Iraqi females. Their lives had become an issue of honor.

The girls' precarious journey began with their decision to run away from home. For these Iraqi women in a culturally subservient role, their departure brought shame to the family. It didn't mat-

SEE COUPLE, PAGE 25

A Determined Life

Alexandria journalist-turned Marine dies in combat, buried at Arlington.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Family members say Bill Cahir had a kind of indomitable spirit, one that propelled him through difficulties toward accomplishing a goal. Although he was not a naturally athletic type, they said, he set his mind to becoming an accomplished swimmer — eventually mastering the most difficult of strokes, the butterfly. After 9/11, he decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. After his application to become a Marine had originally been denied because of his age, he lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

“We all thought he was crazy,” said Brett Lieberman, a former colleague at Newhouse News Ser-

vice. “Here was a guy who was already 34-years-old with an established career, and he's joining the Marines? We're not talking about some kid out of high school who doesn't know what to do with his future.”

Cahir served two deployments in Iraq and eventually returned to Pennsylvania, where he decided to

run for Congress in his hometown. In 2008, he waged an unsuccessful campaign in the Democratic primary for the 5th congressional district of Pennsylvania against a Clearfield County

commissioner and the mayor of Lock Haven. One YouTube video from the campaign humorously explained that his name was pronounced “Care.” He lost the primary, but friends say it was a spir-

SEE JOURNALIST, PAGE 25

“He was a man of action, not words.”

— Nancy Perkins



COURTESY OF THE BILL CAHIR MEMORIAL FUND

William Cahir, 40, of Alexandria died Aug. 13 during combat operations in Afghanistan.



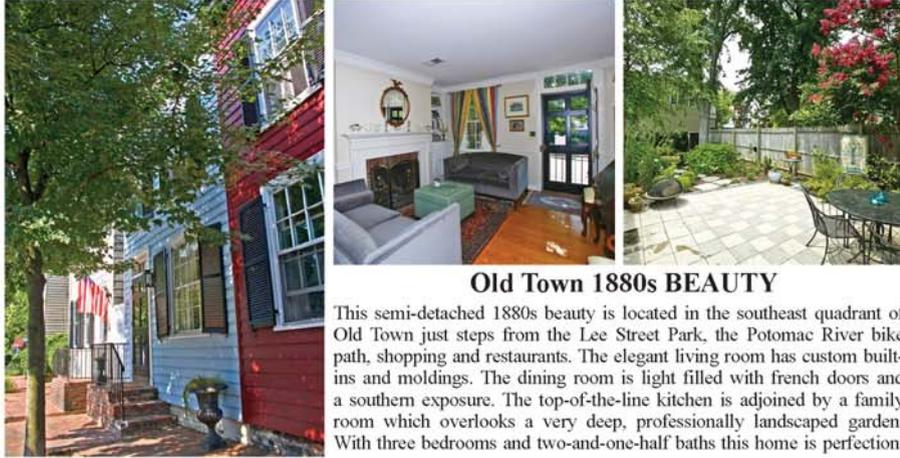


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Margaret Benghauser
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Taking Command

Alexandria native Earl Cook talks about becoming chief of police in his hometown.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Last week, Alexandria Earl Cook was appointed chief of the Alexandria Police Department by City Manager Jim Hartmann. A 30-year veteran of the force, Cook was second-in-command of the department when former Chief David Baker resigned after being arrested in Arlington for drunk driving.



Police Chief Earl Cook

What does this mean to somebody who has grown up in this community to become chief of police?

It's kind of a lifelong goal to get here at the end. Quite frankly, I really wasn't sure if I was going to get there at the end of my career. After passing 30 years, you start looking for opportunities out there beyond the city government. But I started here, and I intended to end my police career here if I could. So for that, it's a fulfillment of a dream.

How will you judge your success?

First and foremost, we have to deliver service. We are a public service agency, and public safety is always going to have a high profile in any community. The reduction of fear in the community, a real reduction in crime, having a realistically safe community is our top priority. That's our number one mission. Personally for me as a chief of police, I really feel the responsibility immediately for every man and woman who puts their life on the line out there on the street every day. That's an awesome responsibility. And given the proper training, be assured that people are safe so that they can do their job. That's what I feel immediately.

What kind of changes do you want to see with the department?

I'm not really geared to change things immediately as much as I see an ability for us to enhance what we are doing

right now. We have some very important projects on the table right now around strategic policing and technology. We're coming into a time when we are getting new records systems and other things that have to be put into place in the next 18 to 24 months. These are priority issues for us, and we hope to move into a new police facility in two years. So some of the things that are already ongoing need to be kept moving along as efficiently as possible, and then we'll also be looking for new opportunities out there in the policing area to enhance our ability to serve the city.

Is there anything you would like to see the department do differently?

We can always do things better. So as I look at it myself, I think it's important for me to not only try and expand on what we're doing but to try to be a little more cutting edge on what we are doing in terms of practices. We have an accreditation coming up in about 10 months. So we're always looking for how we can do our jobs better, so you search for that and you follow the guidelines of the accreditation standards and then you look at those things to be part of a foundation for where you want to go. What we are going to be aiming for is trying to stay current in terms of technology and police practices.

Far Beyond His Nine Lives

Alexandria journalist thrives on war stories.

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
GAZETTE PACKET

In the gathering darkness, reporter Philip Smucker crawled through cactus and scrub near a Haitian border post. He had recruited a guide from the nearby town of Jimani in the Dominican Republic, the country that shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti. Lacking a Haitian entry visa, Smucker, an Alexandria native, had paid the man \$200 to smuggle him across the border.

In early September 1994, Haiti was suffering through a paroxysm of domestic and international political strife. President Bill Clinton was prepared to send U.S. military forces to restore the duly elected Haitian head of state, who had been ousted by a military coup.

The U.S. and international news media hastily sought on-the-scene reporting, so freelance war correspondent Philip Smucker, a 1979 graduate of T. C. Williams High School, flew to the Dominican Republic.

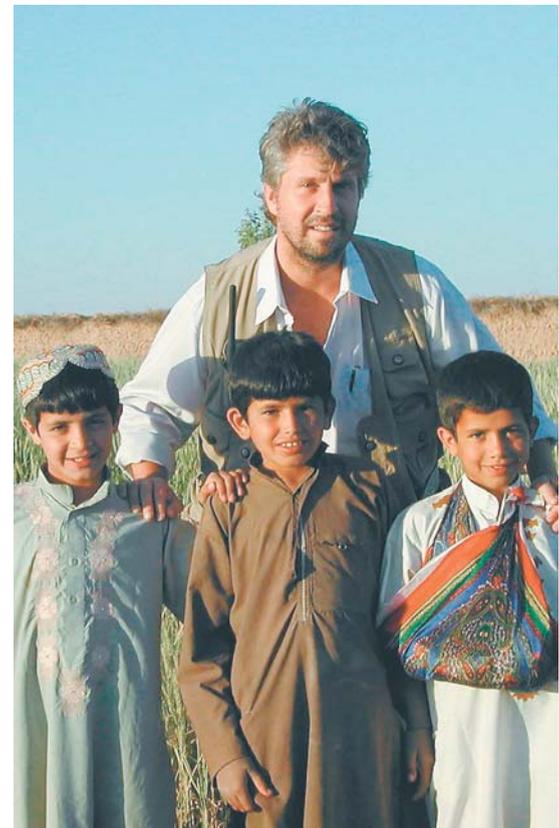
"As a younger man, I made it a habit of getting into places illegally," said Smucker, now 49. After evading Haitian patrols that night, Smucker walked up a mountainous ridge that formed part of the border. Becoming disoriented, he ended up back on the Dominican side in the morning. Undaunted, Smucker rented a burro and took another route into Haiti. After dismounting, he walked toward Port-au-Prince.

Haitian police soon accosted him and asked why his dirty clothes were full of cactus needles. "I told them I was on a hike and was staying at the, ah, um, oh yea, the Hotel Trianon in Port-au-Prince," he said. Smucker had just read Graham Greene's *The Comedians*, a novel that featured a fictional hotel of that name patterned after Port-au-Prince's Hotel Oloffson. "They somehow bought that, and I was in business." He quickly began reporting for Toronto's *Globe & Mail*, McLean's magazine, and others.

SINCE OBTAINING his

"As a younger man, I made it a habit of getting into places illegally."

— Philip Smucker



PHOTOS COURTESY PHILIP C. SMUCKER

Philip Smucker makes friends everywhere he travels, including these young Afghani boys.

master's degree in journalism at the University of Michigan in 1986, Smucker has used Alexandria as his base as he traveled the world as an international reporter. He has spent years living abroad, with extended stays in Southeast Asia, Russia, Europe, Egypt, and the Balkans, and has covered the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. By his count, Smucker has been ejected from four countries, threatened with a weapon or shot at on nine occasions, and feared for his life five times.

He has always been an independent freelancer, picking up ad hoc assignments from newspapers and periodicals ranging from the *International Herald Tribune* to *U.S. News & World Report*. Such reporters are called "stringers," and are paid by the piece and often get expense allowances. This approach, however, has not deterred him from superlative reporting. Smucker has earned three Pulitzer Prize nominations, two from the *Christian Science Monitor* and one from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Smucker is an easy-going, friendly person, who puts people at ease with a quick grin and engaging conversation. He is a raconteur of the first order and has an interesting story for every situation. Graying now, but still an energetic man, Smucker carries himself with a confident air usually affected by the good guys in spy movies.

Smucker gained a national audience in late 2001 when in Afghanistan he traveled with U.S. special



Ivana Smucker and her husband Philip at a recent T. C. Williams class reunion.

SEE JOURNALIST, PAGE 24

Surviving Swine Flu

Government officials assure parents schools will be safe for classes next week.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Parents, your children will be safe at school despite the swine-flu pandemic. This was the message at the heart of an Alexandria appearance this week by Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine. He visited Tuesday at Tucker Elementary School to assure parents throughout Virginia that schools will be as safe as possible for the first day of classes next week. Unlike earlier this year, the governor explained, schools will not close at the first report of the virus.

"So you guys are not going to be missing days," Kaine said to a group of giggling elementary school students before leading a hand-washing demonstration.

Fears of the H1N1 virus — also known as "swine flu" — have been building since April, when the virus was first detected in the United States. Because children between the ages of six months to 24 years are one of the groups most at-risk, parents have been increasingly anxious about the

beginning of autumn classes. Three people in Virginia have already died from H1N1-related illness, and the World Health Organization has officially declared the virus a pandemic.

"It takes an entire community to help us work on problems like this," said Dr. Karen Remley, a state health commissioner who joined Kaine for the press conference. "We want to make sure we are over-prepared."

REMLEY EXPLAINED that the Centers for Disease Control will be distributing the 45 million doses of H1N1 vaccine according to population. Because Virginia has about 2 percent of the county's population, the commonwealth is currently slated to receive about 900,000 doses. Virginia has a population of 7.8 million people, but Kaine repeatedly offered assurances that everyone who wants a vaccine will get one.

"We believe we'll have vaccinations for everyone who wants one," said the governor. "It may not be available on the first

"We believe we'll have vaccinations for everyone who wants one. It may not be available on the first day the vaccine is released, but it will be available."

— Gov. Tim Kaine

day the vaccine is released, but it will be available."

Alexandria Superintendent Morton



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Fourth graders Owen Ehret, in the tiger suit to the left, and Fa Diop greet Gov. Tim Kaine to Tucker Elementary School Tuesday.

Sherman said each school in the city has its own registered nurse, a staffing phenomenon he described as unparalleled in Northern Virginia. The nurses will be able to diagnose children and adults to determine who should remain in school and who should be sent home. The nurses will also play a crucial role in administering the H1N1 vaccine when it's available later this year.

"When it comes time to give shots, we'll be able to do give them in the schools," he said.

In the meantime, each of the division's departments is planning its own continuity of operations plan for a number of disaster scenarios. For example, each employee has two other people who have been designated to perform crucial tasks in his or her absence. And an automated payroll system is being devised in the event the entire Finance Office was unavailable. But many questions remain unanswered about what might happen in the event of mass school closings.

"We're in the process of updating many of our old plans, which still referred to the bird flu," said Robin Wallin, coordinating nurse with Alexandria City Public Schools. "Each department is setting up a plan for continuity of operations."

ALEXANDRIA HEALTH Director Lisa Kaplowitz said that she expects more vaccine to be manufactured after the initial release of 45 million doses, although she said it was unclear how much are being manufactured or when they would be available. In terms of how the H1N1 vaccine would be administered in Alexandria, Kaplowitz said state and local officials are coordinating an effort to distribute the vaccine efficiently.

"We are trying to recruit a number of private providers that normally give the seasonal vaccines," said Kaplowitz. "For example, a number of Safeways have already signed up."

War of 1812 Revisits Alexandria



The Carlyle House Historic Park on North Fairfax Street.

On Saturday, a handful of re-enactors played through the events of Aug. 29, 1814 when a British Navy squadron sailed up the Potomac and landed at the Port of Alexandria.

"While Washington was still ablaze, secured terms were reached with British Rear Admiral Cockburn and Captain Gordon, and Alexandria's Mayor and Common Council quickly and willingly gave their town over ... The British seized 21 merchant vessels and confiscated 757 hogshead of tobacco, 13,786 barrels of flour, tons of cotton, beef, rum, wine, sugar, tar, and sundry other items on the docks and in the warehouses. On Sept. 2, the squadron slipped their moorings and headed for Baltimore."

— CARLYLE HOUSE HISTORIC PARK.



Todd Post portrays a member of the British Navy.



Margaret Herbert Fairfax (Mrs. Thomas Fairfax) watches from the window of her parents home at the Carlyle House while the British Navy and Marines come ashore.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

NOW THROUGH SEPT. 4

Alexandria's Tool Drive. Volunteer Alexandria is hosting a tool drive to collect painting tools, gardening tools and hand tools for its community service project. The purpose is to provide tools for The Big Event, scheduled for Sept. 12. Go to www.volunteeralexandria.org. Email: agrant@volunteeralexandria.org. At 123 N. Alfred Street, 3rd floor, Alexandria. Call 703-836-2176.

ONGOING

The City of Alexandria has mailed 2009 Vehicle Personal Property Tax bills to all vehicle owners residing in the City. If one did not receive a personal property tax bill by Sept. 15, contact Personal Property at vehicletax@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-3901. Or contact the City's Treasury Division at payments@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-3902. Taxpayers who have had a change of address or disposed of a vehicle and have not previously reported this change to the City should contact Personal Property so that an adjusted bill can be provided for them prior to the Oct. 5 due date.

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 inquires 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

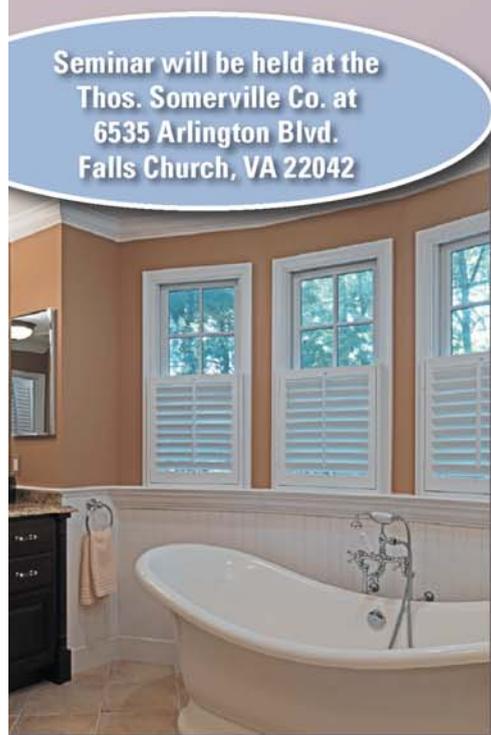
month at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Call 703-591-4488 or send email to info@naacp.org.
The Wright to Read program will celebrate 30 years in Alexandria this September. Wright to Read volunteers or students from 1979-2001 may contact Leigh Hoyer at lhoyer@campagnacenter.org or 703-549-0111 ext. 101.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

Terrorism Past and Present. 11 a.m. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. At
 SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 6



You're Cordially Invited to a Seminar on Planning Your Kitchen and Bath Remodel.



Seminar will be held at the Thos. Somerville Co. at 6535 Arlington Blvd. Falls Church, VA 22042

KITCHEN & BATH SEMINAR

Saturday, September 12, 2009
10:30am - 12:30pm
and

Saturday, September 19, 2009
10:30am - 12:30pm

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- The three levels of remodeling (cosmetic, pull and replace and custom).
- What's "in" for kitchen and bath remodels.
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Police Seek Robbery Suspects

The police are asking for the public's help in identifying the suspects in an armed home invasion robbery that occurred in the 2700 block of Duke Street.

On Tuesday, Aug. 11, at approximately 11:50 p.m., a female resident answered a knock at her door. When she opened the door, a man with a handgun pushed his way inside followed by two other suspects. They demanded cash and

then fled the apartment. The victim was not injured.

The first suspect is described as a black male, 5'3" to 5'6", with a thin build. He was wearing a New Era Washington Nationals baseball cap.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Detective Thomas Buckley at the Criminal Investigations Section at 703-838-4897.



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Learning To Be Healthy



Maury Elementary school nurse Wendy Harper, RN takes a student through the eye examination as part of the free Health Fair.

Eighteen nurses from Alexandria City Public Schools and medical professionals from the Alexandria Health Department and Inova's partnership for Healthier Kids participated in a Back to School Health and Immunization Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at Polk Elementary School.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Patrick Henry Elementary school nurse Deena Pagliario, RN checks over the health forms of a new student.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

the Franconia Government Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Call 703-690-0908.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 8

Alexandria Democratic Committee Meeting. 8 p.m. At Auditorium, Minnie Howard School, 3801 W. Braddock Rd. Call 703-549-3367.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 9

NAMI/FOCUS Meeting. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Cheryl Allston, president, Family Management Services, will discuss case management services for consumers — what they encompass and how you can use them in your family situation. Meets at the First Christian Church, 2723 King Street, Alexandria (next door to Woodbine). Call John Gulka at 571-451-0773.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

Talk by George Allen. Noon. Will discuss the American Clean Energy & Security Act. This legislation, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and pending in the U.S. Senate, would change the way energy is produced and consumed in the United States. At Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. Contact the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce 703-360-6925.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

Friends Book Sale. At Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call 703-339-4610.

Pre-Made Rain Barrel

Distribution. 1-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$62. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Rain Barrel Program, 703-324-1428, TTY 711 or rainbarrel@fairfaxcounty.gov. Go to www.arlingtonenvironment.org/barrel.htm.

SEPT. 15-17

125th Anniversary Celebration of Laurel Grove Baptist Church. 7 p.m. To be held at Macedonia Baptist Church, 3412 South 22nd Street, Arlington. Visit www.laurelgrovebc.org, or leave a message at 703-971-1160. A celebration banquet will be held on Saturday, September 19 at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 15

Restaurant Night Benefiting UCM. 12-8 p.m. When you eat at Peking Duck, 10 percent of the day's sales will be donated to United Community Ministries (UCM). The restaurant is hosting this event to support UCM's programs, which provide both emergency and long-term services to individuals and families in need. Peking Duck Restaurant, 7531

Richmond Hwy, Alexandria. Call 703-768-2774.

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society Meeting. 1 p.m. Features a presentation entitled "Writing Family History: Adding Texture to Text."

The program will be presented by Sandra MacLean Clunies CG. Meets at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road in Alexandria. Call Harold McClendon at 703-360-0920 or haroldm@erols.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 16

"Coping With Unseen Injuries: From Battlefield to HomeFront." 8 a.m. registration. Mike Mullen, USN, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be the keynote speaker. Sponsored by The Military Officers Association of America and the U.S. Naval Institute. At the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Registration and the schedule are available at www.defenseforumwashington.com. Visit www.usni.org. Call 800 233-8764 or 410-268-6110.

Advances in Radiation Oncology. 6:30 p.m. Featuring Dr. Matthew Poggi and Dr. Stella Hetelekidis, board-certified radiation oncologists. At Inova Alexandria Hospital Auditorium, 4320 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Free. Call 703-750-8812 or visit www.inova.org

Environmental Issue Reveals City Disconnect

FROM PAGE 1

request, officials from the city's Office of Environmental Quality did not review the building permit for a condominium project known as the Duke in the 1300 block of Duke Street. It wasn't until the former construction superintendent alerted city officials to pollution concerns at the site that officials took action.

"Clearly we need to make sure we have better collaboration between our depart-

ments," said Mayor Bill Euille. "If that means changing the process, that will happen."

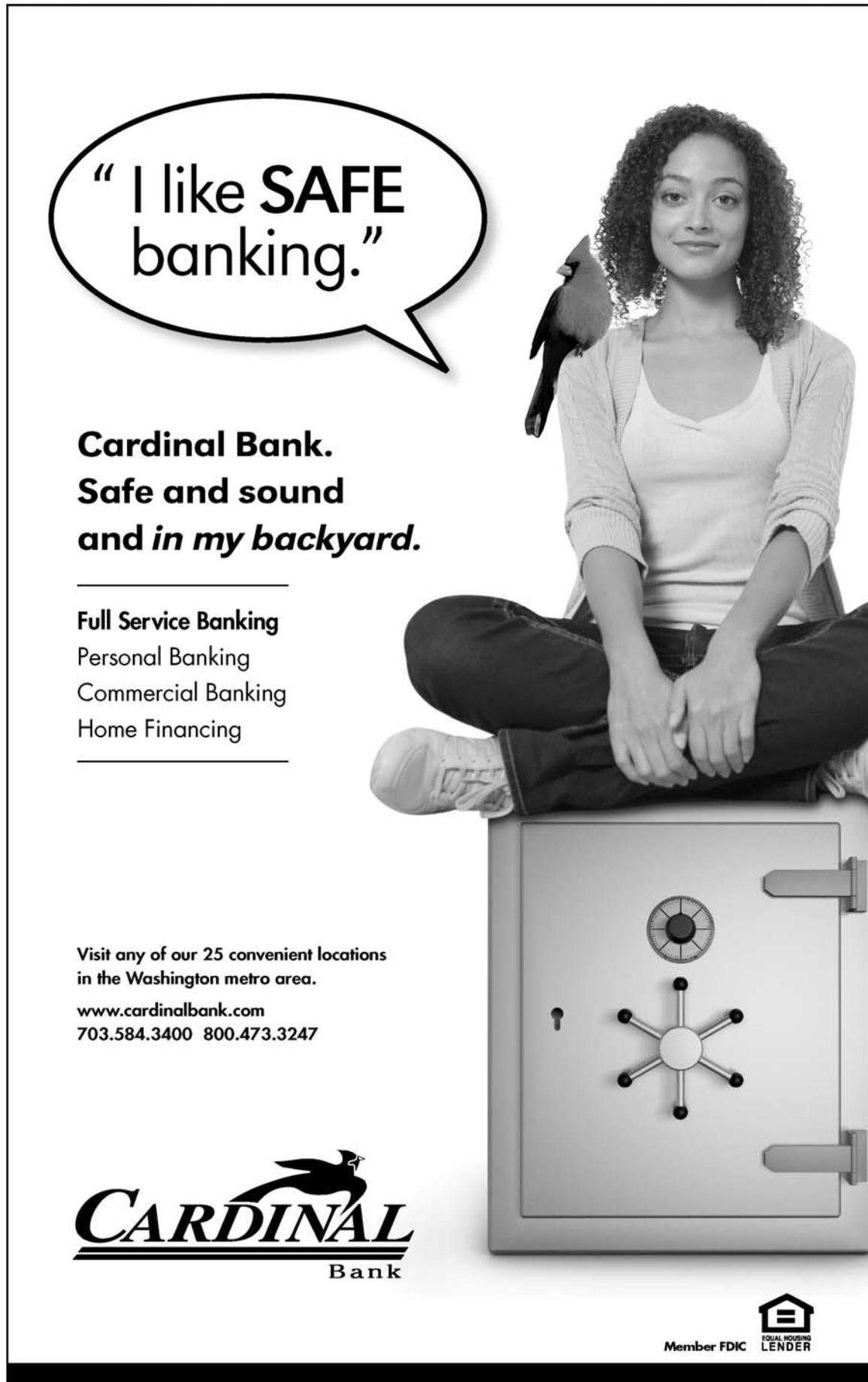
Now city officials are trying to figure out how this could have taken place and ways they could prevent it from happening again. At issue is the role of the Office of Environmental Quality. While its officials were involved in the process leading to the development site plan, they were not part of the deliberations leading to issuance of a build-

ing permit. So they had no way of knowing the drainage system was designed in a way that could have allowed petroleum-polluted water to drain into the city's storm sewer until the former construction superintendent drew their attention to it.

"That certainly identified the issue for us," said Bill Skrabak, chief of the Office of Environmental Quality. "With these kinds of contaminated sites, we need to have a better coordination."

Concerns about pollution at the site were raised by Victor Pisastro, a North Carolina man who served as construction superintendent at the site until he was fired by Marquis Custom Homes last summer. In the fall, he approached city officials with a number of allegations charging an environmental cover-up at the site. The government responded by assembling an environmen-

SEE REEXAMINING, PAGE 30



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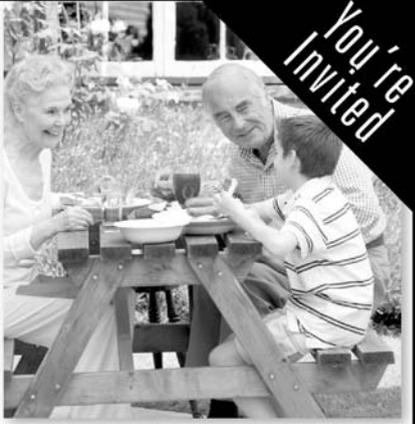
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OPINION

Getting Ready To Vote

What questions would you like to ask?

On Nov. 3, about two months from now, Virginia voters will go to the polls to vote for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and every member of the House of Delegates.

Some local races are also on the ballot.

Here at the Connection, we invite our readers to tune in and help us fine tune questions and coverage of local candidates. Its common for Northern Virginia residents to be more focused on national politics than local politics.

But be forewarned that the winners of the state and local elections coming up will have an impact on your daily life, often in a very personal way.

Local elected officials will spend billions of

dollars. With the current budget shortfalls, the winners will also decide how where to cut tens of millions of dollars by cutting programs, projects and schools dear to many people's hearts. The safety net for the most vulnerable people in Virginia is in danger as well.

Over the next two months, editors and reporters at the Connection Newspapers will interview each local candidate in a contested race. We'll ask questions to learn about each individual, his or her knowledge of local issues and whether they come to the race with a sense of public service. Do they bring intelligence, creativity, collegiality to problem solving? Where do they stand on issues ranging from funding mental-health care to providing a revenue stream to address transportation?

We invite our readers to help with the questioning process. What do readers and voters here want to know from their representatives in the House of Delegates? What qualities are you hoping for in the next Governor?

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

Priorities Vs. Social Agenda

BY LINDA "TODDY" PULLER
STATE SENATOR

I was elected to the General Assembly alongside both of the current nominees for Governor, Creigh Deeds and Bob McDonnell. When you work with two people like that, you learn their values. This week, I was reminded of McDonnell's with the resurfacing of his master's thesis, penned just before the beginning of his legislative career.

Creigh has an impressive legislative scope. I remember his hard work on Kim Stan, Megan's Law, and choice. He also penned the modern Governor's Opportunity Fund, which has created some 78,000 jobs.

The same cannot be said for Bob McDonnell. I respect him as a person, but his record — especially his social agenda — troubles me.

While Creigh worked for schools and economic development, Bob McDonnell did the opposite. While Creigh worked on numerous policy issues, McDonnell sponsored 35 bills on abortion — not including his crusades against contraception and sexual education. McDonnell is entitled to his beliefs, but he has furthered them single-mindedly, neglecting important concerns.

But McDonnell's agenda goes even further. In his master's thesis at then-CBN University, McDonnell lays out not a youthful consideration of Reagan-era politics but rather a social vision for later legislative efforts. His thesis is a blueprint of the extreme policy agenda that he pursued throughout his career in public life and would continue to pursue as Governor.



And I do mean "extreme." For instance, he attributes the American family's "breakdown" to working mothers, feminism, and "the self-centeredness of modern individualism." He writes that school-based health clinics that dispense information about sexual health options promote promiscuity. No wonder he's now trying to distance himself from this.

Bob McDonnell pursued these ideas as a legislator and Attorney General. He worked against women's rights, from equal pay to choice. He opposed bills on daycare safety regulations, such as criminal background checks on employees. He even voted to cut the Governor's Opportunity Fund — though the "new" McDonnell wants it increased.

Today, he has a transportation plan that drains \$5.4 billion — his own estimation — from education and other priorities.

That's not an agenda Virginia can afford, with statewide unemployment, millions uninsured, and other challenges in the next four years and beyond.

I support Creigh Deeds for Governor. He's a commonsense leader in the mold of Mark Warner. He will work for issues that matter to all Virginians, rather than taking us back into past social wars, as Bob McDonnell promises. Creigh Deeds will keep Virginia moving forward.

Register

The deadline to register to vote or update your address for the Nov. 3 election is Monday, Oct. 5. To register to vote, download a form from:

www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Forms_Publications/Index.html

Fill it out and mail it to your local elections office. You can also register in person at the elections office during business hours, or pick up a form in a library or other public places.

After you register, you will receive confirmation and a voting card in the mail. You can call the elections office to verify that you are registered. If you are already registered to vote at your current address, you do not need to register again.

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Send questions and comments to Mary Kimm, at mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com or 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

LETTERS

Englin's Impact

To the Editor:

I would like to set the record straight about the efforts of David Englin, member, 45th District, Virginia House of Delegates on the smoke-free restaurants bill. His role was key and his influence was critical.

He was passionate on the House floor in 2008 expressing dismay that once again the smoke-free bill received neither a full hearing nor a recorded vote in sub-committee. In 2009, he was the original House patron of statewide smoke-free restaurant bill but it was rolled into part of another piece of legislation when separate smoking rooms became part of a negotiated agreement.

Del. Englin was the keynote speaker for the statewide tobacco coalition to rally 300 activists on smoke-free lobby day preparing them to advocate for the bill. He worked with American Lung Association to strengthen public health protections in the final bill.

Gov. Kaine personally acknowledged his role, calling him a "a key player." We were there in Richmond engaged in this fight, and I can tell you firsthand that Del. David Englin's leadership and hard work made a big impact.

Peter L. deFur, Ph.D.

Chair, Advocacy Committee of the American Lung Association of Virginia
Richmond

Butchered Trees On Queen Street

To the Editor:

In response to Jim Spengler's appreciation for "citizens who help us watch the urban forest" I would like to express my utmost disgust for the appalling devastation of our precious trees lining the streets of Old Town. In order

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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OBSERVATIONS



From left to right: Youth Delegates pose for a picture at Glamis Castle, located just outside Dundee, Scotland. Bianka Michalski, Ariana Meltzer-Bruhn, Sarah Allen, Mayor Bill Euille, Harry Lester Schonberger, Maeve Bracken, and Briana Land.

An Adventure in Scotland

Four students from T.C. Williams High School, Ariana Meltzer-Bruhn, Harry Lester Schonberger, Maeve Bracken, and Briana Land along with two students from St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Sarah Allen and Bianka Michalski traveled to Dundee, Scotland, this past week for the Dundee Youth Festival. Accompanying them were Mayor Bill Euille, Rose Boyd, John Chapman, Fredericka Dunn, Brad Brown, Mark Aleckson and Laura Aleckson.

"We all very much enjoyed our recent trip to Dundee, Scotland for the Annual Twinning of their four International Sister Cities, including their Annual Youth Festival. I was like a proud father to have six outstanding and exceptional students, and their two teacher chaperones, as part of our Youth Delegation to join us on the trip, as they were well received by their hosts and others as they represented, not only Alexandria, but also, the United States of America as outstanding Ambassadors," Euille said.

The students met with members of the Dundee City Council, including Lord Provost John Letford. While there, the students held a conference discussing various topics including: the availability of sport and leisure, the global economy, and education in the 21st Century. The students were joined by fellow delegates representing Dundee's other sister cities from Orleans, France; Wurzburg, Germany, and the host city Dundee, Scotland. Here, the students were split up into smaller groups to discuss one of the given topics in much more depth. After hours filled with discussion and brainstorming, the students created presentations to share with the adult delegation at a ceremony later that evening.

The issues were presented through the use of film, photography, and other dramatic interpretations. At the ceremony later that evening, a Youth Charter was signed by a city government official and a youth delegate representing each city. For the City of Alexandria, Euille and student delegate Harry Lester Schonberger were the signatories. The charter was a way to include the youth in the foundations of the sister city agreements.

Throughout the week, the delegates had the chance to learn about and explore the city of Dundee. The students visited the Dundee Contemporary Arts Museum and dined with the art director and some local

Dundonians. Later in the week, the students had the opportunity to spend the day at the Dundee School of Music and Theater with the cast of Little Shop of Horrors, a show they would see later that week. That evening at the APEX Quay Hotel (where the delegates were also staying), a formal dinner was given in honor of the Youth Festival. The evening was filled with many courses, great fun, and traditional Scottish Dancing that both students and adults partook in.

As a spontaneous treat, one of the local Alexandria delegates, Maeve Bracken, displayed her talent of Scottish highland dancing. The dinner was a way of giving the delegates a taste of Scottish culture and as a fundraiser to collect money for future trips.

That Saturday, the whole city came out in celebration of the festival with the Lord Provost's Youth Parade. Along with over 800 local youth, the delegates represented their cities by parading the streets of Dundee behind their city's flag. The Alexandria flag was carried by student delegate Sarah Allen. Led and followed by men, women, and children in kilts and other traditional attire, the youth marched through the streets to the beat of a traditional fife band. The afternoon was dedicated for a celebration of Youth.

On Sunday a nondenominational service was held in honor of the twinning cities. Many delegates took part in the service by either reading or carrying their cities flag. Alexandria was represented by student delegate, Ariana Meltzer-Bruhn, who read a passage from the Bible. Passages from other religious texts such the Torah, the Qu'ran, and Traditional Celtic Prayers were also read. Following the service there was a light luncheon held in the adjacent reception hall. That afternoon, the Alexandria Delegation traveled to Glamis Castle, a childhood home of Her Majesty The Queen Mother.

Overall the delegates had a life-changing experience by meeting new people and learning about new cultures. Brianna Land said, "This is the greatest trip of my life. I got to meet so many people from different cultures."

The Alexandria delegation wanted to thank all of the members of the twinning committee. On a different note, the delegates wanted to give a special

SEE AN ADVENTURE. PAGE 10

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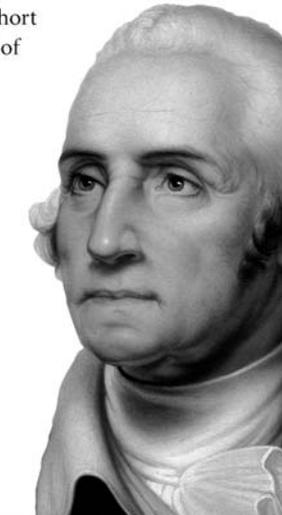
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

to accommodate Old Dominion's demand for access to their unsightly utility poles we permit uncontrolled butchering leaving Old Town with crippled skeletons resembling the aftermath of a destructive storm. Where is Mr. Spengler and his team to enforce minimal pruning and where do the residents of Old Town stand on this issue? It would be sad to think that Alexandria has become a pawn for corporate power. Let us protect our luscious greens and hope that Park and Recreation will witness the damage on Queen Street and step in to stop the menace.

Christa Annett
Alexandria

Shouldn't Use Children

To the Editor:

I wholeheartedly support the teaching of history, the good and the bad. I believe America has enough to be proud of that we can withstand honest scrutiny of our shortcomings. Therefore, I was pleased to see recognition and remembrance of the 1939 protest by African-Americans who exercised their rights to use Alexandria's library in the face of the segregationist policies of the time. I was pleased, too, to note the participation in those ceremonies of some of the descendants of those brave and noble

protestors.

I was appalled, however, to see that children were used to reenact the events. I felt especially badly for the white third-grader who was used to portray an arresting Alexandria Police officer. He said later he was "kind of ashamed," and no wonder. It's a big stigma for a little guy.

Shame on the geniuses of the Alexandria political, educational and community establishment who came up with this outrageous idea. If children are used to act out roles based on their natural characteristics, which they are powerless to change, then let them all be heroes. Otherwise, use adults.

Jack Lichtenstein
Alexandria

Expeditious Response

To the Editor:

Recently driving in the 1300 block of Trinity Drive has been an accident waiting to happen as brakes aren't effective on pot-holes and uneven pavement. One call to Cynthia Jenkins of Street Maintenance brought a full crew early the next morning, and, just like that, the pavement is repaired. Thank you for this expeditious and excellent service.

Vi Saunders
Alexandria

Out of Control

To the Editor:

The current, and very important, debate on health care should remain focused on care, instead of veering off to costs. The United States already has the most expensive health care system in the world, and it is neither more efficient nor more caring despite costs that increase faster than inflation. The current non-system does not provide as much free choice as its defenders argue. The 180 million people with health insurance through their employers cannot choose doctors, hospitals, treatments, labs or medications: the must stay in-the-network, they must restrict their choices to what their employer and the insurance company dictate. Whenever a person changes employment, or the employer changes insurance company, or the insurance company so whims it, the employer must stick with the choices made by anonymous bureaucrats in large for-profit corporations.

Those without medical insurance burden the non-system because their main choice is to run to the emergency room in extreme cases, and the rest of the time they do not have follow up, preventive medicine, dental care, etc.

We need, and we need it now, the creation of a public option to compete with clear rules, set prices, scheduled health care guidances with a private sector medi-

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 15

An Adventure In Scotland

FROM PAGE 9

thank you to Dundee, Scotland resident Stan Frew who died at the age of 76 after defying medical odds during the conference. Frew was a vital member of both the twinning committee and as simply a citizen of Dundee. He will be sorely missed, but his visions were and will be continued in future festivals. On a happier note, this festival meant something special to everyone who participated. The experience brought people together who would have otherwise never met, thus fulfilling the point of the festival. Much knowledge was brought back, such as that Dundee is the sunniest city in all of Scotland (which is not saying much) and that Scotland is the only place in the world where a Coca-Cola product is not the number one selling beverage (it is outsold by Irn-Bru — which is not a brand of whisky, it is a soft drink). The delegates have all said, that given the opportunity, all would return to Dundee in a heartbeat. This just goes to show how astounding of an experience a week of friendship, growth, and understanding on a global stage can truly be.

This article was written by the six youth delegates and edited by Mark Aleckson.

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HEALTH

Cheers, Jeers and Some Figures Too

At chaotic health care town hall meeting, detailed talks accompanied shouts and bickering.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE GAZETTE

The eighth congressional district of Virginia is relatively affluent, U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) told the crowd of almost 3,000 people that gathered in the South Lakes High School gymnasium for a town hall meeting on health insurance reform last week. "Even in the eighth district, there were over 800 families last year who went into bankruptcy because they couldn't afford health insurance," Moran said.

The district, which consists primarily of Alexandria, Arlington, Reston and the City of Falls Church, is also a relatively liberal one, so it was no surprise that there were more cheers than boos at the meeting hosted by Moran and former Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean on Tuesday, Aug. 25. But dissenters held their own during what became a rowdy affair well before it got under way. Protesters and supporters waved signs in the gym and outside the building, and hundreds were shut out when the gym reached capacity.

For the most part, cries of derision were reserved for pauses between the speakers' sentences, with a couple of notable exceptions. During a rabbi's opening invocation, a man shouted something about supporting the Constitution. And when Dean was introduced, antiabortion activist Randall Terry and his supporters drowned him out with chanting. Moran offered Terry the first question of the evening if he would be quiet, but Terry kept shouting, and he and his supporters were escorted out by the police to the evening's loudest chant: "Kick him out! Kick him out!"

However, in addition to the flaring of tempers — often between attendees — and the lusty cheers and insults directed at Moran and Dean, much was said about the issue of health insurance that evening.

Moran said the proposal on the table would set up an exchange modeled after the federal employee health insurance system, from which citizens could compare and select health care plans. In order to be included in the exchange, insurers would have to cap out-of-pocket expenses at \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for families. "Under this bill, you can't be de-

"Under this bill, you can't be denied by a private insurer because of a preexisting condition."

— U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8)



U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) addresses his constituents, as former Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean looks on.

nied by a private insurer because of a pre-existing condition," Moran said. And insurance companies could not drop customers. "I consider it to be a morally outrageous practice," he said of insurance policy rescission, although he noted that it "maximizes profits and pleases shareholders." And mental health and substance abuse services would have equal priority to other care.

"Those who can afford to pay will pay for their health insurance," he said. Otherwise,

without insurance, they would pay an additional 2.5 percent in income taxes. Moran said insurance usually costs about 10 percent of income, but he thought the tax would be enough incentive to get everyone on a policy. "There needs to be some penalty for people trying to free-ride the system," he said, noting that trips to the emergency room by the uninsured ended up costing everyone.

More than 90 percent of employer-sponsored plans would not be affected, he said.

THE PROVISION that Moran said he thought could do the most to bring down the cost of health care was the public option, which would offer citizens the choice of purchasing a government insurance plan similar to Medicare. No one would be forced to join the plan, he said. "Private insurance companies, we think, will learn to become more competitive." He said the public option would not be "a Cadillac insurance plan," adding that it would provide adequate care by physicians of the customers' choice.

The cost of the plan, estimated at \$100 billion for 10 years, would be fully paid for, he said, eliciting hoots and laughter from many in the audience. It would be covered in part, he said, by an income tax surcharge of 1 cent from each dollar of income over \$250,000 for individuals and each dollar over \$350,000 for families, a tax that Moran said would not affect 98 percent of the country's wage earners. The rest would be covered by reforms to the health care system.

Statements such as this tended to draw accusations of deception from some in the crowd. One man went a step further, repeatedly bellowing, "Tyrant!" and "Despot!"

AS AN EXAMPLE of cost-saving reform, Moran said larger reimbursements to hospitals with low rates of patient readmission would encourage hospitals to treat patients correctly the first time.

He took some time to dismiss what he called myths about the insurance reform proposal, saying the government option would require its customers to be in the country legally and would not pay for abortions except in cases of rape, incest or danger to the life of the mother. He dismissed fears about government control over health care, saying it was now corporations that decided what and who to cover and when to raise premiums. In no other industrialized nation were those decisions entirely given over to for-profit companies, he said.

"There is no rationing of care under this bill," he said, explaining that the government would only set minimum standards for what insurers had to offer to participate in the exchange. Some companies would offer higher tiers of coverage in order to attract customers, he said. And he said talk of "death panels" was "nonsense" that stemmed from the bill extending Medicare coverage to people who voluntarily choose to consult a doctor about end-of-life care.

Dean kept his remarks short, saying other countries had developed a "wellness model" of health care, paying to keep people healthy, rather than an "illness model" that stepped in after someone was ill. "The way we pay for health care in this country leads us to do a lot of things that aren't necessary," he said. He also expressed his support for the public option.

Moran pulled names from three separate boxes — one for supporters of the reform bill, another for opponents and one for those undecided — and let audience members ask their questions.

Sarah Stott of Alexandria said her brother had lived with government health care in France for 10 years and had no problem with it. "Why, in the U.S., are people afraid of such a system?" she asked.

Dean said World War II had destroyed France's health care system, so the government rebuilt it. The same happened in England under Winston Churchill, one of the country's most conservative prime ministers, Dean said. Meanwhile, with many U.S. employers prevented from giving wage increases during the war, they compensated with health care plans. "You never make real change until the pain of staying the same exceeds the fear of change," he said.

ASKED WHETHER he thought insurance plan cooperatives might be a suitable compromise, Moran said he did not. "There's nothing wrong with them, but they're certainly not substantial for a public option," he said, noting that it would take about half

PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE GAZETTE PACKET

POLITICS

Unopposed, Once Again

Adam Ebbin is running unopposed for a fourth term in the House of Delegates.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Adam Ebbin, 45

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about Adam Ebbin's political career is how little opposition he's had to endure. His most challenging race was the 2003 Democratic primary, when he faced four other Democrats to fill a seat vacated by former Del. Karen Darner (D-49). Since then, he's never had a Republican challenger in the general

A native of Commack, N.Y., Adam Ebbin received a bachelor of arts in political science and communication from American University. After graduating from college, Ebbin was an account executive, advertising salesman and marketing director before being appointed chief deputy commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry by Democratic Gov. Mark Warner. He resigned from that position to run in the Democratic primary to fill the seat vacated by former Del. Karen Darner (D-49). He has never faced any Republican opponent, and the only general election opponent he's ever faced was in 2007 when Independent Green Ron Fisher took 20 percent of the vote.

was in 2007, when Independent Green candidate Ron Fisher took 20 percent of the vote.

"It will take either a multi-year effort to change that or a unique candidate whom we have not yet identified," said Mike Lane, a former Republican member of the Arlington County Board. "But Adam Ebbin is not exactly a household name in the district, so when

we find the right candidate, his incumbency advantage should be minimal." The district stretches from Bailey's Crossroads through south Arlington into Arlandria and includes about half of Del Ray. That's a wide cross-section of communities, historically African-American neighborhoods, recent immigrant populations and upper-middle class Bohemian areas. It's a constituency that has informed the choices Ebbin has made in Richmond, championing legislation to work against human trafficking and exploitation of immigrant groups.

"Adam is good with people. And he doesn't let his ego get in the way of getting the job done."

— Susan Kellom, chairwoman of the Alexandria Democratic Committee

election — not in 2003, 2005, 2007 or 2009. The only general election opponent he's ever had to face

"I try to make sure different minority groups are not scapegoated for political gain," said Ebbin. "Ultimately being a member of the House of Delegates is about looking out for the values of your community, and that's what I've tried to do."

DURING HIS TIME in the House of Delegates, he's acquired funding to create a public defender's office in Arlington, increased penalties for refusing to pay employees for work completed and passed legislation establishing the Virginia Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking. Supporters say one of the reasons Ebbin is successful is that he spends time coordinating his bills with corresponding legislation in the Senate.

"Adam is good with people," said Susan Kellom, chairwoman of the Alexandria Democratic Committee. "And he doesn't let his ego get in the way of getting the job done."

Ebbin says he has a number of
SEE EBBIN RUNNING, PAGE 14

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Ebbin Running Unopposed in 49th District

FROM PAGE 13

things he would like to accomplish in the coming years. To promote environmentally sensitive building practices, he would like to require what he calls "green building standards" for government buildings. Although he was unsuccessful adding a fee to plastic bags last year, he wants to try again next year by requiring a 5-cent fee for paper and plastic bags that would fund the Water Quality Improvement Fund. And he

wants to cut down on hospital-acquired infections by requiring hospitals to publish their infection rates.

"He does not have a reputation as being somebody who is always advocating extreme position that have no prospect of getting passed just for the purpose of making a statement," said Peter Rousselot, chairman of the Arlington Democratic Committee. "He's a practical person who wants to get things done."

"He does not have a reputation as being somebody who is always advocating extreme position that have no prospect of getting passed just for the purpose of making a statement. He's a practical person who wants to get things done."

— Peter Rousselot, chairman, Arlington County Democratic Committee



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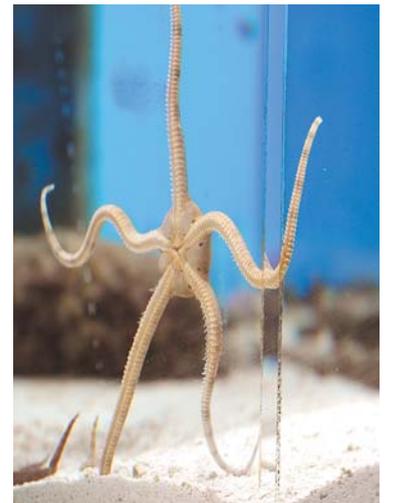
Large Albino Tiger Oscar

Cool Treat for the Senses

On a particularly hot August afternoon, the clear blue tanks at the new aquarium shop at 356 S. Pickett St. offered a cool treat for the senses.



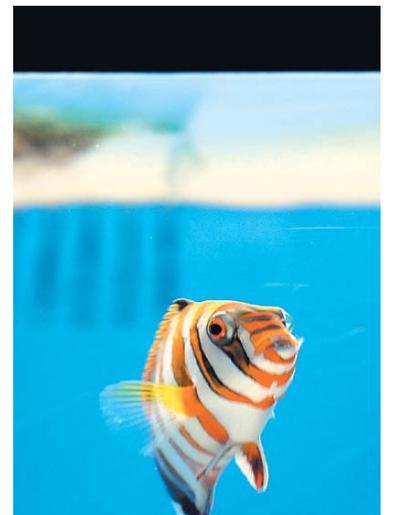
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Bicolor Angelfish



Harlequin Tuskfish

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

...cine that now is out of control and sinking the country's finances.

Jorge A Banales
Alexandria

Health Care For More People

To the Editor:

As the only major democratic

country without a national health care program, we must appear totally without compassion for the welfare of our citizens.

Amazingly, some of the strongest anti-Government involvement sentiments are coming from the very people who already benefit from Federal programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, Federal pensions, military pensions, and Social Security. How can they not recognize what these programs are bringing to them and how can they

deny broadening health care to bring it to everyone? I wish they all felt as strongly about bringing home our troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. Even a brief review of the history of those areas should tell us that change must come from within and that our involvement is decreasing rather than increasing their desire for democratic reform.

Irene Miels
Alexandria

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4401
Jackson Place
\$495,000
Special Value!
Spacious brick home on gorgeous half acre lot with open floor plan, hardwood floors, family room with fireplace, covered parking and extra driveway space. Fabulous custom deck overlooks magnificent level grounds. Rare opportunity to find a well maintained Mount Vernon home for under \$500,000!

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4307
Sheridan's Point
\$794,500
Georgian Colonial!
Large price reduction! Classic updated Colonial in prime Mount 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!

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This Hunting Creek brick end TH has great curb appeal, has been prof. landscaped front/back, and has many updates including new electric wiring, new LL bedroom/family rm w/ custom designer BA & laundry. 2BR/BA.

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9516
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8826
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\$899,500
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There's nothing like it on the market today! This fabulous new Wakefield Home has been 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
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Dream Home!
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7107 Colgate Drive
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CONTRACT!

6412 Potomac Avenue
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CONTRACT!

7114 Coventry Road
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1250 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET #404
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COMMUNITY

'Spirits in a Bottle'

The exhibit, "Spirits in a Bottle," will be displayed in the Alexandria Black History Museum now through Jan. 9, 2010.



Assistant director/curator Audrey P. Davis, museum specialist Lillian S. Patterson and director Louis C. Hicks enjoy the exhibit at the Alexandria Black History Museum.



A bottle covered with white fabric and white pearl beads is designed to appear as a wedding dress.



Washington D.C. artist Dr. Barbera Hardaway.

PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/
GAZETTE PACKET

OBITUARY

Mary Ellen Henry

Mary Ellen Henry, Ph.D., of Alexandria, died on Monday Aug. 17, 2009 from the progressive effects of multiple myeloma. Dr. Henry was born in Long Beach, Calif., youngest daughter to James and Polly Lyle now deceased. The daughter of a U.S. Navy officer, she also lived in New York and Newport, R.I. before settling at Castine, Maine, where her father served on the staff of the Maine Maritime Academy.

After graduating from Colby College in 1969 with a degree with honors in English, she traveled to Hawaii to teach and attend the University of Hawaii. She received a master's degree in fine arts in 1970 and met her husband of 37 years, CDR Douglas D. Henry (USN, Ret.). Subsequent duty stations for the Henry family included Monterey, Calif., Newport, Hawaii, Norfolk, Va., and Washington, D.C. At every stop, Dr. Henry taught or worked as a free-lance writer and raised three sons, James of Alexandria, Christopher of Fairfax, and William of Alexandria.

While living in Alexandria, she was an adjunct or non-tenured faculty member at The American University, instructing freshmen and sophomores in college writing techniques and teaching genre classes for the Department of Literature. It was at this time that she decided to

pursue a doctorate in history at the university. This goal was achieved in 2006, six years after being diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Her dissertation examined the origins and social service roles of poorhouses in four rural Virginia counties from the 18th Century through the 1920s when state agencies assumed the place of the poorhouse.

She also was an adjunct faculty member at the Northern Virginia Community College, teaching introductory American History classes. At the time of her death, Dr. Henry was expanding her dissertation topic to cover the role of the poor house in greater detail and to explore further its place in the development of social services by the modern state. Following her degree in 2006, she was active as an independent scholar contributing papers to the Southern Association Women Historians and local historical societies. She served as a volunteer on the Alexandria Historical Preservation Committee and lent her skills to ensuring the historical landmarks surrounding the Wilson Bridge project were protected. Dr. Henry was also member of the choir at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill in Alexandria for over 20 years and was active in the congregation. Dr. Henry is survived by her husband, three sons, a brother, Major General J. Michael Lyle, USA (Retired) of San Antonio, Texas, a sister, Mrs. Susan Casey of Matamoras, Penn., and many nieces and nephews. Interment will follow in the Arlington National Cemetery in September.

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 lhoyer@campagnacenter.org or call 703-549-0111 x 101

Alexandria
Gazette Packet
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Who would you call a Living Legend of Alexandria?

Who do you know whose vision and energy has improved life in Alexandria? The Alexandria Gazette Packet is seeking nominations in order to recognize Alexandria's Living Legends throughout 2010.

On one page or less, explain why you consider this person a Legend. Criteria are the creation of something tangible that would not likely exist without that person's vision and dedication—or a minimum of 10 years of exemplary service to improve the quality of life in the City.

See www.tisaraphoto.com/legends or call 703-838-8098 for a nomination form. **Nominations must include contact info**—name, address, telephone number and email—for the nominator and nominee.

Send your nominations no later than September 30, to alexandria.legends@earthlink.net or mail to: Legends, 1607 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet Continuously Chronicling
Alexandria since 1784



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SCHOOLS

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.

Charles Jones was recently selected by the American Rental Association (ARA) Foundation to receive an ARA Foundation undergraduate scholarship of \$2,000. He is the son of Doug Jones, owner of Rent All Center in Alexandria. Attending Virginia Military Institute, Jones is pursuing a career in the equipment rental industry majoring in business and economics.



Kathryn Funkhouser of Alexandria has been named to the Dean's List at Drew University for the Spring 2009 semester. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a grade point average of 3.4 or above, which is equivalent to a B+ or better.

Jordan James Hatchell of Alexandria was named to the President's List at Union University for the spring semester. The President's List includes full-time students who achieve a 4.0 grade point average on a four-point scale.

Longwood University has selected 536 students to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring 2009 semester. Among those who earned an academic average of 3.5 to 3.99 were:

- ❖ **Kathleen Lindsay Ogden** of Alexandria;
- ❖ **Anthony Louis Piro** of Alexandria;
- ❖ **Katelin Brittany Mills** of Alexandria.

Timothy Brennan Hoisington of Alexandria was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from Connecticut College at the 91st commencement ceremony on May 17, 2009.

Alma Jean Mitchell graduated with a Spanish degree from Grove City College in Pennsylvania, in May. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brian Mitchell of Alexandria is a 2006 graduate of T.C. Williams High School.

Gustaf Robert Cavanaugh, a junior at Washington and Lee University, has earned honor roll status for the winter term. He is the son of Mr. Robert P. Cavanaugh and Mrs. Claudia Fletcher of Alexandria.

George Paul Barsness Jr., a junior at Washington and Lee University, has earned dean's list status for the winter term. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George P. Barsness of Alexandria.

Caroline Marion Habliston, a junior at Washington and Lee University, has earned honor roll status for the winter term. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Habliston IV of Alexandria.

Abigail Carpen, daughter of Susanne and Thaddeus Carpen of Alexandria, received a bachelor of arts degree from Hamilton College in commencement exercises on Sunday, May 24. Carpen graduated with a degree in art history.

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<p>Saturday Evening 5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)</p> <p>Sunday 7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon 2:00 pm (en Español) 6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 13)</p>	<p>Weekdays (Mass or Communion Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)</p> <p>Children's Liturgy of the Word Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English)</p> <p>Sign Language Interpreter Sunday at 9:00 am Mass</p>
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Alexandria City Public Schools Annual Public Notice Career and Technical Education

Alexandria City Public Schools' Department of Career and Technical Education offers a variety of career and technical programs to all students at the middle and high school levels. The program areas include the following:

- Business & Information Technology
- Family & Consumer Affairs
- Health & Medical Sciences
- Marketing
- Technology
- Trade & Industrial Education

Dual enrollment credit for high school Career and Technical Education courses is available through an agreement with Northern Virginia Community College whether the student is pursuing a post-secondary education and/or entering the workforce. For more information about these programs call Mary M. Roman, Director of Career, Technical and Adult Education, (703) 824-6633.

Alexandria City Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, status as a parent, or pregnancy in its programs and activities. Please direct all inquires regarding Alexandria City Public Schools non-discrimination policies to the Executive Director of Human Resources, 2000 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311, (703) 824-6657.

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GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH...703-548-1808
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PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Watercolor artist Jane Gillette in her second floor studio at 213 King Street draws inspiration from her surroundings and experiences.



Ed Hirschfield with some of the antique cameras he uses to create his photographs. With a vast arsenal of antique cameras at his disposal, Hirschfield sometimes waits for hours for just the perfect angle of light.



PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Contemporary folk artist Pat Palermino describes her work as “humorous, whimsical and a whole lot of fun.”

Festival Features Hometown Artists

Jane Gillette, Watercolor Artist

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
GAZETTE PACKET

There was a time when watercolor artist Jane Gillette hoped people would buy paintings that meant something to her. But experience taught her that people want a painting that means something to them.

“Sometimes I have the good fortune to sell a painting that means something special to both of us,” she said. “When it comes together like that, it’s a really great feeling.”

An exhibitor in the Alexandria Festival of the Arts since its inception, Gillette says she loves the quality of the show.

“It really forces me to grow not only in my work, but in the way I display my work, too,” she said. And, since it’s a juried show, she says being selected to display at the festival denotes a certain level of success.

“People don’t come into my booth and wonder who I am. Just being in the show gives artists a certain credibility. It helps people know they’re buying something of value.”

Originally from Iowa, Gillette’s been an Alexandria resident for 30 years. She earned a BA in fine arts from the University of Iowa where she painted in oil. Now, it’s strictly watercolor.

“I like its portability,” she said. “I can pack my materials in a box, stick it in a suitcase and go anywhere.”

All of Gillette’s work is original. Her subjects range from florals and botanicals to her friends that play golf and even her kitty. She also paints architecture and landmarks — including Alexandria buildings and scenes.

“People will come into my booth and say I’m so happy to see somebody local,” according to Gillette. They’re also drawn into her booth by the bold, intense colors she uses.

“I use the colors I love — bright colors, especially yellows. I think it has something to do with growing up in Iowa with cornfields all around,” she said.

Yellow is a theme in some of her new work this year, which includes a series of little strips of sunflowers. Patrons will also see tulips in new sizes, small paintings of Baltimore’s Fells Point, and a whole lot of mini Alexandria doorways.

“Just the doorways — in 5”x5” and 6”x6” sizes,” she said. “Something for everyone.”

Gillette says she loves seeing the patrons who come by her booth every year at this arts festival.

“I love the local support,” she said. “I love it when a patron can’t decide which painting they like better so they buy two. Every year has a different feel.”

Too often, Gillette feels, people are thrown off by the myth that art has to be an investment.

Ed Hirschfield, Photographer

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
GAZETTE PACKET

Growing up in Essex County, N.J., Ed Hirschfield never thought of himself as creative. Sports were more his thing.

But when he was 13, Hirschfield received a gift that changed his life — a home photography developing kit.

“It just triggered something in me,” he said. “I was fascinated the first time I saw a print come up in the developing tray, and that feeling never went away. It’s still the same thrill.”

After earning a fine arts degree in photography from George Washington University, Hirschfield worked the kind of jobs that artists often do — bar tending, restaurant managing — all the while trying to figure out how to make a living at photography. About 14 years ago, he made the transition to full-time artist.

Hirschfield describes the D.C.-area art crowd as sophisticated, knowledgeable, and appreciative of the work that it takes to create art.

He says if people want to experience what a good arts festival is like, the Alexandria Festival of the Arts is the one to see.

“You’ll be exposed to passionate, talented, high-quality artists,” according to Hirschfield. “And, the experience of talking to the actual artist is quite special. They share their passion for what they do, and it’s contagious. You can get the story behind the work directly from the artist, and you get to understand and appreciate what went into it.”

“That work of art displayed on your wall is no longer anonymous.”

Returning patrons to the Alexandria Festival of the Arts who are fans of Hirschfield’s vibrant painted photographs will be treated to something new hanging on the walls of his booth. They’ll still be able to enjoy and purchase his familiar hand-painted individual prints.

But Hirschfield is eager to have folks experience a new technique he’s been developing since last fall. This new work involves distressing and laminating together multiple negatives shot with a variety of antique cameras. The combined negatives are then printed, toned and sometimes hand-painted.

This new process, he feels, allows him to be a little more creative. “It’s time to see how the public responds,” said Hirschfield.

Hirschfield has never worked in digital photography, preferring to preserve the tradition of the craft.

“When I take a photograph, I like to wait for the right light rather than create light on a computer. And in the darkroom, I’m able to bring a uniqueness to each image,” he said.

Pat Palermino, Contemporary American Folk Artist

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
GAZETTE PACKET

Some of Pat Palermino’s ideas for paintings come to her in dreams. Sometimes she’s inspired by her travels up and down the east coast or the familiar sights in and around Alexandria.

But whatever the source or subject, the paintings all share her signature bold, bright colors and touch of playfulness.

“A lot of people tell me they like the colors,” said Palermino. “They may be too much for some people, but I like bright colors,” she notes while pointing out the bright red counter in her white kitchen with the colorful collection of antique advertising signs adorning the walls.

Palermino describes herself as a self-taught contemporary folk artist and her work as humorous, whimsical and always a lot of fun: “Even the historical buildings have something fun going on in the painting.”

Palermino recalls her talent for drawing started to show up in first or second grade.

“All through school,” she said, “teachers would give me special assignments to make posters for school events because they all knew I could draw.”

By her early teens, she had added painting to her artistic repertoire.

But when it was time to go off to college, even though she loved art, Palermino chose a Catholic school for nursing.

“They didn’t have art classes,” she said. “But there was a place where some of the nuns used to paint, and we’d sneak up there and finish their work,” she added with a mischievous grin.

Palermino worked several years in nursing and public health. She first came to Alexandria in 1971, moving often with her Naval officer husband and three children. But they always returned to Alexandria.

“I love Alexandria. I love the look and feel of it — the water, the people, good restaurants — just a lot going on. It’s just a lot of fun.”

Once the family returned to Alexandria for good and her children were in high school, Palermino, who works in acrylic on canvas or Masonite board, decided to start painting full time. She opened her studio in 1992 and entered her first art show the next year in Fairfax County.

“I was shocked when I sold my first five paintings.”

Now, Palermino has original paintings hanging in permanent museum collections including The White House.



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Art Festival Returns to Alexandria

WHAT: 7th Annual Alexandria Festival of the Arts

WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission is free and open to the public.

WHERE: Old Town, on King Street from Washington down to the Potomac River at the Torpedo Factory
 Navigational address: 480 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

The Alexandria Festival of the Arts celebrates its seventh anniversary on Sept. 12-13, as King Street in Alexandria's Old Town is transformed into an outdoor art gallery complete with 200 artists and \$15 million in artwork available for sale. Admission is free and open to the public.

Produced by Howard Alan Events, the Alexandria Festival of the Arts is ranked one of the top 100 festivals in the country by Sunshine Artist, the nation's leading publication for art and craft shows. It is also included on the Harris List as one of the Nation's best art shows. The artists, juried by an independent panel of expert judges, are hand-selected from hundreds of applicants based on quality and diversity. All of their artwork is original and handmade in America.

Prices range from \$25 hand-designed earrings to \$20,000 metal sculptures. The event appeals to those looking for a free and fun weekend activity, as well as serious art buyers looking to add to their collections.



The show is ranked one of the top 100 festivals in the country by Sunshine Artist.



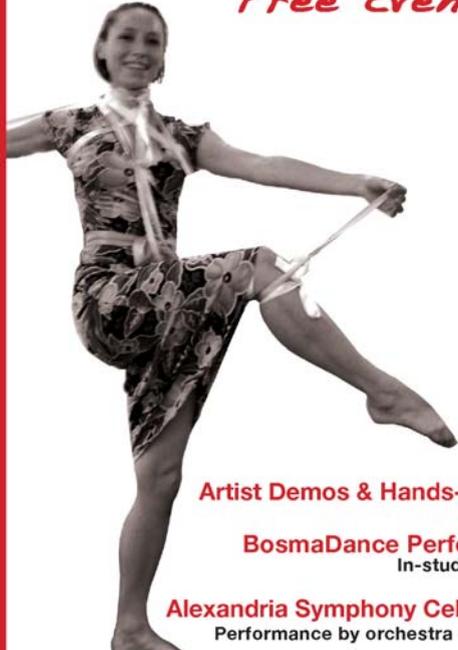
The show features 200 artists and \$15 million in artwork available for sale.

CALENDAR

Part of the Alexandria Festival of the Arts

Art Activated

Saturday • Sept. 12 • 12-4pm
Free Event





Artist Demos & Hands-on Projects • 12-4pm

BosmaDance Performances • 2:30-4pm
In-studio dances and group finale

Alexandria Symphony Cello Solo • 1:30-3:30pm
Performance by orchestra member Alison Bazala Kim

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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.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 3

Taste of Del Ray. 6-9 p.m. Del Ray restaurants and eateries will showcase their offerings with music in Market Square. On Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray.

The Trio Hermitage. 7-9 p.m. Free. Will perform classical music on the piano, cello, and flute. 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, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

Big Chalk Draw, 8-10 a.m., Free community art event for the whole family. Practice getting up early for school and bring along your friends and your creative energy. Chalk drawing will take place in our studio parking lot from 8 to 10 am, Friday Sept 4. Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Go to www.artatthecenter.org

SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

Monarch Magic. 2-3 p.m. For ages 6 and older with adult. Kids will enjoy making a caterpillar cage to house their newly adopted monarch larva and adding a milkweed plant for it to snack on. Cost is \$18. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173. Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp.

MONDAY/SEPT. 7

International Festival. 12:30-6 p.m. Includes live entertainment, children's rides, international food, white elephant sale, beverages, games and more. Tickets must be purchased for some activities. At Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria. Call 703-780-4055 or visit www.gs-cc.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

Art is Everywhere. 6-9 p.m. Free. Part of the Second Thursday Art Night. Treat the whole family to an evening of open studios, wine and sweets, and a fun craft activity for kids. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Go to www.torpedofactory.org; 703-838-4565.

Rick Udler in Concert — Music at the Athenaeum. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. At 201 N. Washington Street, Alexandria. Go to nvfaa.org.

Children's Chorus Auditions. 6:30-7:30 p.m. With the Alexandria Choral Society Children's Chorus. (Grades 3-12). Rehearsals are at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. All dates by appointment. For details and/or to schedule, email Kevin@AlexChoralSociety.org.

"Bronx Princess" Screening. 7 p.m. Port of Harlem magazine and the Alexandria Black History Museum will preview the new documentary "Bronx Princess," followed by a short discussion. "Bronx Princess" follows the real-life journey of headstrong 17-year-old Rocky as she leaves behind her mother in New York City to reunite with her father, a chief in Ghana, West Africa. Filmed during the tumultuous summer between high school and college, "Bronx Princess" tells Rocky's



African Children's Choir

coming-of-age story. By confronting her parents' ideas of adulthood, Rocky reconciles her African heritage with her dream of independence. PBS will broadcast the 40-minute TV movie on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 10 p.m. The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street in the Parker-Gray Historic District. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call the museum at 703-838-4356.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

African Children's Choir. 7:30 p.m. The choir performs throughout the world in such venues as the UN, Royal Albert Hall and Madison Square Garden to raise funds for Africa's children through the choir's programs. An offering will be received. At Washington Street United Methodist Church. Call 703-836-4324.

"That Day in September." Zemfira Stage presents one performance of the true story of playwright Artie Van Why's experience surviving 9/11 and how he coped with the changes that experience brought to his life. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Tickets \$15/general, \$10/seniors and students. For information about Zemfira Stage call 703-615-6626. For reservations call 703-318-0619 or 703-615-6626.

Free Concert. At 7:30 p.m. By the internationally acclaimed African Children's Choir. At Washington Street United Methodist Church, 115 S Washington St., Alexandria. Visit www.africanchildrenschoir.com or call 703-836-4324.

Irish Band. Piper Cillian Vallely and flutist Kevin Crawford from the Irish band Lunsá. At 8 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$29 at the door, children under 14 with an adult half price. Reservations can be made at www.sunspotpro.com or by calling 800 404-9049.

Children's Chorus Auditions. 6:30-7:30 p.m. With the Alexandria Choral Society Children's Chorus. (Grades 3-12). Rehearsals are at the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. All dates by appointment. For details and/or to schedule, email Kevin@AlexChoralSociety.org.

Casting Concrete Leaves. 1-3 p.m. \$55 fee. At Green Spring Gardens. Learn to cast concrete leaves in this workshop. At 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Church Yard Sale and Fair. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tons of household items, toys, clothing, etc. Games and prizes for the kids, glitter face painting, hot dogs, drinks and bake sale. At Calvary Presbyterian Church, 6120 N. Kings Hwy., Alexandria. Go to www.calvarypres.org.

Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Lincolnia United Methodist Church, 6335 Little River Turnpike at Lincoln Ave., Alexandria, two blocks west of I-395. Rain date Sept 19. Call 703-354-5176 or lincolniaumc@verizon.net; www.lincolniaumc.org.

Mindful Eating Workshop. 2:30-3:30

p.m. What do yoga and cupcakes have in common? Approached with the right intention, both can avail you more self awareness, fewer binges, more joy and less stress. \$15/advance, \$25/at door. Held at Radianca Yoga, 110 King St., Alexandria. Register online at www.radianca-yoga.net

Tea Tasting at Lee-Fendall House Museum. 3-4:30 p.m. \$25/person. Learn about the history of tea and Victorian tea practices. Includes six teas and tasting notes. At 614 Oronoco Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-1789 or contact@leefendallhouse.org.

Art Activated. Noon to 4 p.m. Features artist demonstrations, hands-on projects, and special performances from BosmaDance (2:30-4 p.m.) and a member of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Go to www.torpedofactory.org; call 703-838-4565.

Craft and Family Fun Fair. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria. Including crafts from over 50 vendors, pony rides, petting zoo, food and face painting. Rain or shine. Event is free. Contact 703-417-9219.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 13

Mount Vernon German Band. 3-4 p.m. Performs at Collingwood Library and Museum, 8301 E. Boulevard Drive, Alexandria.

Dick Morgan in Jazz Concert. 4 p.m. Free. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Limited seating. Admission first-come, first-served. Call 703-505-0700.

Revive Your Closet. 1-3 p.m. Del Ray Fashion guru Susan Boyd, owner of Wear It Well Wardrobe and Image Consulting, will show how to restyle, remake, repurpose, and otherwise revive what's in your closet during this hands-on workshop for you and your clothes. Open to men and women. Fee: \$10. Register on-line by Thursday, Sept. 10 (www.TheDelRayArtisans.org). Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, Call 703-838-4827, www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

MONDAY, SEPT. 14

Gadsby's Tavern Museum will be hosting its fall session of Tavern Toddlers, beginning Monday, Sept. 14, and continuing weekly through Nov. 16. Because it's never too early for kids to appreciate history, the museum developed this program for toddlers and their caregivers. Tavern Toddlers features a weekly open playtime on Mondays between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Gadsby's Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal Street in the heart of Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17

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.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Genealogist Char McCargo Bah. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Tells how she successfully traced descendants of people buried at Freedmen's Cemetery and how these techniques can be applied to any family research. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

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THEATRE

Over-The-Top Musical

Lively, loving spoof of musicals back at MetroStage.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

If you know your Rodgers and Hammerstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Stephen Sondheim, Jerry Herman and Kander and Ebb backward and forward you will be thrilled to know that the sharp sendup of each and every one of them has returned to Alexandria's MetroStage. The show was tremendous fun in 2007 and this revival is, if anything, just a tad funnier and tighter.

The title itself signals the way the creators of this four-character, five-target spoof treat their subject. They call it "The Musical of Musicals: The Musical!"

The concept is simplicity itself. A cast with exceptionally strong musical theater voices works through one simple plot five different times, each in the style of a different composer/lyricist. The plot is the old standby of melodrama, the innocent young girl who can't pay the rent and the young man who comes to her rescue when the evil landlord threatens to take advantage of her misfortune.

For Rodgers and Hammerstein, the plot is rendered "on fields of golden corn stretched out to the horizon ... it's Kansas in August." A cowboy pretends not to be in love with pretty June who sings "I Couldn't Keer Less About You" until the landlord, Jidder, demands a rent she can't pay.

No pun seems too much of a stretch as long as it includes a simultaneous reference to at least two different songs or, better yet, two different shows. "Mother Abby" comes to the rescue with the sung advice "There's a rainbow o'er the mountain / and that rainbow is your dream / you'll find it when you've faced the storm / and forded every stream."

A Stephen Sondheim sendup, set in an apartment complex called "The Woods," gets the title "A Little Complex" while the Jerry Herman style star-vehicle (a la "Mame") is "Dear Abby."

They take on Andrew Lloyd Webber's sung-through musicals ("We Never Talk Anymore" they sing) with the often-repeated



Bobby Smith and Donna Migliaccio star in "Musical of Musicals."

melodies ("I've Heard That Song Before") that some say sound like arias from old operas (one lyric goes "it might sound a teeny / like something by Puccini. But no, its all brand new").

Kander and Ebb's "Cabaret" ends up as "Speakeasy."

In New York the show was a hit Off-Broadway, being brought back for a return engagement at the York Theater. The cast there was very good and even included the composer and the lyricist who created the superb send-ups of the styles of Broadway's biggest successes. Here at MetroStage, however, the cast is better.

Donna Migliaccio, who is Broadway bound to appear in the new production of "Ragtime" next month, has great fun with the role of the advice-giving woman known in the different musicals as Mother Abby, Auntie Abby, Fraulein Abby, just Abby and Abigail Von Shtarr. She'll play the role until Sept. 13 when she leaves for New York at which time Heather Mays steps in to finish the run.

Janine Gulisano-Sunday is as bright and energetic as could be asked of an Ingénue who has to face the threats of five different evil landlords. Bobby Smith goes from the slightly dim-witted Jitter of the opening "Corn!" to the insane killer/artist of the Sondheim spoof ("I'll make them pay in a crafty way. I'll kill them and coat them with papier mâché. I know they say I'm no Monet. Que sera, Que Serurat. Oh, What the hey!") Then he acts as the host of a Speakeasy in the style of the em-

cee of a cabaret ("The world can go to blazes / who cares? It doesn't faze us. / We've got Booze / And songs that use a lot of foreign phrases!"). New to the cast this time around is Matthew A. Anderson who is a delight in the young hero role.

The show might have been better had it been trimmed a bit. Four spoofs might well be better than five. But the weakest of the bunch, the Jerry Herman burlesque, is strong enough to garner many, many laughs and, had they cut it, you wouldn't get a chance to see Migliaccio bent over backwards onto the top of a piano while she belts out "Who cares if you're over the hill now as long as you're over the top?"

Ticket prices have gone up a bit since 2007, but even at an additional \$5, this is a show no one who loves musicals and loves laughing should miss.



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:

"The Musical of Musicals: The Musical!" plays through Oct. 18 at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal Street. Performances are Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 5 and 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$45-\$50. Call 703-548-9044 or log on to www.metrostage.org.

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Alexandria Journalist Thrives on War Stories

FROM PAGE 3

forces, CIA paramilitary officers, and local warlords in the search for Osama bin Laden. Writing for the Monitor and London's Daily Telegraph, he was the first reporter to break the news that bin Laden, despite fierce U.S. bombing, had escaped from Tora Bora into Pakistan. In his 2004 book, *Al Qaeda's Great Escape*, Smucker criticizes what he saw as a fumbling U.S. attempt to capture bin Laden.

Smucker returned from his ninth trip to Afghanistan this past July. Writing for the McClatchy newspaper chain, Smucker was embedded on three occasions with U.S. Army units in eastern Afghanistan.

Keen observers consider his reporting to be among the best from Afghanistan. "There is no better picture of the area than that offered by Philip," said Roy Gutman, McClatchy's foreign editor. "His stories are so much more complete than reports from other news media, and certainly more informative than government statements."

Smucker addressed the grim state of the U.S. war in Afghanistan in a June 10, 2009 op-ed piece in *USA Today*, and led with this line: "Winnable? Yes. Bloody? Count on it." He disagreed with official statements at the time that the U.S. and NATO are holding their own in Afghanistan. "Calling this war a 'stalemate' is to smear lipstick on a pig," he wrote.

IT'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT to say that Smucker has deep roots in Alexandria and the Mount Vernon area. His mother, Louisa, is a member of two notable Virginia families, those of George Washington and George Mason. Although the Masons and Washingtons had intermarried several times over generations, Louisa points to one of those instances in 1921 when her mother, Louisa Fontaine Washington, married Philip Dawson. The elder Louisa was the granddaughter of the last Washington to own Mount Vernon, John Augustine Washington. Dawson's grandfather was Samuel Cooper, the highest-ranking Confederate general in the Civil War. In 1827, Cooper married Sarah Mason, the granddaughter of George Mason of Gunston Hall.

Philip's father, John, a retired Episcopal priest, is part of the Smucker jelly and jam family. He is many times removed, however, from the founder, J. M. Smucker, who started the company in 1921 in Orrville, Ohio.

"Philip was a little wild as a teenager, and I was surprised when he chose to become a foreign correspondent," John Smucker said of his son. "I never saw him read a book or write anything in high school. But his mother and I are very proud of him."

In a tongue-in-cheek rebuttal, Philip Smucker points to his honors degree in English lit from Cal-



COURTESY PHILIP G. SMUCKER

Philip Smucker credits much of his success in Afghanistan reporting to his former interpreter and associate, Latfullah Mashal (left), now governor of Laghman Province in eastern Afghanistan.

Berkeley.

John and Louisa Smucker live in a home in a compound off North Quaker Lane that has been in the Cooper and Dawson families since before the Civil War.

Following graduate school, Philip Smucker moved to Bangkok in 1986 to teach English while attempting to string for U.S. newspapers. "I had my first good splash in 1988 by reporting on anti-government demonstrations in Rangoon, Burma," he recalled. "I got some good exposure through the Washington Post and other news media, and even did three Q&As with Dan Rather on CBS News."

After reporting from Russia in the early 1990s and the Haiti adventure, Smucker gravitated to the hostilities in the Balkans that arose during and after Yugoslavia's breakup. During the Bosnia War, he reported frequently on violent reprisals, war crimes, and just plain warfare for several news media outlets, including *Daily Telegraph*, *Voice of America*, and German radio.

While in Belgrade, Serbia, in 1998, he hired a young woman named Ivana Veselinovic to teach him the Serb language. After only a few sessions, his interests broadened beyond his lessons and they began to date. "He was a serious student at first and always did his homework," said Ivana, now Mrs. Smucker. "But he soon began to bring me flowers when we met to study."

Ivana and Philip were married in May 1998 in Belgrade. Among those traveling to the wedding from the states was actor Chris Meloni, the male lead in NBC-TV's "Law & Order, Special Victims Unit." He and Smucker first met

as children at Alexandria's John Adams School. Fast friends in high school, both went off to University of Colorado in 1979. Smucker transferred to Berkeley after two years, but he and Meloni have since maintained their friendship.

Later in 1998, Serbia's repression of Muslim Albanians in Kosovo erupted into horrific violence between Serbian forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army. NATO intervened with a massive bombing campaign to force Serbs out of Kosovo, permit the return of Kosovar refugees, and introduce peacekeeping forces. The hostilities drew Smucker like a moth to a porch light. The headlines for his pieces reflected his intimate involvement — "Hunger as an Instrument of War" (*U.S. News*) and "Faces Frozen in Terror" (*Houston Chronicle*).

As the Kosovo hostilities continued during 1999, Smucker encountered the most dangerous situations of his 23-year career. After what could have been a fatal confrontation, Serbian police forced him to retreat across the Macedonian border at gunpoint. "I walked up and down a mountain to get back into Kosovo, and after arriving, I witnessed terrible atrocities," he said. Smucker continued to dodge detention. "I hid in a village with two Albanians while Serb paramilitaries searched for us. It was the most terrifying night of my life."

True to his gregarious self, Smucker had the inclination during all of this to open a bar in Pristina, Kosovo's capital. He and several other war correspondents, who were co-owners, named it "Tricky Dick's." Not a homage to Nixon, but rather in honor of Richard Holbrooke, who helped bro-

ker the Dayton Agreement that ended the Bosnian War in late 1995. In what must have resembled Rick's Café Américain in the movie *Casablanca*, Smucker described the place in 1999 as "an ex-pat drinking establishment frequented by Serbs, Albanians, diplomats, and journalistic riff-raff from around the world." The gin joint offered drinks called "B-52," "Tomahawk," and "Verifier."

The bar, which he no longer owns, is still open with the same name.

After two reporting stints in Egypt, Smucker headed for Kuwait as the U.S. prepared to invade Iraq in March 2003. Like a camp follower during the Napoleonic Wars, Smucker trailed behind a U.S. Marine unit as it raced north after the "Shock and Awe" air campaign. Operating on his own for the Monitor and *Daily Telegraph*, rather than as an embedded reporter, Smucker quickly got himself into a jam.

"I did a short video segment for CNN and said that I was a hundred miles south of Baghdad between the Tigris and Euphrates," he said. U.S. military authorities objected, saying Smucker offered too much information about American military movements. After what Smucker described as a heavy-handed detention and interrogation, several Marines escorted Smucker back to Kuwait.

"I got back into Iraq three days later," Smucker said with a smile.

SMUCKER IS NOW home for a while and working to finish the manuscript of a new book, which Prometheus Books will publish next year. "My Brother, My Enemy: America and the Battle of Ideas in the Islamic World" will distill the experiences and observations that he has gathered in recent years. He is also preparing a documentary film to accompany the book.

He and his wife live in Alexandria's West End, and she welcomes the down time. "I cannot let fear enter my mind when he is traveling," she said. "If I do, I'm afraid that will jinx him. Besides, he's way over his limit of nine lives."

She works for Hands Along the Nile, a nonprofit that promotes economic development and intercultural dialog in Egypt.

When asked what's next on their calendar, Ivana Smucker said, "Starting a family."

For more information on Philip Smucker, visit his Web site, www.philipsmucker.com. Also, Google "Tricky Dick's" and "Pristina" for reports on the bar.

Legal Notices

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 JJ020774-06-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
MACKENZIE DJEDDOUR

The object of this suit is to:

For approval of a foster care service plan with the goal of adoption, and for the termination of the parental rights of the unknown father of Mackenzie Djeddour (dob 5/31/07) and/or to enter any other appropriate dispositional orders to protect the health and safety of this child.

It is ORDERED that the defendant unknown father appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 10/15/2009 at 1:30pm

Legal Notices

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

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Couple Fights for Refugee Status for Iraqi Sisters

FROM PAGE 7

ter the teenagers were risking their lives to work as translators for what they believed was a valiant effort by the U.S. military, it only mattered they broke the patriarchal order. They escaped a home where the girls were forced to spar with one another for their father's entertainment, leaving them with physical and emotional scars.

But their escape was short-lived. Sally and Sarah were tracked by their father. They felt the man they once called "dad" wanted nothing more than to see his own flesh-and-blood dead through the cultural practice more commonly known as an honor killing.

THE PHONE CALL to Valdiserri delivered a rapid overview of Sally and Sarah's anticipated murder. The Alexandria resident was deployed to Iraq to establish mental health programs for first response teams while providing counseling through her specialty in trauma; it was the first she heard of the young translators.

Valdiserri says she never thought twice about her next decision; there wasn't any time. Her husband of three years, Tim Kennedy, never questioned her move. A Blackhawk immediately brought Sally and Sarah to Valdiserri, doubling the size of the couple's family overnight.

"They were two girls trapped in a patriarchal society that wouldn't let them get out," said Kennedy.

To return Sally and Sarah to their father was to contribute to their murder. Sally and Sarah are not their birth names, but ones they used while working with U.S. armed forces and felt appropriate to keep during their unofficial adoption by two willing Americans who offer more security for the girls than they previously found within their own biological family.

The couple embarked on a yearlong plight to get Sally and Sarah out of harm's way. As Valdiserri's deployment came to an end, the girls were forced to find alternative means of protection. Whisked between shelters that resembled prisons and would-be safe havens that led to blackmail and sexual

assault, Valdiserri and Kennedy lost count of the sleepless nights spent worrying.

"How can you help from a world away?" Valdiserri asked.

And yet the couple has managed. Last month, they threw a fundraiser with the intent of gaining support to bring Sally and Sarah to America. Valdiserri says she initiated the idea of the move with the young women after realizing the U.S. was the only outlet that ensured their safety and the reunion of their new family, although Kennedy has yet to meet the girls.

REMOVING Sally and Sarah from Iraq proved to be no easy feat. The girls' biological father reported them as kidnapped to the Iraqi government, making all means of standard travel and its checkpoints impossible to bypass. After exhausting every legal mean, the Alexandria couple resorted to having Sally and Sarah smuggled out of the country as threats to their safety continued to escalate.

Now the two young women must wait. While at their new undisclosed location somewhere in the Middle East, Sally and Sarah underwent their fourth and final interview with the International Organization of Migration, intending to gain refugee status for entry into the U.S. Although the girls' time of arrival in Alexandria can only be estimated if the IOM works in their favor, Valdiserri described Sally and Sarah as "beside themselves to be out of Iraq."

While Sally and Sarah's journey impacted the lives of the Alexandria couple who now anticipates their arrival, the girls' story is not uncommon. In 2008, the International Rescue Committee reported Iraq had the third highest number of refugees in the world, following Afghanistan and Palestine.

The List Project is an organization targeting Iraqi refugees seeking safety through resettlement. Former U.S. Agency for International Development Officer Kirk Johnson created the Project in 2007 out of concern for his own translator who faced similar threats to his life after offering assistance to the U.S. The project has developed into a national effort to integrate Iraqis into American society and similarly offers an



PHOTO BY JAN SASLAW

Paige Valdiserri and husband Tim Kennedy at their fund-raiser for Sally and Sarah last month. The couple is working to bring the two young Iraqi women to the U.S. after their lives were endangered by their father.

outlet for concerned Americans like Valdiserri, who contacted the project for help.

Ann McKittrick, the director of development and outreach for the List Project, acknowledges the real adjustment begins once the Iraqis, like Sally and Sarah, have been granted refugee status and arrive in a new environment. While the Project aims to work with resettlement agencies to provide housing, health care, and food stamps, McKittrick says with the economic downturn the agencies are overburdened and lacking resources.

"In many cases, it falls short of what the families need," said McKittrick.

Consequently anxiety over the girls will not subside for Valdiserri and Kennedy even if Sally and Sarah reach the U.S. The couple knows there is little space in their two-bedroom townhouse on South Columbus Street

for the sisters, who have already spent the past year in close quarters, adding the necessity of trauma counseling.

Linda McKenna, one of many close friends in Valdiserri's support system, has come to know and love Sally and Sarah. But McKenna acknowledges the couple's own fatigue arising from their sudden and constant thrust into the role of parents for the girls. McKenna says the idea of Iraqi refugees didn't hit home until she saw the emotional toll it was taking on her friends.

"They did it with such conviction," McKenna said of Valdiserri and Kennedy's effort to take on the care of two young women they barely knew. "It's as if they've been their girls their whole life."

SINCE THEIR FIRST conversation, the phone calls have not stopped. Valdiserri says she and Kennedy try to talk to the girls daily, hoping to avoid any more feelings of abandonment than those Sally and Sarah have already experienced.

Surmounting the unusual circumstances that brought their new family together, Valdiserri and Kennedy say they view their involvement with the girls as a movement towards raising awareness. Once the girls are settled, the couple has plans for a book using their story of Sarah, who they describe as street-smart, and Sally, known for her more gentle soul, to touch upon the larger issue of international women's rights. With her specialty in trauma, Valdiserri further hopes to institute programs benefiting contractors and translators like the girls who work alongside U.S. military forces.

But for now, the couple's priority remains in bringing Sally and Sarah to safety. Even if the task is accomplished, it will take an undetermined amount of time for the girls to adjust to American life and overcome the suffering of their past.

"We're afraid to call you mom," the girls have told Valdiserri. Coming from their patriarchal culture, Sally and Sarah do not view a mother as someone who loves, protects, or stands behind them.

"I'm not going anywhere," Valdiserri said, and she continues to wait for the arrival of her girls.

Journalist-Turned Marine Dies in Combat

FROM PAGE 1

ited campaign that was informed by Cahir's status as a war veteran.

"He was not an anti-war candidate, by any stretch," said Andy Rosenberg, a longtime friend who waged an unsuccessful primary challenge for Congress. "He was proud to be a liberal, but at the same time he had a Marine's appreciation for the sacrifice that was required to protect our county and our way of life."

On April 8, 2006, Cahir married Washington lawyer Rene Brown at the Old

Presbyterian Meeting House. The couple settled in Rosemont on West Cedar Street, where they enjoyed barbecuing and walking their dog Frankie. Earlier this year he was deployed to Afghanistan, where he was killed on Aug. 13 from a gunshot wound sustained while conducting combat operations while on a patrol in the Helmand Province. Cahir was buried at Arlington National Cemetery earlier this week. He was 40.

"Bill was a hero to me, and to his family and friends, long before he gave his life for his county," said Brown in a written statement. "He was a loved and cherished hus-

band, son, brother and excited father-to-be, as well as a friend and colleague who touched the lives of so many."

A NATIVE OF Bellefonte, Penn., Cahir was raised in State College. After receiving a bachelor's degree in English from Penn State in 1990, he moved to Washington to work for the late Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), who was buried at Arlington the previous week. In 1995, he became a journalist and took a job as a Washington correspondent for Newhouse News Service covering Congress for Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Then the terrorist attacks on

9/11 prompted him to join the Marines and fight in two wars.

"He was a man of action, not words," said Nancy Perkins, an Old Town resident and a longtime friend of Cahir's wife. "He didn't just want to write about the war, he wanted to defend the nation."

Cahir is survived by his wife, who is pregnant with twins; his parents, John and Mary Anne Cahir; a brother, Bart Cahir; and two sisters, Kathryn Cahir and Ellen Cahir. Contributions may be made to the Bill Cahir Memorial Fund at the Burke and Herbert Bank, P.O. Box 268, Alexandria VA 22313.

TC Without QB Hargrove for Opener

Bray to start after Hargrove suffers fractured wrist.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Joe Hargrove spent the offseason trying to prove he was starting quarterback material. Splitting reps during practice, the T.C. Williams senior felt his superior athletic ability would earn him the job.

As the season approached, Hargrove's performances appeared to distinguish him as the Titans' top signal caller. His strong arm and desire to make a play gave the Titans offense a capable-of-scoring-on-any-play kind of feel.

Ironically, it was Hargrove's desire to make a play that cost him a shot at entering the 2009 season as a starter.

During an Aug. 27 scrimmage against Centreville, Hargrove rolled to his left and was sacked near the visiting sideline at Parker-Gray Memorial Stadium. He landed on his right, non-throwing arm and suffered a fractured wrist, leaving his availability for his senior season in doubt.

Hargrove was at T.C. Williams on Monday, sporting a cast which ran the length of his right forearm. He said he intended to see an orthopedic doctor in the near future and hoped to be able to play Sept. 11 against Mount Vernon. Titans head coach Dennis Randolph later acknowledged Hargrove's hopeful return date could be overly optimistic.

AS HARGROVE and his mother, Bernita, were leaving campus, Hargrove, an ESPN.com college prospect, struggled to put his emotions into words.

"I can't describe the feeling," he said, "because I'm mad [and] sad. I'm in between."

Meanwhile, practice continued for the Titans, who open their season at 7:30 p.m. today at Robinson. John Bray, who split reps with Hargrove during the offseason, will start at quarterback for T.C. Williams. The senior doesn't have Hargrove's arm strength, but Bray is a hard-working signal caller who led the Titans to two touchdowns and a field goal after taking over in the scrimmage against Centreville.

"I'm really excited," Bray said of his opportunity to start. "I had a shaky practice in the beginning [Monday] but I got my" bad practice out of the way for the week.

Bray added he can help the team by be-



T.C. Williams quarterback John Bray, left, avoids a defender during a scrimmage against Centreville. Bray, a senior, will start tonight against Robinson.

ing more of a vocal leader.

When comparing Bray and Hargrove, Randolph has said while Bray doesn't have Randolph's big-play capability, his strength is sustaining multiple-play drives. Bray will need to do that this week if the Titans are to beat Robinson.

Bray "has to move the ball down the field, however we get it done," Randolph said. "If we can run the ball against them, he's just got to hand off. He's got to be that guy that's going to get them into the end zone [whatever] it takes. Obviously, there's a difference with John in the game. ... John can complete balls, [but] he's not going to throw the 60-yard ball down the sideline."

Whether or not Bray can consistently lead the Titans down the field will likely depend on the ability of the team's running backs and offensive line to generate yards on the ground. Senior Charles Garner and sophomore Raquan Brunson have gotten the bulk of the carries during scrimmages, though senior Robert Carter has seen time and scored two touchdowns against Centreville.

THE OFFENSIVE LINE is led by junior right tackle Jay Whitmire (6 feet 6, 285 pounds) and senior right guard Luke Dorris (6-4, 272).

Speed at the receiver positions keeps the big-play threat alive for T.C. Williams. Se-

niors Cortez Taylor and Aziz Coker are candidates to go the distance when they touch the ball, and Taylor said the receiving corps is comfortable no matter who is playing quarterback for the Titans.

"We work with both of them," Taylor said. "Our wide receivers, we know what to do whoever's in. We're ready. There's no difference. We look up to both."

Doug Murphy, a junior, is second on the depth chart behind Bray while Hargrove is out.

The defense, led by Carter at free safety, will also need to step up.

T.C. Williams finished 3-7 in 2008 and has not had a winning season since 1995. Randolph, who enters this third season with the Titans, noticed a mentality around the program that could have contributed to the team's lack of success.

"What I've found since I've been here is that these kids do well when everything's going their way," the coach said. "And then when something happens, they just implode and say, 'here we go again.'"

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



T.C. Williams quarterback Joe Hargrove carries the ball during a scrimmage against Marshall. Hargrove suffered a fractured right, non-throwing wrist a week later against Centreville and will miss tonight's game against Robinson.

HEALTH

Cheers, Jeers and Some Figures

FROM PAGE 12

a million people to be able to negotiate with insurance providers and they would need a lot of start-up money.

After being asked repeatedly whether he would go on "the plan" with everyone else, Moran said 85 percent of people would see no change in their coverage because they already had adequate coverage. Like most, he would remain on his current coverage, provided by Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Geoff Verhoff of Arlington noted that Moran had said at one point that Medicare was run by experts. With Medicare "\$39 trillion in the red," he said he wanted to know, "Who are these experts?"

"How many in favor of getting rid of Medicare, raise your hand," Dean said. A few hands went up, but more people shouted that that wasn't the question.

Moran said Medicare wasn't in the red because it received support from the Treasury's general fund and that its costs had risen more slowly than those of private insurers. "So Medicare is operating at much less cost and we need to find a way to pay for it," he said, adding that health insurance reform was one way to do that.

Maureen Mitchell of Reston said she supported the public option but wanted to know how everyone could be insured without it.

Dean said the Netherlands and Switzerland had universal coverage without a public option. "But in order to do that, they treat the insurance industry like a regulated utility," he said, noting that rates, CEO salaries and other aspects of the companies' operations are regulated by the government.

Roland Tulino of Reston wanted to know why no one was talking about tort reform, the limitation of payouts for patient lawsuits against doctors.

The more there is in a bill, the more enemies it has, and the people trying to pass the bill didn't want to take on the trial lawyers, Dean said. "That is the plain and simple truth."

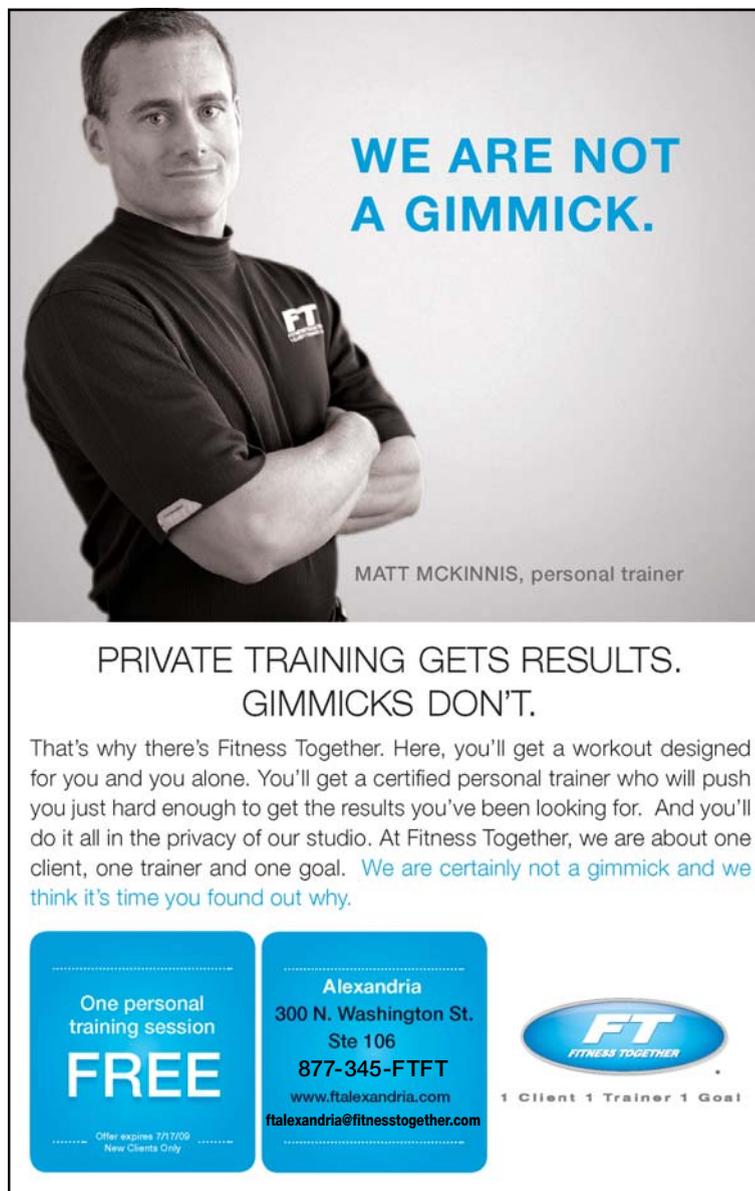
Asked whether he would support a single-payer, universal government plan, Moran said that with a bill on the table that the White House had endorsed, he was inclined to support the existing bill.

When Bob Shepler of Alexandria asked why he should trust the government to control the cost of a public option, Moran pointed out that the military was a government program. "When soldiers come home, I don't know any family who has a wounded warrior who doesn't want them going through the Veterans Administration," he added, noting that the VA was a socialized system.

After the meeting let out, groups lingered outside, holding signs and hollering at each other. Scattered screaming matches, one of them between two elderly women, were broken up by the police.

"You never make real change until the pain of staying the same exceeds the fear of change."

— Howard Dean



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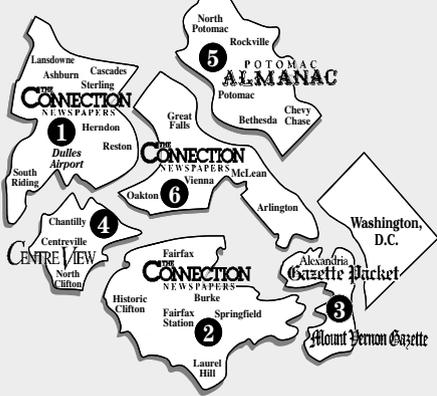
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NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program Plus and Silver Lining Program funds and CDBG-R funds listed below have been reviewed under a tiered environmental review process per HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58.15, and are hereby being considered for a Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds (NOI/RRF). The activities proposed are categorically excluded from NEPA requirements under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. Additional information is contained in the Environmental Review Records (ERRs) for each activity under the Neighborhood Stabilization Plan Plus and Silver Lining Program (NSP-SL), Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) and the Community Development Block Grant - Recovery Program (CDBG-R) program at the Fairfax County, Virginia, Department of Housing and Community Development, 3700 Pender Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-7444, and may be examined or copied upon request, weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

1. Program title: Neighborhood Stabilization Program Plus and Silver Lining Program (NSP-SL)

Location: Countywide but mostly focused in these neighborhoods: Springfield, Alexandria (Route 1/Fairfax County), Centerville, Chantilly, Lorton, and Town of Herndon.

Purpose of Project: NSP-Plus funds will be provided to non-profits to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed properties, for use as affordable rental housing. The properties will be rented to households whose incomes are at or below 50% AMI.

Total Cost: \$ 1,000,000 NSP-Plus funds

2. Program title: Community Development Block Grant - Recovery Program (CDBG-R)

Location: The following Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority properties including: Little River Glen, Little River Square, Penderbrook, Murraygate, McLean Hills, as well as Sunrise House group home and various units countywide owned by non-profit organizations.

Purpose of Project: CDBG-R funds will be used for Categorical Exclusion rehabilitation at the moderate income rental housing developments listed above.

Total Cost: \$ 1,610,504 CDBG-R funds

3. Program title: Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)

Location: Countywide

Purpose of Project: The primary use of these funds will be for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Specific services include (but are not limited to) rent and utility assistance, security deposits, housing search and community-based case management. Approximately \$910,000 is allocated for Prevention Services, and approximately \$1,350,000 is allocated for Rapid Re-Housing Services. Fairfax County has been awarded \$2,462,398 in HPRP funds. Of the remaining amount, \$123,119 is allocated for administrative costs, and \$79,279 is to be used for meeting HUD data collection and reporting requirements.

Total Cost: \$ 2,462,398 HPRP funds

The County of Fairfax, Virginia, has determined that the above-listed project(s) will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required.

RECORDS AVAILABILITY

Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Records (ERRs) for the above-listed projects at the Fairfax County, Virginia, Department of Housing and Community Development, 3700 Pender Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-6039, and may be examined or copied, upon request, weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with the County of Fairfax, Virginia, determinations or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development. All comments received by 4:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 9, 2009**, will be considered by the Fairfax County, Virginia, Department of Housing and Community Development prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenters should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The County of Fairfax, Virginia, certifies to HUD that Anthony H. Griffin, in his capacity as County Executive, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the Department of Housing and Community Development of Fairfax County, Virginia, to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds for Neighborhood Stabilization Program Plus-Silver Lining Program, the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, as

well as for Community Development Block Grant-Recovery Program funds. Send objections to the HUD Richmond Field Office, Environmental Office, 600 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219-1800, Attention: Mr. Kerry Johnson, 1-800-842-2610 x4803; and to: HUD Washington, D.C. Field Office, 820 First Street NE, Suite 450, Washington, D.C. 20002-4255, Attention: Mrs. Frances Bush, 202-275-9200. Objections should be received by **Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2009**, or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the County of Fairfax, Virginia, approved by HUD; (b) the County of Fairfax has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in a project have committed funds, incurred costs, or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Anthony H. Griffin, County Executive
County of Fairfax
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 552
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-0041

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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NEWS

Pollution Threat Exposed

FROM PAGE 7

tal crimes task force of officials from various departments to investigate the allegations. They eventually disagreed with many of Pisauro's specific allegations, but decided that several changes were needed. Ultimately, they asked the developer to change the drainage system and install a stronger vapor barrier.

"The city has no position on the litigation between Mr. Pisauro and his former employer," wrote Deputy City Attorney Christopher Spera in an e-mailed response to questions. "Essentially, the city responded to an allegation of an existing problem, did not find conditions to match the allegations, but identified potential future issues."

THE HISTORY OF pollution at the site dates back to 1962, when city records indicate Fannon Petroleum Services obtained a special-use permit to construct and operate a fuel distribution facility at 1300 Duke Street. Fannon Petroleum maintained 26 underground fuel storage tanks and also housed a vehicle repair facility for vehicles owned by Fannon & Sons — a neighboring business that operated air-conditioning, heating systems and heating fuel distribution at the 1200 block of Duke Street since the 1940s. In 2001, the 1300 Duke Street property was sold to Van Metre Companies for a new residential development.

But 40 years of operations at the bulk-storage terminal created a number of pollution concerns, with heating oil, gasoline and diesel spilling into the ground. According to documents from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the accumulated pollution was so bad that 18,500 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated soil had to be removed from the site to prepare the property for development.

"We worked with Fannon to make sure the source material was removed," said Randy Chapman, senior geologist with the department's Northern Regional Office. "In terms of what ends up in the storm sewer, that's the city's responsibility."

Enter Victor Pisauro, the construction superintendent hired in the spring of 2008 by Marquis Custom Homes, a Van Metre company. According to the formal complaint filed in the Alexandria Circuit Court, Pisauro said he repeatedly raised concerns about pollution in the remaining soil. Although it wasn't as heavily polluted as the soil that had been removed, he said, rainwater filtering through it had to be considered polluted and disposed of properly. When he raised concerns in early June 2008, his lawsuit charges, Marquis officials explained they did not want the perimeter French drain to be connected to the sump well — a system Pisauro said would send unfiltered polluted water into a bed of stone along a wall fronting Duke Street and ultimately into the city's storm sewer.

"You've got to be kidding," he responded, according to the lawsuit.

In an affidavit filed as part of the lawsuit, Pisauro said that he was "astounded" when a soil sample that showed "no contamination." The lawsuit explains that he had personally taken a sample he described as "vis-

ibly oozing with oil and diesel fuel and smelled pungently of these products." Pisauro said that on July 17, 2008, two Marquis officials arrived at the site trailer and tossed a severance agreement on his desk.

"There was no basis for my termination," Pisauro wrote in an affidavit. "I was getting the job done, and everybody knew it."

When asked about Pisauro's allegations, the environmental consultants known as ECC dismissed the charges and praised the project as a responsible redevelopment of a previously contaminated site. Marquis denies that Pisauro was wrongfully terminated, although the development company declined comment on the specific allegations in the lawsuit.

"He was legitimately terminated," said Shawn Boyle, president of Marquis Custom Homes. "The allegations he is making have no merit."

AFTER PISAURO was fired, he retained an attorney and alerted city officials to his concerns about pollution at the site. Several city departments convened to investigate the allegations and visited the site. City officials now acknowledge that a series of "weep holes" placed every six feet around the perimeter of the building create the potential for rainwater to be filtered through remaining contamination in the soil. But they describe that possibility as minimal. Documents obtained in a public-records request show they were more concerned about a possibility that Pisauro hadn't raised — the potential for heavy rains to send polluted groundwater into the city's storm sewers.

"OEQ explained that the system as designed was an open conduit for untreated groundwater to enter the storm sewer should groundwater levels get high enough and that this was unacceptable," wrote Alexandria civil engineer Daniel Imig in an Oct. 2, 2008 memorandum.

At that point, documents show, Marquis agreed to submit a revised plan. A carbon filtration system has been added to the plans to prevent the possibility of polluted water from being drained into the city's storm sewer. A separate drainage tank is also being installed to allow for the possibility that water collected by the perimeter drain might be loaded onto trucks and driven away when the levels reach a certain point. And an active vapor barrier is being installed.

"Whether or not the city's actions support Mr. Pisauro's position in the litigation he filed against his former employer is not a factor in the city's response to the report regarding the potentially hazardous conditions at the site," said Spera. "The city requested design changes to address the potential futures and the builder agreed to implement the requested changes, even though the builder disagreed that the groundwater levels could ever rise to a level high enough to cause the water captured by the perimeter drain system to get into the city's storm-water system."

Pisauro is seeking \$1.3 million in unpaid labor and damages.

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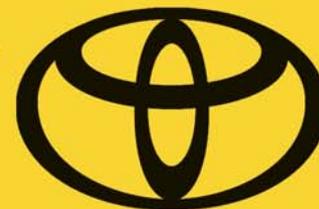
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