

Alexandria Gazette Packet



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SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 7, 2009

Building Bust

Number of building permits for single-family homes takes a nosedive.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

A decade ago, Alexandria was in the midst of an unprecedented boom. Building permits were flying out of City Hall in record numbers. The high-water mark was 1999, when the city issued about 800 building permits for single-family homes. Now that boom has turned to bust. According to data collected by the city's Division of Code Enforcement, only 45 building permits were issued last year for single-family homes.

"This low number of building permits confirms the severity of the financial crisis and the length

"The possible effect of such a dramatic decline in these permits is that the tax base is not growing."

— Vice Mayor Kerry Donley

of time required for its consequences to be resolved," said Stephen Fuller, director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University. "If these permit numbers remain low next spring when they should be increasing, then there will be more to worry about."

Alexandria's building bust is just one more sign of the times, a symptom of the credit crisis that emerged a year ago after lax mort

SEE BUILDING, PAGE 28



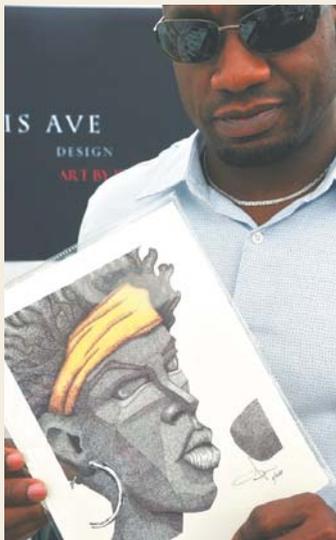
Tappers with Attitudes perform at the corner of Del Ray and Mt. Vernon avenues.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET

Art on The Avenue



Del Ray artist Lisa Schumaier holds one of her crows.



Alexandria artist Darrin Harris with one of his portraits.



Sherriff Dana Lawhorne prepares to announce the day's winners: Nancy McKenna, Brittany Allen and Patricia Woodhouse.

Alone and Afraid

Series of missteps leads Kindergartner wandering the streets of Arlandria.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

After his origami class ended Monday, Gavin Salinas was supposed to head to the cafeteria of Mount Vernon Community School to take part in an after-school program operated by the Campagna Center. But that's not what happened. Instead he ended up in the apartment of a stranger, who called Gavin's mother in an attempt to reunite the lost child with his parents. The incident has

led to soul searching among parents and policy changes among school officials.

"I noticed the call was from a 703 number," said Taryn Salinas, who works for National Geographic Magazine in the District of Columbia. "So I answered it because I always think about the kids."

The woman asked what her son's name was and what he was wearing. Salinas answered her questions, then asked if she was calling from Gavin's school. When the woman responded that she was calling from Brookside Apartments, the increasingly concerned mother began to panic. She eventually made her way to Arlandria to pick up her son, who had fallen asleep after a terrifying afternoon of being lost and afraid.

SEE MISSTEPS, PAGE 23

Hiking Georgia to Maine

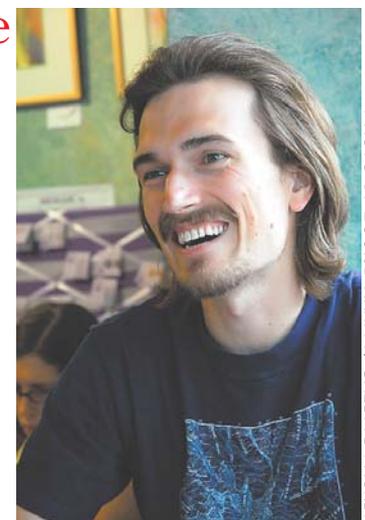
... And back home to Alexandria.

BY EMILY CANAL
GAZETTE PACKET

Three pairs of hiking shoes, an encounter with a bear and her cubs, and 14 states later, Bryce Johnson is home in his native Alexandria after hiking the Appalachian Trail.

"It's something I've always wanted to do ever since I knew what it was," said Johnson, who is 25 years old. "Work slowed down last spring and I decided I finally had the time."

SEE HIKING, PAGE 27



Bryce Johnson talks about his experiences walking the 2,100-plus miles of the Appalachian Trail this year.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

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Staggered Options

The clock is ticking for election changes, an issue that has been quietly taking shape behind the scenes for weeks. The debate that has emerged as a central point of disagreement between City Council members is a proposal to create staggered terms, which would end the existing practice of electing all six council members at the same time. Councilman **Rob Krupicka** and two of his fellow council members are in favor of this option.

"The general objective of staggered terms is to increase the opportunity for voters to meet and interact with individual candidates," Krupicka wrote in a memorandum outlining his ideas. "Reducing the number of candidates that run at any time affords voters more time to focus on and learn about individual candidates and their views on various issues."

But Councilman **Frank Fannon** and two other council members are not in favor of abandoning the current system of electing all six candidates on the same ballot.

"With the City Council seats all up for election at the same time, minorities have a better chance to be represented," Fannon wrote in a memorandum outlining his ideas. "Alexandria is a very diverse community, and with all seats on the council up for reelection at the same time, we will be able to better represent that diversity on the council."

City Council members are scheduled to take up the issue later this month, when they will receive the first draft of the legislative packet for the upcoming General Assembly session. A final vote on election reform is expected during the November public hearing. If council members delay the process, they might not be able to meet all the necessary deadlines for crafting a charter amendment in advance of the January legislative session.

"It's preferable to get this out of the way before December," said **Bernie Caton**, the city's legislative director.

The Stimulus Bus

City officials are eagerly anticipating the arrival of \$2.4 million of stimulus cash next month, money that will be used to purchase a fleet of rubber-tire trolleys. The new city-owned trolleys will eventually replace the vehicles that currently traverse King Street, a service that has been operated by the Maryland-based Martz Group since the service began in April 2008. But don't expect the new stimulus trolleys to appear anytime soon.

"Since there is typically a yearly wait between ordering trolleys from the manufacturer and acquiring them for operation, the current contract with Martz will be extended for at least one more contractual year," wrote transportation director **Rich Baier** in a memorandum outlining the future of the King Street Trolley.

Baier added that DASH employees are likely to assume the responsibility of providing drivers and maintenance to the new fleet of stimulus trolleys. And they'll have a lot to handle. Ridership data indicates that the King Street Trolley has already logged more than 900,000 passengers with an average of 12,000 passengers each week.

"It has exceeded expectations," said Baier. "The trolley has been a major success for the city."

Signs of Improvement

Federal Reserve Board Chairman **Ben Bernanke** has declared that the Great Recession is likely over, but city officials are warning that the hangover might last for some time. Unemployment has dropped for the second straight month to 4.9 percent, a little more than half of the national unemployment rate. Yet lingering problems with credit markets mean that construction jobs aren't likely to return anytime soon. Residential real-estate volume has increased 4.1 percent compared to last year, yet commercial real-estate is down by more than 60 percent compared to 2007.

Ultimately, though, City Manager **Jim Hartmann** sees light at the end of the tunnel.

"The local economy is showing signs of improvement," wrote Hartmann in a financial report issued this week. "There are indications that the city of Alexandria is emerging from the recession more quickly than the nation as a whole."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

Aging In Place

Alexandria joins effort to help elderly stay in own homes.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER
GAZETTE PACKET

There's a movement that's been slowly sweeping the country, from Massachusetts to California, and now, it's making a stop in Alexandria.

At Home in Alexandria (AHA!) is joining what's come to be known as the "village movement," whose objective is to allow people to stay in their homes as they age. There are already nine villages in the Greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, including one in Mount Vernon.

AHA! board members held an informational reception at the Alexandria House on Madison Street in Old Town on Sept. 21 that attracted just over 50 interested residents and stakeholders.

Judith Jones, MD, PhD, and chair of the AHA! Board, told the gathering that she was part of a small group that got together this past January with the goal of establishing one of these villages in



PHOTO BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Judith Jones, chair of the Board of At Home in Alexandria (AHA!), presents a slide show about the organization to more than 50 attendees at a reception last month at the Alexandria House on Madison Street in Old Town. AHA! is part of a movement that helps people stay in their own homes as they age. For more information about AHA!, visit the Web site at www.AtHomeInAlexandria.org.

the Alexandria area. Jones, an Alexandria resident, has had a career in medicine that included being on the staff at Georgetown University Hospital as an internist and geriatrician.

"I always said that when I left Georgetown," Jones said, "I would do something to advocate for the elderly staying in their homes."

During the presentation, Jones explained that the goal of AHA! is to enable individuals and families in Alexandria to enjoy the health, financial and emotional benefits of remaining in their homes for as long as possible. AHA! will be a resource that's not only an alternative to elder care and rehabili-

tation facilities, but will also help people live a higher quality and more stress-free life.

Ernie Lehmann, vice chair of AHA!, was also at the informational meeting last week. Before he retired, Lehmann spent more than 40 years with the U.S. Department of Defense Dependent Schools, representing employee interests of American teaching staff working in foreign countries. He described AHA! as a fabulous grassroots program.

"As a 75-year old man," Lehmann said, "I know it's important to have a social and practical

SEE GROUP SEEKS. PAGE 5

Tourism Weathers Economic Downturn

ACVA annual meeting mixes realism with optimism.

BY TODD GEORGEAS
GAZETTE PACKET

Bucking a steep downward trend hitting the tourism industry, visitor spending in the city of Alexandria hit \$645 million in 2008, a 10.3 percent increase since 2007. The spending of the city's 3.3 million annual visitors contributed \$21.7 million in taxes to the city, an increase of \$2.1 million over the previous year. The city managed these gains even as the tourism industry reported an 11.9 percent decline in overall spending during the first six months of the year.

The figures were reported in the Alexandria Convention and Visitor's Association 2009 Annual

Report, featured during the association's annual membership meeting last Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Sheraton Suites.

ACVA President and CEO Stephanie Pace Brown called the past 12 months "a year of renewal" in which an overhauled marketing approach helped insulate against the downturn and laid a foundation on which to build in the future.

The retooling yielded an entirely new slogan, with "Shop, Dine, and Celebrate" replacing the decade-old "The Fun Side of the Potomac" — and the accompanying logo on key chains, shot glasses, and other merchandise. A new destination Web site was launched — visitallexandriava.com — drawing 500,000 visits and integrating an online dining reservation system. Boutique and Restaurant Weeks were inaugurated. Local involvement also increased; ACVA membership grew 25 percent during the year, to 312 businesses and organizations.



PHOTO BY CHUCK FAZIO

ACVA President/CEO Stephanie Pace Brown addresses the meeting.

Brown later gave credit for the increase in tourism to the opening of National Harbor, which drew visitors looking for a quaint alternative to the monumental convention complex across the Potomac, and \$388 million spent over several years by the hotel in

SEE CITY IS OASIS. PAGE 30

The Next Election

Even though most of the city's political attention is being directed at the November election, there's another election just around the corner. In January, Democratic Committee Chairwoman **Susan Kellom** is expected to step down from her role as leader of the party, opening the way for new leadership of the city's dominant political organization.

Potential replacements include former party vice chairwoman **Julie Jakopic**, who resigned her leadership position to run a City Council campaign; **Mark Feldheim**, an Old Town attorney who is the committee's current vice chairman; and **John Irvine**, deputy chairman for precinct operations in the West and president of a public-relations firm. Much of the campaigning will be done behind the scenes until after the November election, when candidates to replace Kellom will formally launch their campaigns.

"One election at a time," said Jakopic.

A \$200 E-mail?

Did a supporter of Del. **Charniele Herring** (D-46) spend more than \$200 to send an e-mail inviting people to a Sept. 27 fundraiser at Tempo Restaurant? That's a question now being considered by the State Board of Elections as the result of a formal complaint filed last month by **Mike Ginsberg**, chairman of the 8th Congressional District Republican Committee. At issue is a Sept. 25 e-mail sent by Herring supporter **Susan Butler**, who is the executive director of the D.C. Cancer Consortium.

"If the e-mail cost more than \$200 to write and send, then it should have had a disclaimer," said **David Allen**, campaign-finance manager for the State Board of Elections. "If it did not cost more than \$200, the e-mail would not require a disclaimer."

Allen said that attorneys are still looking into the details of how much time was consumed to write the e-mail, the hourly wage of the person who sent the e-mail and any costs associated with putting together the list of people who received the e-mail. Regardless of that determination, Allen said, Herring has done nothing wrong. Butler is the one who may or not be at fault, not the candidate.

"This whole thing is ridiculous," responded Herring. "My opponent has no issues, so the Republicans are doing anything they can to stir their base against me."

When Life Hands You Sangria

Fundraising is an art and a science, one that remains crucial to electoral success on Election Day. Candidates spent a significant amount of time asking for money, and each candidate goes about the process differently. The science part of it involves using lists of people who have donated in other campaigns to target phone calls and e-mails. But artfully going about the business of raising money is another important component to fattening the bottom line.

Take Del. **Adam Ebbin** (D-49).

The incumbent Democrat has never had a Republican opponent, but that doesn't mean he's not willing to put some creativity behind his fundraising events. This week his campaign sent an e-mail invitation to the "Second Annual Toast to Delegate Adam Ebbin." The invitation prominently featured pitches of sangria, a drink that was the focus of 2008 legislation championed by Ebbin.

"Join us for tapas and, of course, sangria — legal in the state of Virginia thanks to Adam," the invitation explained.

Correction

Last week's issue incorrectly described **Vicki Vasques** as a pro-choice candidate. She is not. Although Vasques describes herself as "personally pro-life," she said she "has no plans to propose changes in the law regarding reproductive health." She declined to indicate how she would vote on legislation that would restrict access to abortion, such as requiring abortion clinics to comply with requirements for ambulatory clinics or making women seeking abortions receive an ultrasound before receiving an abortion.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

POLITICS

Abortion Divides Candidates

Democratic incumbent is pro-choice while Republican opponent is pro-life.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Voters tend to think of the abortion issue as a national debate about whether or not *Roe v.*

Wade should be overturned or who is appointed to the Supreme Court. But the issue is just as relevant in Richmond, where legislators consider a host of issues important to voters who care about reproductive rights. Each session of the General Assembly, legislators make decisions about laws that could limit access to abortion. Voters in Alexandria have a stark choice between incumbent Del. David Englin (D-45) and Republican opponent Vicki Vasques.

"I'm proud to have a 100-percent pro-choice voting record with NARAL and Planned Parenthood," said Englin. "This is an important issue, and voters deserve to know where the candidates stand."

Vasques declined numerous requests to indicate how she would vote on specific measures, such as requiring abortion clinics to meet requirements of ambulatory clinics or requiring women seeking abortions to receive an ultrasound first.

Instead, she said the focus of her campaign was on jobs, schools, transportation and business rather than abortion. As a result, she said, she would decline to provide voters with anything more than a broad philosophical outline of her thoughts on the issue.

"It's very difficult to respond to hypothetical situations, as Justice Sotomayor stated in her confirmation hearing," Vasques wrote. "I am personally pro-life but respect that *Roe vs. Wade* is established judicial precedent and I have no plans to propose changes in the law regarding reproductive health."

ABORTION HAS been a hotly debated political issue since the 1973 landmark Supreme Court decision in *Roe vs. Wade*, which held that abortion cannot be prohibited during the first three months of pregnancy. Since that time, the argument in Richmond has moved away from the fundamental right to have an abortion to a debate about how closely abortion clinics should be regulated and what kind of requirements should be expected of women seeking abortions and doctors providing them. Pro-choice advocates say Englin has been one of the strongest defenders for reproductive rights since his election in 2005.

"I would say that David is one of our biggest champions for choice in Richmond," said Jessica Honke, director of public policy for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia. "He's got a solid record of being pro-choice, and he has proven that he works to defend women's issues."

Foes of abortion say they would like to see *Roe vs. Wade* overturned, outlawing the practice of abortion. That's a matter for the Supreme Court, which



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Pro-life demonstrators rally outside an Alexandria abortion clinic on Duke Street last week.

is why much of the discussion on the issue takes place in the context of presidential politics. Yet pro-life advocates say that the state can play an important role in reducing the number of abortions that take place by using the power of regulation.

"I would like to see this clinic shut down," said Laura Yarus, a King George County woman who traveled to Alexandria last week to protest the abortion clinic on Duke Street. "Failing that, I would like to see it regulated into non-existence."

THE WRITTEN STATEMENT Vasques released on the issue of abortion said that she has "no plans to propose changes in the law regarding reproductive health." But that gives no indication how she would vote on the recurring votes that are taken on the issue.

Earlier this year, for example, members of the General Assembly voted on measures require doctors to anesthetize a fetus prior to an abortion and provide a "right to enjoyment of life" to "preborn" human beings from the moment of fertilization. Instead of explaining how she would vote on these issues, Vasques described inquiries about how she would vote on specific bills as hypothetical.

"I think her statement intentionally avoids the question of how she would vote on these kinds of measures," said Isaac Wood, assistant director of communications for the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. "This is the kind of this the kind of thing both sides engage in when they don't want to answer questions in way that might put them at odds with the majority of voters in the district where they are running."

Englin said that the issue of reproductive rights was particularly important to him, which is why he introduced a bill this year that would have required pharmacies that refuse to fill birth-control prescriptions to place a "conspicuous notice" announcing the policy. He said he introduced the bill after hearing from female constituents that some pharmacists would refuse to fill a birth-control prescription and then refuse to return it, humiliating the women and forcing them to go back to their doctors to get a second prescription. Because issues of reproductive rights come up so frequently in Richmond, Englin said, he takes issue with the idea that being on the record about specific measures is hypothetical.

"She either doesn't understand the issue or she's not being candid with voters about what her stance is," said Englin. "People who stand for election have an obligation to let voters know where they stand on issues, and voters know where I stand whether they agree with me or not."

Group Seeks To Help Elderly Stay in Own Homes

FROM PAGE 3

network of people around me. I have two children in the area, but I don't want to be a burden to them or the community.

"To have friends help me and for me to help my friends, that's a perfect world for me," he said.

During the informational meeting, attendees learned that AHA!'s plan is to be primarily self-sustaining through membership dues charged to participating individuals

and households. Still, AHA! has applied for 501(C)3 status which the group will use to raise money for those unable to afford full membership dues.

AHA!'s services will be organized like a concierge service that will allow members to make a single call to arrange needed services.

Board members have already been interviewing area stakeholders including Alexandria Commission on Aging, Alexandria

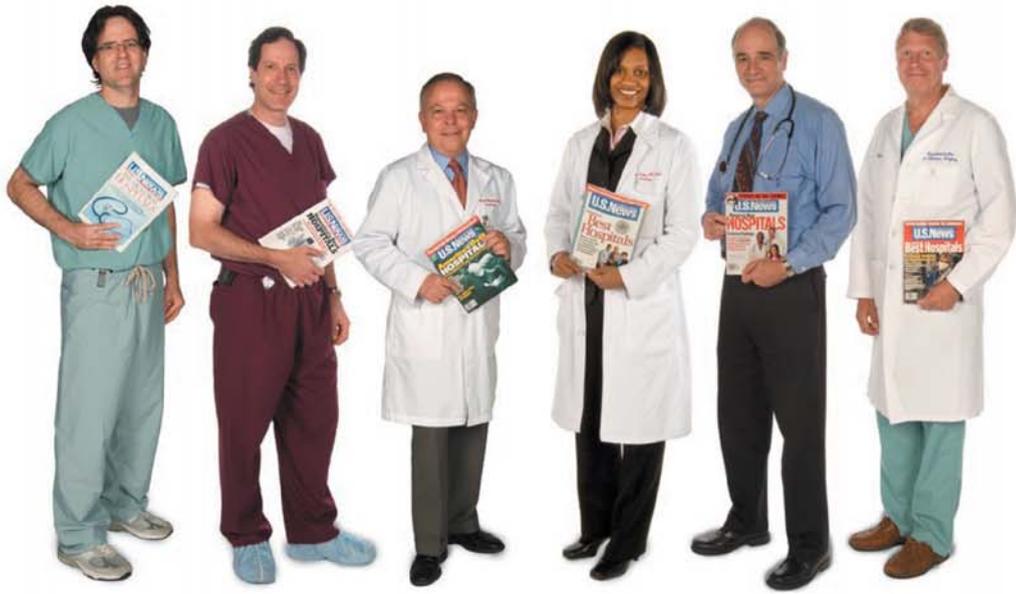
Department of Human Services Office on Aging, Inova Hospitals. Together, they're trying to identify the gaps in services to Alexandria's elderly community.

Representing one of the stakeholders at last week's meeting was Mary Ann Griffith, director of Aging with the Alexandria Office of Senior Services. She's also on the board of a similar project in the Palisades neighborhood of Washington, D.C. and feels this type of grassroots organization is go-

ing to help people to be able to age in place.

"No one alive wants to go to a nursing home," according to Griffith. "But there's no one organization, public or private, that can meet all the needs of the aging population. This is a way to supplement services that may be needed."

"Besides," she added, "Isn't it so much more pleasurable to have a neighbor go with you to a doctor's appointment rather than some stranger driving a cab?"



Niv Ad, MD, Chief of Cardiac Surgery; Marc Wish, MD, Chief of Cardiology; Harvey Sherber, MD, Medical Director, Cardiac Services; Christine Bussey, MD, Medical Director, Nuclear Cardiology; Nick Cossa, MD, Medical Director, Level 1 Access; Alan Speir, MD, Medical Director, Cardiac Surgery

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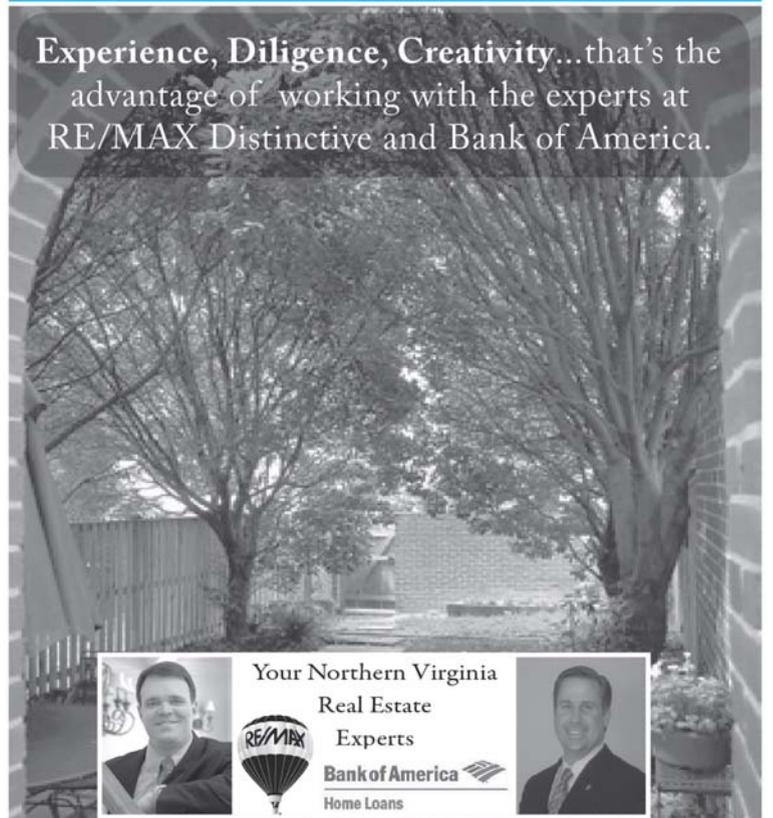
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Sandy McConville 703-402-1567



Alex./Clover \$1,199,000
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317 Crown View
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Alex./Beverley Hills
 Spacious light-filled brick Colonial w/3 bedrms, 2 baths, large corner lot, finished LL, stone patio, 3 fireplaces, formal dining/family rm & much more.
720 Overlook Drive
Sandy McConville 703-402-1567



Alex./South \$535,000
 Wonderful 3 BR, 3 BA home w/updated kit, attached gar, bright sunroom & quiet backyard awaits. Move-in ready. Minutes to community center, local shops & restaurants.
6502 Bluebill Land
Jennifer Bobsein 703-835-1256



Falls Church
 Spacious colonial w/3 bedrms, 2.5 baths & garage. Corner lot. Finished LL. Family rm w/wood-burning fireplace, formal dining & eat-in kitchen.
3300 Fallowfield Drive
Sandy McConville 703-402-1567



Alex./Old Town \$775,000
 Gorgeous kitchen with Wolf range & many up-grades. Fully renovated in very good taste.
914 South Fairfax Street
Diann Hicks 703-628-2440



Arlington \$199,500
 Spacious 1 bedroom/1 bath condo w/garage parking. Gorgeous renovated kitchen. Balcony. Close to Shirlington.
4600 Four Mile Run Drive #105
Sandy McConville 703-402-1567



Alex./Old Town \$323,800
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922 South Washington Street #110
Barbara Rosen 703-407-6481



Alexandria \$895,000
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Julie Hall 703-786-3634



Alexandria \$614,900
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913 Oronoco Street
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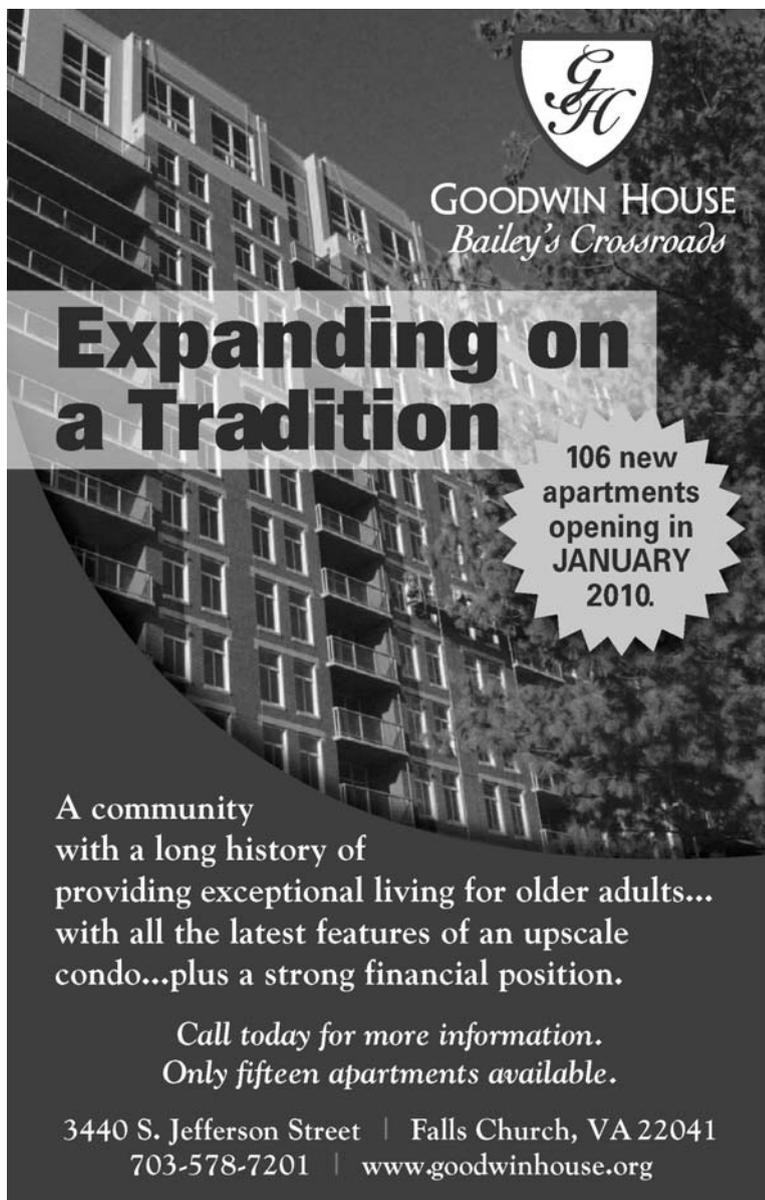
Late-Night Hang-Out. Every Thursday and Friday nights from 9 p.m. to midnight. At Charles Houston Community Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Basketball league games, card tournaments, table game tournaments, DJ music. For young adults, 19 years and up. Call 703-838-4814.

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.

THURSDAY/OCT. 8

Creative Source Trade Show. 5-8 p.m. Vendors are exhibiting a variety of products and services including graphic design, photography, writing, web design and IT, envelope manufacturing, eco-friendly paper, video production, printing, letterpress printing, event production, 3D animation, make-up and signs and banners. At the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 625 First Street, off N. Washington Street, Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-328-8046.



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OPINION

October Is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Early detection is key to success.

Last week, the American Cancer Society reported that women diagnosed with breast cancer are seeing increasingly positive results from treatment, with mortality rates continuing to drop, a trend that began in 1990.

In 2009, I was one of more than 190,000 U.S. women diagnosed with breast cancer.

In June, still in the midst of a regimen of chemotherapy, I walked in the Komen Global Race for the Cure on the National Mall.

It wasn't the first time I had participated in the event, but it was my first time as a breast cancer survivor.

Now finished with my treatment, this is my first October — Breast Cancer Awareness Month — as a member of the club of more than 2.5 million women in the country with a history of breast cancer. And like the majority of women whose breast cancer is detected

early, my prognosis is excellent.

Many, many readers and community members reached out to me warmly over the course of the year, and the support from coworkers, community members, breast cancer survivors, family and friends has been amazing and contributed mightily to my health and energy throughout my treatment.

But despite the advances in early detection, treatment and mortality rates, more than 40,000 women will die of breast cancer this year in this country.

As you think about breast cancer survivors and feel empathy for those in the midst of treatment, I urge the women reading this to be sure that they are taking care of themselves, for everyone reading this to be sure the women in their lives are as well.

Early detection is the key. Breast cancer is detected early by self-exams, by doctor exams and by mammograms. Be sure you show up for all of the above on your own behalf.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Get Involved

Here are a few of many local events in October to support breast cancer awareness.

Breast Education Day, Inova Fairfax Hospital, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., 3300 Gallows Road, Falls Church, no registration required.

It's too late to join the **2009 Komen DC 3-Day** for the Cure, which takes place this weekend, but you can still donate, or sign up for the 2010 event at www.the3day.org. Thousands will walk 60 miles over three days to raise awareness and money.

20th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Conference at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Saturday, Oct. 17, 9-3. Call 703-558-0913 to register. John T. Hazel, MD Conference Center, 1701 N. George Mason Drive, Arlington.

The annual **Walk to Fight Breast Cancer**, organized by the City of Alexandria's Office on Women and Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation, is Saturday, Oct. 24, at 8 a.m. and includes 1.5K/3.5K/5K walk or run. Registration 6:30 am - 8 am inside the lobby of the AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theatres, 206 Swamp Fox Road. www.alexcanwalk.com

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, **Breast Health and Women's Imaging Open House**, Monday, Oct. 19, 5 – 7 p.m., 2501 Parker's Lane, Alexandria.

Dine Out and Shop for the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer, Tuesday, Oct. 20. Restaurants, retail stores, spas, and many other businesses throughout Alexandria will be contributing a portion of their proceeds throughout the day to the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer. All funds raised from this event will go to support Alexandria's Breast Cancer Fund at Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation. www.alexcanwalk.com

Read "Race for the Cure, a Personal Note," from June: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=328740&paper=63&cat=110>

EDITORIAL

Figuring Out the Bottom Line

BY MARY ANNE WEBER
CHAIR,
ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

While economists talk of the beginning of recovery, government officials on the local, state and national levels talk about the need for continuing cuts. The scene is no different in Alexandria as public officials begin preparations for the next budget-go-round which will not be settled until April 2010. Nonetheless they must do their thinking and planning now with the best information they have available.

At the same time Alexandria has been named the most charitable city for per capita giving for the second year in a row. That is not surprising to anyone who has lived here for awhile. For one thing, this is a pretty wealthy city, for another its residents are always willing to roll up their sleeves and donate their time, talent and money to a plethora of causes. If you want to help, you are always welcome here.

So shouldn't that mean that everyone's needs are met either by the government or by charity? Shouldn't private philanthropy be able to pick up the slack as governments slash and cut? No, not really and we have already seen that.

Charities across the region are frantically trying to make up the money lost from cut government grants and contracts and dried-up funding sources. At the same time, donors with less discretionary income are carefully choosing who they will give to and how much. And not all needs are equally popular. It is much easier to raise money for vulnerable young children than it is to help those addicted to drugs to recover. People are more easily touched by appeals to fight cancer than they are about appeals to fight schizophrenia. Finding homes for the survivors of a flood is easier than finding homes for those coming



Mary Anne Weber

out of prison looking for a chance to turn their lives around.

THAT IS WHY the government safety net is there, to provide care to those who are not lovable as well as those who are. Throughout our history we have had public hospitals and clinics, public schools, public orphanages, public housing, public work projects. Some systems have worked, some haven't, but behind it all was the belief that "yes we are our brother's keeper" and that in some cases that keeper must be the gov-

ernment.

In good times that is relatively easy. The city of Alexandria has always had a reputation as a city that cared, not only in its private charities, but in public expenditures as well. When bad times came, city officials had to be responsible stewards, to look for waste, inefficiencies, duplications, better ways to provide the same services. All that is laudable. Shredding the safety net is not.

Residents who worry about cuts in services have already spoken up about not cutting programs for children, particularly programs designed to prevent drug and alcohol abuse, participation in gangs and other dangerous behavior. And they are right. Those are valuable, cost effective programs that work.

But no one is speaking up to continue inpatient and outpatient treatment for those addicted to drugs or alcohol or those with mental illness. No one is asking what happens to adults with intellectual disabilities if they no longer have help finding jobs, getting Social Security, finding housing, help paying bills and dealing with the world at large. No one seems to be concerned about what happens to emergency crisis services. Or clients coming out of hospital or residential institutions. No one is worried about the resident mak-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Increase Gas Tax

To the Editor:

Our local newspapers have written repeatedly on the need to provide additional transportation revenue, particularly to the Metro system which capably serves our region and dramatically reduces traffic congestion each day for Washington commuters. The Metro Board has consistently struggled with funding for operations and maintenance needs, and with increasing ridership our region has come to rely on Metro to handle the region's mobility. It is increasingly apparent that our region needs a safe, reliable and convenient Metro system.

But in many respects "you get what you pay for," and if our region wants a first class transit system we must put the needed resources in place for Metro to meet our growing needs. Additional federal, state and local resources are needed by Metro, and I wish to be counted as one elected official who advocates for additional funding. In fact, I propose an increase in the Northern Virginia gas tax as the first step for additional Metro funding.

Northern Virginia presently has a 2 percent gas tax which is devoted to Metro funding, and this levy has not been increased since the 1980s. Every 1 percent in

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Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter, 703-778-9437
alexandriagazette@yahoo.com

Steve Hibbard
Associate Editor, 703-778-9412
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Jon Roetman
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Photography:
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CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
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CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
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Mary Kimm
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703-778-9433
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Jerry Vernon
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Wesley DeBrosse
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SEE DIFFERENCE. PAGE 13

SEE LETTERS. PAGE 8

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

crease in the gas tax would yield approximately \$19.3 million in additional funding for Metro. Our local dollars represent a substantial down payment on improving our regional transit system which moves thousands of people each day, and hopefully our funding will leverage federal and state funds for Metro.

Additionally, there are other reasons for Northern Virginia to consider an increase in the gas tax:

Additional transit revenues should come from the driving public and not from real property taxpayers. In many respects, gas taxes are much like user fees. Travelers and visitors to the region should pay more of the burden as they are some of the direct beneficiaries of reduced congestion brought to the region by Metro. Additional gas tax revenues will also diversify our revenue base and ease the burden on real property owners who presently pay the difference between current gas taxes and our jurisdictional shares of Metro funding.

The potential for more federal funds for Metro operations and maintenance may come with a requirement for additional local funding, and a gas tax increase will help satisfy that requirement.

Additional local funding from Northern Virginia serves as a powerful statement to state and federal officials that we value Metro and that we, as a region, are willing to pay more for a safe, reliable mass transit system.

The Northern Virginia gas tax rate has not been substantially increased since the 1980s, and even with a 2 percent rate increase Northern Virginia remains competitive with the Maryland and the District where local gas taxes are higher.

Additional operating revenues will help keep fares at their current levels so they do not become a deterrent to transit usage, keeping commuters off already

crowded roadways.

I think it is apparent that our localities will be facing high Metro allocations next year for both operations and maintenance, and we must be forward thinking when anticipating this increase. I believe a modest gas tax increase affords us to best opportunity to meet this growing demand in a fair and equitable manner.

Kerry J. Donley
Vice Mayor
City of Alexandria

Watch for STOP Stickers

To the Editor:

Northern Virginia residents should prepare for a shock — a sticker shock, that is. In a regional campaign to prevent underage drinking, teams of youth and adults will place STOP stickers on multi-packs of beer, wine coolers and other alcohol products in stores throughout Northern Virginia, beginning Oct. 10.

This Sticker Shock campaign is a youth-led initiative to educate adults who might be tempted to purchase alcohol legally and provide it to minors. The stickers tell adult shoppers to “Know the Law: It is illegal for any person 21 or older to purchase or provide alcohol to minors. Fines are up to \$2,500 or one year in jail.”

Why is Sticker Shock important here in Northern Virginia? Research shows that too many local teens are using alcohol, many times to get drunk. In a recent Alexandria survey, 17 percent of high school students who drank alcohol in the past month said that someone gave alcohol to them, and during focus groups in 2008, students reported that alcohol was “easy” to get. Often an older sibling, friend or stranger purchases beer or wine coolers for a minor.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



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OPINION

Poverty Up: Non-profits Need Help

BY DEL. DAVID ENGLIN
2009-2010 ALEXANDRIA UNITED WAY
CAMPAIGN CHAIR

You may have read recently about the changing face of poverty, about people who once lived comfortably now shopping at food banks or living in shelters. Even here, poverty is on the rise. However, when times are tough, the strong, vibrant, diverse community Alexandrians enjoy carries on because those of us blessed with a little more than we need reach out to lend a hand to those of us who need a little more. As what some are calling the Great Recession puts the squeeze on more of our neighbors, our community must come together now more than ever to help those among us struggling to make ends meet.

Despite our relatively affluent city, more than 1,800 families live below the poverty line (up 12 percent over last year) and more than 7,100 Alexandrians rely on food stamps (up 21 percent over last year), and over half of the children in our public schools qualify for federally subsidized lunches. Many of our citizens cannot afford basic human necessities like food, clothing and shelter, let alone other needs like health care, child care, drug treatment, tutoring, and job training.

Through our tradition of caring and activism, we have risen to address these community challenges during good times and bad. As the demand for safety net services increases, the government resources available to provide those services continues to

dwindle. That means we must depend ever more on the extraordinary efforts of our community's non-profit human service providers, which work faithfully to serve those in need.

We know that supporting the work of these organizations is one way we can do our part to help. But who has the time to research which agencies work best and are meeting our community's most pressing needs?

CONTRIBUTING to this year's Alexandria United Way Campaign, which is just now getting under way, is a great way to ensure that your charitable investment is being well spent. While you may certainly designate your contribution to the organization of your choice, I strongly encourage you give your money to the Alexandria Community Impact Fund (Code 9001).

Gifts to the Alexandria Community Impact Fund are distributed by a knowledgeable committee of Alexandria volunteers who work with nonprofit, government, and business leaders to identify gaps in services and make sure your money goes to specific local initiatives to address those Alexandria needs.

This year, the Alexandria Community Impact Fund distributed more than \$153,685 to 25 Alexandria nonprofits for programs such as: Healthy Families Alexandria for prenatal and early childhood development services; Senior Services of Alexandria for its Senior Taxi program to help elderly citizens remain

SEE AS POVERTY RISES, PAGE 13



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

Sometimes it's even parents who purchase alcohol products for their teens and turn a blind eye to parties in their homes where alcohol is available.

The penalties for providing alcoholic beverages to minors are significant, but the real damage is to our youth whose safety, health and bright futures are jeopardized when they drink. News reports of teens who are killed in horrific collisions after drinking alcohol provided by adults are a sobering reminder of the devastating consequences of teen drinking. In addition, research from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services confirms the serious damage that alcohol does to the brains and bodies of young people who are still developing. Youth who begin drinking at age 15 are five times more likely to report abuse of or dependence on alcohol than adults who first used alcohol at age 21.

Sticker Shock is designed to make adults think twice and turn away from purchasing alcohol for minors. Alexandria's Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Arlington County's R.E.A.D.Y. Coalition, and MADD of Northern Vir-

ginia are pleased to organize this first ever regional Sticker Shock campaign. Youth-adult teams will visit more than more than 100 stores in the City of Alexandria and Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William counties. Working together, we hope to send shock waves through the region with the message that it's simply not OK — and against the law — to purchase or give alcoholic beverages to underage youth.

Allen Lomax
Chair

Substance Abuse Prevention
Coalition of Alexandria

Linda Henderson
Member

Arlington R.E.A.D.Y. Coalition
(Reduce or Eliminate Alcohol &
Drug Use by Youth)

Jennifer Hamilton
Executive Director

MADD of Northern Virginia

Targeted Tax Incentive

To The Editor:

Please remind your readers that Virginia's annual energy and water efficiency sales tax holiday begins Friday, Oct. 9 and runs

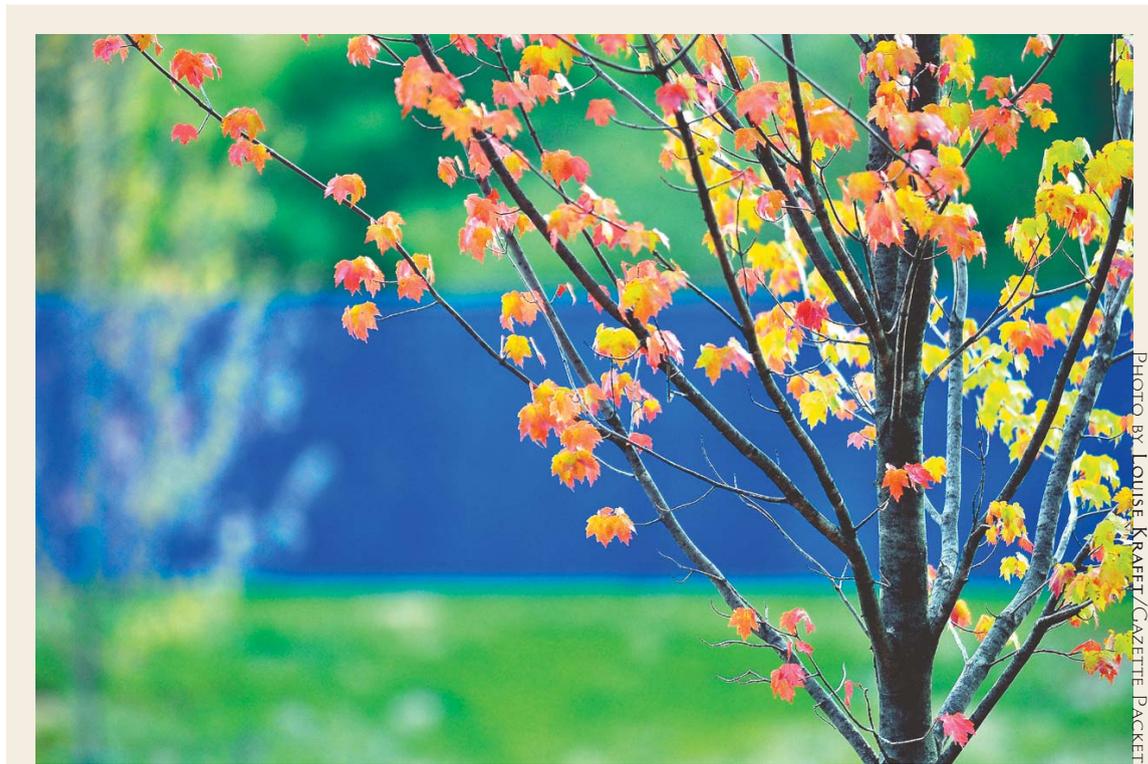


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CAZETTE PACKET

Snapshot 4:52 p.m., Oct. 6: A view from the parking garage at T.C. Williams High School.

through Monday, Oct. 12. During this four-day period, customers will not be charged the 5 percent state and local retail sales tax on Energy Star and WaterSense qualified products purchased for non-commercial use that cost \$2,500 or less. The exempt Energy Star items include dishwashers, clothes washers, refrigerators, air condi-

tioners, ceiling fans, compact fluorescent light bulbs, and programmable thermostats that carry the Energy Star designation. The exempt WaterSense items include bathroom sink faucets, faucet accessories, and toilets.

This is the kind of targeted tax incentive that can encourage people to invest in readily avail-

able consumer technologies that ultimately protect the environment by reducing demand for electricity and water. Not only is this a win-win for Virginia consumers, businesses, and the environment, but it will also give our local retailers a boost by drawing in

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

kiskadee



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Difference Between Fair and Just

FROM PAGE 8

ing \$15,000 a year whose insurance won't pay for mental health care or the very expensive drugs that enable that resident to be a productive member of society. There seems to be no voice for the high-risk infants who will not receive the services they need to thrive. No one seems concerned that our local jail is overrun with citizens with mental illness and substance abuse problems who need treatment, not incarceration, to help them live law-abiding lives in our city.

WHEN PUBLIC OFFICIALS are charged with saving money and making budget cuts, they often think that it is fair if they make cuts across the board. It may be fair but it isn't just. Not all needs are equal.

Some cuts will be a hardship. But others could and will cost lives. As Alexandrians continue to grapple with slimmer budgets, they will have to first decide just what their vision of Alexandria is. And just what and who is the city responsible for. What is the city's bottom line?

We at CSB have to ask that question because we serve the city's poorest, most fragile people. Forty-five percent of our clients make under \$5,000 a year. Almost 90 percent have incomes under \$25,000. Private care is not an option. It is us or no one. The same disabilities that require our care are also the reason they do not making a living wage or in some cases find it impossible to get a job of any kind. The world is not fair. But we can at least make it a little more just.

As Poverty Rises, More Help Needed

FROM PAGE 10

in their own homes; Community Lodgings for its Transitional Housing Program; Computer C.O.R.E for job training programs to promote self sufficiency; the David's Place day shelter program for the homeless at Carpenter's Shelter; and Food and Friends, which delivers meals to homebound patients with HIV/AIDS.

As this year's chair of the Alexandria United Way Campaign, I urge all Alexandrians to be aware of the needy, the forgotten, and the unfortunate in our community during these difficult economic times, and to support the vital work of our non-profit agencies. For more information about the United Way, visit the Web site at www.unitedwaynca.org, or call the Alexandria United Way office at 703-549-4447.

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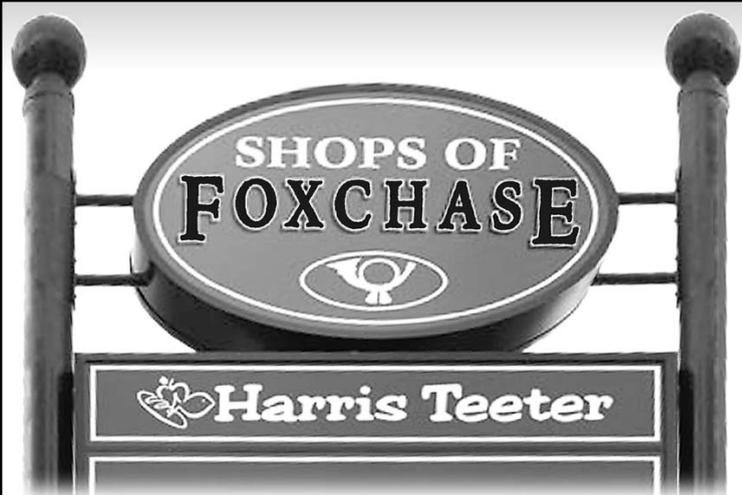
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For more information please contact: Bekah Atkinson at 301-592-0567, x12 • batkinson@thesienaschool.org or Lois McCabe at 301-299-4602 • lois@thedienerschool.org

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

people from D.C. and Maryland. More information about exempt items, along with guidelines for the sales tax holiday and a set of frequently asked questions, are available on the Tax Department's Sales Tax Holiday Information Center at www.tax.virginia.gov.

David Englin
 Delegate, 45th District

No child should leave school without someone knowing for sure that there is supervision.

Geri Baldwin
 Alexandria

Watch Timing Of Elections

To the Editor:

In the 2008 Presidential election, 72 percent of Alexandria's registered voters turned out to vote. At 10 a.m. on Election Day the line at my polling place stretched out the school gym door and half way down a long block. I fervently hope we have the same turnout for the 2012 Presidential election.

Holding the 2012 election has problems we didn't have in 2008. As its last act, in June 2009, the previous City Council rescheduled the next Council election to coincide with the 2012 Presidential election.

Part of the great turnout we experienced in 2008 was because of the intense media interest and blanket news coverage for the Presidential candidates. Does anyone think that in 2012 the area

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

Taking Responsibility

To the Editor:

At times we all like to try and help out in matters that are sometimes out of our hands — especially when it comes to a child's safety.

Thanks to Officer Danny Gordon of the City of Alexandria Police Department for responding Sept. 9 to a child found without any supervision.

It's up to us in the community to play a role in every child's life and safety and call the police.

I believe the school system should communicate more clearly with parents of a child who is staying for an after-school program.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

wide newspapers or the network television news will even mention that there's a City Council election in Alexandria?

Many Alexandria voters will arrive at the polls unaware there is a City Council election and they can't be blamed for that. If even a fraction of voters choose to vote for City Council candidates, that act alone will lengthen the waiting time for every voter. At least some voters will walk away without voting. We must do something to solve these problems.

Newly elected Councilman Frank Fannon and others have made proposals to shift away from Council elections in even years, when the focus is on national affairs. The proposals generally lengthen the Council term to four years so that every Council election is held in a November when the other offices up for election are seats in the General Assembly. These ideas separate the Council election from the Presidential election and need further consideration and study.

Another idea, having staggered terms for City Council, possibly electing three Coun-

cil members at a time instead of six, does nothing to solve the problems of a 2012 Council election. Instead it creates a new problem, less responsive government. Having staggered terms would serve to distance our City Council members from the electorate and insulate our elected representatives from the wishes of the voters. Accountability for our elected officials needs to be encouraged and strengthened, not intentionally diminished.

The model for a governing body responsive to the popular will is the United States House of Representatives. All House mem-

bers serve a two-year term and then must answer to the voters as an entire body. Throughout American history, this has always worked as it was intended, to reflect changes in the public will. A local City Council with staggered terms, is by design less responsive than the House of Representatives. That is not acceptable.

Katy Cannady

President, Alexandria League of Women Voters
East Oak Street
Alexandria

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Tatum Drive
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JUST LISTED!

4821
Stillwell Avenue
\$499,000
Curb Appeal!

Character abounds in this fabulous Cape Cod, lovingly maintained and significantly updated by its caring owners. Four bedrooms, two full baths, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail, custom built-ins, updated kitchen and finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on magnificent half acre lot just steps to acres and acres of Fairfax County parkland!

JUST LISTED!

4816
Stillwell Avenue
\$575,000
Renovated!

Unique opportunity! This exceptionally large 5 or 6 bedrooms home is located in a gorgeous setting on a half acre lot bordering acres of county parkland. Renovated throughout, it features an updated kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, finished lower level, in-law suite and large deck. A recently remodeled home of this size in a premier setting creates a truly one of a kind value!

8108
East Boulevard Dr
\$2,395,000
Premier Property!

Custom Boucher built classic on magnificent full acre lot just 3 miles to Old Town! Spacious residence with elegant Colonial detail, custom brick exterior, 3 finished levels, handcrafted cabinetry and brick work, gourmet kitchen, 4.5 luxurious baths, high ceilings, 4 frpls and 3 car garage. Magnificent private setting on professionally landscaped grounds, convenient to everything!

WATERFRONT!

9380
Mt Vernon Circle
\$3,500,000
Private Estate!

Classic Colonial facade with magnificent interior featuring glass walled addition across the rear. Meticulously maintained four bedroom, three level home is loaded with special features and upgrades. Stunning custom addition overlooks beautifully landscaped yard & the most spectacular custom pool you'll ever find!

3906
Rive Drive
\$998,500
Stunning Property!

Truly the most spectacular property you will ever find! Unique home has been completely updated with breathtaking results! Bright & open floor plan, 3 finished levels including full walk-out lower level, 4/5 BRs, 3.5 BAs, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning master suite and custom river view screened porch house with deck. Expansive glass window walls capture river views and natural beauty of almost full acre site.

OPEN SUN 1-4

1732 W ABINGDON DRIVE #202
Alexandria
\$250,000

POTOWMACK CROSSING! Well-kept 1BR Old Town condo with lots of updates & built-ins. Bright sunny 2nd floor unit with spacious open floor plan. Washer/dryer in unit. Low condo fee. One traffic light to DC. DIR: from DC, S GW Parkway, R Slater Lane, immediate R on Abingdon to unit on the left.

Martha Deal 703.622.6797

JUST LISTED

7112 WESTFIELD CT
Alexandria - \$289,000

Start here with this classy 2 lvl TH tucked away in quiet cul-de-sac; mins to METRO, OT, Belvoir & DC. 2 Master Suites w/private updated baths, renovated contemporary eat-in kit, oversized LR/DR combo w/FP, hdwd & SGD to fab deck & fenced yard. New HVAC, HWH, pipes, paint,

lighting, landscape & more!
Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

OPEN SUN 1-4

1616 BOYLE ST
Parker Gray
Historic District
\$512,000

- Spacious end unit w/ addition
- 3 BR, 2 BA
- Very nice kit w/SS appl & granite
- Deck off LR
- Deep yard
- 5 min walk to metro

Martine Imer 703.346.7283

7501
Park Terrace Drive
\$1,150,000
Stunning!

Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style, this 1.13 acre property sits on a bluff overlooking acres of parkland with seasonal river views! Heart of redwood features, large room sizes, high ceilings and expansive glass window walls capture the natural beauty of the grounds. Off GW Pkwy just 3 miles from Old Town. (Adjoining 1.18 acre available for \$975,000.)

PRICE SLASHED!

4307
Sheridan's Point
\$794,500
Georgian Colonial!

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

NEW PRICE!

4401
Jackson Place
\$475,000
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!

OPEN SUN 1-4

426 ALFRED ST
Alexandria
\$935,500

Must see this renovated and expanded home - you WILL be impressed. Over 2,300 sq ft of new living space with 3BR and 3.5BA. Master BR with balcony and gorgeous Bath, Gourmet Kitchen overlooking FamRm, Brazilian cherry hardwoods throughout. Deep landscaped backyard and with 2-car parking. All NEW in desirable Old Town!

Mary Taylor 703.785.5619

OPEN SUN 1-4

631 D ST, NW #1034
Washington, DC
\$379,000

SOPHISTICATED ONE BEDROOM w/open floor plan, granite & cherry cabs w/breakfast bar. 2 fitness ctrs, rooftop pool w/stunning views. 24-hour security & concierge. Convenient to 2 METRO stops. W/in walking distance to everything DC.

Mary Bourke 703.906.5825

RIVER TOWERS CONDO
\$249,000

Updated, immaculate 2BR/1.5BA condo in popular River Towers community - newly refinished wood floors, freshly painted, updated kit, baths

appliances & convectors replaced - amenities incl outdoor pool, tennis, club room, basketball ct, garden plots & picnic areas - condo fee incl utilities

Frank Roberts 703.898.0840

WATERFRONT!

4003
Belle Rive Terrace
\$4,200,000
Riverfront!

Just reduced! Prime Mount Vernon location with the most breathtaking river views you have ever seen! Over 11,000 sq ft with five bedrooms including main level river view master suite with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River!

9411
Brambly Lane
\$975,000
New Luxury Home!

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

8826
Camden Street
\$899,500
Stratford Landing!

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!

JUST LISTED

4600 S FOUR MILE RUN DR #906
Arlington - \$209,000

Spacious 2BR/2BA home in The Carlton with impressing skyline views & open floor plan perfect for relaxation or entertaining. Building amenities include outdoor pool, exercise room, party room & ideal location just minutes from Shirlington.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252

JUST LISTED

3847 WATKINS MILL RD
Townes at Cameron Parke
\$499,900

West of Old Town Alexandria, Close to 2 METRO stations is this beautiful & spacious 3BR/2.5 bath townhome. Lots of upgrades. Features include: fireplace, brick lower level fenced in patio, large deck off the kitchen. Pool, Garage and the Dash bus stop.

Email delaine@inf.com for more information:
Delaine Campbell 703.518.8740

ALSO FOR RENT

2106 FORESTHILL ROAD
Alex / Belle Haven
\$1,499,000

Classic ctr hall Col. 5BR/3.5BA, updated kit w/eat-in space, exposed brick FP, butler's pantry & heart of pine flrs. Hwd flrs, deep moldings, slate roof, copper gutters & plaster walls, fin rec rm & enclosed garden. For a private showing call...

Betty Quirk 703.851.3447
bettyquirk.com or liveinbellehaven.com

REDUCED!

540 SECOND ST #403
Old Town - \$649,000

Sophisticated light-filled top floor condo with 9 foot ceilings, hardwoods & plantation shutters. This 1,485 sqft, 2BR, 2.5BA home boasts Chef's kitchen, granite, stainless steel appliances, double sided FP & closets galore.

Sharon Edwards

8063 FAIRFAX RD
Alexandria \$789,500

NEW HOMES starting at \$789,500. INCREDIBLE VALUE **Delivery 90-110 days** Gorgeous stone front Colonial loaded w/charm. 4BR/3.5BA, front porch, gourmet kit w/granite, hdwd flrs. 2-car gar. *Other lots / models available.

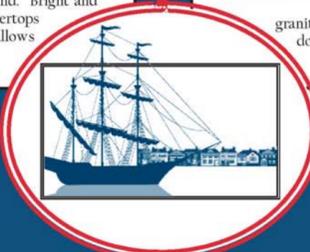
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NEW PRICE!

7330 STREAM WAY
Springfield - \$349,000

IMMACULATE, like-NEW, 3 level Townhouse w/top to bottom renovations! 3BR,2.5BA, fully finished w/out lower level, fabulous big fenced yard, deck, separate DR & LR w/Fireplace. New HVAC, roof, baths, floors, paint, windows & more! Must see! Minutes to METRO & roadways.

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



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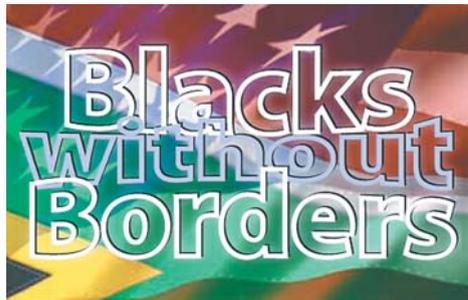


“From Florida to Coahuila.”

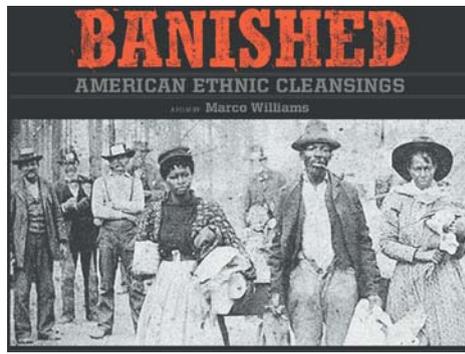


TOM DEWOLF / THE GAZETTE

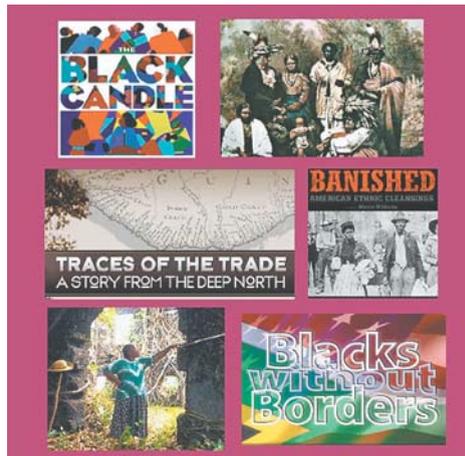
“Traces of the Trade: A Story From the Deep North.” Whip and manacles reportedly found at The Mount, the mansion originally built by James DeWolf.



“Blacks Without Borders: Chasing the American Dream in South Africa.”



“Banished”



“SankofaSpirit”



A KWANZAA CELEBRATION

“The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration.”



“The Language You Cry In”

Movies with a Mission

Alexandria Black History Museum presents cinema about African experience.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is partnering with SankofaSpirit to share its “Movies with a Mission” with local audiences. This new monthly series begins on Saturday, Oct. 10, and continues on the second Saturday of each month through Saturday, March 13. Screenings begin at 4:30 p.m. at the museum, 902 Wythe Street, and will be followed by a discussion and gallery walk.

“Movies with a Mission” are free monthly films from and about Africa and the African Diaspora that seek to inform and inspire dialogue. Reservations are requested, as seating is limited. For more information or to make a reservation, call 703-838-4356.

OCT. 10

“Traces of the Trade: A Story From the Deep North.” In the series premiere, this film follows the disturbing journey of discovery into the history and “living consequences” of slavery. Katrina Browne discovered that her slave-trading ancestors from Rhode Island were not an aberration. Rather, they were the most prominent actors in the North’s vast complicity in slavery, buried in myths of Northern

innocence. Browne, a direct descendant of slaver Mark Anthony DeWolf, and nine other descendants, traveled from Rhode Island to Ghana to Cuba and back, revisiting the Triangle Trade that made the DeWolfs the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. “Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North” is Browne’s spellbinding account of the journey that resulted.

NOV. 14

“Blacks Without Borders: Chasing the American Dream in South Africa.” This ground-breaking documentary takes a heartfelt look at the emotional journey of a group of African Americans who called it quits in the U.S. to start a new life in South Africa, chronicling 12 modern-day globetrotters who have uprooted their lives in pursuit of their dreams and are finding that America is not the only land of opportunity. The film provides a candid and touching tale of sacrifice, hardship and great rewards by U.S.-born citizens as they adjust to the cultural differences and combat negative perceptions that America may garner in other parts of the world.

DEC. 12

“The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration.” This landmark, vibrant documentary uses Kwanzaa as a vehicle to explore and celebrate the African-American

experience. Filmed across the United States, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean, “The Black Candle” is a timely illumination on why the seven principles of Kwanzaa are so important to African-Americans today. It traces the holiday’s growth out of the Black Power Movement in the 1960s to its present-day reality as a global, pan-African holiday embraced by over 40 million celebrants.

JAN. 9

“Banished.” This documentary investigates ethnic cleansing in post-reconstruction America. How did three U.S. towns make African Americans disappear? Filmmaker Marco Williams visits some of the whitest counties in the country to confront the legacy of “banishment” — a wave of racial purging that tore through the South 100 years ago. The wounds of history are opened as Williams sits down with KKK leaders, white residents of these all-white communities, as well as descendants of the banished alike.

FEB. 13

“The Language You Cry In.” This film tells an amazing scholarly detective story that searches for — and finds — meaningful links between African Americans and their ancestral past, bridging hundreds of years and thousands of miles from the Gullah people of present-day Georgia back to 18th-century Sierra Leone. It recounts the even more remarkable saga of how

African Americans have retained links with their African past despite the horrors of the middle passage, slavery and segregation.

MARCH 13

“From Florida to Coahuila.” The final film in this series explores the African legacy in Mexico and focuses on Africans who escaped from slavery in the United States and made their way to the Spanish colony of Florida. There they intermarried with the Seminoles and eventually moved into Mexico and gradually integrated into that culture. A fascinating exploration of a cultural identity that transcends the constraints of political borders!

Founded in 2002, Atlanta-based SankofaSpirit is dedicated to providing cultural and educational programs and services that focus on Africa and the African Diaspora. Through its program and services, SankofaSpirit encourages people of African descent to reconnect with their great legacy. For more information, visit www.sankofaspirit.com.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe Street in the historic Parker-Gray community and is open from Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To learn more about the museum and Alexandria’s rich African-American heritage, visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

Local Fall Fairs & Bazaar Schedule

♦ Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Fun Fair
Woodlawn UMC Church
7730 Fordson Road
703-360-9450

♦ Oct. 17, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Mega Craft Sale
Hollin Hall Senior Center
1500 Shenandoah Road
703-765-4573

♦ Oct. 17, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Annual Fall Fair
Burgundy Farm Country Day School
3700 Burgundy Farm
703-960-3431

♦ Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Fall Festival
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
1427 W. Braddock Road
703-998-4170

♦ Nov. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Winter Wonderland
St. Rita’s Catholic Church
3815 Russell Road
703-836-3538

♦ Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Holiday Bazaar
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1301 Collingwood Road
703-765-6555

♦ Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Emmanuel Church Bazaar
1608 Russell Road
703-683-0798

♦ Nov. 14, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Holiday Bazaar
Washington Street United Methodist Church
115 S. Washington Street
703-836-4324

♦ Nov. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Historic Pohick Church Christmas Mart
Pohick Church
9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton
703-339-6572

♦ Nov. 21, 9:30-4 p.m.
Holiday Shop
Mount Vernon Unitarian Church
1909 Windmill Lane
703-765-5950

♦ Nov. 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Christmas Bazaar
St. Mary’s Catholic School
400 Green Street
703-549-1646

THEATRE

This Play Portrays A Terrible Singer

Strange case of the warbling woman at Gunston Arts Center.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Dominion Stage is presenting a strange sort-of-documentary of a play under the title "Glorious!" at Theatre One in the Gunston Arts Center through this weekend. It portrays the concert career of a woman famous for not being able to hit a note, hold a tone or stay on beat. Just why, then, did her final concert at none other than Carnegie Hall in New York City sell out weeks in advance?

Sadly, this production doesn't really answer the fascinating question the play seems intended to present nor does it succeed in simply making a comic romp of it. Instead, it plods along covering the text but not bringing it to any sort of theatrical life.

The story of Florence Foster Jenkins is true. She really didn't sing anywhere close to acceptably — there are actual recordings of her and listening to them with a straight face is practically impossible. Still, for nearly 30 years before and during World War II, an increasing number of people wanted to attend her recitals which, toward the end, were limited to a single appearance each year at the Ritz-Carlton. Her final, sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall came in 1944, just a month before her death at age 76.

There have been a number of plays written about this inexplicable mystery. The most successful was a hit on Broadway. The play Dominion Stage is presenting, however, is not that one. Instead, "Glorious!" is a British play that was nominated for London's Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy in 2006. While this production does have a few laughs, it is far from being either the comedy the author seems to have intended or an interesting examination of Jenkins's condition as a horrible singer who believes she's marvelous.

Barbara Porter has the unenviable task of singing so poorly, and she does a good job of it. She also sports the costumes (designed by Patsy DiBella Kreger and Eric S. Scerbo) that reflect Jenkins' equally peculiar garb, including a pair of wings and a halo for one scene. Porter ends that sequence beating herself over the head with one of the wings to simulate the concussion Jenkins believed allowed her to sing higher notes than she'd ever reached before.

Just as the real-life Jenkins had a constant companion/accompanist, the strangely named Cosmé McMoon, so too Porter is attended by Bradley Lyon who's ramrod straight back, tightly clamped together knees and slicked hair bespeak a new



Barbara Porter (Florence Foster Jenkins) stars in "Glorious."

level of uptightness. More laid back is Jeff Murray as a friend from New York's theater crowd.

From director Patrick M. Doneghy's staging it is difficult to see just why this would have been honored with a nomination for an award as a comedy. It is more of an oddity than a comedy and, as an oddity, the fascination wears thin long before the evening is over.

Not all the vocalizing the audience hears in this evening is of the absurdly bad kind. In between scenes, true soprano soloist Harlie Sponaugle regales the house with selections from Mozart, Strauss and Puccini. It is as if the audience needed assurance that the human voice was, in fact, capable of producing an occasional beautiful sound. Sponaugle's competent rendition of classical arias demonstrate just how wide the gap is between the sound that came out of Jenkins' mouth and that of a trained concert vocalist, but serves to remind the audience that that this production sheds no light on why anyone wanted to listen to Jenkins. Her "fans" included Cole Porter and Irving Berlin — two gentlemen who knew what a singer should bring to the stage. What did they see (or hear) that escapes us today?

Where and When

The Dominion Stage production of "Glorious!" plays through Oct. 11 at Theatre One in the Gunston Arts Center, 2700 South Lang Street in Arlington. Performances are Friday – Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 703-683-0502 or log on to www.DominionStage.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS at Pentagon Row

OCTOBER 14 • 11:30 PM
Alton Brown appearance at Sur La Table
For more information, call 703-414-3580

OCTOBER 24 • 1-3 PM
Halloween Funfest

NOVEMBER 1
Pentagon Row Outdoor Ice Skating Rink opens
(Date subject to change)

NOVEMBER 14 • 5-7 PM
Holiday Festival

NOVEMBER 15-DECEMBER 31 • 7 PM
Snow at the Row
Nightly snowfall at the Pentagon Row Ice Rink
(weather permitting)



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COMMUNITY

Boutique Week Is Oct. 10-18

For nine days in October, Alexandria's Boutique Week will offer 50 more reasons to shop in Alexandria. From Saturday, Oct. 10, through Sunday, Oct. 18, retailers throughout the city will offer discounts and complimentary gifts with visit or purchase of clothing, accessories, home décor, art, food and wine. Even the dog can get a deal.

A full list of Boutique Week offers and a downloadable entry form can be found at www.AlexandriaBoutiqueWeek.com. Sampling of the deals offered during Alexandria Boutique Week:

Clothing

- ◆ Free gift with purchase at Hysteria and The Shoe Hive;
- ◆ 10 percent off purchase and free gift at Mint Condition, a new, upscale consignment boutique;
- ◆ 15 percent off purchase at Apple Seed Maternity and Baby Boutique;
- ◆ 10 percent off \$75 purchase at Bloomers, an underwear, loungewear and sleepwear boutique;
- ◆ 20 percent off purchase at Monday's Child, a children's boutique selling classic clothes;
- ◆ Free gift with \$25 purchase at Elinor Coleman Vintage Mirage, a vintage clothing and jewelry boutique

featuring items from the Victorian era to the present;

- ◆ Free gift with \$100 purchase at Treat;

Beauty and Accessories

- ◆ 15 percent off jewelry at The Antique Guild;
- ◆ 10 percent off purchase and free jewelry cleaning at Lawrence Miller & Co.;
- ◆ 15 percent off Longchamp handbags, luggage and accessories at Embellishments of Alexandria;
- ◆ Free goodie bag of deluxe-size samples with \$50 purchase at Bellacara, a bath and body care boutique;

Home Décor

- ◆ Free gift with \$100 purchase at Red Barn Mercantile;
- ◆ 25 percent off sale items at Decorium Gift & Home;
- ◆ 20 percent off entire store at Conrad's Furniture Gallery;

Art and History

- ◆ \$10 off original artwork at The Art League Gallery;
- ◆ 10 percent off purchases of \$50 or more at Arts Afire Glass Studio;
- ◆ 20 percent off purchase at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum Store and at the Historic Alexandria History Center and Museum Store;
- ◆ Free gift with \$15 purchase at The

Virginia Shop;

Food and Wine

- ◆ Spend \$30 at ACKC in Del Ray and get a \$15 gift card;
- ◆ 50 percent off second entrée or 20 percent off retail purchase at Grape + Bean;
- ◆ 15 percent off purchase of \$50 at La Cuisine, The Cook's Resource;
- ◆ 10 percent off any bulk candy purchase at The Sugar Cube;

Pets

- ◆ 15 percent off on one pound our more assorted gourmet dog biscuits or buy two 14 oz. bags of Zanadoo dog biscuits get one free at Chateau Animaux;
- ◆ 15 percent off dog costumes at Barkley Square;

Along with the Boutique Week specials, one shopper will walk away with a grand prize shopping package worth over \$1,000 and includes a one-night stay at the Morrison House hotel, located in historic Old Town Alexandria, and an Alexandria shopping spree.

To be eligible for the drawing, download the entry form at www.AlexandriaBoutiqueWeek.com and get it stamped by at five of the participating retailers. The form must be submitted by Sunday, Oct. 18, in one of three ways: (1) drop off flyer at participating shops or at the (2) Alexandria Visitor Center at Ramsay House at 221 King Street, Alexandria; or (3) mail to ACVA at 421 King Street, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314.

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Real food, for real people at reasonable prices.

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

Tuesday - Greek Night
Lamb Marinated and Roasted for 3 hours, Athenian Roast Chicken, Moussaka!

Wednesday - All American Night
Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken, Va. Ham

Thursday - Italian Night
Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

Friday - Fish Night
Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce

Saturday - Steak and Chop Night
Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka

Sunday
Brunch served 7am - 2pm

Dine in or call ahead and your dinner will be ready for pick up.
Dinner hours 2:30-9:30pm
730 North Saint Asaph Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 548-1616

Ample Free Parking

COMMUNITY

Alexandria Family Fall Fest

DATE: SATURDAY, OCT. 17
10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

WHERE: ARMISTEAD L.
BOOTHE PARK — 520
CAMERON STATION BLVD.
(NEXT TO SAMUEL TUCKER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL)

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

10 a.m. — Welcome
10:15 a.m. — Beale Street Puppets
11 a.m. — United Studios of Self Defense Demo
12 p.m. — Beale Street Puppets
1 p.m. — Janet Lagah-Bona
1:15 p.m. — St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Magic Show
2:15 p.m. — Beale Street Puppets

Free activities/booths
Pumpkin Painting by Browne Academy • Bicycle Safety • Fire Department Display • Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center • Hay Ride • Exhibitors • Art Activity with St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School • Robbie the Recycling Squirrel • And more.

Cost is \$5/ticket or 4 for \$15:
Pony Rides • Moon Bounce • Bouncy Boxing • Scarecrow Building • Refreshments and Kettle Korn Sales

Sponsored by the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities in partnership with Browne Academy and St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School.

Call the Events Hotline at 703-883-4686. The City of Alexandria complies with the American with Disabilities Act for qualified individuals. If reasonable accommodation is needed, call 703-838-4902 ten days prior to event.

MUSIC

The Birchmere
3701 Mount Vernon Ave.,
Alexandria. Shows start at 7:30
p.m. For tickets, call 703-549-
7500 or visit
www.birchmere.com.

Oct. 7: An Evening with KEM, a benefit for The Carpenter's Shelter
Oct. 8-9: Nanci Griffith w/ Eric Brace & Peter Cooper with Mike Auldridge
Oct. 10: Tom Paxton with the Kennedys
Oct. 11: Girlyman with special guest PO' Girl
Oct. 12: Renaissance "40th Anniversary Tour"
Oct. 13: Marc Broussard "Welcome to My Living Room"
Oct. 14: Chris Hillman and Herb Pedersen with the Grascals

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Robert Jospé & Inner Rhythm
with Royce Campbell

Friday October 9 7:30 pm 703-933-4135
Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School FREE

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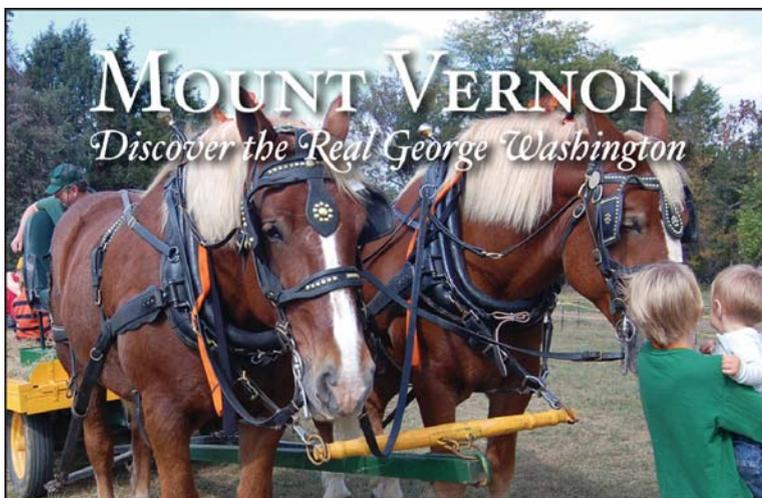
SHOP, DINE & CELEBRATE ON ALEXANDRIA'S HISTORIC MAIN STREETS

Nationally recognized for its early-American architecture, hotels, unique boutiques, award-winning restaurants and historic attractions, Alexandria is a uniquely memorable place to shop, dine and celebrate. Go to VisitAlexandriaVA.com to plan your visit around our many events, such as:

- October 9-10: Old Town Food and Wine Festival
- October 10: Alexandria Arts Safari
- October 17-18: Fall Harvest Family Days
- October 24: Death Comes to Carlyle House
- November 13-15: Historic Alexandria Antiques Show & Sale

Chef Stephen C. Scott, Jr., La Strada.

Take Metro to the free King Street Trolley, operating daily, every 15 minutes, from 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
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Fall Harvest Family Days OCTOBER 17 & 18, 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

Celebrate the fall harvest with a cornucopia of family fun including free wagon rides and a straw bale maze! Meet General Washington, make a cornhusk doll, and learn to dance 18th-century style. Included in Estate admission.

Sightseeing cruises are half-price. Free admission to the Distillery & Gristmill with Estate admission!



FIND MORE SPECIAL EVENTS & VISITOR INFORMATION AT
VISIT.MOUNTVERNON.ORG OR 703-780-2000

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Brunch
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A family-owned Northern Italian restaurant in Del Ray neighborhood offering moderately priced dishes in single and famiglia (shared) portion sizes, and a communal table for group get-togethers, gives solo diners the chance to make new friends, or enjoy glass of wine and antipasti. Large Wine selection with over 50 offered by the glass.

Buon Appetito

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CALENDAR

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

NOW THROUGH OCT. 31

16th Annual Pumpkin Sale. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria (Corner of Seminary Road and Quaker Lane). All proceeds go directly to charity (ALIVE, Carpenter's Shelter, Network Preschool, New Mexico Navajo Indians and many more). Contact Susan D. Dawson at 703-931-4349 or SDDawson@comcast.net.

THURSDAY/OCT. 8

Second Thursday Art Night: Dig It! 6-9 p.m. Free. History Scavenger Hunt, open studios and kids' activities. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Go to www.torpedofactory.org; call 703-838-4565

Andrew McKnight Performs. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$10 and available online at nvfaa.org or at the door. Call 703-548-0035.

FRIDAY/OCT. 9

Jazz Percussionist Robert Jospé. 7:30 p.m. Robert Jospé and Inner Rhythm, featuring guest guitarist Royce Campbell, Pendleton Hall at Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road. Free. Call 703-933-4135 or email arts@episcopalhighschool.org.

Ballroom Dancing for Couples.

Private non-profit dancing club holds dances from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month; waltz, rumba, fox trot, cha cha, swing, tango, and more to live music on large wooden dance floor, Mt Vernon area; \$15 per person. Reservations required. Go to www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com

SATURDAY/OCT. 10

Alexandria Arts Safari Festival. Noon to 4 p.m. Children will enjoy the Clay Experience, Arts Safari Painting, Fabric Collage, Treasure Box Making, Giant Papier Mache Animal, and more. Free admission. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, www.torpedofactory.org.

Community Fall Festival. Noon to 5 p.m. Free. Offers job training, computer clean-up clinic, employment and career development information, as well as free shredding to dispose of documents safely. At the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), 3001 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Contact Kathy M. Clement at 703-933-5081 or kclement@nvcc.edu.

Oktoberfest 2009. Noon to 6 p.m. Good food, good beer, live music and fun for the whole family. Admission is free and tickets will be sold for beer, food, activities. Outdoors at Rustico Restaurant, 827 Slaters Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-224-5051 or go to www.rusticorestaurant.com.

Apothecary Open House. 1-5 p.m. Free. Includes tours, activities, and craft demonstrations. Learn about herbs and discover the important role the apothecary played in early Alexandria. At the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-3852 or <http://oaha.alexandriava.gov/apothecary/>.

OCT. 10-11

Author Joe David Speaks. Author of "Gourmet Getaways" will share his



OCT. 9-10

Repertory Opera Theater of Washington. 8 p.m. \$20/adults, \$15/students and seniors. Presents Vincenzo Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, based on "Romeo and Juliet." At Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Call 571-403-0814.

cooking philosophy on Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. At the Wine Food Festival, Holiday Inn, 625 First Street, Old Town Alexandria.

THURSDAY/OCT. 15

Jim Stephanson and John Previti. 7-9 p.m. Free. Guitarist Jim Stephanson and bassist John Previti will treat visitors to an evening of blues, swing and jazz inspired tunes. 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.

FRIDAY/OCT. 16

Music for String Quartet. 8 p.m. Free. Presented by the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players Series. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

OCT. 16-DEC. 11

Spring Forest Qigong Practice Sessions. 10-11:30 a.m. Cost is \$10/session. Qigong is the study of energy utilizing mental concentration, breath, and body movement. At the Institute for the Advancement of Service, 111 South Columbus St., Alexandria Call 703-706-5333.

OCT. 16-31

"Inherit the Wind" — a fictionalized account of the 1925 Scopes "Monkey" Trial in Tennessee. Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24, 29, 30 and 31 at 8 p.m., and Oct. 18 and 25 at 2 p.m. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church — Wesley Hall, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Go to www.acctonline.org or 703-660-2611.

SATURDAY/OCT. 17

Family Fall Festival. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Armistead Booth Park, 520 Cameron Station Blvd. Call the Events Hotline at 703-883-4686 or the Special Events Office at 703-746-5418.

St. Aidan's Octoberfest and Silent Auction. 3-7 p.m. German Food and Music. Kinderfest from 3-5 p.m. Games, Pumpkin Patch, Face Painting. Fun for everyone. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria. www.staidansepiscopal.org.

Fall Festival. 3-6 p.m. Free. Enjoy Kids Games & Crafts, German Food, Bake Sale, Book Sale, also seasonal flu shots and blood pressure checks. At Nativity Lutheran Church, 1300 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Call Lynne Rizzo at 703-678-9324

UpBeat OffBeat Auction. 7-10 p.m. Del Ray Artisans' classic whacky artful fund-raiser, featuring a live auction of

home furnishings "extremely made over" by local artists. At the Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Details and tickets (\$15 in advance / \$20 at the door) at www.theDelRayArtisans.org.

Wine Party. 7-10 p.m. "La Fête de Lafayette" wine party in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette, the hero of the American Revolution. After-five attire is requested, and reservations are required. Tickets are \$50 a piece for Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society members and \$65 each for non-members. At Gadsbys Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Tickets may be purchased online at www.gadsbystavern.org or by calling 703-838-4242.

Outdoor Craft Fair. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vendors will feature handcrafted items, including jewelry, fabric arts, knitting, oil & watercolor paintings and more. At the Lee-Fendall House Museum, 514 Oronco St., Alexandria.

OCT. 17-18

Mount Vernon's Fall Harvest Family Days. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The entire family will enjoy autumn activities including horse-drawn wagon rides, wheat treading in the 16-sided barn, a straw bale maze, early-American games, music and demonstrations. \$15 adults; \$14 seniors; \$7 children 6-11; free for children under 5. At George Washington's Farm, Mount Vernon. Go to Visit.MountVernon.org for more information.

SUNDAY/OCT. 18

Anna Mwalagho and the Afro Floetry Band. 4 p.m. \$15 donation. At Jazz at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred Street, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1334 or visit <http://meadechurch.org>.

"Metro Cabaret: A Musical Revue." 3 p.m. Free-will offering. With Stephanie Bonte-Lebair, Rachael Goldman, David McMullin and Mimi Youkles, piano. At Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mill Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-5500, ext.103 or visit www.trinityalexandria.org

Historic Huntley Open House. 2-4 p.m. Visit this Federal-style unrestored villa built in 1825 for Thomas Francis Mason, a grandson of George Mason. Kids of all ages will enjoy the puppet show featuring Thomson Francis Mason, as well as guided tours, a scavenger hunt, and light refreshments. At 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria.

Concert. 7 p.m. Miche Fambro, and Brad Yoder with Jason Rafalak. \$18 general, \$15 members or in advance. Contact: Kay at kay@focusmusic.org, 703-501-6061, or log onto FocusMusic.org. At Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Missteps Send Child Wandering

FROM PAGE 1

"There was a clear breakdown here on many levels," said Rodney Salinas, the boy's father. "If anything had happened to my son, I can't even imagine what kind of lawsuit this would created for Alexandria."



Gavin Salinas

the last two years. "We have kids in here all the time from the neighborhood who are dropped off from the bus before their parents arrive. What made this one different is that this kid didn't live in the neighborhood."

The Salinases said they were particularly upset that the school system gave out the mother's cell phone rather than taking action. Violating the privacy of the student and his family by giving information to a stranger is one thing. But failing to take action is another matter,

THE SERIES of events that transpired Monday took place on the first day of "intersessions" at Mount Vernon Community School, classes that take place between semesters at the year-round school. That created part of the confusion leading to Gavin boarding a bus instead of heading for the Campagna Center's after-school program. Despite the fact that Gavin's name was not on the roster, he was among the students on that bus headed for the Arlandria neighborhood.

"We're still trying to figure out how that happened," said Amy Carlini, a spokeswoman for Alexandria City Public Schools. "It could have been information on a sticker Gavin was wearing or it could have been something else that led people to believe that he belonged on that bus."

Carlini said that school policy is that bus drivers make all Kindergarten students sit in the front rows of buses. Furthermore, she said, bus drivers have strict instructions to make sure they hand off Kindergartners to responsible adults rather than let children depart the bus without adequate supervision. Yet neither of these policies were followed because the bus driver had no way of knowing that Gavin was a Kindergarten student.

"None of our bus drivers routinely check the kids who are on the bus against a list," said Carlini. "So the bus driver knows all the Kindergartners who are usually on the bus but Gavin wasn't usually on this bus, and his name would not be on the roster as a Kindergarten student."

Gavin was not alone on an Arlandria street and crying when two children took him to the office at Brookside Apartments. The manager tried to ask him about his name and his parents, but the boy was too distraught to respond. She went through his bookbag and discovered a paper that had his name and the name of the school. Although Kindergarten students are supposed to be released to waiting parents, the apartment manager said her office is frequently the waiting room for children waiting to be reunited with their parents.

"For me, this was normal," said Thelma Oliver, who has been the manager of Brookside Apartments for

and school officials acknowledge that this part of the episode is one of the most disturbing aspects of the events of Monday afternoon.

"That should not have happened," said Carlini. "We're trying to make sure that all the staff members know not to give out this kind of information."

THE EVENTS on Monday offered four distinct points when problems emerged that could have been fixed. First there was the direction for Gavin to board a bus that he had never been on to a neighborhood where he lived. Second was when Gavin boarded a bus he had never been on headed for a neighborhood where he did not live. Third was the bus driver's decision to let Gavin exit the bus even though there was no adult there to greet him. Fourth there was the decision by the Mount Vernon secretary to give out the mother's cell phone number to a stranger over the phone rather than taking action to do something about the situation.

"We are going to make sure this never happens again," said Amy Carlini, spokeswoman for Alexandria City Public Schools. "If anything, this unfortunate event is going to bring an increased awareness and vigilance."

Carlini said that the Mount Vernon school has already created a new policy that will be implemented this week to avoid future confusion about which children are supposed to be on which buses. In the past, attendance information has been kept separately from bus information. But the new system will combine student information with transportation information that will allow more opportunities for cross-checking information to catch errors. School officials are also exploring other options, such as asking bus drivers to take attendance before departing the school and issuing cards that must be swiped before they get on a bus.

"I don't want anyone to be fired over this," said Taryn Salinas. "But I think it's clear that the school system needs to take a look at their protocol."

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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.

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OBITUARY



Margaret Schuette

Margaret Welsh Schuette, 73, of Estero, died peacefully Oct. 4, 2009. She was a loving, devoted and loyal wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, E. Hart Schuette, her children and their spouses, Elizabeth S. and John J. Cuticelli, Jr. of Greenwich, Conn., Bruce H. and Annie E. Schuette of Potomac Falls, Va. and Mark C. and Elizabeth M. Schuette of Dumfries, Va., as well as her grandchildren, Elena Cuticelli Garrett, Lauren Cuticelli Patton, Jonathan P., Ryan H. and Luke Cuticelli, Eric M. and Sarah N. Schuette, and Matthew J., Meghan L. and Colleen E. Schuette. She will be missed by all.

Born Margaret Leng Welsh on April 8, 1936 in Waukegan, Ill., she graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Northwestern University in 1957 where she was a member of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority; she received her M.A. in library science from University of Wisconsin.

With her husband, Hart, she relocated to Estero from Alexandria, Va. in 1996. While residing in Virginia, she served as the director of purchasing at Mount Vernon Hospital (part of the INOVA Hospital Group) during her 18-year tenure there. She was an avid tennis player and played on the Breckenridge tennis team for over 10 years. She loved to travel; she and her husband toured England, Europe, Russia and Africa as well as the Caribbean during her retirement.

A Funeral Mass will be conducted at Our Lady of Light Catholic Community on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009 at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that remembrances be in the form of a donation in her name to Joanne's House Hope Hospice, 27200 Imperial Parkway, Bonita Springs, FL 34135, or Our Lady of Light Catholic Community, 19680 Cypress View Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33967.

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Sponsorship opportunities are still available for this event. Please contact Joe Shumard at jshumard@alexchamber.com for more information.



Thank you to these participating restaurants and businesses for their support by donating a portion of their October 20th proceeds to the event.

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Fast Start for QB Murphy, TC Offense Not Enough

Titans junior makes his first varsity start against West Springfield.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Doug Murphy celebrated the Titans' opening drive with a pump of his fist and a vocal release of emotion.

The junior quarterback, making his first varsity start for the T.C. Williams football team, provided the offense hope of a breakout performance early in Friday's game at West Springfield. First, it was a 56-yard pass to Israel Richardson on third-and-six. Five plays later, Murphy battled his way into the end zone for a 2-yard touchdown and a 7-0 Titans lead.

For a team struggling to solidify the quarterback position, Murphy's early execution — and ensuing celebration — was a good sign.

"I was really pumped up when we scored on our first possession," Murphy said. "It felt great just to score a touchdown on the varsity level."

Despite the promising start, T.C. Williams' offensive struggles would continue as the Titans turned the ball over five times en route to a 15-14 loss to the Spartans. T.C. Williams (2-3 overall, 0-2 Patriot District) turned the ball over six times the previous week against Lake Braddock, though one came on special teams.

Murphy completed 8 of 18 passes for 158 yards but was intercepted four times. After T.C. Williams gained 80 yards on its opening drive, the Titans were limited to 125 the rest of the way. T.C. Williams had to travel only nine yards for its second touchdown — a 1-yard run by Robert Carter —

after Richardson set up the Titans with an 83-yard interception return.

Despite his struggles, Murphy was on target late in the game. With the Titans trailing by one in the final minutes of the fourth quarter, Murphy fired a deep ball up the left sideline, but the intended receiver dropped the pass.

T.C. WILLIAMS head coach Dennis Randolph said poor reads led to Murphy's four interceptions. The coach also said Murphy's overall performance wasn't bad.

"He graded out at about 70 percent. ... He made four critical errors," Randolph said. "But also, at the end, he hit a guy going down the sideline who, if he had caught the ball, would have outrun everybody and scored to win the game. His [Murphy's] evaluation would have been a lot different had that taken place, but you can't fault him because a guy dropped the ball. ... Overall, I think he did pretty well. I'm not going to say he did great, because four interceptions is not a great performance."

"His confidence was a little shaken after those interceptions, but he came back and threw one ball ... right in the guy's hands and he dropped it."

Murphy's start came as Randolph looks for more offensive production — especially from the passing game. Starting quarterback Joe Hargrove suffered a wrist injury before the season and has yet to play. Randolph said Hargrove could return for the Titans' final three regular season games.

Murphy is one of four Titans to play quarterback this season, along with John Bray, Cortez Taylor and Carter, but none have

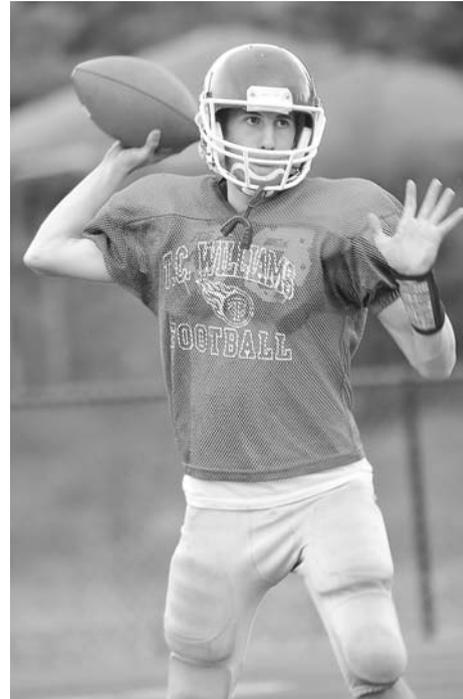


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams quarterback Doug Murphy made his first start for the varsity on Friday against West Springfield. The junior led the Titans to a touchdown on their opening drive, but struggled after.

experienced much success. Bray has struggled with interceptions. Taylor and Carter were moved from other positions in an attempt to spark the offense with their ability to run.

Randolph said Tuesday whichever quarterback is more successful at moving the ball during practice would start Friday against

Annandale. Regardless of who starts, the coach said the Titans need to run the ball better and give Taylor a chance to make plays. Opponents have been focusing on the speedy Taylor, who is a threat to score every time he touches the ball.

"Cortez, people are keying on him a little bit so he hasn't been as productive as he was early," Randolph said, "so we need to get his confidence up so he can get the ball and take off and run — that's what he does best."

TAYLOR SAID that with limited opportunities of late, he looks to do as much damage as possible whenever he touches the ball. He also said he should be able to make a difference no matter where he lines up.

"I feel as though if I'm able to play all the positions — quarterback, running back, wide receiver — there's no way anybody can key on me," he said. "So right now that they're keying on me, I'm just going to be a factor as a wide receiver and just be a decoy for the rest of my players to be successful."

"The first two games it was easier [to gain yards] because they weren't keying on me as much. But the past couple weeks, they've been keying on me so every time I do get the ball it's like I'm working 110 percent just to get as many yards as I can."

T.C. Williams was held to one offensive touchdown Sept. 17 in a 15-9 win over Oakton. The Titans scored 26 points in a Sept. 26 loss to Lake Braddock, but quarterbacks threw five interceptions. How can the offense improve? Taylor had a suggestion.

We need to "trust the quarterback," he said. "I don't think everybody is trusting who we've got in right now. But when we do that, we'll be all right."

T.C. Williams Struggles Without Setter Stone

Titans can't find rhythm as non-setters try to set.

JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams setter Rebecca Stone, wearing blue skinny jeans and a brace on her injured left ankle, watched Tuesday's match against Chantilly from the bench.

Without their floor director, the Titans couldn't find anything to fix their injured offense.

Chantilly swept T.C. Williams 25-15, 25-7, 25-6 at the Garden. With non-setters attempting to set, the Titans failed to establish rhythm and at times individuals looked confused about their responsibilities.

Senior outside hitter Nicole Burdett, one of those forced into setting duty, said she was frustrated as the Titans were limited to single digits in two games.

"I was about to hit some people," she joked. "As a team, you've got to learn how to get over frustration and play together.

We're a great team, it's just we need to shake it off and continue to go."

T.C. Williams coach Rhea Butler called the performance "painful" and said the team needs to move on.

Thankfully for the Titans, Butler said she expects Stone back for tonight's match at Annandale. Stone injured her ankle playing softball during the weekend.

"This is never happening again," Butler said. "We're only allowed to have one like that. We just let that go. It is what it is. You didn't do well, you lost, you keep it going."

"I don't know who those girls were," Butler said of her team. "That was nuts."

SOPHOMORE Sophie Siegel said the Titans' problems were the result of a lack of focus. "I don't think it was much of not having our setter. I think it was more us in general not being there mentally," she said. "Everybody's head wasn't really in the game, basically, and that had a lot to do

with not doing as well as we could do tonight. I think we could have beat them if our head was there and everybody was together."

Chantilly (13-1) which returned all-region players Allison Williams and Samantha Reeves from a team which reached the state semifinals last season, didn't need any help. The powerful Chargers dominated at the net, led by Williams' 12 kills.

Freshman Kate Whitmire led T.C. Williams with six kills.

Burdett said she expects the Titans (4-5 overall, 1-1 Patriot District) to bounce back tonight.

"It's a whole mindset. When you lose a player like Rebecca, I guess as a team you kind of go numb," Burdett said. "Chantilly's a good team. I wish we would have stepped up a little bit more. We were just a deer in headlights tonight."

"We're going to kill Annandale [tonight], hopefully."

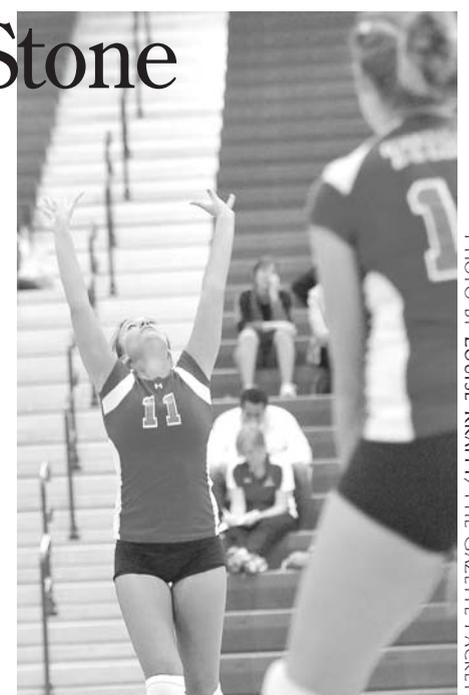


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior Nicole Burdett, listed as an outside hitter, was one of several Titans forced to set during Tuesday's match against Chantilly. Starting setter Rebecca Stone was out with an ankle injury.

Hiking from Georgia to Maine

FROM PAGE 1

Johnson left April 23 and spent 141 days hiking northbound. He began his expedition in Georgia and finished in Maine on Sept. 10. Laurie Potteiger, the informational services manager of the Appalachian Trail, said Johnson hiked the trail faster than average.

"It could be in the 10 to 20 percent of fastest hikes, but we are not into promoting records," Potteiger said. "The trail is supposed to be about enjoying the natural world and not meant to be competitive."

A trip to Maine with the Boy Scouts is what Johnson credits as the first time he became interested in the Appalachian Trail. He witnessed hikers finish the endeavor at that point.

Johnson said he decided to hike the trail alone, but he knew the paths were popular and generated a large crowd.

"It's hard to get someone to take months of their life off," Johnson said. "I knew I would meet a lot of people."

Johnson began preparing several months in advance and said the trip can cost several thousand dollars in supplies, equipment, and food. He went through three pairs of trail runners, a softer shoe used instead of a boot.

"Compared to what most people spend normally, it's not bad," Johnson said. "It's not a lot more, but you don't have any income so it seems like a lot."

Johnson said one of the main temptations for spending along the way were meals in restaurants when the trail wove into towns.

ONE OF THE MOST difficult feats of hiking the Appalachian Trail is the physical aspect. Potteiger said if people do not condition properly the journey could be very uncomfortable.

"If they haven't done much conditioning it is going to be extremely grueling," Potteiger said. "It's a rugged footpath more so than people expect."

Potteiger recommended people interested in hiking the trail should take a three-day practice run beforehand. She said it is important to walk with packs and gradually increase the weight.

"I was in moderately good shape, but I think no matter how good of shape you're in, it's painful the



Bryce Johnson on the summit of Katahdin.

first few weeks."

Johnson said he began with a 40 lbs. pack and decreased its weight to 25 lbs. to make the trip easier. He said he began shipping items like extra clothing, eating utensils and his mp3 player home after three days of hiking.

"Most people quickly find ways to have less weight," Johnson said. "I knew that all those little ounces add to pounds."

Johnson described the path as rugged footpath through the woods. He said there were markers on the trees alerting hikers of the trail. He hiked about 15 to 20 miles a day and took about 11 days off from walking.

Johnson said most people eat basic foods that are easy to cook, like noodles, tuna in foil packets, peanut butter and candy bars.

"I probably ate 500 Snickers bars," Johnson said. "They definitely have the sugar you need and protein and fat. And it tastes better than a power bar."

FOR COOKING, Johnson resorted to an alcohol stove that he crafted out of a Heineken can. He said it was weak, but was able to boil a couple of cups of water.

Along the way, Johnson stumbled upon several bits of wildlife. He said he narrowly avoided stepping on a rattlesnake and quietly scooted by several bears.

"I almost stepped on it and it started rattling," Johnson said. "I jumped three feet in the air. You know immediately what it is."

Johnson also saw a mother bear and her cubs while hiking, but cautiously avoided the family and continued on his path.

Potteiger said the bears and snakes are not the most threatening or dangerous wildlife on the trail. She said the biggest threats are ticks and Lyme disease.

"It's one of the most important things and people tend to be uniformed or cavalier about it," Potteiger said.

She advised daily checks for ticks and tucking pants into socks when hiking. Potteiger said people should hang their food properly and away from their campsite to avoid dangerous situations with bears.

Johnson currently works as a chimney sweep in Alexandria and graduated in 2008 with a degree in economics from the University of Virginia. He said he would be interested in hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, from the border of Mexico to Canada, but has not made plans yet.



Bryce Johnson on the summit of Mt Liberty on the Franconia Ridge in the White Mountains, New Hampshire.

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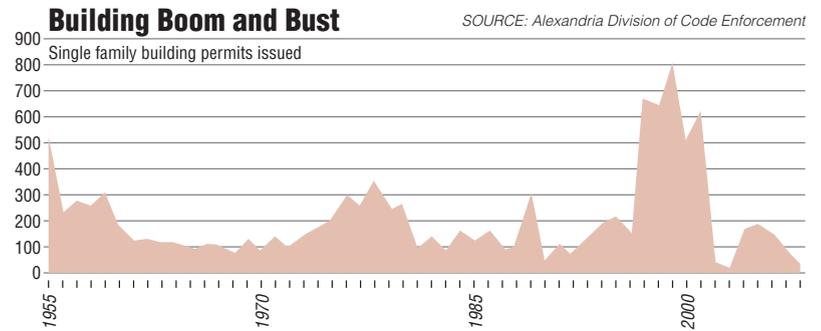
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Building Permits Take a Nosedive

FROM PAGE 1



Taylor Run

Several hundred Alexandrians surged around the Torpedo Factory Sunday listening to pep talks from Mayor Euille, Congressman Moran, and Senator Warner, then shaking hands with Creigh Deeds, gubernatorial candidate., Betty Livingston, Moina Ratliff, Mike Cook, Pixie Bell, and Herschel and Ruth were there.

Del. David Englin, Dick Hobson, Roger Digilio, Rob Krupicka, Bev Rawlings Melvin Miller, and Marian Van Landingham had also come to support Deeds.

SARTORIAL NOTE

The outstanding garment at the party was definitely the tie worn

by F. J. Pepper (or the tie wearing F.J., looking at it another way).

Alice Reed, Mark Feldheim, state Sen. Patsy Ticer, Liz Walker, Sabra and Chet Avery, and Judy Bogan were among those present.

CHAMPION CLAPPER

Jumping, running, and clapping joyfully every time others did, which was often, was Sophie Hutter, 2, whose energy will do a great deal for the Virginia Democratic party if she can maintain it.

Ruth and Mike Chamowitz, Peggy Papp, Joe Hutter, Fay Slotnick, Stu Dunn, Kerry Donley, and Bill Dickinson had also turned out to support Deeds.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

gage-lending practices dragged the national economy into what's being called the Great Recession. Fuller said the trend of declining building permits is driven by the lingering credit crisis and the continued tightening in mortgage markets.

"The low number suggests that builders are not anticipating new starts for awhile," said Fuller. "So there will not be new construction hiring thereby extending the period that unemployed construction workers remain unemployed."

THE CONSTRUCTION industry has shed more than 1,000 jobs in Alexandria over the last two years, one of the factors contributing to a steadily rising unemployment rate in the city. City financial reports show that joblessness in Alexandria peaked in March at 5.1 percent, and is currently estimated at 4.9 percent. Although construction jobs constitute only 6 percent of the jobs in the city, even subtle declines can have wide-ranging influence.

"The slowing economy continues to affect city tax collections," wrote City Manager Jim Hartmann in a June memorandum outlining the city's financial condition. "While the city of Alexandria has not escaped unscathed from the recession, indicators of economic activity in the city present a relatively better picture compared to the national economy."

Like most economic indicators, building permits have seen cycles of boom and bust over the years. Yet recent history has seen wild swings that include dramatic peaks and devastating troughs. The building boom after World War II saw heavy permitting in the

1950s, with more than 500 single-family construction permits issued in 1955. For most of the 1960s, City Hall issued about 100 permits each year with the 1970s seeing a steady rise each year until peaking in 1978 with about 350 permits issued.

"The building boom in the 1970s was driven in large measure by urban renewal, but that was tempered by a sense of moderation," said Win McConchie, a Republican member of the Alexandria City Council from 1970 to 1976. "By the late 1990s, the gate was wide open and everything went crazy."

STARTING IN 1996, Alexandria experienced a dramatic spike in building permits. That peaked in 1999, when the city issued about 800 permits. Yet by 2003, the number of permits dipped to its lowest point in 50 years. That was followed by a moderate spike in 2005, when the spiraling property values and easy credit created a real-estate bubble that contributed to the current crisis.

"Five years ago, you could get a construction loan with a 5-percent down payment," said Councilman Frank Fannon, a mortgage banker with SunTrust. "Now you can't get a construction loan unless you're willing to make a 25 percent down payment."

The causes of the downward trend in single-family building

permits and easier to gauge than the potential effects. Prolonged unemployment in the construction industry may be one outcome. Another may be a hit to the residential property tax base, which is the city's main source of revenue. City budget documents indicate that 31 percent of Alexandria's revenues come from residential property taxes.

"The possible effect of such a dramatic decline in these permits is that the tax base is not growing," said Vice Mayor Kerry Donley, who is a vice president at Virginia Commerce Bank. "The long-term impact may be a lack of expansion in the local economy."

City officials who issue building permits say that years of dramatically increased permitting activity usually correspond to large projects like Cameron Station and Potomac Greens, which were both redeveloped in the late 1990s. Because the city has such a limited number of properties available for development, some of the fluctuations in the permitting numbers may be a result of redevelopment trends in the city.

"Unlike a lot of other jurisdictions, almost everything we do in Alexandria is redevelopment," said John Catlett, director the city's Office of Building and Fire Code Administration. "I would expect to see another spike in building permits once we start seeing approvals for Potomac Yard."

Old Town Burglar Suspect Nabbed

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The full text of this story was not printed in last week's edition.

Untraveling the series of breaking-and-entering cases in south Old Town over the last few weeks turned out to be a matter of old-fashioned shoe-leather policing.

Detectives reached out to pawnshops across the region and eventually matched the serial number of a television stolen in Alexandria and pawned in the District of Columbia to identify their suspect: Ralph Fowler, a 61-year-old homeless man.

"This is a career criminal," said police spokesman Jody Donaldson. "He's someone who's been at this for some time."

Fowler was eventually linked to selling stolen items to pawnshops in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia. Police had already put out an all-points bulletin looking for him when an officer patrolling the 600 block of south Old Town spotted a stolen Acura linked to Fowler on Sept. 25. A stakeout was formed at 7 a.m. By 2:30 p.m., Fowler wandered into the ambush and was taken into custody.

"He didn't try to run or fight,"

said Hooper. "There was really no drama to his arrest."

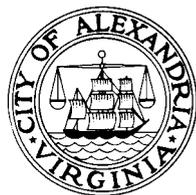
Detectives obtained 23 separate warrants for his arrest. Eight of the warrants were for grand larceny, and an additional eight warrants were for grand larceny with intent to sell.

Seven more warrants were obtained for statutory burglary. He was taken to the Alexandria Adult Detention Center, where he is being held without bond.

"Captain Hooper did an outstanding job," said Linda McClure, who lives on South Pitt Street. "It was a scary time, and there's definitely a sense of relief now."

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Legal Notices



Alexandria
Board of Architectural Review
Old & Historic Alexandria District

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2009-0203
Request for approval of after-the-fact signage at 116 S. Royal Street, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: Lavender Moon Cupcakery

CASE BAR2009-0176
Request for approval of demolition at 620 & 605 Jefferson Street, 724A & 724B S St. Asaph Street, 800A, 800B, 800C, & 800D S Washington Street, zoned RCX Residential Commercial Mixed Use.
APPLICANT: Scott Management Inc.

CASE BAR2009-0150
Request for approval of alterations at 620 & 605 Jefferson Street, 724A & 724B S St. Asaph Street, 800A, 800B, 800C, & 800D S Washington Street, zoned RCX Residential Commercial Mixed Use.
APPLICANT: Scott Management Inc.

CASE BAR2009-0219
Request for approval of a waiver of HVAC screening requirement at 400/402 Wolfe Street, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Bette Gorman ET AL

CASE BAR2009-0220
Request for approval of demolition at 400/402 Wolfe Street, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Bette Gorman ET AL

CASE BAR2009-0220
Request for approval of alterations at 400/402 Wolfe Street, zoned RM Residential.
APPLICANT: Bette Gorman ET AL

CASE BAR2009-0222
Request for approval of alterations at 1860 Carpenter Road, zoned CDD #10 Coordinated Development District.
APPLICANT: Craftstar Homes, Inc.

CASE BAR2009-0223
Request for approval of alterations at 731-735 N. Columbus Street, zoned RB Residential.
APPLICANT: St Joseph Catholic Church

CASE BAR2009-0224
Request for approval of signage at 127 S. Fairfax Street, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: The Shoe Hive

CASE BAR2009-0225
Request for approval of signage at 123 S. Fayette Street, zoned CL Commercial.
APPLICANT: Missing Link Security

Legal Notices

CASE BAR2009-0226
Request for approval of signage at 114 S. Royal Street, zoned CD Commercial.
APPLICANT: Antonia Henderson

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

OBITUARY

Gisela N. Friedberg (Age 89)

On September 18, 2009 in Arlington, VA. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arnold M. Friedberg and sister, Carola N. Campbell. She is survived by her sons, Alan (Jean) Friedberg of Boulder, CO, Stephen (Judy) Friedberg of Richmond, VA, and Michael (Janet) Friedberg of Wilmington, DE; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and brother, Rudolph H. (Ruth) Newkirk of New York City, NY. A memorial service will be held on Friday, November 20, 2009 at 1 p.m. at the Arlington Unitarian-Universalist Church, 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22204. Interment will precede the memorial service at 10 a.m. at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to either the American Parkinson's Disease Association, www.apdaparkinson.org, or the Arlington Unitarian-Universalist Church. Arrangements by Everly-Wheatley.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

Case No JJ030729-02-00
Commonwealth of Virginia
VA. CODE § 8.01-316
Alexandria J & DR Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re
ALEXA MENA

The object of this suit is to: Terminate the residual parental rights and responsibilities of unknown father to Alexa Mena, born to mother Katherine Mena on 6/12/09 and to give the right to the Alexandria Department of Human Services to place the child for adoption. It is ORDERED that the defendant unknown father appear at the above named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 12/07/2009 at 3:00pm

ABC LICENSE

Lubna Jabbar, E-Z Grocery and Deli, 6038 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22303. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a wine & beer off premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Lubna Jabbar, owner

ABC LICENSE

Cake Affair, Inc trading as Indaroma, 6548 C Little River Tpke, Alexandria, VA 22312. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine & Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Yogesh Handa

ABC LICENSE

Sushi Yamaco, 9110 Richmond Hwy, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Young Bae Kwon, owner

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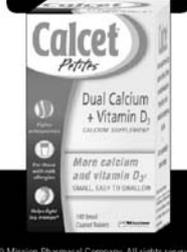
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PHOTO BY CHUCK FAZIO
Charlotte Hall and Stephanie Pace Brown are flanked by Hubert Herre (far right) and Durwood Gould, both awarded tourism partner of the year award.

City Is Oasis for Tourist Industry

FROM PAGE 3

dustry on renovation and new room construction. The inauguration helped boost hotel occupancy, she said, but its relative brevity contributed only so much to the year-long figures.

Suzanne Cook, senior vice president of research at the U.S. Travel Association and member of ACVA's Board of Governors, offered a dose of reality in delivering the meeting's keynote address on the state of the industry. She noted that visitor volume and spending figures are down in all of tourism's major categories for the first six months of this year. Overall, the industry is projected to lose \$68 billion this year, she said, though Alexandria stands to do "significantly less bad" than other destinations.

Cook described leisure travelers' behavior — vacationing closer to home, taking packaged vacations, employing frequent flyer miles and credit card points — as "cautious consumption."

"Travelers are looking for the deal," she said.

IN RESPONSE to this renewed frugality, ACVA earlier this year amended the punchy "Charmville" tagline to read: "Charmville is more affordable than you think." They also highlighted the city's free attractions and promoted a value-oriented "Key to the City" to draw the cost-conscious.

Cook said to expect 2010 to bring a partial recovery but also said she didn't expect travel figures to return to 2000 levels until 2013. "There are some positive indicators," she said. "But we have some rough days ahead of us before we pop that bottle of champagne."

ACVA Chair Charlotte Hall presented the David G. Speck Tourism Partner of the Year Award to Hubert Herre and Durwood Gould, both of the Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria and Holiday Inn, for their efforts in support of the association.

Mayor Bill Euille later addressed the crowd, saying that Alexandria has earned a global reputation as a charming, historic city, and that "tourism is one of the major solutions to the dilemma" of surviving a downturn. Paul Smedberg, city council member and mayoral appointee to the

ACVA Board of Governors, also emphasized tourism's importance to the city's fiscal health.

Cook's address was prefaced by an economic overview given by market analyst Gregory H. Leisch, founder and CEO of Delta Associates, who offered a mixed bag of statistics indicating that the worst has passed, but a long recovery lies ahead. He also noted that consumer sentiment is low and an "unprecedented" savings rate hovers in the 5 percent range.

"While that's good for the economy, it's bad for tourism and retail," Leisch said. "Generally speaking, the recession's over," he said. "Good luck surviving the recovery."

The D.C. region has lost jobs during 2009, though fewer than other large metro areas in the U.S. "We are the boat with the smallest hole," said Leisch. Cook's remarks made a similar point; in a key indicator tracking revenue per available room, the D.C. metro area was down 7.1 percent so far in 2009 — the least impacted of the top 25 markets in the country — while the national average was down 18.7 percent.

Brown joked that she'd considered titling the association's annual report, "Thank God We're Not Phoenix."

THE ACVA was organized in 1997 as a public-private partnership with the city of Alexandria, which provides 95 percent of the association's roughly \$2 million budget, funded principally by the city's hotel taxes. The non-profit's board of governors is appointed by the city council, though the association functions independently.

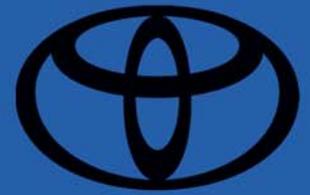
For Brown, the afternoon's presentations acknowledged that tourism remains a critical element of the city's economy, noting that the city's 6.5 percent lodging tax brought in \$9.6 million in fiscal 2009, and \$960,000 was collected from an additional \$1 per night room tax.

She later echoed Cook's realistic outlook on the economy: "Flat is the new up, so if we can maintain that, we'll consider it a success."

"You can't recreate Alexandria," Brown later commented. "People love coming to Old Town and [the ACVA's] job is to remind them of what's special about Alexandria and inform them of what's new."

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