

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 12, 2009



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE GAZETTE

About the Tuskegee Airmen Guests view the Tuskegee Airmen photo exhibit inside the Charles Houston Recreation Center on Sunday, Nov. 8. The Olvin McBarnette private photo collection documents the story of America's first black military airmen. Senior Services of Alexandria sponsored the event in collaboration with the Black History Resource center, the Departmental Progressive Club and Charles Houston Center.



Photograph on display: Black WAC's training at Lackland Air-Force Base, Texas, 1942.



Lt. Colonel Alexander Jefferson, a veteran of the Tuskegee Airmen, POW, and author of "Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free: The Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman and POW," speaks to the crowd.

Running Against Multiple Myeloma

Sunday's race to benefit blood cancer research.

BY BARBARA E. BOLAND
GAZETTE PACKET

During a routine physical three years ago, Kent Wells was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cell. It is the second most common blood cancer and, with its incurable prognosis, Wells and his wife Debbie had grim expectations. Kent Wells had about three years to live.

They found Dr. Ivan Borrello, a medical oncologist

at John Hopkins University who "gave us hope," according to Debbie Wells, "although there is still no cure."

The treatment of multiple myeloma has come a long way in the past five years, during which time four new treatments have increased the length of patients' survival. The Wells are so grateful for the medical advances which Kent has personally benefited from that they have resolved to do everything

SEE RACE TO BENEFIT, PAGE 4

\$43 Million Hole

City's projected budget shortfall has almost doubled since the summer.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Declining revenues and rising costs have converged at City Hall, where City Council members are facing a budget season with the grimmest financial environment in recent memory. Although budget officials projected a \$23-million shortfall over the summer, a revised forecast released last weekend warned of a \$43-million gap. Closing that gap could require drastic service reductions, increased taxes or a combination of

the two. During a daylong budget retreat on Saturday, Mayor Bill Euille signaled that taxpayers should brace themselves for the possibility of higher residential property taxes.

"I just don't see how we can avoid it," said Euille. "If we want to balance the budget, it's likely that taxes are going to go up."

City Manager Jim Hartmann will spend the next three months preparing his proposed budget, which will be presented on Feb. 9. Hartmann's proposal will then go to City Council

"If we want to balance the budget, it's likely that taxes are going to go up."

— Mayor Bill Euille

SEE PROJECTED,
PAGE 3

Rearranging To Save

City manager hopes to offset recent growth in city spending.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

In the last decade, city spending mushroomed from \$288 million to \$530 million — almost doubling during a time when revenues from residential property values were streaming into City Hall almost faster than City Council members could spend them. Now things have changed. Expansion of city services has ceased, and City Manager Jim Hartmann has started a new initiative to de-

termine which services are appropriate and which employees should be delivering them. Hartmann calls the effort "collaborate realignment," a series of reviews to determine if city services could be delivered more efficiently.

"In a time of severe financial restraint, we have to be serious about refining the responsibility of government," said Hartmann. "With very tight budgets, it will be more important that all the depart

SEE EFFICIENCY, PAGE 7

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A New Wall

Twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Alexandria is preparing to erect its own wall. This one will separate the Mirant coal-fired power plant from its neighbors in north Old Town with a 30-foot windscreen in an effort to control fugitive dust from the plant. It's part of the first phase of improvements resulting from a \$34-million settlement struck last year after city leaders spent years trying to shut the plant down.

"The city's position is that we'd really like to see the plant go away," said **Bill Skrabak**, director of the Office of Environmental Quality. "I don't think you can have a coal-fired plant of this size in an urban area and call it a clean facility."

But the facility is here to stay. The agreement indefinitely prolongs the presence of the coal-fired power plant on the Alexandria waterfront. In exchange, Mirant agreed to spend \$32 million for air-quality improvements and \$2 million to control fugitive dust. The 30-foot windscreen is part of a package of proposals to manage coal dust. Other dust-control items authorized by City Council Tuesday night include a new street sweeper and a fog-based system for restraining dust particles.

"City staff is aware of the potential visual impacts that the proposed windscreen could have on the adjacent community," wrote City Manager **Jim Hartmann** in a memo outlining the first phase of improvements to the plant. "To minimize the visual impacts of the windscreen while maintaining the purpose and effectiveness, the windscreen will be installed only on the northern and eastern sides of the coal pile."

Stimulating Trolleys

City Council members are close to cashing a \$2.4-million check from **Uncle Sam** cut as part of President **Barack Obama's** stimulus plan. The money will be used to purchase a new fleet of rubber-tire trolleys that will replace the Maryland-based contractor that has been operating the service along King Street since April 2008. This week, representatives from California-based Gillig Corporation were in town to show off their model, which is being considered to get the bid. On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, one of Gillig's models was parked at Market Square for inspection.

"I did kick the tires on behalf of City Council," said Councilwoman **Del Pepper**. "And I did ring the bell."

The Gillig models have solid oak seating and a classic trolley roof with a lighted cupola. Officials with DASH, the city's bus system that will operate the trolleys after they have been purchased, have recommended that Gillig get the \$3.2-million gig — making their purchase a distinct possibility. According to a brochure Gillig officials were distributing this week, the \$3.2-million stimulus money will purchase a commodity that's all but priceless.

"The trolley replica option provides a unique opportunity to have a strong impact on your downtown community, the downtown merchants association and the mayor by adding a street trolley route," explained the Gillig brochure.

Study Before Constructing

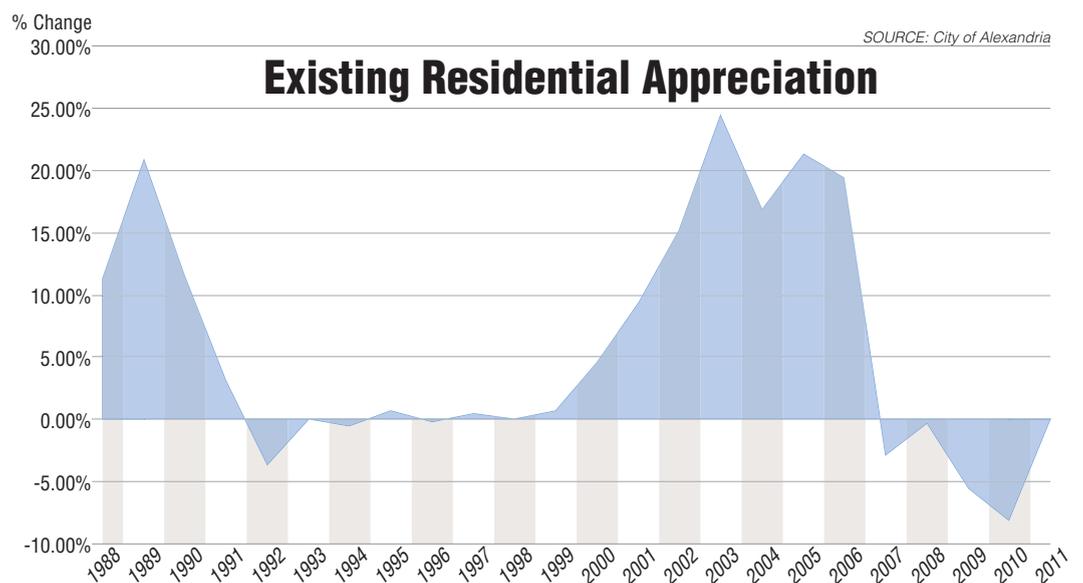
After Vice Mayor **Kerry Donley** suggested that the city press the legislative delegation for an environmental-impact study of the high-occupancy toll lanes on Shirley Memorial Highway, state Sen. **Patsy Ticer** (D-30) said she wasn't so sure about that idea. Because of the weakened bond market and the rising amount of political opposition to the project, Ticer said she doubted the proposal would ever happen. As a result, she felt that spending \$100,000 to study a proposal that would never see the light of day was a waste of time.

For a while, it looked like members of the local delegation of the General Assembly might be at odds with each other on the issue. But this week, legislative director **Bernie Caton** offered a clarification that Ticer was willing to accept.

"What the city's legislative packet asks for is that the study only needs to be conducted if construction is going to move forward," said Caton. "If you don't start construction, no study will be needed."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



GRAPH BY LAURENCE FOONG/GAZETTE PACKET

Projected Shortfall Almost Doubles

FROM PAGE 1

members, who will conduct public hearings on the budget in March and April. During this time, city leaders will consider increasing taxes, raising fees, adding a stormwater utility fee, taxing commercial real estate at a higher rate than residential real estate and selling some of the city's assets. The process will conclude on May 3, when City Council members will set a tax rate and finalize the spending priorities.

"We are going to have to look at every cut as a long-term decision because we can't assume growth rates are going to come back," said Councilman Rob Krupicka. "It may not be a new normal we like, but it's the new normal."

OVER THE LAST seven years, the city's reliance on residential property taxpayers has sharply increased, rising from a 45 percent share of general revenues in 2002 to 56 percent this year. That means the expected 8-percent decline of real estate assessments next year will deliver a major blow to city coffers. Residential property is expected to decline 5 percent, and commercial property is anticipated to drop 13 percent. The weakened credit market has driven the decline in commercial property values, and the market is so weak that the city's projections are based on a very limited amount of data.

"The commercial market is somewhat of a loose cannon," said Cindy Smith-Paige, director of real-estate assessments. "We've had fewer than 10 commercial sales this year."

As city government became increasingly reliant on residential-property taxpayers over the last decade, spending has almost doubled. Back in 2000, the city's budget was \$288 million. This year, the budget is \$530 million. That's an annual growth rate of 6 percent each year. Employment has increased 9 per-

cent over the last decade, with 47 new positions in the Police Department, 40 new positions in the Fire Department and 36 new positions in social-safety net departments. The largest increase in spending over the last decade was for debt service, which was \$9 million in 2000 and is now \$37 million.

"There was a lot of easy credit out there over the last decade, and the city basically did the same thing as the American consumer," said Councilman Frank Fannon, adding that he would like to avoid raising taxes on residential property this year. "The problem is that the city has been looking at the short-term picture, but we've now come to a point that we need

to start looking at the long-term health of the city."

"There was a lot of easy credit out there over the last decade, and the city basically did the same thing as the American consumer."

— Councilman Frank Fannon

FUNDING THE CITY'S current services would cost \$314 million next year. That's a \$6.7-million more than last year, a 2.2-percent increase. The biggest increase in spending is from the city's public-school system, which will need \$14.2 million more to fund current services. Enrollment is projected to increase 4 percent in the next year, and the system is bracing for a 14-percent enrollment increase in the next five years. School officials say they'll need two new elementary schools to handle the rising demand — with the first one needed by 2013.

"We cannot shortchange the kids," said Jean Sina, the school system's new chief financial officer making his first presentation to City Council members. "When we talk about kids, it's easy to get emotional. But we need to use data to make decisions."

One idea that is beginning to gain traction in the city involves forging a public-private partnership at Jefferson-Houston Elementary School. Deputy Superintendent Margaret Byess explained to City Council members that the school was sitting on prime real estate one block from the King Street Metro station

SEE \$43 MILLION HOLE, PAGE 5

From Sex Shops to Store Windows

After a two-hour discussion last week, the Planning Commission dismissed a proposed amendment to define and regulate the location of sexually oriented businesses within the City.

Instead, the commission will work on guidelines for the windows of all of the stores in the historic district.

— SANDY LUNNER LEVITZ



The Ford family in the Oval Office prior to the swearing-in of Gerald Ford as president on Aug. 9, 1974. Jack is on the left.

Presidential Park

Jack Ford talks about his childhood here and park dedicated to his dad.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Jack Ford grew up in Alexandria, attending MacArthur Elementary School and graduating from T.C. Williams High School in 1970. He was a summer park ranger at Yellowstone National Park between terms as a forestry student at Utah State University when his father became president. He will be the keynote speaker on Nov. 12 at a 4 p.m. dedication of President Gerald R. Ford Park at 1422 and 1426 Janney's Lane. He owns a marketing company in California.

What was Crown View Drive like when your parents moved there in 1955?

When we first moved there, there was only two or three houses on the street, and it was mostly dirt fields and woods behind the house. That was great as a kid. Gradually the neighborhood was built up, and it is what it is today — fully developed and other than the woods still left there on Janey's Lane. That's about all that's left of the original makeup of the neighborhood. It was a great neighborhood that was predominantly families with kids of all different kinds of ages. You felt very comfortable and very safe to jump on you bike and ride down to a friend's house and spend the day playing there and then be home by dark.

What was your parents' relationship to the city?

They were active in the PTA at MacArthur Elementary School and Immanuel on the Hill Episcopal Church as well as all of the sports teams and all of the things that you do as your kids grow up. In terms of political activities, they were

familiar with Mayor Frank Mann. It was interesting because there were a lot of people in the neighborhood who were active in military or government at various levels. Once they got home and parked the car, politics was the last thing they wanted to be focused on. It was a very family-oriented neighborhood. It was a great place to grow up.

You graduated T.C. Williams when it was still a very new school. What was it like at that time?

I was co-captain of the football team in 1970, so I know a lot of those guys portrayed in the movie "Remember the Titans." It was in 1971 when the school system made that big transition where they shut down George Washington High School and Hammond High School to put everybody at T.C. Williams. So I left the year before all that happened. I think the movie captures a good portion of what was going on back then, but it's still Hollywood. So you know they are going to dramatize parts of it. People always seem surprised when I tell them that T.C. Williams was fully integrated when I went there.

How do you feel about the old neighborhood?

I still drive past the neighborhood and the house. When the funeral ceremonies were going on in Washington for my dad, I took my two young sons out to show them the house. It had a lot more meaning to me than it did to them obviously. We went to Douglas MacArthur, where we used to play basketball every afternoon after school. So I have wonderfully fond memories of that whole time. But the truth is that they are my memories, not theirs.

See more of this interview at www.connectionnewspapers.com

Race To Benefit Research

FROM PAGE 1

they can to raise awareness through charity work with the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

The MMRF's mission is to aggressively fund research that will lead to new treatments for multiple myeloma. They have received excellent ratings from charity watchdog groups and 93 percent of funds go directly to research. This year's "Race for Research" begins at 9 a.m. at the AMC Hoffman Theater in Alexandria. There is a \$25 registration fee — or \$30 the day of — and participants can register online at www.mmrf.org/dc. Awards will be given to the top finishers as well as to top individual and team fundraisers. Borello is an honorary co-chair of the event and Kent and Debbie Wells have put together a team named the "Myelo-Maniacs" — coined by friend and fellow myeloma patient, Tim Johnson.

WHEN THE WELLS first received Kent's diagnosis, they were reluctant to share their news with friends and family. However, when they did, "we were absolutely overwhelmed by the response," Debbie Wells said. Not only was the Alexandria community supportive, but everyone wanted to make a difference by getting involved and raising money for the cause. Alexandria residents and friends Brad Edwards, Robert Fisher and Laura Rizzo had the idea to raise money for myeloma research by putting together a Golf and Tennis Tournament this past spring. "They had what we thought was an ambitious goal of \$50,000 for the first go-round," Kent Wells said. The final total raised was \$135,000.

Because of their generosity earlier this year, Debbie Wells said she was somewhat apprehensive about asking the same people for donations to support the race this weekend. She was again "taken aback by their abundant generosity." With 55 members including Kent Wells' primary care physician and Alexandria resident, Dr. Stephen Cornwell, their team easily surpassed the \$10,000 fundraising goal. Their team has also received the help and donations of 10 local businesses including ATT, Verizon, Morgan and Taylor and Toyota.

Myeloma typically affects the over-60 population, but Kent Wells was just 53 when he was diagnosed. Due to recent medical advances, patients are being diagnosed at younger and younger ages. This means patients' bodies are healthier and better able to tolerate the chemo treatments. With no family history of cancer — his parents are both 90 — Kent Wells is grateful to his primary care physician for noticing the anomaly in his protein blood level. He also cau-



Kent Wells

difficult.

AT THE TIME of diagnosis, Kent Wells was in great physical condition and he has tolerated the treatments well. He suffers from fatigue, which is a result of both the treatment and anemia, a common part of the disease. The standard protocol for multiple myeloma means taking a chemotherapy drug once a day for three weeks and then one week off. Most people build up resistance to treatment over time, so doctors monitor patients' progress and switch to stronger drugs over time. These drugs are hard on the body and eventually lower patients' immunity, leaving them susceptible to pneumonia and other illnesses. In its earlier stages, myeloma has few symptoms, but left unchecked it starts to create incredibly painful bone lesions. Kent Wells takes an IV medication called Zometa once a month to strengthen his bones.

As with most sufferers, Kent Wells continues to work and is grateful to have good health insurance. The chemo drug he takes, Revlimid, is an oral medication that costs \$7,000 a month. "His disease and the expenses of treatment have made the health insurance debate all the more real to us," Debbie Wells said. "Drug companies like the manufacturer of Revlimid do what they can to help people who cannot afford the medications, including sponsoring the race this weekend."

The five-year survival rate for multiple myeloma is 35 percent. As the body builds up tolerance to medications, there are a limited number of treatments available to combat the disease. These statistics only motivate the Wells to continue raising awareness. "We have had heartwarming support from friends and neighbors in Alexandria," Debbie Wells said. The incentive behind their support for the MMRF is "my hope that people who face this diagnosis in the future will not have as many scary days as we had in the beginning."

Those that would like to help can participate in the race this Sunday or visit www.mmrf.org for more information on multiple myeloma.

Celebrating by Sharing

In honor of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP's 100th anniversary, the attorneys and staff at Vorys' Alexandria and D.C. offices celebrated the Harvest Season with children at Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children by collecting 12 boxes of new games, toys and reading materials for the children's playrooms at the hospital, delivering them to the children and providing a magician for the day's entertainment. Additionally, to update the reading materials for parents as well as children, the company purchased annual subscriptions for the following magazines: Sports Illustrated, Highlights, Highlights High Five, Girls Life, Boys Life and Parents. In the photo at last month's event are: Cameron Cairnie, Tracie Cairnie, Hilary Cairnie, Jeanie Truslow, Earl Aylward (magician), Kamille Misewicz, Serita Smith, Pat Lonardo, Joe Lonardo, Henry Nwatu, Cindy Warren, Nick Reuhs, Chris Ott, Mik Baugh, Moon Soo Lee and Gregg Murphy.



NEWS

\$43 Million Hole

FROM PAGE 3

that could be very attractive for a developer. In exchange for a contribution to the city, a developer might be able to build a combination that would include a new school in addition to potential residential units, mixed-use retail or offices.

"It's a fabulous property," said Byess, who was recently promoted to replace former deputy superintendent John Porter. "It's eminently suitable for a public-private partnership."

ITEMS ON THE CHOPPING block include an array of services. Human Services could close or sell a mentor home for adolescent youth and reduce the rent-relief program. The Office of Women could reduce crisis-intervention services. The Mental Health Department could cut back on substance-abuse therapy and mental-health therapy. Human Resources could cut back on wellness programs and recruiting efforts. The city's libraries could cut back on their hours and reduce their budget for materials.

"I would recommend that under

no circumstances should we close a library," said Councilwoman Del Pepper, adding that the idea was considered last year. "We just can't recoup from something like that."

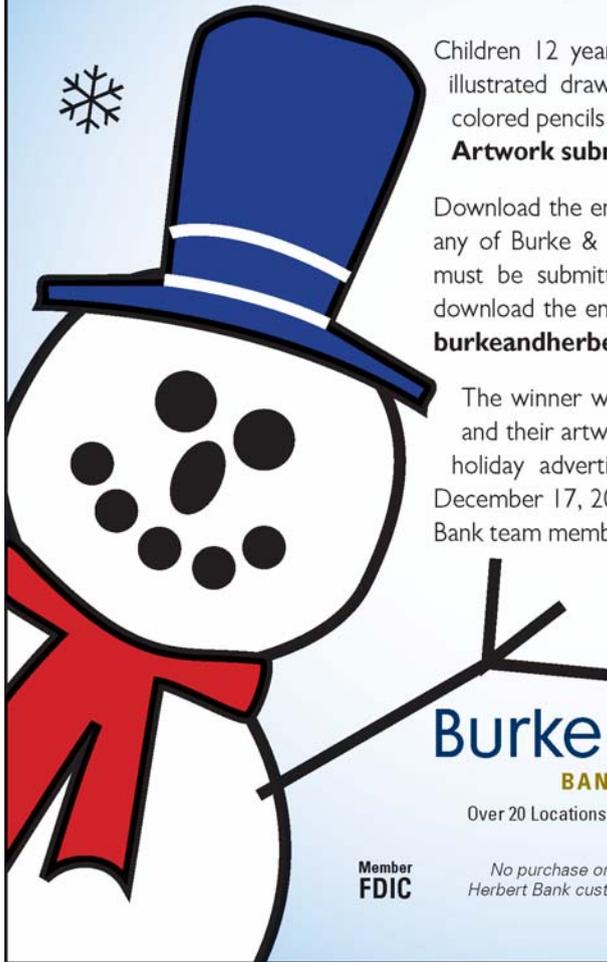
Hours of operation could be cut back at the city's recreation centers and after-school programs. The Office of Historic Alexandria could reduce museum displays and cut back on funding for the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. The city's planning office could cut back on all outside contract support unless specifically authorized by the City Council. Funding for the Eisenhower Partnership could be completely eliminated, as could print copies of the city's newsletter. Although the Police Department was largely spared from cutbacks last year, next year could see cutbacks to community policing, motorcycle ceremonial functions, vice-squad staffing, domestic-violence support, patrol overtime and uniforms.

"Very soon, we'll start looking natty around the edges," said Police Chief Earl Cook. "I don't want to get to a point where we don't look well and represent the city well."

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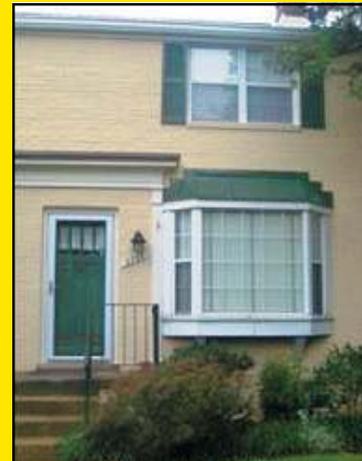
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Alex./Fairlington \$425,000
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Michelle Gustafson 703-587-2140



Alex./Del Ray \$774,900
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Bobi Bomar 703-927-2213



Alex./Fairlington \$374,900
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Mary Hurlbut 703-548-4741



Alex./Rosemont \$869,000
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Christine Garner 703-587-4855



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Efficiency Savings?

FROM PAGE 1

ments look at the services they are providing.” One potential collaborative realignment currently being considered by city officials involves construction sites. On any given day, a building inspector might show up to look at the foundation. Then an environmental inspector might arrive later in the day to examine the erosion-control barrier. That’s two city-owned vehicles driving to the sites and two different employees inspecting the same site. Under a collaborative realignment now under consideration, a member of the Building and Fire Code Administration would perform both of these tasks.

“Looking at these issues is almost a never-ending task,” said Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks. “In an era of shrinking government, it’s incumbent on us to think about how we can deliver services more efficiently.”

THE REALIGNMENT comes after a decade of unprecedented growth, when the city budget almost doubled over the course of the last decade. According to a recent analysis of the last decade of city spending conducted by the Office of Management and Budget, a confluence of events created a perfect storm for growth. These included population growth, inflation, higher costs of employee compensation, debt service, an expanded capital-improvement program, expanded cost of the city’s public school system and a workforce that’s grown 10 percent in the last decade. Some say the increases in spending were necessary.

“I would argue that investing in capital improvements was appropriate, and that investing in public safety was appropriate and that investing in our schools was appropriate,” said Councilman Rob Krupicka, who has served on the council since 2003. “All three of those areas have borne dividends and put us in a better position to weather the current economy.”

The largest area of spending increase in the last decade was debt service, which increased 322 percent from \$8.9 million to \$37.4 million. In that decade, the city built a new central library, a new elementary school, a new high school, a new recreation center, a new maintenance facility and part of a new fire station. Capital spending also included a number of significant renovations, including Duncan Library, the Buddie Ford Nature Center and a mental-health facility. In a memorandum explaining the increase, Hartmann said that a 17-percent rise in the city’s population created an increased demand for services that created the need for an expanded workforce.

“From 2000 to 2010, as Alexandria experienced an influx of new residents it was necessary for the city to respond to increased demands by providing increased services,” Hartmann wrote. “This fact, coupled with rising inflation, the increased cost of employee compensation, the need to expand our facilities and increased regulations from the state and federal governments resulted in a \$242 million increase in the General Fund budget over 10 years.”

BUT THE SALAD days have drawn to a close, and city officials are staring down a \$53-million budget gap. Some of that shortfall might be handled by raising taxes on residential property taxpayers, which have become the city’s cash cow. But even if City Council members approve increasing the tax rate by five cents, more spending reductions will need to be identified.

Enter collaborative realignment. The idea has been gaining momentum for some time, beginning with a

philosophical shift away from grouping budget documents by department and toward grouping them by service.

Hartmann called that idea the Managing for Results Initiative, and it has created budget documents that provide a great deal of specificity about the exact operation of the city government and the costs associated with each action. For example, according to last year’s budget, the police received 58,750 calls for service last year that cost taxpayers an average of \$353 each.

“This plan will encourage program planning, evaluation and management based on results such as service quality, efficiency and community impact,” Hartmann wrote in a 2006 memorandum outlining the initiative. “I will be expecting departmental senior managers to use the restructured budget and performance measures and indicators continuously to improve city operations for which they are responsible.”

The other driver leading to the creation of collaborative realignment was an event that has come to be known as “the spaghetti incident.” During a 2007 presentation on the city’s economic sustainability, Capital One founder Nigel Morris used a photograph of spaghetti as a metaphor for the disjointed nature of city government. Since then, the city has created a multi-agency permitting center that pulls together code enforcement, urban planners, environmental inspectors and financial officers in a fourth-floor office at City Hall.

“People would come here for something that should have taken a few hours but they ended up staying a day or more,” said John Catlett, director of the city’s Building and Fire Code Administration. “Opening the one-stop permitting center was a way of looking at how we could better align our services to get people in and out as quickly as possible.”

EXAMPLES OF collaborative alignment have already cropped up in different parts of the city. For example, a memorandum of understanding between the city and schools coordinates lawn maintenance in a way that reduces duplication of services. In the past, a city crew would mow a playing field while a school crew would take care of the area around the school. That occupied two mowers, two trucks and two crews of employees. Now that the agreement has been struck, the cost of mowing grass around school properties has been reduced to city taxpayers.

“As a result of this agreement, city employees are making fewer trips and spending less time on the road,” said Jinks. “And we need less mowing equipment.”

As Hartmann moves toward finalizing his proposed budget, which will be released in February, he’ll be working to identify more ways collaborative realignment might make city government more efficient. Meanwhile, the city’s reputation has been improving as businesses find the new permitting center easier to navigate than a plate of spaghetti. George Mason University professor Stephen Fuller said the city’s efforts to reorganize its services for maximum efficiency has paid off.

“Obviously the work isn’t done,” said Fuller, a member of a blue-ribbon panel that investigated the city’s economic sustainability. “But the plate of spaghetti isn’t as tangled as it once was.”



The city’s one-stop permitting center is one example of the city manager’s collaborative realignment initiative.

ADAM announces its Official Launch of the Northern Virginia

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6th ANNUAL MAYOR'S UNITY BREAKFAST

Mayor William D. Euille cordially invites everyone, regardless of age, economic level, religious belief, cultural background, or political affiliation to unite under one roof for a special morning of thanks and celebration of One Alexandria.

Join the Mayor on Wednesday, November 25, 2009 at Mark Center Hilton, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22311 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. as we celebrate One Alexandria in the “Diversity in Action” themed Unity Breakfast.

Tickets are \$30.00 and include free hotel parking. To purchase ticket(s), to donate tickets/make contributions, or for more information please call (703) 751-7970.

Veterans Day

Remember lives lost, but also to care for all veterans.

Family members say Bill Cahir had a kind of indomitable spirit, one that propelled him through difficulties toward accomplishing a goal, reported Michael Lee Pope earlier this year.

After 9/11, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. After his application to become a Marine had originally been denied because of his age, he lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound sustained while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

"We all thought he was crazy," said Brett Lieberman, a former colleague at Newhouse News Service.

On April 8, 2006, Cahir married Washington lawyer Rene Brown at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. The couple settled in Rosemont on West Cedar Street. Brown was pregnant with twins at the time of Cahir's death.

MORE THAN 4,300 U.S. military members have been killed in Iraq and nearly 800 more have been killed in Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001. More than 35,000 have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Veterans Day, we honor and thank all those who have served in the military, in times of war and peace. It is also a time to reinvigorate efforts to provide the best services and opportunities to our veteran. In the past year, the new GI Bill provides a giant step to pay for college for veterans. The Post-9/11 GI Bill, championed by Virginia's U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D), dramatically increases the educational benefits extended to members of the military who have served at least three months of active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. George Mason University has been on the forefront of implementing the GI Bill for veterans locally.

Efforts to improve health care, employment and housing for veterans are also underway and deserve meaningful commitment of resources.

HERE ARE the names of some of the local men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. We

repeat these names several times a year to honor their service and to keep their memories in our consciousness.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

EDITORIAL

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. "He loved his country, and we're so proud of him," said his mother.

2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand along with former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R) as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq. His unit came under small arms fire, and Brown, 26, died from his wounds.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet. His father, Ed Kirkpatrick, calls him the "warrior poet," and he and his wife help injured vets at Walter Reed through the Yellow Ribbon fund (www.yellowribbonfund.org).

Ami Neiberger-Miller of Sterling lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. He was 22 when he died. Since her brother's death, Neiberger-Miller has devoted herself to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (www.taps.org), which provides peer-based emotional support and other services for families of the fallen, and provides intensive services and activities.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007.

Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, of wounds inflicted when an "improvised explosive device" exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, of wounds received during combat in Anbar province in Iraq.

Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006. He had been a respected football and basketball player at J.E.B. Stuart High School and had proposed to his high-school sweetheart about three weeks before he was killed.

Airman 1st Class LeeBernard E. Chavis, 21, was killed Oct. 14, 2006, by sniper fire in Iraq, trying to protect civilians from a roadside bomb.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

United States Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children. His parents live in Alexandria.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, who, at 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after 9/11.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in An Najaf, Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005.

Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded.

Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Samarra, Iraq, Oct. 17.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005.

Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq Oct. 28, 2005.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq.

Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria. Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria; Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

Words About the Bus Go Round and Round

An ACPS board member goes for a ride.

BY MIMI CARTER
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Several weeks ago, an Alexandria City kindergartner from my child's school was accidentally boarded onto a school bus when he should have gone to aftercare. He was dropped off, without a parent present, in a neighborhood that was not his own. Found later, crying and upset, the parents were reunited with

their son, who was unhurt. A few weeks later, similar events occurred at Lyles Crouch and George Mason Elementary where a kindergartner was again dropped off without a parent present.

Needless to say as an elected Alexandria City Public School board member and a parent, this is the last thing you want to have happen in your district, let alone your kid's school. After national news coverage and a sea of angry

emails, the blogs, the Facebook pages and Twitter feeds were abuzz with activity, with parents ascribing blame to teachers, administrators, and bus drivers for their negligence. "Why is this happening?" these feeds asked "What's wrong with these bus drivers?" and "Why isn't the school administration doing anything?"

They had a right to be angry but they also had a right to some answers. We were making changes,

and we were doing something, but would it work? So for the first time in 35 years, I took a ride on a school bus.

ON THE BUS

"So what language are you taking?"

"French, but I don't like it."

"Why don't you like it?" I ask.

"Too hard," she says.

This is my conversation with Katie Sesay, a bright eyed 6th grader at Francis Hammond 1, and

SEE SCHOOL BUS. PAGE 24

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LETTERS

Same Old Nonsense

To the Editor:

Well, here we go again with the Alexandria School District. New Superintendent, new School Board, same old nonsense. Recently, two Alexandria school children were not returned home following the end of the school day. So what does our illustrious Superintendent, School Board Chair Folkerts and School Board mem-

bers decide to do? Why set up another task force to review already existing policies regarding school bus procedures and thus avoid taking any responsibility. Enforce the already existing policies, move on and stop wasting time so you all can "run for cover."

At the recent City Council budget retreat held on Saturday, Nov. 7, Superintendent Sherman and his staff along with support from the School Board are requesting an additional increase of \$14 million from Alexandria taxpayers know-

ing the school district already has a budget gap of about \$15 million. Where is the accountability from this school district even if student enrollment is projected to increase to about 300 students. We already spend about \$17,000 per student with a student population of about 11,000. How much money is spent in other school districts with similar demographics as Alexandria and similar student numbers? And of course the school district must have overpaid, outside consultants

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Alexandria Health Department, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
- American Red Cross Alexandria Chapter
- Volunteer Alexandria

- 1** **Get a Kit**
Food, water, and personal supplies to last at least three days
- 2** **Make a plan**
Discuss with your family what to do in case of emergency; How will you communicate? Where will you meet?
- 3** **Stay informed**
Listen for up-to-date local information before, during, and after a disaster. Be sure to have a battery powered or hand crank radio!







For more information about these and other disaster volunteer opportunities, contact Volunteer Alexandria at 703-836-2176, email mail@volunteeralalexandria.org or visit www.volunteeralalexandria.org

For more information about how to prepare yourself, your family or your business, visit www.readyvirginia.gov

LETTERS

Important news for Comcast Arlington customers

On or about December 11, 2009, changes will be made to your lineup.

The following channels will move from Digital Preferred to Digital Starter level of service, but will remain on the same channel:



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Channel 118

To help make room for these and future channel additions, the following channel will be moving:



Moving from: 102 to 719



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FROM PAGE 9

to help Superintendent Sherman and the school board assist with fixing school programs, drop-out rate, school attendance, tech issues, etc., etc. School Board Chair Yvonne Folkerts suggests that Alexandria taxpayers cannot say “No” to spending more money on consultants. I say, “Yes, we can say no” and wasn’t Superintendent Sherman hired to do the very things these expensive consultants have been hired to do? Dr. Sherman has a doctorate in education and supposedly is an experience leader with expertise in all areas of education and school administration. What appears to be happening is that Dr. Sherman continues with his PR messages, claiming he wants open discussions with parents, teachers, staff, and the community when in reality it seems he only wants to hear “what he wants to hear and do what he wants to do.”

It is time for the School Board to take charge and do the job they were elected/hired to do — set policy that is real rather than policies that will have consequences and won’t work, present a budget that is affordable in these difficult economic times and live within their means like the rest of us have to do and make sure Dr. Sherman is following their lead. I would suggest that all school board members and Dr. Sherman take 1-2 classes in business management as well as budgets at NOVA for which they will pay for themselves.

Dr. Sherman and the School Board needs to present numbers related to how many

central staff positions have been eliminated and if those staff have been moved into lower level positions or have had positions created for them. What is the status of the lease for the Administration Offices that cost about \$1 million or more per year? Like the majority of school districts, Alexandria spends way too much money on central staff and superintendents rather than putting that money towards teachers, classroom materials and students. Perhaps it is time for some central staff administrators to think about taking early retirement. The continued message that “we won’t be able to find qualified staff, etc” is nonsense today. People are glad to have jobs in our current difficult economic times.

Perhaps it is time to revisit an all appointed School Board. Right now, Dr. Sherman and the entire School Board think Alexandria taxpayers are now the Bank of America, Goldman Sachs or AIG 2. It is offensive to use the “children as pawns” to continue to ask for more money. It is time for transparency and accountability.

Annabelle Fisher
Alexandria

Honoring Veterans

To the Editor:

Ceremonies throughout many cities and states are honoring and celebrating all veterans — men and women — on Veterans Day.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

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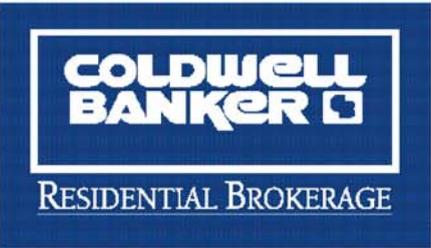
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Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



122 MADISON PLACE
\$1,160,000 | Old Town Alexandria
Potomac River views, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, soaring ceilings, hardwood floors, 2 car garage, fireplace.

Donnan C. Wintermute | 703.518.6156

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Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788

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801 DEVON PLACE
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Bonnie Rivkin | 703.598.7788



7608 SOUTHDOWN ROAD
\$2,600,000 | Waterfront Potomac
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Marie Louise Meyer | 703.836.2080



9061 TOWER HOUSE PLACE
\$1,950,000 | River View at Mt Vernon
3 level center hall colonial with river views, 5,100 sq ft of living space, .51 acre lot, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms.

Joy Deevy | 703.930.5198



7804 ASHLEY GLEN
\$419,900 | Annandale
Commuters dream, 4 BR 3.5 BA, semi-professional kitchen, too many upgrades to list!!

Mary Cay Harris | 703.981.9976

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2117 RAMPART DRIVE
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NEW PRICE!



6621 WAKEFIELD DRIVE, #508
\$237,000 | River Towers
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5631 RIDGE VIEW DRIVE
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NEW PRICE!



2121 JAMIESON AVENUE, UNIT 1806
\$475,000 | Carlyle Towers
Large 2 BR, 2 BA, 18th floor unit, wood floors throughout, refinished cabinets and fresh MBR paint etc.

Brenda Stone | 703.615.4862



2181 JAMIESON AVENUE, UNIT 2102
\$450,000 | Carlyle Towers
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Brenda Stone | 703.615.4862



267 CAMERON STATION BOULEVARD
\$419,900 | Alexandria/ Cameron Station
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Joy Deevy | 703.930.5198



6015 BANGOR DRIVE
\$203,500 | Fairhaven
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Sherry York | 703.625.3377

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OPINION

Time for a Streetcar Network?

BY TIM LOVAIN
AND LOIS WALKER

As former members of the Alexandria City Council and transportation buffs, we have become increasingly convinced that rail transit is the primary answer to our region's congestion problems. Metro and VRE should be expanded and improved, but we also need a network of streetcars in Northern Virginia.

In 1920, most of urbanized America, including Northern Virginia, was served by streetcars — 14 billion annual riders traveling on 45,000 miles of streetcar track. Although a few systems survived (San Francisco, New Orleans, Philadelphia) and hundreds of European cities kept their streetcars, most American streetcar systems died. The Alexandria streetcar died in 1932 when its Washington, D.C. terminus station was knocked down to build Federal Triangle.

In recent years, however, there has been an American streetcar renaissance. Dozens of American cities, from Portland to Tampa,

from Little Rock to Washington, D.C., have realized the enormous power of streetcars as a tool for building attractive, walkable, livable, sustainable communities.

Done right, streetcars induce mixed-use “transit-oriented development” that accommodates growth while enhancing livability and reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Streetcars can promote street life, define neighborhoods, reinforce retail, and fit easily into built environments with little disruption to existing businesses, residents and traffic. They help create places where people want to be.

Streetcars attract riders who won't ride a bus. Ideally, they connect with regional transit systems, like Metro, and provide a smooth and enjoyable “last mile” connection to homes, jobs and other destinations.

Arlington and Fairfax Counties are developing the 5-mile Columbia Pike Streetcar line between Pentagon City and Skyline. Transportation planners are already discussing how this line could be extended, for example:

- ❖ through Crystal City and Potomac Yard,

- ❖ through the NOVA Alexandria campus to Mark Center and beyond, and

- ❖ west on Route 7 to and beyond Baileys Crossroads.

Streetcars could also serve other Northern Virginia communities, like Reston and Vienna, as free-standing circulator systems from Metro stations and catalysts for smart growth development.

Financing streetcars has recently gotten a lot easier because of the strong support of the Obama Administration for streetcars. Peter Rogoff, the administrator of the Federal Transit Administration, recently said: “From Boise to New Orleans to Salt Lake City, there is a growing interest in and enthusiasm for streetcars. We want to be funding streetcars in a more robust way. We are looking to streamline and retool the policies to make it easier for us to help communities.”

We are working with other citizens in our region to launch a Northern Virginia Streetcar Coalition, a grass-roots organization

SEE STRETCARS, PAGE 15

Some remodelers give out free pens. We give out something more valuable. Free knowledge.



Join us for a free 2 hour seminar on “Gaining Space in Your Home” on Saturday, November 21st, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Whether it's reconfiguring existing space or adding new, this seminar will address creative ways to make your home work better for you and your family. The experts will discuss basements, in-law suites, home offices, exercise rooms, play rooms, creative storage ideas and more. Less can be more when it comes to the space in your home. Educate yourself on how to best maximize your home before spending a dime on your remodeling project. Plus, lunch will be served. The seminar will be held at Ferguson Bath, Kitchen and Lighting Gallery, 5650-D General Washington Drive, Alexandria, VA 22312. But spaces are limited, so reserve yours today. Oh, we'll also give you a free pen.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

With great respect, in remembrance of all veterans on Veterans Day, I dedicate this letter to all the veterans and military service men and women's in uniform that took on a job of duty so many would have freedom.

This past Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2009 marks 30 years when the Veterans Memorial Walkway along the bike path of the 500 block of Wilkes and South Columbus Street of our City of Alexandria, displayed a rock with a newly renovated plate that read:

"Dedicated by the City of Alexandria and Alexandria's Veterans organization on Veterans Day November 11, 1979, in honored memory of the deceased Alexandria Veterans of all the United States Wars. Their service in war and peace contributed greatly to the welfare of their fellow citizens." Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Mayor; Robert L. Calhoun, Vice Mayor; Donald C. Casey, Councilman; Margaret B. Inman, Councilwoman; Nelson E. Greene Sr., Councilman; James P. Morgan, Jr., Councilman, and Carlyle C. Ring, Jr., Councilman.

I believe we often forget those who have served in any capacity for the betterment of our cities.

Let's be thoughtful throughout all the holidays; a thank you just may be the best gift one can receive.

Geri Baldwin
Alexandria

More Intelligent?

To the Editor:

In the Gazette's Nov. 5 article "A Divided Election," Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille made an absurd statement. He claimed that, because the voters (not the populace) of Alexandria and some other parts of Northern Virginia voted Democratic for governor and other state positions on Tuesday, they "are much brighter and more intelligent" than those who hail from other areas of the state. Mayor Euille considers himself a "liberal," however his flippant attitude toward those who disagree with his political beliefs based on where they live paints quite a different picture. The Mayor's viewpoint is the exact opposite of liberalism. It's illiberal.

As a life-long Alexandrian who also spends a large amount of time in both Richmond and the Tidewater region of our state, I have interacted with many individuals, Democrats, Independents and Re

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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- Cherry Tomatoes Salad
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The Sweets

- Apple Tart w/Walnuts & Cranberries (serve 6-8)
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- Cranberry Cheesecake & Pumpkin Cheesecake (serve 12-14)

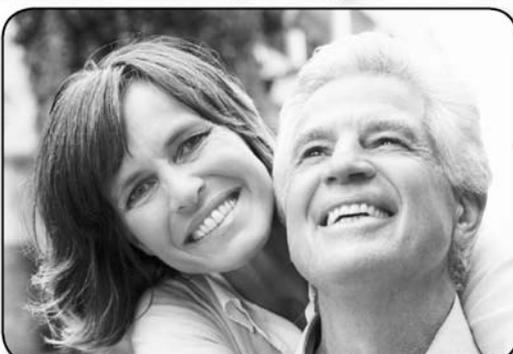
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Wed.,	Nov. 21	7am-7pm
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

publicans, whose viewpoints on a wide array of issues have impacted my outlook on how our state should be run.

It should also be noted that, Fairfax (where Governor-Elect McDonnell grew up) Fairfax City and Loudoun County, all part of Mayor Euille's "Northern Virginia intellegencia," voted in majority for Republican Bob McDonnell. This same voting block additionally enabled Republicans to once again gain the majority among the Northern Virginia delegation in Richmond. Voters throughout the state, not just in Northern Virginia, looked at the issues and did not vote for Democrat Creigh Deeds' ticket.

Tyler Randolph Boyd
Alexandria

Unfettered Density

To the Editor:

The City Planners have recently released their preliminary Waterfront Plan and have started "shopping" it around, much to the consternation of the Old Town residents and others. It appears the planners envision a re-creation of the National Harbor complex, as

the plan adds a great deal of density, mostly intense restaurant density to the lower portion of King Street and the waterfront. They apparently have not recognized the fact that currently there are 82 eating establishments from the waterfront to the King Street Metro. That total also includes those restaurants (20) one block north and south of King Street. The fact of the matter is that we just don't need any more restaurants on or close to King Street. Not only will additional restaurants upset the desired delicate balance between residential and commercial developments, but it will also cause problems for our small retailers because it will create a total imbalance of assets on King Street and the waterfront. Specifically, those businesses on King Street that are west of Washington Street will be the ones adversely affected. In fact, five of them will or have already closed their doors. More will most likely follow. One of the real "lynchpins" in this entire planning scenario is parking. However, we must be cognizant of the fact that by just solving the parking problem we will not have addressed a number of other critical issues that need to be resolved as well.

The Planning Commission, after seeing the waterfront plan in a recent work session, was very emphatic that Old Town parking problems need to be solved now before any future waterfront planning requests can go forward. As the former president of the Old Town Civic Association (OTCA), I served as their representative to the National Harbor Task Force. I brought the parking problem up at each and every meeting. I might as well have been talking to the wall as nothing substantial has ever been done since that time. Bert Ely of OTCA has done extensive research on the overall impacts surrounding waterfront parking and he knows more about that issue than the entire city staff. Using the little private parking lot across the street from Bilbo Baggins (intersection of Queen and Lee Streets) as an example, I have stated on a number of occasions that other similar parking lots, on the King Street corridor, that are used during daylight hours by businesses could be converted at five o'clock in the evening and on weekends for use by visitors to Old Town. This would add a large number of parking spaces to the overall parking

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

Metropolitan ENT



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Alexandria
Gazette Packet

OPINION

Streetcar Network for Area?

FROM PAGE 12

committed to building awareness among Northern Virginia citizens and elected officials about the benefits of streetcars and support for the construction of a Northern Virginia Streetcar Network. We believe that streetcars need to be planned regionally, rather than jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction, to

maximize connectivity and interoperability.

The kickoff meeting of the Northern Virginia Streetcar Coalition will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 7-9 p.m. in Room 158 of the Bisdorf Building on the Alexandria Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College (very close to the point where Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax

County meet!). Our speakers will include Chris Zimmerman from the Arlington County Board and Stewart Schwartz, the executive director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. For questions and to RSVP, contact us at NOVASTreetcar@aol.com.

Sooner or later, we hope streetcars will ring your bell!

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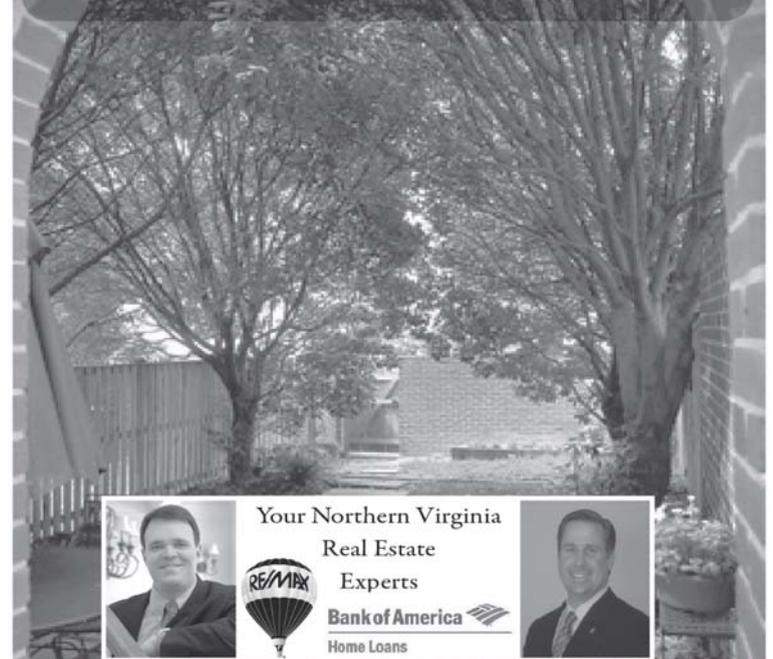
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1208 Tatum Drive \$875,000 Villamay!
Magnificent Colonial in exceptional condition on one of prestigious Villamay's nicest streets! Three finished levels, large room sizes, updated kitchen and baths. MBR suite has private balcony which provides panoramic vistas of the area with seasonal river views. Elevated grounds afford the ultimate privacy with gorgeous custom pool. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Tulane, L Park Terr Dr, R Tatum.

JUST LISTED!

3706 Riverwood Court \$820,000 Riverwood Gem!
The first home available in highly sought after Riverwood in months! Truly spectacular property with exceptionally gorgeous pool and grounds! Three finished levels, four bedrooms, gourmet kitchen, two car garage and top quality new roof. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in area's premier waterfront community.

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!

OPEN SUN 1-4

313 EAST OAK STREET Alex / Rosemont Park \$515,000
JUST LISTED! Move right into this renovated 2BR/1.5BA home just 2 blocks from Metro. Features include updated kitchen w/maple & ceramic tile, HW flrs on main/upper lvls, fin bsmt, spacious deck, landscaped yard, driveway & more.

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841

OPEN SUN 1-4

5963 OAKLAND PARK DRIVE Alexandria \$550,000
FORMER MODEL HOME for community w/3 fin lvls on a fab treed 1/4 acre lot. 4BR/3.5BA w/sitting rm off Master Suite. Newer heat pump, 2-car garage, mins to schools, FFC Pkwy, VRE & shops. Wonderful neighborhood facilities for family fun. DIR: from FFC Pkwy N; R on I23N / Or Rd then an immediate R on Clara Barton Dr and bear R, L on Oakland Pk Dr to 5963 on R.

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

OPEN SUN 1-4

1614 S STAFFORD ST Arlington - \$499,999
AMAZING LOCATION! Sun-filled home w/many updates thru-out backing up to beautiful Douglas Park, yet close to Shirlington, trails & commuter options. 4BR/3BA including lower level suite. Refinished HWs, new baths, renovated FamRm w/built-ins. Plenty of closets & storage.

Anya Macklin 703.518.8720

3906 Rive Drive \$998,500 Stunning Property!
The most spectacular property you will ever find has been completely updated with breathtaking results! Bright & open floor plan, 3 fin lvls including full w/o LL, 4/5BR, 3.5BA, updated gourmet kitchen, stunning MBR 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 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Old Mt Vernon Rd, L Rive Dr.

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!

4816 Stillwell Avenue \$575,000 Renovated!
Unique opportunity! Exceptionally large 5/6 BR home is located in a gorgeous setting on a 1/2 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!

828 SLATERS LA #104 Alexandria \$699,000 MAJOR PRICE REDUCTION!
Spectacular Condo! 1,890sqft! 3BR, 2.5BA, 2 Master suites, gourmet kit, 9' ceilings, Gas fireplace, Plantation shutters & hardwoods thru-out, handicap accessible + 2 inside parking spaces. City views from rooftop. Shops & rests.

**Mary Bourke 703.906.5825
Shane Canny 703.346.2067**

LAKE VIEW BEAUTY Alexandria - \$389,900
\$10,000 REDUCTION-BUYER'S CHECKLIST:
• 2BR/2BA/2 gar spaces
• Gas fireplace
• Separate LR/DR
• Granite/Tile & Crown
• Custom Tuscan paint

**Louise Devers 703.795.9944
Glenn Witucki 703.518.8708**

OPEN SUN 1-4

7532 HOLLINDALE CT Alex / Hollindale \$599,000
JUST LISTED! This 3BR/3BA rambler features gourmet kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counters & state of the art appl. Other highlights include HW flrs, remodeled baths, custom closets, 2 FP's, rear patio, landscaped yard & more!

Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.587.7841

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.)

1810 Hollindale Dr \$675,000 Gorgeous Setting!
Estate sale of spacious ramblor on gorgeous 3/4 acre grounds in premier location just minutes from Old Town in prestigious Hollindale/Mason Hill area! Home features five bedrooms, three full baths, large room sizes, open floor plan and oversized two car garage. Fabulous potential to remodel or build your dream home on this special site with rural ambiance in "close-in" location convenient to everything!

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!

1730 W ABINGDON #7-1 Old Town / \$229,000
BEST VALUE at Potowmack Crossing! New carpet, counters, fresh paint & washer/dryer in unit. Courtyard building, overlooks treed area, close to prkg. Amenities include pool, tennis, gym, excellent commuter location, one stop light to DC.

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317

OPEN SUN 2-4

705 HAWKINS WAY Alexandria \$412,000
WONDERFUL sunlit 4BR/4.5BA townhome. Warm hardwoods, gourmet kitchen & elegant inviting interior. Home features deck, stone patio, abundant storage, 2 fireplaces, 2 car garage & backs to greenspace. Minutes to Old Town and DC.

Laura Blederman 202.309.1350

5827 BERKSHIRE COURT South Alexandria \$412,000
NEW LISTING! So much space for the money! Brick front 3 level TH, 3BR, huge eat-in kitchen, private patio, many upgrades, short distance to Huntington METRO. CALL TODAY!

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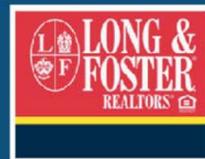
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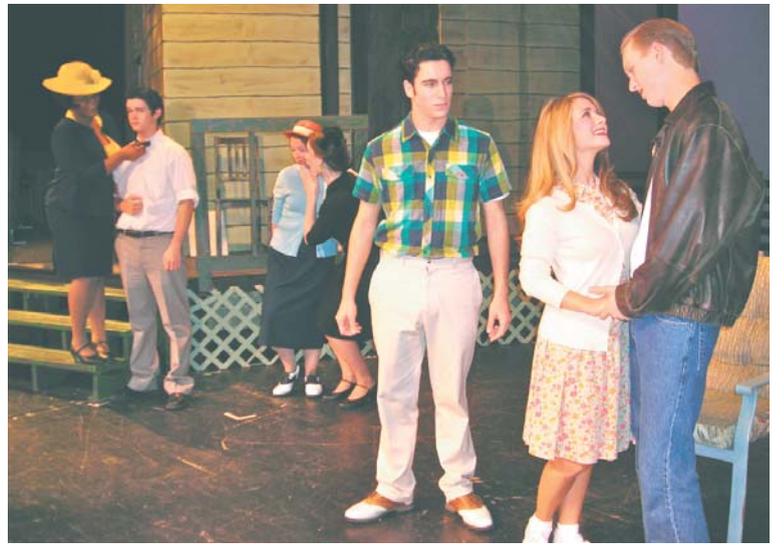


SCHOOLS

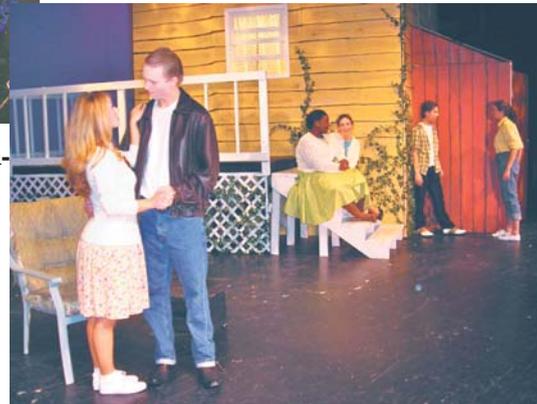
PHOTOS BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER/GAZETTE PACKET



The cast get some last minute pointers and encouragement from student stage manager Abigail Waters (far right) and student director Haley Southee (right).



T. C. Williams students get into character. From left to right: Maria Simpkins as Rosemary Sydney, Sam Jones as Howard Bevans, Marie Chapman as Christine Shoenwalder, Jackie Tilley as Irma Kronkite, Zachary Frank as Alan Seymour, Madeline E. Bryan as Madge Owens, Dylan Drury as Hal Carter.



Capturing the look and feel of 1950's America in "Picnic" are, left to right, Madeline E. Bryan, Dylan Drury, Brielle Welch as Flo Owens, Erin Embrey as Helen Potts, Ben Ribler as Bomber, Elaine Bledsoe as Millie Owens.

TC's 'Picnic'

T.C. Williams drama students performed playwright William Inge's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Picnic," a portrait of 1950's life in America's heartland, during the last two weekends.

Under the guidance of drama teachers Leslie Jones, executive producer and Hope E. Bachman-Miller, executive director and a 1998 graduate of T. C. Williams, students tackled all aspects of the production from directing and acting to set construction, lights and sound.

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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Historic Alexandria Antiques Show Set For Nov. 13-15

The Historic Alexandria Antiques Show takes place Nov. 13-15 at the Holiday Inn Historic District, 625 First Street. Hours of the show are Friday, Nov. 13, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 14, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 15, 12 noon-5 p.m.

The show brings together 30 top-ranking antiques, fine art and jewelry dealers from around the U.S. and abroad.

Show admission tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15 each or for \$12 each at www.ArmacostAntiquesShows.com. Show admission is free on Friday only from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Visitors to this year's Historic Alexandria Antiques Show can receive free verbal appraisals of their treasures by antiques expert and professional appraiser Todd Peenstra. Verbal appraisals will be limited to two items per visitor.

"This is a great chance to learn if you have hidden wealth," said Bob James, president, Armacost Antiques Shows. "Todd Peenstra has worked with renowned collectors the world over and brings extraordinary knowledge and insight to appraising."

The Historic Alexandria Antiques Show brings together 30 antiques, fine art and jewelry dealers from around the U.S. and abroad. It will feature thousands of pieces of period furniture, paintings, prints, folk art, tapestries, textiles, carpets, lamps, ceramics, glass, jewelry and unusual decorative accessories, every one backed by a guarantee of authenticity.

The show is located at the Holiday Inn Historic District at 625 First Street. Free parking is available.

Proceeds from the show benefit the Historic Alexandria Foundation. The foundation awards grants annually to an array of preservation projects and conducts an important preservation awards program.

Tickets are required for the preview party, Thursday, Nov. 12, 6:30-9:30 p.m., and for all other events. Call 703-549-5811 or www.ArmacostAntiquesShows.com.

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Pain Enough To Go Around

Charter's play deals with brutal subject.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Some plays deal with the heaviest of subjects in the lightest way, while others deal with light and trivial topics with a strange heft. The best plays, however, find a match between the seriousness of their subject and the style of presentation. This is what "Lie With Me," the new play by Charter Theater's Artistic Director, Keith Bridges, which is being produced at Arlington's Theatre on the Run accomplishes, and while its topic makes it anything but a light piece of entertainment, it delivers quite a wallop.

The topic? About as heavy as you can imagine. It is a play about sexual abuse within a family. And it isn't confined to just one couple or one generation. The abuse spans decades.

The style? A straight portrayal of the emotional havoc wreaked on all concerned. This isn't a tabloid-style piece of erotic titillation, but it isn't a glossed over collection of bromides or sanctimonious posturing either. Each of the characters display the pain and damage the abuse has caused.

Jim Brady plays the father who can't admit that he harmed his daughter by carry-



RICHARD WASHER/THE GAZETTE

Liz Brown and Ryan Mulkey in "Lie With Me" by Keith Bridges, directed by Jon Cohn at Charter Theatre through Nov. 22, 2009.

ing on an incestuous relationship with her over a period of years. His performance is the most compelling all evening long, although it is at times very hard to watch as he shows the weight of shame and sorrow he is carrying into old age, alternating with his attempt to deny his guilt. He can actually say to his victim: "It wasn't something I did to you, it was something we did."

Rana Kay is the daughter who, having grown old enough to flee, has done just that. She burns with anger and an inability to comprehend just how her mother could have not intervened.

That mother is confined to her bed throughout the play and she's a victim herself. As a child she suffered the same fate her daughter did and she never overcame

its devastating effect on her own sense of self worth and understanding of the role of a parent. Maura McGinn is positively searing as the mother when she's awake enough to lash out, and her outburst toward her second-generation victim daughter is gut-wrenching as she screams "you stole my husband!"

Bridges obviously isn't pulling any punches in his script. But just in case you miss some of the points, he adds a younger sister who can't quite understand why her father would have preferred the older sister to herself, and a boyfriend of the older sister who wants to help put the pains of the past in the past. Neither are simple roles. Liz Brown is brutally open as the younger sister who has taken to slicing herself with razor blades just to feel honest pain, and Ryan Mulkey nicely handles the confusion of a young man getting in over his head in a family whose dynamics he can't understand.

It is a topic that is as old as the Bible (the

SEE PAIN, PAGE 20

Where and When

Charter Theatre's production of "Lie With Me" plays through Nov. 22 at Theatre On The Run, 3700 South Four Mile Run Drive. Performances are Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m. Saturday - Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25 - \$28. Call 202-333-7009 or log on to www.chartertheatre.org.

An Artful Murder Mystery

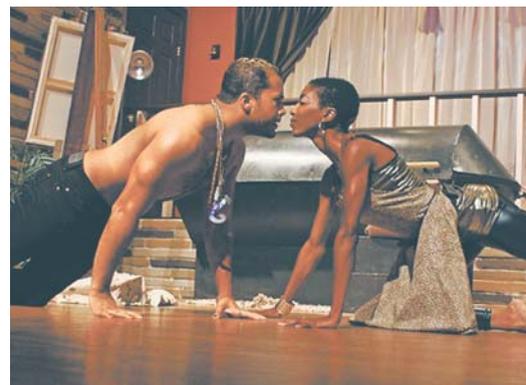
The Little Theatre of Alexandria finds comedy in mayhem.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theatre of Alexandria and director C. Evans Kirk have unearthed a little gem of a comedy mystery and are giving it a superb production that features three strikingly good performances out of a cast of only four.

"Art of Murder" is a convoluted story of jealousy, murder and the marketing of art. It sounds like a strange combination of topics, but the script carries the audience along without confusion and director C. Evans Kirk keeps the pace nicely balanced so there is no feeling of being rushed, yet things don't bog down. At least they don't until late in the second act when there is a bit of a lull as the loose ends of the complicated plot are finally tied up.

Brandon DeGroat is appropriately hateful as an artist with an ego the size of a small ICBM. "I'm an artist — never judge me," he bellows at both his wife and his agent. He's in the habit of enclosing himself in an isolation tank, which is also the size of a small missile, and looks like one as well. (Set construction chief Dan Remmers designed the tank especially for



SHEILA PRICE/THE GAZETTE

Brandon DeGroat (Jack Brooks) and Danielle Eure (Annie Brooks).

this production.) DeGroat has demonstrated charm and humor on this stage before (most notably in "The Teahouse of the August Moon"), but bares an unsuspected mean streak for this role. That isn't all he bares, as there is a brief moment of nudity as well.

Danielle Eure, who was so impressive here in "Intimate Apparel" two years ago, returns as the artist's wife, stretched to her limit by the intimidation of her husband. She's elegantly energetic, delivering a well constructed performance that avoids telegraphing any of the surprise twists of the plot while giving each one of them a solid foundation so once the twist is revealed, it makes perfect sense.

The third strikingly good performance comes from Carl Nubile who brings his fabu-

lously mellifluous voice and strong stage presence to the role of the art dealer/agent who couldn't care less who paints what as long as he can make his commission.

The fourth member of the cast is Nicole White. Hers is a small but memorable part and she is perfectly satisfactory in it. She's the housekeeper who is supposed to have the night off but who somehow shows up in the middle of the felonious events of the evening.

"Art of Murder" is by Joe DiPietro, who has turned out a wide variety of scripts in the past decade or so. It was his script for "Over the River and Through the Woods" that was given such a fine production on this same stage in 2004. He's the one who re-wrote the script for Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Allegro" for Signature Theatre in Arlington. He crafted the off-Broadway hit musical "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" and Broadway musicals such as the Elvis songbook musical "All Shook Up" and the

SEE MURDER, PAGE 20

Where and When

"Art of Murder" plays through Nov. 21 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 660 Wolfe Street. Performances are Wednesday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 - \$18. Call 703-683-0496 or log on to www.thelittletheatre.com.

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Photo by Steve Vaccarello

ARTS

Living Legends of Alexandria Are Nominated

The following are names of Alexandria's Living Legends submitted by the community by Sept. 30: Chet Avery, Don Beyer, Martin Van Buren Bostetter, Jr., Rosalind Bovey, Kathryn A. Brown, Lynnwood Campbell, Michael A. Conner, Sr., Earl Cook, Pam Cressey, V. Rodger Digilio, Nelson Green, Sr., Gila Harris, Harry P. "Bud" Hart, Thomas A. Hulfish, III, Allen Lomax, Marlin G. Lord, John McEneaney, the team of Alice Merrill and Linda Odell, T. Michael Miller, Alice Morgan, Charles H. Nelson, Sr., William A. Payne, Joan and John Renner, Joseph S. Shumard, William F. Smith, David G. Speck, Lois Walker and Betty Wright. Nominations from past years will also be reconsidered.

The 2010 Legend nominees will be honored at a reception on Feb. 7, 2010 from 2:30-5 p.m., at the Lyceum.

Living Legends of Alexandria is an on-going, not-for-profit project to identify, honor and chronicle those making history in Alexandria today. It is unique among recognition programs in that the photographs and related stories are donated to the Alexandria Library. Photographs of the 2008-09 Legends and nominees may be seen

on the third floor of Alexandria City Hall. Photographs of the 2007-08 Legends are at the

Beatley Library. Visit www.tisaraphoto.com/legends or call Nina Tisara, 703-625-2330.

An Artful Murder Mystery

FROM PAGE 19

new musical "Memphis" that opened just last month.

The production plays out on a single set, which as is so often the case at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, is well designed and solidly constructed. At the performance we attended the lighting design seemed a bit off, as there were specific effects obviously built into the storytelling that

didn't quite work. But that set, and its "isolation chamber," make quite an impression.

◆◆◆

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

Pain Enough To Go Around

FROM PAGE 19

first biblical story of incest comes in just the 19th chapter of the first book, Genesis) and as current as the morning paper with the attention being given to Mackenzie Phillips' revelations of the abuse visited on her by her father, the Mamas and the Papas' John Phillips.

Here it is given an intelligent

exploration of the consequences that pervade an entire family.

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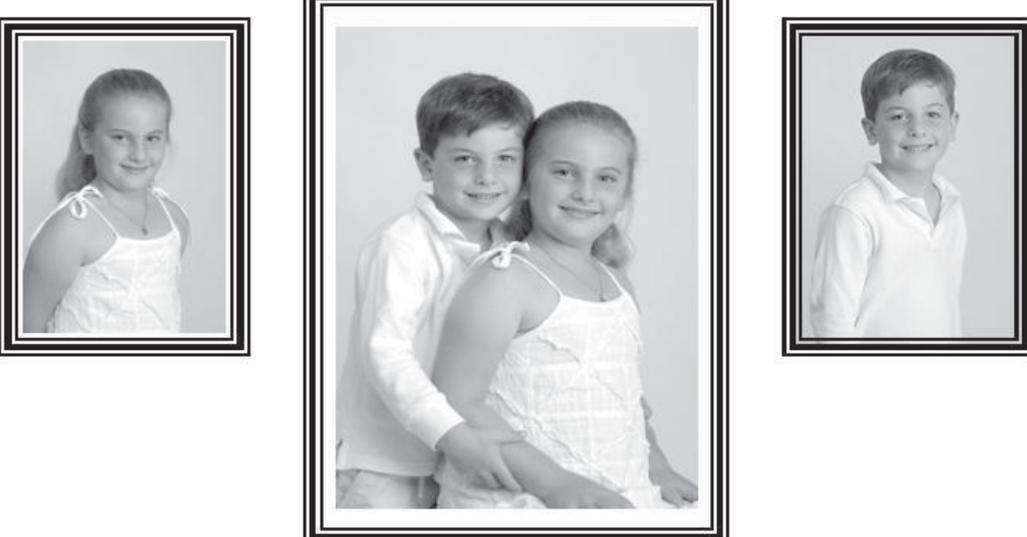
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FINE ARTS

NOV. 12, 13, 15

New paintings by Caroline Heald and Marian Van Landingham. At Studio 321, Torpedo Factory Art Center, to benefit ALIVE serving Alexandria's neediest citizens. Opening from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday Nov. 12. Ten percent of sales to go to the faith-based organization.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

Gallery West presents: The 30th Anniversary Celebration/Small Works Show
Reception: Nov. 12, 6 - 9 p.m.
Join the members of Gallery West in a month-long celebration of the gallery's 30th year. The gallery is located at 1213 King Street in Old Town Alexandria's Boutique District, between Payne and Fayette. Shopping and fine dining are nearby.
The gallery is open from 11 - 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Images of work by the members are on view at the gallery's Web site: www.gallery-west.com. Call 703-549-6006.

NOV. 21-22

Timeless Exhibit with Christopher H. Jones and Kathy Wismar. 1-6 p.m. Two day event features balance between antiques and contemporary art. At Christopher H. Jones Antiques, 210 North Lee Street in Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-795-5017.

NOW THROUGH NOV. 22

Artist Teresa Oaxaca Solo Show. Teresa Oaxaca "Classical Drawing and Painting: The Figure" oil paintings and charcoal drawings. Oaxaca is a 2005 graduate of H-B Woodlawn. At the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert

NOV. 12-15

BUY ART - DO GOOD: Marsha Staiger, Ann Barbieri, Gloria Logan, three Torpedo Factory artists show new work to benefit local community organization ALIVE! (Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically). Opening reception is Thursday, Nov. 12 from 6-9 p.m. At Studio 322 (3rd floor), Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Alexandria, on the Waterfront in Old Town, Alexandria. Call 703-836-8746 or go to www.alive-inc.org.

Hall and Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 703-845-6156.



NOW THROUGH NOV. 29

Artist Renee van der Stelt — Projections: Line on Land. Target Gallery's 2009 Open Exhibition Winner, Renee van der Stelt, will be exhibiting her drawings/sculptures that explore how a drawing can affect and shape space. Reception on Nov. 12 from 6-8 p.m. with artist talk at 7 p.m. At Target Gallery, TFAC, on the Waterfront in Old Town Alexandria.

NOW THROUGH NOV. 29

Scope Gallery — Table Talk. Over a dozen Ceramic Guild potters have been creating cups, plates, bowls and other serveware to complete a table and add originality and color to a holiday spread. The show runs now through Nov. 29, Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m.; closed

on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26. The gallery is located on the ground floor Studio 19, 101 North Union Street Alexandria. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 7

Tory Cowles' Solo Exhibit, "Boing!" In Tory Cowles' latest series of abstract paintings she strives to incorporate more interactive three-dimensional elements. Her work has always been light, playful, and joyful, but now the work invites the viewer to participate. Cowles is a resident artist at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Opening reception and Meet the Artist on Thursday, Nov. 12, 6:30 - 8 p.m. In The Art League Gallery: Daily, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sundays, 12 noon - 6 p.m.; Open Thursdays until 9 p.m.

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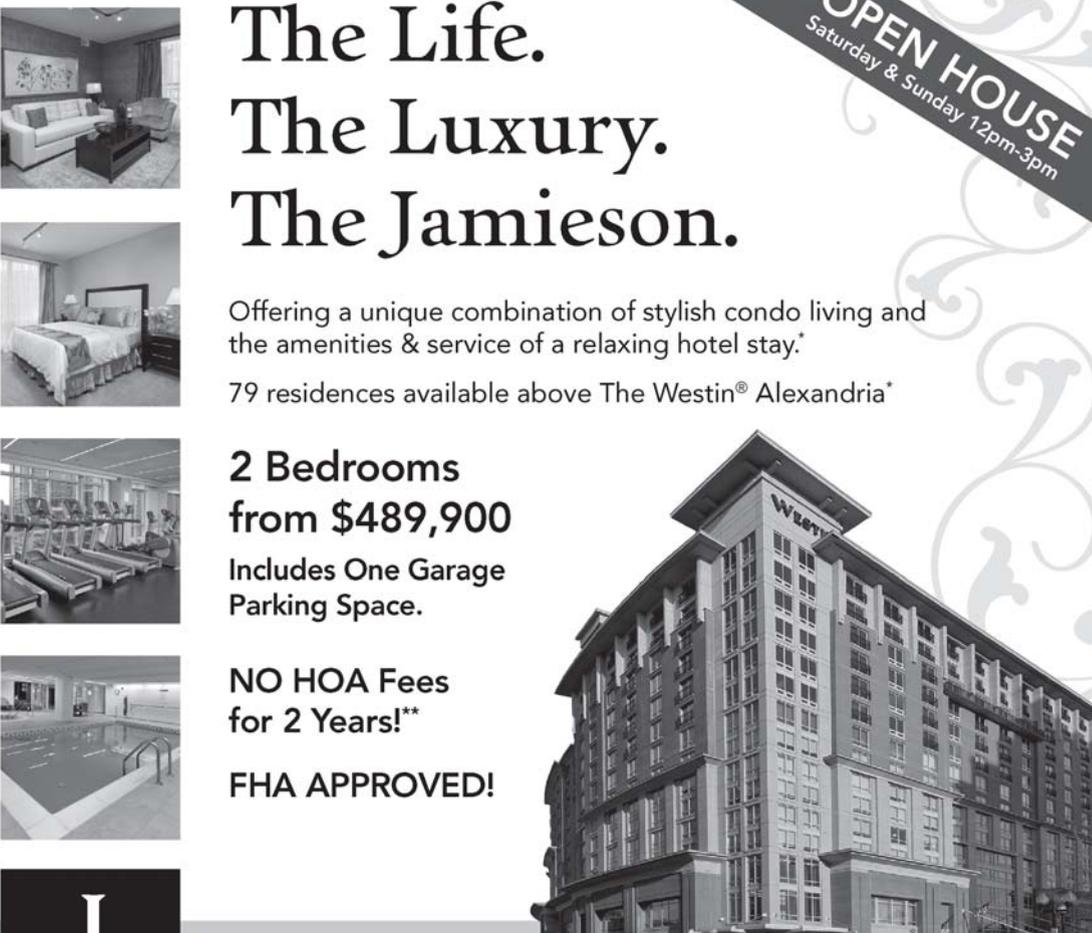
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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, NOV. 12

Scott McKnight & The Jelly Roll Mortals. 7 p.m. It is a DC-area collision of after-the-fall musical vagabonds. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Contact 703-548-0035 or www.nvfaa.org.

Latin American Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Featuring works by Latin American authors translated into English. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Call 703-519-5900, ext. 3.

18th-Century Dance Classes. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Singles or couples are welcome. Cost is \$30 for the series of \$12/per class. Dance master Corky Palmer will lead this series of 18th-century English country dance classes in preparation for the Late Harvest Ball on Saturday, Nov. 21. Held at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 or go to www.gadsbystavern.org.

NOV. 12-13

Holiday Marketplace. Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. More than 30 vendors, shopping, pastries, coffee and holiday raffle. At St. Aidan's Day School, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Call 703-360-4013.

NOV. 12-15

"White Christmas." Nov. 12-14 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10/general, \$5/students,



The Mayor's Council and Barbershop Quartet: Derek Farino, West Potomac High School; Rick Pflieger, Burgandy Farm; Anton Ekman, Bishop Ireton High School; Ben Roberts, Carl Sandburg Middle School.

NOV. 13-22

"The Music Man." Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10/adults, \$8/seniors and children. Presented by Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Go to www.mvctt.org or call 703-360-0686.

NOV. 12-24

Gingerbread Houses. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Former White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier creates a gingerbread replica of George Washington's home. Visitors can watch as he constructs the masterpiece. At Mount Vernon in the

seniors. Directed by E.M. Milam, musical direction by Michael Weinberg. At Bishop O'Connell High School, 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Call the box office at 703-237-1448.

first floor, Torpedo Factory. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, except second Thursdays, 2-9 p.m.

Benefit Concert. 8 p.m. Triptych presents the music of Turina, Beethoven and Dvorak, with John McCrary on piano, Sonya Hayes on violin and Charlie Powers on cello. Reception to follow. At Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-5500, ext. 103 or music@trinityalexandria.org.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 23

Vaughan Lobby, near the Shops. Go to Visit.MountVernon.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 13

Fashion Show Luncheon and Silent Auction. 11 a.m. reception and silent auction. Noon luncheon and fashion show. Fashions by Draper's and Damon's. Sponsored by the Board of Lady Managers at Inova Alexandria Hospital. Profits benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. At the Alexandria Hilton Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Call Lynda West at 703-836-8853.

Photography Discussion. 7:30 p.m. Kathleen Ewing presents "The fine art of Collecting Photography: How things have changed and what is in the future." At the Kathleen Ewing Gallery,

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 22

Ballroom Dancing for Couples. 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. second Friday of each month. Enjoy waltz, fox trot, cha cha, swing and more to live music on large wooden dance floor in Mount Vernon area; \$15/person. Private club; reservations required
www.fridaynightersdancingclub.com.

Artist Trading Card Event. 7-9 p.m. Free. Theme is "Bad Luck Swap." Since the Del Ray Dozen Invitational Photography show will be on display during this swap, let the artwork inspire you to try your hand at these small (2.5" x 3.5") works of art. At the Del Ray Artisans Gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.artist-trading-cards.com.

NOV. 13-14

Annual Holiday Bazaar. 2:30-7 p.m. on Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Fun, fellowship and great Christmas shopping. At the NV Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. All proceeds benefit the residents at the Hermitage. Call 703-797-3800 or 703-569-4857.

School Play. "Sideways Stories From Wayside School." The play is an adaptation of the children's novel by Louis Sachar. Nov. 14 and 21 at 2:30 p.m. and Nov. 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. At West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$8.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Book Signing and Author's Reception. 3-5 p.m. For the book, "Mr. Lincoln's Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington" by B. Franklin Cooling III and Walton H. Owen II. At Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4848.

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

Christmas Bazaar and Silent Auction. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Baked goods, jewelry, hand-made crafts, white elephants, home-made foodstuffs, vendors featuring silk scarves, specialty jewelry, pressed-flower pictures, professional photographs, etc. Café lunch from noon to 2 p.m. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Call 703-765-6555 or www.aldersgate.net.



SUNDAY/NOV. 15

Tea With Martha Washington. 3-4:30 p.m. \$25/person. The tea includes the museum's special blend of tea, pound cake, dried fruit, and assortment of cookies. Party attire is requested. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. For reservations, call 703-838-4242. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org.



SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. Season 2009-10 heats up with "Winter." With Maestro Kim Allen Kluge. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NVCC Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Cost is \$40-\$70, with discounts for students and seniors, and \$5 youth tickets. Call 703-548-0885 or visit www.alexsym.org.

Holiday Arts & Crafts Bazaar. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. At Mt Vernon United Methodist Church, 2006 Belle View Blvd, Alexandria. Contact candythompson9@gmail.com or the church office at 703-765-1100.

Holiday Bazaar. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Antiques, white elephants, books, records, children's clothes, toys, holiday items, baked goods and more. At Washington Street United Methodist Church, 115 South Washington Street, Old Town. Call 703-836-4324.

Silent Auction. 7 p.m. St. Luke's Day School in the Parish hall. Contact Kelly at 202-256-1445 or kellykenneally@verizon.net.

Holiday Bazaar. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Craft vendors, handmade ornaments, baked goods, silent auction, Secret Santa Shop. At Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Road, Alexandria. Call 703-683-0798.

Photo Tips. 2 p.m. Free. Photographer Shane Canfield of the Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater is giving tips for taking "headshot" photographs for theatre auditions. At Sherwood Hall Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Room 4, Alexandria. Go to www.mvcc.org.

Bake Sale Fund-raiser. 8 a.m. to noon. For the Bellefonte Group Home, part of the Alexandria Community Services Board where 16 adults with special needs live. At the Del Ray Farmer's Market, corner of Mount Vernon Ave. and Oxford Ave. Email fitzgeraldps@gmail.com

SUNDAY/NOV. 15

"Cabaret and Celtic Coffeehouse." 7 p.m. Evening of secular cabaret-style music in a casual coffeehouse setting, with Angel Collins' "The Cycles of Love" and light-hearted Celtic folk music by Points of Roguery. \$10 (\$5 under 16) includes entertainment, desserts, coffee; beer/wine. At Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Contact Trish Waters at 703-799-9274, pwaters@cox.net.

Electric Guitars. 4 p.m. \$25. Classical guitarist Larry Snitzler and jazz guitarist Rick Whitehead. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. To reserve tickets, email Larry Snitzler at snitzler@gmu.edu or call 703-919-9773.

MMRF 5K Walk/Run. 9 a.m. For the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation. Begins at the AMC Hoffman Theaters in Alexandria. Pre-

registration at www.mmrf.org/dc is \$25 and \$30/day of event. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Race begins at 9 a.m. To sign up, go to http://321cure.themmr.org/goto/Myelomaniacs. The registration fee is \$25/adult. Children are free (strollers are welcome).

Pet Event to Benefit FOHA. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Becky's Pet Care Inc. is teaming with Petclix to raise money and supplies to benefit Friends of Homeless Animals. At Becky's Pet Care, 6281-B Franconia Road, one mile east of Springfield Mall. Call 703-822-0933.

MONDAY/NOV. 16

Kenny Sanders and All That. 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Committee for Jazz at Meade Church, 322 N. Alfred St., Alexandria. \$15 donation.

Duncan Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. "For Those I Loved" by Martin Gray, the biography of a Holocaust survivor who became a Russian Army officer. At the Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Contact Ruth at 703-838-4566.

TUESDAY/NOV. 17

30th Annual InterFaith Concert: A Celebration of the Sacred in Song, Dance and Chant. 7:30-9 p.m. (doors open at 6:40 p.m.) At Washington Hebrew Congregation, 3935 Macomb St. NW, Washington, D.C. Ticket Info: \$15 in advance/\$18 at the door. \$30 reserved section. Go to ifcmw.org.

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society Meeting. 1 p.m. Free and open to public. Features a presentation entitled "Newspaper Research at the Library of Congress," by Claire Bettag, CG, CGL, a genealogist based in Washington, D.C. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 112, in Alexandria. Call Harold McClendon at 703-360-0920 or haroldm@erols.com.

Free "Intro to Pilates" mat class. 8:15 - 9:05 p.m. You'll learn beginner exercises from an authentically trained Pilates instructor, and you'll be on your way to a strong core, longer, leaner muscle, and a new attitude. Space limited, reserve at 703-739-7601 or studiobodylogic@earthlink.net. Wear comfy clothes and bring socks. Studio Body Logic, 2417 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. www.studiobodylogic.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 18

Native Americans Along the Potomac River. 7:30 p.m. The talk is featured at the Friends of Dyke Marsh quarterly meeting. The speaker, Dr. Stephen Potter, U.S. National Park Service archaeologist, will discuss the political dynamics of the Algonquian-speaking people of the Potomac River Valley during the critical 60 years following the establishment of Jamestown. At Huntley Meadows Park Visitors' Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Call 703-768-2525 or go to http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/.

THURSDAY/NOV. 19

The Reverie Jazz Trio. 7-9 p.m. Free. The Reverie Jazz Trio will perform early jazz standards and forgotten favorites. 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.

18th-Century Dance Classes. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Singles or couples are welcome. Cost is \$30 for the series of \$12/per class. Dance master Corky Palmer will lead this series of 18th-century English country dance classes in preparation for the Late Harvest Ball on Saturday, Nov. 21. Held at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 or go to www.gadsbystavern.org.

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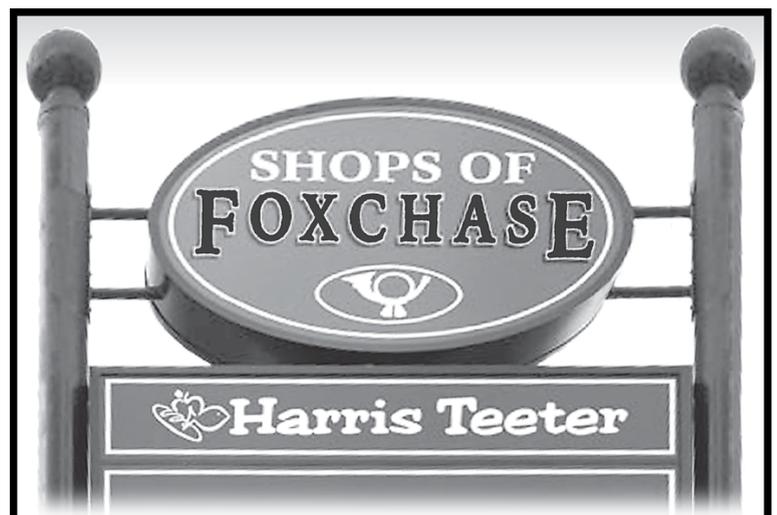
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Getting First-Hand Look Aboard a School Bus

FROM PAGE 6

we are riding the bus together. She sits behind me with her two friends, and is sweet to talk to me, despite the fact that it's pretty uncool. We talk about Halloween, the fact that, yes, 6th graders still trick or treat, and how many kids are on the bus today.

"62, Ms. Lettie," she shouts to Lettie McDowell, ACPS bus driver for my route today.

"How many?" calls back Ms. Lettie, over the din that is middle school chatter, her voice clear in its disbelief.

The number is 62 and that is a lot of middle schoolers in one seemingly small space. I find out later we are riding one of the larger ACPS buses and it apparently can hold 74 middle schoolers. Where I don't know. We seem pretty wedged in among the violins, the backpacks, the eighth grade boys about the size of my mechanic and more than a little bit of attitude. And yet many, many of these children, as they disembark the bus, all say "Goodbye Ms. Lettie," or "So long

Ms. Lettie, see you this afternoon."

"They're my babies," she says, when we talk later. "I love'm all."

Lettie McDowell has been a bus driver for ACPS for 24 years. She has a 13-year-old daughter, now at Hammond, and is considering cutting back her time at work so she can spend more time with her. She is one of more than 100 bus drivers who work for ACPS, 90 percent of whom are women. On a typical day Lettie arrives at the depot at 6:45 a.m., picks up her first run at 7:30, drops them off and then picks up the 62 middle schoolers at various sites in the West End, including Watergate at Landmark, Van Dorn Shopping Center, and Stutz Street. After her drop off at Hammond, she usually does a field trip, then drop offs for both Ramsey and Hammond, and then the runs as the after school activities bus.

"It's a long day," she sighs.

ANSWERS AND INSIGHTS

Driving into the ACPS bus depot that pre-dawn morning at 6:20 a.m., I see more than 100 buses at the ready. Inside the one level

building with 10 chair rounds and industrial carpeting, the drivers speak amiably to one another over coffee and breakfast brought from home. As I walk up to the outside sidewalk, two gentlemen are speaking to one another outside.

"You riding with us today?" he asks me.

"Not just yet, I'm looking for Mr. Rose," I answer.

"Oh, he's inside, right there where the light is coming off the awning."

Everybody knows David Rose. Dressed in jeans, flannel shirt and a sweatshirt that reads "ACPS Transportation Since 1972" he has been the director of ACPS Transportation for six years. When he arrived, ACPS almost had 60 accidents a year. Now they are down to 15, with only three as the fault of an ACPS driver. "That's something I am really proud of," Rose says as we walk together. Each day, he says, they take more than 3,000 kids to and from school, on 86 routes, not including after school activities, field trips and nighttime activities.

"I've got drivers who get here at

6 a.m. and some of them don't get home till late that night," he says. "They work hard," he said "and I don't like it when they get blamed for everything."

After last month's series of mishaps, ACPS did put in place some new directives. Now all kindergartners riding the school buses will be wearing a sticker, and they will not be allowed to board the bus without the sticker. Additionally, they will not be allowed to get off the bus unless a parent or parent designee is there to receive them and all the bus drivers signed an agreement to seal the new rules.

But many drivers think even more can be done. ACPS Superintendent, Dr. Morton Sherman, thinks so as well, and as a result has formed a task force of parents, teachers, after-care providers and bus drivers to brainstorm some more solutions.

"You know what would help," said one bus driver to me, as I was about to get on my ride. "The patrols who are riding my bus, should stand in front of my bus and help the little kids on. What

happens is they see the patrol that rides my bus, way on the other side of the school, and sometimes those little kids run to him."

"I know what would help," said another. "They [the teachers] used to line up all the children before we even got there. And the kinders were lined up first. So it was easy to tell which ones they were. Now they don't do that. I don't know why."

"I know all my kinders," says Lettie McDowell. "I have 17 of them and I know each one of them." The problem, she says, arises when there is a substitute driver riding a route and doesn't know the kids as well. ACPS transportation has 10 spare drivers on call each day in the room ready at the go, "And we use them, every day," says David Rose.

At Lettie's and my first stop, we come to Bennington Crossing Apartments, off Beauregard Street. It is 7:30 a.m. and approximately 57 elementary school students are waiting in the parking lot to get on. There are only about five parents waiting with the children. As they board, many of the children say good morning to Ms. Lettie and there are two fifth grade boys who are helping her to maintain the order. This involves making sure each child is actually sitting down. Eight minutes later we arrive at William Ramsey Elementary School, and all the children say goodbye and "see you later Ms. Lettie."

Later, as Katie and her 62 friends get off the bus at Hammond, there is one boy who begins to get off, and Ms. Lettie tells him to wait. She'll drop him off at Minnie Howard on her way back to the depot. As we were leaving the Van Dorn shopping center, we saw him near the bus and Lettie recognized him from her route last year and told him to get in. He told us on the way from Hammond to Minnie Howard that he had rugby practice, did ROTC last night, was really tired and just accidentally slept in.

"Why didn't your momma take you in?" asks Ms. Lettie.

"Aw no," he says. "She'd already gone to work, and I didn't get up until 7:30."

After we drop off this young man at Minnie Howard, he turns to thank her but can't remember her name.

"It's OK," she says, "you can remember next time."

Mimi Carter is on the Alexandria City School Board and this is her first term.

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LETTERS

Unintended Consequences

To the Editor:

A year ago the U.S. economy and financial system were on the brink of collapse. The time period was to become a pivotal moment in our economy's history — a true paradigm shift. Perhaps it was, but not the way people envisioned it. So many proclaimed (including me) that the boom days of Wall St. were over for now and no longer would bank employees receive such lofty payouts. Surely the disapproval and disgust displayed by the U.S. government and the American public would create a headwind that could not allow Wall St. to print money like it used to.

With the Dow Jones Industrial Average see-sawing around 10,000 and banks like Goldman Sachs announcing record earnings, it's necessary to reflect on how we got here. How can this be?

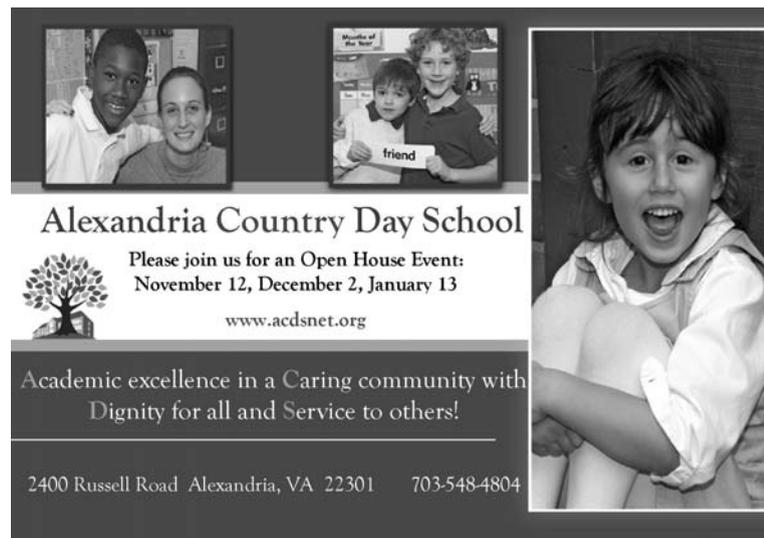
Washington (i.e. U.S. Treasury, Federal Reserve and other government entities) has reduced competition by facilitating bank mergers and closures, and has created the lowest interest rate environment in history. This is a gold mine for Wall St. banks; it doesn't take brilliant management to navigate their

banking ships to incredible profit. Sure, confidence in the U.S. financial system has improved dramatically since a year ago, and this is great. The irony, however, is laughable: our reforming government has returned Wall St. to its old ways in a time period that has been incessantly referred to as the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. What happened to the lesson we were supposed to learn?

The next time our economy is jolted by potential collapse, I hope

Washington can recognize the artificial fortunes it created following the two bubbles that burst in the last decade. There has to be recourse for the Government to capture a portion of the value it creates, or else it will continue to leave billions of dollars on the table. When will the Government get its bonus? As the growing Federal Deficit shows, it needs one.

George Wisecarver
Alexandria



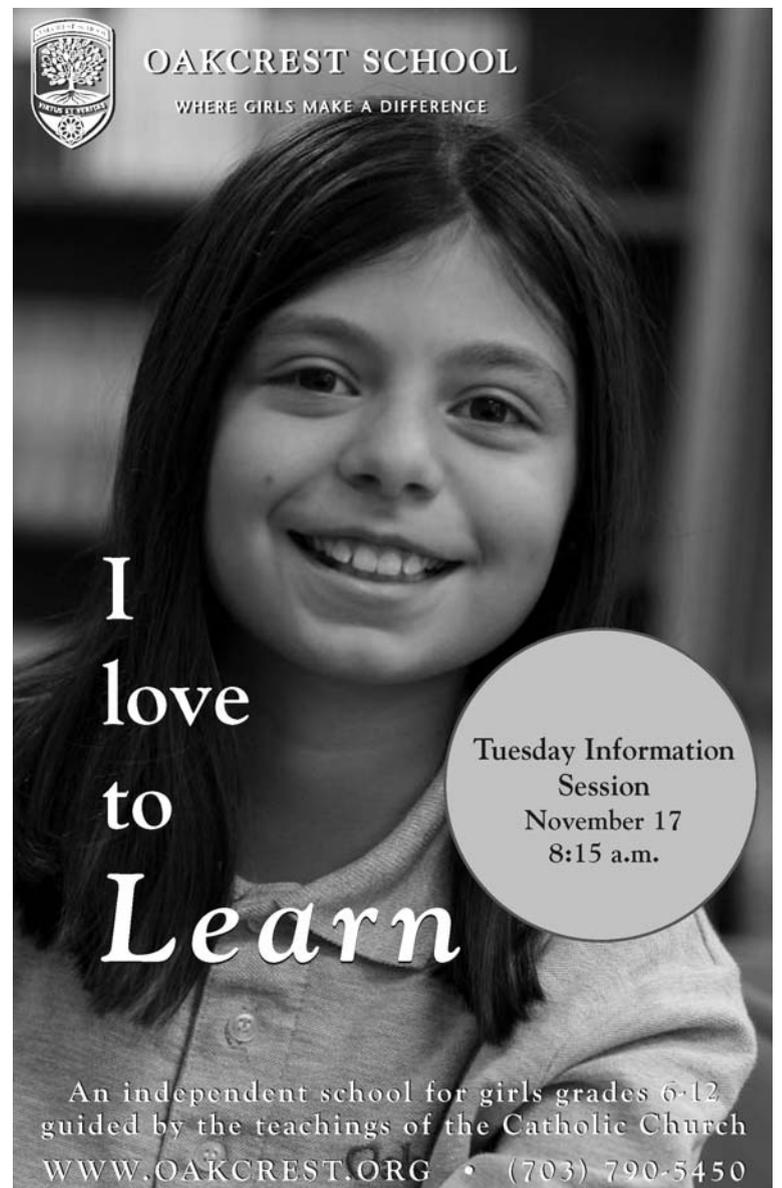
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Brownie LaRue Dodge

October 16, 1921 – November 9, 2009

We wish to celebrate the life & times of our dear mother, "Mimi", alias "The Queen", with joy, love and laughter. To recall some of our favorite highlights:

Cheerleader and Valedictorian at GW High School, Miss Alexandria 1939, Glen Echo tea dances, Switchboard operator at the Pentagon... when it only had three sides, Coral Gables, Virginia Hills, Rosemont, Baptist Temple, The Dixie Pig, Sulgrave Manor, Woodlawn Country Club, Warrenton, Gold Cup, Belle Haven Towers, River Towers, Berkeley Beach, Lake of the Woods, Heartfields, Mary Washington, Sunrise, Ocean City, Nags Head, Nabsco, Sun Valley, Georgia peaches, crab cakes, steak at The Prime Rib, Old Dominion Boat Club, Capt Billy's, the Farm, crab muffins, grilled oysters, creamed chip beef, Bloody Marys, New Years Day black-eyed peas, tomato sandwiches, Red Hat Society, hurray for the Red, White and Blue!

She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Ryland T. Dodge, Jr. She is survived by her children, James D.L. Flinchum, Deborah Blackburn, Capt. Ryland T. Dodge III, USN (Ret.), LaRue Dodge Chalfant, COL. Henry Dodge, USA all of Virginia and Denise Williford of Georgia. She also leaves her 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Friends may call at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria VA 22302 on Thursday, November 12, 2009 from 11 a.m. until the time of service at 12 Noon. Interment will follow at National Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to INOVA Alexandria Hospital, 4320 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. www.everlyfuneralhomes.com

*there is only ONE Queen!

**MEMORIAM
BARBER, PEGGY WARD
APRIL 5, 1929 - NOV.9, 1996**



The years may wipe out many things, but this they wipe out never. The memory of those happy days when we were all together.

With Love, Marvin and family

**Betty Jane Wood
Of Westminister**

Betty Jane Wood, 86, of Westminister, formerly of Alexandria, VA, died November 6, 2009 at the Carroll Hospital Center.

Born November 23, 1922 in Germantown, OH, she was the daughter of the late Paul J. and Zelpha Barnhart Fox. She was the wife of Lt. Col. John B. Wood, Sr. (US Army, retired).

She had been a homemaker. She had attended the University of Dayton where she was a member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She formerly belonged to Messiah Lutheran Church in Alexandria and was very active in many church functions. She had also belonged to the Women's Club of Alexandria and the Wives of Professional Engineers. She and her husband were accomplished ballroom dancers and she loved flower gardening and arranging.

Surviving in addition to her husband is son John B. Wood, Jr. of Arlington, VA; daughter and son-in-law Susan and Richard Podobnik of Eldersburg; sister and brother-in-law Doris J. and Robert Uhl of Edison, NJ; brother and sister-in-law Ronald and Barbara Fox of Germantown, OH and granddaughters and spouses Andrea and Greg Michael of Manassas, VA, Becky and Keith Russell of Reisterstown and Lindsay Podobnik and fiancé Justin Holbig of Ellicott City.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday at 11

Legal Notices

am at the Krug Chapel at Carroll Lutheran Village, 300 St. Luke Cir., Westminister. Officiating will be Chaplain Jimmie Schwartz. Interment will be private and at a later date.

The family will receive friends at the Pritts Funeral Home and Chapel, 412 Washington Rd., Westminister on Monday from 6-8 pm and at Krug Chapel on Tuesday from 10 am until start of services.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Alzheimers Association, 1850 York Rd., Suite D, Timonium, MD 21093.

Online condolences may be sent to www.prittsfuneralhome.com



Ruth Riley Rice St.Clair, a long time resident of the Mt.Vernon area, died Tuesday November 3, 2009. She was 86. She is survived by her beloved husband of 61 years, J. Robert St.Clair

She was born in New Market, Virginia to Vallie and Frank L. Rice. In addition to her husband she is survived by her daughter; Sharon St.Clair Luger and her husband Larry Luger; her son, Robert F. St.Clair and his wife Kelly Myatt St.Clair; grandsons; Kevin Luger and his wife Susan Grubbs Luger, Zack St.Clair, Cory St.Clair and great grandson, Brandon Luger.

Ruth's life work included a 30 year business career and she was an accomplished organist who volunteered her talent in churches and nursing homes. She filled her home with music and singing especially during the holidays. She was a life member of the Soroptimist International and a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church for over 40 years, where she volunteered through her ladies circle. Foremost, she was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother and great friend to everyone who knew her.

A memorial service was held at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home on Saturday, November 7, 2009. Interment was private.

Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chartered
3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 460
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

NOTICE OF SUB. TRUSTEE'S SALE

803 Cameron Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

In execution of the first Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$600,000.00 from ROOMERS, INC. dated March 3, 2006 recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the City of ALEXANDRIA Virginia Instrument No. 060006692, and the second Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$480,000.00 from ROOMERS, INC. dated March 3, 2006 recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the City of ALEXANDRIA Virginia Instrument No. 060006694 default having occurred in the payment of the Notes thereby secured and at the request of the holder of said Notes the undersigned Substitute Trustee(s) will offer for sale at public auction at the Main Entrance to the City of Alexandria Circuit Court 520 King St. Alexandria VA 22314 on November 23, 2009 at 3:00 PM the property described in said Deeds of Trust. Such property is located at the above address and briefly described as an improved commercial property.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$50,000.00 in the form of cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. CorpServ, Inc., Substitute Trustee(s)

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Arnold D. Spevack, Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chartered, 3 Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 460, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, 301-986-1300 OR Alexander L. Forbes, Tidewater Auctions, LLC, 5335 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Ste. 440, Washington, DC 20015 202-243-0590

LEGAL NOTICE

The Alexandria City School Board will hold a public hearing on the FY 2011-2015 CIP budget at the meeting at 7:30 p.m. on December 3, 2009, in the School Board Auditorium, 2000 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. If you would like to address the Board, please contact Clerk of the Board Rosemary Webb at 703-824-6614 or rwebb@acps.k12.va.us.

Walk To Raise Awareness of Epilepsy

The Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia – Northern Virginia Chapter will be hosting its Annual Epilepsy Awareness Walk on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 9:30 a.m. at the South Lakes High School, located at 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston, VA 20191. The walk underscores epilepsy's impact on an estimated 80,000 Virginians; from babies still in their cribs, to soldiers returning from the war, to the elderly, to children like Evan, a 6-year-old living in Alexandria.

His parents first noticed unusual twitching of Evan's left side when he was 4 weeks old. An MRI showed a single focal brain abnormality diagnosed as "cortical dysplasia" where neurons in one part of the brain don't migrate to the proper formation in-utero.

For the first year, Evan responded to medications. He had seizures roughly every three

months — attributed to growth spurts — which stopped when his dosages were increased. But by summer 2007, Evan was having 50 to 75 additional seizures each month, lasting up to two minutes. Doctors tried multiple antiepileptic medications but nothing controlled the seizures.

At the peak of Evan's seizure activity — the paper seizure log the doctor gave Evan's parents — became a jumble of numbers and colored codes. To more effectively monitor Evan's seizures, his father used his computer skills and developed a database that could generate a concise report for Evan's doctor. This database has subsequently been made available, free



of charge to the epileptic community and can be accessed at SeizureTracker.com.

Today, Evan is doing extremely well. He's on one medication and is virtually seizure-free.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia is committed to empowering and educating all residents with epilepsy. Services include support groups, medication and transportation assistance, educational materials, intervention and advocacy on behalf of individuals.

Saturday's event will include a silent auction, face painting and balloons for children, and a visit by the local fire station.

For more information, contact Deborah Halla at EFVA.NVA@gmail.com, or Dana Douglas at DanaDouglas@cox.net.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 14

inventory. In addition the 4,000 parking spaces at the Patent Trade Office (PTO) Complex could also be used with visitors walking or using the trolley to get to the waterfront.

To add to our current parking and density problems, the City has received two requests to convert retail stores on the waterfront into restaurants. The first is the old Discovery (AKA Small Mall) store building in the 100 block of King Street. Here the owners of a pizza parlor are requesting a Special Use Permit to put in 122 seats, with no provisions for parking other than on the streets or in the parking lots. The second request is to convert Olson's Book Store at 106 South Union into a 509-seat restaurant with entertainment. That's equivalent to two jumbo jets fully loaded. Again, there are no provisions for parking. In addition, the James Matthews Company (Strand, Union, Wales, LLC) wants to amend the city ordinance so that they can put 72 of their seats in Wales Alley. That will mean that about one half of the alley will be taken away from the public's right of way. That in itself is unbelievable. After giving away all our sidewalks on King Street for outdoor dining now we are going to essentially close down Wales Alley to vehicular traffic. Together both of these restaurants have requested an aggregate of 631 seats. Where are the facilities to park over 300-plus cars? At present they don't exist and may never exist. This means that the overflow

of cars seeking parking spots will invade the residential streets.

In a nutshell, the City needs to discontinue the waterfront plan until such time as they can sort out a number of issues starting with parking. In addition, they need to stop trying to stuff 20 pounds into a 10-pound sack by overloading the density of the waterfront to the detriment of the upper King Street merchants. Lastly, they need to consider the delicate balance of development between the residents and the commercial enterprises, and they need to stop taking away the citizen's public access on our sidewalks, streets and alleys. What the advocates for increasing the business base on the waterfront want may not be what's good for the entire community.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Voters Not Paying Attention?

To the Editor

Voters in other parts of Virginia and the nation, as well as those Independents and Republicans in Alexandria, would no doubt be amused by Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille's trenchant political observation at a Democratic "victory" party on election night that his party maintains its stranglehold on local politics because Alexandrians, in contrast with other Americans, are "much

brighter and more intelligent...." Aren't we precious?

The more likely reason is Councilman Frank Fannon's observation that so many Alexandrians make their living from the federal government. i.e., from tax money. How else could the long embarrassment known as Congressman Jim Moran be explained? From his seat on the House Appropriations Committee, he does what he can to help Alexandria's "brighter and more intelligent" citizens keep getting rewarded for political loyalty and, as a result, he ensures that their votes, and those of their political wards, largely go to support one-party government.

His tenure certainly can't be attributed to Alexandria being a hub of enlightenment. The independent, non-partisan and non-profit political Web site govtrack.us (www.govtrack.us) analysis of bill sponsorship places Mr. Moran in the category of "Far Left Democrat," with only 29 Members of Congress (out of 535) farther to the left. To his credit, he is to the right (but just barely) of the strangely amusing Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Cleveland, Ohio. On the other side, Republican Rep. Michelle Bachmann, a frequent target of "progressive" vitriol, is ranked further to the left than Mr. Moran is ranked to the right. Even reflexively anti-government Rep. Ron Paul is closer to the center.

Maybe Alexandria is brighter and more intelligent but just not paying attention.

Jack Lichtenstein
Alexandria

T.C. Williams Playoff Drought Reaches 19 Seasons

Titans lose to Robert E. Lee in season finale.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams playmaker Cortez Taylor shed tears of disappointment as he stood on the field at Parker-Gray Stadium. The senior said the Titans were tense during his final game in a T.C. uniform.

A few yards away, quarterback Joe Hargrove said the Titans took their opponent lightly, leading to a poor performance. Two fourth-quarter touchdown passes made the senior think T.C. Williams would overcome it.

Outside the locker room, head coach Dennis Randolph said he was shocked. The Titans had won consecutive games entering their season finale. How could this happen?

Many thoughts and emotions flowed before, during and after Saturday's showdown against Robert E. Lee. With a chance to secure the program's first playoff berth since 1990, hope and excitement surrounded T.C. Williams. But in the end, a fourth-quarter rally fell short of compensating for three quarters of struggle, and the Titans were left with despair and disbelief.

Robert E. Lee defeated T.C. Williams 27-13 on Saturday, knocking the Titans out of the playoff picture. A victory would have given T.C. Williams its first winning season since 1995. Instead, the Titans had to settle for a feat they accomplished with a victory over South County the previous week — the program's first season of at least five wins since 1996.

"I'm really at a loss for words," Randolph



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams quarterback Joe Hargrove, with ball, is pursued by Robert E. Lee defender Clinton Jones (73) during Lee's 27-13 victory on Saturday at Parker-Gray Stadium.

said. "This is really disappointing. I never thought for a minute we were going to lose to them because our kids were playing really well. I think we're all a little bit shocked."

T.C. Williams' playoff drought extended to 19 seasons.

"Everyone just wanted it really, really badly," senior right guard Luke Dorris said. "We all could imagine how it felt."

THE TITANS FELL behind 20-0 and didn't score until the fourth quarter. Hargrove connected with receiver Will Rossi for a pair of touchdown passes in the final 10 minutes, pulling the T.C. Williams within seven, but it wasn't enough. The Lancers stopped the Titans' potential game-tying drive with less than four minutes remaining and countered with the contest's final touchdown.

"We could have had it. We could have pulled it out," Hargrove said. "[After] back-to-back touchdowns, I thought we had it."

Hargrove completed 10 of 33 passes for 111 yards and two touchdowns, but was intercepted twice in the first half. The second interception came early in the second quarter, when Lee's Walter Yavorski returned a tipped pass 70 yards for a touchdown and a 6-0 Lancers lead.

Lee (7-3) padded its lead in the final minute of the first half, when quarterback Greg Lopez connected with Aaron Jackson for a 43-yard touchdown and a 13-0 advantage. Lee then took a 20-0 lead on a 21-yard touchdown run by Jazmier Williams on the first play of the fourth quarter.

That's when the T.C. Williams offense started to click. On the ensuing possession, Hargrove connected with Rossi for a 23-

yard gain on fourth-and-three, and later found Rossi for a 25-yard touchdown. Two possessions later, Hargrove threw a 16-yard scoring strike to Rossi on fourth-and-10.

Rossi caught five passes for 68 yards.

Hargrove missed the season's first seven games with a fractured right, non-throwing wrist. The senior made his first varsity start Oct. 24 against West Potomac, during which he set the single-game school record for passing yards (297) and tied the single-game touchdown mark (4). But while Hargrove showed he was a playmaker, Randolph said his quarterback's time away from the game caught up with him.

"We made some mistakes on offense [where] we should have converted some things and we didn't do it," the coach said. "We wouldn't have been here without Joe. He got us here winning those two games. But his inexperience [showed]. He needs to get some valuable experience. The kid played three varsity football games and he did a great job."

Williams led Lee with 119 rushing yards on 21 carries. Idreis Augustus rushed 19 times for 117 yards and one touchdown.

THE TITANS will have some talent returning next season. Defensively, the Titans will return lineman Jay Whitmire, linebackers Damien Benton and Tevin Isley and safety Israel Richardson. On offense, Rossi and receiver Bennie Jenkins will return, along with the lineman Whitmire. Doug Murphy will enter 2010 with the most varsity experience at quarterback.

While T.C. Williams fell short of the playoffs, the Titans will look to build on what they did accomplish.

"[A] 5-5 (record) is mediocre," Randolph said. "But here, the kids have to get to the point where they can believe that they can get here every year. That's the key."

Suggs, Falls To Share Tales of 'Shattered Dreams'

Boxing, football standouts want stories of their drug problems to help others.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Drugs derailed the athletic careers of Tony "Da Beast" Suggs and Tracy "Unstoppable" Fells. Two decades later, the Alexandria natives want their missteps to help others travel the path to success.

Suggs and Fells will discuss the impact of drugs on their lives during an event called "Shattered Dreams" at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center in Alexandria. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Former BET producer Mike Joyner, who is friends with Suggs and Fells, will host the event.

Suggs, a 1984 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was one of the top-ranked amateur boxers in the world. The 132-

pounder won a gold medal at the 1987 Olympic Festival and was a hopeful for the 1988 Olympic team. But Suggs never got the chance to punch his way to gold in Seoul as he faced a pair of drug charges in 1987 and eventually an eight-month stay in prison. Suggs said he used marijuana, PCP and crack.

Suggs went on to box professionally, but didn't experience similar success. He said his drug use, in part, was to numb the pain caused by the death of his 7-month-old daughter, Ashley, in 1987. But looking back, Suggs said that was just an excuse.

Now 44, Suggs said he has been clean since Jan. 12, 1989 and wants to share his story to help others from making similar mistakes. "Boxing was never the same for me, especially after my daughter died," Suggs said. "That's why I feel like 'Shat-

tered Dreams" was the perfect name for this program. I didn't dream of winning world titles and belts, I dreamed of going to the Olympics and winning a gold medal. ... This program is an investment in yourself. If you care anything about yourself, even if you think you might have a problem or you want some help because you just don't know who else to turn to, [you should attend Nov. 18.]"

Fells is a 1988 graduate of T.C. Williams and former football star. While he garnered attention as an all-state performer at defensive end and linebacker, he was also known as a drug dealer. Fells said he sold marijuana, PCP and crack, but never used.

"It's a thin line between [attention from] drug selling and the accolades that come with ... football," Fells said. "You can get them to follow you in football, just like you can get them to follow you selling drugs."

Fells twice faced distribution charges, the second of which led to a 17-year, 8-month prison stay. Fells was locked up as a teenager in February of 1989 and was released in his mid-30s in 2006.

Now 40, Fells works with the non-profit group Peaceholics, helping the youth of Washington, D.C. become drug and crime free. He teamed up with his friend Suggs to help those in need in Alexandria.

"What we're doing can't be bought," Fells said. "You can't sell what we're giving — you can't purchase it. This is true athletes and true testimony of our life and our real-life experiences."

Joyner said Suggs and Fells being local should help relay their message.

The Charles Houston Recreation Center is located at 901 Wythe St. in Alexandria. For more information, call 703-746-5450.

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On Parade

The Taylor Run Citizens Association held its Annual Fall Halloween Party on Oct. 25. Residents enjoyed food, live music, children's activities, a visit from the Alexandria Fire Department and a children's costume parade. The TRCA offers special thanks to Richard T. Winkler, Inc. Painting & Decorating, Megan Cook, Rockland's Barbecue, and Taylor Run Citizens Association Executive Committee members for contributions to this year's event.

'Alice' To Be Performed at Burgundy Farm

Burgundy Farm Country Day School's 7th grade students will perform "Alice," their adaptation of Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland," in the Loft on Nov. 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Drama teacher Deborah Ives chose to adapt Carroll's 1865 novel because "Alice is about com-

ing of age, conquering the fears of childhood, and gaining knowledge and these ideas are certainly relevant today. 7th graders are ready to understand that good art, whether it's a novel, a play or a painting, never becomes dated, and will always merit serious study."

In Burgundy's interpretation,

not one but six Alices fall into the rabbit hole and wind up in the wonderland of present-day London. "Multiple Alices allows us to emphasize Lewis Carroll heroine as an 'everychild,'" said Ives. Six Alices also present clearly "the arc of Alice's growth through her various adventures."



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Both hikes begin with a short information session with Fairfax County wildlife Biologist, Victoria Monroe.

For more information and to register for the hikes please go to www.madeira.org/hike

Immediately following the hikes we will have a Camp Greenway Open house at the Hurd Sports Center as well as an Open House at the Stables. If you are interested in learning more about summer camp at Madeira or just visiting some of our four legged friends please feel free to join us for either or both of these events.



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29 Misc. for Sale
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21 Announcements
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29 Misc. for Sale
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements



Ruth Riley Rice St.Clair, a long time resident of the Mt.Vernon area, died Tuesday November 3, 2009. She was 86. She is survived by her beloved husband of 61 years, J. Robert St.Clair

She was born in New Market, Virginia to Vallie and Frank L. Rice. In addition to her husband she is survived by her daughter, Sharon St.Clair Luger and her husband Larry Luger; her son, Robert F. St.Clair and his wife Kelly Myatt St.Clair; grandsons; Kevin Luger and his wife Susan Grubbs Luger, Zack St.Clair, Cory St.Clair and great grandson, Brandon Luger.

Ruth's life work included a 30 year business career and she was an accomplished organist who volunteered her talent in churches and nursing homes. She filled her home with music and singing especially during the holidays. She was a life member of the Soroptimist International and a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church for over 40 years, where she volunteered through her ladies circle. Foremost, she was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother and great friend to everyone who knew her.

A memorial service was held at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home on Saturday, November 7, 2009. Interment was private.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

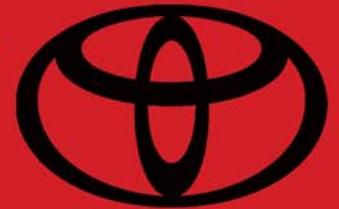
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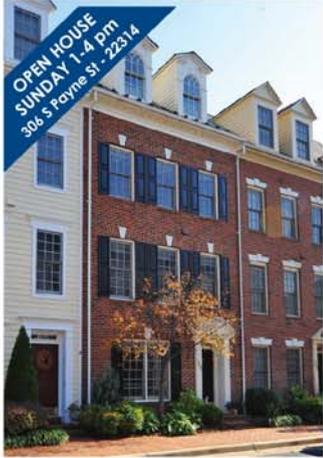


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Bearings South	Studio/1 bath	\$1,075/mo.	MLS# AX7164559	Old Town	2 bedrooms/1.5 baths	\$1,995/mo.	MLS# AX7201651
Belle View	2 bedrooms/1 bath	\$1,300/mo.	MLS# FX7148928	Old Town	2 bedrooms/1.5 baths	\$2,000/mo.	MLS# AX7186463
Old Town	1 bedroom/1 bath	\$1,395/mo.	MLS# AX7185698	Residences at Sullivan	3 bedrooms/2.5 baths	\$2,150/mo.	MLS# FX7198226
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