

# Alexandria Gazette Packet

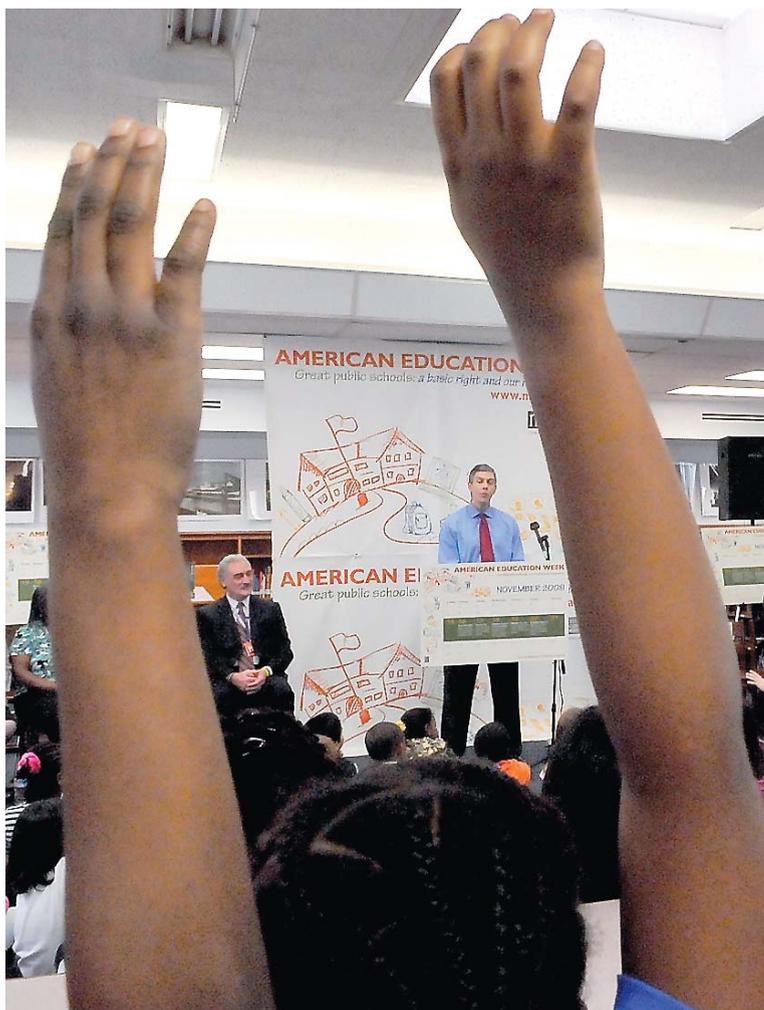


25 CENTS

Vol. CCXXV, No. 46

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 19, 2009



## Importance of Education

**Hands go up as U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan asks questions during his visit Wednesday, Nov. 17, to John Adams Elementary School as part of the National Education Association's 88th annual celebration of American Education Week.**

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



**Secretary Arne Duncan and NEA president Dennis Van Roekel serve up trays of food in the school cafeteria.**

## Roadkill Legislation, Again?

**City Council keeps pushing for pedestrian-safety bill in Richmond.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**D**ouglas Gomez gazed across a field of diagonal white stripes and cracked asphalt, waiting. Like countless pedestrians every day in Alexandria, Gomez was passing time until a traffic light at Harvard Street stopped the flow of automobiles hurling up and down King Street. A few seconds later, a white walk signal announced that pedestrians were clear to cross. When he reached the other side, Gomez said he agreed with efforts of the City Council to support legislation in Richmond that forces drivers to stop rather than yield at crosswalks.

"I think they're doing the right thing," said Gomez, a Springfield man who works on Upper King Street. "Pedestrians should always have the right of way, so I would



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Douglas Gomez waits to cross King Street.**

support any effort to make drivers stop instead of yield."

But the legislation is likely to become roadkill in Richmond. Since 2003, the City Council has voted to approve several items in the legislative packet that would force drivers to stop rather than yield when a pedestrian is anywhere in a crosswalk. Over the years, the bill has been introduced by various members of the local delegation and always met with the same crushing defeat. The most recent example was earlier

this year, when Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49) introduced House Bill 2386.

"We've never had any trouble with this in the Senate, but it always dies in the House," said Bernie Caton, the city's lobbyist. "A number of members of the House leadership are against the bill, so that makes it difficult to get it through."

**THIS YEAR** could be different,

SEE TRYING, PAGE 7

## Golden Opportunity for Students

**Sherman uses ties to Goldie Hawn to implement mindfulness program at Jefferson-Houston.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**hat do you get when you mix Academy Award-winning actress Goldie Hawn, Alexandria Superintendent Morton Sherman and a nonprofit foundation that offers an educational product using research from neuroscientists? The answer: MindUp, a mindfulness program crafted by a California-based nonprofit organization known as the Hawn Foundation. Sherman is the chairman of the nonprofit foundation.

"The MindUp program is with-

out cost," wrote Sherman in an e-mail response to questions. "The Hawn Foundation pays for the training and related expenses for the MindUp program, which [helps] kids focus, pay attention and gain skills which mirror what

successful adults do naturally."

In areas where the foundation has already established a market presence, a MindUp training session costs \$250 plus \$35 for each

SEE MINDUP, PAGE 18

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## Us Versus Them

What does it take to beat U.S. Rep. **Jim Moran** (D-8)? According to a newly created commercial by a Democrat hoping to unseat the 10-term incumbent, extraordinary events are required. The video segment, produced by a Japanese production company known as Eduography, appears on the campaign Web site for Democratic challenger **Ronald Mitchell**. The 41-year-old Democratic challenger filed his declaration of candidacy four months ago.

"They said women would never vote or come out to the polls in large numbers, but we made it happen," explains a narrator as suffragettes flash across the screen. "They said a man would never walk on the moon, but we made it happen."

Tapping into an us-versus-them mentality, the commercial sets up a series of "they said" statements that are rejected with "but we made it happen." According to the commercial, they said we would never recover from 9/11 or give equal rights to gays or elect a black man as president of the United States. But "we" made it happen.

"Now is the time," explains the narrator, showing images of Mitchell speaking to an elderly white man and an Asian child. "Let's make it happen."

## A \$3 Million Campaign

Beating Moran is no easy task. Just ask **Mark Ellmore**, the Republican candidate who has reached for the brass ring twice already and is considering a third congressional campaign.

In last year's election, he received 89,099 votes. That's the lowest number of votes for any congressional candidate on the ballot in Virginia last year. By comparison, Moran received 200,653 votes. Except for U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor (R-7), who received 221,467 votes, Moran received more votes than every other congressional candidate in Virginia. Now that the summer primary season is only a few weeks away, potential candidates are considering the field.

"To win against Jim Moran, you need to be able to afford television time," said Ellmore, adding that he was 99.9-percent sure he would run again next year. "I would estimate that would take about \$3 million."

Ellmore said that his 2008 campaign did not receive as much support from the Republican National Committee as he expected. In the last election cycle, Ellmore raised about \$60,000 with little help from the national party. Before he makes a final decision about whether or not to make another go at it, Ellmore said he would need to have a plan for raising the kind of money that would be necessary to take on an adversary such as Moran.

"I fought Jim Moran with one hand tied behind my back last year," said Ellmore. "All the resources went to **John McCain**."

## The Other Moran

Speaking of Moran, don't forget his younger brother, **Brian Moran**.

After resigning his seat as chairman of the Democratic caucus in the Virginia House of Delegates last year, the younger Moran launched an aggressive campaign against Sen. **Creigh Deeds** (D-25) and former Democratic National Committee chairman **Terry McAuliffe**. But the campaign turned harshly negative, and Moran ended up in third place. Now Moran has taken a new position as a Washington lobbyist for the Career Colleges Association.

What would have happened if Moran was on the ticket challenging Governor-elect **Bob McDonnell**?

"We'll never know," Moran responded with a chuckle.

The former House Democratic leader said his mind has been more focused on gardening than politics since the primary. He's already tilled and prepared a 400-foot garden he plans on carefully tending next spring, although his mind is never far from the next election. When asked if he were eyeing any future campaigns for himself, Moran left the door wide open.

"I'm not encouraging that," he said. "But I'm not discouraging it either."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

## NEWS



Arthur Nelson Sr. greets fiends Frankie Lyles, Dorthea G. Campbell and Delores Dixon at the dinner.



Geraldine Hamlett serves up the roast turkey.

## Elks Host Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner

The Senior Citizen Committee of the Alexandria Elks Lodge hosted its annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday, Nov. 14, for members and invited seniors from St. Martins, The Annie B. Rose House, La Dray House, the Crunch Bunch from Charles Houston and the Claridge House to join in the meal. Lawrence Robinson acted as master of ceremonies, James Gibson gave in invocation. City council member Del Pepper joined the gathering. Guests were entertained by singing from Callie Terrell. Minister Alfonzo Terrell of the Oakland Baptist Church gave the keynote address before dinner was served.



Arthur Nelson Sr. and chairman of the Senior Citizen Committee John L. Taylor.



Louise Felton, Lillian Harris and Bea Taylor.

## Hitching to Next Presidential Ballot

Mark calendars for November 2012, when City Council and School Board will be on the ballot.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

A four-to-three deadlock on the City Council over the issue of staggered terms has killed the potential for a charter amendment to reshape the city's election — at least for this year. That means the action of the lame-duck City Council earlier this year to abandon the longtime tradition of springtime election in favor of November balloting will land the municipal election in the middle of a presidential campaign. Council members could take another stab at a charter amendment next year, although two or more members would need to retreat from their entrenched positions for that to work.

In a heated debate last week, council members could not come to a consensus for a charter amendment to send to Richmond next year. Because members of the Republican-controlled House of Delegates could potentially make their own changes to a charter amendment perceived as partisan, council members wanted to reach a threshold of at least five votes on any charter amendment that changes the city's



Some precincts had a three-hour wait in the 2008 presidential election.

SEE LOCAL RACES, PAGE 10

# PEOPLE



Beverley Stanley, Osborne Phinizy Mackie, Tamara Saltonstall, Mary Sparks Sterling, Carrie Heiden, Babs Beckwith and Morgan Delaney.

## Preview Party

Historic Alexandria Foundation held its 2009 Antique Show Preview Party on Thursday, Nov. 12 at the Holiday Inn and Suites.



Lawanda Swope, Camilla McCaslin, Leslie Ariail and Tamara Saltonstall.



Hannah Cox with Mason and Clark Bavin.



Howard Price of Howard Price Fine Art.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT /GAZETTE



Hannah Cox and Jonathan Willen



David and Gretchen Bulova.



Leslie Ariail and Tamara Saltonstall



ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Chairwoman Yvonne Folkerts, left, applauds with students at George Mason Elementary School as Jennifer Larsen is announced as the city's teacher of the year last month.

## Teacher of the Year

### Jennifer Larsen talks about her love of teaching and her career.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

A native of Alexandria, Jennifer Larsen graduated from the Washington's Field School in 1985 before receiving a bachelor's degree in education from George Mason University. After graduating, she took a position teaching at Maury and eventually moved to Mason Elementary School, where she is now a first-grade teacher.

#### How did you get into this line of work?

My mom always called me a kid magnet. She said that if there were kids anywhere in the vicinity, I was right next to them or they were right next to me. And that started early on. I was always lining up my stuffed animals and teaching them. When I was in high school I used to work at the Athletic Shoebox at Bradley Center, and this high-school kid came in who couldn't read the sale signs in the store. I was really troubled by that, and decided to do something about kids slipping through the cracks. That was my "a-ha" moment, although my dad always said I could sell anything. So I thought I could sell teaching, and I do.

#### How would you describe the differences between Maury and George Mason?

It's like night and day. The two schools have very different populations, which come with their challenges and their rewards. At Maury, the student population is pretty challenging with the major difference being the language experiences that that kids have before they come to school — a lot less book time with Mom and Dad. Just a lot less school experience. I don't think the value of school is the same as it is at George Mason for the families, so that value is not really being instilled in the kids necessarily. This was, obviously, seven years ago. So it's a little different now. Another difference is the parent participation. There was very little parents' participation when I was at Maury.

#### What is your philosophy of teaching?

Know your kids. Start with your kids. Love your kids. It really all starts with the relationship you create with your students in your classroom. My initial focus is my students' happiness. I believe that all children want to learn but they can't if they don't feel comfortable or safe. Our job is to find out what the kid already knows, how they learn and then move them on from there. You need to find out what makes the kid tick. What are their interests? If you can weave those interests into their learning, they are going to be more motivated to learn. I think it's important for people to learn through play, cooperation and social interaction. So we do a lot of whole group and small group and a lot of teamwork and discussion. Meaning

SEE LARSEN, PAGE 28

# PEOPLE



**Afterschool students Karen Galeas, Jennifer Zambran, Joanna Rivas and Steffany Marin offer refreshments to the guests at the special program last month.**

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/  
GAZETTE PACKET

## 'Lights On'

*Community Lodgings and Afterschool Alliance hosted "Lights On Afterschool" — a celebration of afterschool programs, their sponsors and providers.*



**Case worker Charlyne Braxton attended the event.**

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- Cranberry Cheesecake & Pumpkin Cheesecake *(serve 12-14)*

**Thanksgiving Hours**

Wed.,	Nov. 21	7am-7pm
Thu.,	Nov. 22	7am-12pm
Fri.,	Nov. 23	8am-5pm
Sat.,	Nov. 24	8am-5pm
Sun.,	Nov. 25	8am-5pm

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## BULLETIN BOARD



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY/GAZETTE PACKET

**Chris and Stephanie Wilkinson hosted the Recession-Proof Wine Tasting at Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden last month.**

To have a notice listed, e-mail [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412 with questions.

### ONGOING

**The City of Alexandria** is in search of a Colorado Blue Spruce, Leyland Cypress or other well-formed evergreen tree, approximately 25 to 35 feet tall, to serve as the City's official 2009 Holiday Tree. The City will remove the tree from the donor's property in mid-November and grind the stump at no cost. The tree will be decorated and displayed at Market Square, 301 King St., throughout the holiday season.

The lighting of the Holiday Tree officially opens the holiday season in Alexandria. The City's Holiday Tree will be lighted during the Annual

Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 27, at Market Square, 301 King St. The ceremony will feature a special visit by Santa Claus, along with entertainment and caroling. Persons who are interested in donating a tree should call John Noelle, City Arborist, at 703-746-5499 or e-mail [john.noelle@alexandriava.gov](mailto:john.noelle@alexandriava.gov).

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

**NAACP, Fairfax County Branch.** 7 p.m. Meets on second Tuesday of the

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 23

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John Porter presents David Speck with the Marion Van Landingham Lifetime Volunteer Service Award.



SCAN board president Kim Fiske, volunteer and recipient of the 2009 Joan White Grassroots Volunteer Award Candace Radoski and executive director Diane Charles.

# 'Heart'-felt Evening

Volunteer Alexandria hosted its 16<sup>th</sup> annual "An Evening in the Heart of Alexandria" at the Fish Market on Thursday, Nov. 12.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET



Jen Warren and Chris Ferrara.



Sue and Allison Goodhart.



Jerome Andersen and June Hajjor.

# Trying To Protect Pedestrians

FROM PAGE 1

though. Members of the all-Democratic Alexandria delegation are hoping they will be able to find a Republican to introduce the bill. One potential candidate is Del. Jackson Miller (R-50), a former police officer and member of the Manassas City Council. Advocates for the effort are hoping that having a Republican introduce the bill would create a sense of bipartisanship that the bill has lacked in the past.

"I would hope that having a Republican introducing this bill would give it some credibility," said state Sen. Patsy Ticer (D-30), adding that state Sen. George Barker (D-39) plans to introduce the bill on the Senate side next year. "That way it might not be seen as some bright-eyed liberal idea."

In previous years, House Republicans have offered a number of criticisms of the bill. One is that a driver should not be forced to stop if the car is turning right and a pedestrian is walking the other direction in the crosswalk. Another is that the legislation is unnecessary because the existing law is adequate. Other times, the legislators get involved in picking apart the word choice of the legislation before voting

against it.

"The politics of this bill are much more of an urban/rural divide than a partisan divide," said former Del. Brian Moran (D -46), who made several unsuccessful attempts at moving the legislation through Richmond. "It just happens to be that most of the rural legislators happen to be Republicans."

**DESPITE THE YEARS** of repeated failure on the issue, members of the Alexandria City Council have decided the effort is worth another try next year. Councilman Rob Krupicka asked that the item be once again added to the packet this year. The councilman, who has traveled to Richmond to testify in favor of the bill in previous sessions, said he felt the Washington region had recently been dealt a "dubious honor" with the recent publication of a study ranking the area as having below-average pedestrian safety. He was referring to a list of 52 largest metro areas ranking pedestrian safety. The Washington metropolitan area ranked 32.

**"A number of members of the House leadership are against the bill, so that makes it difficult to get it through."**

— Bernie Caton, the city's legislative director

"Interestingly enough, the states that won as most pedestrian friendly do have laws like this," said Krupicka. "I think Virginia has a long way to go."

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# OPINION

## Children's Gazette

Every year, over the winter holidays, the Gazette turns the pages of one entire issue over to the contributions of local students.

We will feature artwork of many kinds, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories, reflections and more. Artwork can include paintings, drawings or any media; photos of sculpture, ceramics or other works too large to submit are also encouraged.

We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled. Past contributions have come from children from nursery schools through those preparing to graduate from high school.

Sometimes an art or English teacher will assign a project and submit the work of an entire class, but individual submissions from any young person in the community are welcome.

You can see last year's Children's Gazette on our Web site. Go to [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com), click on "print Editions Online" in the red bar and scroll down to "Children's Connection."

We prefer digital submissions, delivered on CD or via email. Please send in submissions as soon as possible. Our address is 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail to [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com). Please be sure to include the name of the artist or author, and include age, grade, school attended and name of the home town, along with address and phone number to be used for verification purposes only.

### LETTERS

## A Trolley To Nowhere?

To the Editor:

It's a shame that the Alexandria City Council can't use its \$2.4 million federal stimulus grant to spur the creation of new businesses and fill increasingly-empty storefronts, instead of purchasing new trolleys that won't arrive for a year.

With the local economy in shambles, it is a bit surprising that the city even applied for a trolley grant in the first place — especially since the trolley manufacturer is located in California, not Alexandria. While this trolley might stimulate California's economy,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9



**Snapshot** Saturday afternoon, Nov. 7, 2:36 p.m., Parker Gray Memorial Field. The TCW senior cheerleaders line up with their parents to be acknowledged during halftime at the football ball against Lee HS.

## Public's Help Sought on Budget

To the Editor:

On Saturday, Oct. 17, Alexandria opened The Station at Potomac Yard. The Station at Potomac Yard is the City's first new fire station in 30 years, and uniquely combines residential housing, and mix use retail in a growing area of Alexandria. The successful project is a shining example of what the Alexandria community can accomplish, even during challenging economic times.

Immediately following the opening of The Station at Potomac Yard, I was greeted by packed City Council chambers as the Council held a public hearing focusing on budget priorities for fiscal year (FY) 2011. Thirty-five people took time from their busy Saturday to express their views on the direction the City should take as we begin our work on the next budget. Unfortunately, our economic outlook has not improved from last year. We will again face many extremely difficult decisions as we continue to navigate the economic impact of the recession on Alexandria.

Our work has just begun, but many realities are certain. According to the City Budget Office, our expected FY 2011 shortfall will be between \$32 and \$51 million. We can also expect the City's real estate revenue to take a big hit. The Department of Real Estate Assessments is projecting an approximate 8 percent decline in total real property assessments, and Commercial property assessments is a drop of around 13 percent.

The result of this bad news is unfortunate, but obvious. City services and programs will have to be reduced and some fees and tax rates may have to increase. The next budget could possibly be the most difficult we have ever faced, and with revenues not expected to improve for years, the community can expect that service reductions may not be restored for years.

### Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:  
Letters to the Editor, The Gazette Packet  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail: [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

### FROM THE MAYOR

As evidenced by your comments at the public hearing, we will have many difficult choices to make. In July, City Manager James Hartmann asked City departments to start creating a list of possible reductions. On Saturday, Nov. 7, City Council also met with City agencies and representatives from the Alexandria Public Schools who outlined options for us to consider. And, over the next several months, City leaders will take several steps to ensure the Alexandria community has the opportunity to provide its input on critical budget decisions.

City Council will next provide its budget guidance for the City's FY 2011 budget to the City Manager on Nov. 24. On Feb. 9, 2010, the City Manager will then provide his budget to Council, and the FY 2011 budget will be approved on May 3.

Now is the time for City Council to evaluate our options and make tough decisions — and we want your input. In March 2010, there will be a public hearing on the budget, as well as a public hearing on the Tax Rate in April. As always, you may e-mail the City Council directly at [alexandriava.gov/council](http://alexandriava.gov/council) with your suggestions.

In addition to the public hearings, we have several new ways you can communicate with City leaders. You can comment directly on budget information electronically on the City's Web page ([alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov)), or on the City's Facebook page ([alexandriavagov/facebook](http://alexandriavagov/facebook)). City staff will monitor both sites and your comments will be provided to City Council.

City Council and the City staff are currently providing budget information via the City's Web site as we make these difficult decisions. This important and transparent information will enable you to clearly consider — along with us — what impact service reductions, and fee and tax increases will have on the community.

Our goal is to continue to provide the highest quality services to Alexandria residents, and to always provide essential services to our most vulnerable community members. As we navigate the difficult challenges ahead, I am committed to keeping you informed. I look forward to working with you as we deal with these fiscal realities, and know that together, we can responsibly make the right decisions.

Mayor William Euille

## Alexandria Gazette Packet

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

this use of stimulus money offers cold comfort for the thousands of Alexandrians who have been hit hard by economic turmoil.

The city should — and has, to some extent — move quickly to improve the lack of small business growth in Alexandria, or else the new trolleys may have fewer riders than anticipated. Alexandria is plagued with an ever-increasing number of storefronts “For Rent” and shops that are now “Out of Business.”

I’m not in charge of city government, but if I had the choice, I would have applied for \$2.4 million in stimulus money to spur the creation of jobs here in Alexandria. We could have selected 240 small business owners, artists, craftspersons, or other entrepreneurs — ones with good business plans — and granted them each \$10,000 to partially cover the cost of one year’s rent in a vacant Old Town storefront.

The plan might have worked. It could have breathed new life into Old Town with fresh and dynamic small businesses, ones that create new and good jobs, build sustainable profits, and improve our overall tax base. Moreover, building owners and landlords would have

received money to pay the mortgages on their buildings, preventing, in some cases, defaults.

I missed the proverbial trolley when it comes to making meaningful recommendations on how the city should utilize stimulus funds, but all Alexandria residents should use this \$2.4 million trolley situation as reason to continually press our city’s leaders to spend our tax dollars — or anyone’s tax dollars — more strategically in the future.

**Andrew R. Campanella**  
Alexandria

## Here’s Some Places To Cut

To the Editor:

It is good to see that City Manager Jim Hartman is instituting a program of “collaborative realignment.” In private business, we would likely skip the fancy words and simply call such a program “common sense.” Given the stresses on the City Budget over the last few years, one can reasonably question why such operational inefficiencies weren’t addressed long ago. Regardless, it is an encouraging sign.

It would be cruel, damaging, and counterproductive to impose yet more tax increases on Alexandria homeowners and businesses as we struggle to climb out of the worst recession in recent memory. Obviously, making cuts in order to close gaps in the budget will cause a level of discomfort for the professional politicians that occupy our City government, but the Mayor and Alexandria City Council must learn to live within their means like any other American institution or individual.

Given the lack of imagination in the area of budget reductions expressed by our Mayor, I thought it would be appropriate to make a few suggestions as follows:

### General Reform

1. Close City coffers to new programs. For example, the City shouldn’t even consider jumping into the financial morass (easily worth tens of millions of taxpayer dollars) associated with proposed street cars.

2. Transparency. Post all financial information, contracts, invoices, etc. on the City’s web site so we can see where our money is being spent. Of course, there should be some exceptions to this, such as payments associated with

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

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## Local Real Estate Company Offers Free Loan Modification Assistance

Dynamic Duo & Associates (DDA), a local Real Estate Firm brokered by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Northern Virginia gives back to the community by offering FREE Loan Modification assistance and Short Sale Services to any person in need of assistance. DDA has helped many families to restructure their loans with their mortgage company. This process can be quite cumbersome to a consumer who is inexperienced in negotiating with their mortgage company. Joan Williamson of DDA states “many homeowners just don’t know what to request from their lender or are not experienced in completing the lender’s financial documentation to standard. As such many homeowners find themselves only being denied”. As part of the loan modification process, DDA will contact your lender and obtain the necessary paperwork to initiate the loan modification process, review financials and provide recommendation and follow-up with your lender every 72 hours for a response. Consumer options may include a reduction of the principle balance; re-negotiate interest rate or a restructure to a fixed loan. DDA will review all options with you to help you determine the best option for you. Joan adds “we are Loan Modification & Short Sale specialists and can help you save your home from foreclosure. Some companies charge a substantial amount of money for loan modifications, but we offer this service as a free service to homeowners. Donations are optional.”

DDA also specializes in Short Sales. Over 10 million homeowners are upside down with their mortgages; which means they owe more than their home’s value. A Short Sale, sometimes referred to as a “pay off” or “short pay”, is a transaction authorized by the mortgage company / lender in which they agree to the sale of the home for less than the Seller owes on the mortgage. As a part of the Short Sale, the Mortgage Company / lender “usually” agrees to write-off / forgive the balance difference in order to avoid greater losses of their mortgage loan that a foreclosure would cause. In order for the Seller to be pre-qualified for a short sale the Seller must be experiencing a financial hardship that meets the lender’s criteria.

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**Brig. Gen (USA,ret.) JW Nicholson gives a speech during the Veteran's Day Ceremony at Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veteran's Memorial.**



**Viviana Valentin recites the "Star Spangled Banner" during the ceremony at the Mt. Vernon Community Center.**



**Sheila Whiting sings "God Bless America."**

## Honoring Veterans

PHOTO BY  
LASHAWN AVERY/  
GAZETTE PACKET

# Local Races to Join Presidential Ballot in 2012

FROM PAGE 3

system of elections. When it became clear that a five-vote coalition could not be assembled, Vice Mayor Kerry Donley offered a motion to abandon the charter amendment changing the city's election and move forward with electing City Council and School Board members in November 2012.

"For people who are concerned about the conflict with the presidential election, that would only happen once every 12 years," said Donley in offering his motion. "So I think that sort of mutes that argument a little."

At that point, Councilman Paul Smedberg quickly offered a second to Donley's motion. Without missing a beat, Councilman Rob Krupicka called the question — a procedural tactic to end the debate. But Councilman Frank Fannon wanted to offer a substitute motion, and Councilman Del Pepper was ready to present her own plan for election reform. Euille told Fannon and Pepper they would have to wait until after the vote on Donley's motion. Councilwoman Alicia Hughes called for discussion, but Euille said further commentary would have to wait until after the vote.

"The question has been called," responded Euille, moving forward with the vote.

**SINCE THE 18TH** century, Alexandria has held separate elections for local offices. Some of the earliest city records from the 1750s show that municipal elections were

### In Favor

Mayor Bill Euille  
Vice Mayor Kerry Donley  
Councilman Rob Krupicka  
Councilman Paul Smedberg

held in February. By the early 1800s, they were moved to the second Tuesday in March. After the Civil War, they were scheduled for the second Tuesday in June. From 1973 to 2009, local campaigns were held in May. But this year's May election was the end of an era.

After two Democrats lost their seats on the City Council, several prominent Democrats began advocating for doing away with the May elections in favor of November. Republicans criticized the move as a cynical ploy to take advantage of increased turnout of Democrats for national and statewide elections, but some Democrats defended the idea as a way to increase participation. Despite a daylong hearing in which speakers opposed the measure by a three-to-one margin, the City Council approved the ordinance on a five-to-two margin.

"This was done by a lame-duck City Council," said Fannon. "And there were a lot of people in the city who came here and spoke on that Saturday who were upset about the way this was being handled."

Wilson and others who advocated mov-

**"There are four members up here who could have jammed something through that would have been staggered, but we've said no to that because we couldn't get five votes."**

— Vice Mayor Kerry Donley

ing the election from May to November said at the time that they were not in favor of conducting the municipal elections on the presidential ballot. Aside from distracting from local issues, supporters of election changes argued, the logistics of conducting City Council and School Board elections in a presidential year could be problematic. According to Registrar Tom Parkins, the city would need to purchase \$200,000 to \$300,000 worth of new machines to accommodate increased voter time at the polls if City Council and School Board races are added to the November 2012 ballot.

"This will significantly increase the time voters wait in line unless the city is willing to purchase additional voting equipment," said Parkins Tuesday night. "If the city purchases additional voting equipment, it will be doable."

**SINCE THE JUNE** vote to abandon the longtime tradition of conducting springtime municipal elections, several proposals and counter proposals emerged as a way forward. Fannon offered the first proposal, calling for the next election to take place in

### Opposed

Councilwoman Del Pepper  
Councilman Frank Fannon  
Councilwoman Alicia Hughes

November 2011 with all members serving simultaneous four-year terms. Then Krupicka sent a memorandum that offered a number of different scenarios that would create staggered terms, ending the tradition of having all council members on the ballot at the same time.

"This is not good government," said Pepper in reference to staggered terms. "It makes it possible for the incumbents who are not running to turn their friends and resources over to those council members who are running who think and vote like themselves."

When members could not agree on whether or not to move forward with staggered terms, Pepper offered a compromise that would create four-year terms and make changes after November 2015. Then Hughes called for a referendum to determine what the voters thought. Earlier this month, Euille predicted that the issue of staggered terms would not be a "deal-breaker," preventing some kind of charter amendment on election changes that would prevent the municipal election from overlapping with the presidential campaign. But a five-vote coalition failed to emerge, and staggered terms turned out to be a deal-breaker after all. "There are four members up here who could have jammed something through that would have been staggered, but we've said no to that because we couldn't get five votes," said Donley. "That's why we are maintaining the status quo."

## Englin Elected Vice Chairman of Democrat Caucus

During their annual retreat outside of Richmond on Friday, Nov. 13, House Democrats elected Del. David Englin (D-Alexandria) the new vice chairman of their caucus. Englin joins the senior leadership

team that will manage and set the direction for Democrats in the House of Delegates over the next two years, filling the vice chair position left open by the retirement of Del. Kris Amundson.

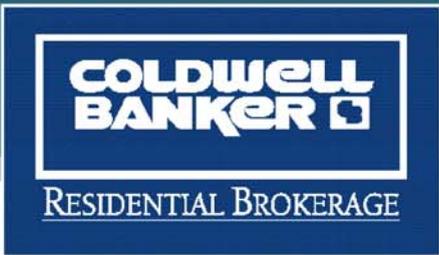
## Two-Alarm Fire Damages House

The Alexandria Fire Department responded to a two-alarm house fire at 112 Lynnhaven Dr. at 9:32 p.m. on Nov. 14. Units arrived on

the scene with smoke showing from the structure and were able to quickly bring the fire under control.



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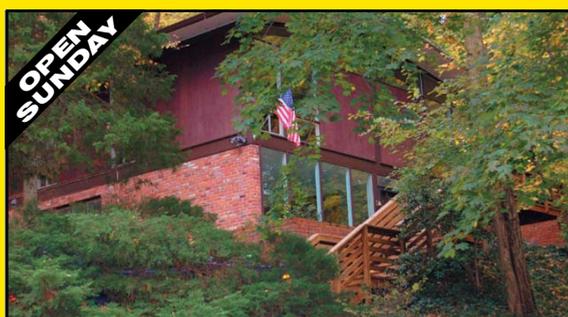
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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

police investigations.

3. Zero Based Budgeting. Programs shouldn't be funded just because they exist. Start from the ground up and justify costs on an annual basis. Weed out the bad and fertilize the good.

4. Litigation Board. Create a nonpartisan board of retired judges and lawyers to review all pending and future litigation involving the City. This volunteer board should be able to veto new and settle pending litigation. Each member should voluntarily agree to abstain from running for public office for five years beginning with the end of their service to the City.

5. Auditing Board. Create a nonpartisan board of auditors, business executives and individuals who have served in local governments outside of Alexandria to review operations and budgeting. These volunteers should also forswear running for public office in Alexandria for five years at the end of their service.

6. Cease using the powers of the City as political weapons. It appears that the elected leadership doesn't like business, especially if it deals with goods or services that some may consider "politically incorrect" such as fuel oil or high quality sporting weapons. After all, the elimination of one discreet, high end sporting goods store resulted in the unexpected opening of the first "adult" shop on King Street, with more to come.

### Specific Programs

Here are a few items for immediate savings.

1. Terminate the "Safe Haven" Program. Though created with the best of intentions, this controversial, misguided, multi-million dollar program designed to provide luxury apartments in the heart of Old Town to a dozen homeless people is a gold-plated monument to waste. As of this date, the poorly managed, over budget program has yet to service a single person.

2. Terminate the Sister City Program. Surely, Alexandria's tourism industry benefits much more from its location at the step of our nation's capital than association with a city an ocean away.

3. Terminate the iPod/key chain giveaway. Sure, it's only \$30,000, but how many meals could that buy for the truly needy had the city left those dollars in the hands of charitable private citizens?

4. Verify that all public school students are legal residents of Alexandria. Transfer non-residents to the appropriate school district, and fine the parents for the cost of the services provided by the City. Why should Alexandria taxpayers pay the tab for students sneaking in from other jurisdictions?

5. Terminate City participation in the NVTA. By any reasonable expectation, The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) has been an abject failure. Its finances were gutted as unconstitutional; its original "priority" projects met with ridicule from its closest allies as being politically motivated and ineffective; and even one of its staff members was arrested for allegedly defrauding the organization. There are better solutions for our transportation problems, beginning with cutting all support for

this failure.

6. Planning and Zoning. Readers may recall that it was only a few months ago that Planning Director Faroll Hamer's arbitrary, capricious, or simply unreasonable actions in a recent land use case were overturned by the BZA. Now taxpayers deserve an answer to this question: why have staffing and other costs increased when economic activity, such as building, has declined? Replace Faroll Hamer with a professional urban planner, down size the staff and keep personal political agendas out of this office.

7. Divest of land holdings and leave the Old Dominion Boat Club alone. Instead of attacking an Alexandria institution with an unwarranted land grab, the city should focus on reducing its property holdings and improving management at existing locations.

Obviously, with a bloated budget that has grown so quickly over the past few years, there is plenty of room for additional reductions and no need to raise taxes yet again. Hopefully, the Mayor and City Council will be up to the task to make these decisions and do their jobs. Goodness knows, the taxpayers have done more than their fair share.

**Bud Miller**

Alexandria Taxpayers United

## Filters and Fire Safety

To the Editor:

Come winter, spring, summer or fall, all radiators/ air conditioners / heaters with filters should be changed and checked for safety — especially large wall units with vents on the outside with easy access for birds to enter and make a nest.

The day after Veterans Day, an alarm sounded. The fifth floor was full of smoke. As one fireman explained the cause of the fire to me while standing in the rain: "It could have been worse. A heater caught on fire, was full of burnt bird nest. We caught it in time — kept it from spreading."

This is an issue that should be addressed by city code enforcement — to make it mandatory that all buildings within the city with this kind of air conditioning / heating system be cleaned and filters changed.

Stay safe this holiday. Unplug the cord when not in use.

**Geri Baldwin**

Alexandria

## All in This Together

To the Editor:

*An open letter to Mayor Euille:*

I was incredibly upset to read your election night comments in the Gazette last week where you said that "People in Alexandria as well as other parts of Northern Virginia are much brighter and more intelligent." I assume by that you meant Democrats.

I'm a Republican who actually voted for

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24

**If I keep a green bough in my heart, the singing bird will come.**

—Chinese proverb

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**OPINION**

**Diabetes: Taking Control of One's Life**

BY CHRISTINE CANDIO  
CEO, INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL



For many people, the holidays are a time when we get together with loved ones and enjoy conversation, laughs and a delicious home-cooked meal. For some, though, the latter presents a health challenge and unless it is managed properly, it can take the joy out of the holidays. That challenge is diabetes.

Diabetes, a disease in which the body doesn't produce or properly use insulin, affects nearly 25 million Americans according to the American Diabetes Association (ADA). The cause of diabetes is still unknown, but physicians and researchers believe genetics, family history, diet, environmental factors and a lack of exercise play important roles in its development.

The Inova Alexandria Hospital Diabetes Center offers classes to meet every diabetes educational need through group classes and one-on-one sessions. Our Center is accredited by the ADA and is staffed by registered dietitians and nurses, many of whom are Certified Diabetes Educators. Each year we see more than 500 people who want to learn how to manage their diabetes properly.

There are several types of diabetes: Type 1 diabetes results from the body's inability to produce insulin. Nearly 10 percent of all Americans with diabetes are diagnosed with this type. Type 2 diabetes is a condition in which the body fails to properly use insulin. Most Americans who are diagnosed with dia-

betes have this form of the disease. Gestational diabetes occurs during pregnancy and usually leads to type 2 diabetes. Pre-diabetes is a condition that occurs when a person's blood glucose levels are higher than normal but not high enough for a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes. Anyone with pre-diabetes should make the effort to educate themselves about taking preventative measures to avoid developing diabetes.

Diabetes can be treated and managed throughout life but unfortunately it cannot be cured. It's necessary to make an effort to maintain good control of the disease, not keeping your health in mind can result in serious complications such as high blood pressure, increased risk for heart disease and stroke, blindness, kidney disease, amputations and even death. The key to preventing these serious and sometimes fatal complications is monitoring blood glucose levels, living an active lifestyle and eating a balanced diet.

Since 1991, the Inova Alexandria Hospital Diabetes Center has helped thousands of people appropriately manage blood glucose levels and live a lifestyle that is more likely to prevent serious complications.

November is American Diabetes Awareness month. If you or someone you love has diabetes make sure you take the necessary steps to manage the disease so you can live a long and healthy life.

For more information about the Inova Alexandria Hospital Diabetes Center call 703-504-3678 or visit [www.inova.org/diabetes](http://www.inova.org/diabetes)

Announcing Burke & Herbert Bank's Third Annual



**Kids' Holiday Art Contest!**



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Download the entry form from our web site, or pick one up at any of Burke & Herbert Bank's 20+ banking offices. Artwork must be submitted in person at any of these locations. To download the entry form and rules, or for office locations, visit [burkeandherbert.com](http://burkeandherbert.com).

The winner will receive a \$100 U.S. Series EE Savings Bond and their artwork will be featured in Burke & Herbert Bank's holiday advertisement in community papers on Thursday, December 17, 2009. Works will be judged by Burke & Herbert Bank team members and a representative of The Art League.



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# OPINION

## Got Power?

BY MCKENYA DILWORTH-ABDALLA  
ACTING CENTER DIRECTOR

The power's on in the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and we're not just referring to the electricity in the buildings. The Out of School Time Program serves youth from kindergarten to teenagers, engaging them in age appropriate activities that serve to enhance the educational experience in the classroom as well as providing a safe place where they can fine tune their essential social development. We have long fought to establish a sort of name to help parents and other community members associate and easily recognize our youth programming with a specific name.

In 1998, the portion of the Out of School Time Program that serves middle school aged youth received the name Power Up Program and was created with the assistance of a USDA grant to the Alexandria Extension Office. Now, the youth served after school who are of elementary school age also

have a name; you guessed it, Power On! But, why is 'branding' so important? To help me answer that question I asked the Out of School Time Program supervisor for the department, Margaret Orlando and she was able to provide some insight on the matter. "We provide quality programs and want families to feel confident that they can send their children to any of our programs. This is why it is important to brand our product and use it with respect to any out of school time program we offer so when families see the name "Power-On" or "Power-Up," they know what to expect." What the community can expect from the department is continued quality programming loaded with creativity and opportunities for youth to explore the world around them. That brings me to the next bit of information I want to share. The Passport to Freedom Program at the Nannie J. Lee Center will play host to the Korean Embassy Nov. 18 at 4 p.m. The program was designed to connect the international community with youth at our neighborhood centers. If you are interested in joining us or would just like to have more information do not hesitate to call the center at 703-746-5533. So, the energy is up in our department and the power's on!

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This European style home is a Tuscan jewel with large entertaining spaces. Constructed of concrete with mosaic tile inlay, James Early's design of 1932 still works for today's lifestyle. The home qualifies for designation in the National Register. Exceptional craftsmanship. Four bedrooms, four baths, two car garage parking.



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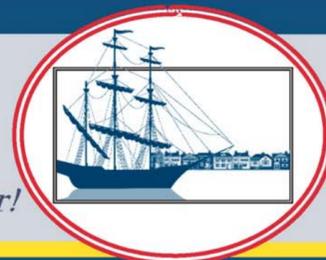
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**7501**  
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Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style, this 1.13 acre property sits on a bluff overlooking acres of parkland with seasonal river views! Heart of redwood features, large room sizes, 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.) Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, R Morningside, R Park Terr.

**OPEN SUN!**

**3706**  
Riverwood Court  
\$775,000  
*Riverwood Gem!*  
Fabulous home in highly sought after Riverwood! 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 the area's premier waterfront community. Open Sun 1-4pm. S GW Pkwy, past estate, L Old Mt Vernon Rd, L Riverwood Rd, L Riverwood Ct.

**OPEN SUN!**

**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 lvs 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.

**801 N PITT ST #417**  
Alexandria  
\$190,000  
*PIED-A-TERRRE.* If you need a place to stay in Old Town, this just listed updated studio apartment is probably cheaper than a hotel. If you need a primary residence or second home to lock up and leave with no worry, this could be it. Leave your car in the underground garage. Balcony has partial river view. AX7190684

**Ruth Gulrard 703.609.3343**

**OPEN SUN 1-4**

**426 ALFRED ST**  
Alex / Old Town  
\$899,900  
Must see this renovated and expanded home - you WILL be impressed. Over 2,300 sq ft of new living space with 3BR and 3.5BA. Master BR with balcony and gorgeous Bath, Gourmet Kitchen overlooking FamRm, Brazilian cherry hardwoods throughout. Deep landscaped backyard and with 2-car parking. All NEW in desirable Old Town!

**Mary Taylor 703.785.5619**

**2304**  
LA GRANDE AVE  
Del Ray - \$795,000  
*HOME AND INCOME!*  
Very unique home w/ Rental Unit! Wonderful tenant will stay if new owner wants. Each unit has 2BR/1BA. Updates include: new roof, superior insulation, new energy eff. windows, refin wood flrs, new appl & tile in kit & baths. Semi-finished lower level. Fabulously landscaped rear garden - complete w/Kiwi Arbor!

**Ellen Young 703.518.8769**

**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.

**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!

**NEW LISTING!**

**4413**  
Ferry Landing Road  
\$559,900  
*Yacht Haven Gem!*  
Fabulous home in Yacht Haven Estates, one of the area's leading waterfront communities! Recently installed top quality gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets and granite counters, hardwood floors, large deck and covered parking. Spacious floor plan overlooks gorgeous half acre grounds.

**8814**  
FORT HUNT RD  
\$469,900  
*A GREAT PLACE TO START!* One owner home with 3BR/2.5BA & many updates. It shines. New paint, new tile floors & vanities in all

3 baths. Room for another BR in basement. Great deck and level backyard. Close to Ft Hunt Park - commute via GW Parkway or Ft Hunt Rd. Do Not Miss This One.

**Louise Devers 703.795.9944**

**353 WESMOND DRIVE**  
\$309,900

- 2 BR, 1 BA, 3 level Rowhouse
- Newer roof, AC, windows and electrical
- Hardwood flooring on main and upper levels
- Convenient to Reagan, 395, Pentagon & DC
- Affordable price in premium location

**Kim Muffler 703.282.7739**

**306 1/2**  
EAST DEL RAY AVENUE  
\$419,000

- 3BR, 1.5 BA, 3LVL semi-detached
- Newer windows and AC
- Hardwood flooring on main and upper floors
- Driveway parking, deep rear yard

**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!

**1810**  
Hollindale Dr  
\$675,000  
*Gorgeous Setting!*  
Estate sale of spacious rambler 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!

**540 SECOND ST**  
#403  
Old Town  
\$649,000  
Sophisticated light-filled top floor condo with 9 foot ceilings, hardwoods & plantation shutters. This 1,485 sq ft, 2BR, 2.5BA home boasts Chef's kitchen, granite, stainless steel appliances, double sided fireplace and closets galore.

**Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144**

**PRICE REDUCED!**

**4105 FAITH COURT**  
Alexandria  
\$799,000  
*SHOWS LIKE NEW!*  
2 story foyer, gourmet kitchen with granite, huge separate Dining room, family room w/ Fireplace off kitchen, den/office on 1st floor, full finished walk-out basement and 2 Fireplaces. Luxury bath with jetted tub & separate shower, large deck. 4BR/3.5BA and 2 car garage.

**Gary Ansley 202.288.7946**

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HOMES STARTING AT \$735,900  
Old world charm & attention to detail is the trademark of these fab new Wakefield Homes. Standard features include high ceilings, hand finished HW floors, molding, 2-car garage, gas FP, gourmet kit + your own personal touches. Preview our model home this weekend & take advantage of pre-construction prices.

**Mary Rice Prosser 703.625.4461**

**WATERFRONT!**

**4003**  
Belle Rive Terrace  
\$4,200,000  
*Riverfront!*  
Just reduced! Prime Mount Vernon location with the most breathtaking river views you have ever seen! Over 11,00 sq ft with five bedrooms including main level river view master suite with enormous luxury bath and huge closets. Extensive balconies, deck and roof deck capitalize on the majestic setting high above the Potomac River!

**WATERFRONT!**

**9516**  
Mt Vernon Landing  
\$2,900,000  
*Waterfront!*  
Waterfront homes rarely become available in Mount Vernon on the Potomac! This spacious custom Tudor was carefully crafted with the highest quality materials and planned with three levels of Pella window walls to maximize water views. Six bedrooms, five baths, full walk out lower level and many rooms with dramatic river views.

**NEW HOME!**

**5205**  
Polk Avenue  
\$999,000  
*Brand New Home!*  
Top quality luxury home in prime west end Alexandria City location for under \$1,000,000! Bright and open floor plan, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, luxury baths, 4BRs upstairs including stunning master suite and oversized side load garage. Prime location on rare almost half acre "in-town" lot. Pre-construction special allows maximum customization!

**3847 WATKINS**  
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Cameron Parke  
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Ballston Metro

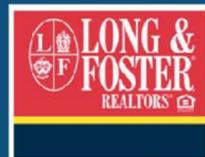
- Unit #109 \$455,000
- Unit # 611 \$459,900
- Approx 1,100 sqft
- 2BR/2BA
- Huge glass enclosed balcony
- Granite, SS, wood cabs
- Close to Ballston METRO

**118 HILTON STREET**  
King St Metro / \$ 575,900

- Great home & location
- 4BR/2BA
- Updtd Kit/Baths
- Close to METRO

**504 E HOWELL AVE**  
Alex / Del Ray  
\$695,000  
Beautiful 3BR/2BA home just blocks from The Avenue. Highlights include spacious living & dining rooms, renovated kitchen with maple cabinets & granite, large office/den, HW flrs, crown molding, separate laundry rm, fenced yd w/new slate patio & more!

**Dayna Blumel / Kerry Adams 703.597.2252**



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## NEWS

# MindUp Establishes Presence Here

FROM PAGE 1

participant. Areas where the nonprofit charges for the training sessions include Schenectady, N.Y., Minneapolis, Minn., and Vancouver, British Columbia. In other areas, such as Washington, D.C., the nonprofit organization conducted a training session earlier this year with a handful of teachers at Jefferson-Houston Elementary School.

“Sometimes when people are at the end of the careers, they think about setting themselves up for a lucrative retirement,” said Bill Campbell, who waged an unsuccessful campaign for School Board last year. “You have to be careful about creating relationships with foundations because a program might be free today, but it’s something you’ll get a bill for in the future.”

**THE HAWN FOUNDATION** was created in 2003 by the well-known actress, who burst on the scene in the 1960s as a ditzy blonde in the hit television comedy show *Rowan and Martin’s Laugh-In*. Sherman has been a member of the nonprofit organization’s board since he was superintendent in Tenafly, N.J. He helped arrange the Jefferson-Houston training session, and he invited Goldie Hawn to speak at a 2008 convocation ceremony.

“I didn’t really understand why my reading comprehension wasn’t so great or why I mixed up my words, which of course I did on *Laugh-In*, which made me a big star,” Hawn said during the convocation, explaining her undiagnosed low-level dyslexia. “So sometimes those deficits can work for us.”

Promotional material for MindUp explains that the curriculum was designed in collaboration with neuroscientists, behavioral psychologists and educators to fos-

### OBITUARY

## Lois Goodfellow Parker

Lois Goodfellow Parker, 97, died early Saturday morning Oct. 31 due to complications of pancreatic cancer. She died in her sleep at Mount Vernon Hospital. She was born Oct. 27, 1912 in Gracemont, Okla. and delivered by her father when the doctor did not arrive in time from town. She was one of seven siblings raised on a farm in the Oklahoma plains.

She attended Oklahoma A&M majoring in music, then briefly taught school in Oklahoma. She was selected to the All-State women’s basketball team when she was a senior in high school and received an offer to play at Oklahoma A&M. In 1934 she was elected Oklahoma State Secretary of the League of Young Democrats by the largest major-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Jefferson-Houston Principal Kimberley Graves and her teachers are participating in the pilot program called MindUp, which was created by the Hawn Foundation.**

ter “optimism, gratitude, acts of kindness, awareness of surroundings and being mindful of others.”

“I am a volunteer member of this board,” explained Sherman in another e-mail. “I don’t receive any benefit from being on this board, not in salary or in any other way except for trying to do good things for kids.”

**SOME PARENTS AT** Jefferson-Houston say their children have benefited from the Hawn Foundation’s mindfulness program. The goal of the program, as outlined in the foundation’s materials, is to provide children with emotional and cognitive tools that can reduce stress and anxiety, sharpen concentration, build confidence and ultimately improve performance in school. Jefferson-Houston PTA President Beth Coast said she realized the potential of the program when her 7-year-old son told her mother-in-law she wasn’t using her hippocampus.

“Sometimes people underestimate what children are capable of learning,” said Beth Coast, PTA president of Jefferson-Houston.

“Children are sponges, and anything we can do to raise the bar in terms of what’s expected of them is worth it in my opinion.”

Jefferson-Houston has been one of the city’s most troubled schools for many years, failing to meet federal standards more than any other school in the division. The elementary school has been in a state of flux since a controversial redistricting in 2000, carving out a student population with the highest concentration of poverty in the city. Recent years have seen a flurry of changes at the school, including a pilot program add middle-school classes, the creation of an International Baccalaureate program and now the Hawn Foundation’s cognitive research training.

“This is a program that’s based on current brain research,” said School Board member Sheryl Gorsuch, adding that the board never approved the training session. “It’s something that the principal and the teachers at Jefferson-Houston expressed an interest in, and I support their efforts to implement it.”



Army, in December 1940. As a military family they were stationed in various locations including Nassau, Bahamas and Honolulu, Hawaii. The family then settled in Northern Virginia in 1951. She was employed by the Arlington County school system at Wakefield High School from 1954 through 1976.

She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Mayflower Society.

She is survived by her two sons Fred and Jim, three grandsons Charlie, Jonathan and Edward and one great grandson, Spencer.

A visitation was held at Murphy Funeral Home, 4515 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, on Saturday Nov. 7.



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

## Men in Kilts

The 39th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk will take place on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Earl Cook, Alexandria's Chief of Police, will serve as the Grand Marshal. Cook will lead more than 120 Scottish clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, canine marchers, local dignitaries and Santa Claus, through the streets of Old Town. From corner of Wilkes and South Saint Asaph Streets to King and Royal Streets. Presented by the Campagna Center, the St. Andrew's Society and the City of Alexandria. Visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com).

# A Very Scottish Christmas



The Taste of Scotland at the George Washington Masonic Memorial last year.

## A CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE

Vendors sell unique, holiday gift wares in a boutique setting. Location: George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria. Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 4 – One Day Only; 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## TASTE OF SCOTLAND

A Tasting featuring hard-to-find, rare scotches direct from Scotland distilleries. Location: George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria; Date/Time: Friday, Dec. 4 from 7-8 p.m. Patron Hour Only; 8-11 p.m. Patron and Regular ticketholders. Cost: Advance tickets required. Go to [www.scottishchristmaswalk.com](http://www.scottishchristmaswalk.com) or call 703-549-0111, x107 for tickets. Patron: \$150/individual, \$250/couple. Individual tickets \$100.

## SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK PARADE

More than 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dog groups, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march through the streets of Old Town Alexandria.

Route: Beginning at the corner of Wilkes and South Pitt Streets in Old Town and ending at Market Square  
Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 5 at 11 a.m.

## HOLIDAY DESIGNER TOUR OF HOMES

Stroll through lovely properties in the historic district of Alexandria dressed up for the holidays by acclaimed interior designers and local florists.

Location: Select properties in Old Town, Alexandria  
Date/Time: Saturday, Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Cost: Tickets required. Go to [www.scottishchristmaswalk.com](http://www.scottishchristmaswalk.com) or call 703-549-0111 or stop by The Campagna Center for tickets. Advance Purchase \$30. Day-Of Purchase \$35. Tickets may also be purchased at the homes.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 4

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Christmas Marketplace – One Day Only  
Heather and Greens Sale  
10 a.m. – 12 noon Children's Tea Party  
7 p.m. – 8 p.m. Taste of Scotland Patron Hour Only  
7 p.m. – 11 p.m. Christmas Marketplace (Taste of Scotland guests only)  
8 p.m. – 11 p.m. Taste of Scotland

## SATURDAY, DEC. 5

7 a.m. – 2 p.m. Heather and Greens Sale (West side of 100 block of N. Royal Street, behind reviewing stand)  
9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Business Leadership Council  
Dignitaries' Breakfast  
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Holiday Designer Tour of Homes  
11 a.m. Scottish Christmas Walk Parade



# Holiday Boat Parade

Discover the joy of holiday traditions in Alexandria with the 10th annual Burke & Herbert Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, from 6-7 p.m., Alexandria's harbor will sparkle when 50 brightly lit powerboats and sailboats led by the Vigilant, Alexandria's fireboat, will parade down the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., to Alexandria fully decked out in lights and holiday décor.

"Celebrating the holidays by bundling up and coming down docks for the Boat Parade of Lights is a great, must-do holiday tradition," said Stephanie Brown, Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association president and CEO.

Santa Claus will arrive by fireboat to kick off the evening festivities at 4 p.m. at the Alexandria Marina (One Cameron Street, Alexandria). Kids and dogs will be able to sit on Santa's lap and get their picture taken for free. The Braddock Brass Quintet and the Bells of Mount Vernon, a hand bell choir from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will headline the live music entertainment.

WTOP's Bob Madigan will be the emcee and celebrity host of the boat parade. Boaters will compete for prizes in categories such as "Best in Show," "Best Thinking Outside the Christmas Box" and "Hardest Souls."



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Directions, phone numbers, and additional information available on our website at [www.kingstreetcats.org](http://www.kingstreetcats.org).

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**Introducing the  
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Kick-off Event**

**12.31.09  
3-4:30 PM**

Solve clues from Alexandria's waterfront Torpedo Factory to the Embassy Suites for a chance to win fabulous prizes, including dinner and a two-night stay at The Morrison House in Old Town Alexandria

To learn more about the new **Fun Hunt**, and for a full schedule of First Night Alexandria events, visit [FirstNightAlexandria.org](http://FirstNightAlexandria.org)

**First Night Alexandria**  
An Old Town New Year's Party



Thursday, December 17th  
6-9 PM  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
625 First Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314



**Satin Doll Trio**  
**Heavy Hors d'oeuvres**

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Questions: Call Janelle at 703-739-3808  
or email [jschmidt@alexchamber.com](mailto:jschmidt@alexchamber.com)

# CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY/NOV. 19

**18<sup>th</sup>-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](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

**An Evening With Bronze Sculptor Rick Weaver.** 7 p.m. Mr. Weaver will explain the sculpture-making and foundry process, with examples of pencil and clay sketches, an armature, a finished clay, a rubber mold, a wax, a sprued wax, an investment mold, and a bronze. This event is free. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 20

**Bowling for the Homeless Fund-raiser.** 9 p.m. to midnight. Adults bowl unlimited for only \$20 and kids under the age of 16 for \$10. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to The Carpenters Shelter, a local homeless shelter. At the AMF Bowling Center, 6228-A North Kings Highway, Alexandria.

**Evening of Music for Brass Quintet.** 8 p.m. Free. Part of the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players Series. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call the U.S. Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil).

**Botanical Ornaments Workshop.** 12:30-3 p.m. Learn to decorate your home using natural materials. Cost is \$25; all materials will be provided. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173.

## NOV. 20, 21

**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. 21

**Breakfast Reach Out Meeting.** 9:15 a.m. Speaker is Elizabeth Mulloy for Arlington Aglow. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3439 Payne Street, Bailey's Crossroads. To reserve a spot, call Betty Rose Forsell at 703-671-9264.

**Scottish Singer Jim Malcolm.** 8 p.m. Jim Malcolm, formerly the lead singer with the Scottish band Old Blind Dogs, gives a special solo performance celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$24 at the door. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Go to [www.sunspotpro.com](http://www.sunspotpro.com) or call 800 404-9049.

**Valentina Lisitsa, Piano Virtuoso.** 7 p.m. Free. Classical piano concert featuring works of Beethoven, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria.

**Late Harvest Ball.** 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Includes 18<sup>th</sup> century English country dancing, live music, cash bar and dessert. Costumes of the 1770s are

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 20  
welcome, and "after-five" attire is encouraged. Tickets are \$45/advance and \$50/door. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4242 to register. Go to [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 22

**Birding for Beginners.** 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Observe the transition of the bird community as the summer breeding population moves south and the winter residents arrive. At Huntley Meadows. \$6 per person. Call 703-768-2525. Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Boulevard and the Visitor Center is one-half mile on left at Harrison Lane.

**Violin Recital.** 4 p.m. Free. The Alexandria Performing Arts Association presents Nathan Wisniewski of the Air Force Chamber Players in a violin recital. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Alexandria. Call 703-505-0700.

**U.S. Army Orchestra.** 3 p.m. Beethoven's Triple Concerto and selections from Bizet's The Pearl Fishers and Chants d'Auvergne, with guest conductor Mark Gibson, of The University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NVCC Alexandria campus.

**Afternoon of Music for Euphonium.** 3 p.m. Free. Part of the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players Series. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call the U.S. Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil).

**Chamber Music Recital.** 2 p.m. Free. By the U.S. Navy band. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-433-2525, or visit [www.navyband.navy.mil](http://www.navyband.navy.mil).

**Heroic Music for Organ and Brass.** 6 p.m. Free. With the King Street Brass Quintet and Thom Robertson, organist, playing the music of Strauss, Rheinberger and David Ashley White (Triptych) plus brass solo works. At Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Call 703-549-1980.

**"New Mythology - Tracey Clarke."** 4-6 p.m., Opening Reception at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Free. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) or [traceyclarke.org](http://traceyclarke.org).

## THURSDAY/NOV. 26

**Alexandria Turkey Trot.** 10 a.m. At the Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25



**Alexandria Residents Dick Reed (George Bailey) and Deb Green.**

## NOV. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29

**"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play."** Six actors portray 43 voices in this visual recreation of a 1940's NYC radio station. Produced by ACCT. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Sunday at 2 p.m. At Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$9/adults, \$5/children 12 and below. Go to [acconline.org](http://acconline.org) or call 703-660-2611.



## THURSDAY, NOV. 19

**The Reverie Jazz Trio.** 7-9 p.m., Free. The Reverie Jazz Trio will perform early jazz standards and forgotten favorites in a style reminiscent of a bygone era while bringing back the great melodies and emotion exemplified by the great jazz and blues music of the 1930s, 1940s and early 1950s. Part of the Thursday Nite Local Spotlight series. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4565, [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

W. Reed Ave., intersection of West Reed and Commonwealth Avenues, in Alexandria's Del Ray community. The 5-mile race is cosponsored by the Del Ray Business Association (DRBA) and the DC Road Runners Club. The onsite entry fee — with two cans of food — is \$25 for adults 22 and over and \$20 for individuals aged 13-21 years. Children 12 and under can participate for \$10 at the door and two cans of food. Call Paul Coleus at 703-933-0520 ext. 203 or email [paul@waterfordinc.com](mailto:paul@waterfordinc.com). Visit <http://www.dcroadrunners.org/sign-up/turkey>.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 27

**Music for the Clarinet.** 8 p.m. Free. Presented by the U.S. Air Force Band Chamber Players. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Call 202-767-5658 or visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil).

**City Tree Lighting Program.** 7 p.m. Entertainment features a message from the Mayor, a visit from Santa, a performance of Santa's Frosty's Follies by the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, and caroling with a community sing along. At Market Square, 301 King Street, Alexandria. Sponsored by the City of Alexandria. Call 703-883-4686 or the Special Events Office at 703-746-5418.

## NOV. 27-JAN. 6

**Christmas at Mount Vernon.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The halls are decked for Christmas at Mount Vernon. Exciting additions include a dozen themed Christmas trees, historical chocolate-making demonstrations, and 18th-century dancing! \$15/adults, \$7/children ages 6-11, free for children under 6. At Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Call 703-780-2000 or [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

## MONDAY/NOV. 30

**St. Andrew's Day.** 7:30 p.m. Kirkin of the Tartan Service. The service will include a blessing of the tartans and a bagpiper and will be followed by a reception with Scottish foods and beverages. At St. Andrew and St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church, 402 E. Monroe Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-683-3343. Visit [www.standrewandstmargaret.org](http://www.standrewandstmargaret.org)

## TUESDAY/DEC. 1

**An Evening of Baroque Music:** Works by Telemann and Bach. 7:30 p.m. The National Chamber Players will perform Sonata No. 1 in A major and the

Tafelmusik Quartet in D minor by Telemann, and Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4. Free. At Pendleton Hall, Ainslie Arts Center, Episcopal High School, 3900 W Braddock Road, Alexandria. There will be a gallery opening and reception for Wildfires: Photographs by Youngsuk Suh, in the Angie Newman Johnson Gallery at 6:30 p.m. Go to [www.episcopalhighschool.org](http://www.episcopalhighschool.org), email [arts@episcopalhighschool.org](mailto:arts@episcopalhighschool.org), or call 703-933-4135.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 3

**Torpedo Factory Holiday Open House.** 6 to 9 p.m. Shop for one-of-a-kind gifts as live music and refreshments get you into the holiday spirit at this annual bash! Guests are also invited to give back with a food drive benefiting Carpenter's Shelter. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) or call 703-838-4565.

**Holiday Concert.** 7:30 p.m. NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, with the Alexandria Band. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6097.



**Rose (Elena Lagon) and Agnes (Becca Edelstein) star in "Meet Me In St. Louis."**

## NOV. 20, 21

**"Meet Me in St. Louis."** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. At Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 4

**ArtFest 2009 Open House.** 6-9 p.m. Free. Exhibits, holiday sales and more. The event features 2D/3D exhibits, holiday ceramic sale, jewelry sale, wearable fiber art show and sale, music by Rew Smith Band, artist demos and food and drinks.

**The Ceramic and Pottery Show and Sale** will run through the weekend and will feature ceramic vessels and forms made by students and associates of The Art League that are perfect for holiday gift giving. Times are: Friday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 6, 12 noon-5 p.m.

**The Jewelry Show and Sale,** featured Friday and Saturday, will showcase a variety of jewelry to fit all tastes. Times are: Friday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. At the Madison Annex in Old Town Alexandria.

## DEC. 4-6

**Holiday Market at Del Ray Artisans.** Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Unique handmade fine arts and crafts from 16 local exhibitors and bake sale items to benefit Food for Others. Free. Go to [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org). The Del Ray Artisans Gallery is located at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-838-4827.

# La Strada

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## Wine Dinner Monday, December 7th

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**50% off Bottle of Wine  
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**NEW Saturday and Sunday  
Breakfast Brunch  
10:30 A.M. 'til 3:00 P.M.**

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

*Buon Appetito*

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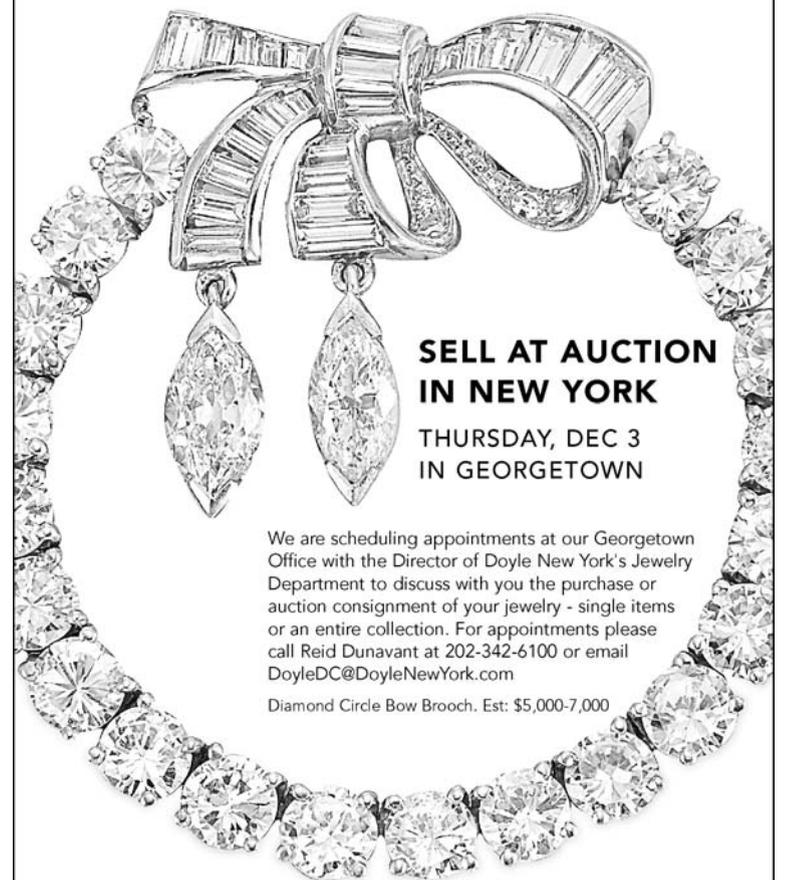
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 Omelette Station • Eggs • Bacon • Virginia Ham  
 Sausage Links • Belgian Waffles • Hot Cakes • Home  
 Fires • Grits • Sausage Gravy Over Biscuits • Rolls •  
 Muffins • Fresh Fruits  
**Adults: \$11.25 - Children 12 & Under: \$4.25**

**THANKSGIVING BUFFET DINNER**  
 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m.  
 Carved Hot!! Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing &  
 Giblet Gravy • Roast Beef au jus • Baked Virginia Ham  
 with Raisin Sauce • Baked Yams • Oven Browned  
 Potatoes • Mashed Potatoes • Green Beans • Fresh  
 Broccoli with Hollandaise Sauce • Rolls & Butter •  
 Apple Pie • Pumpkin Pie • Hot Mince Pie & More!!!  
**Adults: \$17.95 - Children 12 & Under: \$7.95**

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## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

### SATURDAY/NOV. 21

**Christmas Bazaar.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 60 exhibitors/vendors, Santa's Workshop Crafts, gingerbread houses, bake sale, Christmas café, children's games and prizes, visits with Santa/keepsake photo, Yesterday's Book Sale and holiday cinema. At St. Mary's School, 400 Green Street, Alexandria.

**TJ Gift/Craft Show.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Be vendor or customer. The Gift Show is for the shared benefit of the local arts/crafts community and TJ Crew Team. At the Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Rd, Alexandria. Visit [www.tjgiftshow.com](http://www.tjgiftshow.com).

**"Stir Up the Gifts."** 7 p.m. A night of fashion and inspirational entertainment. Fashions by Ellen's Boutique, Dress Barn and K&G Fashions. Inspirational entertainment by, inspirational rap artist, "Rimidy", Singer Kimberly Gordon and Shloh's David's Dancers. Tickets are \$7 (Ages 6-17), \$15 (Ages 18 & up) and ages 5 and under free. At the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Call 703-927-2927.

**Holiday Shop.** 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some 50 artisans in fiber arts, wood, paper, metal, glass, clay, photography and orchids. Quilt raffle, Country Kitchen with handmade baked goods, chutneys and more, an attic/resale boutique, gently used jewelry shop, gingerbread house raffle and lunch. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Call 703-765-5950.

**Annual Gift Fair.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. TJ Crew is hosting the fair at the Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Rd., Alexandria. If you have a craft/art/music or any personal invention or service that you would like to sell at the Gift Fair, go to the web site: [www.tjgiftshow.com](http://www.tjgiftshow.com) or contact Rajni Goel at

[tjgiftshow@gmail.com](mailto:tjgiftshow@gmail.com) (703-288-5111).

### FRIDAY/NOV. 27

**City Tree Lighting Program.** 7 p.m. Entertainment features a message from the Mayor, a visit from Santa, a performance of Santa's Frosty's Follies by the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, and caroling with a community sing along. At Market Square, 301 King Street, Alexandria. Sponsored by the City of Alexandria. Call 703-883-4686 or the Special Events Office at 703-746-5418.

### NOV. 27-JAN. 6

**Christmas at Mount Vernon.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The halls are decked for Christmas at Mount Vernon. Exciting additions include a dozen themed Christmas trees, historical chocolate-making demonstrations, and 18th-century dancing! \$15/adults, \$7/children ages 6-11, free for children under 6. At Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Call 703-780-2000 or [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

### NOV. 27-29

**Mount Vernon by Candlelight.** 5-8 p.m. Mrs. Washington hosts 18th-century Christmas with candlelit walks, fireside caroling, and early American décor. Cost is \$18/adults, \$12/children under 11. At Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Call 703-780-2000 or [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

### THURSDAY/DEC. 3

**Torpedo Factory Holiday Open House.** 6 to 9 p.m. Shop for one-of-a-

kind gifts as live music and refreshments get you into the holiday spirit at this annual bash! Guests are also invited to give back with a food drive benefiting Carpenter's Shelter. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) or call 703-838-4565.

**Holiday Concert.** 7:30 p.m. NOVA Community Chorus, Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, with the Alexandria Band. At the Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria. Call 703-845-6097.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 4

**Holiday Luminarias.** 6-9 p.m. Free viewing. Lit candles and Christmas trees line the streets, providing a holiday glow. In the Historic Del Ray District, Mount Vernon Avenue from Bellefonte to Hume Avenues.

**ArtFest 2009 Open House.** 6-9 p.m. Free. Exhibits, holiday sales and more. The event features 2D/3D exhibits, holiday ceramic sale, jewelry sale, wearable fiber art show and sale, music by Rew Smith Band, artist demos and food and drinks.

**The Ceramic and Pottery Show and Sale** will run through the weekend and will feature ceramic vessels and forms made by students and associates of The Art League that are perfect for holiday gift giving. Times are: Friday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 6, 12 noon-5 p.m.

**The Jewelry Show and Sale**, featured Friday and Saturday, will showcase a variety of jewelry to fit all tastes. Times are: Friday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. At the Madison Annex in Old Town Alexandria.

## COME HIKE AT MADEIRA

Sunday, November 22: 1-3pm

**Family Discovery Walk:** Explore our forests and trails at a pace even little legs can handle.

**Black Pond Hike:** Follow our trail system deep into the woods, then along the Potomac River, ultimately arriving at Black Pond. This natural treasure sits at the base of the Potomac River Gorge and is full of endangered and rare plant species some of which are found only in this area.

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](http://www.madeira.org/hike)

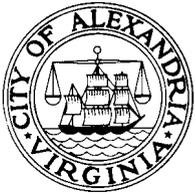
Immediately following the hikes we will have a Camp Greenway Open house at the Hurd Sports Center as well as an Open House at the Stables. If you are interested in learning more about summer camp at Madeira or just visiting some of our four legged friends please feel free to join us for either or both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



**The Madeira School**  
 8328 Georgetown Pike  
 McLean, Virginia 22102  
 703-556-8273  
[www.madeira.org](http://www.madeira.org)

# BULLETIN BOARD

## Legal Notices



Alexandria Board of Architectural Review  
Old & Historic Alexandria District

### LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Meeting Time:

Enter a Meeting Type: Regular Public Hearing

Enter the applications to be heard here...

CASE BAR2009-0176

Request for approval of demolition at 620 & 605 Jefferson Street, 724A & 724B S St. Asaph Street, 800A, 800B, 800C, & 800D S Washington Street, zoned RCX Residential Commercial Mixed Use.

APPLICANT: Scott Management Inc.

CASE BAR2009-0150

Request for approval of alterations at 620 & 605 Jefferson Street, 724A & 724B S St. Asaph Street, 800A, 800B, 800C, & 800D S Washington Street, zoned RCX Residential Commercial Mixed Use.

APPLICANT: Scott Management Inc.

CASE BAR2009-0185

Request for approval of signage and awnings at 109 S St. Asaph Street, zoned CD Commercial.

APPLICANT: Columbia Firehouse Restaurant

CASE BAR2009-0260

Request for approval of after-the-fact alterations at 402 Jefferson St, zoned RM Residential.

APPLICANT: James E. Cucinelli

CASE BAR2009-0261

Request for approval of signage at 115 S Union St, zoned CD Commercial.

APPLICANT: The Killed Nation

CASE BAR2009-0262

Request for approval of alterations at 412 S Royal St, zoned RM Residential.

APPLICANT: Bette Gorman

CASE BAR2009-0263

Request for approval of alterations at 102 Pommander Walk, zoned RM Residential.

APPLICANT: Mada McGill

CASE BAR2009-0264

Request for approval of demolition at 323 N Royal St, zoned RM Residential.

APPLICANT: Adam Porter

CASE BAR2009-0265

Request for approval of alterations at 323 N Royal St, zoned RM Residential.

APPLICANT: Adam Porter

Information about the above item(s) may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4666

### STILL I RISE

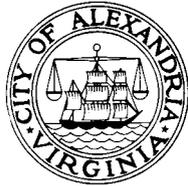
You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.  
Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.  
Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.  
Do you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
Weakened by my soulful cries.  
Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
Diggin' in my own back yard.  
You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.  
Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.

## Legal Notices



In Loving Memory of  
**ANNIE PEARL MANUEL,**  
who passed away March 16, 1994  
God bless you in Jesus' name.  
I love you, but God loved you best.  
Your son, Phillip

### LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING



**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009 - 7:30 PM**  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, City Hall  
Alexandria, Virginia

Information about these items may be obtained from the: Department of Planning and Zoning, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4668

BZA CASE #2009-0027  
219 E. OXFORD AVENUE  
R-2-5, RESIDENTIAL

Paul Haire, LLC managing partner: Special exception to raise the roof of the existing dwelling 3.90 feet from the east side property line. If the special exception is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a special exception from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to physical enlargement of a noncomplying structure.

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.

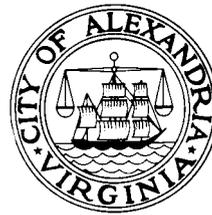
TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$50,000.00 in the form of cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. CorpServ, Inc., Substitute Trustee(s)

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 Notices



In honor of your birthday,  
**ROBERT E. STOKES**  
Born February 3, 1952  
God bless you in Jesus' name,  
I love you.  
Your blood brother,  
Phillip Peterson



### ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION

DECEMBER - 2009

The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the following dates. NOTICE: Some of the items listed below may be placed on a consent calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the consent calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the public hearing to a future date. For further information call the Department of Planning and Zoning on 838-4666.

**ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION**  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009  
7:30 PM, CITY HALL  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
301 KING STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

**ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL**  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009  
9:30 AM, CITY HALL  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
301 KING STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

### SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2009-0066

### REZONING #2009-0002

### MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT #2009-0003

760 JOHN CARLYLE STREET AND 1800 EISENHOWER AVENUE

CARLYLE PLAZA (CARLYLE - BLOCK P)

Public hearing and consideration of a request to A) amend the Carlyle Special Use Permit approval and the Design Guidelines for Block P to remove lots 803 and 804 and floor

area; B) rezone the subject properties from CDD #1 (Duke Street) to CDD #11 (South Carlyle) and C) amend the Eisenhower East Small Area Plan to update the development controls for CDD #11 and include design guidelines for Block 26A (formerly Block P); zoned CDD #1/Coordinated Development District-1. Applicant: Carlyle Plaza LLC represented by Jonathan Rak, attorney

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE HEARD BY PLANNING COMMISSION ONLY, (AND BY CITY COUNCIL ONLY UPON APPEAL.)

### SUBDIVISION 2009-0005

501 AND 521 EAST MONROE AVENUE, 1400 MAINLINE BOULEVARD

### DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER

Public hearing and consideration of a request to subdivide various parcels; zoned CSL/Commercial Service Low. Applicant: Virginia Electric and Power Company by Joanna Frizzell, attorney

### DEVELOPMENT SITE PLAN #2009-0018

5001 EISENHOWER AVENUE

VICTORY CENTER - AMENDMENT

FROM PAGE 6

month at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Call 703-591-4488 or send email to info@naacp.org.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 19

**Public Hearing.** 7 p.m. Alexandria's Park and Recreation Commission will discuss recommendations for new and increased fees for programs and services. At the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria.

**Carlyle Design Review Board Meeting.** 7 p.m. Will discuss plans in the Carlyle/Eisenhower East Planning Area. Meets at City Hall, Room 2000. Contact Natalie Sun at 703-746-3820.

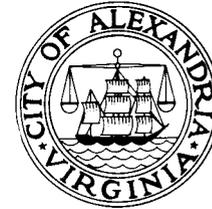
**Commonwealth Academy Open House.** 9-10 a.m. Learn about its award winning college-prep program for students with learning differences and AD/HD. Grades 4-12. Meet with faculty and staff and tour the school. At the Commonwealth Academy, 1321 Leslie Avenue, Alexandria. Call 703-548-6912 or go to [www.CommonwealthAcademy.com](http://www.CommonwealthAcademy.com)

**Alexandria Academy Admissions Information Meeting.** Alexandria

## Legal Notices

Public hearing and consideration of a request to amend DSP2004-0037 to clarify the parking requirement; zoned OCM(100)/Office Commercial Medium.

Applicant: Eisenhower Real Estate Holdings, LLC by Joanna Frizzell, attorney



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, November 21, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-2-246 of Article N (TAX ON MEALS SOLD BY RESTAURANTS) of Chapter 2 (TAXATION) of Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The ordinance amends and reordains Section 3-2-246 of the City Code concerning meals sales tax exemptions as a result of Virginia Code changes.

AN ORDINANCE to add a new Article X (POLLUTION CONTROL EQUIPMENT TAX EXEMPTION) of Chapter 2 (TAXATION) of Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The ordinance modifies the City Code to add a new Article X to Chapter 2 of Title 3, creating a separate property classification for pollution control equipment and exempting this equipment from City property taxes to comply with Virginia Code changes.

AN ORDINANCE to repeal Article T (DAILY RENTAL TAX) of Chapter 2 (TAXATION) of Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) and to adopt and reordain Article T (SHORT-TERM RENTAL TAX) of Chapter 2 (TAXATION) of Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The ordinance repeals and abolishes the daily rental tax and adopts and reordains a short-term rental tax pursuant to the newly added Article 3.1, Chapter 2, Title 58.1 of the Virginia Code.

Academy, endowed by George Washington in 1785, will be reopening in Old Town in Fall 2010. Come and meet the Headmaster and learn about the Academy's classical curriculum. New independent school serving grades 5-8 in 2010-2011. Meeting held at the Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St 6:30-8 p.m.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 21

**Public Speaking Contest.** 10 a.m. to noon. Candidates will compete using the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter topic "Truth." Sponsored by S.E.E.D. At the Alexandria Public Library. Go to [www.publicspeakingcontest.com](http://www.publicspeakingcontest.com) for more information on directions and donations.

### MONDAY/NOV. 23

**"Mental Health: Lifeline to Recovery."** At the Holiday Inn Eisenhower Metro Center, 2460 Eisenhower Avenue. Reception at 6:30, Dinner (\$22 members/\$27 nonmembers) at 6:45; Program (\$5 nonmembers) 7:15. Dinner reservations required. For information or reservations, contact Sherry Brown, 703-548-7089 or [agendaalexandria@aol.com](mailto:agendaalexandria@aol.com).

## Legal Notices

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 11-513 (ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIAL PERMIT), Division B (DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS), Article XI (DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS AND PROCEDURES), all of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by the city council as Text Amendment No. 2009-0003.

The proposed ordinance amends the Zoning Ordinance to apply the zoning regulations governing certain small businesses to such businesses located in the Cameron Station development, as recommended to the City Council by the Planning Commission on October 6, 2009, which recommendation was approved by the City Council at public hearing on October 17, 2009.

AN ORDINANCE making provision for the support of the government of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for fiscal year 2010.

The proposed ordinance appropriates funds for the operation of the City government in fiscal year 2010.

Public Hearing on the Report from the Naming Committee on Naming the Gymnasium and Pool at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Proposed Route I-395 Direct Access Ramp Alternatives for the BRAC-133 Project at Mark Center: (a) Presentation of Alternatives by Representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation; and (b) Preliminary Public Hearing on Proposed Alternatives.

Public Hearing on the City's Proposed Legislative Package for the 2010 Virginia General Assembly.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. JACKIE M. HENDERSON, CMC, CITY CLERK

**DATE CORRECTION:** 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 17, 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](mailto:rwebb@acps.k12.va.us)

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

you with the impression that you would do your best to represent all Alexandrians.

Is it really possible that you think Democrats are smarter than everyone else? I graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown so I can't be too stupid.

Isn't it possible that we all bring something to the table? That we all want the same things more or less but just disagree on how to get there? Maybe it's time to take a lot of opinions into consideration and work on finding good ideas no matter who comes up with them.

**Ann Bruno**

## 'Intelligent' Failures

To the Editor:

Those letter writers so upset over Mayor Euille's remark about Northern Virginia voters being "brighter and more intelligent" than their counterparts in the rest of Virginia should understand that sometimes politicians say silly things. They just do. It comes with being a politician. Instead of venting their spleen, they would do better to roll their eyes and ask Mayor Euille how it could possibly be that those "brighter and more intelligent" voters could be facing a \$43 million hole in their city budget or how in Alexandria where all the children are above average, as Mayor Euille implied, some city-run schools can fail "No Child Left Behind" standards for several years running, or how Virginia's state government, headed now by someone more to those "brighter and more intelligent" voters' taste, could be saddled with so huge a "structural budget deficit" even before the economy tanked.

**Dino Drudi**  
Alexandria

## Let's Get Back to Work

To the Editor:

*An open letter from Del. David Englin to voters.*

Thank you to the people of the 45th District for last week's strong vote of confidence. Please know that I will keep working hard each day to live up to your faith in me and to continue providing open, responsive, energetic leadership that makes your government work for you. I especially want to express my deep gratitude to my family, friends, supporters, and all

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 29

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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- Unique center hall colonial with open floor plan
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## Expanding on a Tradition

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A community with a long history of providing exceptional living for older adults... with all the latest features of an upscale condo...plus a strong financial position.

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"To Love & Serve the Lord with Gladness & Singleness of Heart"

Location - Washington Mill ES  
9100 Cherrytree Drive

Christmas Eve Service - Dec 24th at 5:00 pm  
Sunday Worship Service - 10am  
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Vicar, The Rev. Huey J Sevier

www.christthesaviouranglican.org  
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10 am Sunday Worship Service  
Sunday School classes (child to adult) and youth group (7th to 12th grade)  
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**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
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(just off Richmond Highway, near Fort Belvoir & Mount Vernon)  
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### Good Shepherd Catholic Church

**Mass Schedule**

**Saturday Evening**  
5:00 pm; 6:30 pm (en Español)

**Sunday**  
7:30; 9:00; 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon  
2:00 pm (en Español)  
6:30 pm Mass (Starts Sept. 13)

**Weekdays**  
(Mass or Communion Service)  
9:00 am (followed by Rosary)  
**Children's Liturgy of the Word**  
Sundays (Sept.-July) during 9:00 am Mass (English)  
**Sign Language Interpreter**  
Sunday at 9:00 am Mass

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309  
Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 www.gs-cc.org  
**Loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves**

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ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH...703-780-3081  
ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH...703-765-4342  
ST. MARK EPISCOPAL CHURCH...703-765-3949

**CHURCHES—LUTHERAN**  
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GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH-ELCA...703-548-8608  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, MISSOURI SYNOD...703-549-0155  
MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA...703-765-5003  
NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA...703-768-1112

**To Advertise Your Faith Community, call Karen at: 703-917-6468**

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BAPTIST TEMPLE CHURCH...703-548-8000  
DEL RAY BAPTIST CHURCH...703-549-8116  
DOWNTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH...703-549-5544  
FIRST AGAPE BAPTIST COMMUNITY OF FAITH...703-519-9100  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA...703-684-3720  
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SHILOH BAPTIST...703-683-4573  
MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH...703-256-1239  
VICTORY TEMPLE...703-370-2233  
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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH MT. VERNON...703-768-2494

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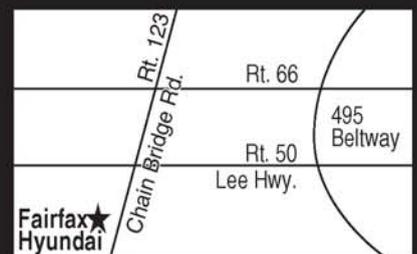


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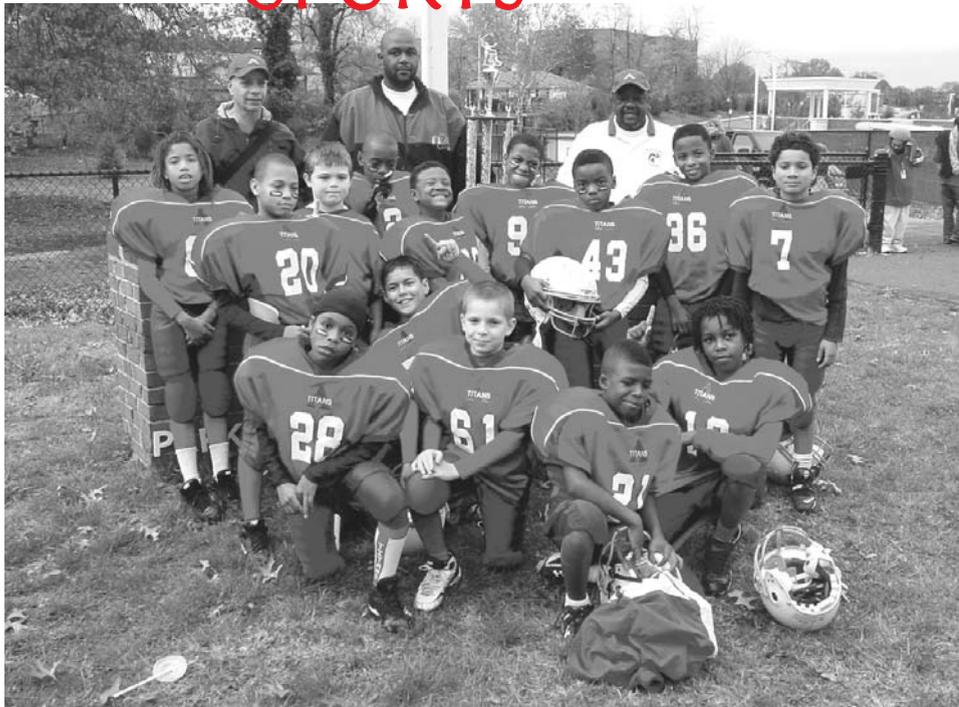
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COURTESY PHOTOS

The Alexandria Titans won the 75 National championship by beating Braddock Road on Saturday at Parker-Gray Stadium.



The Alexandria Titans won the 85 National title by defeating Ft. Belvoir on Saturday at Parker-Gray Stadium.

## Youth Football Winning Titles, Learning Lessons

Participants learn about fundamentals, sportsmanship at early age.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Parker-Gray Stadium was home to disappointment on Nov. 7. The T.C. Williams football team, needing a win to earn the program's first playoff berth since 1990, came up short against Robert E. Lee. T.C. Williams showed flashes of breaking through in 2009, finishing with its best record in more than a decade, but the loss to Lee lengthened the Titans' streak of futility to 19 seasons.

One week later, the stadium was home to hope and excitement. Two Alexandria youth football teams captured championships in their respective divisions Saturday, bringing pride to the community and providing T.C. Williams fans with hope that one day some of these young athletes could help the Titans build a successful program at the varsity level.

The Alexandria Titans of the 75 National Division defeated the Braddock Road Wolfpack, 20-6, for the city's first championship of the day, and the Alexandria Titans of the 85 National Division followed suit hours later, defeating the Ft. Belvoir Bulldogs, 31-7. The Alexandria Titans of the Anklebiters Division 8 played for a championship earlier in the day, but fell short against the Gainesville Grizzlies.

Julius Moultrie, known as Coach Doc, has been coaching different levels of Alexandria youth football since 1970. On Saturday, he led the 75-pound Titans to victory.

"It's been a long time coming," Moultrie said. "This isn't something that happens all the time. It's kind of hard to do. The years of splitting kids [between different teams], it's been kind of hard to keep kids together where you can get them for more than one

year. We just got lucky this year and we were able to bring our along four kids, five kids from the team we had before."

Nine-year-old Anthony Stephens, who attends a private school, scored two touchdowns for the 75-pound Titans. Moultrie said 9-year-olds William Howard and Spencer McMillion, and 10-year olds Daniel Davis, Jaquian Findley and Noah Holmes could one day play for T.C. Williams.

Howard, who plays nose guard, said hitting is his favorite part of football.

"It feels good," Howard said of delivering a hard hit, "because everybody calls your name and says 'Good hit.'"

**THE ALEXANDRIA TITANS** youth football program participates in the Fairfax County Youth Football League, which includes 25 other clubs, 360 teams and 6,500 participants in Northern Virginia. Seven of the Titans' 13 teams made the playoffs this season.

"Our sports program is geared toward helping the high schools, whether it's T.C., whether it's the privates schools within the area," Mac Slover, sports director for the City of Alexandria, said.

Winning puts smiles on faces. But some involved with Alexandria youth football made a point to say it shouldn't be the primary focus of participants.

"We feel like we start them at age 7 and our goal is to keep them in the program each year," Slover said. "Yes, winning is important, but that's not the only thing. We want our coaches to teach them the basics of the game, so as they get to that high school level, they already have the basics."

Jarvis Davis coached the 85-pound Titans to a championship.

"My main focus," Davis said, "is to make

these boys better men."

Demonte Jones, 12, and Malik Moten, 10, stood out as playmakers for the 85-pound Titans.

**T.C. WILLIAMS** varsity head coach Dennis Randolph said the primary areas in which he wants participants to develop during their time with youth football are fundamentals and a positive attitude.

"The most important thing for the coaches in the city of Alexandria is to provide an opportunity for kids to grow as football players and young men," said Randolph, who praised Alexandria youth coaches. "I want [the young Titans] to be good sportsmen, know how to work hard and be a good team person."

Randolph and Moultrie said they would like more communication between youth programs and the varsity. Randolph said time commitments and scheduling make doing so difficult.

"I'm sad to say I don't get to see as much of

those guys as I would like to," Randolph said.

Randolph said coaching clinics give those in the program a chance to meet and discuss football, but otherwise communication is limited during the season. Moultrie said players and coaches would benefit from being on the same page in terms of running similar offensive schemes at each level. Randolph said he doesn't think continuity with Xs and Os is overly important, especially with how situations can quickly change. The coach cited Joe Hargrove's injury as an example. The Titans practiced a certain style of the spread offense during the offseason, but when Hargrove, the team's starting quarterback, fractured his right, non-throwing wrist in a scrimmage, T.C. Williams had to run a different version of the offense while he missed the first seven weeks of the season.

"I think it's really important for kids to play and learn the fundamentals of the game, [have] fun and learn about teamwork and camaraderie," Randolph said.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Cheerleading Exhibition

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will host the Annual City-Wide Cheerleading Exhibition on Saturday, Dec. 12 at T.C. Williams High School beginning at 11 a.m. The exhibition features cheerleading teams from Charles Barrett, Charles Houston, Cora Kelly, Mount Vernon, Nannie J. Lee, Patrick Henry and William Ramsay Recreation Centers. There will also be special performances by the T. C. Williams High School cheerleaders and others.

The exhibition features teams in three divisions: the pee wee, junior varsity and varsity divisions. Teams will display their skills and enthusiasm as they prepare for the main event, the cheerleading com-

petition, in April of 2010. The April competition will be an invitational event with teams from the Washington D.C., Virginia, and Maryland areas competing against the Alexandria teams.

Tickets will be on sale in advance of the exhibition at the neighborhood recreation centers as well as at the Lee Center Recreation Services Division Office now through 5 p.m., Dec. 10. Adult tickets for ages 13 and older are \$5; youth tickets for 6-12 years are \$2, and youth 5 and under are free. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

For more information on the cheerleading program and other youth sports programs, call the Youth Sports Office at 703-746-5402.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

### Taylor Run

"ALIVE is so ecumenical — both the donors and the receivers of our aid," declared Jim Caroll. "They feel so comfortable." ALIVE now includes 41 churches.

Jim was speaking to other volunteer workers at a splendid tea given by ALIVE at Goodwin House to honor volunteers.

#### NEED INCREASES

President Diane Day spoke of the worsening situation caused by the slump. "We used to feed 500 families each month; now it's 800."

Many of our neighbors, current and former, were there: Rev. George Pera of Crown View, world traveler and non-stop volunteer; Joan Vogel, Charlotte Alexander, Jean Schnedl, Nancy Kelly, and Pat Hanna, all of whom now live in Goodwin House.

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Constance Richardson, emergency room physician who formerly worked at Ft. Belvoir, was present, as was Susanne Arnold, chair of the Alive House shelter for women and children, oldest continuously operating women's shelter in Northern Virginia. Both are from St. Rita Catholic Church.



**Goodwin House Chaplain Bruce Stewart, left, and the Rev. George Pera, who serves on ALIVE's Development Council.**

Gertrude Mitchell, Mary Lous Palmer, Cindy and Charles Adams, and Vivian Norfleet were there.

#### ASSISTANCE DOUBLES

The emergency financial assistance which ALIVE gives those certified by the city to need money for rent and utilities has had to double, according to Ken Naser, executive director.

Marie Campbell Shepherdson, a native Alexandrian whose family foundation aids ALIVE, was there with Marcia Saumweber, director from the foundation.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

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E-mail to: PhotoAX@connectionnews papers.com, or mail or deliver contributions by Dec. 4, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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Photo by Steve Vaccarillo

## SCHOOLS

### Larsen

FROM PAGE 4

ful learning is huge for me because I don't want to give the kids busywork.

#### What's the most challenging part of teaching the first grade?

The very beginning of the year is very challenging because my classroom is a very independent classroom. My job in the classroom is to be a facilitator. They're the real oil to the engine, and I'm just there to help out and make sure it's all going well. At the beginning of the year, they are used to having their hand held and having a lot done for them. So those first six weeks of school is learning the routine and getting along with each other. Those are the hardest weeks.

#### What was it like to find out that you have been named teacher of the year?

We were in day three of testing the kids reading skills, and I was just kind of brain-dead because it isn't very interactive. Then there was all this noise going on down the hall, and I couldn't get the student to focus on what we are doing. So I finally said I thought it was time to go back into the room. Then I saw the assistant principal, so I thought there was some crisis going on down the hall. So I went back in the classroom and waited for everything to calm down. But the hall noise was all of the people coming down the hall into my classroom, like seven to nine people. It was very surprising. All I saw were a bunch of balloons. The kids went wild because they were so excited.

#### Why do you think you were selected?

I think it's because I make learning fun. The kids like to come to school. At least every year I have a kid who, in previous years, did not want to come to school. And their parents are always very surprised and very pleased. I think the effect I have on kids and their love for learning is very evident if you come into my classroom.

#### How do you feel about being teacher of the year?

I feel like a million bucks. It's so nice to be recognized, and it's great that it's something that I love to do. It's exciting to be recognized for something that is what I cannot wait to get up and do the next day. When I wake up in the morning, I am thrilled I am going into the classroom. So how wonderful is that to get rewarded for something you love to do?

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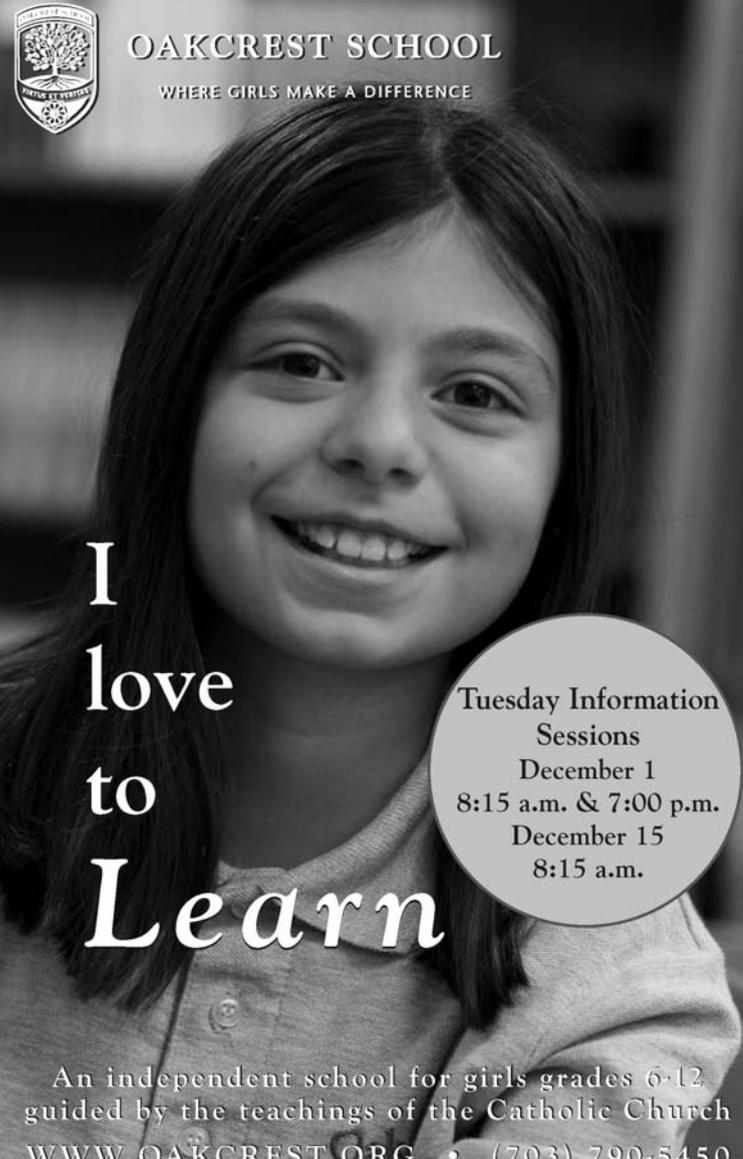


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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 24

of the amazing volunteers who continue working so hard year-in and year-out to keep moving Virginia forward.

Thanks also to my Republican opponent, Vicki Vasques, and her supporters for strengthening our democracy by engaging in the process with such great energy. Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike can all be proud of the fact that the 49.97 percent voter turnout resulting from our collective efforts gave the 45th District the highest active voter participation in Northern Virginia and the fourth highest of all 100 House of Delegates seats across Virginia.

With the election behind us, now we must refocus our energy on making progress for our entire community. When I return to Richmond in January, I will continue working hard to fund mass transit and protect our environment, for stronger public education and new affordable housing solutions, for quality health care for all people and to ensure a fair shake for every member of our community. I am already working on proposals to protect our historic neighborhoods and require transparency and accountability in public-private transportation projects while promoting transit-based regional transportation solutions. The chairman of the House Finance Committee pledged that he would give my Middle Class and Small Business Tax Relief Act a full, fair hearing this January; I look forward to that first step toward passing this progressive tax reform bill to eliminate the state sales tax on food, lend a hand to families and small businesses, and protect education and transportation. As we face the toughest budget year since the Great Depression, having already cut \$6 billion of state spending over the past four years, I will continue to be a voice for responsible, efficient choices that promote economic growth and protect core services like education, public safety, public health, and safety net services.

While Governor-elect McDonnell's record is one of die-hard social conservatism, he suggested during the campaign that he has softened some of his views, and I look forward to holding him to that. Attorney General-elect Cuccinelli remains openly hostile to equal rights, reproductive rights, and workers rights and has pledged only to defend those laws he personally supports. Republicans in Richmond will now drive the agenda, and I sincerely hope we can focus on issues that will make life better for all Virginians, but rest assured that I will never shy away from my duty to defend and advance our community's progressive values.

Whatever your background or political affiliation, we are joined together as neighbors, and together we must continue working hard to strengthen our economically and socially diverse community, to defend our community's progressive values, and to invest in a bright and prosperous future. Regardless of whom you voted for last week, I am always open to your ideas and feedback, and if you ever need my assistance, please contact me anytime at DelDEnglin@house.virginia.gov or 703-549-3203.

**David Englin**  
Delegate, 45th District

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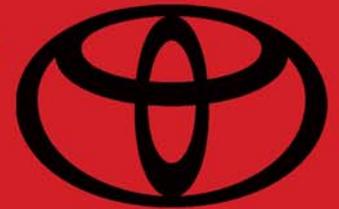
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